

Beneficial Species Profile



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

Common Name: Banded Wing Thrips

Scientific Name: *Aeolothrips intermedius*

Order and Family: Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae

Size and Appearance: Extremely small and hard to see with the naked eye. Slender, elongated bodies are usually dark in color with forewings appearing banded and both pairs of wings appearing fringed. Wings are generally white or yellow in color and short.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	<1.5mm	Inserted into stems and leaves, typically not visible
Larva/Nymph	<1.5mm	Similar to and smaller than the adult, but lacking wings
Adult	1.5mm	Extremely small and hard to see with the naked eye with a slender, long body; dark in color with forewings appearing banded and both pairs of wings appearing fringed; wings are generally white or yellow in color and short

Pupa (if applicable)	<1.5mm	2 phases: a prepupal stage and a “pupal” stage where the larvae changes greatly and usually drops into the soil
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Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing/rasping mouthparts for feeding on plant tissue and small, soft-bodied insects and mites.

Host/s: Flowers, grasses, and croplands.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Predatory in all life stages on aphids, other thrips, and mites.

References:

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