

# BLACK WILLOW APHID—*Pterocomma smithiae*

**HOSTS:** Willow and cottonwood and other poplars

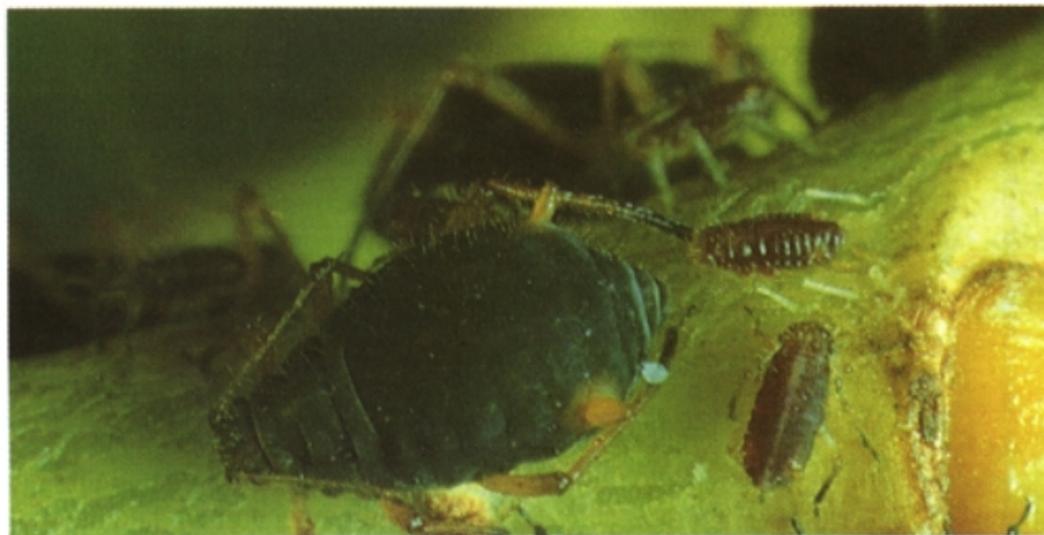
**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** Black willow aphids are relatively large aphids, 3 to 4 mm in length, that have black bodies and orange tube-like projections (cornicles) extending from the rear of the abdomen. They are found in groups on bark where they feed on sap.

The life cycle is similar to that of the boxelder aphid with several generations remaining on the same host plant. Adults can be found throughout the summer and fall, but they are most abundant during August and September.

Large aphid populations cause premature leaf drop and reduce tree growth.

**CONTROL:** Spray bark of high value trees

with malathion, diazinon, acephate, or chlorpyrifos when the colonies first appear. Parasites and predators of the aphids, which frequently control outbreaks and help maintain low populations, are also killed by these insecticides.



Wingless female adult and nymphs of black willow aphid