



Recognition of *Haplothrips jordani* (Bagnall); one of the oldest names in the insect Order Thysanoptera

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In Britain during the first quarter of the 20th century, Richard Bagnall was a well-known amateur entomologist (Berridge 2023). Although his first published notes were on beetles and millipedes, he quickly took a particular interest in the less popular smaller arthropod groups, including apterygotes and thrips. His first publication on thrips was *Rare Coleoptera, Thysanoptera and Aptera* (Bagnall 1907), and in the first three years of his studies, 1908–1910, he published 20 papers on thrips from Britain, New Guinea, Malaysia, and South America as well as a monograph on the Thysanoptera of Hawaii (Mound *et al.* 2016). Bagnall came to provide much of the basis of our knowledge of British and world Thysanoptera diversity. Over the next 25 years he published 577 new species-group names and 100 new genus group names in this Order (Mound 1968), whereas when his studies started the world Thysanoptera fauna comprised 135 species and 36 genera (Uzel 1895). The massive 470-page volume by Uzel, in German and Bohemian, was his essential reference tool, and Guy Morison, an important thrips worker in Aberdeen, mentioned to the present author in June 1964 that he and Bagnall had been known to place this heavy volume onto the back of their bicycles before going out thrips collecting. Bagnall was the first modern contributor to our knowledge of Thysanoptera, although he was closely followed by the subsequently prolific authors, J.D. Hood at Cornell University and Herman Priesner in Austria (ThripsWiki 2023).

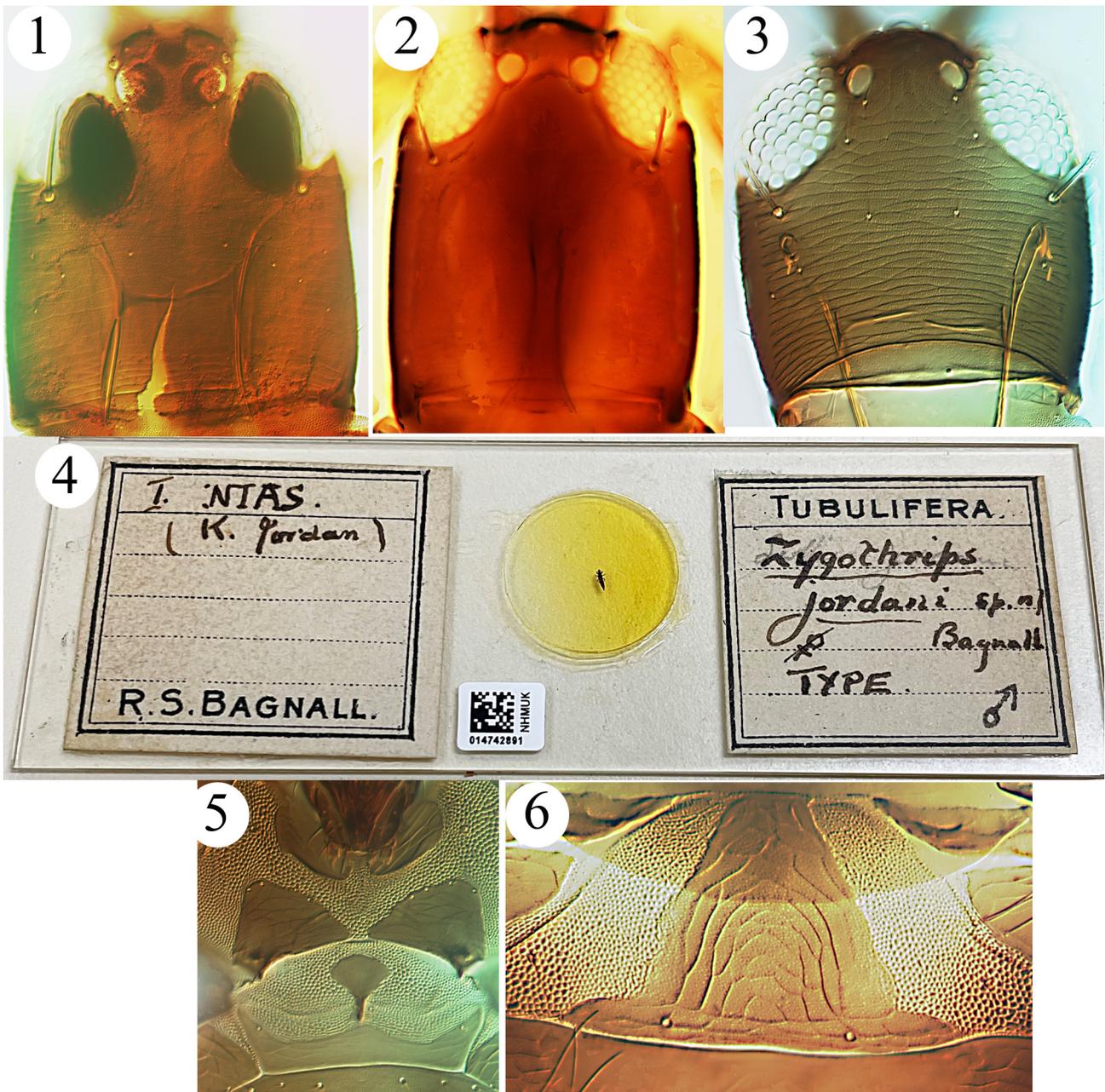
The objective here is to clarify the identity of one of the several new species that Bagnall described in 1909 in a substantial paper concerning thrips from Malaysia and New Caledonia. In his introduction (Bagnall 1909), he states that the “Malayan material” that he studied was collected by Karl Jordan on the Isle of Nias, Sumatra, and comprised “six tubes containing thousands of specimens”. Bagnall added that the largest proportion of these specimens were referable to his new species *Zygothrips jordani*. However, Bagnall was essentially a businessman, and as a result the history of his collections over the following 25 years was confusing (Berridge 2023). By the time in 1959 when the Bagnall thrips collection was acquired by the Natural History Museum, it was clear that some material had become dispersed. Of the “thousands of specimens” only a single slide mounted male of *jordani* remained (Fig. 4). However, in the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, there is one female that is labelled as being from Isle of Nias and collected by K. Jordan. This specimen was slide mounted and labelled by zur Strassen in 1980, and there is no evidence of any original labels. The left-hand label on the slide bears a hand-written note by zur Strassen “wahrsch [einlich] ex Typ-Mat”. Despite this, the original publication states “TYPE.- In coll. Bagnall”, and the male in London is thus accepted as the type. However, technically this male is not the holotype, despite having been mentioned as such (Mound 1968), because Bagnall did not so designate it in his publication. The male in London is therefore formally designated here as the Lectotype of *Zygothrips jordani*, and the identity of the female in Frankfurt is discussed further below.

Haplothrips jordani (Bagnall)

Zygothrips jordani Bagnall, 1909: 530

Haplothrips certus Priesner, 1929: 194. **Syn.n.**

The genus *Zygothrips* Uzel is one of more than 10 generic synonyms of *Haplothrips* Amyot and Serville (ThripsWiki 2023). The species *certus* was described by Priesner from an unspecified number of males and females, together with two larvae. These were all taken in 1924 from grasses on the island of Siberut, one of the Mentawai Islands that are just south of the Isle of Nias off the west coast of Sumatra.



FIGURES 1–6. *Haplothrips jordani* (1) Lectotype head; (2) Misidentified “syntype”, head; (3) Female from Sarawak, head; (4) Type slide in BMNH; (5) Female from Sarawak, prosternites; (6) Female from Sarawak, pelta.

The species *jordani* was completely ignored by most subsequent workers on the genus *Haplothrips* and was not included by Priesner (1933) in a key to Indomalayan species. However, it was included recently in a study of the *Haplothrips* species of Malesia (Mound 2019), but that involved a serious error of interpretation. The male type specimen was studied in London, whereas the published image of the head was produced in Canberra and is of the female from Frankfurt. More recent study has confirmed that the male and female represent two different species. The maxillary stylets of the lectotype male (Fig. 1) are widely separated with a distinct maxillary bridge. In contrast, the stylets of the female from Frankfurt are very close together medially (Fig. 2). As a result, couple 8 of the identification key (Mound 2019) produces incorrect identifications. The female “*jordani*” from Frankfurt, with the stylets close together, is here recognised as a misidentified female of *Haplothrips imperatae* Priesner, also described from Sumatra. In contrast, the male Lectotype of *jordani* corresponds to the key characters that refer to *Haplothrips certus*. Some of the *certus* syntypes have been re-studied and compared with the *jordani* male, as well as with specimens of both sexes of *certus* that were taken recently

in Serdang, West Malaysia and also in Sarawak on grass flowers (Fig. 3). In addition to the character states given in the available description of *certus*, this species has the mesopresternum fully transverse (Fig 5), and the pelta is distinctive in having the posterior margin flared along the anterior margin of the second tergite (Fig. 6). As indicated in the key to species (Mound 2019), the fore wing sub-basal seta S3 is unusually long and finely pointed in *certus*, the fore tarsus of both sexes bears a curious hook-like tooth distally at the inner apex, and the mid and hind tarsi are as dark as their tibiae. As a result, the name *Haplothrips jordani* refers to a species that is widespread in the tropics of southeast Asia, apparently breeding in flowers and possibly in the inflorescences of some Poaceae species.

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