

Celandine Clustercup Rust, Bitter Chocolate Rust

Uromyces dactylidis, *U. ficariae*

Identification:

These two rust fungi are specific to Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*. If you can identify the host, the fungi are easy. Both form galls on the leaves and petioles (leaf-stalks).

U. dactylidis takes the form of yellow spore masses, while *U. ficariae* has blackish spores dotted on a yellowish background. Both may be found on a single leaf, and the lesions are visible on the upperside as pale blistered patches.



Distribution:

Both rusts might be expected anywhere the host grows.

When to look for it:

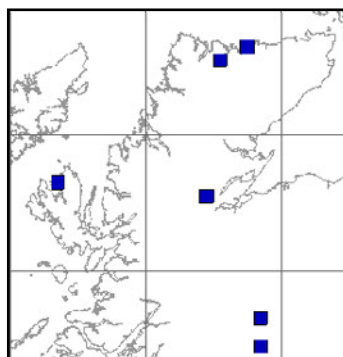
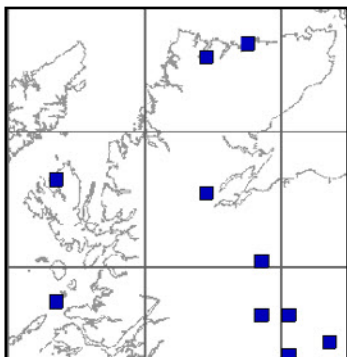
April-May.

Similar Species:

The host leaves are easily identified even in the absence of flowers, and these two rusts are distinctive. The smut *Urocystis ficariae* may be found, but that forms large black masses unlike the rusts.



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Urocystis dactylidis (left) and *U. ficariae* in Highland.

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