

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Salvador Vitanza, bugguide.net

Common Name: Cotton Springtail

Scientific Name: *Entomobryomorpha unostriolata*.

Order and Family: Entomobryomorpha, Entomobryidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		- Round, tiny, transparent, and light yellow in color.
Larva/Nymph		- Nymphs resemble adults, but smaller and whitish to light brownish in color.
Adult	About 1 mm long	- Adults have six legs and an appendage called a furcula, which they use to jump great distances relative to their body size. - They have no wings, and are elongate and hairy-bodied with a dark thick transversal band in the middle of the back. - They vary in color depending on species; cotton springtails are brown with light brown to yellowish legs.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing, both nymphs and adults.

Host plant/s: Most springtails feed on decaying matter, mold, bacteria, and other soil microbes. They may sometimes cause minor damage by feeding on plant roots. They can also be considered a pest of houseplants as they commonly live in potting soil.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Mature and immature springtails that attack plants cause the same types of damage and feed on the same types of plants. Most springtails are harmless scavengers, feeding mainly on decaying organic matter. Some species may damage plants by chewing on the roots and leaves of seedlings. The seedlings may appear wilted and may die if damaged when young. Damage occurs as small, rounded pits on young leaves or roots, or as irregular holes in thin leaves. Mature plants are not significantly injured. Springtails rarely cause enough damage to plants to warrant control measures.

References:

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