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New host record of *Megalurothrips distalis* Karny (Thripidae : Thysanoptera) and  
*Haplothrips ganglbaueri* Schmutz Phlaeothripidae : Thysanoptera)

*Megalurothrips distalis* Karny and *Haplothrips ganglbaueri* Schmutz, commonly known as the blossom thrip or flower thrip and black thrip or cereal thrip respectively, are reported to infest a large number of plants of agricultural importance. The former appears to have a particular affinity for the flowers of the plants belonging to the Papilionaceae, and has also been reported to affect the pod setting in pulses.

Ananthakrishnan<sup>1</sup> has compiled a long list of the host plants of both the species, to which the plant species, namely, *Phaseolus vulgaris*<sup>2</sup>, *Camellia sinensis*<sup>3</sup> and *Vigna unguiculata*<sup>3</sup> have been added in the former and *Triticum aestivum*<sup>2</sup>, *Echinochloa crus-galli*<sup>3</sup> and *Sorghum sudanensis*<sup>4</sup> in the latter.

The present authors observed the nymphs as well as the adults of both the species at the growing tips and leaves of *bhalia*, *Moghania macrophylla* (Wild.) O. Ktze (Leguminosae : Papilionaceae) during March-May. Infestation of thrips have also been observed during the periods September-December and March-April which are incidentally the flowering periods of *bhalia* and *palas* [*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.], (a major lac host of this region) respectively. The species attain considerable importance in relation to lac, as *bhalia* is now extensively being used for the economical culture of both *rungeeni* and *kusmi* strains of lac insect, *Kerria lacca* Kerr. The species *M. distalis* attains further

importance since it has also been recorded from *arhar* (*Cajanus cajan*) Ananthakrishnan (*Loc. cit.*) which is also an important host plant of the lac insect.

It is the first record of thrip species from the lac host plant *bhalia*, *M. macrophylla*.

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