

Russian knapweed, *Acroptilon repens*, is a serious problem in many parts of the western U.S. infesting old pastures, roadsides, waste areas and rangeland. Partly funded by the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council, researchers at CABI, Switzerland have been studying a number of potential biological control agents for Russian knapweed. Jeff Littlefield (Montana State University), Urs Schaffner (CABI) and I have recently submitted petitions to USDA APHIS PPQ for the introduction of two new biological control agents for Russian knapweed, a gall wasp and a gall midge. Permission for ultimate release of these insects is pending.



Gall wasp, *Aulacidea acroptilonica*, adult

Photo Credit: CABI Switzerland, courtesy of Urs Schaffner