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## A New Subgenus and Species of *Meiothrips* PRIESNER (Thysanoptera, Megathripinae) from Nepal

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**Synopsis** *Meiothrips (Telothrips) nepalensis* subgen. et sp. nov. is described here on the basis of the specimens collected from Central Nepal.

The distinctness of the genus *Meiothrips* is evident by the very long third antennal segment (15-18 times as long as wide across apex) and segments 4 and 5 a little more than half the length of segment 3. While this is an unmistakably significant character, the nature of head, prothorax and tube have much in common with the allied genus *Bactrothrips*, wherein both the sexes are typically unarmed as in *Meiothrips* and with tube long and hairy. The discovery of typical member of the genus *Meiothrips* is of particular significance in view of the possession by males of a strikingly strongly armed tube with stout, thorn-like spines arranged in a linear fashion dorsally and with the ventral side bearing numerous closely set denticles. The absence of this character in the females, aligns the species with the typical *Meiothrips*. However, in view of the presence of a long and strongly armed tube in the males, the erection of a new subgenus *Telothrips* subgen. nov. appears essential, so that we have the species *M. annulatus* PRIESNER and *M. menoni* ANANTHAKRISHNAN representing the subgenus *Meiothrips* s. str. and *M. nepalensis* under the subgenus *Telothrips*.

### Key to Subgenera of *Meiothrips*

1. Tube at most about twice as long as head; tube in both sexes normal, without any armature.....*Meiothrips* s. str.
- Tube more than twice as long as head (2.4-2.8 times) and strongly armed in males with stout curved spines dorsally and numerous closely set denticles ventrally; cephalic setae small except middorsal head setae.....*Telothrips* subgen. nov.

### *Meiothrips (Telothrips) nepalensis* sp. nov.

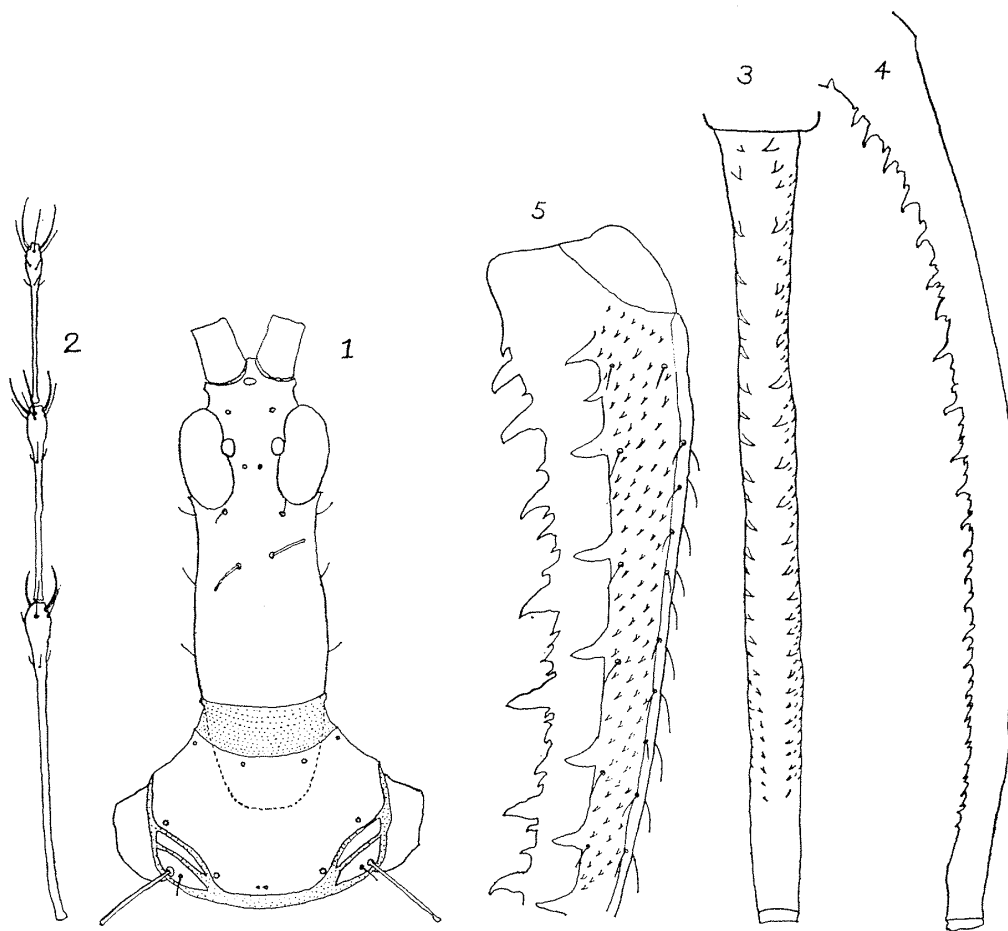
*Female* (macropterous). Dark to blackish brown. Fore femora dark brown, mid and hind femora dark brown at extreme base and apical half, rest yellow; tibiae yellow at extreme base and apical half, rest brown; tarsi brown. Antennal segments 1 and 2 dark brown; segment 3-8 gray except 3 and 4 with yellow at

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extreme base and a little below apex. Wings pale brownish with dark vein and brown at extreme base. Body setae hyaline to pale yellow; all slightly knobbed to blunt.

Head 665–675  $\mu$  long, 322–328  $\mu$  wide across eyes, 250  $\mu$  across constricted region below eyes, 280–285  $\mu$  across cheeks and 275  $\mu$  at base; head production 47–50  $\mu$  long, 120  $\mu$  wide; cephalic setae small except middorsal setae; eyes 234  $\mu$  long. Antennal segments, length (width) (in  $\mu$ ): 90–95 (70–74), 83–87 (49–52), 610–710 (50–52), 390–425 (50–51), 305–350 (48), 192–194 (40), 92(30–31), 92 (20–21). Sense cones on segments 3–5, 2, 4, 2 respectively.



Figs. 1–5. *Meiothrips (Telothrips) nepalensis* sp. nov., male. — 1. Head and prothorax — 2. Antennal segments 3–5. — 3. Tube, dorsal view. — 4. Tube, lateral view. — 5. Tube enlarged, lateral view.

Prothorax 306  $\mu$  long at middle, 336  $\mu$  wide across anterior margin, 490–500  $\mu$  across posterior margin; epimeral setae 174  $\mu$  long; anteromarginal and antero-angular setae minute. Pterothorax 796  $\mu$  long, 826  $\mu$  across mesothorax and 887  $\mu$  across metathorax. Fore wings with about 50–55 double fringes; basal bristles arranged in a row, 142, 102, 234  $\mu$  long respectively.

B 1–B 3 of abdominal segment IX, 275, 204, 306  $\mu$  long respectively; tube about 2.4 times as long as head, 1,450–1,720  $\mu$  long, 173  $\mu$  wide at base, 143  $\mu$  at middle, 102  $\mu$  at apex; anal setae about 234  $\mu$  long.

Total body length about 7.8–8.6 mm.

*Male* (macropterous). Color same as in female.

Head 694–714  $\mu$  long, 316  $\mu$  across eyes, 255  $\mu$  across constricted region below eyes, 265–275  $\mu$  across cheeks and 260–265  $\mu$  at base; eyes 224–234  $\mu$  long, 160–170  $\mu$  wide; head production 50–52  $\mu$  long, 122–230  $\mu$  wide. Antennal segments, length (width) (in  $\mu$ ): 102–120 (73–77), 100–102 (50–53), 753–815 (60–66), 490–505 (50–51), 360–385 (48–51), 234 (40), 82 (30–31), 75–81 (21–30). Mouth cone 255  $\mu$  long, 275  $\mu$  wide at base and 153  $\mu$  at apex.

Prothorax 350–370  $\mu$  long at middle, 350–370  $\mu$  across anterior margin, 510–550  $\mu$  across posterior margin; epimeral setae 174–183  $\mu$  long. Pterothorax 826–867  $\mu$  long, 840–856  $\mu$  wide across mesothorax and 890–928  $\mu$  across metathorax. Basal wing bristles 122–130, 102, 224  $\mu$  long respectively.

Tube about 2.7–2.8 times as long as head, with strong curved spines in a row on each side dorsally and numerous closely set denticles laterally and smooth on ventrum, 1,887–2,075  $\mu$  long, 170  $\mu$  wide at base, 102  $\mu$  at middle, 100  $\mu$  at apex.

Total body length about 9.0–9.4 mm.

*Material.* 4 females and 12 males from dry tree leaf and twig in evergreen forest, 18–X–1973, Dhunche (1,800–2,200 m), Central Nepal.

### References

- ANANTHAKRISHNAN, T. N., 1964. A contribution to our knowledge of the Tubulifera (Thysanoptera) from India. *Opusc. Ent., Suppl.*, (25), 120 pp.  
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 PRIESNER, H., 1929. *Spolia Mentawiensis: Thysanoptera. Treubia*, 11: 187–210.

### Addenda

The genus *Phoxothrips* (type: *P. pugillator* KARNY) appears to have more in common with *Mecynothrips* and *Kleothrips* and ANANTHAKRISHNAN (1964) very rightly transferred *breviceps* BAGNALL to the genus *Fulgoroethrips* and described the new species *F. faurei*. Quite inexplicably, however, the inclusion of both *breviceps* and *faurei* once again under *Phoxothrips* and treating *Fulgoroethrips* as a subgenus appears out of context. This note is meant to correct the above error (ANANTHAKRISHNAN, 1973) and I wish to thank Mr. K. HAGA of the University of Tsukuba for kindly forwarding to me slides of *P. pugillator* and *Fulgoroethrips breviceps*. To Mr. MOUND of the British Museum (Natural History), London, my thanks are also due for loaning KARNY's paper of 1913. (T. N. ANANTHAKRISHNAN)