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A Report of Wing Hooks on the Abdomen of Mullein Thrips

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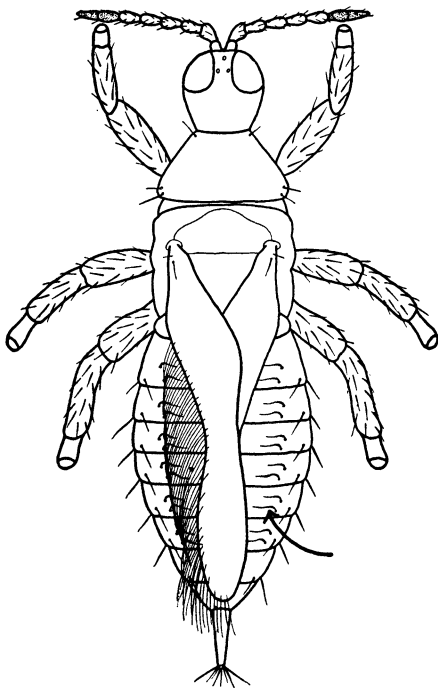
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A Report of Wing Hooks on the Abdomen of Mullein Thrips

JAMES WICK

This report is a result of observations made while doing laboratory exercises on external insect morphology. In working with the Mullein Thrips it was found quite difficult to spread the wings perpendicular to the body for study. Close observation under high power of a binocular microscope revealed that the hairs of the wings were held in the resting position by two small hooks on each side of each abdominal tergite except on segments one, eight, nine and ten. When the bodies of the thrips were cleared by boiling them in a five percent solution of potassium hydroxide for one hour the hooks could be seen quite easily. A review of the available literature failed to find



Dorsal Aspect of Mullein
Thrips showing Wing Hooks
on the Abdominal tergites.

any mention of the presence of these hooks or to associate them with the function of holding the wings in the resting position. Some two hundred specimens of *Neohaegeeria verbasci* (Osborn) were prepared in this manner and observed. Variation in the arrangement of

the hooks was not detected and specimens were not found without them.

The specimen illustrated shows only the forewings, the hind pair being covered by them. The hairs of the left side are shown as they appear when the wings are spread since the hairs have been omitted from this side of the fore and hind wing. In viewing specimens with the wings spread it might appear that the anterior pair of hooks of each abdominal tergite served to hold the hairs of the mesothoracic wings while the posterior pair served the metathoracic wings. Close observation of specimens with wings in the resting position does not reveal this to be true for each pair of hooks holds both pairs of wings.

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