



BRIGIT

Species Information Sheet

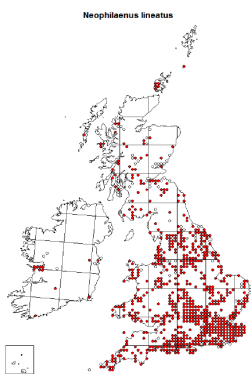
Neophilaenus lineatus



Distribution and Identification



Adult *N. lineatus*



Distribution of *N. lineatus* as at May 2019

Neophilaenus lineatus is the most common and widespread of the *Neophilaenus* species and can be found across Britain and Ireland.

Adults are typically 5 - 7mm long; females are somewhat larger than males. As with all froghoppers, they have two stout spines on the outer edge of the hind tibiae, as well as several smaller spines at the tip. Nymphs are typically pale yellow in colour with distinctive dark patches on the wing buds.

Neophilaenus species can be distinguished as adults from *Philaenus spumarius* by the more parallel outer edges of the wings when viewed from above (as opposed to the more convex outline of *P. spumarius*) and their overall pattern of markings. They are much smaller than *Aphrophora* species.

Neophilaenus lineatus is identified by the pale margin of the forewing, backed by a darker line. There is a dark form that occurs in certain populations living on purple moor grass, *Molinia caerulea*.



Hind tibia showing two stout spines on the outer edge and several smaller spines at the tip



Adult *N. lineatus* showing the parallel outer edge to the wings

Habitat, Ecology and Lifecycle

Neophilaenus lineatus is a grassland species, favouring grasses, sedges and rushes rather than herbaceous plants or trees.

As with all froghoppers, *N. lineatus* 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.

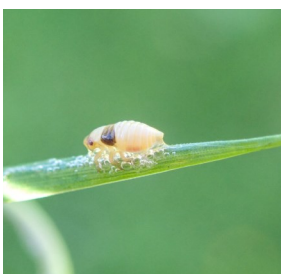
Females lay eggs singly or in groups in the autumn. On emergence the following spring, nymphs begin producing the characteristic spittle 'nests' which provide protection against predators and desiccation. Spittle can be seen from April to late June. The nymph moults five times within the spittle before emerging as a free-living adult. Adults can be found from June until September, but sometimes as late as November.



Adult *N. lineatus* showing the distinctive pale line on the outer edge of the forewing.



Neophilaenus sp. spittle on grass



Neophilaenus sp. 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/>
Contact: info@spittlebugsurvey.co.uk
Text: C. Harkin; A.J.A. Stewart
Photos: C. Harkin
Map: A.J.A. Stewart