

N O T E

Thigmotactic Behavior of *Limothrips cerealium* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) Leads to Laboratory Equipment Damage in the Czech Republic¹

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Thigmotaxis is contact-oriented behavior of organisms (Resh and Cardé 2008 [eds.], Glossary. *in* Encyclopedia of Insects, Elsevier, 1073–1091.) that is associated with the movement toward or away from a mechanical stimulus (Hutchins et al. 2003 [eds.], Behavior. *in* Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Gale, Vol 1: 37–43. such as occurs in narrow spaces or borders. The terminology of thigmotaxis has been widely discussed (Lewis 1997, Thrips as crop pests. CAB International, Wallingford, 740 pp.; Hutchins et al. 2003), and includes other related phenomena, such as thigmokinesis as increased locomotion in response to changes in contact with immediate physical environment or orthokinesis and klinokinesis, connected with the rate and direction of locomotion in a crevice. This behavior is widespread even among Thysanoptera (Lewis 1973, Thrips, their biology, ecology and economic importance. Academic Press Inc., London, 349 pp.) in which each species chooses crevices with different sizes and suitable widths, sometimes varying between males and females (de Mallman 1964, Ann. Soc. Entomol. Fr. 133: 1–141). Thigmotaxis likely provides protection against inhospitable conditions, such as during hibernation in deeper layers of tree bark (Lewis 1997) or during aestivation in relatively more humid microhabitats, thereby avoiding desiccation (Kirk 1997. Feeding, pp. 19–41, In Lewis (ed.), CAB International, Wallingford, 749 p.).

The short communication herein reports our experience with applied consequences of thigmotactic behavior and ecology of the grain thrips, *Limothrips cerealium* Haliday (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). Thousands of these thrips invaded privately owned, accredited microbiological laboratories and chemical food-testing

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