



BRIGIT

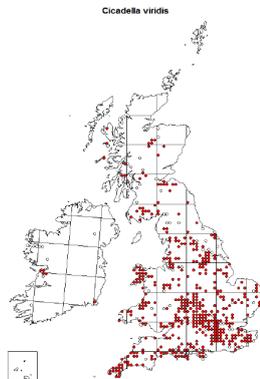
Species Information Sheet

Cicadella viridis

US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX



Adult *C. viridis* mating pair (female, left; male, right)



Distribution of *C. viridis* as at May 2019



C. viridis nymph



C. viridis nymph

Distribution and Identification

Cicadella viridis is a large and distinctive leafhopper that can be found throughout Britain and Ireland. It can be very numerous where it occurs.

Adults are typically 6–8mm long; females are distinctly larger than males. As with all leafhoppers, the hind tibiae have one to three rows of spines running along the entire length.

C. viridis is easily recognised in the field; the only species with which it could be confused is *C. lasiocarpae*, which is very much rarer and confined to fens and bogs in western Britain and Ireland. The forewings of females are bright turquoise green, but those of the male are much darker blue-purple and may even be blackish, although the green coloration is retained on the pronotum. The background colour of the head and face is yellow, overlain with varying amounts of black markings.

Habitat, Ecology and Lifecycle

Cicadella viridis is common in damp and wet habitats throughout Britain and Ireland. It can reach particularly high densities in fens, bogs, wet meadows and pastures, and around pond, lake and ditch margins. Its host plants are sedges and rushes, particularly in the genus *Juncus*.

Females lay eggs singly or in groups inside the plant tissue in the autumn; 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, *C. viridis* feeds on the liquid contents of the xylem vessels of its host plants. 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 outward-pointing spines



Adult male *C. viridis*



Adult female *C. viridis*



Adult female *C. viridis*

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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