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NOTES ON THRIPS PALMI KARNY
(THRIPIDAE, THYSANOPTERA)

Venus J. Calilung¹

Sometime in January, 1977, severely curled and brown spotted watermelon leaves were referred to the writer by Sta. Rosa (Laguna) farmers.

The curling and brown spots were caused by numerous thrips lodged in small crevices on the nether leaf surface. When the mounted specimens were examined, the characters found were different from *Thrips tabaci* Lindeman which entomological literatures cite as thrips associated with Philippine watermelons.

Inasmuch as thrips descriptions in available taxonomic literatures did not fit the specimens on hand, samples were sent to Dr. L. Mound of the British Museum (Natural History), London, to identify and confirm the writer's suspicion of an unrecorded pest.

Mound replied that "from the host range it sounds as though it is *Thrips tabaci*". On June 14, 1978, Mrs. Jennifer Palmer, also of the British Museum, wrote that it was *Thrips palmi* Karny as opposed to Mound's *Thrips tabaci*.

Thrips palmi was described in 1925 by Karny from specimens collected in Java and Sumatra on tobacco. Bhatti's (1969) taxonomic studies on some Thripini give *Thrips nilgiriensis* Ram., *Chloethrips aureus* Anan. and Jaga., as new synonyms of *Thrips palmi* Karny. Anathakrishnan (1954) recorded this species on *Sesamum indicum*, tobacco, lablab and lantana flowers in India. In the Philippines, *Thrips palmi* Karny attacks muskmelon, watermelon, sweet pepper, tomato, spiny and non-spiny *Amaranthus*, white potato, castor, corn, soybean, cabbage, winged bean, okra and eggplant.

Mr. Alberto Barrion, of IRRI's Department of Entomology, likewise observed it on soybean and mungbean. According to him, damage on soybean reached to about 85 per cent and that mungbean appeared to be less preferred by the insects. He also observed heavy infestation on *Amaranthus* spp. bordering soybean and mungbean fields.

Thrips palmi's distended female is about 1.16 mm., pale yellow, with the head shorter than the pronotum. Its third antennal segment is as long as the

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sixth segment. Its forewing's upper veins bear 3 setae distally; the lower vein, 11 to 13; and the costa, 20 to 22 setae. The male is smaller than the female. There are no pale depressed areas in the male's abdominal sternites. The 4 long setae on the ninth tergite are equidistant from each other.

Venus J. Callan

Sometimes in January 1917, severely curled and brown spotted watermelon leaves were referred to the writer by Mr. H. S. (Laguna) Lammers.

The curling and brown spots were caused by numerous thrips lodged in small crevices on the under leaf surface. When the mounted specimens were examined, the characters found were different from those of the common watermelon thrips which entomological literature cite as being associated with watermelon.

Inasmuch as thrips descriptions in available taxonomic literature did not fit the specimens on hand, samples were sent to Dr. L. Mound of the British Museum (Natural History), London, to identify and confirm the writer's suspicion of an unrecorded pest.

Mound replied that from the host range it sounds as though it is *Thrips tabaci*. On June 14, 1918, Mrs. Jennifer Lammers, also of the British Museum, wrote that it was *Thrips palmi* Karny as opposed to Mound's *Thrips tabaci*.

Thrips palmi was described in 1923 by Karny from specimens collected in Java and Sumatra on tobacco. Bratté (1930) taxonomic studies on some thrips give *Thrips nigritiana* Karny, *Chlorothrips curvata* Karny and *Thrips palmi* Karny as new synonyms of *Thrips palmi* Karny. Anshelkin (1954) recorded this species on *Sesamum indicum*, tobacco, lily and lantana flowers in the Philippines. *Thrips palmi* Karny attacks watermelon, watermelon, sweet pepper, tomato, spinney and non-spinney, *Anacardium occidentale*, castor, soybean, cabbage, winged bean, okra and eggplant.

Mr. Alberto Larion of IRR's Department of Entomology likewise observed it on soybean and mungbean. According to him, damage on soybean reached to about 55 per cent and that mungbean appeared to be less preferred by the insects. He also observed heavy infestation on *Anacardium* spp. pods of soybean and mungbean fields.

Thrips palmi's distended female is about 1.16 mm., pale yellow, with the head shorter than the pronotum. Its third antennal segment is as long as the

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