



Woolly alder aphid

Paraprociphilus tessellatus

Order Hemiptera, Family Aphididae; aphids or plant lice
Native pest

Host plants: Alder and silver maple

Description: Both winged and wingless forms occur. The winged aphid can reach 10 mm in wingspan. Wingless aphids are approximately 2 mm long and gray in color, but are usually covered by a dense, white, waxy material.

Life history: These aphids infest two hosts. Eggs are deposited in the fall on silver maple. When these eggs hatch the following spring, nymphs attach themselves to the underside of newly opening leaves around the mid-vein. Aphids are all females that reproduce asexually. Later in the year, alates (winged aphids) migrate to alders in late July, where they remain until fall. Some of their descendants return to their silver maple and reproduce sexually. This aphid appears to be able to reproduce asexually and indefinitely on alder. There are several generations a year.

Overwintering: Black eggs on the bark of silver maple trees or as nymphs on alder.

Damage symptoms: Aphid feeding causes leaves to curl inward. Heavy infestations produce large amounts of white waxy filaments, which may affect the appearance of plants. Honeydew is colonized by sooty mold fungi. However, this aphid is not usually a damaging pest.

Monitoring: Look for immature aphids on the underside of silver maple leaves as leaves open in spring, and look for subsequent leaf curling. Look for winged forms on alder in July, and for colonies of aphids covered with white waxy material. Also look for honeydew and sooty mold.

Chemical control: Horticultural oil and soap sprays can assist natural enemies when aphid populations are large. Apply imidacloprid as a soil treatment by early summer to control heavy infestations of this pest.

Biological control: There are numerous natural enemies of this aphid. Ants, yellow jackets, lacewings, lady beetles, ground beetles, hover fly and predaceous midges are all important predators. *Aphidius* wasps (Braconidae) are important parasitoids. Ants may tend the aphids for honeydew, protecting them from natural enemies.

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: insecticidal soap, horticultural oil

Conventional pesticides: chlorpyrifos (nursery only), deltamethrin, imidacloprid



Woolly alder aphid adults on an alder branch. (274)
Photo: John Davidson