

## A record of the Hedgehog Gall *Andricus lucidus* in Worcestershire

Harry Green [published 2019. *Worcestershire Record* 47:59].

On 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 I visited Beckford Nature Reserve which has been created from an old sand and gravel extraction pit and is now managed by the village. There is a lake with islands, a surrounding band of trees, scrub and some open grassland. The small oaks along the lake carried Silk Button *Neuroterus numismalis* and Common Spangle galls *Neuroterus quercusbaccarum* on their leaves and Knopper Galls *Andricus quercuscalicis* on acorn cups. (The last was abundant at many sites in 2019). On one young oak I noticed a gall I hadn't seen before and as it was out of reach I took a few photographs (01, 02). It was situated close to the surface of a small branch suggesting it had developed from a bud in a small twig. In appearance it was a round ball about 2.5 cm in diameter covered with fine bristles each about 4-5 mm long and ending in a tiny reddish ball. Using the key (Redfern et al 2011) I identified it as the agamic stage of the Hedgehog Gall *Andricus lucidus* (Hartig), Hymenoptera: Cynipidae (gall wasps).



01. *Andricus lucidus* gall on oak, Beckford 08 August 2019. Harry Green.

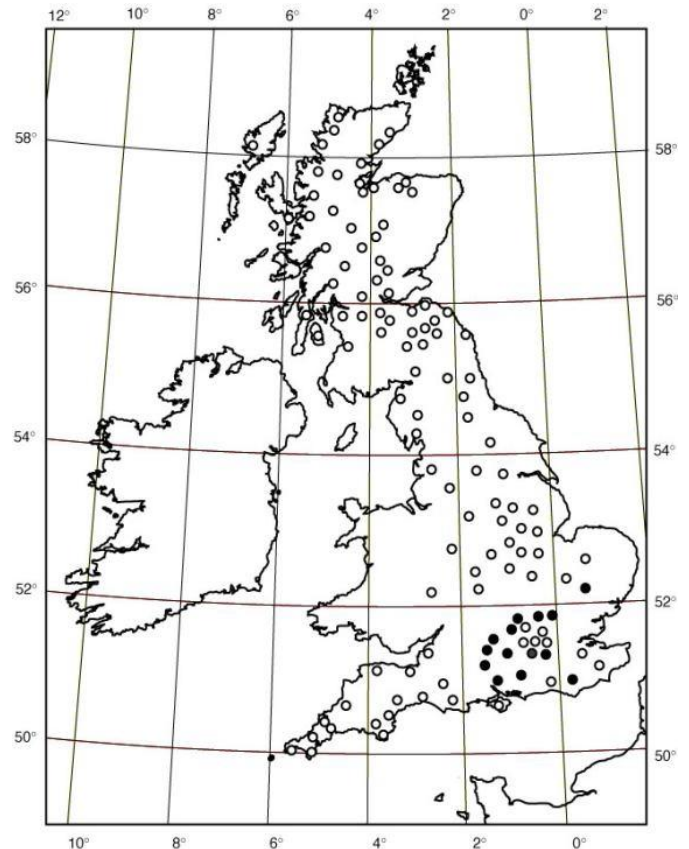


02. *Andricus lucidus* gall on oak, Beckford 08 August 2019. Harry Green.

According to Redfern (2011) Hedgehog Galls can form on acorn cups or on terminal buds on both Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* and Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*. The galls dry out, turn brown and those on buds remain on the tree over winter whilst those on acorns fall to the ground. Asexual females emerge in spring, fly to Turkey Oak *Quercus cerris* and lay their eggs into buds containing catkins. The sexual gall forms on the catkin stem as a small rough reddish ball that remains on the tree until late summer.

The Hedgehog gall was first recorded in Britain in 1992 in Richmond Park, London (TQ2072) and has been slowly spreading into adjacent areas in SE England. I have not been able to find information on records since a survey 2004-2005 re-sampled sites throughout Britain first surveyed in 1992-93. The map (03) of distribution shows records mainly near to and west and north of London (Schonrogge et al 2012).

This could be the first record of Hedgehog Gall *Andricus lucidus* for Worcestershire and one to look out for in 2020.



03. Black dots indicate survey sites where *Andricus lucidus* was found 2004-2005. Open circles are where it was not found. (Schonrogge et al 2012).

### References

- Schonrogge, Karsten; Begg, Tracey; Williams, Robin; Melika, George;  
 Randle, Zoe; Stone, Graham N. 2012 Range expansion and enemy recruitment by eight alien gall wasp species in Britain. *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, 5 (4). 298-311. 10.1111/j.1752-4598.2011.00161.x  
 Redfern, M, Shirley, P. & Bloxham, M. 2011. *British Plant Galls*. Field Studies Council, Preston Mountford.  
 Redfern, M. 2011. *Plant Galls*. Collins New Naturalist Series number 117.

### Images

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