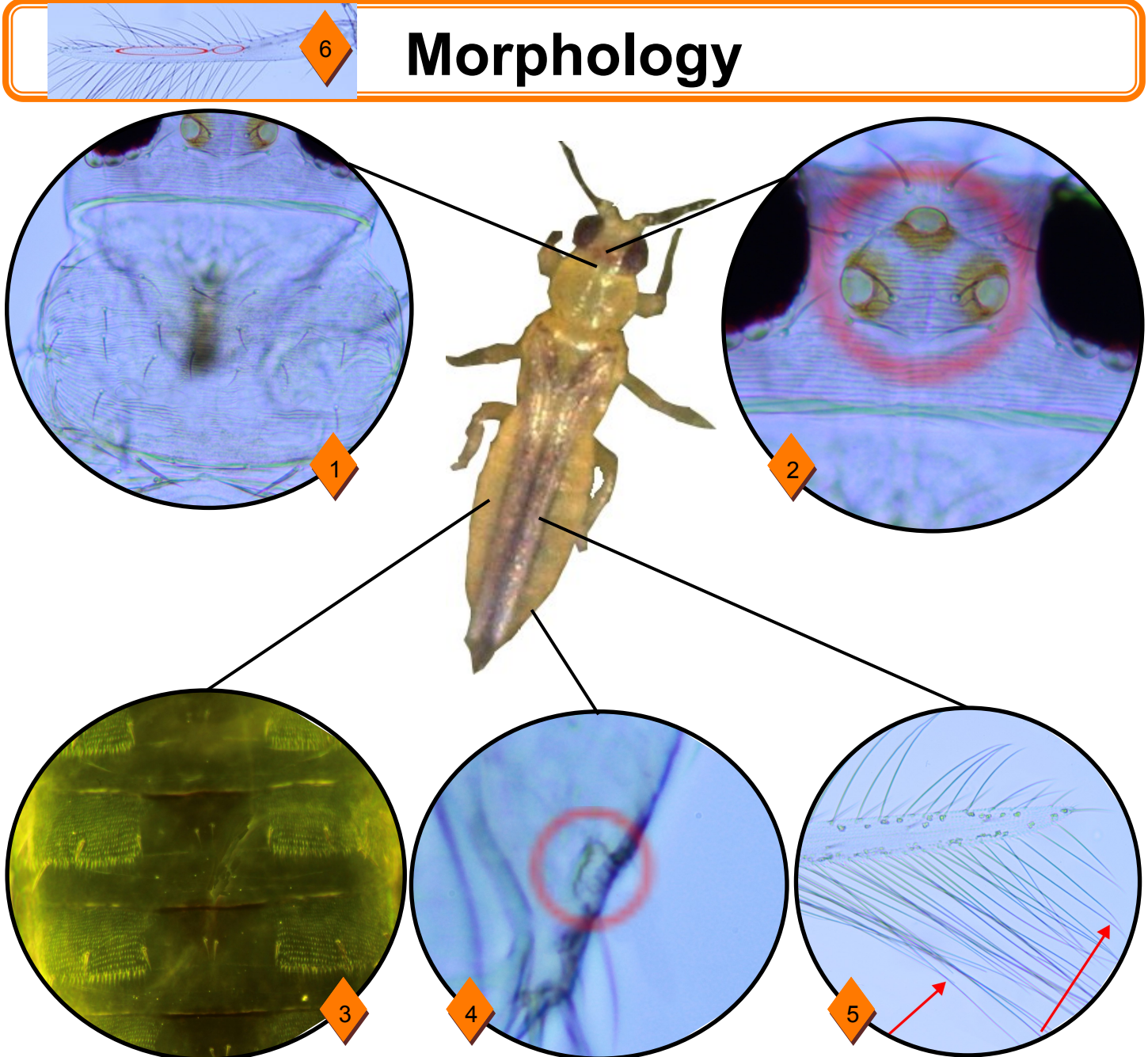


# Chilli thrips

*Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood

Jeffrey D. Cluever  
and Hugh A. Smith<sup>1</sup>

## Morphology



1. Anterior margin of pronotum lacks major setae.
2. Ocellar III setae arising between posterior ocelli.
3. Abdominal tergites with microtrichia on lateral 3<sup>rd</sup>.
4. Ctenidium on tergite VIII absent (circle indicates spiracle).
5. Cilia arising from forewing straight (not wavy).
6. Line of setae with gaps on wing.

# *Scirtothrips dorsalis*

## Appearance

**Egg:** Small, oval, present in foliage (mostly leaf tissue). Unlikely to be visible.

**Larvae:** Light (sometimes transparent) in color, wingless, and similar in appearance to other thrips larvae. Larvae are usually not identified.

**Pupal stages:** Presence of wing buds with antennae straight out (prepupa) or with antennae pulled back over the head (pupa). These are not typically identified.

**Adult:** Unlike *Frankliniella* spp., no major setae are present on the anterior margin of the pronotum. Also unlike *Frankliniella* spp., ctenidia (rows of oblique hairs on lateral third of tergites) are absent. **Other features include:** The body is light-yellow in color with a dark stripe running down the tergum. Ocellar III setae (major setae arising near ocelli) arise between posterior ocelli. Cilia arising from the hind portion of the forewing are straight (not wavy). Presence of fields of microtrichia on the sternites and the lateral third of the tergites.

## Biology: Life Cycle

*S. dorsalis* exhibits all the life stages common to terebrantian thrips: the egg, larva I, larva II, prepupa, pupa, and the adult. The length of each life stage varies with temperature and host plant. On bean leaves at 26°C (78.8°F) it takes 20.3 days to complete development from an egg to an adult. The individual stages are as follows:

1. The female lays an egg into the foliage; 7.5 days later it hatches.
2. The larva I and II stages feed on their host for 9.5 days.
3. At the end of larva II stage the thrips may drop to the soil but it usually remains on the plant to begin pupation. The non-feeding prepupal and pupal stages last 3.3 days before the adult emerges.

## Range

**Host:** Wide host range that includes but is not limited to: blueberry, corn, cucumber, grape, peanut, pepper, strawberry, tomato, and various wild plants.

**Origin:** Southeast Asia

Globally distributed. Widespread in warmer regions. **United States:** Georgia, Hawaii, Florida, and Texas. **Florida:** Predominately found in the central and southern portions.

## Signs and Symptoms: Type of Injury

Chilli thrips transmits the ilarvirus *Tobacco streak virus* (TSV) and the tospoviruses *Groundnut bud necrosis virus* (GBNV), *Groundnut chlorotic fan-spot virus* (GCSFV), and *Groundnut yellow spot virus* (GYSV).

This species primarily feeds on young, tender foliage. Feeding on foliage may result in silvering leading to necrosis, leaf curl (upward), distortion, and defoliation. Feeding on the fruit may cause scarring, discoloration, and the formation of corky texture on the fruit.