



Honeysuckle witches' broom aphid

Hyadaphis tataricae

Order Homoptera, Family Aphididae; aphids or plant lice
Introduced pest

Host plant: Honeysuckle

Description: Adult aphids are 1–2 mm long; light green to cream in color.

Life history: The first nymphs to hatch in spring feed on leaf buds until the leaves begin to expand. This feeding causes the leaves to fold in half, thereby enclosing the aphids. Inside the fold, the mature aphids reproduce asexually giving birth to live nymphs. There are several generations a year.

Overwintering: Egg stage.

Damage symptoms: Damage symptoms include both folded leaves and the distinctive stunted growth pattern of smaller branches called witches' brooms. Leaves fold over in response to aphid feeding, which protects the aphids inside from predation and topical insecticides.

Monitoring: Look for folded leaves beginning in May and for witches' broom growth later. Also look for aphid colonies along the veins of new growth. In late fall and winter look for oval black eggs on twigs and shoots.

Physical control: Prune off and destroy witches' brooms when they are detected.

Cultural control: Consider replacing infected plants with resistant cultivars such as 'Freedom', 'Arnold Red', 'Clavey's Dwarf', and 'Emerald Mound'.

Chemical control: Use a dormant oil spray in the winter, if large numbers of eggs are detected. A foliar or soil application of imidacloprid may be applied in spring if folded and stunted leaves are found and aphids are observed. Do not spray if parasitized aphids are numerous.

Biological control: No reports of natural enemies

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: azadirachtin, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, pymetrozine

Conventional pesticides: acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, imidacloprid, malathion, permethrin



Curling damage to leaves caused by honeysuckle witches' broom aphid. (W9)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Tip dieback damage caused by honeysuckle witches' broom aphid. (150)

Photo: Cliff Sadof



Close-up of damage caused by honeysuckle witches' broom aphid. Aphid feeding causes numerous short branches and distorted leaves. (150)

Photo: Jeff Hahn