**Chalcidid wasps**

*Family Chalcididae*

**Description and life history:** There are over 1500 known species of Chalcid parasitoids. Adults are robust, have a greatly enlarged hind leg segment, and are often dark and shiny. Chalcids are characterized by their highly reduced wing veins, and usually have elbowed antennae.

**Host species:** Parasitic Chalcid wasp larvae are internal parasitoids of Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies), Diptera (flies) and Coleoptera (beetles). Some species are also parasitoids of other wasps.

Parasitic cynipid gall wasp adult with swollen and toothed hind femora. These wasps attack caterpillars, maggots, and beetle larvae. (346)

Photo: David Laughlin