

FIRST RECORD OF RICE THRIPS (THYSANOPTERA:  
THRIPIDAE) IN TRINIDAD, WEST INDIES

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Rice Thrips, *Stenchaetothrips biformis* Bagnall (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) was first observed in Trinidad at the rice department of Caroni (1975) Ltd.<sup>1</sup>, on July 29 1997.

The specimens were identified by A. K. Walker of the British Museum of Natural History. The Identification was facilitated by CARINET, the Caribbean loop of Bionet International.

The thrips were observed on seedling rice (*Oryza sativa* L grown under irrigated conditions. At the time of discovery, the rice plants were showing silver streaks typical of the damage caused by *Stenchaetothrips biformis*.

Prior to this observation, monitoring of other seedling pests *Hydrellia* sp. (Ephydriidae: Diptera) and *Sogatodes orizicola* (Muir) (Delphacidae: Homoptera) had been in progress so it is probable that the thrips were discovered soon after their arrival in the area.

The field in which the thrips were collected was subsequently sprayed with insecticide for control of *Hydrellia* and the fate of the thrips is unknown. Since the discovery, two rice crops have been planted. No more thrips have been found during monitoring exercises.

The pest complex at the Caroni Rice Department at present includes *Hydrellia* sp., *Tagosodes* spp., *Diatraea saccharalis* (F.) (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera), *Rupela albinella* (Cram.) (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera), and *Oebalus poecilus* (Dall.) (Pentatomidae: Heteroptera).

*Stenchaetothrips biformis* may be controlled by flooding. Should the species become economically important their presence may compromise the current practice of draining field for control of *Hydrellia* sp.

This record follows the recent arrival of *Stenchaetothrips biformis* in Guyana in July-August 1994 (Munroe 1995), and Venezuela, near Calabozo, January-February 1995 (Cermeli et al. 1995). Calabozo is roughly 700 km west-southwest of Trinidad.

## SUMMARY

Specimens of Rice Thrips, *Stenchaetothrips biformis* Bagnall (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) was collected on seedling rice in Trinidad, West Indies. This constitutes the first record of rice thrips in Trinidad.

## REFERENCES CITED

- CERMELI, M., E. GARCÍA, AND M. GAMBOA. 1995: *Stenchaetothrips biformis* (Bagnall) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) nueva plaga del arroz (*Oryza sativa* L.) en Venezuela. Boletín de Entomología Venezolana N.S. 10(2):209-210.
- MUNROE, L. 1995. A new pest in Guyana's rice fields. *Caraphin News* No. 11 pp. 1-2.

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<sup>1</sup>Caroni (1975) Ltd. Is a state owned agroprocessing company which is the largest producer of rice in Trinidad.