

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.

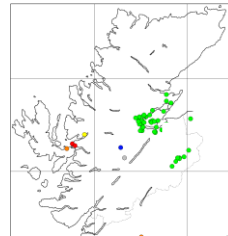


Knopper Galls.

Photo © Murdo Macdonald

Distribution:

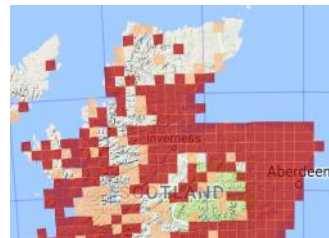
This gall was discovered in the N of Scotland only in 2010, when it was found in Moray, and then in several places around the Moray Firth, Strathspey and Aberdeenshire. In 2018, it was found in several new areas (non-green dots). It should be looked for on Pedunculate Oak anywhere in Highland (the map opposite is from the [BSBI website](#)).



Distribution of records of the Knopper Gall in the HBRG database at 13 Oct 2018.

When to look for it:

It is best seen when acorns are mature on the trees, in August to November. Fallen galled acorns can sometimes more easily be found under trees, and in litter at other times of year.



Distribution of records of the Pedunculate Oak from the BSBI.

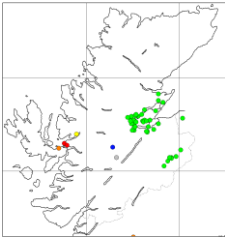
Similar species:

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](#).

Records may be submitted online at www.hbrg.org.uk.



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