Back to Pest Identification and Diagnosis

FROM: NC STATE UNIVERSITY A&T STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION *Helping People Put Knowledge to Work*

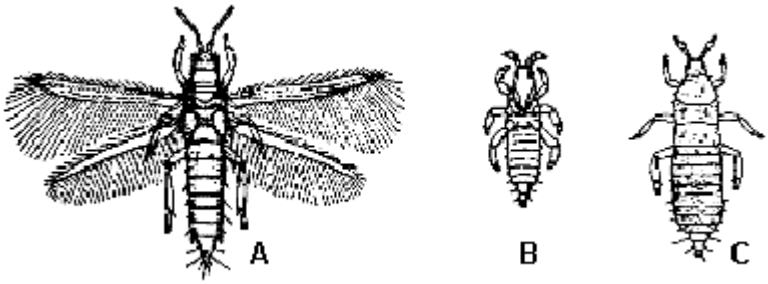
	Introduction to Thrips	Ke to Thrips	Cuban Laurel Thrips	
Flower Thrips	Western Flower Thrips	Tobacco Thrips	Greenhouse Thrips	Banded Greenhouse Thrips
Melon Thrips	Gladiolus Thrips	Onion Thrips	Composite Thrips	*Echinothrips americanus*

ONION THRIPS

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Thrips tabaci* Lindeman
CLASS: Insecta
ORDER: Thsanoptera
FAMILY: Thripidae

Onion Thrips
From: Universit of California

Adult Onion Thrips
From: CSIRO Entomolog



A. Adult **B. First instar larva larva** **C. Second instar**

Life Ccle
From: NC E“tension

DESCRIPTION

Adults: Adult females of onion thrips are about 1.1 to 1.2 mm long, ellow, with brownish blotches on the thora“ and the median portion of abdomen. Antennae are gra with the first segment lighter than other segments. Males are rare.

Eggs: The eggs are ver small, about 0.2 mm long, kidne shaped, and white. The are deposited within plant tissues.

Larvae: The first instar larva is white, about 0.35 to 0.38 mm long. The second instar larva is ellowish, about 0.7 to 0.9 mm long.

Pupae and Prepupae: The pupa and prepupa are similar to the second instar larvae in color and shape, e“cept

for having small wing pads.

BIOLOGY

Distribution: Onion thrips have been found in most countries throughout the world.

Host Plants: Onion thrips are e“tremel polphagous. The inhabit leaves, shoots, and flowers of man plants. It prefers to feed on onions, but feeds on man field crops, vegetables, various flowers, and bedding plants. It ma cause heav damage to chrsanthemums and carnations.

Damage: Generall feeding of onion thrips cause ellowing or dropping of leaves, buds, or flowers. High infestation results in stunted growth, brown blisters, white blotches, silver whitish areas or feeding scars. Young terminal leaves frequentl show malformation when heavil attacked, with crinkl surfaces, sunken and raised thin areas, marginal erosion, margin curling inwardl, and a chlorotic ellowish appearance with graish color along all large veins. Young buds ma be killed as soon as the come out. In addition, the freel feed within flowers, attacking the tender portions.

Life Ccle: Onion thrips have si“ to ten generations depending on temperature. Adults and larvae overwinter in the soil or plant litter on the ground. Pupae and prepupae overwinter in the soil. The average length of development is: 6 to 8 das for eggs, 10 to 14 das for larvae, 5 to 9 das for prepupae and pupae, and about 20 das for a generation. It ma take as long as 35 das for a generation if temperature is at 15 C. The lower developmental threshold is about 11.5 C and using this threshold as a base, development required 191 degree das. Adults reproduce parthenogenicall through out the season, rarel reproduce se“uall, and resulting m that most adults in the field are female. The average adult life is around 32 das, and pre-oviposition, oviposition and post-oviposition periods are 6.1, 22.5, and 3.9 das, respectivel. The average number of eggs laid b an unmated female is 37.4 (20 to 200).

CONTROL

The application of chemical insecticides is the common control measure. The onion thrips problem in an integrated pest management program can be solved b using selective pesticides or b using selective treatments such as soil drenches. A combination of selective chemical insecticides and a predaceous mite in the genus *Amblseius* (Acari: Phtoseiidae) have been successfull used to control this thrips.

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