



Two new species of *Stenchaetothrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) from India

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Abstract

Two new species of *Stenchaetothrips* are described from India, *S. hullikali* and *S. spinulae*. The former was collected from rice seedlings in Karnataka, and the latter from bamboo vegetation in Delhi State. *S. spinulae* shows sexual dimorphism in colour, with the females brown but the males bicoloured. *S. hullikali* has ocellar seta pair III sub-equal to pair II.

Key words: *Stenchaetothrips*, *S. hullikali*, *S. spinulae* new species, India, Thysanoptera, Thripidae

Introduction

Stenchaetothrips Bagnall currently includes 32 species, all from the Asian region apart from one described from Sudan and another from Brazil (Mound 2008). The species in this genus apparently all live on grasses and bamboos, breeding on the leaves rather than in the flowers, and one of the species is a widespread pest of rice crops. *Stenchaetothrips* is a member of *Thrips* genus-group in the family Thripidae, one of the two largest families out of a total of nine families recognized in the Order Thysanoptera. Bhatti (1982) reviewed 20 species of *Stenchaetothrips*, of which 15 were reported from India, and in this paper we describe two further new species in this genus from India. From other Asian areas, Zhang and Tong (1990) reported nine species from China including two new species from Hainan, Wang (2000) reported eight species from Taiwan including four new species, Palmer (1992) transferred two Philippines species from the genus *Thrips* to *Stenchaetothrips*, and Reyes (1994) reported three species from the Philippines.

Stenchaetothrips is a member of *Thrips* genus group which includes 14 genera. The species of these genera all have paired ctenidia laterally on the abdominal tergites, and on the eighth tergite the ctenidia are mesad of the spiracles (Mound & Palmer 1981; Mound 2002). Bhatti & Mound (1980) provided a key to distinguish eight of these genera: *Stenchaetothrips* Bagnall, *Fulmekiola* Karny, *Thrips* Linnaeus, *Stenothrips* Uzel, *Ctenidothrips* Priesner, *Toxonothrips* Moulton, *Baliothrips* Uzel, *Sphaerothrips* Priesner.

The genera *Stenchaetothrips* and *Thrips* are difficult to separate from each other. Species of *Stenchaetothrips* live only on Poaceae, whereas species of *Thrips* live on plants of numerous families other than Poaceae. In species of *Stenchaetothrips* the ocellar seta pair II are longer than pair III, whereas in *Thrips* pair III setae are longer than or subequal to pair II.

Microcephalothrips Bagnall, *Bolacothrips* Uzel, *Ernothrips* Bhatti, *Larothrips* Pitkin are also members of *Thrips* genus group. *Microcephalothrips* is distinguished by the presence of five to seven pairs of setae on the prosternal basantra and two small basantral sclerites. The remaining genera in *Thrips* genus group lack basantral setae and basantral sclerites. *Bolacothrips* alone among these genera has a simple sensorium on antennal segments III and IV. *Ernothrips* can be separated from *Stenchaetothrips* by having a prominent postmarginal