

Plant Galls 2018

The weather this year seems to have had a marked effect on the plant galls, a very cold February – March, the ‘beast from the east’, made for a very slow start. This was followed by a very hot summer which seems to have made for smaller numbers of midge galls and much reduced numbers of wasp galls, especially in Oak. Among the latter, Silk button galls were down from 11 records in 2017 to 2 this year and Common spangle galls were not only reduced in frequency but also noticeably in the number of galls per leaf. In a good year the underside of an Oak leaf can be almost totally covered in galls. This year there have been examples with only 2-3 galls per leaf.

It will be interesting to see what effect this will have on next year’s galls.

This year 24 sites were monitored yielding a total of 394 records made up of 134 species of gall, 10 of which had not previously appeared in our records.

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