

A Bug's Life

Barklice/Psocids

Order: Psocodea; Family: Psocidae

Fun facts

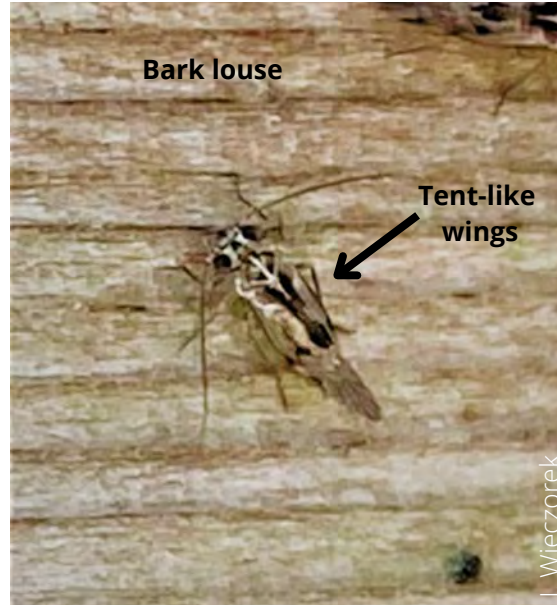
- Barklice are not true lice and are harmless to humans
- Outdoor insects which occur in large numbers on bark and wood
- Sometimes called "tree/bark cattle" because they move in herds
- Feed on fungi, algae, lichens, moss, bark and other organic matter
- Considered a decomposer
- Some species may produce silk



Identification

Habitat: Outer bark of trees, outdoor wood materials like fences, furniture, decks, and other wooden structures

Adults: Various sizes and colors, may have stripes, 1/8" to 1/4" long, may be winged (held tent-like over body) or wingless, long threadlike antennae, enlarged lip or clypeus on the front of face



Management

- Not considered a pest, but may be a nuisance due to the sheer numbers that appear seasonally
- Spray off with strong blast from garden hose
- Really no need for management or control, and no pesticides are recommended

