



Understanding Bark Lice on Houston Trees

Friend or Foe?

713-850-8466

Office Address
106 South Market St.
Brenham, TX 77833

Bark Lice: Harmless Cleaners of Tree Bark

What Are Bark Lice?

Bark lice (also called Psocids) are tiny, soft-bodied insects that live on tree bark. They feed on organic debris, algae, fungi, and lichen — helping to clean the bark's surface rather than harm it.

A Sign of Nature at Work

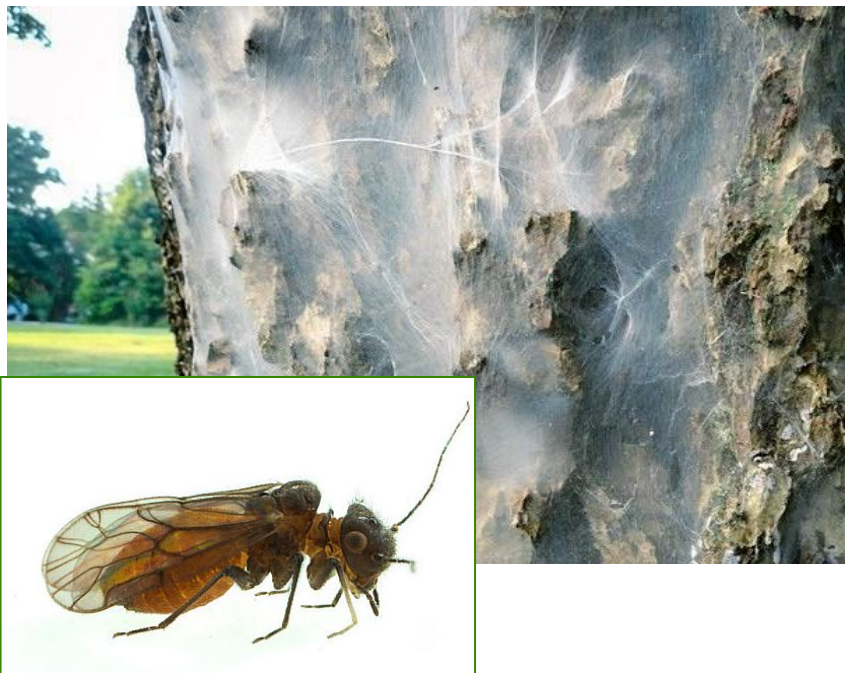
Bark lice do not damage healthy trees. Their presence usually indicates a rich micro-ecosystem on the bark surface. However, a sudden increase may suggest environmental stress — such as drought, compacted soil, or poor air circulation.

A Sign of a Healthy Ecosystem

Ironically, seeing bark lice can mean your trees are doing well. They thrive where there's good moisture and plenty of organic growth on the bark. So, while it might look strange, it often means your landscape is supporting a healthy mix of microorganisms.

"The Ghost Web" Phenomenon

In late summer, homeowners sometimes wake up to find their tree trunks wrapped in silky white webbing overnight — it looks like Halloween decorations, but it's actually bark lice at work! The webbing isn't a sign of danger; it's their protective covering while they clean the bark surface. Within a couple of weeks, the "ghost web" disappears as the insects move on.



Managing Bark Lice

- Maintain proper watering and soil health.
- Avoid unnecessary pesticide use — bark lice disappear on their own once they finish feeding.
- Schedule routine tree inspections to catch any early signs of stress.
- If populations are large or your tree looks unhealthy, a tree care professional can evaluate underlying issues.



Expert Tree Care in Houston

At Tree Care Inc. we help Houston homeowners understand what's happening with their trees — from natural phenomena like bark lice to serious pest or disease concerns. Regular care and informed management keep your trees healthy, safe, and beautiful.

Call us today or visit [TreeCareHouston.com](https://www.TreeCareHouston.com) to learn more about our professional tree care services and educational resources.

Caring for your Texas trees since 1979

713-850-8466 |  www.treecarehouston.com | 106 S. Market St. Brenham 77833