

Oak Knopper Gall

Andricus quercuscalicis

Identification:

The galls appear as irregular swellings on the surface of acorns, and can be found while these are still on the tree, or once they have fallen.

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 could be expected anywhere where oaks grow in the east of Highland.

When to look for it:

When acorns are mature, September to November.

Similar Species:

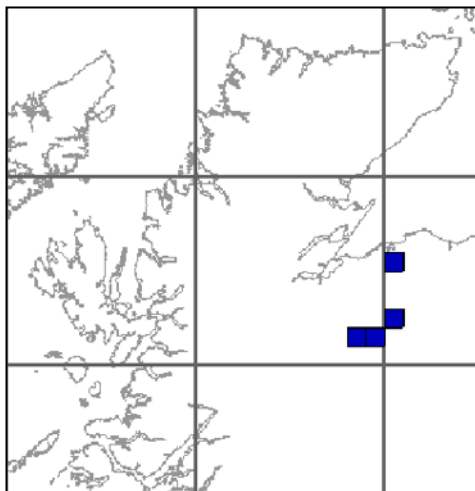
An outwardly similar gall, *A. grossulariae* forms on the cup, not the acorn nut, has more finger-like projections, and if cut open there are more than one chamber (the Knopper Gall has only a single chamber, as in the picture on the right). This recent arrival in Britain (see below) has been found in Ayrshire, so may work its way north to our area.

Notes:

The tiny wasp that causes the gall is a recent arrival in Britain, and has spread rapidly northward since the 1960s. Its cousin *A. grossulariae* has spread from S England to Ayrshire from 2000-2010.



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