

12 COMMON LICHENS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THE NORTH EAST

Name	Habitat	Substrate
Cladonia diversa	Moorland/heaths	Tree stumps/acid soil/walls
Cladonia polydactyla	Moorland/heaths	Tree stumps/peat
Evernia prunastri	Deciduous woodland	Twigs/branches or tree trunk occasionally rock and walls
Ramalina farinacea	Mixed woodland/farmland	Twigs/branches or tree trunk occasionally rock and walls
Hypogymnia physodes	Almost anywhere	Very common on trees, rock or moss
Hypogymnia tubulosa	Almost anywhere	Very common on trees, rock or moss
Lecanora chlarotera	On trees in unpolluted areas	Twigs, branches and trunk
Lecidella elaeochroma	Woodland	On smooth barked trees
Parmelia sulcata	Lowland areas	Very common on trees and rocks
Physcia adscendens	Almost anywhere	Calcareous rocks, trees, shrubs
Physcia tenella	Almost anywhere	Trees, shrubs and calcareous rocks
Xanthoria parietina	Almost anywhere	Trees, rocks and walls

Identifying lichens is not easy as many look very similar and it is necessary to use chemical tests and a microscope to differentiate them. However, I have picked out one or two of the most obvious features to use in identifying these 12 common lichens as they are fairly distinct. Some are quite small so a x10 hand lense will be useful. The scale bar represents about 1cm.

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22 March 2014

Glossary

Apothecia	Fruiting bodies
Cilia	Long hair like structures on the margins or ends of lobes
Cortex	Outer surface
Podocia	Stalk of a fruiting body
Pseudocyphellae	Pale patch, dot or line where cortex is thin
Rhizines	Root like growth
Soralia	Small powdery reproductive growths

Cladonia diversa



Short stalked podetia,
wide deformed cup,
red apothecia

Cladonia polydactyla



Cups end in finger like
projections with red
apothecia

Evernia prunastri



Surface green

Underside white

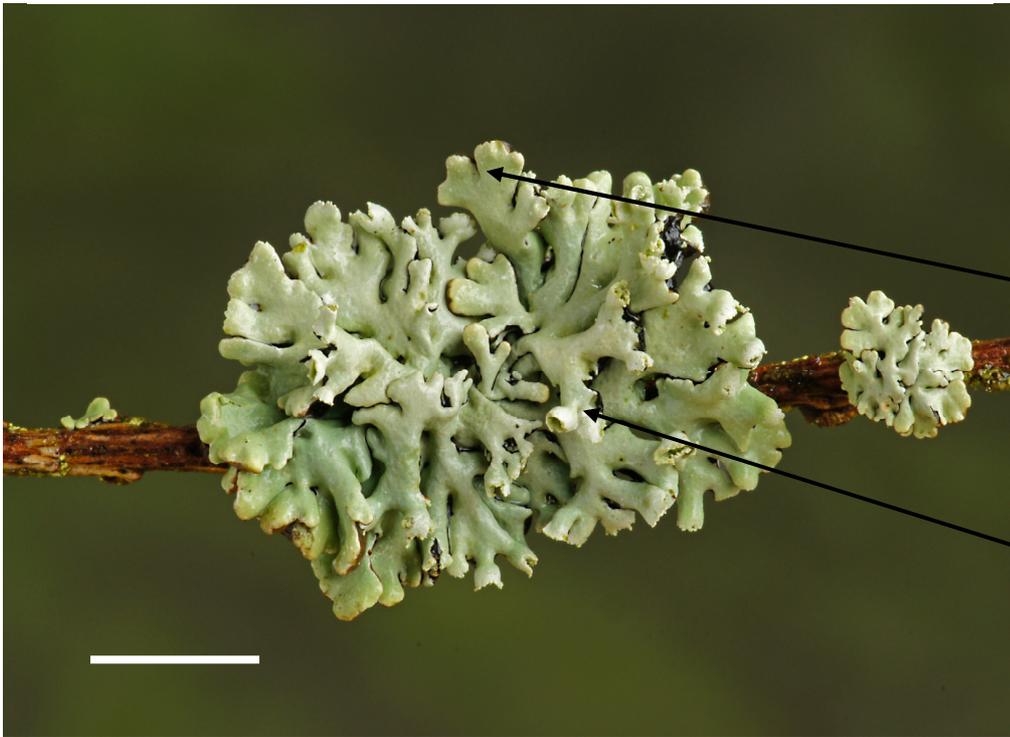
Ramalina farinacea



Soralia along edges of lobes

Both surfaces green

Hypogymnia physodes



Foliose,
inflated lobes.

Soralia in
turned over
lobe ends

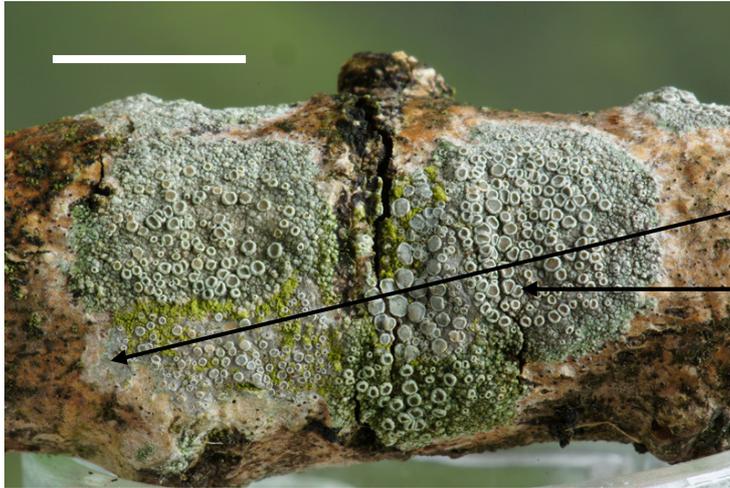
Hypogymnia tuberosa



Soralia in
tuberosus lobe
ends

Foliose,
inflated lobes

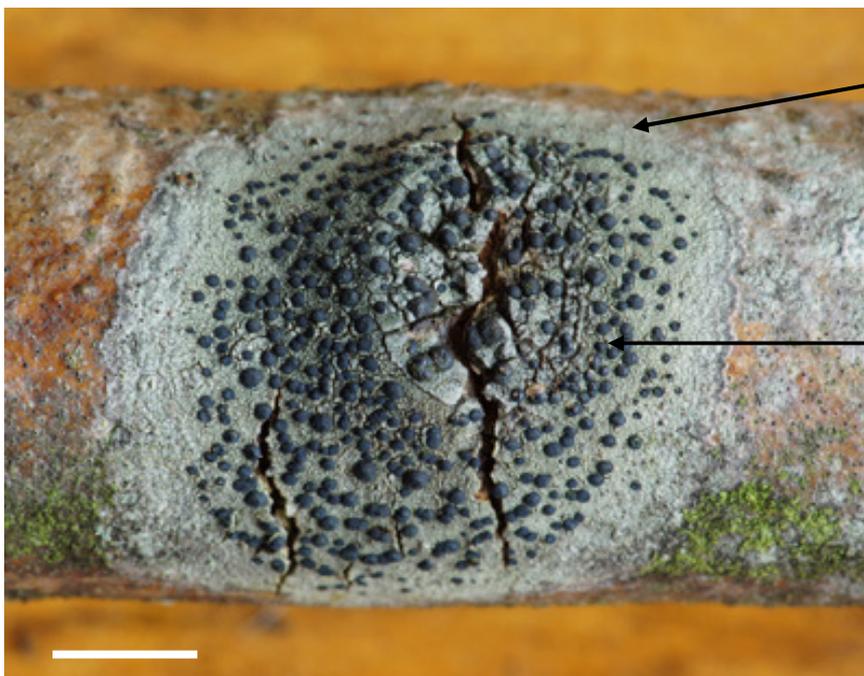
Lecanora chlarotera



Small, with a pale thallus.

Pinkish apothecia

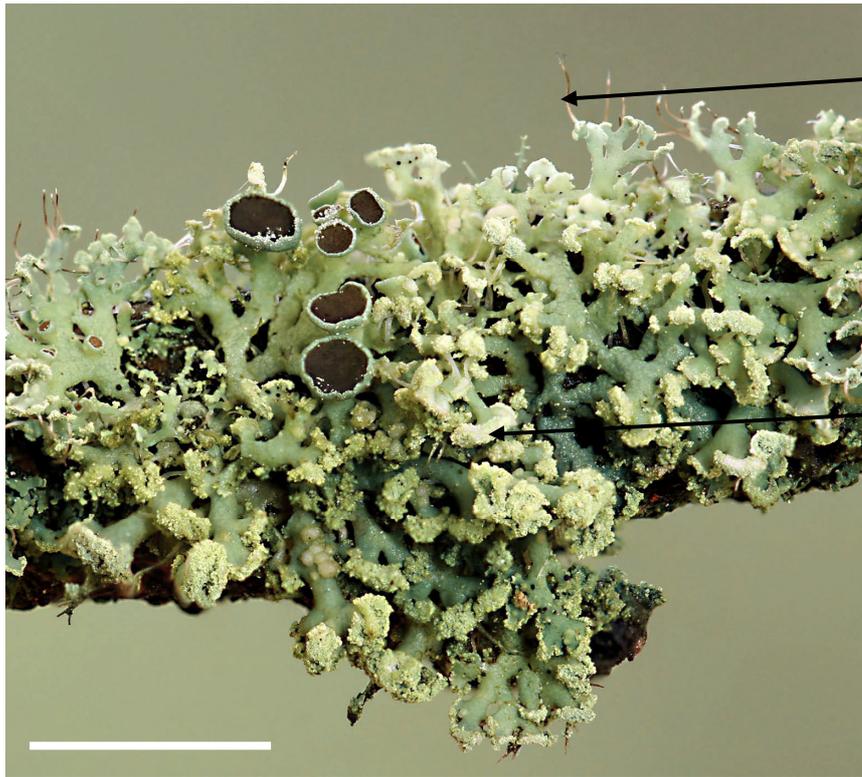
Lecidella elaeochroma



Pale grey thallus

Black warty apothecia

Physcia tenella



Teeth (cilia) at ends of lobes

Soralia on turned down edges of lobes

Physcia adscendens



Soralia in hooded ends to lobes

Teeth (cilia) at ends of lobes

Xanthoria parietina



Broad foliose lobes

Can be green or bright yellow/orange depending on how much light it gets.

Bright yellow/orange or green apothecia

Parmelia sulcata



Foliose lobes

White lines and dots on lobes. (pseudocyphellae)