

Thrips Order Thysanoptera

ORDER INCLUDES:

- 2 Native Families
- 9 Native Genera
- 29 Native Species
- 29 Endemic Species

GENERAL INFORMATION: Thrips are herbivorous, fungivorous, or predaceous, preying on insects and mites, although most are herbivore sap-suckers. Some species are capable of producing young without the contribution of sperm (i.e., parthenogenic). Metamorphosis is intermediate and thrips rarely grow to be more than four millimeters (0.2 inches). Thrips are gregarious and are usually found in large colonies. This order is poorly known in Hawai'i.

DISTRIBUTION: Thrips are known from all the MHI except for Ni'ihau.

ABUNDANCE: Unknown. A lack of systematic surveys prevents any population estimate. However, the loss of native habitats likely means that species within the order are declining.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Thrips occur in a variety of habitats ranging from dry, lowland areas to wet, high-elevation forests. Fungivores and predaceous thrips are more likely to occur in wetter habitats. Individuals are often found in trash, under bark, and other well-protected locations.

THREATS:

- Loss or degradation of habitat.
- Insufficient information for species assessments.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are not only to protect current populations and key breeding habitats, but also to establish additional populations, thereby reducing the risk of extinction. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific management directed toward thrips should include:

- Conduct surveys to determine the distribution and abundance of known thrips and to document and identify new species.
- Preserve, maintain, and restore habitats supporting existing populations.

MONITORING:

- Continue monitoring the status of known populations.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Conduct studies to document the biology, habitat requirements, and life history of native species.

References:

Howarth FG, Mull WP. 1992. Hawaiian insects and their Kin. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Nishida GM editor. 2002. Hawaiian terrestrial arthropod checklist, 4th edition. Honolulu (HI): Biological Survey, Bishop Museum.

Zimmerman EC. 1948. Insects of Hawaii: Volume 2. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. 475 pp.

Zimmerman EC. 2001. Insects of Hawaii: Volume 1 Introduction. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.