

Regulated pests commonly intercepted with
imported cut flowers



Original thinking... applied

Thrips

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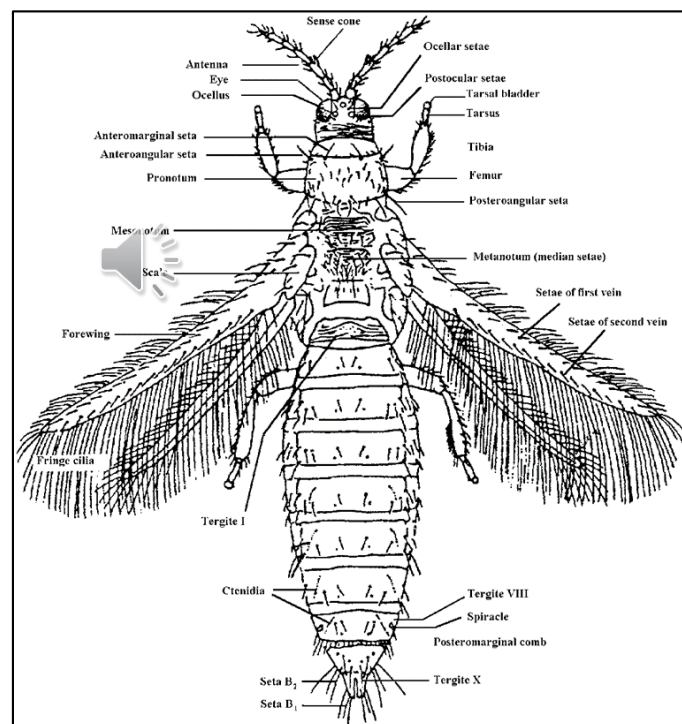
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Thrips –Thysanoptera (= fringed-wing)

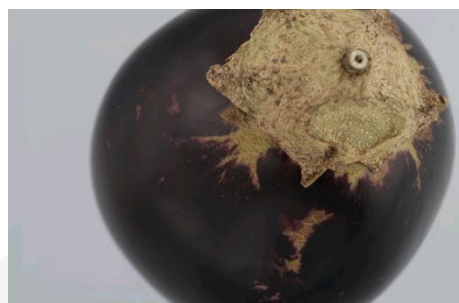
- Worldwide: c. 6000 species
- Mostly plant feeding
- British list contains 160 established/naturally occurring species
- 19 non-established incursions (including *Thrips palmi*, *Scirtothrips dorsalis*)
- PHSI interceptions of 52 other non-native species to date.
- Regulated species
 - *Thrips palmi*
 - *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, *S. aurantia*, *S. citri*



Detection

Thrips feed by piercing and sucking

- Leaf silvering
- Deformity, growth malfunction in host
- Discoloration of upper leaf surface
- Look on the underside of the leaf
- In flowers, buds, leaf axils
- Hidden areas e.g. under clyces (calyx sing.)



Thrips palmi

melon thrips; EU annex designation 1A1

- Polyphagous, 36+ families Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae
- Populations build up rapidly
- Feed gregariously
- Scars and deformities on flowers, fruits and leaves
- Edibles: aubergines, basil, peppers and cucumbers
- Ornamentals: Chrysanthemums, Orchidaceae, Cyclamen, etc.
- Tospovirus vector of: Capsicum Chlorosis virus, Melon yellow spot virus and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus



Field recognition

Adult females c.1.3 mm (males 1.0 mm) – Wings may or may not reach the end of abdomen

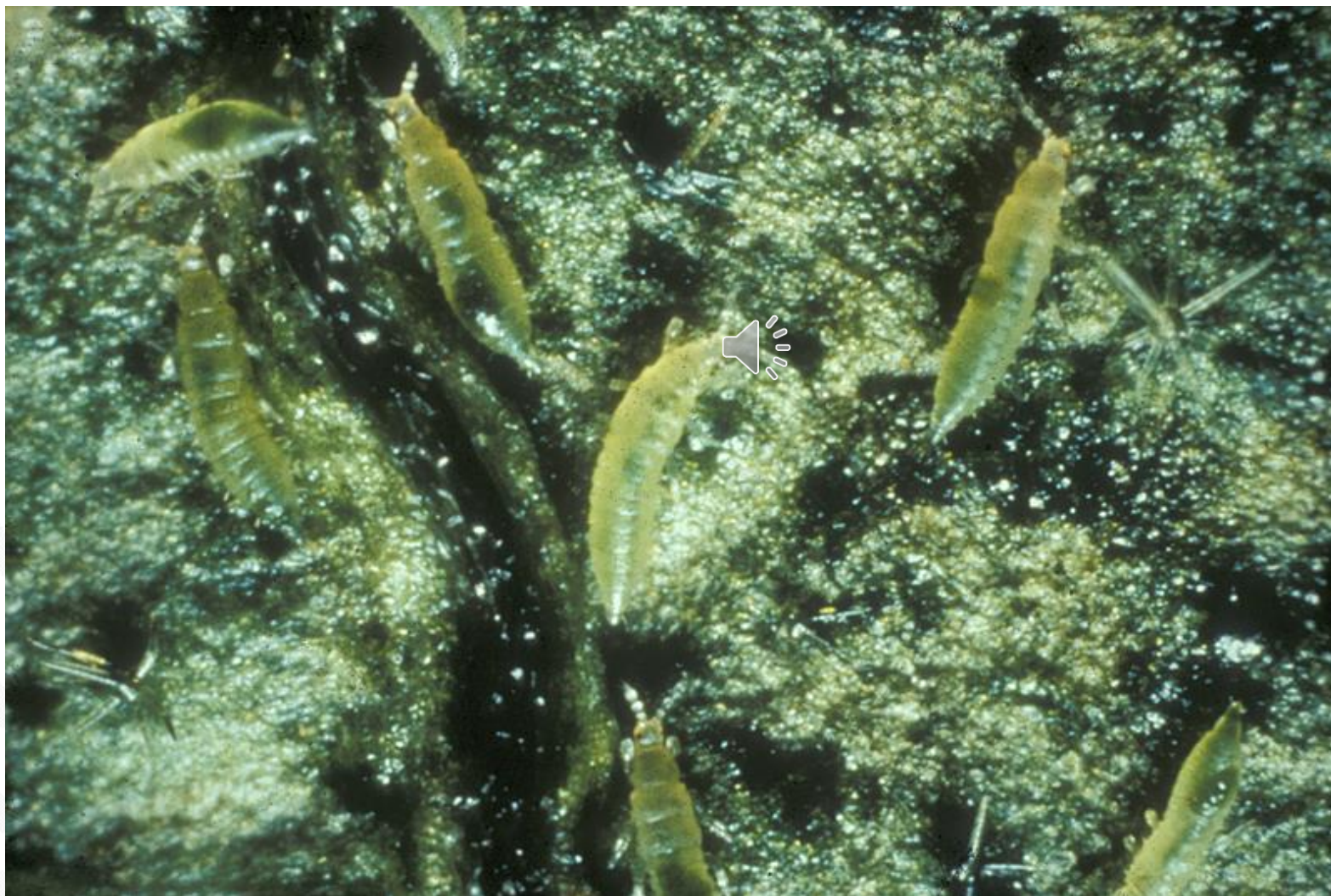
Yellow body with only furthest antennal segments darkened (may appear orange-brown)

Possible to confuse with numerous other native and non-native species, particularly

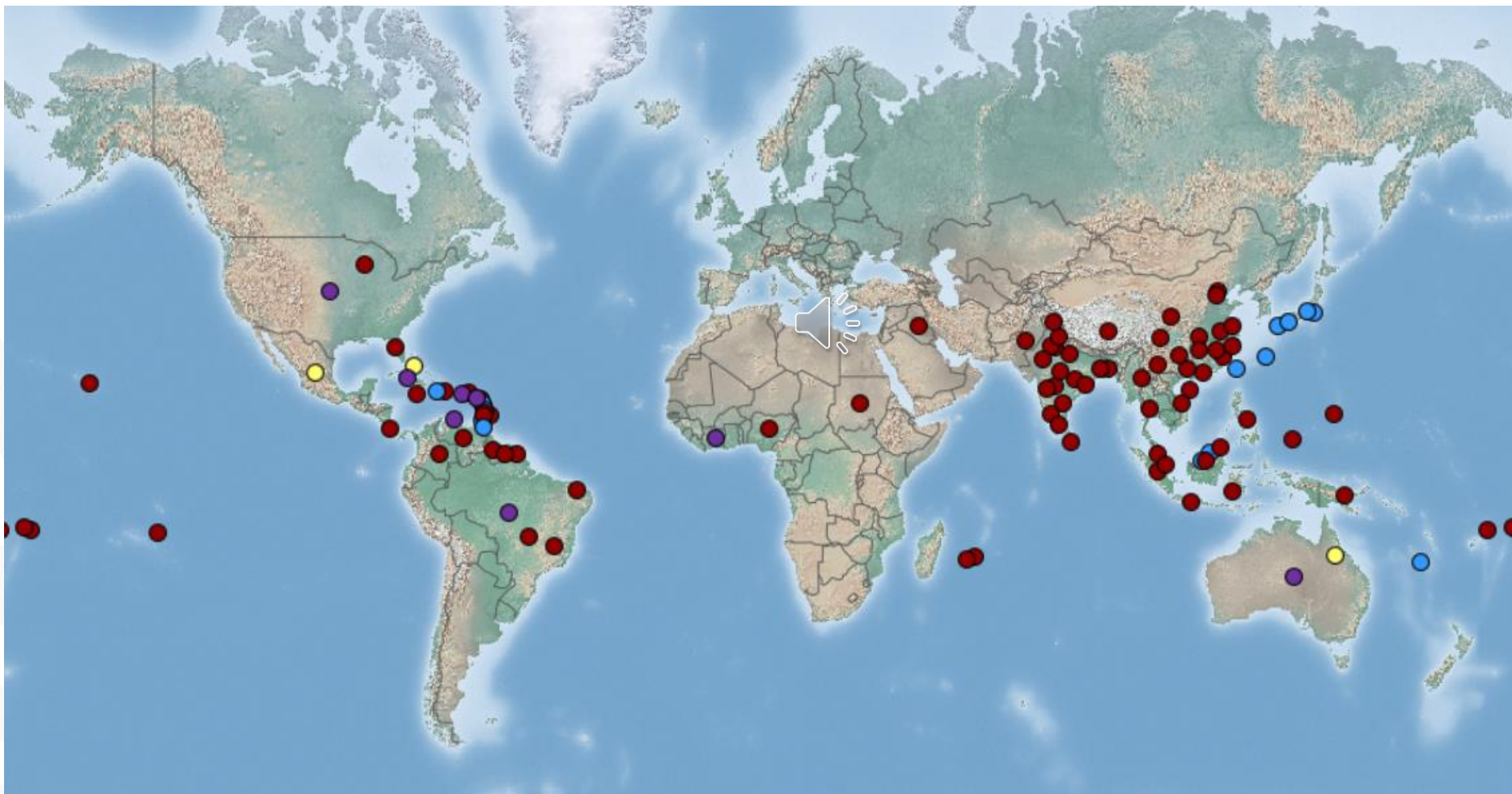
S. aurantii, *S. citri*, *S. dorsalis*, some *T. tabaci*, and males of many species including mostly yellow thrips



Immature stages



Thrips palmi - distribution



Interceptions

Nearly 600 confirmed interceptions 1996-date.

- Bitter-gourd (265) and Aubergine (97)
- Dominican Republic (126)
- Thailand (119).
- India (107)
- Ghana, Laos, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka & Vietnam
- Orchids from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore (106)
- Chrysanthemum cuttings (108) mainly from Kenya, few from Brazil.

