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## Thysanoptera intercepted in the Netherlands on plant products from Ethiopia, with description of two new species of the genus *Thrips*

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### Abstract

An overview is given of 18 Thysanoptera species found on Ethiopian cut flowers, cuttings and vegetables during import inspection in the Netherlands. Consignments consisted mostly of cut flowers, in total belonging to twelve plant genera. Details on geographical distribution and host plants of the thrips encountered are given, and two are newly described: *T. cacuminis* sp. n. and *T. dezeewi* sp. n. The results do not give any serious indication of increased invasiveness by Ethiopian Thysanoptera.

**Key words:** thrips, Ethiopia, import, cut flower, new species

### Introduction

In the last decade import of cut flowers from the Afrotropical Region increased significantly into The Netherlands (Anonymous 2011; Perry 2011). Large amounts of plant products belonging to several plant genera were imported from countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These imports have resulted in interceptions of formerly undetected thrips species in the international trade of plant products (Vierbergen 1998; 2008). With these interceptions a contribution to the poorly known Thysanoptera fauna of Ethiopia can be given. Additionally new invasive species could possibly be detected in an early stage.

### Methods

Consignments of plant products originating in Ethiopia, consisting of perishable products (cut flowers, vegetables) or propagation material (cuttings, pot plants), were inspected by the Netherlands Plant Protection Organization. By knocking plant material over a white sheet of paper, Thysanoptera were extracted and subsequently collected into small vials of 70% ethanol. Collection usually took place at Dutch flower auctions, where most of the imported plant material is sold. Samples were analyzed under a low magnification (stereomicroscope, 40x) in the laboratory to separate different species and their stages. A significant part of the material was mounted on microscopic slides (in lactic acid, Berlese or Hoyer's solution, or Canada Balsam) for identification at higher magnifications with an Olympus BX 51 light microscope. Most of the specimens are preserved in the collection of the PPS, and many have been compared with specimens in other collections (BMNH, SMF).

*Abbreviations:* BMNH = The Natural History Museum, London; UK; NBC = Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden, Netherlands; PPS = Dutch plant Protection Service, Wageningen, Netherlands; SMF = Senckenberg Institut, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

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