

## St. Augustine Grass Planthopper (*Syndelphax pseudoseminiger*)

**Distribution:** Was previously known from Florida, Louisiana and Georgia. Accidentally introduced into California.

**Hosts:** Attacks St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*). Population densities of *S. pseudoseminiger* may vary among different St. Augustine grass cultivars. Some varieties are resistant to this planthopper.

**Damage:** Feeding may cause stippling on the leaves and lead to yellowing and drying of the turfgrass in some areas. Large population numbers present on St. Augustine grass in residential properties and parks can create nuisance problems.

**Field ID: Adults** (1.7-3.2 mm long) with tan bodies and brownish abdomens. Both sexes have fully winged (macropterous) and reduced winged (brachypterous) forms. Brachypterous males have black genital segments and shiny, dark brown to black wings that are not covering several abdominal segments. Brachypterous females with clear wings. Wings of macropterous forms are relatively long, transparent. Head with distinctive facial carinae (ridges). Hind tibiae with large movable spur at apex. **Larvae** are initially light tan with short wing pads and resemble adults.



Adults (macropterous female and brachypterous male)

Photo by G. Arakelian