

# Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Darren Blackford](#), USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; [Robert Lord Zimlich](#), Bugguide.net

**Common Name:** Saratoga spittlebug

**Scientific Name:** *Aphrophora saratogensis*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera: Cercopidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		Teardrop-shaped. Near terminal buds of host tree, under bud scales or bark of dead twigs, also in needle sheaths. Laid late summer, hatch in spring.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	7-10mm	Orange and black when young. Light brown to black when mature.
<b>Adult</b>	8-11mm	Tan to dark reddish brown. Characterized by white arrow on head and thorax.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Piercing-sucking. The spittlebug adults and nymphs feed on the juices of their hosts by this method.

**Host plant/s:** The Saratoga adults feed on red, jack, and sometimes Scotch pine. Sweetfern groundcover is an alternative source of food. The nymphs are most known to feed on these alternatives as they mature in their characteristic froth.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** If the spittlebug infestation is severe enough the host tree can die from top down in as little as 2 to 3 years. Detectable damage includes flagging branches, dead terminal growth, or stunted and distorted branches or stems. Another characteristic damage effect from adult feeding are the red flecks and pitchy scars just below the bark.

**References:**

Baker, J. R., Carter, C. C., Horn, K. F., Kline, D., Scott, J., & Singletary, H. (n.d.). INSECT and related PESTS of SHRUBS. Retrieved March 04, 2016, from <http://ipm.ncsu.edu/AG189/html/index.html>