

P.16 - First record in Egypt of thrips *Frankliniella occidentalis* and impatiens necrotic spot tospovirus

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This report records for the first time in Egypt the presence of the western flower thrips: *Frankliniella occidentalis* which was encountered during a 2005/2006, field survey carried out on ornamental plants grown in the Giza region. *F. occidentalis* has been recorded on 27 host plants, of which *Antirrhinum majus* harboured the highest number. In the present report, *F. occidentalis* has been identified and described in detail. Mounted specimens of the different developmental stages were compared with corresponding stages of associated onion thrips; *Thrips tabaci*. The differences between the two species were evident in the number of segments of adult antennae, the pronotum of prothorax, the adult wings and the 8 abdominal tergite. *F. occidentalis* was first encountered on the *Pomoea tricolor* plants (convolvulaceae) together with prominent signs of virus infection, from which Impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) was isolated. The virus disease was sap transmitted to a range of tested indicator plants, which developed characteristic symptoms of INSV. All inoculated plants were tested for the presence of INSV using DAS-ELISA specific antiserum and conjugate. Only 16 out of 34 tested plant species gave a positive reaction with the specific antiserum. The isolation of the tospovirus INSV is reported here for the first time in Egypt. Insect transmission tests were carried out using nymphs and adults of both *F. occidentalis* and *T. tabaci* species. While *T. tabaci* failed to transmit INSV, *F. occidentalis* proved to be the vector of the virus.