

Short communication

***Scirtothrips saturherminii* (THYSANOPTERA: THIRIPIDAE), NEW SPECIES FOR SCIENCE**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Scirtothrips saturherminii*, collected on leaves of *Bixa orellana* L., in a protected ecosystem in San José de las Lajas, Havana Province, Cuba, is reported as a new species for science.

(Key words: *Scirtothrips saturherminii*; thrips; *Bixa orellana*; protected ecosystem)

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***Scirtothrips saturherminii* (THYSANOPTERA: THIRIPIDAE), NUEVA ESPECIE PARA LA CIENCIA**

**RESUMEN:** Se informa *Scirtothrips saturherminii*, colectado sobre hojas de *Bixa orellana* L. en un ecosistema protegido en San José de las Lajas, provincia La Habana, como una nueva especie para la ciencia.

(Palabras clave: *Scirtothrips saturherminii*; thrips; *Bixa orellana*; ecosistema protegido)

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The Orden Thysanoptera comprises small insects which can be found all over the world. From 5000 to 6000 species are included in this group and many of them have not been described yet (1).

Mound (2) considers that about 10000 species belonging to 750 genera may probably exist in the world. From the total of known species, 1600 have been identified in Central and South America.

In Cuba, many studies for detecting new species of thrips have been done on different crops and a considerable number of genera and species have been reported in the last years (3,4,5).

Within the genera needing to be studied, the genus *Scirtothrips* Shull is found. It comprises 60 species all over the world and the majority of them belongs to tropical and subtropical regions with many of them remaining undescribed (1).

Accordingly, the objective of this work was to make a prospection for species of the genus *Scirtothrips* in a protected ecosystem.

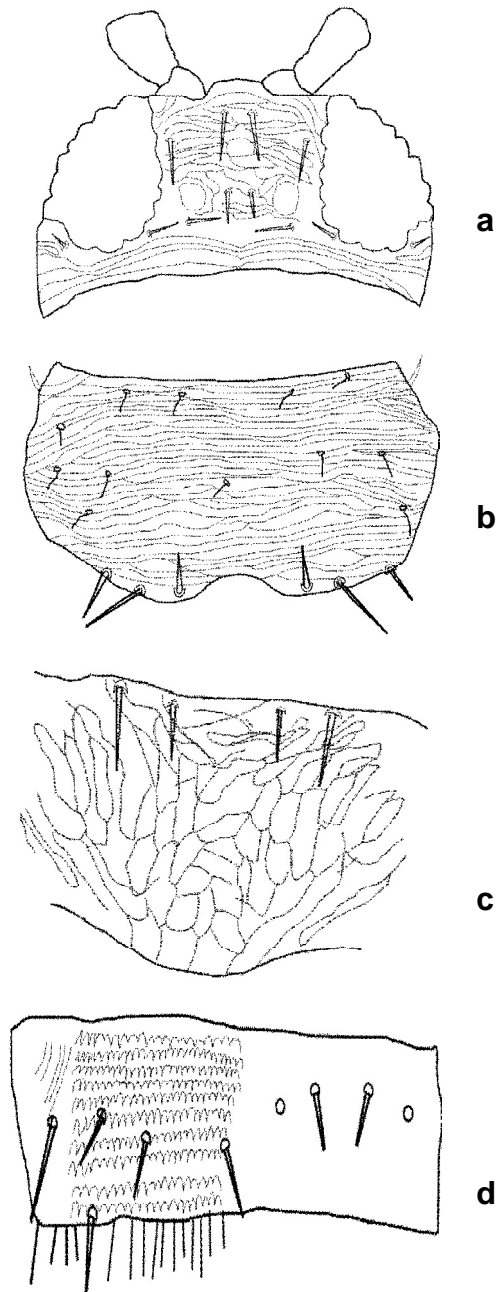
To detect the presence of thrips, different species of plants were sampled in a protected ecosystem in the locality of San José de las Lajas, Havana Province, in 2009. The specimens were collected by striking the plants over a white cardboard. Adults were cleared and mounted on slides, for identification, regional taxonomic keys were used, Mound and Marullo (1) and Johansen and Mojica-Guzman (6). As a result a new species for science was found with the following description:

**Description**

**Type species:** *Scirtothrips saturherminii* González, Retana and Castillo, sp. n.

Female macropterous, color yellow, antennal segment I pale, the rest brown; antecostal ridge dark on tergites; forewing weakly shaded; Head with lines of sculpture in ocellar triangle forming irregular reticulation; ocellar setae III arising between the posterior ocelli. Pronotum closely striate; Pm setae II longer than I and III. Metanotum with elongate

reticulation, median setae near anterior margin. Forewing scale with 3 veinal setae; second vein with 2 setae; posterior cilia wavy. Tergites II – V with median setae very small; microtrichial fields with 4 lateral setae; VIII with transverse rows of discal microtrichia in anterior position of the segment; IX with discal microtrichia; absent on X; sternites with microtrichia extending only on the lateral areas (Fig. 1).



**FIGURE 1.** *Scirtothrips saturherminii* sp. n. a. Head; b. Pronotum; c. Metanotum; d. Field of microtrichia./ *Scirtothrips saturherminii* sp. n. a. Cabeza; b. Pronotum; c. Metanotum; d. Campo de microtrichia.

**Etimology:** The species was named after the first author's parents.

**Comments:** This new species has the ocellar setae III between the hind ocelli, a trait that is present only in the species *Scirtothrips oligochaetus* Mound y Marullo and *S. astrictus* Karny, however many other traits belonging to these species do not coincide with the new one. In the other hand, the comparison with the Mexican species of the genus *Scirtothrips* described by Johansen and Mojica-Guzman (6) shows different traits.

**Measurements:** (holotype female in microns): Body length 888. Head length 70; width 159. Pronotum length 89; width 177. Posteroangular setae I length 15. Metanotal median setae 19. Forewing length 536. Tergite median setae V 7. Distance between median setae bases 22. Antennal segments III – VIII 33, 37, 30, 41, 7, 11.

**Holotype female:** Cuba, Havana Province, San José de las Lajas, on *Bixa orellana* leaves, 5. vii. 2009.

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