A Bug's Life

Barklice/Psocids

Order: Psocidea; 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

Phone: 402-444-7804   Email: Douglas-Sarpy@unl.edu

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