

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Patrick Marquez, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/).

Common Name: Banded greenhouse thrip

Scientific Name: *Hercinothrips femoralis* (O.M. Reuter)

Order and Family: Thysanoptera; Thripidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Egg | .25 mm | - Translucent oval that turns white - Laid singly in an incision on the underside of leaves |
| Larva/Nymph | .5-1.5 mm | - Oblong with 3 thoracic and 11 abdominal segments - Wingless - Yellow or white in color but may turn orange to purple - Have red eyes |
| Adult | 1.5 mm | - Slender, yellow to brown/black colored body with red eyes - Yellow legs with brown hind and mid femora - Could be winged or wingless - Wings are narrow, fringed, and grayish brown in color and have 3 white bands - Males are rare |
| Pupa (if applicable) | .5-1.5 mm | - White in color - Oblong shaped - Found in leaves on the ground |

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Both larvae and adults have piercing/sucking mouthparts.

Host plant/s: There is a wide variety of hosts: Banana, beet, celery, Crinum, dwarf milo maize, eggplant, grass, orchids, pineapple, sugarcane, tomato, cucumbers, begonias, cacti, date palm, callas,

cestrum, amaryllis, aralia, chrysanthemum, dracaena, rubber tree, gardenia, croton, hydrangea, moon flower, screw pine, and Mexican tea.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Larvae puncture leaves, flowers, and stems in order to feed on cell contents and sap. This feeding causes a silvery appearance on leaves as well as black spots on the undersides. Leaves may eventually turn brown, wilt, curl, and die. Defoliation may occur.

Adult females slit an incision into leaves using their ovipositor when laying eggs. The adults also feed similar to the larva, just not as frequently.

References:

Mau, R. F.L., & Martin, J. L. (1993, January). *Hercinothrips femoralis* (O.M. Reuter). Retrieved October 22, 2016, from http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/type/h_femora.htm

North Carolina State - Extension. (1994, January 1). Thrips in the Greenhouse. Retrieved October 21, 2016, from <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/insect-and-related-pests-of-flowers-and-foliage-plants/thrips-in-the-greenhouse>