



BRIGIT

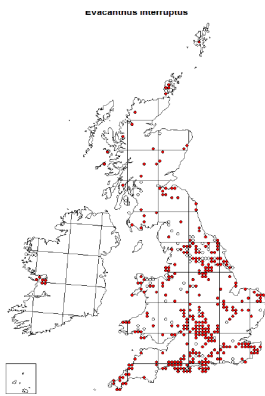
Species Information Sheet

Evacanthus interruptus

US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX



Adult *E. interruptus*



Distribution of
E. interruptus
as at May 2019



E. interruptus nymph

Distribution and Identification

Evacanthus interruptus is a rather local leafhopper but with a widespread distribution across Britain and Ireland.

E. interruptus is very strikingly coloured black and yellow so is readily distinguished from all other leafhopper species. The black patterning is variable and in very rare cases the forewings are entirely yellow. Adults are typically 5.5 - 6.5mm long; females are somewhat larger than males because the tip of the abdomen protrudes significantly beyond the tips of the wings. As with all leafhoppers, the hind tibiae have one to three rows of spines running along their entire length.



Hind tibia showing rows of outward-pointing spines

Habitat, Ecology and Lifecycle

E. interruptus can be found in a variety of habitats, but most frequently in ones that are moist to wet, from open grasslands and meadows to species-rich fens and marshes. The host plants include a variety of herbaceous species.

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

As with all froghoppers and some of the larger leafhoppers, *E. interruptus* 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.



Adult male *E. interruptus*



Adult female *E. interruptus*

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; T. Bantock; G. Kunz; Paul Ashton; David Gould