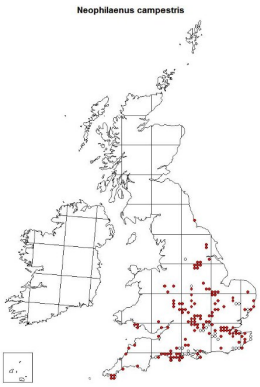
Species Information Sheet

Neophilaenus campestris

BRIGIT

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Adult *N. campestris*



Distribution of *N. campestris* as at May 2019

Neophilaenus sp. spittle on grass

Neophilaenus sp. nymph

Distribution and Identification

Neophilaenus campestris is widespread but local in Britain. Its distribution is strongly southern, with records only as far north as Yorkshire.

Adults are typically 5 – 6mm 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 campestris is relatively easily identified by the two pale areas on the outer edge of the wings on an otherwise pale brownish background. There is often a slightly darker mid-line running back from the head.

Typical froghopper (*N. lineatus*) hind tibia showing two stout spines on the outer edge and several smaller spines at the tip

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

Adult *N. campestris* showing the two distinctive pale patches on the outer edge of the wings

Habitat, Ecology and Lifecycle

Neophilaenus campestris is a species of dry grasslands, especially those on coastal shingle, sand dunes, brownfield sites, ruderal habitats and waste ground. Its host plants are various species of grass.

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 between June and September.

As with all froghoppers, *N. campestris* 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.

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
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