

RECORD OF *Thrips palmi* KARNY, 1925 (THYSANOPTERA,
THRIPIDAE) IN THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Renata C. Monteiro¹
Roberto A. Zucchi¹
Laurence A. Mound²

The yellow flower thrips or melon thrips *Thrips palmi* Karny, 1925 is a very small, pale yellow to white insect. The name is due to the director of the Medan quarantine station, B.T. Palm, in Sumatra, where it was first found infesting tobacco plants; the species is not known to be associated with any palm. It is a highly polyphagous insect, and has spread rapidly throughout the Pacific and Orient, causing much damage mostly to cucurbits and solanaceous. According to WALKER (1992), the first record of *T. palmi* in the New World was from Martinique in 1985; since then it has spread in the Caribbean and, in 1991, it reached the Southern USA (Florida) and Guyana. Also it was reported in Venezuela in 1991 (CERMELI & MONTAGNE, 1992). However, it has not previously been recorded South of Venezuela. World distribution of *T. palmi* can be found in COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURAL BUREAUX INTERNATIONAL (1992). It causes damage especially on eggplants, cucumbers, melons, sweet pepper (KAWAY, 1990; RYCKEWEERT, 1993). In addition, it is a TSWV vector (FUNDERBURK, 1993). It is a federal quarantine action pest with a zero level in USA (HATA et alii, 1991).

T. palmi is a serious pest due to its high reproductive rate and low sensitivity to a number of commercial insecticides. The damage can be caused in greenhouse as well as in open fields. However, based on available information, the population level of yellow flower thrips is

¹ Departamento de Entomologia ESAL/USP, Caixa Postal 9, CEP 13418-900 Piracicaba-SP, Brazil.

² The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK.

high in open fields mostly on eggplant, potato and sweet pepper crops, and chemical control is not efficient so far. GIRLING (1992) edited an extensive annotated bibliography of the published literature in *T. palmi*, including its pest status, biology, population ecology, control measures and identification.

T. palmi was found for the first time in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, causing damage on five host plants in eleven counties as follows:

. On chrysanthemum *Chrysanthemum* sp. (leaves and/or flowers) in Arthur Nogueira, Holambra and Jaguariúna;

. On eggplant *Solanum melongena* (young leaves and/or fruits) in Piedade and Registro;

. On potato *Solanum tuberosum* (leaves) in Atibaia, Itapetininga and Pinhalzinho;

. On sweet pepper *Capsicum annum* (flowers and/or fruits and/or leaves) in Itapira, Paulínia and São Miguel Arcanjo;

Also, some specimens were collected in flowers and leaves of tomatoes (unknown locality). However, apparently *T. palmi* does not heavily attack tomato plants. YASUMI et alii (1991) demonstrated that extracts of tomato leaves had an anti-feedant effect on *T. palmi*, when kept on moist filter paper.

RESUMO

REGISTRO DE *Thrips palmi* Karny, 1925 NO ESTADO DE SÃO PAULO

Este é o primeiro registro de *Thrips palmi* Karny, 1925 no Estado de São Paulo. *T. palmi* foi coletado em vários municípios, causando prejuízos em crisântemo, beringela, batata, pimentão e tomate.

Palavras-chave: Thripidae, tripses, ocorrência, distribuição.

ABSTRACT

This is the first record of *Thrips palmi* Karny, 1925 in the State of São Paulo, Brazil. It was found in several counties, causing damage on chrysanthemum, eggplant, potato, sweet pepper and tomato.

Key words: Thripidae, yellow flower thrips, melon thrips, occurrence, distribution.

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