

fork-tailed bush katydid *Scudderia furcate*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Orthoptera

Family: Tettigoniidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Katydid have feet with four segments. The body generally resembles that of grasshoppers, but katydids have long, threadlike antennae instead of the grasshoppers' short antennae. The fork-tailed bush katydid is about one and four-tenths to one and six-tenths inches long. The ovipositor of the female is brown rather than the green of similar species. Green is the main body color, but patches of red, yellow, black, purple, brown and white may also be found on the body.

BEHAVIORS

The lifespan of a katydid is about a year. Females usually lay their eggs at the end of summer. Most katydids overwinter in the egg form. The males have sound-producing organs on their front wings. They use this sound for courtship. During courtship there often is antennal contact between male and female. Katydid are eaten by birds and mammals and may be the target of insect predators and parasites including horsehair worms, wasps and flies. The fork-tailed bush katydid sings from July through October. It lives in tall grasses, flowers, trees and shrubs and eats plant materials.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; marshes; peatlands; rivers and streams; swamps; wet prairies and fens; lakes, ponds and reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; shrub prairie

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