

Oak Rough Bulletgall Wasp

Disholcaspis quercusmamma

Hosts: Bur oak, white swamp oak

Damage/Symptoms: In the summer, dark green swellings will develop on the current season's twigs, becoming almost knuckle-sized by August. The galls become woody on the branches. Branch dieback can occur with heavy infestations, and excessive honeydew is often released from the galls in late summer.



Figure 2.. Early-season galls. S. Katovich, Bugwood.org

Life Cycle: Wasps emerge from galls in late fall and lay eggs on the branches. A second generation of females will emerge in the spring and will lay eggs on the emerging buds. The following summer, dark green swellings will start to develop on the current season's twigs.



Figure 1. Rough bulletgall wasp damage. W. Ciesla, FHMI, Bugwood.org

Management: The galls can cause dieback and significant damage if they become heavy on branches and start to weigh down the tree. Natural enemies, including parasitic wasps, are important for management of the pest. These beneficial wasps emerge from the galls in the winter and spring, so, if pruning out the galls, it is important to avoid pruning out any galls during this time. The wasps are difficult to control chemically because they are protected within the galls.



Figure 3.. Adult wasp. W. Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood.org

By Laurie Kerzicnik lauren.kerzicnik@montana.edu

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