THE BANDED GREENHOUSE THRIPS, HERCINOTHRIPS FEMORALIS (O. M. REUTER), IN FLORIDA

(THYSANOPTERA: THRIPIDAE)

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SYNONYMY:
HERCINOTHRIPS FEMORALIS O. M. REUTER, 1891:166.
HERCINOTHRIPS CESTRI PERGAXDE, 1895:390.
HERCINOTHRIPS FEMORALIS (O. M. REUTER), BAGNALL, 1932:506.

INTRODUCTION: REUTER (1891) FIRST DESCRIBED THIS THRIPS FROM SPECIMENS TAKEN IN A GREENHOUSE AT HELSINGFORS, FINLAND. BAGNALL (1932) TRANSFERRED HERCINOTHRIPS FEMORALIS TO HERCINOTHRIPS. WHITE (1916) FOUND LARGE NUMBERS OF THIS THRIPS INFEETING A NUMBER OF PLANTS, BUT WERE MAINLY CONFINED TO SUGAR-BEET SEEDLINGS IN GREENHOUSES IN WASHINGTON, D. C. WHITE REFERRED TO THIS PEST AS THE SUGAR-BEET THRIPS AND DID A LIFE HISTORY STUDY WITH AN AVERAGE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 73°F AND FOUND THAT IT TOOK ABOUT 30 DAYS FROM EGG TO ADULT. THE GREENHOUSE THRIPS, HERCINOTHRIPS HAEMORRHOIDALIS (BOUCHE), AND THE BANDED GREENHOUSE THRIPS WERE BOTH REDUCED IN NUMBERS BELOW THE ECONOMIC THRESHOLD FOR SEVERAL YEARS FOLLOWING THE MEALY SPRAYS IN FLORIDA IN 1956-58. BOTH SPECIES PRESENTLY ARE INCREASING, PARTICULARLY UNDER GREENHOUSE CONDITIONS.

DISTRIBUTION: H. FEMORALIS IS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MAINLY IN GREENHOUSES IN THE TEMPERATE ZONES. IT LIVES OUT-OF-DOORS IN THE TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS. COMMONLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT FLORIDA, IT IS OFTEN FOUND AS AN ECONOMIC PEST IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH FLORIDA.

HOSTS: HINDS (1902) LISTED AMARYLLIS SP., ARALIA SP., ARUM SP., CESTRUM NOCTURNUM L., CHRYSANTHEMUM SP., CRINUM SP., CUCUMIS SATIVUS L., DROCAENA SP., EUPHORBIS GRANDIFLORA PLANCO, FATSHEDEA SP. (Fig. 1), FIGUS ELASTICA ROXB., FIGUS GRANDIFOLIA KUNTH & BOUCHE, CALONCYON'TH SP., GARDENIA SP., GOSBYPIUM SP., HOYA CARNOSA R. BR. (Fig. 2), HYDRAANGEA SP., PANDANUS SP., PHOENIX SP., PLECTRANTHUS AUSTRALIS R. BR. (Fig. 3), QUAMOCLIT LOBATA HENSEL, SCINDAPUS AUREUS ENGELER (Fig. 4), ZANTEDESCHIA AETHIOPICA (L.) SPRENG., LYCOPOSTICUM SP., AND VITIS SP.

THERE ARE MANY CULTIVATED PLANTS RECORDED AS HOSTS FROM FLORIDA. ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF REPORTS AND SEVERITY OF INFESTATIONS, SYNGONIUM PODOPHYLLUM SCHOT, PHILODENDRON SELLOUM C. KOCH (Fig. 5), BRASSAIA ACTINOPHYLLA ENDL., CRINUM SP., AND PEPEROMIA SP. ARE THE HOSTS MOST OFTEN FOUND INFESTED.

DESCRIPTION: A DISTENDED ADULT (Fig. 6) IS ABOUT 1.6 MM IN LENGTH; GENERALLY DARK BROWN WITH HEAD, THORAX, AND TERMINAL SEGMENT OF ABDOMEN LIGHTER. LEGS YELLOW, EXCEPT MIDDLE AND HIND FEMORA ARE BROWN. ANTERIOR SEGMENTS I AND II CONCOLOROUS WITH HEAD, SEGMENTS III AND IV AND MOST OF V, EXCEPT APEX, LIGHT YELLOW, APEX OF V AND ALL OF VI-VIII BROWN. FOREWING WITH A BROWN SPOT ABOVE SCALE, A BROAD MEDIAN BROWN BAND, AND SUBAPICAL BROWN BAND; REMAINDER OF WING PALE. BODY SETAE PALE YELLOW.

CONTROL: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, RECOMMENDS MALATHION, LINDANE, DIMETHOATE (CYGON OR DE-FEND), AND META-SYSTOX-R FOR CONTROL. APPLY A SECOND APPLICATION IN 7 TO 10 DAYS.

REFERENCES:

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WHITE, W. H. 1916. THE SUGAR BEET THRIPS. USDA Bull. No. 421, 12 P.

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Fig. 1. Damaged *Fatsia* sp.

Fig. 2. Damaged *Hoya carnosa* R. Br.

Fig. 3. Damaged *Plectranthus australis* R. Br.

Fig. 4. Damaged *Scindapsus aureus* Engler.

Fig. 5. Damaged *Philodendron selloum* C. Koch.

Fig. 6. A distended adult, *Hercothrips femoralis* (O. M. Reuter).