

## Telial Horns



Telial horns emerging in the spring.

Looking more like the stuff of alien science fiction than a botanical phenomenon, the telial horns in the photo above are the spore bearing vehicle of cedar-apple rust which infects some of our juniper and apple species. These gelatinous trailing tentacles emerge from brown galls which have wintered over on the juniper host after wet Spring weather. After spreading their spores the galls revert to a dimpled brown ball on the juniper twig (as in photo to the right). Spores are spread by wind to their Summer host, a member of the Rosaceae family... generally an apple.



Dormant rust gall on Rocky Mountain juniper.

The Summer manifestation of this rust appears as yellow spots on the leaves (but can also appear on fruit and twigs as well). As they enlarge and become more orange coloured, small black dots appear in the centre of the spots. Finally, thread-like tubes develop on the underside of the infected part of the leaves, fruit or twigs. Of the two hosts, the apple is more damaged by this pathogen.



A similar and related rust, cedar-hawthorn rust, affects not only hawthorns, but apples as well. Unhappily, galls on the junipers can produce spores for at least two years in succession.

#### References:

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