



# Forest Threats

*Monterey pine aphid/ Essigella californica*

Tree Protection Co-operative Programme

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## Insect pests

### Monterey pine aphid/ *Essigella californica*

*Essigella californica* (Essig)

#### SYMPTOMS

Feeding by the aphid can cause yellowing or mottling of older pine needles, sometimes in a banding pattern. This feeding not only results in crown discolouration, but high population numbers can also cause crown defoliation in some cases due to premature needle drop. High aphid numbers can also affect the new needles produced during the latest season. High numbers of aphids can often be found clustering together at the base of the needles.

#### BIOLOGY

*Essigella californica* females utilize parthenogenesis (asexual reproduction). Males and the occurrence of sexual reproduction has only ever been recorded in parts of North America for the species. Due to their ability to reproduce without a partner, populations quickly build in number and multiple generations occur during a season, with females laying multiple eggs daily. When food availability becomes scarce, the adults can develop wings to aid in dispersal to new hosts or locations.

