

This short description was prepared in the framework of the EU FP7 project DROPSA - Strategies to develop effective, innovative and practical approaches to protect major European fruit crops from pests and pathogens (grant agreement no. 613678). This pest was listed in the DROPSA alert list for *Vaccinium* fruit.

Thrips obscuratus (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

Fruit pathway: Adults feed on fruit (Teulon, 1988, also reports feeding on *Vaccinium* fruit; Schmidt et al., 2006, mentioning ripe fruits, e.g. nectarine, peach). In the USA, there was one interception on *Vaccinium* fruit (USDA, 2007, 2008). Nymphs are normally not on fruit, but Teulon et al. (1988) recorded few specimens on fruit of *Prunus persica* and *P. armeniaca*.

Other pathways: plants for planting, cut flowers, herbs; adults also feed on leaves, flowers, soft plant tissues, pollen grains, nectar (Teulon, 1988; Schmidt et al., 2006); they are usually observed on flowers, but common on leaves and fruit. Larvae are mostly on flowers (Teulon, 1988).

Hosts: Adults feed on at least 223 species (177 genera in 77 families, incl. *Vaccinium* (Teulon, 1988). In New Zealand, 51 larval hosts were recorded (incl. 36 non-native) (Teulon and Penman, 1990). Hosts incl. vegetables (e.g. *Brassica*), ornamentals (e.g. *Dahlia*, *Rosa*), herbs (e.g. *Rosmarinus*), ornamental trees/shrubs (e.g. *Viburnum*, *Hebe*), fruit trees (e.g. *Malus*, *Prunus*, *Pyrus*, *Vitis vinifera*), pasture plants (e.g. *Trifolium*, *Medicago*), weeds.

Distribution: Oceania: New Zealand (CABI CPC; Teulon, 1988).

Damage: The pest causes fruit distortion, infestation at harvest (leading to contamination of export commodities, incl. cut flowers and fruit). It was suspected to transfer *Monilinia fructicola* to stonefruit flowers and fruit. It was reported as an important pest of stonefruit during flowering and at harvest; its increased pest status coincided with expansion of the horticultural industry in 1970s-80s (Teulon, 1988; Teulon and Penman, 1995). No information was found on current pest status.

Other information: It was also intercepted in Japan (no indication of commodity; Parker et al., 1995).

Recorded impact: Moderate (in the past)	Intercepted: Yes	Spreading/invasive: Not known
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References:

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