

Tabebuia Thrips (*Holopothrips* sp.)

Introduced: 2001 (Miami-Dade County).

Current Infestation: Broward, Collier, Lee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties.

Description/Biology: Tabebuia thrips are less than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (1.5 to 2.2 mm) long and light brown. This thrips looks similar to most other thrips species, but the damage it causes is host plant specific.



Thrips adult



Larvae (immature stages) are pale yellow, wingless, and fast moving.

Thrips adult and larvae

All stages are hidden within the damaged (galled) leaf.



Seasonality: Spring through Fall, whenever tabebuia trees are producing new foliage.

Hosts: Trumpet trees (Tabebuia)

- Silver trumpet, *Tabebuia argentea*, *T. aurea*, *T. caraiba*
- Pink trumpet, *T. heterophylla*
- Cuban pink trumpet, *T. pallida*

This thrips can potentially attack all tabebuia species, however, pink tabebuia seems to be the preferred host.



Tabebuia Thrips (*Holopothrips* sp.)

Importance: Tabebuia thrips are not considered a serious pest, but they can cause severe cosmetic leaf damage. Not all new growth will be affected.

Damage:

Damage first appears as dimples on newly formed leaves. Further damage causes the edges of the leaves to curl toward the midline.



Eventually the edges of each leaflet overlap or completely curl inward to enclose the gall-like dimpled areas, which also enclose the thrips. The thrips are visible when the damaged leaves are opened.



No serious long term damage, tree decline, or tree death has been observed.

Management: In most cases, chemical treatment is not warranted in the landscape. However, young trees and trees in public areas may need management. There are no specific recommendations for this thrips, however, pesticide recommendations for other types of thrips feeding on ornamental plants may work and systemic insecticides may provide better control. Always follow label instructions.

Natural enemies such as the minute pirate bug may help suppress this pest.



Minute pirate bug

Homeowner -

Damaged leaves can be pruned. If needed, use a systemic insecticide such as imidacloprid (Advanced Garden Tree & Shrub Insect Control) as a root drench in early spring before new foliage emerges.

Professional - Damaged leaves can be pruned. If needed, use a systemic insecticide such as imidacloprid (Merit) as a root drench in early spring before new foliage emerges.

Grower - There are several insecticides available for insect control, however, the use of a systemic insecticide is recommended due to the thrips hidden living habit. Such insecticides include acephate, acetamiprid, and imidacloprid. Other types of insecticides include chlorpyrifos, cyfluthrin, fenoxycarb, flonicamid, fluvalinate, methiocarb, and spinosad.

Website:

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/images/pa-holopothrips3.02.gif>

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