

Holly Leaf Gall Fly

Phytomyza ilicis

Identification:

The Holly Leaf Gall Fly *Phytomyza ilicis* is a tiny insect which develops inside the leaf of Holly, pupating inside the leaf and emerging in midsummer. It produces a characteristic blotch on the leaf - sometimes classed as a gall.



Holly Leaf Gall Fly *Phytomyza ilicis*.

Photo © Murdo Macdonald.

Distribution:

Might be expected throughout Highland where Holly occurs, but as the map shows, gaps remain. Blue <2006, green 2006 on.

When to look for it:

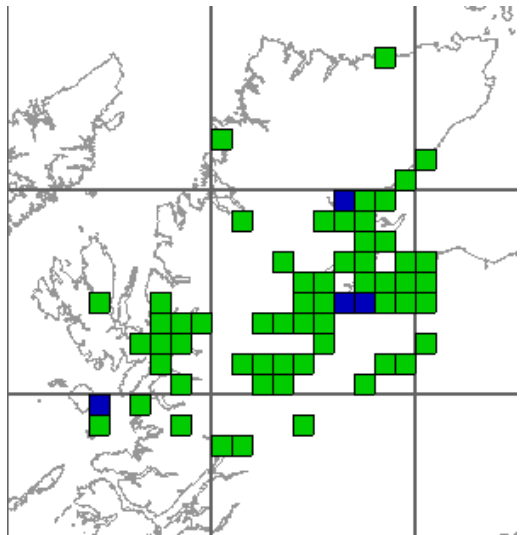
Holly is evergreen, so the mines can be found all year.

Similar species:

None. The pale blotches with the purplish centres are unmistakable.

Notes:

Lookout also for the Holly Speckle fungus *Trochila ilicina*. The oviposition (egg-laying) scars of the gall-fly can be seen as a small swelling on the midrib below. The shape of the exit hole from the mine will tell if the fly emerged, or whether it was attacked by a parasitic wasp.



The National Biodiversity Network records are shown on the map (see terms and conditions at <http://data.nbn.org.uk>). Data providers and the NBN Trust bear no responsibility for any further analysis or interpretation of the information in the map