

California Pest Rating Proposal

Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi (Moulton): Fig thrips

Thysanoptera: Thripidae

Current Rating: Q

Proposed Rating: A

Comment Period: **08/28/2026-10/12/2026**

Initiating Event:

This thrips was intercepted on a fig tree from a nursery in Fresno, California. It has not been assessed with the pest rating system. Therefore, a pest rating proposal is needed.

History & Status:

Background: This thrips has been reported almost exclusively on *Ficus carica* (Monteiro, 1999; Moulton, 1930; Rasool et al., 2021). It was also collected from *Euphorbia pulcherrima* in Madeira, Portugal (though the authors did not consider that to be a true host), and Hybiscus (sic) on Easter Island, Chile (Aguilar and Cravo, 2024; Campos and Peña, 1973).

It was reported to cause “much damage” to *Ficus carica* in northern Chile (Moulton, 1930), but no other reports of damage to fig were found. This is significant, as this thrips is present in three fig-producing countries: Brazil, Chile, and Saudi Arabia. Regarding the damage reported by Moulton (1930), Condit (1947) included the following details that were not provided in Moulton’s paper, but without indicating how these details were obtained: “It attacks the leaves and scars the surface of the fruit.”

Worldwide Distribution: **Asia:** Saudi Arabia; **Macaronesia:** Madeira; **South America:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile (including Easter Island) (Aguilar and Cravo, 2024; Campos and Peña, 1973; De Santis, 1941; Monteiro, 1999; Rasool et al., 2021).

Official Control: *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* is not known to be under official control.

California Distribution: *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* has not been reported in the environment in California

California Interceptions: *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* was intercepted in California on a *Ficus carica* tree from a nursery in Fresno, California (California Department of Food and Agriculture, 2026).

The risk that *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* poses to California is evaluated below.

Consequences of Introduction:

- 1) **Climate/Host Interaction:** *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* is reported from arid and subtropical areas. Its host, fig, is widely grown in California. 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:** Edible fig is considered to be the sole host of this thrips. Therefore, *P. stuardoi* 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:** *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* could be moved on infested fig plants. It can presumably fly. 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.** Fig is an important crop in California. *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* was reported by Moulton (1930) to cause damage to fig (see Uncertainty, below). Therefore, it receives a **Medium (2)** in this category.

Economic Impact: A, B

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 may trigger treatments if it causes impacts to figs. 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 *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi*:

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:** *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* is not known to be in California. It receives a **Not established (0)** 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 (11)

Uncertainty:

It is likely that the potential impacts of this thrips on figs in California are overestimated. The lack of reports of impacts to fig except for Moulton (1930), strongly suggest that this thrips would not significantly impact figs in California if it becomes established in this state.

Conclusion and Rating Justification:

There is a (likely small) possibility that *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* could impact figs in California if it becomes established in this state. It is not known to be in California. For these reasons, an “A” rating is justified.

References:

Aguiar, A. M. F., and Cravo, D. 2024. New records of thrips (Thysanoptera: Terebrantia and Tubulifera) for Madeira Archipelago and Selvagens Islands and the first record of the thrips parasitoid *Thripastichus gentilei* (Del Guercio, 1931) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae). Boletim Museu de História Natural do Funchal 74:5-37.

California Department of Food and Agriculture. Pest and Damage Record Database. Accessed August 12, 2026:

<https://pdr.cdfa.ca.gov/PDR/pdrmainmenu.aspx>

Campos S., L., and Peña G., L. E. 1973. Los insectos de Isla de Pascua. Revista Chilena de Entomología 7:217-229.

Condit, I. J. 1947. The Fig. Chronica Botanica Co. Waltham, Massachusetts.

De Santis, L. 1941. Materiales para el estudio de los tisanopteros Argentinos. Boletín de Agricultura e Industrias 1941:3-12.

Monteiro, R. C. 1999. Estudos taxonômicos de tripes (Thysanoptera) constatados no Brasil, com ênfase no gênero *Frankliniella*. Ph.D. thesis. Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil.

Moulton, D. 1930. A new genus and species of Thysanoptera from Chile with notes on other species. Revista Chilena de Historia Natural 34:272-275.

Rasool, I., Mound, L. A., Soliman, A. M., and Aldhafer, H. M. 2021. The Dendrothripinae (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) of Saudi Arabia, with new records, one new species, and revised status of *Pseudodendrothrips stuardoi* (Moulton). Zootaxa 4999: 219–227.

Responsible Party:

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***Comment Period: 08/28/2026-10/12/2026**

***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](mailto: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.

Proposed Pest Rating: A