

A Psyllid bug

Craspedolepta nebulosa

Identification:

A tiny bug around 3mm long is not the sort of thing you would expect a non-specialist to recognise, but this one is an exception. It lives on Rose-bay Willow-herb, and has a unique star pattern on the wing. Look at the young tops of the plants in June, before the flowers open. The bugs can be detected with the naked eye, and a lens will show the wing pattern.

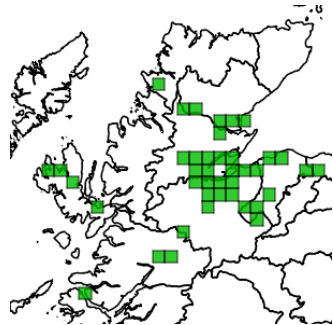


Craspedolepta nebulosa.

Photo © Michael Talbot.

Distribution:

It was not mapped in Highland until Seth Gibson highlighted it after finding it on Skye. Then it was found almost on demand in the east of Highland, but also over to NW Sutherland and even Stornoway. We might expect it anywhere that the host plant grows – even at 400m on Ben Wyvis.



The distribution of records *Craspedolepta nebulosa* in the HBRG database.

When to look for it:

It is easiest to find during June.

Similar species:

The combination of the host plant and the wing-pattern will remove all doubt.

Notes:

The map shows clear evidence that stopping at patches of willow-herb on roadsides (A9, A96, A82, A837 are very obvious!) is a good way to fill gaps.