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**Record of South East Asian Thrips *Thrips parvispinus* (Karny) Thysanoptera: Terebrantia:  
Thripidae, from *Solanum melongena*, Kerala**

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In India, Black thrips (*Thrips parvispinus*), a highly polyphagous species is creating great concern as it being recorded from several different cultivated crop plants. It is an invasive insect species from Indonesia and was first reported in 2015 on a papaya plantation in Bengaluru, Karnataka by Tyagi *et al.*, 2015. Rachana *et al.*, 2022 has reported *T. parvispinus* on *Chrysanthemum* sp. from Kerala. It has become a major insect pest in recent days on chilli and capsicum crops.

Brinjal is a commercial grown vegetable and occupies an area of 728 ha with a production of 12874 tons (APEDA, 2021). Vegetable productivity is limited mainly by pests inflicting crop losses up to 40 %. Several thrips viz., Melon thrips *Thrips palmi*, onion thrips *Thrips tabaci* Lind., Groundnut thrips, *Caliothrips indicus* Bag., Chilli thrips,

*Scirtothrips dorsalis* hood have been found to infest the brinjal leaves (Ghosh, 2020). In an experimental field of brinjal (Variety: Surya) in Instructional farm, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, large number of thrips were found congregating inside the flowers causing severe discoloration, malformation and ultimately dropping of flowers, and the species was identified as *T. parvispinus* with the help of the key published by NPPQS, 2022. Above 90 per cent of the flowers were infested with *T. parvispinus*. Careful examination of flowers showed no thrips species other than *T. parvispinus*. This suggests the possibility of replacement of species and attainment of new pest status. The high population demands extensive study on this invasive pest species.



**Fig. 1: Adult *Thrips parvispinus***



**Fig. 2: Malformed flowers**

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