

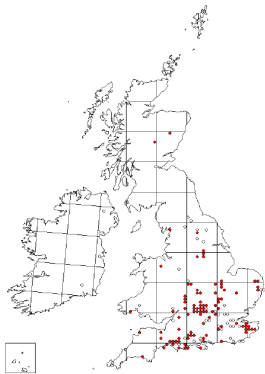


BRIGIT

# Species Information Sheet

## *Evacanthus acuminatus*

US  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SUSSEX



Distribution of  
*E. acuminatus*  
as at May 2019

### Distribution and Identification

*Evacanthus acuminatus* is widespread in Britain, with most records from the southern half of England, but it is rarely common.

*E. acuminatus* is a large and distinctive leafhopper. Superficially, it resembles *E. interruptus* in size and shape, but lacks the latter's bright yellow coloration. In adult males, the wings are roughly as long as the abdomen; in females, the tip of the abdomen protrudes distinctly beyond the wings. Adults are typically 5 - 7mm long, females being somewhat larger than males. As with all leafhoppers, the hind tibiae have one to three rows of spines running along the entire length.

*E. acuminatus* has a keel (raised ridge) on the vertex in the form of three arcs, and variably-shaped dark markings against a pale background. The forewings are greyish or dirty yellow with dark brown patches.

### Habitat, Ecology and Lifecycle

*E. acuminatus* is found predominantly in grassy or herb-rich clearings and margins in woodlands and forests. It is rare to find more than a few individuals.

Females lay eggs in the autumn and nymphs emerge the following spring. Nymphs moult five times before emerging as adults. Adults can be found between June and September.

As with all froghoppers and some of the larger leafhoppers, *E. acuminatus* feeds on the liquid contents of the xylem vessels of its host plant. As such, it is a potential vector of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* which has caused the death of many olive trees in southern Europe, although this disease has not been detected in the UK.



Hind tibia showing rows of spines running along the entire length



Adult male *E. acuminatus*



Adult female *E. acuminatus*



*E. acuminatus* nymph

BRIGIT is a collaborative research and awareness-raising project aiming to understand and prevent the introduction of *Xylella fastidiosa* into the UK. <https://www.jic.ac.uk/brigit/>

For further information

Website: <https://www.spittlebugsurvey.co.uk/>

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