Thrips fuscipennis
A ‘new’ pest of strawberry

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Summary

• The problem
• Current knowledge of the pest
• Current management strategies
• Key gaps in knowledge
We all know about WFT
WFT now usually well controlled on everbearers using IPM

- Horticulture LINK Project HL01107 (2010-2015)
- Clare Sampson’s study on factors for success and failure of WFT control
- Factsheet 14/15

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A ‘new’ thrips problem

- Fruit bronzing has occurred on everbearers 2013-2016 where WFT well-controlled by IPM programme
- High numbers of another thrips species present in flowers
Thrips fuscipennis (rose thrips) in flowers where fruit damage seen

Rose thrips

WFT
Other thrips species have been found in flowers where fruit damage seen

- *Thrips major*
- *Thrips tabaci* (onion thrips)
- *Thrips vulgarissimus*
- *Frankliniella occidentalis* (WFT)
- *Frankliniella intonsa*
- But rose thrips always predominant if in species mixes or sometimes the only species
Spot the difference

Thrips fuscipennis
WFT
Thrips major
Recognition in the field

Rose thrips

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WFT female

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Current management of rose thrips

- Spinosad (Tracer) effective but future resistance concerns
- Need to reserve Tracer for SWD control (max. 4 applications protected strawberry, max. 3 on outdoor strawberry under emergency 120-day authorisation)
- Need effective biological control strategy for rose thrips for use in IPM
ADAS IPM Fellowship (CP 89) 2014

• Literature review on biology:
• Very little known
• Native to UK and present in Europe and elsewhere eg. North America & China
• Wide host range including ornamentals (eg. rose), fruit crops (eg. blackberry, strawberry, apple) legumes, cucumber, bind weed, meadowsweet
• Overwintering sites include bark crevices, plant debris
• Active early spring to October
• Rose thrips monitored on a commercial everbearer crop during July & August
• *Orius laevigatus* released in July established in flowers and observed feeding on thrips
• *Orius* seemed to give as good control as Tracer
• But not all years are good for *Orius* establishment
• And *Orius* very sensitive to pesticides
Key questions about rose thrips

- Why do IPM programmes (based on Neoseiulus cucumeris) not control rose thrips?
- Is damage caused by high numbers of adults entering crop?
- Where do rose thrips overwinter and what is their biology?
- Do N. cucumeris predate rose thrips larvae?
- Potential of other biological controls in addition to Orius?
Watch out for dark thrips in flowers where fruit damage seen
Contact me or one of the ADAS fruit team

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