First description of the male of *Oxythrips tristis* Bagnall (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

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*Oxythrips tristis* is a Mediterranean species described by Bagnall (1927) on one female collected from flowers of *Eryngium maritimum* [Apiaceae] in South France. Subsequently, adult females of this species have been recorded from Spain, Turkey and Italy (Umbria), collected from *Juniperus thurifera*, *Quercus ilex*, *Q. suber* and plants beneath these trees (zur Strassen 2003). Despite this, males of *tristis* have remained unknown until, during 2005–2010, a few specimens of both sexes were collected in northern Italy on *Eryngium campestre*. The females were identified using published literature (Zur Strassen 2003), and the male is here described and illustrated for the first time.

Species of the genus *Oxythrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) are found mainly in the Holarctic Region, and zur Strassen (2003) provided an identification key to eighteen species from Europe, at least 10 of which have been collected from plant species in the genera *Pinus*, *Quercus* and *Juniperus*. Moreover, ten *Oxythrips* species are recorded from the Mediterranean Region. The main character states used to diagnose the genus *Oxythrips* are: head with 3 pairs of ocellar setae; pronotum with one pair of long posteroangular setae; posteromarginal comb on tergite VIII usually absent in females; tergite IX of females without thick setae; tergite IX of males with 2 pairs of short, stout setae medially; sternites III–VI of males each with one round or oval pore plate medially. Identification of some *Oxythrips* species recorded from southern European regions has been difficult, due to variation in character states such as colour of antennal segments, chaetotaxy of fore wing, sculpture of metanotum and abdominal tergites. Minor differences in tergal sculpture were used by Mound (1968) to distinguish *O. tristis* from *O. ulmifoliorum* (Haliday), but more extensive studies by zur Strassen (1996, 2000) resulted in the synonymy of *O. quercus* Priesner and *O. ibericus* Berzosa with *O. tristis*.

*Oxythrips tristis* Bagnall, 1927 (Figs. 1–6)

**Macropterous male.** Body colour pale yellow, head and pronotum darker than abdomen, pterothorax brownish; compound eyes black with reddish pigmentation, ocelli more lightly coloured. Fore wings slightly but entirely shaded, all tibiae brownish but yellow distally, tarsi pale yellow. Antenna 8-segmented, antennal segment I pale yellow, segment II brownish, segments III–V pale at base, antennal VI mostly pale but brown distally; tergite IX of males with 2 pairs of short, stout setae medially; sternites III–VI of males each with one round or oval pore plate medially. Identification of some *Oxythrips* species recorded from southern European regions has been difficult, due to variation in character states such as colour of antennal segments, chaetotaxy of fore wing, sculpture of metanotum and abdominal tergites. Minor differences in tergal sculpture were used by Mound (1968) to distinguish *O. tristis* from *O. ulmifoliorum* (Haliday), but more extensive studies by zur Strassen (1996, 2000) resulted in the synonymy of *O. quercus* Priesner and *O. ibericus* Berzosa with *O. tristis*.
posteroangular setae. Fore wing (Fig. 1) costa with 21 setae, first vein with widely scattered 9–10 setae, second vein with 8 setae, clavus with 4 veinal setae, fringe cilia wavy. Sculpture of abdominal tergites as in the head. Tergite IX (Fig. 4) with two long posteroangular setae, inner pair shorter than outer; two pairs of posteroangular setae on tergite X, equally long.

Material studied. ITALY, Novi Ligure (Alessandria), on flowers of *Eryngium campestre* [Apiaceae], 1 female. 08.08.2005, 1 male, 08.08.2009, 1 male, 18.07.2010.

FIGURES 1–6. *Oxythrips tristis* (1–4 female; 5–6 male): (1) fore wing, (2) head and pronotum; (3) antenna; (4) tergites VIII–X; (5) tergites VIII–X; (6) sternites III–VIII pore plates.

References
https://doi.org/10.1080/00222932708655491