

# A Bug's Life

# Hackberry psyllids

*Pachypsylla* species; Gall-makers of hackberry nipplegalls and blistergalls,

## Fun facts

- Tiny plant-feeding insect
- Squeeze through window screens to enter homes in the spring or fall
- Does not feed on blood, but may probe or "bite" skin
- Gall-making insect of nipplegalls and blistergalls, which are cosmetic and do not affect the health of tree

## Identification

Damage: Nuisance pest that gather on window screens and windowsills in early spring. On hackberry trees, psyllids make prominent galls or raised swellings on leaves

Adult: 1/10" long, mottled grayish to black body, look like mini-cicadas, jump and fly when disturbed

## Management

- Usually not a problem unless a hackberry tree in the yard or close by
- Keep windows closed and sealed when adults are flying
- Insecticides are not effective and therefore not recommended
- Consider tree removal if problem is unbearable year after year



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