



Students Field Guide to iSPY Lichens

iSPY Lichens @ School

How to look at a lichen

You need to look really carefully at a lichen before you can name it. If you use a 10x magnifying lens you will see it very well. Even without a lens you can still work out its name.

Take some nature notes. Nature notes about lichens should include the following observations:

- The colour of the lichen?
- What it's found growing on - bark or a wooden fence or a wall for example?
- Is it like a crust of dry paint on the wall or bark or is it like a miniature plant?
- Does it have little discs on it and what colour are they?

Guide to naming the lichen

Look at the photographs below and see if you can spot lichens like it in your area.

- A. If the lichen is white try number 1 below
- B. If the lichen looks like white paint try number 1 below
- C. If the lichen is yellow try numbers 2 or 3 below
- D. If the lichen is orange try number 3 below
- E. If the lichen has little black cups try number 7 below
- F. If the lichen has little cups that are not black try numbers 2 or 4 below
- G. If the lichen looks like hair try number 10 below
- H. If the lichen is apple green try number 5 below
- I. If the lichen is like a miniature bush try numbers 9 or 11 below
- J. If the lichen has little stalks try 12 below

1. Aspicilia



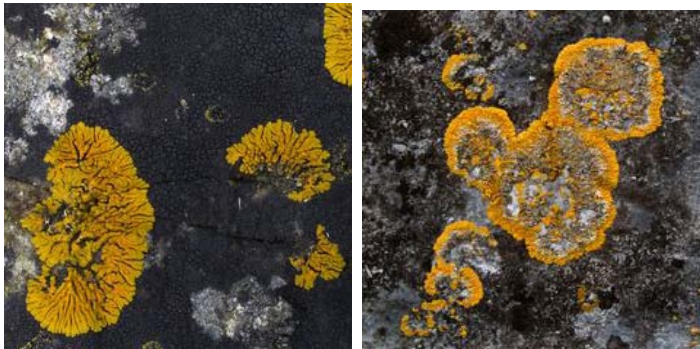
Colour: white
Where: usually on walls
Shape: like a crust of dried paint
at 10x looks like crazy paving

2. Xanthoria



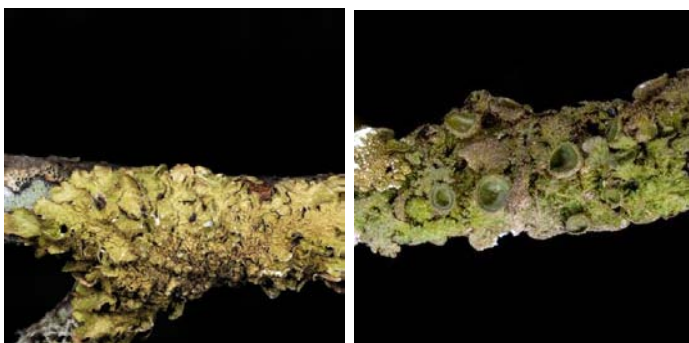
Colour: yellow
Where: usually on walls
Shape: like flattened leaves or a very thick crust.
Sometimes has little yellow cups.

3. Caloplaca



Colour: yellow or orange
Where: usually on walls
Shape: like flattened leaves but flatter than *Xanthoria* (not so thick)
Sometimes has little yellow cups. Usually more orange than yellow.

4. Melanelixia



Colour: dirty olive green or dark green
Where: usually on twigs, nearly wrapped around them
Shape: lumpy and thick
Sometimes has little green cups with little spines around them - use a 10x lens.

5. Flavoparmelia



Colour: lovely light apple green
Where: usually on twigs and tree trunks
Shape: sometimes forms a nice green circle. It's a bit lumpy and wrinkled. It sticks good and tight to the bark.

6. Parmelia



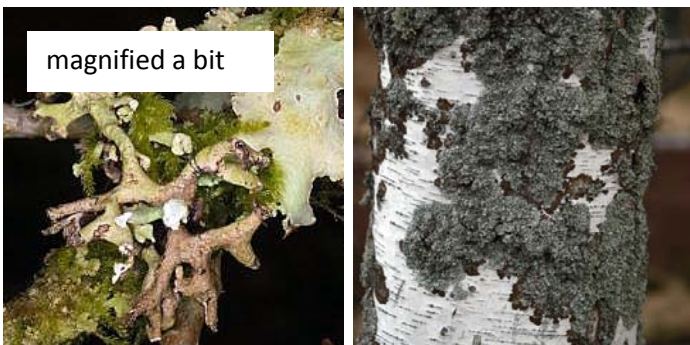
Colour: light grey, almost silvery grey
Where: usually on twigs or the tree trunk but can grow on metal and glass
Shape: light wavy lobes loosely attached

7. Physcia



Colour: grey with lots of little black discs.
Where: usually on twigs especially where they branch or else on the tree trunk or on flat sawn wood e.g. on seats or posts.
Shape: lumpy and wraps around narrow twigs.

8. Hypogymnia



Colour: dark grey or a bit brown or green.
Where: usually on a tree trunk.
Shape: lumpy and can look a bit like a broken tube or pipe.

9. Evernia

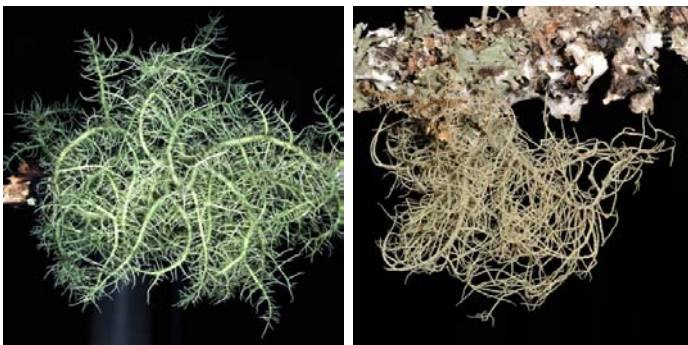


Colour: dark grey or a bit brown or green.

Where: usually on a tree trunk.

Shape: lumpy and can look a bit like a broken tube or pipe.

10. Usnea



Colour: greenish or whitish grey

Where: often on twigs or small branches

Shape: hair-like

11. Ramalina



Colour: whitish grey

Where: often on tree trunks or on rocks

Shape: very coarse - like tiny hard straps

12. Cladonia



Colour: creamy white to grey

Where: often on rotting tree trunks or at the bottom of conifer trees. Sometimes in moss on walls.

Shape: little trumpets sticking up in the air