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The genus *Aeolothrips* in Iran (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) with one new species

KAMBIZ MINAEI

Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran. E-mail: kminaei@shirazu.ac.ir

Abstract

Aeolothrips zurstrasseni sp. n. is described from Fars Province, and *A. modestus* zur Strassen is newly recorded from Iran, in Isfahan Province. Both species have been collected from the flowers of *Suaeda* sp. (Chenopodiaceae), and the presence of several species of thrips on plants of this family is discussed. Recent records of *Aeolothrips balati* and *A. citricinctus* from Iran are not accepted here.

Key words: Chenopodiaceae, new record, new species, *Suaeda* sp.

Introduction

Worldwide, 201 species of Aeolothripidae are recognized, in 28 genera (Mound 2011). The members of this family retain several plesiomorphies that have been lost in most other families in the suborder Terebrantia. Until recently, Melanthripidae was included in Aeolothripidae. However, a morphology-based distinction of these two families is now well supported (Mound & Morris 2007). More recently molecular analysis based on five genetic loci confirmed the monophyletic nature of Aeolothripidae as well as its distinction from Melanthripidae (Buckman *et al.* 2013). In this family, the genus *Aeolothrips* Haliday, the banded-winged thrips, is the largest with 96 species (including 3 fossils) (Mound 2013). The genus is distributed mostly in the Northern Hemisphere, with most species from Europe, the Mediterranean area and North America, but with a few known only from Africa or India (Mound 2013). No species of *Aeolothrips* is known to be native to South America (Mound & Marullo 1996) or Australia (Mound & Marullo 1998). Most of these species seem to be facultative predators feeding on pollen as well as other arthropods in a wide range of flowers (Mound 1997). Among four genera of Aeolothripidae recorded from Iran (Minaei *et al.* 2001; Bhatti *et al.* 2009), *Aeolothrips* is the most diverse, although Bhatti (2006) and Bhatti *et al.* (2009) restricted the genus to a single species, *A. albicinctus*. However this approach has not been accepted by most Thysanopterists (see Mound *et al.* 2013).

The purpose of this paper is to describe a new *Aeolothrips* species, and to record *A. modestus* from Iran on the basis of recent collections in Fars and Isfahan Provinces. Moreover, three records of *Aeolothrips* species from Fars Province by Fallahzadeh *et al.* (2011) are excluded here.

With the new species described below, and the new record in this paper, 17 species of *Aeolothrips* are now known from Iran (Table 1). Full nomenclatural information about Thysanoptera is available on the web (Mound 2013).

Material and methods

Thrips specimens were mounted onto slides in Canada balsam after dehydration through a series of ethanol using a form of the protocol given by Mound & Kibby (1998). The line drawings were sketched using a drawing attachment. Terminology follows zur Strassen (2003) and Hoddle *et al.* (2013).