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AN ORIENTAL THRIPS, TAENIOTHRIPS EUCHARII (WHETZEL), IN FLORIDA (THYSANOPTERA:THRIPIDAE)[1]

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INTRODUCTION: Taeniothrips eucharii was discovered by H. H. Whetzel in Bermuda in 1922 during a study of a mosaic disease of Eucharis lily. It was identified by A. C. Morgan as Physothrips eucharii, but Morgan never published a description. Whetzel (1923) described the thrips under the name Physothrips eucharii, which validated the name. Moulton (1928) gave a description of the species as Taeniothrips gracilis. Sakimura (1947) mentioned it as Physothrips eucharii Morgan ms. Crawford (1948) recognized the Bermuda material, including Morgan's material types, as gracilis Moulton. Crawford overlooked Whetzel's description; therefore all records of gracilis Moulton should be referred to as eucharii (Whetzel). O'Neill (1962) gave a more complete report of this thrips.

DISTRIBUTION: T. eucharii is native to the Orient and occurs in China, Formosa, and Japan. It also occurs in Bermuda, Hawaii, and on the North American continent in Florida. The 2 Florida records are from Gainesville.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Bulbs, leaves, flowers, and stems are damaged. In Florida, this thrips has been taken only from the blooms of tulips and amaryllis (fig. 1).

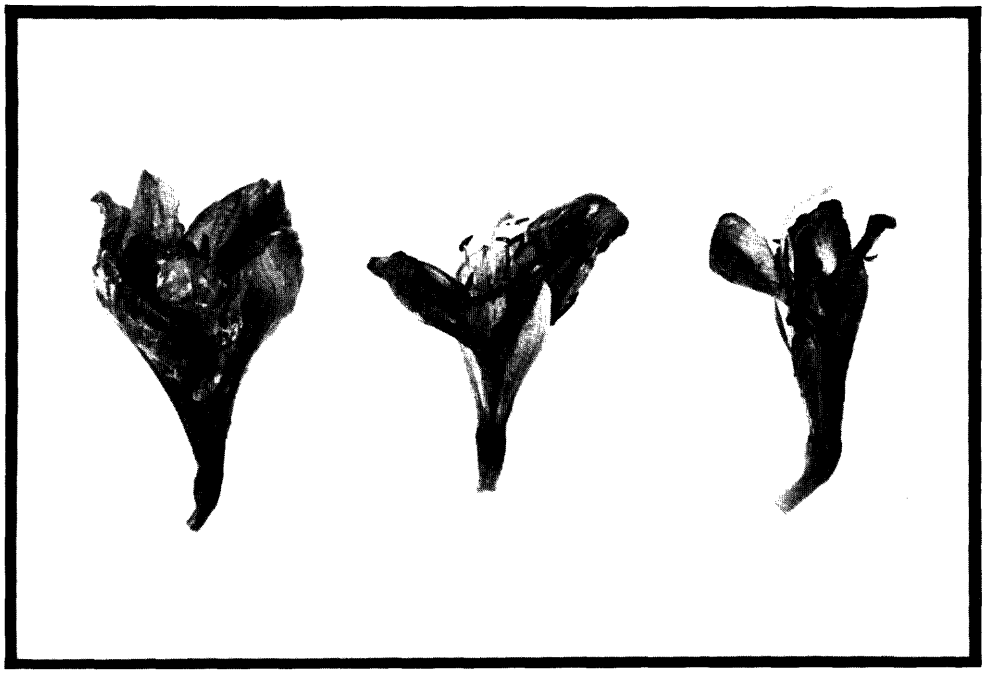

Fig. 1: Thrips damage to Amaryllis bloom.

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HOSTS: It has been reported from Hymenocallis spp. stems and leaves; bulbs of Lycoris sp., Lilium sp., and Narcissus sp.; flowers of Helichrysum sp., Dianthus sp., Lilium sp., Amaryllis sp., and Freesia sp.

SURVEY AND DETECTION: Look for open flowers that are scarred and discolored and silvery scars on leaves and stems.

DESCRIPTION: T. eucharii females range from 1.5-1.9 mm long. This is a dark species except for the yellow areas at the apex and often at the base of antennal segment III; sometimes base of IV; base of all femora; all tarsi; base and apex of all tibiae. The forewing is nearly uniform brown but is somewhat paler just beyond the base and darker at the fork between the longitudinal veins and at the apex. The male is similar in color, smaller, with conspicuous, clear glandular areas on abdominal sterna III IV. The larva and pupa are bright red.

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