

## Table of Contents

## In Press

## Online First

## Article Archive

PPS (55) 2019

PPS (54) 2018

PPS (53) 2017

PPS (52) 2016

PPS (51) 2015

PPS (50) 2014

PPS (49) 2013

PPS (48) 2012

PPS (47) 2011

PPS (46) 2010

PPS (45) 2009

PPS (44) 2008

PPS (43) 2007

PPS (42) 2006

PPS (41) 2005

PPS (40) 2004

PPS (39) 2003

Issue No. 1 (1-34)

Issue No. 2 (39-77)

Issue No. 3 (79-115)

Issue No. 4 (117-153)

PPS (38) 2002

PPS (37) 2001

PPS (36) 2000

PPS (35) 1999

## Editorial Board

## Ethical Standards

## Reviewers 2017

## For Authors

## Author Declaration

## Instruction for Authors

## Submission Templates

## Guide for Authors

## Copyright Statement

## Fees

## Submission/Login

## For Reviewers

## Guide for Reviewers

## Reviewers Login

## Thrips (*Thysanoptera*) of vegetable crops (okro, spinach, garden egg and pumpkin) grown in Southeastern Nigeria

Evangelina T. Oparaocha, Raphael N. Okigbo

<https://doi.org/10.17221/3832-PPS>

Citation: Oparaocha E.T., Okigbo R.N. (2003): Thrips (*Thysanoptera*) of vegetable crops (okro, spinach, garden egg and pumpkin) grown in Southeastern Nigeria. *Plant Protect. Sci.*, 39: 132-138.

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Eight vegetable crops were sampled at five localities in Southeastern Nigeria and were found to harbour one or more species of thrips. The crops were *Amaranthus hybridus*, *A. spinosus*, *Basella rubra*, *Solanum incanum*, *S. melongena*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, *Telfairia occidentalis* and a species of *Solanum*. The sampled localities, with the frequency of occurrence of thrips, were Umuahia (29.6%), Owerri (28.5%), Port Harcourt (25.7%), Calabar (18.7%) and Enugu (6.0%). The studies revealed that crops with very heavy inflorescences, e.g. *Amaranthus hybridus*, had a higher number of thrips (40%) per flower/leaf, while simple flowered crops like *Telfairia occidentalis* could only harbour a far lower number of thrips per flower/leaf. This showed a preference of these thrips for plants with heavy inflorescences which provided them with more protection, especially their larvae. Taxonomic/microscopic studies identified three species of thrips: *Haplothrips gowdeyi* that attacked 63% of all the sampled crops, *Frankliniella schultzei* was hosted by 50% of the crops, and *Megalurothrips ventralis* also preyed on 50% of the plant samples.

**Keywords:**

thrips; vegetable crops; Nigeria

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