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Invertebrate of the Month

December 2007 – January 2008



Treehoppers

This curious little beast belongs to the bug family Membracidae. Most species in this group have bizarrely shaped pronotums and often resemble plant thorns. It is a sap sucker much like an aphid and the juveniles are usually ant attended. The specimen pictured above is 6 mm long and 2.6 mm wide. The white substance observed on the dorsal part of the pronotum and the ventral side of its body is the fungus *Beauveria* sp, which is a well known pathogen of insects.