



## First description of the male of *Oxythrips tristis* Bagnall (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

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*Oxythrips tristis* is a Mediterranean species described by Bagnall (1927) on one female collected from flowers of *Eryngium maritimum* [Apiaceae] in South France. Subsequently, adult females of this species have been recorded from Spain, Turkey and Italy (Umbria), collected from *Juniperus thurifera*, *Quercus ilex*, *Q. suber* and plants beneath these trees (zur Strassen 2003). Despite this, males of *tristis* have remained unknown until, during 2005–2010, a few specimens of both sexes were collected in northern Italy on *Eryngium campestre*. The females were identified using published literature (zur Strassen 2003), and the male is here described and illustrated for the first time.

Species of the genus *Oxythrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) are found mainly in the Holarctic Region, and zur Strassen (2003) provided an identification key to eighteen species from Europe, at least 10 of which have been collected from plant species in the genera *Pinus*, *Quercus* and *Juniperus*. Moreover, ten *Oxythrips* species are recorded from the Mediterranean Region. The main character states used to diagnose the genus *Oxythrips* are: head with 3 pairs of ocellar setae; pronotum with one pair of long posteroangular setae; posteromarginal comb on tergite VIII usually absent in females; tergite IX of females without thick setae; tergite IX of males with 2 pairs of short, stout setae medially; sternites III–VI of males each with one round or oval pore plate medially. Identification of some *Oxythrips* species recorded from southern European regions has been difficult, due to variation in character states such as colour of antennal segments, chaetotaxy of fore wing, sculpture of metanotum and abdominal tergites. Minor differences in tergal sculpture were used by Mound (1968) to distinguish *O. tristis* from *O. ulmifoliorum* (Haliday), but more extensive studies by zur Strassen (1996, 2000) resulted in the synonymy of *O. quercus* Priesner and *O. ibericus* Berzosa with *O. tristis*.

### *Oxythrips tristis* Bagnall, 1927 (Figs. 1–6)

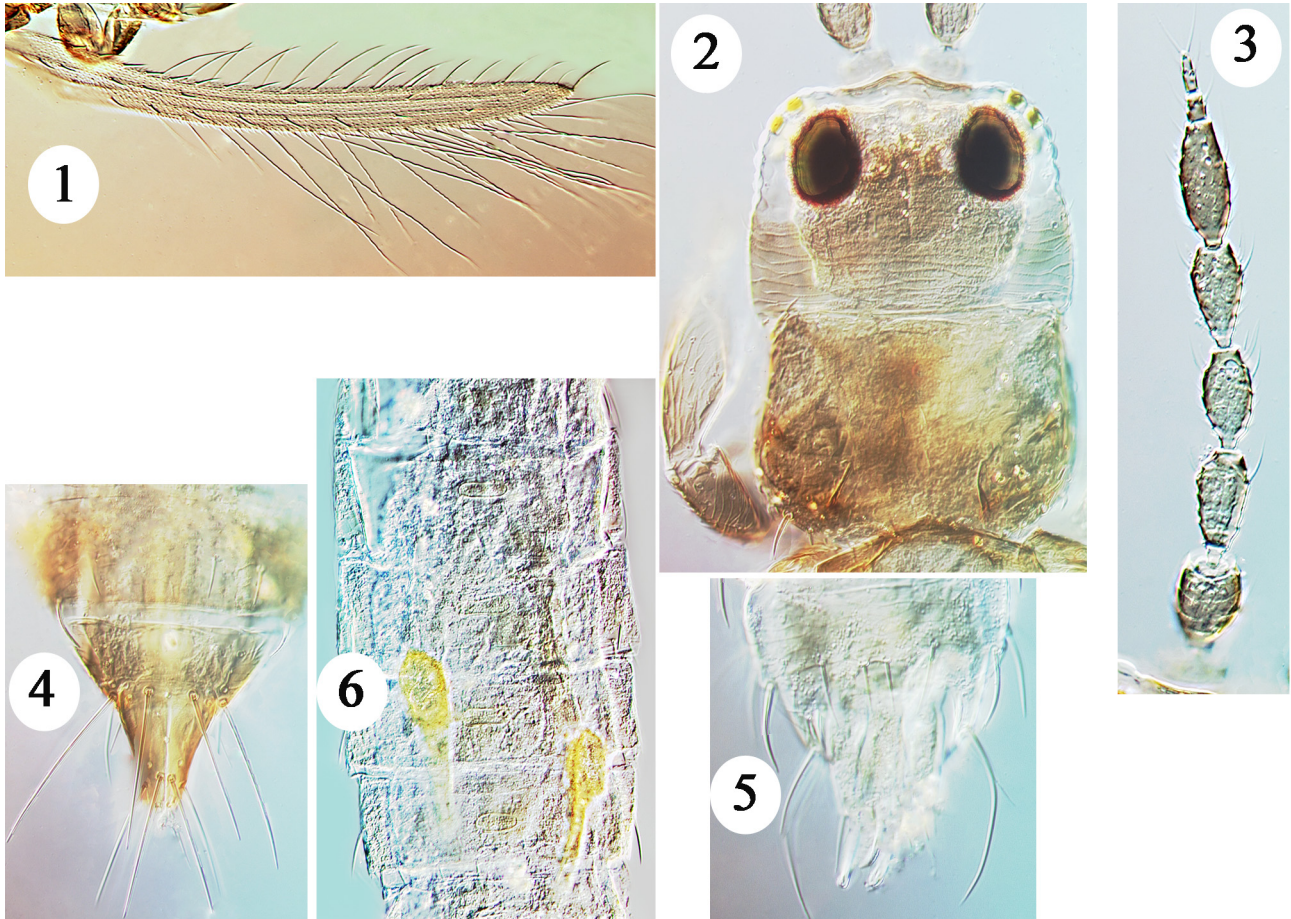
*Macropterous male*. Body colour pale yellow, head and pronotum darker than abdomen, pterothorax brownish; compound eyes black with reddish pigmentation, ocelli more lightly coloured. Fore wings slightly but entirely shaded, all tibiae brownish but yellow distally, tarsi pale yellow. Antenna 8-segmented, antennal segment I pale yellow, segment II brownish, segments III–V pale at base, antennal VI mostly pale but brown distally, segments VII–VIII brown; segments III and IV each with a forked sense cone, segments V and VI each with one simple sense cone, segment VI about 1.2 times longer than segment V. Head slightly broader than long, without arched cheeks, interocellar setae shorter than the sides of the ocellar triangle. Pronotum with one long posteroangular seta, and four pairs of smaller posteromarginal setae. Fore wing with widely scattered setae, the second vein with eight setae. Abdominal tergites with faint transverse lines of sculpture; tergite VIII hind margin without a comb; tergite IX with two pairs of stout and pointed short setae medially, one pair behind the other and the anterior pair stouter; one long curved pair of posteroangular setae (Fig. 5); sternites III–VII each with a median transverse pore plate (Fig. 6).

**Measurements in microns.** Distended body length 825; Head (78–106); Pronotum (80–115), pronotum posteroangular seta length 22. Mesonotum (39–61); Metanotum (32–57); Tergite IX (32–108), tergite IX seta S1 44. Full antenna length 160; antennal segments I–VIII length as follows : 11, 21, 29, 23, 30, 32, 7, 11. Forewing 430 (23). Pore plates on abdominal sternites III–VII as follows: 4.5 (13), 4.5 (20), 4.0 (20), 4.5 (17), 4.5 (16).

*Macropterous female*. Body colour blackish-grey, including head and thorax, compound eyes as in male; antenna (Fig. 3) dark grey-brown, except segment I and extreme base of segments III–V paler, fore wing entirely shaded with paler area at base. Head (Fig. 2) slightly wider than long, five minute postocular setae; transverse lines of sculpture rather closer together medially but wider distally. Pronotum with five pairs of posteromarginal setae and one pair of longer

posteroangular setae. Fore wing (Fig. 1) costa with 21 setae, first vein with widely scattered 9–10 setae, second vein with 8 setae, clavus with 4 veinal setae, fringe cilia wavy. Sculpture of abdominal tergites as in the head. Tergite IX (Fig.4) with two long posteromarginal setae, inner pair shorter than outer; two pairs of posteromarginal setae on tergite X, equally long.

**Material studied.** ITALY, Novi Ligure (Alessandria), on flowers of *Eryngium campestre* [Apiaceae], 1 female. 08.08.2005, 1 male, 08.08.2009, 1 male, 18.07.2010.



**FIGURES 1–6.** *Oxythrips tristis* (1–4 female; 5–6 male): (1) fore wing, (2) head and pronotum; (3) antenna; (4) tergites VIII–X; (5) tergites VIII–X; (6) sternites III–VIII pore plates.

## References

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