

First records on a species of the genus *Belothrips* Haliday, 1836 (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) in Slovakia

Wojciech SIERKA

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, University of Silesia, Bankowa 9, PL-40007 Katowice, Poland; e-mail: wsierka@us.edu.pl

For the recent years we have noticed a considerable growth of interest in research on Slovakian thrips (FEDOR, 2004a,c). So far 151 thysanopteran species have been reported from Slovakia (FEDOR et al., 2003), all of them representing two insect suborders: Terebrantia and Tubulifera.

The thrips of Slovakia belong to 50 genera of three families (out of 8 families known in the world): Aeolothripidae Uzel, 1895 – 12 species, Thripidae Stephens, 1829 – 95 species, and Phlaeothripidae Uzel, 1895 – 44 species.

It may seem that almost 40 years of systematic investigations on the thrips fauna of Šúr Nature Reserve (NR) resulted in a complete analysis of the species composition of this insect group (HESKOVÁ, 1967; PELIKÁN, 1992; FEDOR et al., 2001; FEDOR, 2003; 2004b,d; SIERKA & HALGOŠ, 2003; SIERKA, 2003a, and in press). However, a recent field study conducted in the area of the reserve, (SIERKA & HALGOŠ, 2003) has revealed two thrips species previously unknown from Šúr (now with 97 thrips species) and new to Slovakian fauna: *Belothrips acuminatus* (Haliday, 1836) and *Belothrips morio* Reuter, 1899. Moreover, it was the first report of the representatives of the genus *Belothrips* from Slovakia.

Representatives of *Belothrips* were firstly described by Haliday in 1836 as the genus *Thrips*. These insects may be defined as follows (SCHLIEPHAKE & KLIMT, 1979): stylus longer than antennal segment V (Fig. 1.), abdominal segment X longer than VII, segment X tubular (Fig. 2.), metasternum with a spinule, tergite VIII without marginal crest, sternites without accessory bristles.

A male and a female of *B. acuminatus* were firstly described by Haliday in 1836. This species lives on grasses, especially in plant assemblages with Rubiaceae, on the parts of plants close to the ground (SĘCZKOWSKA, 1975; SCHLIEPHAKE & KLIMT, 1979). Although adult forms are found on many plant genera (e.g. *Galium*, *Rosa*, *Festuca*, *Vicia*, *Trifolium*,

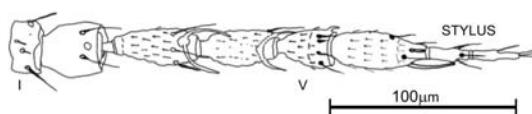


Fig. 1. *Belothrips* species, antennal segments (after SCHLIEPHAKE & KLIMT, 1979).

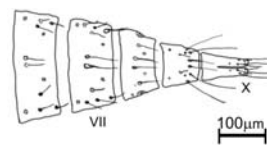


Fig. 2. *Belothrips* species, abdominal segments (after SCHLIEPHAKE & KLIMT, 1979).

Lotus), the larval host is *Galium verum* (JACOT-GUILLARMOD, 1974). *B. acuminatus* is widespread in Europe (SCHLIEPHAKE & KLIMT, 1979), it has been reported from many countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine) (JACOT-GUILLARMOD, 1974).

For the first time *B. morio* (female) was described by O. M. Reuter in 1899. It is trophically connected with grasses and *Galium* species (SCHLIEPHAKE & KLIMT, 1979), but it has also been observed on *Holcus lanatus* and *Cytisus nigrians* (JACOT-GUILLARMOD, 1974). In contrast to *B. acuminatus*, *B. morio* is known not only from Europe (Czech Republic, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden) but also from Canada (JACOT-GUILLARMOD, 1974).

All the captured specimens were identified using the keys by SHLIEPHAKE & KLIMT (1979). The thrips were preserved according to the common and standard

methods (BISEVAC, 1997). The material is stored in the author's collection.

Belothrips acuminatus (Haliday, 1836)

Material examined: SW Slovakia, Podunajská nížina lowland, National NR Jurský Šúr, Svätý Jur env. 7769c (= Grid reference number of Databank of Fauna of Slovakia), (48° 14' N, 17° 17' E), 18 specimens: Panónsky háj (a large glade in forest with saline vegetation, various shrubs, grasses and sedges), 11.VII.1998 – 2 ♀♀, 14.VII.1998 – 1 ♀, 1 ♂, 15.VII.1998 – 1 ♂, 18.VII.1998 – 1 ♀, 3.VI.1999 – 4 ♀♀, 1 ♂, 4.VI.1999 – 3 ♀♀, 1 ♂, 10.VI.99 – 1 ♀, 1 ♂; Panónsky háj, along a narrow path (across forest): 5.VI.1999 – 1 ♀, all leg. et det. W. Sierka.

Remarks: Holotype in the British Museum (Natural History); floricolous, xerophilous, oligophagous, European.

Belothrips morio O. M. Reuter, 1899

Material examined: SW Slovakia, Podunajská nížina lowland, National nature reserve Jurský Šúr, Svätý Jur env. 7769c (48° 14' N, 17° 17' E), 3 specimens: Panónsky háj, a small glade in centre of forests, 4.VI.1999 – 1 ♀; Panónsky háj, a large glade in forest with saline vegetation, various shrubs, grasses and sedges: 9.VI.1999 – 1 ♀, 11.VI.1999 – 1 ♀, all leg. et det. W. Sierka.

Remarks: Holotype in the Helsinki Museum; floricolous, hygrophilous, oligophagous, European.

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