

**Why and how does *Kakothrips
pisivorus* Westwood
become a pest of pea ?**

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- Since the larvae of this species were observed
- on the pod of pea, it was described under the name
- ***Thrips pisivorus*** by Westwood in 1880.

- The adults were described under the name
- ***Thrips robustus*** by Uzel in 1914.
- *Today both names are used.*

- Numerous plants – including also ***Fabaceae*** –
- are listed on which the adults were collected.

- In the books and papers of applied entomology
- this species is mentioned primarily as the ***pest of pea***,
- and several wild plants or weeds
- are recorded as its ***additional hosts***.

- Our observations indicated that its
- primary breeding plant is not the *Pisum sativum*,
- but it must be among native wild plant species.

- Examining the occurrence of 10 Thysanoptera
- collected on 12 Fabaceae species
- ***Kakothrips pisivorus*** proved to be dominant
- on ***Lathyrus tuberosus***
- (in 93% of all Thysanoptera specimens).



- The larva of *Kakothrips pisivorus* survives
- because it can move from the flower in which it hatched
- to the next flower of *Lathyrus tuberosus*.

- The inter-floral movement of the larvae
- provides food sources for a long time
- for the populations of ***K. pisivorus*** on ***Vicia faba*** (Kirk 1985).

- The blooming period of *Lathyrus tuberosus* is prolonged and
- the possibility of the inter-floral movement of the larvae provides
- the survival of the populations of *Kakothrips pisivorus*
- throughout the summer.



- ***Lathyrus tuberosus*** is a native plant in the Palaearctic
- which can provide suitable food source for the adults and
- larvae of this ***floricolous*** species.

- Since the structure of the flower of *pea* is similar
- to that of *Lathyrus tuberosus*
- both provide suitable places for
- the egg laying and for the feeding of young larvae.



- Since the ***blooming period of pea is short,***
- the inter-floral movement of the larvae is impossible,
- so the ***larvae have to move to the pod.***

- Since the surface of the young pod of the pea is smooth,
- the larvae can stay and feed on it.



- On this way this otherwise ***floricolous*** species,
- ***Kakothrips pisivorus*** by the matter of circumstances,
- ***is forced to damage the young pods.***

