

Short Communication

A Note on the Thrips of the Arid and Semi-arid Regions of Rajasthan

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Thrips are agriculturally important insects with a world wide distribution. In addition to lacerating the plant tissue and sucking the sap, thus interfering with the growth of the plant, some species also act as vectors of plant diseases. Aspects of bioecology of the Indian thrips have been covered by Ananthakrishnan (1984). Very little information is available about the thrip fauna of the arid regions of Rajasthan. This communication presents the observations on the two families of thrips occurring in the arid and semi-arid zones of Rajasthan.

**Family: Phlaeothripidae**

*Dolicholepta arorai* B & H

This species was observed on leaves and flowers of *Ziziphus mauritiana* at Jodhpur in association with other thrips.

*Dolichothrips micrurus* (Bagnall)

: It was observed on leaves and flowers of *Z. mauritiana* at Jodhpur. It occurred along with another type near *Dolichothrips* sp. It is to be ascertained as to whether these are photophagous or predatory thrips.

*Haplothrips adresi* (Priesn)

It was collected from wild plants of *Lantana* around Jodhpur. It was mostly

sighted in the flowering season, but its damage was seen on leaves.

*Haplothrips ganglbaueri* (Schmutz)

This species was found infecting wheat, onion and *Cenchrus ciliaris* resulting in poor filling of ears and wrinkling of seeds in the late sown wheat crop. Affected onion leaves lost green tissue. Its incidence was observed in Chatargarh, Sri Ganganagar, Suratgarh and Mathania areas of Rajasthan.

*Haplothrips nigricornis* (Bagnall)

These were found damaging the capitulum and floral parts of *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Lasiurus sindicus*, which led to poor filling of seeds. Specimens were collected from Jodhpur.

**Family: Thripidae**

*Florithrips traegardhi* (Tryborn)

It was observed infecting the flowers of *Prosopis cineraria*. The damaged flowers and buds failed to develop into pods.

*Frankliniella dampfi* (Priesn)

These flower thrips were collected from a large number of host plants including onion, bougainvillea, *Xenia* spp., *Lantana*

(red and white sp.), rose, jasmine and some weeds from Jodhpur district, mainly Mathania area.

*Frankliniella schultzei* (Trybom)

This species was collected from grasses, viz., *Lasiurus indicus* and *C. ciliaris* and trees, viz., *Tecomella undulata* and *P. cineraria*. In *P. cineraria* these thrips fed inside flowers and prevented pod formation. Collections were made from Jodhpur, Sikar and Jaisalmer districts.

*Megalurothrips distalis* (Karry)

This species was found infesting floral parts of mung bean at Jodhpur and was also observed on *L. indicus* and *C. ciliaris* grasses.

*Megalurothrips typicus* (Bagnall)

These thrips were observed infecting flowers and preventing seed formation in *L. indicus* and *C. ciliaris* at Jodhpur.

*Phopiphonothrips cruentatus* (Hood)

The thrips were seen infesting *Lantana* leaves at Jaisalmer and Jodhpur. The leaves

turned brown and withered gradually as a result of thrips activity.

*Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Hood)

The flowers of *P. cineraria* were observed infested with *S. dorsalis* at Jodhpur. The affected flowers crinkled and dried up without developing into pods.

*Taeniothrips traegradhi* (Trybom)

These thrips were observed on young shoots and flowers of *Acacia radiana*, *A. senegal* and *Alnus sudex* at Jodhpur. Sharma and Vaish (1972) have reported the presence of this species on grapevine flowers at Jodhpur and Sri Ganganagar, along with *Thrips hawaiiensis* Morgan (*Thrips florum* Schmutz) and *Frankliniella sulphurea* Schmutz.

## References

- Ananthakrishnan, T.N. 1984. *Bioecology of Thrips*. IPH, Michigan.
- Sharma, S.K. and Vaish, O.P. 1972. Grapevine flowers as new host record of thrips. *Entomologist's Newsletter* 2(7): 44.