**Fact sheet**

**Philaenus spumarius** (Linnaeus, 1758)
Meadow froghopper / Meadow spittlebug

**DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES**

The meadow spittlebug belongs to family **Aphrophoridae**

**Observation on dry specimens**

**Adults size**: 5.3 to 6.0 mm for males/ 5.4 to 6.9 mm for females

Eliminate specimens smaller than 5 mm and bigger than 7 mm

**Larvae**: 5 larval instars

**Difficult to identify**

**COLOR POLYMORPHISM**

Large color **variation** from light grey to blackish. Most typical form: yellow-green with indistinct dark lines

**Visual key**

- **Philaenus spumarius**
  - Hind Tibia with two lateral spurs
  - Fore wings never with red colouring
  - Pronotum as wide as the head

- **Other related species**
  - Hind tibia with row of bristles
  - Fore wings with red colouring
  - Pronotum wider than the head

**APHROPHORIDAE**

- Pronotum and vertex without median keel

**Cercopidae**

- Pronotum and vertex with median keel

**Aphrophora spp.**

**Other related species**

**Photos**: G. Kunz
POSSIBLE CONFUSIONS

Could be confused with related genus of the family as:
Aphrophora spp., Neophilaenus spp. and Lepyronia coleoptrata

HOST PLANTS AND SYMPTOMS

Abundant on a large number of trees, shrubs and low plants. Secondary pest on lavender (Lavandula) and on a wide variety of ornamental plants: Aster, Berberis, Campanula, Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Lychnis, Mahonia, Phlox, Rosa, Rudbeckia, Solidago. Common on ruderal plants (country lanes and roadside flora).

Damage:

Deformations and wilting of young shoots of host plants, sometimes malformations of flowers. Adults do not cause direct damage. In ornamental production, there may be depreciation of the plant by the presence of foam nest.

Known as vector of Xylella fastidiosa

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

In temperate regions of Europe, Asia, North America.

LIFE CYCLE

Adults are present as early as April. They are easily observable resting on plants. They are not very active and exhibit a jumping behavior when they are disturbed. The eggs are laid in the stems of the plants at the end of summer. Hatching occurs in the following spring. The larvae, not very mobile, feed on the sap present in the xylem by sticking their stylets into the plant. Larval development has five instars. During its development the larvae is covered with secretion (foam nest).

HOW TO CAPTURE OT? WHERE TO FIND IT?

Adults are easy to catch by net, even by hand, despite their jumping behavior, on country lanes and roadside plants. Foam nest is easily spotted (this secretion is not specific to P. spumarius).