

## A New Species of *Dolichothrips* s. str. from Guam and Ceylon (Tubulifera: Phlaeothripidae)

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Recently Mr. N. L. H. Krauss collected several species of *Dolichothrips* from plants of the genus *Melastoma* in different parts of the Oriental Region. The new species described herein is one of these thrips.

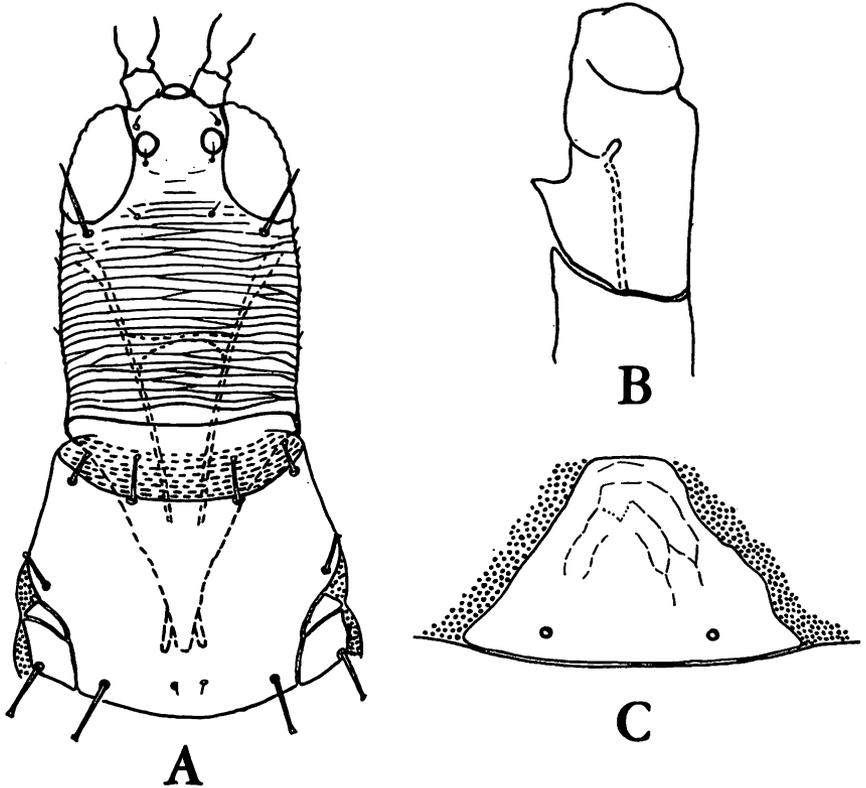
Plants of *Melastoma* are hosts to a number of thrips. Karny (1912) recorded three species which were thought to be habitually on *M. polyanthum* in Java: *Androthrips melastomae* (Zimmerman), *Liothrips longirostris* Karny, and *Gynaikothrips chavicae* (Zimmerman). To the list of thrips on *Melastoma* can now be added those species of *Dolichothrips* discovered by Mr. Krauss which include the new species, *nesius*, from Guam on *M. marianum* and also from Ceylon on *M. malabathricum*; an undetermined species from Ceylon on *M. malabathricum*; and one or two undetermined species from West Bengal, India, on *M. malabathricum*. Because *Melastoma* is often cultivated, it is quite likely that some of the associated thrips are widely distributed by human commerce.

I am indebted to Mr. Krauss for sending me the specimens from Guam and to Miss Kellie O'Neill for allowing me to study the material from Ceylon and India.

### *Dolichothrips* (*Dolichothrips*) *nesius*, new species.

**Female** (macropterous). Length distended about 1.8 mm. General color dark brown. All of antennal segments III to VI, basal half of antennal segment VII, apical three-fourths of fore tibiae, apical one-third of middle tibiae, apical one-fifth of hind tibiae and all tarsi, yellow. Apical half of antennal segment VII, antennal segment VIII, and scale of fore wing medium brown. Remainder of wings nearly colorless. Setae of head, thorax, basal abdominal segments and terminal setae of tube brown; lateral setae of the apical half of the abdomen light yellow. Body with red subintegumental pigment.

Head (fig. 1, A) 1.4 times longer than wide, widest across eyes, surface closely, transversely striate. Eyes moderately large, only slightly more extended posteriorly on the ventral surface than on the dorsal surface. Ocellar area raised; fore ocellus overhanging base of the antennae. Postocular setae long, over 0.6 times as long as dorsal eye length, pointed to nearly blunt. Antennae eight-segmented, moderate in size, not as elongate as in *giraffa* Karny, more as in *indicus* (Hood);



*Dolichothrips nesius* new species. FIG. 1, A. Head and prothorax, dorsal aspect. FIG. 1, B. Right fore tarsus, setae omitted. FIG. 1, C. Pelta, median shield on abdominal tergite I.

segment III with one inner and two outer, fairly long, slender sense cones; segment VIII non-pedicellate. Mouth cone long and pointed. Maxillary stylets when retracted placed far apart, V-shaped, within the head. Maxillary bridge conspicuous, wide.

Prothorax with all major setae well developed, dilated; anteromarginal setae slightly longer than anterolateral setae, subequal to mid laterals, all of these shorter than the posterior setae. Epimeral sutures complete. Praepectal plates present. Median sclerite of metanotum longitudinally striate at sides. Fore legs slightly enlarged; fore tarsi each with a small median tooth (fig. 1, B). Fore wings indented in the middle and narrowed beyond, with 6 or 7 accessory fringe cilia.

Pelta (fig. 1, C) roughly triangular, nearly smooth with only a few weak striations. Abdominal tergites II to VII each with two pairs of sigmoidal wing-holding setae. Abdominal tergite IX with major posterior pairs of setae (setae I

and II) longer than the tube, pointed. Tube slightly more than half as long as head. Fustus moderate in size.

**Male** (macropterous). Length distended slightly over 1.6 mm. Similar to female. Body slightly lighter in color, tips of antennal segments IV to VI sometimes clouded with light brown. Fore tarsal teeth slightly larger. Abdominal sternite VIII apparently without a defined glandular area. Abdominal tergite with major lateral posterior pair of setae (setae II) greatly reduced in size, fine and hairlike.

**Holotype.** Female; Mt. Lamam, Guam; February, 1958; N. L. H. Krauss; on young leaves of *Melastoma marianum*. **Allotype.** Male; same data as for holotype.

**Paratypes.** 8 ♀, 7 ♂; same data as for holotype. Types will be deposited in the B. P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Additional record.** 2 ♀; near Gampola, Ceylon; August, 1957; N. L. H. Krauss; on leaves and flower buds of *Melastoma malabathricum*.

Apparently *nesius* is more similar to *pumilus* Priesner, from Formosa, than any other congener. In both these species the postocular setae are pointed or nearly so and antennal segment III bears two outer sense cones. By comparison, *indicus* (Hood), the Indian species to which *pumilus* was originally thought to be closely allied (Priesner 1935), has the postocular setae dilated and antennal segment III bearing only one outer sense cone. From *pumilus*, *nesius* may be easily distinguished by color. In *nesius* the middle and hind tibiae are yellow at the tips, whereas in *pumilus* they are dark brown.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- KARNY, H. 1912. Gallenbewohnende Thysanopteren aus Java. MARCELLIA XI:115-169.  
PRIESNER, H. 1935. New or little-known Oriental Thysanoptera. PHILIPPINE JOUR. SCI. 57(3):351-375.