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M. Mirab-balou. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *MELANTHRIPS* (THYSANOPTERA: MELANTHRIPIDAE) FROM IRAN. – Far Eastern Entomologist. 2015. N 291: 14-16.

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Summary. *Melanthrips hamedaniensis* sp. n. (Thysanoptera: Melanthripidae) from Iran is described and illustrated.

Key words: Melanthripidae, *Melanthrips*, taxonomy, new species, Iran.

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Резюме. Из Ирана описан новый для науки *Melanthrips hamedaniensis* sp. n. (Thysanoptera: Melanthripidae).

The Thysanoptera with more than 6000 known species is one of the orders of insects distributed through all parts of the world. This order includes nine families for living species belong in two suborders, of these family Melanthripidae is one of them in suborder Terebrantia (ThripsWiki, 2014). Members of this family are distinguishable by a well-developed pair of trichobothria on abdominal tergite X, transverse sensoria on the antennal segments, and a well-developed tentorium in the head. All species in this family seem to be phytophagous, feeding and breeding on flowers (Moritz *et al.*, 2001; Mirab-balou *et al.*, 2011). Genus *Melanthrips*, with 37 described species (ThripsWiki, 2014), is a larger group in Melanthripidae. Recently, a new species of this genus was described from Iran by Mirab-balou and Chen (2012), with a key to six Iranian species. The seventh Iranian species of this genus is described here.

During the course of study on Iranian thrips in 2008–2013, we were collected specimens on leaves of *Hyoscyamus niger* L. (Solanaceae), from Hamedan province, western Iran. The thrips was mounted on slide using the method of Mirab-balou & Chen (2010). All descriptions, measurements and photos were made with a Leica DM IRB microscope, a Leica MZ APO microscope with a Leica Image 1000 system. Type specimens are deposited in the collection of Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Ilam University, Iran (ILAMU).

ORDER THYSANOPTERA

Family Melanthripidae

Genus *Melanthrips* Haliday, 1836

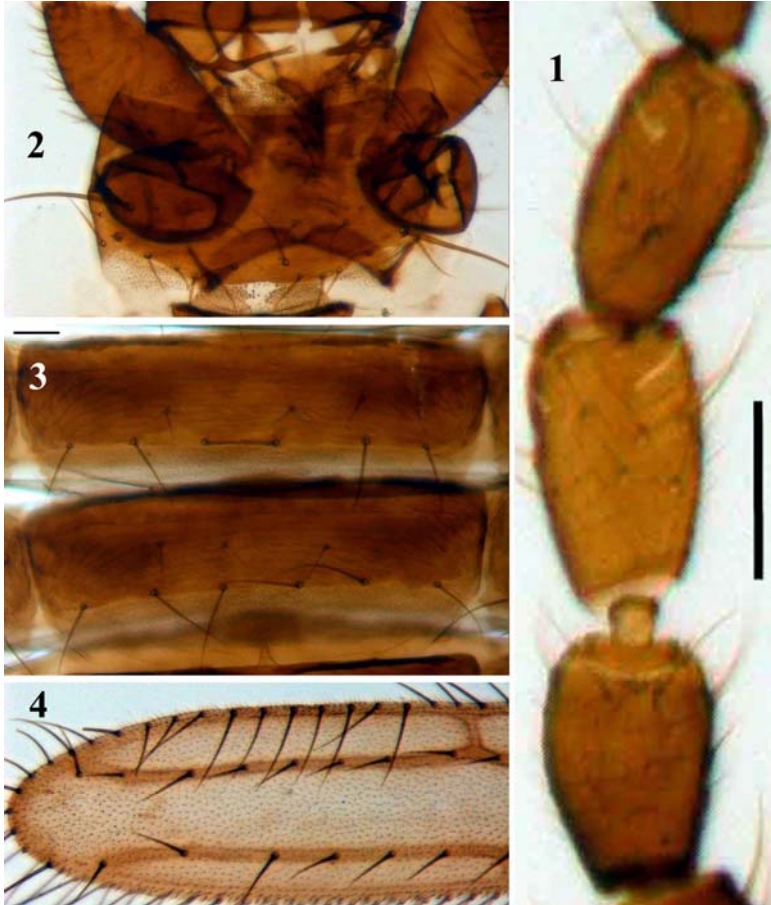
Melanthrips hamedaniensis Mirab-balou, sp. n.

Figs 1–4

MATERIAL. Holotype – female, **Iran:** Hamedan province, Hamedan, Saïdieh, on *Hyoscyamus niger* L. (Solanaceae), 3.VI 2009, coll. M. Mirab-balou. Paratypes: 2 females, collected with holotype (ILAMU).

DESCRIPTION. Female macroptera: Body dark brown, fore tibiae-tarsus paler, antennal segment III a little paler than others; fore wings weakly shaded brown.

HEAD. Head about 1.4 times wider than long, with four pairs of prominent postocular setae. Maxillary palps 3-segmented. Antennae 9-segmented, segments with numerous rings of microtrichia (except segment I); segments III and IV with oblique sensorium at apex (Fig. 1). Antennal segments I to IX length/width: 0.8, 1.3, 1.8, 1.8, 1.4, 1.6, 1.3, 1.4, and 2.8.



Figs 1–4. *Melanthrips hamedaniensis* sp. n.: 1 – antennal segments II–IV; 2 – pronotum; 3 – abdominal sternites V–VI; 4 – fore wing. (Scale bar = 30 microns).

THORAX. Pronotum about 1.8 times longer than wide; posteroangular setae much longer than others; posterior margin with 4 pairs of setae (Fig. 2). Tarsi 2-segmented, fore tibia with stout dagger shaped seta at inner apex. Metanotum as same as *M. fuscus*, with concentric rings of microtrichia in anterior half, and with median setae situated near posterior margin. Mesosternum with spinula. Fore wing without cilia between the costal setae (Fig. 4); in the distal part of their upper vein with 7–8 setae.

ABDOMEN. Abdominal tergite VIII with 3 pairs of long setae at posterior margin; a pair of trichobothria present on tergite X. Abdominal sternite II with 2 pairs of marginal setae, III–VI with three pairs of marginal setae (Fig. 3); II–VI with discal setae; sternite VII with 3 pairs of marginal setae, also 2 pairs of smaller setae at base of paired marginal lobes.

MEASUREMENTS (holotype female; in microns). Length (width). Body 1990(510); head 230(150); interocellar setae 80, postocular setae 30–50. Antennal segments I–IX as follows: I 40(44), II 52(40), III 67(38), IV 57(35), V 44(28), VI 53(29), VII 40(29), VIII 30(23), IX 45(12). Pronotum 290 (165); anteroangular setae 55, posteroangular setae 115, posteromarginal setae 60. Fore wing 1000(195); hind wing 880(165).

MALE. Unknown.

DIAGNOSIS. This new species is readily distinguished from *M. knechteli* by having discal setae on abdominal sternites II–VI. It also distinguished from *M. fuscus* by having one row of costal setae on the fore wing without cilia between them, whereas, fore wings with cilia between the costal setae in *M. fuscus*, four pairs of pronotal posteromarginal setae (vs. 6 or 7 pairs in *fuscus*), and presence of discal setae on abdominal sternites II–VI (vs. III–V in *fuscus*).

ETYMOLOGY. This species is named after the type locality (Hamedan province).

DISTRIBUTION. Iran: Hamedan province.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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