

# BAGWORM—*Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*

**HOSTS:** Juniper, pine, oak, poplar, willow, maple, spruce, and a variety of other conifer and hardwood trees and shrubs

**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** Caterpillars, pupae, and adult females live inside bags constructed of silk, twigs, and leaves which hang from trees. Full grown larvae are 18 to 25 mm long and dark brown. Bags of mature larvae are 30 to 50 mm long. Female bagworms are yellowish-white, wingless, maggot-like moths that do not have functional legs, eyes, or antennae. Male moths are sooty black and hairy, and have a wingspan of about 25 mm.

Eggs overwinter within the bags and hatch in spring. Larvae initially feed on the surfaces of leaves and later consume entire leaves. Larvae pupate in the bags in late summer. In the fall male moths emerge, fly to bags with females, and mate with the females.

Infested trees and shrubs are unsightly, weakened, and may be killed.

**CONTROL:** Spray foliage with carbaryl, malathion, diazinon, acephate, chlorpyrifos, or

*Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) in late June when bagworms are less than 13 mm long. Large late-instar caterpillars are nearly impossible to control with insecticides. If only a few small trees or shrubs are infested, bags can be removed by hand and destroyed. A complex of several parasites frequently are effective in controlling outbreaks.



*Bag of mature bagworm*