



## Chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*)



**Distribution:** Originated in SE Asia and currently widely distributed in various parts of the world in tropical and subtropical areas. Introduced into the U.S.: California, Florida, Hawaii, and Texas.

**Field ID:** **Adults** (about 1.2 mm long) have yellow bodies and brownish stripes on their abdomens. Wings are dark. Larvae are light yellow.

**Hosts and damage:** Polyphagous species. Documented on more than 100 plants, including asparagus, basil, begonia, citrus, cucumber, geranium, grapevine, pepper, poinsettia, rose, strawberry, tomato, viburnum and others.

Chilli thrips attack their hosts leaving curled, discolored leaves, deformed fruit and feeding scars on various parts of the plant. Heavy infestations lead to defoliation, crop loss and may stunt the growth of the plant.

*S. dorsalis* is known as a vector of chilli leaf curl virus, peanut necrosis virus and tobacco streak virus.

