

INTRODUCTION

Liothrips urichi, Karny, belongs to the sub-order Tubulifera, which is characterised by the absence of an ovipositor in the female, and by the abdomen terminating in a tube in both sexes. It was discovered in Trinidad by Mr F.W. Urich the Government Entomologist, and is described by H.H. Karny.

This thrips is very common throughout Trinidad, where it attacks the Melastomaceous shrub *Clidemia hirta*, D. Don, and the writer has seen it in Venezuela, where it no doubt has an equally extensive distribution, attacking the same plant.

5 In Trinidad, *Liothrip urichi* is of no economic importance, but it is of interest because its host plant grows in Fiji, where it was introduced without the thrips, and is there a serious agricultural weed.

The Fiji Government have a proposal under consideration, in which they are thinking of introducing the thrips from Trinidad, in order to keep in check the *Clidemia hirta* growing there. They applied to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture Trinidad for some feeding experiments to be carried out on a list of important crop plants, so that it could be ascertained if the thrips was absolutely specific as regards its host plant. The writer received this work from the Principal of the college, as part of his work during the academic year 1928-9, and it was in this connection that the life history of the thrips was studied.