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A new genus of Thripinae (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) collected from *Pandanus* in Japan, Malaysia and Australia, with three new species

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Abstract

Pandanothrips **gen. n.** is described, with three new species inhabiting *Pandanus*: *P. ryukyuensis* **sp. n.** from Japan, *P. wangi* **sp. n.** from Malaysia, and *P. hallingi* **sp. n.** from Australia. This new genus shows no relationship to *Projectothrips* Moulton, the only other Thripinae genus known to be associated with *Pandanus*. *Pandanothrips* is superficially similar to *Danothrips* Bhatti, a genus of leaf feeding thrips. The morphological relationships among these genera are discussed, and an illustrated key to the species of *Pandanothrips* is provided.

Key words: Thysanoptera, Thripidae, *Pandanus*, *Pandanothrips,* Japan, Malaysia, Australia

Introduction

The plant genus *Pandanus* is one of four genera in the Pandanaceae, and comprises 600 species of small to medium sized shrubs and trees that are native to Old World tropical and subtropical areas (Susanti & Miyamoto 2009). Many species of this genus are grown widely, with several species planted in various public areas such as community gardens, schools, and house yards. *P. amaryllifolius* or fragrant pandan is one of the most important ingredients for traditional dishes in the Asia Pacific area, because of its sweet and pleasant aroma. In Japan, three species are native, *P. odoratissimus*, which is widespread in Southeast Asia to Ryukyu Islands and Pacific Islands, *P. boninensis*, which is endemic to Ogasawara Islands, and *P. daitoensis*, which is endemic to Daito Islands. Moreover, *P. centrifugalis* (=*P. concretus concretus*) was introduced to Chichi-jima Island in Ogasawara Islands although originally from Madagascar (Susanti & Miyamoto 2009). Beside these species, several other species such as *P. utilis* that is originally from Madagascar, are also planted in parks or along the road-side in the Ryukyus, and *P. boninensis* is also artificially found in the Ryukyus.

Previously, the only thrips genus known to be associated with the flowers of *Pandanus* was *Projectothrips* Moulton, with nine species from the Oriental and Pacific Regions (Bhatti 1973; Mound & Ng 2009; Mound & Tree 2011). This genus is distinctive because of its unusually long antennal segment VIII, and a series of many microsetae on the paramere of the male genitalia (Bhatti 1973).

In 2009, Masumoto had an opportunity to observe a poorly mounted female of unknown thripine species collected from *P. ulitis* in Miyako-jima Island, Ryukyus. Thereafter, good series of this species was collected from the flowers and young fruit of *P. boninensis* planted along the road-side in Okinawa-hontou Island, Ryukyus. Moreover, shortly after this further species of the same genus were collected from *Pandanus* in Malaysia and Australia. In this paper, we describe from *Pandanus* a new genus, *Pandanothrips* **gen. n.**, together with three new species: *P. hallingi* **sp. n.** from Australia, *P. ryukyuensis* **sp. n.** from Japan and *P. wangi* **sp. n.** from Malaysia.

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