



Research Note

A new record of *Franklinothrips megalops* (Trybom, 1912) (Aeolothripidae: Thysanoptera) from North Eastern India

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ABSTRACT: *Franklinothrips megalops* (Trybom), a predatory thrips on several species of thrips was recorded from Tripura, North east India for the first time.

KEY WORDS: *Franklinothrips megalops*, record, Tripura, North East India

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INTRODUCTION

Members of genus *Franklinothrips* are ant mimicking obligate predators. The genus *Franklinothrips* erected by Back in 1912 comprises of 16 described species worldwide (Thripswiki). In 2010, Vijay Veer, described a new species from northern India (Veer, 2010) and till date, three species are known from India (Tyagi and Kumar, 2016). Trybom in 1912 described species *megalops* under genus *Mitothrips*. The genus *Franklinothrips* is characterized by sexually dimorphic macropterous dark bodied species. Females with abdominal segments I and II more or less constricted and sometimes sharply pale, thus producing an ant-like body outline. Antennal segments III–IV exceptionally long and slender, III at least 8 times as long as wide and with elongate and sinuous or multifaceted sensoria. Head without long setae, usually partially retracted into prothorax and slightly prolonged in front of eyes. Fore ocellus small, about half diameter of hind ocelli. Compound eyes prolonged ventrally with enlarged posterior ommatidia. Forewings slender, costal margin with cilia but no setae. Abdominal segment I constricted and tergites III–VI with median setal pair small and wide apart. Male smaller than female, abdomen slender, wings usually paler, tergite I with pair of longitudinal ridges terminating in square or rounded apex overhanging tergite II (Mound and Reynaud, 2005).

During the recent surveys carried out in the state of Tripura on 07 March, 2016, two female specimens of *F. megalops* were collected from Malaise Trap in Agartala, Tripura (23° 76' 28" N, 91°26' 33"E, 17 m AMSL). The specimens collected were balsam mounted and identified using appropriate keys (Ananthakrishnan and Sen, 1980; Palmer *et al.*, 1989).

Material Examined

2 Females, INDIA: Tripura, 07.iii.2016, Coll. K. Veenakumari. These specimens are deposited with ICAR - National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

Diagnosis

Antennal segment IV with shaded area at apex distinctly longer than width of this segment, antennal segment I yellow and head nearly twice as wide as long, recessed into prothorax. (Fig. 1)

Distribution

India: Tripura (New record), West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu. World: Spain, Israel, Palestine, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Transvaal, South Africa, Mozambique, Angola and Nigeria.

Sen *et al.* (1988) and Varatharajan (2005) studied thysanopteran fauna of North Eastern India, however they have not recorded the genus *Franklinothrips*. This record adds the genus to the fauna of Tripura and also confirms the presence of *F. megalops* in North Eastern India.

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