

The Galls of Hainault Forest 2006 - 2010

BRIAN ECOTT

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

Abstract

The Galls of Hainault Forest are reviewed for the period 2006 – 2010. Comparison is made with the previous five year review, Ecott (2006). An additional 36 records have been added, which brings the total to 162. A gall species new to Britain, an unidentified gall on Field Maple with the incidental finding of a new genus and species of lasiopterid fly and losses of oak galls, and the spread of *Vasates quadripedes* in 2010 form the discussion.

Discussion

Neuroterus saliens - a species new to Britain

On 6.v.2006 a gall visit to Hainault Forest by members of the EFC and the BPGS noted odd looking red flowers on *Quercus cerris* Turkey Oak. Photographs were taken but its significance was missed. Brian Wurzell discovered the same in Springfield Park, Hackney, London on the 14.v.2006 which was identified by Graham Stone and its causer described by Robin Williams (Redfern 2006). The species is described as *Neuroterus saliens* (Kollar) (sexual generation), widespread in Europe but new to Britain. I found the asexual generation gall on Turkey Oak on the 14.x.2006. It is a tiny gall 2-3mm in length attached mainly to the petioles. Its specific name *saliens* comes from the heraldic term Lion salient, Springing or leaping lion. Jerry Bowdrey (2009) described this jumping characteristic when he placed several galls in his hand.

Malformed fruits on *Acer campestre*

On 10.vii.2006 I collected and photographed some very distorted fruits of *Acer campestre* Field Maple in Hainault Forest. As no identification was determined from Redfern and Shirley (2002) I sent photos and samples to Margaret Redfern who dissected them to discover cecidomyiid larvae in them. These samples and more were sent to Keith Harris (2006) who also found these larvae in normal shaped fruits at various locations.. He concluded that the larvae were probably not gall inducers. Pamela Harding at the Natural History Museum, London reported finding eriophyid mites possibly *Aceria cephaloneus* which normally produce small red pustules on the leaves of *Acer pseudoplatanus* Sycamore. Further investigations would be needed to determine the true inducer of the malformed fruits.

Two years later Harris (2008) had managed to breed adults from the samples and from world-wide interest and discussions determined that a new lasiopterid genus and species had been found which he named *Acumyia acericola* Harris. Holotype specimens were sent to the Natural History Museum. Harris (2009) concluded that *Acumyia acericola* does not induce galls and the malformation of the *Acer campestre* fruits remains undetermined.

These distorted fruits are seen yearly on several trees in Hainault Forest.

Oak galls disappear in autumn 2010

The normally ubiquitous asexual generations of Common spangle galls *Neuroterus quercusbaccarum*, Silk button galls *N. numismalis* and Smooth spangle galls *N. albipes* did not appear in the autumn of 2010 despite thorough searches. Other oak gall species which also failed to appear were Oyster gall *N. anthracinus*, Hedgehog gall *Andricus lucidus*, Cola nut gall *A. lignicola*, Acorn cup gall *A. grossulariae*, Cherry gall *Cynips quercusfolii*, and Pea gall *C. divisa*. One possible explanation on searching the BBC weather records online was that 2010 was the driest for many years with reservoirs drying up, May to July had above average temperatures with records above 30°C on several days at Heathrow. August then had twice the average rainfall with flash flooding in the South East. A review of 2011 – 2015 is ongoing.

Silver maple gall *Vasates quadripedes*

Vasates quadripedes first recorded at Waltham Abbey by Brian Wurzell in 2002 and also present on some trees in the plantation at Hainault Forest has now spread to all trees lining Foxburrows Road and New North Road, Hainault during the period of this review and I have recorded the gall in Basildon, Essex and Wroxham, Norfolk in July.2009. This movement is recorded in Pitts (2009).

Systematic list

Host species are listed alphabetically as in Redfern and Shirley (2002) and these are the new records for the period 2006 – 2010 together with the dates first recorded. The dates 6.v.2006 and 9.v.2009 are significant in that they were the dates of field trips to Hainault Forest by members of the Essex Field Club and the British Plant Gall Society. Full lists species and all photographs can be found on the Hainault Website, www.hainaultforest.co.uk.

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

Malformed fruits 12.vii.2006

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

Acalitus brevitorsus (Fockeu). Leaf bulge. 27.vii.2008

***Bellis perennis* L. Daisy**

Puccinia distincta McAlpine. Gall on leaf. 6.v.2006

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

Agrobacterium tumefaciens. Stem gall. 25.ii.2007

Acalitus calycophthirus (Nalepa) Big bud gall. 9.v.2009

Eriophyes leionotus/lissonotus Nalepa. Erineum on leaf. 9.v.2009

***Chamerion angustifolium* (L.) Holub. Rosebay Willowherb**

Dasineura kiefferiana (Rübsaamen) Leaf edge roll. 6.v.2006

***Crataegus monogyna* Jacq. Hawthorn**

Dysaphis crataegi (Canestrini) Leaf roll. 9.v.2009

***Daucus carota* L. Wild Carrot**

Kiefferia pericarpicola (Bremi) Fruit gall. 20.viii.2006

***Fraxinus excelsior* 'Diversifolia' Single-leafed Ash**

Dasineura fraxini (Bremi) Midrib gall. 17.ix.2008

Dasineura acrophila (Winnertz) Leaf pod gall. 30.v.2007

***Malus sylvestris* (L.) Miller. Crab Apple**

Phyllocoptes malinus (Nalepa) Erineum. 9.v.2009

***Picris echioides* L. Bristly Ox-tongue**

Phanacis caulicola (Hedecke) Stem gall. 6.v.2006

***Populus tremula* L. Aspen**

Phyllocoptes populi (Nalepa) Leaf bulge. 17.vi.2008

***Populus nigra ssp betulifolia* (Pursh) W.Wettst. Water Poplar**

Phemphigus populinigrae (Schrank) Midrib pouch gall. 26.vi.2008

***Populus* sp. Balsam Poplar**

Taphrina populina Fr. Leaf bulge. 17.v.2008

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

Neuroterus saliens (Kollar) (sexual) Anemone gall. 6.v.2006

Neuroterus saliens (Kollar) (asexual) gall on petiole. 14.x.2006

***Quercus robur* L. Pedunculate Oak**

Andricus quercusradicis (F.) (asexual) Truffle gall. 6.v.2006

Andricus quercusramuli (L.) (sexual) Cotton wool gall. 21.vi.2007

Andricus corruptrix (asexual) Bud gall. 9.v.2009

Trioza remota Förster. Pimple on leaf. 6.vi.2007

Neuroterus numismalis (Fourcroy) (sexual) Small blister on leaf. 4.v.2009

Neuroterus politus Hartig (sexual) Bud gall. 9.v.2009

***Quercus ilex* L. Holm Oak**

Aceria ilicis (Canestrini) Bulges on leaf. 9.v.2009

***Rubus fruticosus* agg. L. Bramble**

Eriophyes rubicolens (Canestrini) Bulge on leaf. 11.ix.2006

***Rumex acetosella* L. Sheep's Sorrel**

Apion rubens Stephens. Swollen midrib. 6.v.2006

***Salix caprea* L. Sallow**

Eupontania pedunculi (Hartig) Hairy pea gall. 6.v.2006

Pontania bridgmanii (Cameron) Bean gall. 24.vi.2010

***Salix cinerea* L. Grey Sallow**

Iteomyia capreae (Winnertz) Pustules. 6.v.2006

***Tilia x europaea* Hayne. Common Lime**

Dasineura tiliae (Schrank) Leaf edge rolled up. 22.v.2007

Eriophyes lateannulatus Schulze Blunt nail galls. 4.vi.2007

***Ulex minor* Roth. Dwarf Gorse**

Stenopterapion scutellare Kirby Swollen stem gall. 7.vi.2006

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

Eriosoma patchiae (Börner & Blunck) Leaf roll. 24.viii.2006

Tetraneura ulmi L. Fig gall. 24.viii.2006

***Viola riviniana* (Reichenbach) Dog Violet**

Puccinia violae DC. Leaf and stem swellings. 26.iv.2010

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Jerry Bowdrey, Gall Recorder, the Essex Field Club and the British Plant Gall Society (England, South East) for his help with identification and encouragement over the years. Thanks are also due to members of the EFC and BPGS who have found new records during their visits in May 2005 and May 2009 and shared their expertise with others.

References

BBC news weather online at http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather/hi/uk_reviews/.

BOWDREY, J. (2007) Jumping galls! *Cecidology* **22** (1) 48.

ECOTT, B.A. (2006) The Galls of Hainault Forest 2001 – 2005. *Essex Naturalist* (New series) **23**: 143-152.

HARRIS, K. (2006) Malformed fruits and an associated gall midge on Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) in Southern England. *Cecidology* **21** (2): 49-50.

HARRIS, K.M., (2008) The *Acer* seed midge, *Acumyia acericola*, an unusual new species and genus of Lasipteridi (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) with aciculate ovipositor and larval puparium. *Zootaxa* **1910**: 21-26.

HARRIS, K. (2009) The *Acer* seed midge, *Acumyia acericola* Harris. *Cecidology* **24** (1): 5.

PITTS, J. (2009) *Vasates quadripedes* is moving northwards. *Cecidology* **24** (1): 26.

REDFERN, M. (2006) A new oak gall wasp in Britain. *Cecidology* **21** (2): 46-48.

REDFERN, M. & SHIRLEY, P. (2002) *British Plant Galls*. Reprinted from *Field Studies* **10**: 207 – 531
Field Studies Council.