



BRIGIT

Species Information Sheet

Anoterostemma ivanhofi

US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

Distribution and Identification

Anoterostemma ivanhofi is a leafhopper that is known in Britain from only a small area near Kirkcudbright in Scotland.

A. ivanhofi has a squat body outline, adults being only 2.5–4.5mm long. As with all leafhoppers, the hind tibiae have rows of spines running along their entire length.

A. ivanhofi are brachypterous i.e. they have very shortened forewings, and hindwings that are reduced in size or completely absent. The abdomen is entirely black apart from the terminal segments; the background colour of the head, thorax and wings is light brown with distinctive dark brown/black markings.



Enlargement of hind tibia showing rows of outward-pointing spines



Distribution of *A. ivanhofi* as at May 2019



Saltmarsh habitat of *A. ivanhofi*, dominated by *Juncus gerardii*, Kirkcudbright, Scotland

Habitat, Ecology and Lifecycle

Little is currently known about the ecology of *Anoterostemma ivanhofi* in the UK. The main population in Scotland is on the upper level of a saltmarsh in extensive stands of saltmarsh rush, *Juncus gerardii*, which is assumed to be its host plant. The brachypterous nature of adults in this species means that their ability to disperse will be severely limited.

Adult females are presumed to lay eggs in their host plant during the summer or autumn. It is not known what life history stage overwinters. Nymphs are likely to pass through five moults before emerging as adults in early summer.

As with all froghoppers and some of the larger leafhoppers, *A. ivanhofi* 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 *A. ivanhofi*



Adult *A. ivanhofi*

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: J.N. Zahniser; A.J.A. Stewart;
Map: A.J.A. Stewart