

# Knopper Gall

## *Andricus quercuscalicis*



### **Identification:**

The galls are caused by a tiny wasp, and appear as irregular swellings on the surface of the acorns of Pedunculate Oak *Quercus rober*. They are obvious while still on the tree, or once they have fallen.

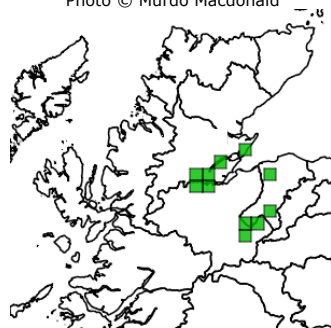


Knopper Galls.

Photo © Murdo Macdonald

### **Distribution:**

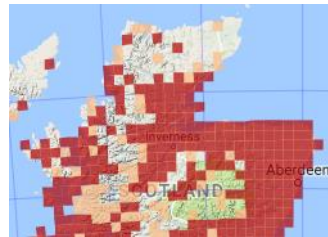
This gall was discovered in the N of Scotland only in 2010, when it was found in Moray, and then in several places in Strathspey and Aberdeenshire. It should be looked for on Pedunculate Oak anywhere in Highland. That tree is widespread (map opposite is from the [BSBI website](#)).



Distribution of records of the Knopper Gall in the HBRG database.

### **When to look for it:**

It is best seen when acorns are mature on the trees, in August to November. Old galled acorns can be found in litter below trees at other times of year.



Distribution of records of the Pedunculate Oak from the BSBI.

### **Similar species:**

A similar gall, *A. grossulariae*, forms on the cup, not the acorn nut, has more finger-like projections, and if cut open has more than one chamber (the Knopper has only one chamber). There is only one unconfirmed record in Scotland, but it may work its way north to our area.

### **Notes:**

The gall-wasp is a relatively recent arrival in Britain, and has spread rapidly northward since the 1970s. We are in a good position to monitor its spread north and west. Details of its biology are [here](#).