

FIRST RECORD OF MALE OF *MONILOTHRIPS KEMPI* MOULTON (THYSANOPTERA : THIRIPIDAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Male specimens of *Monilothrips kempi* Moulton recorded for the first time from India, hitherto known only from Basutoland (S. Africa) and California.

INTRODUCTION

Moulton erected the unique and extremely rare genus *Monilothrips* and described the species *Monilothrips kempi* based on a single female, taken from an unknown host plant on 4.v.1917 from Sureil, Mangpu, Darjeeling District, West Bengal. Since then the species has not been reported from any where else in India, until Bhatti (1972) collected a large number of females in 1967 from Mussoorie, U.P., without even a single male in a large collection of 170 females inspite of concerted efforts. Hood and Jacot-Guillarmod (1959) reported for the first time the male of *Monilothrips kempi* Moulton from Basutoland (S. Africa), and subsequently reported from California (Wilson, 1975). Studies on a recent collections from Darjeeling District has revealed the presence of three male specimens and this forms the first record of male of *Monilothrips kempi* Moulton from India and described below.

Monilothrips kempi Moulton

Monilothrips kempi Moulton, 1929, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 31 : 94

Monilothrips kempi, Bailey & Cott, 1952. *Bull. Calif. Dept. Agri.*, 41 (3) : 2

Monilothrips kempi, Bailey, 1957. *Bull. Calif. Ins. Survey*, 4 (5) : 186.

Monilothrips montanus Jacot-Buillasmod, 1942 *J. ent. Soc. S. Afr.*, 5 : 64.

Monilothrips kempi, Hood & Jacot-Guillarmod, 1959, *J. ent. Soc. S. Afr.*, 22 (2) : 489.

Monilothrips kempi, Bhatti, 1972. *Oriental Ins.* 6 (1) : 72,

Monilothrips kempi, Wilaon, 1975. *Mem. Amer. Ent. Inst.*, 23 : 173.

Male (Macropterous) : Colour uniformly orange brown, antennal segments I-III and base of IV & V whitish yellow, rest unicolourous to the body ; legs golden yellow, wings uniformly whitish yellow, all setae dark. Head distinctly produced in front between antenna, anterior margin of projection concave ; cheeks slightly arched, posterior margin of heap with a distinct reticulated collar-like band. Head 156* long, 208 wide across cheeks, anteocular projection 20 long, 20 wide. Eyes little extended ventrally, 80-88 long, 52-56 wide, all ocelli 16 wide. Antecellars 24 long, interocellars placed in the middle of the ocellor triangle 28-32 long, postocellars 20-24 long ; postoculars 28-32 long. Antennae 8-segmented, segments III & IV vane-shaped, sense cones forked ; length (width) : I : 32

*All measurements are in micron unless otherwise mentioned.

(32) ; II : 56 (36) ; III : 96 (28) ; IV : 80 (28) ; V : 64 (24) ; VI : 40-44 (20-24) ; VII : 20 (16) ; VIII : 52 (12). Mouthcone 92 long, 192 wide at base, 64 at apex.

Prothorax 120 long, 252-260 wide, forward directed anteroangulars 40-44 long, backward directed anteroangulars 52 long, anteromarginals 28-32 long, midlaterals 36-44 long, inner-postangulars 40 long, outer-postangulars 60-72 long. Pterothorax 372 long, 360 wide across mesothorax and 368 across metathorax. Forewings 1003-1020 long ; costa with 28-30, upper vein with 17 (15+1+1) ; lower vein with 16 setae.

Abdomen shape and sculpture essentially as in female. Postmarginal flanges restricted

laterally on sterna IV-VIII, glandular areas absent in sternites. Abdomen 304 wide at base, 360 at middle, 180 across segment IX. Tergum IX (Fig. 1A) with six strong specialised setae disposed as follows :—4 in the middle (2 in upper row and 2 in lower row) and the other 2 placed laterally. B_1 — B_3 of segment IX-108—116, 80 & 40 long and B_1 — B_2 of segment X 44-52 & 80 long.

Total body length 1.6—1.65 mm.

Material examined : 1 ♂, Maibhanjang, ca. 1951 m., Darjeeling District, West Bengal, 19.v.1975 (J.K. Jonathan Coll.) ; 2 ♂ ♂, Rangiroom, ca. 1913 m., Darjeeling District, West Bengal, 7.vi.1975 (J. K. Jonathan Coll.).

The males from Darjeeling District differs

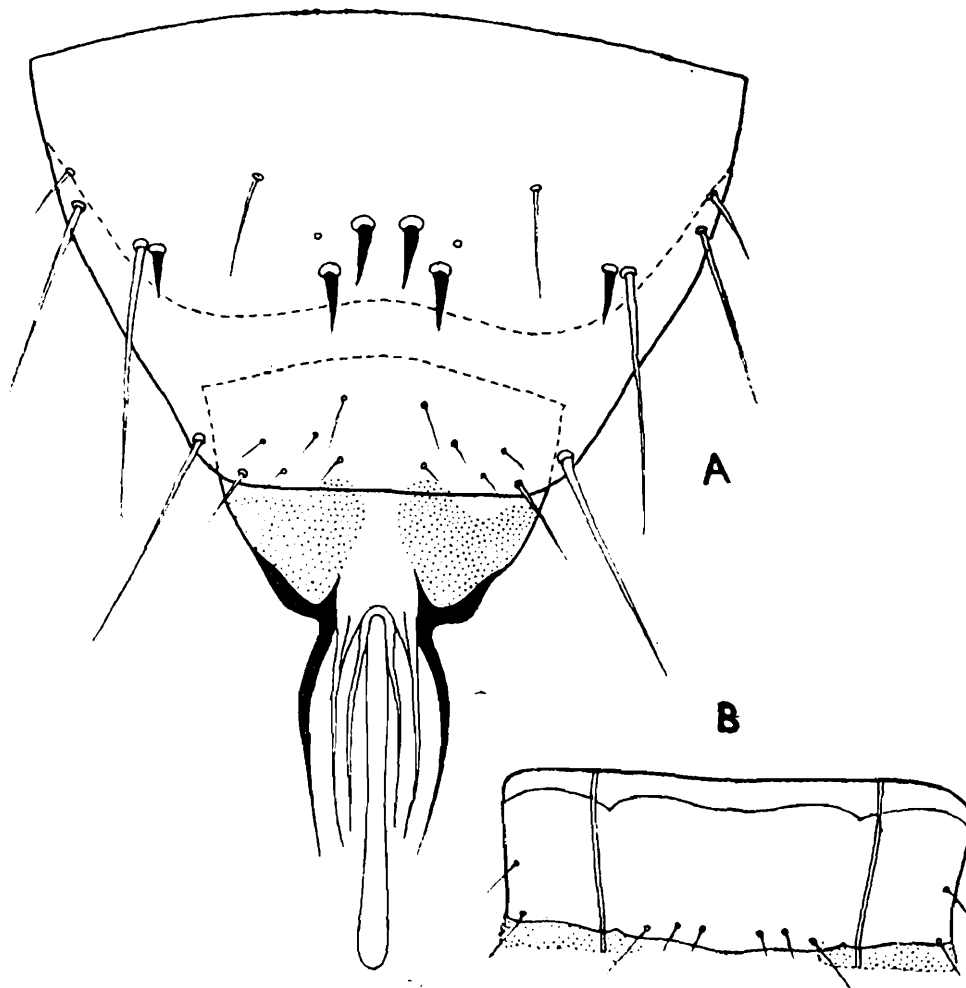


Fig. 1 *Morilothrips kempii* Moulton ♂ : A. Terminal abdominal segments ; B. Abdominal sternum V

from that of Basutoland and California in having six specialised setae in tergite IX, instead of four.

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WILSON, T. H. 1975. A monograph of the subfamily Panchaethripinae (Thysanoptera : Thripidae).—*Mem. Amer. Ent. Inst.*, 23 : 354 pp.

*Original not seen by the author.

