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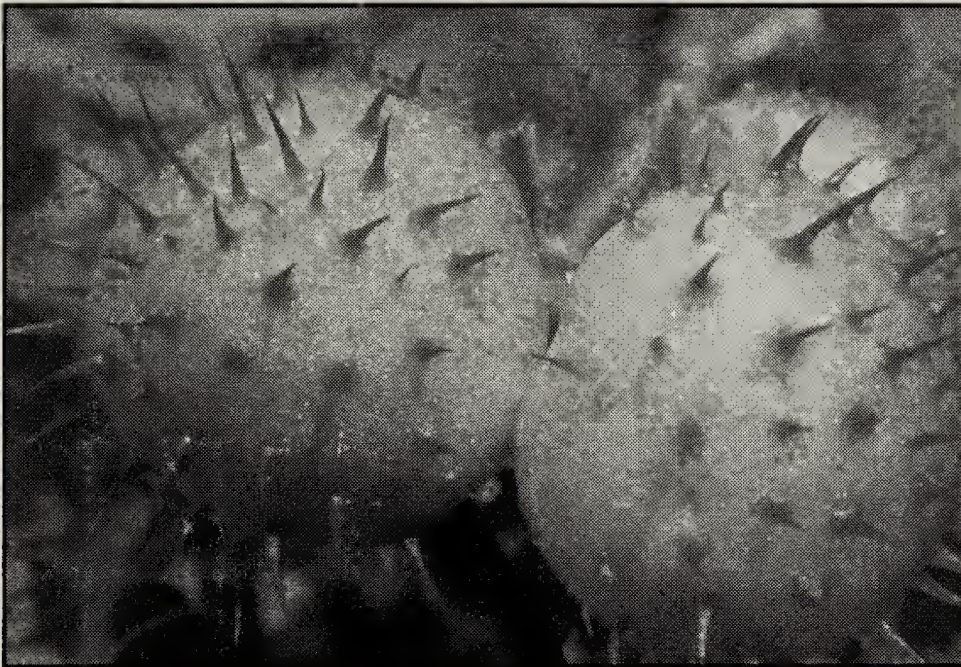
# MYSTERY PHOTO

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## JUNE 2009 MYSTERY PHOTO

See bottom inside back cover. We photographed this hungry little fellow in a nest that was constructed inside an outhouse in the parking lot of the Nicolle Flats Nature Area at Buffalo Pound Provincial Park near Moose Jaw, SK. Can anyone help us identify the species ?

## ANSWER TO MARCH 2009 MYSTERY PHOTO



Our March Mystery Photo elicited several reader responses.

**Mae Elsinger**, Rangeland Biologist for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Brandon, MB), writes, "I'm going to suggest that it is a gall caused by some kind of insect parasite, created for a safe site to lay eggs and provide food for hatchlings. I don't know which parasite, but I think many can cause this to happen. Judging from the spines, I would suggest that it is on a rose bush, though I can't be certain which one, but the shape of the spines would lead me to guess *Rosa woodsii*. I think I have seen these before. They develop a purplish shade to them."

**Ernie Kuyt** writes, "My guess about the March 2009 Mystery Photo in *The Blue Jay* (and, not being a hymenopterist, a guess it must be), is that the mace-like objects are the results of activities by a Gall Wasp, family Cynipidae, on the unsuspecting leaves of a Prickly Rose."

Finally, **Anna Leighton** contributed the following: "My gall book suggests that this gall on some species of rose (probably not identified for the photo) is caused by the Spiny Leaf Gall Wasp, *Diplolepis polita*. Images of galls caused by this insect match this image well. I don't know if there is more than one gall-former that makes this shape of gall or whether we can assume it is this species. What I don't know is whether this gall was made on the leaf or on some other part of the plant, which information affects the species of gall-former."

We thank **Michelle Lanoie** of Prince Albert, SK, for contributing the photo.