

SPECKLED BUSH-CRICKET

The Latin name for this cricket is *Leptophyes punctatissima*.

Cricket is a common name for many species of insect characterized by the chirping call of the male. This is produced by rubbing a grooved ridge on the underside of one of the front wings against the sharp edge of the other.

Crickets have long antennae and hind legs adapted for jumping. Their hearing organs are located on the front legs. During the day, this solitary animal remains in crevices or shallow burrows dug in the soil. It emerges at night to feed on vegetation, aphids and other insects.

During the breeding season the male attracts a female with its call, sometimes driving off other males that intrude on its territory. The female uses its long, spear-like ovipositor to insert eggs into the soil or plant stems. The young, called nymphs, resemble the adults and reach full size after 6 to 12 months.

The Speckled Bush cricket is a medium sized, plump bush cricket with a body length of up to 2cm and antennae that are up to 2 to 3 times this length. The body is green and dotted all over with red or white. Both sexes have very short wings and are flightless.

It is common in wood borders, hedgerows, bramble thickets and nettle-beds, often appearing in gardens.