CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

California Pest Rating Profile

***Hercinothrips dimidiatus* Hood: Aloe thrips Thysanoptera: Thripidae**

Pest Rating: B

Comment Period: 02/20/2026-04/06/2026

Initiating Event:

This thrips was found in the environment in San Diego and Santa Barbara counties. It has not been assessed with the pest rating system. Therefore, a pest rating proposal is needed.

History & Status:

Background: This thrips is reported on *Aloe* species, including *Aloe arborescens*, *A. dawei*, *A. munchii* and *A. vera* (California Department of Food and Agriculture, 2026). It was also intercepted on a *Haworthia* species (United States Department of Agriculture, 1942). Damage thought to have been caused by feeding from this thrips includes silvering of leaves and darkening of older leaves, and based on photographs, the damage appears to be severe (Nouveaux ravageurs identifiés durant l'été 2018 en Corse, 2026). Affected leaves are reported to die (Mateus et al., 2015).

Worldwide Distribution: *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* is probably native to South Africa. Reported from **Africa:** South Africa. **Europe:** France (Corsica), Italy, Portugal; **North America:** United States (California) (California Department of Food and Agriculture, 2026; EPPO Global Database 2026a; Mateus et al., 2015; Nouveaux ravageurs identifiés durant l'été 2018 en Corse, 2026; Schifani and Mazza, 2021). It has also been reported from a greenhouse in the Netherlands and in the

environment elsewhere in Europe, but the original reports are for the most part unavailable (EPPO Global Database 2026b).

Official Control: *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* is considered reportable by the USDA (U.S. regulated plant pest table, 2026).

California Distribution: *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* was found at a zoo in San Diego County and a botanical garden in Santa Barbara County in February 2026.

California Interceptions: *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* was intercepted in California on a *Haworthia* species (United States Department of Agriculture, 1942).

The risk that *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* poses to California is evaluated below.

Consequences of Introduction:

1) **Climate/Host Interaction:** *Aloe* species are grown widely in California. This thrips is present in the environment in San Diego and Santa Barbara counties. Therefore, it receives a **High (3)** in this category.

   – Low (1) Not likely to establish in California; or likely to establish in very limited areas.

   – Medium (2) may be able to establish in a larger but limited part of California.

   – High (3) likely to establish a widespread distribution in California.

2) **Known Pest Host Range:** This thrips is only known to feed on *Aloe* and possibly *Haworthia* species. Both of these genera are in the plant family Asphodelaceae. Therefore, *H. dimidiatus* receives a **Low (1)** in this category.

   – Low (1) has a very limited host range.

– Medium (2) has a moderate host range.

– High (3) has a wide host range.

3) **Pest Reproductive and Dispersal Potential:** *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* could likely be moved on infested *Aloe* plants. Therefore, it receives a **Medium (2)** in this category.

– Low (1) does not have high reproductive or dispersal potential.

– Medium (2) has either high reproductive or dispersal potential.

– High (3) has both high reproduction and dispersal potential.

4) **Economic Impact**. *Aloe* species are important ornamental plants in California, and *H. dimidiatus* is reported to impact the aesthetics of these plants. This thrips is considered USDA-reportable. Therefore, it receives a **Medium (2)** in this category.

Economic Impact: B, C

A. The pest could lower crop yield.

B. The pest could lower crop value (includes increasing crop production costs).

C. The pest could trigger the loss of markets (includes quarantines).

D. The pest could negatively change normal cultural practices.

E. The pest can vector, or is vectored, by another pestiferous organism.

F. The organism is injurious or poisonous to agriculturally important animals.

G. The organism can interfere with the delivery or supply of water for agricultural uses.

Economic Impact Score: Medium

– Low (1) causes 0 or 1 of these impacts.

– Medium (2) causes 2 of these impacts.

– High (3) causes 3 or more of these impacts.

5) **Environmental Impact**. This thrips impacts plantings of *Aloe* and it could trigger treatments. Therefore, it receives a **High (3)** in this category.

Environmental Impact: D, E

A. The pest could have a significant environmental impact such as lowering biodiversity, disrupting natural communities, or changing ecosystem processes.

B. The pest could directly affect threatened or endangered species.

C. The pest could impact threatened or endangered species by disrupting critical habitats.

D. The pest could trigger additional official or private treatment programs.

E. The pest significantly impacts cultural practices, home/urban gardening or ornamental plantings.

Environmental Impact Score: High (3)

– Low (1) causes none of the above to occur.

– Medium (2) causes one of the above to occur.

– High (3) causes two or more of the above to occur.

Consequences of Introduction to California for *Hercinothrips dimidiatus*: Medium (11)

Add up the total score and include it here.

–Low = 5-8 points
–Medium = 9-12 points
–High = 13-15 points

6) **Post Entry Distribution and Survey Information:** *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* was found in the environment in San Diego County. It receives a **Low (-1)** in this category.

–Not established (0) Pest never detected in California, or known only from incursions.

–Low (-1) Pest has a localized distribution in California, or is established in one suitable climate/host area (region).

–Medium (-2) Pest is widespread in California but not fully established in the endangered area, or pest is established in two contiguous suitable climate/host areas.

–High (-3) Pest has fully established in the endangered area, or pest is reported in more than two contiguous or non-contiguous suitable climate/host areas.

Final Score:

7) The final score is the consequences of introduction score minus the post-entry distribution and survey information score: Medium (10)

Uncertainty:

Given that it was found in the environment at two distant locations, it seems likely that this thrips is present elsewhere in the state.

Conclusion and Rating Justification:

Hercinothrips dimidiatus could impact *Aloe* plantings in California. Unfortunately, it has been found in the environment in San Diego and Santa Barbara counties and eradication does not appear to be feasible. For these reasons, a "B" rating is justified.

References:

California Department of Food and Agriculture. Pest and Damage Record Database. Accessed February 10, 2026: https://pdr.cdfa.ca.gov/PDR/pdrmainmenu.aspx

EPPO Global Database. 2026a. Accessed January 20, 2026: https://gd.eppo.int/reporting/article-4451

EPPOI Global Database 2026b. Accessed January 20, 2026: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/HERCDI/reporting

Mateus, C., Franco, J. C., Caetano, M. F., da Silva, E. B., Ramos, A. P., Figueiredo, E., and Mound, L. 2015. *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* Hood (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), a new pest of *Aloe arborescens* Miller in Europe. Phytoparasitica 43:689-692.

Nouveaux ravageurs identifiés durant l'été 2018 en Corse. Accessed February 5, 2026: https://www.sangavinuditenda.fr/wp-content/uploads/imported-media/documents/1540449445.pdf

Schifani, E., and Mazza, G. 2021. *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* (Thysanoptera, Thripidae), an emerging pest of *Aloe arborescence* [Asphodelaceae] newly recorded from Italy. Zootaxa 5039:440-442.

United States Department of Agriculture. 1942. List of intercepted plant pests, 1941. Washington: USDA, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Service and Regulatory Annoucements. Accessed February 5, 2026: http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00017454/00003

Responsible Party:

Kyle Beucke, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-698-3034, permits[@]cdfa.ca.gov

***Comment Period: 02/20/2026-04/06/2026**

***NOTE:**

You must be registered and logged in to post a comment. If you have registered and have not received the registration confirmation, please contact us at permits[@]cdfa.ca.gov.

Comment Format:

- Comments should refer to the appropriate California Pest Rating Proposal Form subsection(s) being commented on, as shown below.
  Example Comment:
  Consequences of Introduction: 1. Climate/Host Interaction: [Your comment that relates to "Climate/Host Interaction" here.]
- Posted comments will not be able to be viewed immediately.
- Comments may not be posted if they:

  Contain inappropriate language which is not germane to the pest rating proposal;
  Contains defamatory, false, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, discriminatory or illegal material;
  Violates agency regulations prohibiting sexual harassment or other forms of discrimination;
  Violates agency regulations prohibiting workplace violence, including threats.
- Comments may be edited prior to posting to ensure they are entirely germane.
- Posted comments shall be those which have been approved in content and posted to the website to be viewed, not just submitted.

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