A second *Scirtothrips* species with a hind-femoral comb in males (Thysanoptera, Thripidae)

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Amongst the 100 described species worldwide of the genus *Scirtothrips*, the South African Citrus Thrips, *S. aurantii* Faure, has been considered unique because the males possess a comb of stout setae on the hind femora (Hoddle & Mound, 2003). A new species that shares this character state is described here from *Cedrus* (Pinaceae) in Kenya, although no information is available for either species concerning the functional significance of this comb.

The host association of this new species is interesting, because *Scirtothrips* species are generally considered to be associated with the young leaves of dicot plants, on which some are important pests (Mound & Palmer, 1981). Despite this, several relatively unrelated species within the genus have radiated onto various unrelated Gymnospermae. Two are associated with *Juniperus* (*S. brevipennis* in eastern North America, and *S. juniperinus* in Central Asia), one with *Libocedrus* (*S. solanis* in California), and one with *Taxodium* (*S. taxodii* in eastern North America), and in Australia two species are associated with the young fronds of cycads (*S. litotetes* on *Lepidozamia* and *S. tenor* on *Cycas*). Moreover, two species are known from different tree ferns (*S. pteridis* in Costa Rica, and *S. frondis* in Australia). *Scirtothrips* is thus yet another example of radiation within a genus of Thysanoptera that involves exploitation of unrelated plants (Mound, 2005), such as *Cranothrips* Bagnall (Pereyra & Mound, 2009) and *Echinothrips* Moulton (Mound & Marullo, 1996), rather than fidelity to any particular plant lineage. For full nomenclatural details of all taxa mentioned here see Mound (2010).

*Scirtothrips mugambii* sp. n.

**Female macroptera.** Body mainly brown, abdomen darkest, tergites II–VIII and sternites III–VII with dark brown antecostal ridge; forewings brown; antennal segment I pale, II–VIII dark.

Head about twice as wide as long, postocular and ocellar region closely striate (Fig. 3); ocellar setae pair III arise within ocellar triangle on or close to tangent between anterior margins of posterior ocelli, distance between their bases about equal to their length; compound eyes with no ommatidia strongly pigmented; two pairs of post-ocular setae longer than ocellar setae pair III. Antennae 8-segmented, with many microtrichia (Fig. 2).

Pronotum closely striate (Fig. 3), with 4 pairs of posteromarginal setae, pair S2 scarcely longer than S3. Metanotum reticulate, anterior reticles transverse (Fig. 4); median pair of setae close to anterior margin. Forewing clavus with 4 marginal setae and one discal seta (Fig. 4); second vein with 3 setae, first vein with 3 setae on distal half; posteromarginal fringe cilia wavy.

Tergites II–V with median setae small and close together; tergal microtrichial fields with 2–3 discal setae; VIII usually with one row of discal microtrichia anteromedially, posteromarginal comb complete (Fig. 1); tergite IX with no discal microtrichia, X with band of microtrichia near posterior margin. Sternites with microtrichia extending mesad almost to level of setae S1; marginal setae arising at margin.


**Male macroptera.** Similar to female in sculpture, but smaller and paler; hind femur with row of 5–7 stout dark setae on distal posterior margin (Fig. 5); tergite IX with pair of upwardly curving dark drepanae.

**Specimens studied.** Holotype female, KENYA, Meru, Maua, from *Cedrus*, 17.v.2009 (J. Mugambi), in the Natural History Museum, London.