

SPRINGTAILS

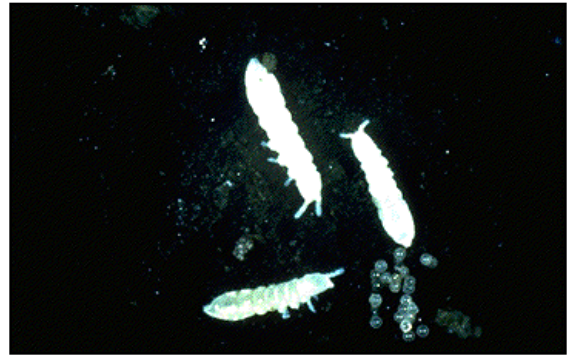
(Order *Collembola*)

Description

Springtails are tiny greyish-white insects, usually less than 0.5 mm long. They have an appendage-like structure on their abdomens that allows them to jump through the air for several centimetres. Most species prefer to feed on dead plant tissue, and are not important as pests. One species, *Bourletiella hortensis*, may damage conifer species in bare-root plantings during the time between seedling emergence and seed coat shed.

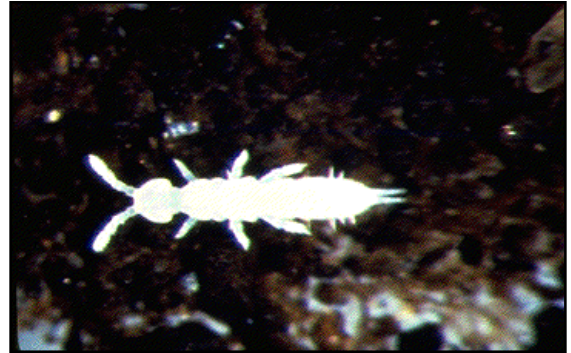
Life Cycle

These insects overwinter as eggs, emerging in spring. Populations peak in mid-July and by September, they have almost disappeared.



A. Antonelli

Springtails



Alberta Environment Centre

Springtail