

SPINY ROSE GALL WASP

Hymenoptera: Cynipidae

Diplolepis bicolor

Bug
of the
Month



Photo by Dr. Antoine Guiget (Penn State)

This wasp will never sting a human; well unless they are dressed up as a rose bush! This insect is a gall wasp commonly known as the Spiny Rose gall wasp belonging to the family Cynipidae, genus *Diplolepis*, species *bicolor*, and its “stinger” is actually an ovipositor which is only used to deposit eggs into plant tissue. This wasp’s survival is dependent upon the presence of rose species, as these are the only plant species

female *D. bicolor* will lay eggs in. Pictured above is a female *D. bicolor* laying eggs into a white rose bush stem.

When a gall wasp lays its eggs into a desired host species, the host plant will begin to produce excess tissue in that given location. As this tissue accumulates, it will form a ball-like mass, which is called a gall! This gall will provide nutrients and overwintering shelter for the

developing larval wasps. Adult *D. bicolor* will begin to emerge from their gall sometime in late spring or summer, but they must reproduce quickly as they only live for a few days! Once mated, the female *D. bicolor* will lay their eggs into a new rose stem, where the young will continue the annual life cycle again.

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