

Solomon's Seal Sawfly

Phymatocera aterrima

Identification:

This garden pest is best recognised by the defoliation of any Solomon's Seal plant it colonises. Adults are black and similar to many other sawflies, but the pale grey larvae, munching on the host plant until only midribs remain, leave no doubts.

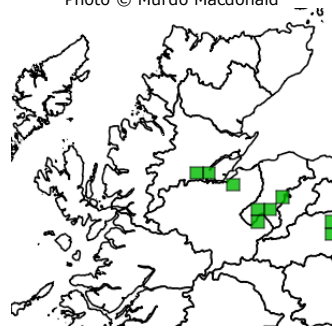


Solomon's Seal Sawfly.

Photo © Murdo Macdonald

Distribution:

We have only a few records, all in the east. It is almost sure to be seriously under-recorded.



The distribution of records of Solomon's Seal Sawfly in the HBRG database.

When to look for it:

Adults appear in June, and the depredations of the larvae become increasingly evident during July. The host is commonly grown in gardens and parks.

Similar species:

Do not record adults unless confirmed by a specialist, as confusion with other species is possible. If you see black sawflies on the host plant, check again after a few weeks for signs of larvae.

Notes:

The only host recorded in Highland is Solomon's Seal *Polygonatum*. Elsewhere it is known to feed on Lily of the Valley *Convallaria majalis*.