

Short Communication

A new synonymy in the Palearctic genus, *EremiOTHrips* (Thys., Thripidae)

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Abstract. *EremiOTHrips* Priesner is considered a phytophagous genus, with most of its species documented primarily from the southern Mediterranean regions. In this paper, *EremiOTHrips negevi* Ben-David, 2017 **Syn. n.** is considered as a junior synonym of *EremiOTHrips manolachei* (Knechtel, 1955) after examination of materials in Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, Germany. A checklist is provided of the 22 species now included in *EremiOTHrips*, accompany with their distributions. The pest status as well as wing polymorphism of the species in the genus is discussed briefly.

Keywords: *AnaphOTHrips* genus-group, male, micropterous, pest, thrips

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The insect order Thysanoptera includes 6595 extant species in 789 genera worldwide. Among nine families recognized in the order, Thripidae with more than 2200 species (in 280 genera) is the second largest family in the order (Mound & Hastenpflug-Vesmanis, 2021; ThripsWiki, 2025). *EremiOTHrips* Priesner is considered one of the genera in Thripidae within *AnaphOTHrips* genus-group (Mound & Masumoto, 2009) that live in dry areas. All species in this genus are presumably phytophagous on flowers and leaves (Minaei, 2012). Host association in *EremiOTHrips* was discussed by Minaei (2012), who concluded that the distribution of this eremophilous genus largely depended on geography rather than any specific host plant. Thus, it seems likely that species of *EremiOTHrips* are phytophagous and do not exhibit a specific host association. Commonly, there has been no evidence that any species in this genus adversely affects crops. However, the damage to a halophytic plant, *Sarcocornia fruticosa* (Amarantaceae) by a large population of immatures and adults of *EremiOTHrips negevi* Ben-David, the species discussed in this paper, has been documented (Ben-David, 2017). The latter author claimed that the damage is similar to the typical injury to chives [*Allium schoenoprasum* (Amaryllidaceae)] caused by tobacco thrips, *Thrips tabaci* Lindeman, a cosmopolitan pest. During the second author's research visit from Selçuk University (Türkiye) to the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt (Germany), conducted as part of a postdoctoral project on *EremiOTHrips* species, she found no morphological differences between the two described species of this genus. The aim of this paper is to propose one of these species as a synonym of the other. Moreover, an update checklist of 22 world species in company with their distributions are provided. Recent major works on the genus failed to mention polymorphism in wing's length in the genus (Bhatti *et al.*, 2003; Minaei, 2012; Rasool *et al.*, 2021) so a diagnosis character for the genus is also provided.

Slide-mounted specimens (none type materials) of three females and two males of *EremiOTHrips manolachei* (Knechtel, 1955) were examined by the second author in summer 2024 along with preparing all photographs. High-resolution micrographs were captured using a Leica FireWire DFC480 digital camera attached to a compound microscope. Detailed morphological characters were digitized under magnifications of 10× and 40× to ensure precise visualization of diagnostic structures.

EremiOTHrips Priesner

EremiOTHrips Priesner 1950: 28.

Diagnosis: Female macropterous, micropterous or apterous. Head broader than long; interocellar setae short. Postocular setae uniserial. Proboscis usually short, rounded at apex (mouth cone is long in *EremiOTHrips unicolour* Rasool, Abdel-Dayem, Alattal & Aldhafer). maxillary palps 3-segmented; eyes with 6 pigmented facets, ocellar setae pair I present. Antennae usually 9-segmented ((in *E. bhattii* Minaei and *E. efflatouni* (Priesner) 8-segmented)); segment I without paired dorso-apical setae, sense cone on III and IV usually forked (simple in *E. imitator* Priesner). Pronotum with transverse lines of sculpture, 5–6 pairs of posteromarginal setae with one posteroangular

pair usually longer and stouter (*E. efflatouni* and *E. eshgheii* Minaei without long posteroangular setae). Prosternum with ferna divided. Spinula present on mesosternum, absent on metasternum. Mesothoracic sternopleural sutures present. Metafurca without basal platform. Mesonotum with or without anterior campaniform sensilla. Metanotum with median pair of setae inserted far back of anterior margin, either distinctly shorter than outer pair or sometimes longer; campaniform sensilla absent. Fore wing posterior cilia wavy; first vein with 9–12 setae, usually 3 setae on distal half; second vein with almost complete setal row. Prosternal basantra membranous. Mesosternal furcal spinula present, metasternal spinula absent. Mesothoracic sternopleural sutures present. Tarsi 2-segmented. Abdominal tergites II–VIII with setae S1 usually as long S2, tergites without ctenidia or craspeda, Posterior margin of tergum VIII with or without comb of microtrichia; sternal discal setae absent; IX with two pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with or without longitudinal split. Sternites without discal setae or craspeda; III–VII with three pairs of posteromarginal setae, II with two pairs. Males smaller than female; with or without pore plates on sternites, tergite IX with special paired processes (drepanae) usually absent ((presnt in *E. shirabudinensis* (Yakhontov), *E. antilope* (Priesner), *E. aldryhimi* Rasool, Abdel-Dayem, Alattal & Aldhafer and *E. unicolour*)). Parameres with or without tooth (Fig. 2D).

Eremiobrips manolachei (Knechtel, 1955)

Oxybrips manolachei Knechtel, 1955: 1714

Eremiobrips negevi Ben-David, 2017: 136. **Syn. n.**

Material examined

FRANCE, env. de Montpellier, bord étang sale, 2♀♀, *Suaeda maritima*, iv.1963, Berlese, Coll. H. Priesner from Senckenberg collections. ROMANIA, Carmen Sylva (Constanta), 1♀, *Aster* sp., ix.1936, W. K. Knechtel, SMF T 7396, det. R. zur Strassen, 1977 from Senckenberg collections. FRANCE, Grau du Roi, 1♂, *Suaeda maritima*, 15.vii.1969, Coll. A. Bournier, Coll. H. Priesner from Senckenberg collections. FRANCE, env. Montpellier, Grau du Roi, 1♂, *Suaeda maritima*, 8.vii.1969, Coll. A. Bournier, Coll. H. Priesner from Senckenberg collections. This species described from Rumanian (Knechtel, 1955). Subsequently, the species is reported from France as well as Spain on *Salicornia* and *Suaeda*, also on *Scirpus maritimus* and *Chenopodium rubrum* (Bournier, 1971; zur Strassen, 2003). Ben-David (2017) recognized *E. negevi* as a new species because of the following characters: wing polymorphism (macropterous, brachypterous and apterous) (Figs 1E, 2C), nine antennal segments (Fig. 2B), narrowly transverse pore plates on sternites IV–VII of males (Fig. 2A), and the absence of drepanae (special processes on abdominal tergum IX) on tergite IX of males (Fig. 2D). All mentioned features are occurred in *Eremiobrips manolachei* (Figs 1, 2). Furthermore, both species share the following characteristics: body color (uniformly light brown) (Fig. 1A); sculpture on meso and metanotum; tergite VIII which bears a complete and well-developed comb of broad-based, unevenly spaced short teeth (Fig. 1B), and tergite X which has longitudinal split (Fig. 1D). Therefore, *E. negevi* is considered here as a new junior synonym of *E. manolachei*.

Eremiobrips is a member of the *Anaphobrips* genus-group, whose species lack long setae or bear only a single pair of prominent setae on the pronotum (Mound & Masumoto, 2009). There is much evident for phytophagy among members of this genus (Bhatti *et al.*, 2003; 2009). However, these species are rarely collected from trees (Minaei, 2012). Moreover, no host specificity has been identified among the species, although plants growing in dry areas of the Palearctic region have the potential to serve as hosts for them (zur Strassen, 1975; Minaei, 2012, 2014; Minaei & Aleosfoor, 2020). Despite this, most reported species have been not identified as agricultural pests. However, the species discussed in this study is an exception. According to Ben-David (2017) the species acts as a pest of *Sarcocornia fruticose* which is commercially grown in greenhouses in southern Israel.

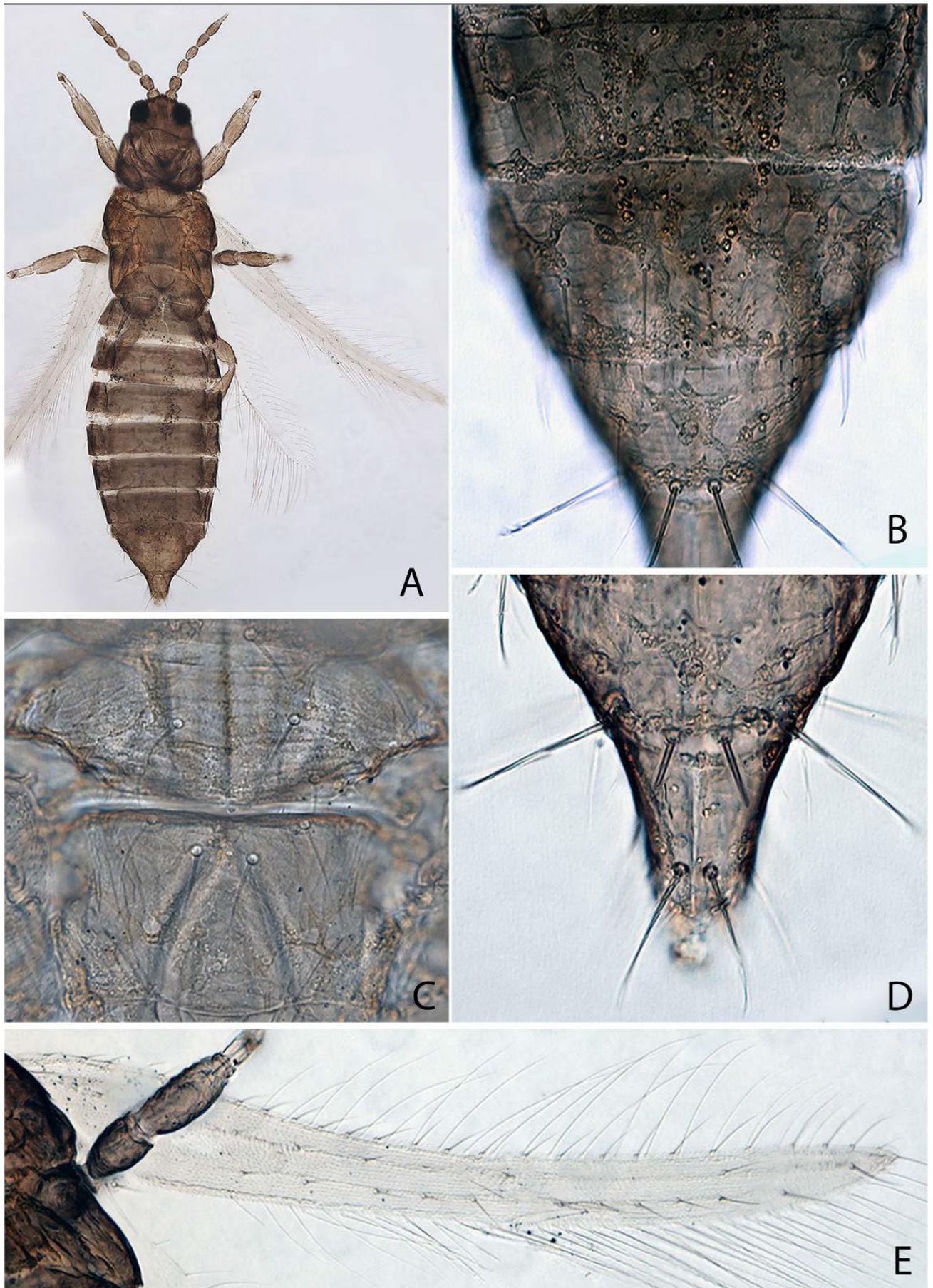


Fig. 1. *Eremiotrips manolachei* female. (A) whole body; (B) abdominal tergites VII-IX; (C) meso-metanotum; (D) abdominal tergites IX-X; (E) forewing.

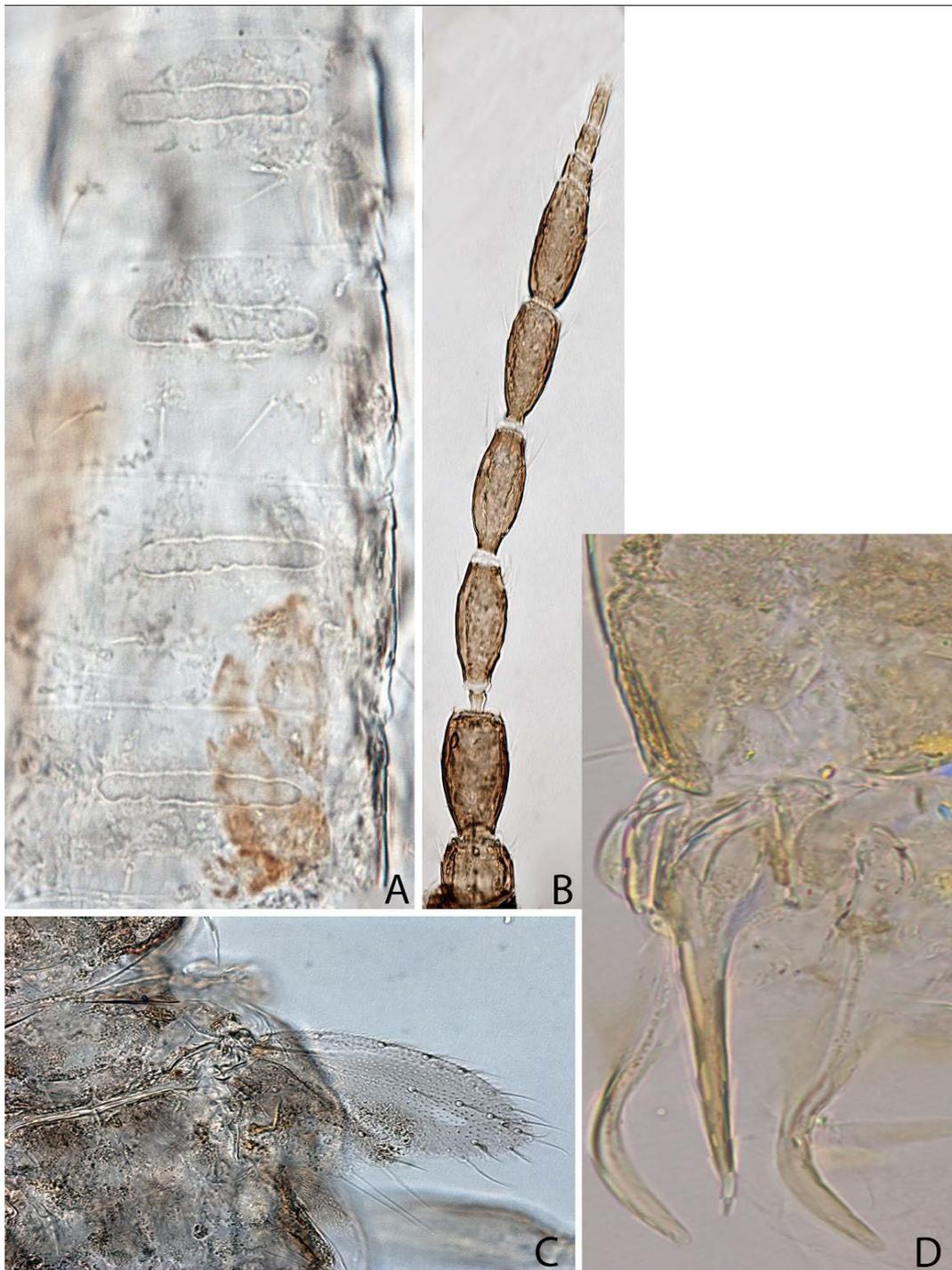


Fig. 2. *Eremiobrips manolachei* male. (A) abdominal sternites with transverse pore plates IV–VII; (B) antenna; (C) wing; (D) tergite IX.

Similarly, most species in the genus have developed wings. One exception is *E. manolachei* as discussed in this paper. Recently wing polymorphism is also reported for *E. similis* Bhatti (Rasool *et al.*, 2021). Considering the new synonymy presented here, *Eremiobrips* includes 22 species around the world (Table 1). A problem on taxonomic studies of genera such as *Eremiobrips* is that females of several species cannot be distinguished from each other (Bhatti *et al.*, 2003; Minaei, 2012) so a key for discriminant of females of all species in the genus probably is not possible currently.

Table 1. List of world species of *Eremiobrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

Species	Distribution	Reference(s)
<i>E. acutus</i> (Bhatti 1972)	India	Bhatti, 1972
<i>E. aldrybimi</i> Rasool, Abdel-Dayem, Alattal & Aldhafer, 2021	Saudia Arabia	Rasool <i>et al.</i> , 2021
<i>E. antilope</i> (Priesner 1923)	China, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yemen, Morocco, Sudan, Cyprus, India	Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2003; zur Strassen & Kuslitzky 2012; Zhang & Feng, 2017
<i>E. arya</i> (zur Strassen, 1975)	China, Iran, Saudi Arabia	zur Strassen, 1975
<i>E. bhattii</i> Minaei 2012	Iran	Minaei, 2012
<i>E. brunneus</i> (zur Strassen 1975)	Canary Island, Morocco	zur Strassen, 1975
<i>E. dorcas</i> (zur Strassen 1975)	Morocco, Algeria	zur Strassen, 1975
<i>E. dubius</i> (Priesner 1933)	Canary Islands, Morocco, Spain, Iran, Turkey	Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Tunc & Hastenpflug-Vesmanis, 2016
<i>E. efflatouni</i> (Priesner 1965)	Egypt, Canary Islands, Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia	Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Rasool <i>et al.</i> , 2021
<i>E. esghii</i> Minaei 2014	Iran	Minaei, 2014
<i>E. farsi</i> Bhatti & Telmadarraiy 2003	Iran	Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>Eremiobrips hanshanensis</i> Zhang & Feng, 2017	China	Zhang & Feng, 2017
<i>E. budeci</i> (Pelikan 2002)	Kazakhstan	Pelikan, 2002
<i>E. imitator</i> Priesner 1949	Egypt	
<i>E. manolachei</i> (Knechtel 1955)	Romania, France, Spain	Knechtel, 1955; Bournier, 1971; Ben-David, (2017)
<i>E. shirabudinensis</i> (Yakhontov 1929)	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Iran, Iraq, Mongolia	Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>E. similis</i> Bhatti 1988	Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia	Bhatti, 1988; Ramezani <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Rasool <i>et al.</i> , 2021
<i>E. taghizadehi</i> (zur Strassen 1975)	Iran, Spain, Turkey	Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Tunc & Hastenpflug-Vesmanis, 2016
<i>E. tamaricis</i> (zur Strassen 1975)	Iran, Morocco	Alavi <i>et al.</i> , 2007; zur Strassen, 1975
<i>E. unicolour</i> Rasool, Abdel-Dayem, Alattal & Aldhafer, 2021	Saudi Arabia	Rasool <i>et al.</i> , 2021
<i>E. varius</i> (zur Strassen 1975)	India, Iran	zur Strassen, 1975; Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>E. zurstrasseni</i> Bhatti, Bagheri & Ramezani 2009	Iran	Bhatti <i>et al.</i> , 2009

Author's Contributions

Kambiz Minaei: Conceptualization; methodology; formal analysis; investigation; draft preparation; final review and edit; visualization; supervision and project administration. **Inci Sahin Negis:** methodology; formal analysis; investigation; draft preparation; final review and edit and funding acquisition

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Data Availability Statement

The specimens listed in this study are deposited in Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, Germany and are available from the curator, upon request.

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Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

This study only included insect material, and all required ethical guidelines for the treatment and use of animals were strictly adhered to in accordance with international, national, and institutional regulations. No human participants were involved in any studies conducted by the authors for this article.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

Generative AI statement

The authors declare that no Gen AI was used in the creation of this manuscript.

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همتایی جدید در جنس پالئارتیک *Eremiothrips* (Thys., Thripidae)

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چکیده: جنس *Eremiothrips* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)، گروهی از بال‌ریشک داران گیاه‌خوار هستند که بیشتر گونه‌های آن از کشورهای جنوب مدیترانه گزارش شده‌اند. در این مطالعه، گونه *Eremiothrips negevi* Ben-David Syn. n. پس از بررسی نمونه‌های موجود در موزه زکنبرگ فرانکفورت، آلمان، به عنوان یک همتای جدید برای *Eremiothrips manolachei* (Knechtel 1955) در نظر گرفته شده است. همچنین، فهرستی از ۲۲ گونه موجود در جهان از جنس *Eremiothrips* به همراه پراکنش آن‌ها ارائه شده است. وضعیت آفت بودن و چند شکلی در طول بال گونه‌های آن به صورت مختصر بحث شده است.

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