

CORRESPONDENCE

Amomothrips Bhatti, a newly recorded genus of Thripinae from China (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

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Abstract In this paper, the genus *Amomothrips* Bhatti, 1978 is firstly recorded from China and *A. associatus* is described from the flower of *Alpinia zerumbet*. This genus is distinguished by ocellar setae I present and ocellar setae pair II duplicated. Slide-mounted specimens are deposited in Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming, China and Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, Australia, respectively.

Key words *Amomothrips associatus*, new record, China.

The genus *Amomothrips* was erected by Bhatti (1978) with *Taeniothrips associatus* as type species, together with a second species *Taeniothrips euophthalmos*. Mound & Ng (2009) re-examined the holotype of *T. euophthalmos* and re-established the original combination because this species has ocellar setae I absent. Subsequently, Mound *et al.* (2012) referred to one male of *T. euophthalmos* from West Malaysia with ocellar setae pair I present and ocellar setae pair II duplicated, a condition similar to that of *A. associatus* as illustrated by Bhatti. Those authors indicated that there is a possibility that the number of pre-ocular may be unstable. If this were to be proved true, then *Amomothrips* genus would be a synonym of *Taeniothrips*.

In this paper, 4 females and 2 males were studied that were collected from the flower of *Alpinia zerumbet* (Zingiberaceae). These specimens share the typical character states of the genus *Taeniothrips*, except for the presence of ocellar setae pair I and with ocellar setae pair II duplicated. These specimens thus conform fully to the current definition of the genus *Amomothrips* as illustrated by Bhatti. The species is further identified as *A. associatus*, on the basis of comparisons with the published descriptions and also with specimens in the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra. This is a new genus and species record for China.

Methods for thrips collection and slide preparation follow Zhang *et al.* (2006). All measurements described in this paper are in micrometers (μm). Specimens were observed with a Carl Zeiss-Axiostar plus microscope. Figures were made using a Q-Imaging CCD with an Image-Pro Plus software. Slide-mounted specimens are deposited in Yunnan Agricultural University (YAU), Kunming, China and Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), Canberra, Australia, respectively

Amomothrips Bhatti, 1978

Amomothrips Bhatti, 1978: 160. Type species: *Taeniothrips associatus* Priesner, 1938, by monotypy.

Amomothrips associatus (Priesner, 1938) (Figs 1–12)

Taeniothrips associatus Priesner, 1938: 483.

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Description. Female macroptera. Body dark brown, all legs brown except apical of tibia and tarsi yellow (Fig. 1); antenna segments I–II dark brown, III brown with apex light brown, segments IV–VIII brown (Fig. 9); fore wing brown



Figures 1–5. *Amomothrips associatus*. 1. Female. 2. Male. 3. Sternites III–VII of male. 4. Pronotum, Meso and metanotum. 5. Sternite VII of female.

including clavus (Figs 1, 8).

Head longer than wide, sculpture distinctly close striate behind eyes and cheeks slightly constricted; 4 pairs of long ocellar setae, ocellar setae III situated near the anterior margin of post ocelli; postocular setae almost arranged in a row around compound eyes (Fig. 6). Antenna 8-segmented, segment I without dorso-apical setae, segments III & IV with long and forked sensoria, III with pedicel (Fig. 9).

Pronotum wider than long, sculptured with close transverse striations; four pairs of posteromarginal setae; inner posteroangular setae shorter than outer pair (Fig. 4). Mesonotum with transverse striations; anteromedian CPS absent; median pair of setae arising in front of posterior margin (Fig. 4). Metanotum anterior with transverse striate, posterior half with irregular reticulate striations, and with irregular longitudinal striations sculptured laterally, CPS present; median pair of setae arising at anterior margin (Fig. 4). Mesofurca with spinula, metafurca without spinula. Fore wing first vein with 8+1+2 setae or 9+2 setae (sometimes with median setae close to basal setae); second vein with 10–11 setae; posteromarginal fringe



Figures 6–12. *Amomothrips associatus*. 6. Head. 7. Antenna of male. 8. Fore wing. 9. Antenna of female. 10. Tergites VIII–X of female. 11. Tergites VII–X of male. 12. Tergites III–IV.

cilia wavy; scale with 5 marginal setae and one discal seta, apical longer than subapical (Fig. 8).

Abdominal tergites sculptured with irregular transverse striations (Fig. 12); tergite II with 3 lateral marginal setae; tergites VI–VIII without ctenidia; tergite VIII with a patch of microtrichia anterior to the spiracle, posteromarginal comb long and complete; IX with two pairs of CPS; tergite X short, median longitudinal split not complete (Fig. 10). Both tergites and sternites without craspedum; pleurotergites and sternites without discal setae; sternite II with two pairs of posteromarginal setae; sternites III–VII with three pairs of posteromarginal setae; S1 and S2 setae on sternite VII situated in front of posterior margin (Fig. 5).

Male macroptera. Body similar to but smaller than female (Fig. 2). Antennal segment I brown, apical half of segment II, III and IV and the basal of V pale, apex of V and VI–VIII slightly shaded (Fig. 7); fore wing brown including clavus, with basal slightly paler (Fig. 2). Abdominal tergite VIII with posteromarginal comb complete; sternites III–VII each with a wide transverse pore plate (Fig. 3).

Material examined. 4♀2♂, China, Yunnan, Xishuangbanna Tropical Flower Garden, from *Alpinia zerumbet*, 30 September 2011, leg. Xie Yonghui & Sun Jun, deposited in YAU; 1♀, deposited in ANIC.

Distribution. China (Yunnan), Indonesia (Sumatra).

Remarks. According to the key of Masumoto (2010), it runs to the genus *Florithrips*, with four pairs of anteocellar setae present, while it can be distinguished with *Florithrips* by antenna segments III and IV with long sense cones; pronotum very strongly sculptured; the setae on sternite VII arising in front of the margin; tergite X without a longitudinal split and the tergites laterally with microtrichia on the sculpture lines.

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