

# DRIPPY NUT AND BARK CANKER OF OAK



Symptoms of drippy nut including oozing of the acorn cup (left) and leaf bud (right) - Spain.  
Courtesy C. Poza-Carrion



Symptoms of bark canker following inoculation with *L. iberica* - Spain.  
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**Causal organism:** *Lonsdalea iberica*

## Host species

Both holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) and Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*) display symptoms of bark canker, while drippy nut has been observed on holm oak acorns and drippy buds on Pyrenean oak.

## Distribution

Drippy nut and bark canker have been reported in central Spain (Madrid and Segovia).

## Occurrence in the UK

*L. iberica* has not been detected in the UK.

## Symptoms of the disease

Drippy nut affects growing acorns, with copious, sticky, honey-like sap appearing under the acorn cup causing severe fruit drop. Exudate production has also been observed from leaf buds of Pyrenean oak. Symptoms of bark canker are similar to those characterised for Acute Oak Decline (AOD) with longitudinal lesions ranging from 5 – 20 cm observed on the lower trunk of affected trees. The necrotic lesions extend to the inner bark and copious exudates either white and frothy or reddish-brown are observed usually in autumn and spring.

## Control measures

No control measures have been recorded. However, disease symptoms are similar to those outlined for *L. quercina* in the USA and similar control measures should be applied.

Status: Based on preliminary assessments, statutory action may be taken against disease findings.

