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ECHINOTHRIPS AMERICANUS

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Echinothrips americanus* Morgan

CLASS: Insecta

ORDER: Thsanoptera

FAMILY: Thripidae



Adults and Larva

From: [Universit of Florida](#)



Larvae

From: [Universit of Florida](#)



Adult

From: [NC E"tension](#)

DESCRIPTION

Adults: The adult female *Echinothrips americanus* is about 1.6 mm long and the male about 1.3 mm long. The general bod color is dark brown with red between the abdominal segments. Segments 1 and 2 of the antenna are dark brown, 3 and 4 lighter. Forewings are pale gra at base, middle, and tip with light brown in between.

Eggs: Laid in plant tissue, elongate and clear to white.

Larvae: Immediatel after hatch the larvae are clear but the change to white and then become light or pale ellow after feeding. The second-stage larvae become cream colored before molting to prepupae.

Pupae and Prepupae: Both are found on leaf tissue and move onl when disturbed. Prepupa is white with short wing pads and antennae e"tend forward. Pupa is white with long wing pads and the antennae bend back over bod.

BIOLOGY

Distribution: *Echinothrips americanus* has a range over most of the eastern United States. It has been reported as a pest of nurser and landscape plants in the southern part of its range and as a greenhouse pest on several plants.

Host Plants: This thrips will feed on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces but is usuall more common on the lower surface. The have been found and reproduce on most ornamental plants tested and man of the common weed species of Georgia. In an e"periment in Georgia, out of 51 species of cultivated plants and 75 native plants studied, feeding and reproduction was observed on 40 cultivated and 59 native species. Of all the greenhouse host plants; poinsettias, Irish shamrock, and impatiens are the most common hosts in Georgia. The also have been common on chrsanthemum foliage and flowers. The also have been a pest on wood ornamentals.

Damage: This thrips feeds on leaf tissue and the damage is very similar to typical mite damage with light spots on the leaf. Their numerous but shallow punctures result in injured tissue with a shrunken appearance, and the light color is a result of the cell constituents, including chlorophyll, being removed. Infested leaves will have numerous black specs on them that are fecal droppings of the thrips. They also will feed on parts of the flower.

Life Cycle: Female *E. americanus* deposits eggs separately in slits in the leaf tissue. Eggs were deposited at random on the leaf surface. Developmental time depended on temperature, at 15°C the egg stage averaged 15.5 days and the immatures took 18.4 days for a total of 33.9 days. Under warmer conditions development was faster, at 30°C the egg stage took 5.8 days and the immatures only 5.6 days for a total of 11.4 days from egg to adult. Developmental time varied with different host species. All stages were present throughout the year in the greenhouse. Adults and immatures were not very active and would remain in the same area of a leaf for days if not disturbed.

CONTROL

Different populations of this thrips have expressed different susceptibility to insecticides. Greenhouse populations in Georgia have been susceptible to most insecticides. There have been reports of populations on wood nursery plants that were difficult to control.

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