

The Galls of Hainault Forest 2001 – 2005

BRIAN ECOTT

30 Ewellhurst Road, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0PD

Abstract

The issue of a test version of comprehensive keys to Plant galls by Margaret Redfern and Peter Shirley in 2000 prompted a systematic gall search of Hainault Forest, TQ 476933, VC18 (South Essex) in 2001. The following four years have seen an increase in the species list and the appearance of several galls relatively new to the UK. Two species, *Semudobia tarda* on Silver Birch and *Andricus grossulariae* ♂♀ on Turkey Oak were new to Essex. One hundred and twenty six species of invertebrates and fungi have so far been recorded as inducing galls on fifty-seven species of trees and herbs. A history of the site since 1851 is also given.

Introduction

For many years, amateur naturalists with an interest in plant galls carried a copy of *Plant galls* (Darlington 1968) in their rucksack. Later it would be *Provisional Keys to British Plant Galls* (Stubbs 1986) published by the fledgling British Plant Gall Society. In 2000 a test version of *British Plant Galls* was issued and later published by The Field Study Council (Redfern and Shirley 2002). This renewed an interest in Cecidology and hence this five year review of the galls in Hainault Forest. Hainault Forest lies in the South-west corner of Essex in the Watsonian Vice County 18 (South Essex), and which since 1964 spans part of Epping Forest District Council, and the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Havering. Since 1851 Hainault Forest has had a chequered history and management which together with the underlying geology – solid and drift, are primarily responsible for the diversity of tree and herb species that host the large number of gall inducing invertebrate and fungal species present.

History from 1851

Hainault Forest, part of the old Forest of Essex, was disafforested in 1851 and in six weeks some 1,200 hectares (3,000 acres) of Crown woodland were felled and the area laid out as several Crown Farms each with cottages and farm buildings, all bearing the Crown and Royal cipher VR AP (Victoria Regina and Albert Prince Consort) and dated 1855-6. This loss of woodland at Hainault led to an outcry which helped in the fight to ensure that the same did not happen west of the River Roding to Epping Forest. A Lover of Nature (1852) writing in Kidd's Own Journal Vol 2. and noted in the Essex Naturalist wrote:

“The cupidity of man has laid them low; and by the side of where they once stood so nobly, there they lay, their bare poles bleaching in the sun. They say it is necessary to clear the Forest; a lover of Nature cannot but regret it.”

Although modelled on German farming practices, yields were poor and by the beginning of the 20th century Foxburrows Farm was up for sale. The Essex Field Club were organising excursions in the area as early as 1891 (Anon 1891) and by 1902 (Anon 1902a,b) were supporting a scheme for the purchase of Foxburrows Farm and adjoining woodland and common, led by Edward North Buxton, a verderer of Epping Forest. *The Times* newspaper's special correspondent (1902) devoted 24 column inches to the scheme and reported the inclement weather when Buxton led the 70 Essex

Field Club members including four courageous ladies who “tramped the turf, jumped the water-courses, plodged (sic) through the ponds, squelched through the mud, and scrambled through the bushes, not without damage but with unflagging interest”. The scheme was also discussed by the Corporation of London’s Court of Common Council (Anon 1902c) who were looking at other areas to purchase in South London and felt unable to support the plan. Buxton was successful in raising the purchase price of £23,000 from the Essex County Council, local Urban District Councils and private subscriptions. The London County Council donated the shortfall of £10,000 and the forest was purchased in 1903 with the LCC as major contributor, managing the site. The Essex Field Club continued to take an interest in the developments, making annual visits (Anon 1903,1904,1905,1906a) and Hainault Forest was formally opened in July 1906 by The Right Hon. The Earl Carrington G.C.M.G., President of the Board of Agriculture. (Anon 1906b,c).

The Forest comprised 360 hectares (880 acres). This included oak-hornbeam ancient woodland type W10 (Rodwell 1991) and common land belonging to the Manor of Lambourne, land from the manor of Chigwell and Foxburrows farm-Crown property.

Management

Buxton was retained as a consultant by the LCC’s Chief Officer of the Parks Dept., Lieut.-Col. Sexby, to advise on planting and seeding of the area. Foxburrows Farm was described as foul and “run out” following 50 years of arable farming. Dent and Dymond (1908) fully describe the experimentation, failures, lessons learnt and successes in the first few years since acquisition, to turn the area into a public open space. Indigenous tree species found locally and in surrounding areas included Oak, Ash, Hornbeam, Hawthorn, Sallow, Maple, Black Poplar, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Spindle, Silver Birch, Rowan, and Holly were to be introduced by seeding, planting saplings and allowing natural regeneration from Lambourne Wood. Where planted, trees were to be located in groups and copses to minimise damage by grazing animals. Beech was also included, despite its former absence in Hainault Forest as contrasted with Epping Forest. The possible reasons for this were discussed by Dalton (1903). Conifers were not planted except around the reservoir on Hog Hill and on the Golf course and look out of place.

A map of 1910 in the Country Park Office shows plans for a lake and the surrounding tree planting scheme to be carried out. The island to be planted with Golden Willow and Birch. The outfall to include Alder, Ash, Chestnut, Abele Poplar, Black Italian Poplar, Poplar tremula (sic), Huntingdon Willow and Golden Willow. On mounds at the north end of the lake, Oaks, Aspen, Birch, Plane, Ash, Beech, Rowan, Blackthorn and Bramble. The last two species were planted around the sapling trees to deter grazing animals which were still present in the forest. Many of the trees listed are still extant around the lake.

During the two world wars and the intervening period the farm returned to sheep and cattle grazing and with arable and cereal crops. Aerial photographs taken by the R.A.F in 1947 showed much scrub cover extending over Cabin Hill and other areas and today there is much secondary woodland development.

Management of the Forest passed to the Greater London Council in 1964 who in 1965 set up a tree nursery and plantation in the fields bordering the Romford Road and on part of the heathland. Trees, planted in lines, were grown to a suitable size to be moved using a Newman’s transplanting machine, into streets in Hainault and other G.L.C. areas and estates. Trees included Lime species, Plane, Berlin and Lombardy Poplars, Cherry and Pear species, Ash and cultivars, Whitebeam,

Rowan and Silver Maple. Other plantings were carried out along Foxburrows Road, the edge of the golf course and the formal parkland areas and included Turkey Oak and Small-leaved Lime. The tree nursery and plantation was abandoned on the demise of the GLC in 1986 and the trees have continued to mature, along with much scrub.

The London Borough of Redbridge has continued some individual plantings, including a small area of Hazel – a species not occurring in the Forest, but locally indigenous.

Geology

Although relatively small in area, the vegetation of Hainault Forest is also influenced by the varied solid and drift geology to be found there. The road entrance to the forest at Foxburrows and the old buildings are on London Clay. The hill rising to the South-east (Hog Hill) and to the North (Cabin Hill) are overlain by its associated Claygate beds which consist of fine sand and clay. On Cabin Hill the Claygate beds are topped with Bagshot sands and gravels giving rise to acid grassland once covered with European Gorse, and currently secondary woodland of Birch, Oak and Hawthorn scrub. The North-west edge of the forest including the Common and Chigwell Row Recreation Ground Local Nature Reserve is Boulder clay which covers most of North Essex and is at its most southerly here. Ash is dominant in the woodland surrounding Roe's Well and Sheepwater. Lining the southerly tip of the Boulder clay is a small area of Glaciofluvial till which supports a declining Ling/Dwarf Gorse/Petty Whin community.

Systematic list

Host species are listed alphabetically as in *British Plant Galls* (Redfern and Shirley, 2002) together with the galls recorded during the five year period 2001-2005. Galls induced by invertebrates and fungi are listed together under the host species.

***Acer campestre* L. Field Maple**

Aceria aceriscampestris (Nalepa). Common each year

A. macrochelus (Nalepa). Common each year.

A. eriobius (Nalepa). Found 2004. Common.

***A. pseudoplatanus* L. Sycamore**

Aceria macrorhynchus (Nalepa). Common each year.

A. pseudoplatani (Corti). Common each year.

***A. saccharinum* L. Silver Maple**

Vasates quadripedes Shimer.

First UK record at Waltham Abbey June 2000 in an abandoned Greater London Council tree nursery (Wurzell, 2002). Found May 2002 at Hainault Forest in an old GLC tree nursery (Ecott, 2002). Most trees within the plantation have pouch galls on their leaves. No galls found on trees lining Foxburrows Road, or nearby roads. Absent on trees in nearby Havering Park, formerly managed by the GLC. Present each year.

***Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn. Alder**

Eriophyes inangulis (Nalepa). Alder trees are few and with dieback. Gall rare.

***Anthriscus sylvestris* L. Cow Parsley**

Puccinia chaerophylli Purton. Present each year on emergent growth.

***Atriplex prostrata* Boucher ex DC. Spear-leaved Orache**

Hayhurstia atriplicis (L.). Common each year.

***Betula pendula* Roth. Silver Birch**

Semudobia betulae (Winnertz).

S. tarda Roskam (see plate 23)

Both the above *Semudobia* sp. gall the birch seed. *S. tarda* found July 2004 is a new Essex record. (Bowdrey J, pers. comm.)

***Carpinus betulus* L. Hornbeam**

Aceria macrotrichus (Nalepa). Common each year.

A. tenellus (Nalepa). Uncommon, not found every year.

Zygobia carpini (F.Löw). Uncommon, not found every year.

***Circaea lutetiana* L. Enchanter's Nightshade**

Puccinia circaeae Pers. Found on a single plant in July 2002.

***Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. Creeping Thistle**

Urophora cardui (L.). Common each year.

***C. vulgare* (Savi) Ten. Spear Thistle**

Urophora stylata (F.). Found in 2005.

***Corylus avellana* L. Hazel**

Phytoptus avellanae Nalepa. Hazel is rare in the Forest. Bud galls found on coppice in Hainault Lodge L.N.R.

***Crataegus monogyna* Jacq. Hawthorn**

Phyllocoptes goniothorax (Nalepa) Common each year

Aceria crataegi (Canestrini). Found since 2004 on fresh leaves. Uncommon.

Dasineura crataegi (Winnertz). Hawthorn button top gall. Common in 2005.

***Dryopteris filix-mas* (L.) Schott Male Fern**

Chirosia betuleti, (Ringdahl). Frond knotting gall. Common each year.

***D. dilatata* (Hoffm.) A.Gray. Broad buckler Fern**

Chirosia betuleti, (Ringdahl). Frond knotting gall. Common each year.

***Euonymus europaeus* L. Spindle**

Eriophyes convolvens (Nalepa). Common each year.

***Fagus sylvatica* L. Beech**

Hartigiola annulipes (Hartig). Common each year.

Acalitus stenapsis (Nalepa). Common each year.

Aceria fagineus (Nalepa). Common each year.

***Fraxinus excelsior* L. Ash**

Psyllopsis fraxini (L.) . Common each year.

Aceria fraxinivorus (Nalepa). Common each year.

Dasineura fraxini (Bremer). Uncommon.

D. acrophila (Winnertz). Found 2005.

***F. excelsior* ‘Diversifolia’ Single-leafed Ash**

Occurs in the plantation alongside Ash and the following galls commonly found:

Psyllopsis fraxini (L.). *Dasineura fraxini* (Bremer). and *D. acrophila* (Winnertz).

***F. angustifolia* ‘Veltheimii’ One-leafed Ash**

Occurs in the plantation alongside Ash with the gall *Psyllopsis fraxini* (L.) commonly found.

***Galium aparine* L. Cleavers**

Cecidophyes galii (Karpeles). Common each year.

***Glechoma hederacea* L. Ground Ivy**

Rondaniola bursaria (Bremer). Rare. Recorded 2001, 2002.

***Malus domestica* Borkh. Naturalised Apple**

Dasineura mali (Kieffer). Found 2005.

Eriosoma lanigerum (Hausmann). Diseased tree in Hainault Lodge L.N.R. with woolly aphids and old woody galls.

***Populus tremula* L. Aspen**

Harmandiola tremulae (Winnertz). Found only in 2002, 2003. Host trees cut down.

Dasineura populeti (Rübsaamen). Found in 2005.

The leaf base gall *Eriophyes diversipunctatus* (Nalepa) found August 1977. Not found since.

***P. nigra betulifolia* L. Water Poplar**

Pemphigus spyrothecae Passerini. Common, especially numerous in 2004, 2005.

P. bursarius (L.). Uncommon.

P. populi Courchet. Found June 2003, (Ecott, 2003) and subsequent years. Uncommon.

Thecabius affinis (Kaltenbach) Uncommon.

Taphrina populina Fr. Common each year.

***P. alba* L. White Poplar**

Gyponoma aceriana (Duponchel). Rare.

***P. x canescens* (Aiton) Smith. Grey Poplar**

Gyponoma aceriana (Duponchel). Rare.

***Potentilla reptans* L. Creeping Cinquefoil**

Xestophanes potentillae (Retzius) Found May 2005 on underground stems.

***Prunus spinosa* L. Blackthorn**

Eriophyes prunis spinosae Nalepa. Common each year.

E. padi (Nalepa). Uncommon.

Taphrina pruni Tul. Pocket plums. Common each year.

***P. domestica* L. Wild Plum**

Eriophyes similis (Nalepa). Uncommon.

***P. dulcis* (Miller) D. Webb. Almond**

Taphrina deformans (Berk.) Tul. Found 2004. Heavy infestation on a lone tree in 2005.

***Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Bracken**

Chirosia grossicauda, (Strobl). Found 2001, 2002. Rare.

***Pyrus communis* L. Wild Pear**

Eriophyes pyri (Pagenstecher) Found in 2004.

Gymnosporangium sabiniae DC. Found in 2004, 2005.

***Quercus cerris* L. Turkey Oak**

Andricus grossulariae Giraud. ♂♀ Gooseberry gall (see plate 24).

Found May 2004 in Hainault Forest and later at Langdon Hills and other sites in Essex. New Essex record. Very common throughout the forest in 2005.

A. kollari (Hartig) ♂♀ Found May 2004.

A. lignicola (Hartig) ♂♀ Found May 2004.

A. quercuscalicis (Burgsdorf) ♂♀ Found May 2004.

***Q. robur* L. Pedunculate Oak**

Andricus aries Mayr ♀♀ Ram's horn gall (see Figure 1).

A description of the Ram's horn galls spread around the home counties is documented in Hill (2000) and Wurzell (2000). It was first recorded in Essex in May 2000 by Bowdrey (2001). Found in Hainault Forest in August 2000 and identified by David Savage of the British Plant Gall Society. During the period 2001-5 it has increased in numbers being now very common on the younger trees and scrub oak.

A. corruptrix (Schlechtendal) ♀♀ Old woody galls found in May 2004 by Jerry Bowdrey.

A. curvator Hartig ♂♀ Common each year.

A. fecundator Hartig ♂♀ Found May 2004 on catkins by Brian Wurzell.

A. fecundator ♀♀ Artichoke or Hop gall. Common each year.

A. grossulariae Giraud ♀♀

First reported in Windsor Great Park in 2000 (Walker 2002) First found in Hainault Forest in October 2004. Fairly common in 2005. See *Quercus cerris* for sexual generation.

A. inflator Hartig ♂♀ Rare. Found Spring 2002, 2004.

A. inflator ♀♀ Rare. Found Autumn 2002, 2004.

A. kollari ♀♀ Marble gall. Present each year but appears to be declining. See *Quercus cerris* for sexual generation.

A. lignicola ♀♀ Cola nut gall. Common each year. See *Quercus cerris* for sexual generation.

A. lucidus (Hartig) ♀♀ Hedgehog gall (see plate 21).

Well known in Hampstead Heath, and Regents Park, London for several years, it moved into Essex in 2004. Found by Brian Wurzell in Leyton, (Bowdrey, Pers. Comm.) and subsequently by me at South Woodford. Several galls were found in Hainault Forest in August 2005 including a previous years gall.

A. quercuscalicis (Burgsdorf) ♀♀ Knopper gall.

Very common. For the period 2003-5 nearly all acorn production has been galled. See *Quercus cerris* for sexual generation.

A. solitarius (Fonscolombe) ♀♀ Rare. Found 2002, 2004, 2005.

A. testaceipes Hartig ♀♀ Barnacle gall.

Demonstrated on the underground stem of young scrub oaks by Jerry Bowdrey in August 2005.

Biorhiza pallida (Olivier) ♂♀ Oak apple. A few each year.

Cynips divisa Hartig ♀♀ Pea gall. Common each year.

- C. longiventris* Hartig ♀♀ Striped pea gall. Rare. Found most years.
C. quercusfolii L. ♀♀ Cherry gall. Common each year. Plentiful in 2005.
Heliozela sericiella (Haworth). One found May 2004.
Macrodiplosis dryobia (F.Löw). Common each year.
M. volvens Kieffer. Uncommon. Found each year.
Neuroterus albipes (Schenck) ♀♀ Smooth spangle gall. Uncommon.
N. anthracinus (Curtis) ♂♀ Oyster gall. Uncommon. Found 2003, 2004, 2005.
N. aprilinus (Giraud) ♀♀ Found May 2004.
N. numismalis (Fourcroy) ♀♀ Silk button gall. Common each year.
N. quercusbaccarum (L.) ♂♀ Currant gall. Present on leaves and catkins each year.
N. quercusbaccarum ♀♀ Common spangle gall. Common each year.

Fig. 1. Ram's horn gall *Andricus aries* (asexual)



***Ranunculus ficaria* L. Lesser Celandine**

Urocystis ficariae (Liro) Moesz. Found 2002, 2003 on leaves and stalk.

***Rhamnus cathartica* L. Buckthorn** There is only one Buckthorn in the forest – a veteran tree

Trichoermes walkeri Förster. found 2005.

***R. arvensis* Hudson. Field Rose**

Diplolepis rosae (L.). Found most years. Uncommon.

Rosa canina L. Dog Rose

Phragmidium tuberculatum J.Müller. Swelling of stems with a rust fungus, present 2002, 2004, 2005.

Diplolepis rosae (L.). Robin's pin cushion. Common each year.

Diplolepis sp. Rose pea gall. Rare each year. Needs breeding out to identify.

D. nervosa (Curtis). Sputnik gall. Rare each year.

Wachtliella rosarum (Hardy). Pod gall. Rare. Found 2002 – 2005.

Blennocampa phyllocolpa (Viitasaari & Vikberg). Uncommon. Present 2002 – 2005.

Rubus fruticosus agg. L. Bramble

Lasioptera rubi (Schrank). Several found during 2002 and 2004 during clearance of bramble.

R. idaeus L. Raspberry

Lasioptera rubi (Schrank). Found 2004, 2005 at Hainault Lodge L.N.R.

Salix alba L. White Willow

Pontania proxima (Lepeletier). Common each year.

Aculus magnirostris (Nalepa). Found August 2005.

Rabdophaga terminalis (Loew). Found August 2005.

R. strobilina Bremi. Found July 2004. Name changed to *R. rosaria* (Harris, 2006).

S. caprea L. Sallow

Iteomyia capreae (Winnertz). Uncommon. Found 2002 – 2004.

S. fragilis agg. L. Crack Willow

Pontania proxima (Lepeletier). Common each year.

Aculus magnirostris (Nalepa). Found August 2005.

Rabdophaga terminalis (Loew). Found August 2005.

Sambucus nigra L. Elder

Epitrimerus trilobus (Nalepa). Uncommon. Found each year.

Senecio vulgaris L. Groundsel

Puccinia lagenophorae Cooke. Uncommon. Found 2002, 2004.

Sonchus arvensis L. Perennial Sow-thistle

Cystiphora sonchi (Bremi). Found 2002.

Sorbus aria (L.) Crantz. Common Whitebeam

Eriophyes arianus (Canestrini). Present 2001, 2002. Tree felled.

S. aucuparia L. Rowan

Eriophyes sorbi (Canestrini). Present most years.

S. torminalis (L.) Crantz. Wild Service tree

Eriophyes torminalis Nalepa. Heavy infestation on leaves in 2005.

Taraxacum pseudohamatum Dahlst. Dandelion

Protomyces pachydermus Thümen. Found May 2004. Host plant and gall species identified by Brian Wurzell.

***Tilia cordata* Mill. Small-leaved Lime**

Aceria lateannulatus Schultze. Uncommon. Found 2003 – 2005.

Eriophyes leiosoma (Nalepa). Found June 2005.

Dasineura tiliae (Schrank). Found June 2005.

***T. x europaea* Hayne. Common Lime**

Eriophyes exilis (Nalepa). Common each year.

E. tiliae (Pagenstecher). Common each year.

E. leiosoma (Nalepa). Common each year.

***Ulmus glabra* Hudson. Wych Elm**

Eriosoma lanuginosum Hartig. Found July 2004 on Hainault Golf Course.

***Ulmus* sp. Small-leaved Elm**

Aceria ulmicola (Nalepa). Common each year.

***Urtica dioica* L. Common Nettle**

Dasineura urticae (Perris). Uncommon. Found 2002 – 2005.

Puccinia urticata Kern. Found spring 2002, 2004.

***Veronica montana* L. Wood Speedwell**

Puccinia veronicae Schroet. Found March 2002, 2003.

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