Life Cycle

Dryocosmus kuriphilus (Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp) is a gall wasp which affects a number of *Castanea* (Chestnut) species by causing galls to form on the growth buds and leaves. Infested twigs and leaves can die meaning a reduction in growth and fruiting.

During the summer, the female wasp lays eggs in the growth buds which then hatch within 30 – 40 days. The early stages of the larvae then lie dormant over the winter in the bud. In the spring the larval activity resumes which causes the formation of galls in early summer on young twigs, on leaf petioles or on the midrib of leaves. These green or rose-coloured galls start at approximately 5 – 20 mm in diameter and can develop up to 4 cm in diameter as the leaf tries to form. During late June and July adult wasps begin to emerge leaving exit holes in the galls. These galls turn woody and can remain on the twig for two years or more. The reproductive process is achieved from unfertilised eggs without mating (thelytokous parthenogenesis); male wasps have never been recorded.

Hosts

The main host species present in the UK is *Castanea sativa* (sweet chestnut) but it will also attack other *Castanea* species.

Photo Guide

1. *D. kuriphilus* galls in the canopy, note the distortion to the infested leaves
Source: Tree Health Team

2. Small gall forming on the side of midrib
Source: Tree Health Team

3. Rose coloured gall on the petiole
Source: Tree Health Team

4. Gall on the midrib causing deformity
Source: Tree Health Team

5. Hardened gall with emergence hole
Source: Tree Health Team

6. **This damage is NOT an OCGW symptom**
Source: Tree Health Team

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Source: Tree Health Team