PRIVET THRIPS

John C. Schread

Normal privet leaves at left, those injured by thrips at right.

CIRCULAR OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION, NEW HAVEN • NO. 230, APRIL 1969

PRIVET THRIPS

John C. Schread

Privet thrips (*Dendrothrips ornatus*[1] Jabl.) has become a serious perennial pest of the most widely used variety of privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium* Hassk) in Connecticut. Occasionally it injures other shrubs such as *Tilia, Syringa, Alnus,* and sometimes flowers and grasses.

Infested privet foliage may be small and somewhat puckered. The leaves lose their green color, becoming yellowish, grayish, or silvery in appearance. Seriously injured foliage may fall to the ground in August and September instead of remaining on the plants throughout autumn and early winter. This condition was more noticeable in 1968 in Connecticut than in previous years.

As the plants produce new foliage the insects abandon the older, badly blanched and stippled leaves for the newer ones at the top and sides of the privet. Hence, each successive generation of the pest injures new foliage as rapidly as it is produced.

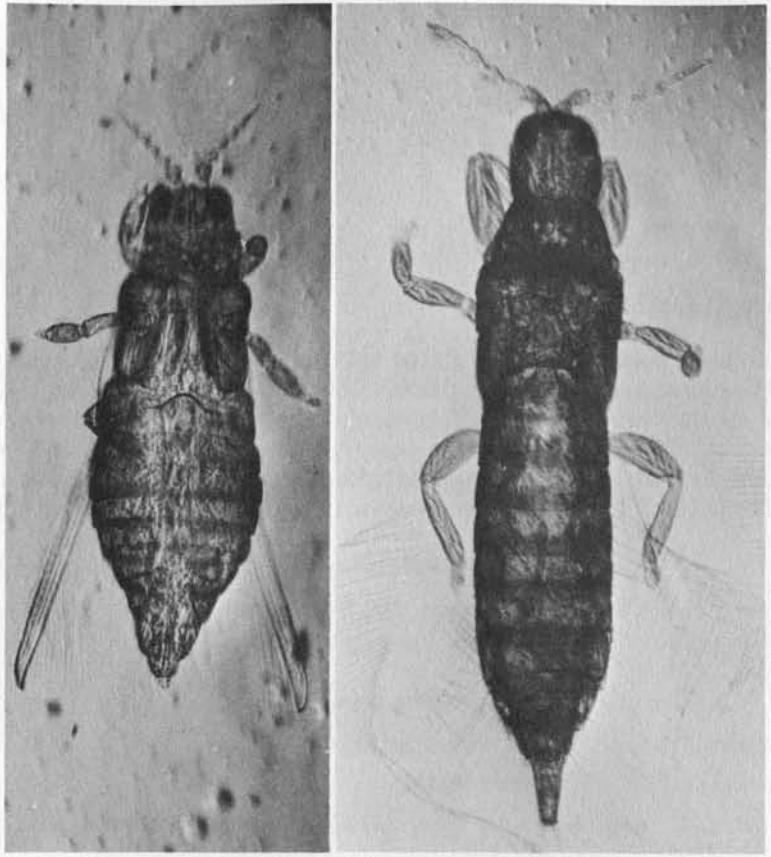
The winged adults are small, flat, and elongated, and about $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch long. They are golden-yellow to almost blackish with gray markings. On clear, warm days they may be seen scurrying rapidly over the upper surface of the leaves. The nymphs are translucent in appearance. As they mature they become light green to yellowish-white and remain more or less quiescent while feeding.

Eggs are deposited on the lower surface of leaves and in their petioles. Occasionally a few may be inserted in the upper surface of sun-drenched foliage. Eggs hatch in about a week and the young feed by rasping the under surface on warm, sunny days. There are three generations during the growing season in New Haven. Adults overwinter in leaf litter under privet plants, under the bark of trees, and in moss.

Earlier Control Measures

It was reported a number of years ago that one treatment of nicotine-Penetrol (Anonymous, 1937) or nicotine soap (Anonymous, 1937) spray controlled privet thrips when the insecticides were applied as soon as the insects appeared on privet. Sweetened sprays similar to those used to control gladiolus thrips were effective but were injurious to the plants. Schread (1956) reported excellent control of privet thrips with malathion, BHC, and other synthetic insecticides. Thrips could be controlled with either a single application during early spring or with a double application later in the season.

[1] Slides in C.A.E.S. collection indicate a second species which has not been identified.



Adult privet thrips, *Dendrothrips ornatus,* at left, another *Dendrothrips* species at right.

Control

A chemical control experiment was carried on during mid-summer, 1968. The insecticides used in the test were all liquid (emulsion) concentrations of 41.8E Sevin®, 47.5E Diazinon®, 25E Gardona®, 40.5E Dylox® and Pyrenone®. They were applied separately on July 22 at the rate of one pint of each formulation in 100 gallons of water to 4-foot sections of 1.2 miles of privet hedge. Aqua-Gro wetting agent was used with each treatment at the rate of 4 oz. in 100 gallons of water. The hedge was 3 feet high and 2 to 3 feet broad. Infestation before treatment averaged 5 immature thrips per leaf in a range of 1 to 14. No adults were present at the time of application. The effectiveness of the treatments was assayed 3 days later on July 25. Live and dead thrips were counted on 75 leaves per treatment.

Control of privet thrips
No. of thrips

Material	*Alive*	*Dead*	*% Kill*
Sevin	0	4	100
Pyrenone	0	20	100
Diazinon	1[1]	8	88
Gardona	0	13	100
Dylox	1[2]	18	93
Untreated	185[1] [2]		

[1] Adult. [2] Young.

Complete control of privet thrips was obtained with Sevin, Pyrenone, and Gardona, and good control was indicated with Diazinon and Dylox. Most of the thrips killed by insecticides dropped from the leaves and were not included in the final count. Live nymphs and adults were collected during the post-treatment counts in the untreated check areas of the hedge. Only nymphs were present during pre-treatment count.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgment is made to B. W. McFarland and Dr. C. C. Doane for the photos and Dr. Doane for identifications.

References

Anonymous, 1937a. American Nurseryman 65:4.

Anonymous, 1937b. Horticulture 15:141.

Schread, J. C. 1956. Thrips on Privet and Other Insects on Ornamentals. Conn. Agr. Expt. Sta. Cir. 201:1-11.

PUBLICATION
Permit No. 1136

James G. Horsfall
Director

THE CONNECTICUT
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

POSTAGE PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE