

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Marie L. Schmidt, bugguide.net

Common Name: Succulent Oak Gall Wasp

Scientific Name: *Dryocosmus quercuspalustris*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera, Cynipidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		- Eggs are laid on oak buds or leaves.
Larva/Nymph		- Upon hatching, larvae create galls with their salivary secretions, inside the galls; the larvae mature, pupate, and emerge as adults.
Adult	About 4.5 mm	- Adults have a distinct body shape, often referred to as “wasp waist.” All wasps share this body shape – the first abdominal segment is joined with the thorax, while the second segment forms the “waist” shaft. - Dark-brown to black body, light colored 3 pairs of legs, long antennae and transparent wings.
Pupa (if applicable)		- Pupation occurs inside the galls.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing, larvae.

Host plant/s: Pin oaks and other oaks.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): This wasp creates galls on the plant host and the hatching larvae feed on the contents of the galls. Galls are abnormal plant growth or swellings made of plant tissue. Galls are usually found on foliage or twigs. These unusual deformities are caused by plant growth-regulating chemicals or stimuli produced by the larvae and probably the eggs too. These chemicals interfere with normal plant cell growth. Insects that produce galls are not concerning although heavy infestations may decrease the aesthetic nature of the plant, cause leaf and stem deformation, and could potentially be responsible for premature leaf drop. Galls are essentially formed by the insect to provide a favorable habitat and food source as the insect goes through its metamorphosis.

References:

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