

BOVNR Lichen walk Saturday 2nd April 2016

By the car park at the entrance we first noticed an example of (1) *Lepraria incana* on tree bark. This is scurfy in appearance and never has fruiting bodies. It is tolerant of acid and nitrogen pollution and commonly found in polluted areas. Next, we identified a fine example of (2) *Xanthoria parietina* (a yellow lichen) on a fallen twig, again often found in areas of pollution. On the same twig we identified (3) *Physcia adscendens* - the variety of *Physcia* whose lobe-ends are helmet-shaped, (4) *Hypogymnia physodes* and (5) *Melanelixia subaurifera* (muddy-looking).



(2) *Xanthoria parietina*



(3) *Physcia adscendens*



(4) *Hypogymnia physodes*

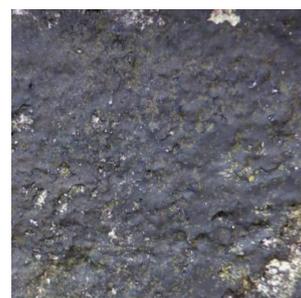


(5) *Melanelixia subaurifera*

Moving on from the car park area we took the opportunity to inspect and compare examples of lichens on tombs of granite, limestone and possibly of sandstone. We agreed that it would have been helpful to have some weak acid available to test for limestone. The acidity of the granite stone does not support many lichens but we nevertheless observed (6) *Psilolechia lucida* yellow green in colour that grows happily on acid substrate. On the nearby limestone tomb we identified two species of (7, 8) *Verrucaria* – *baldensis* and *nigrescens*.



(7) *Verrucaria baldensis*



(8) *Verrucaria nigrescens*

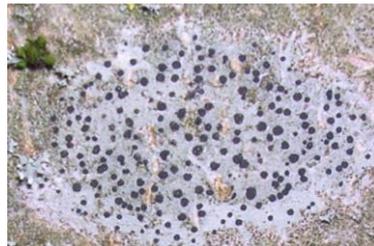
We were uncertain whether the cross was limestone or sandstone, but an occasional twinkle in the grain suggested sandstone. On this we found a white lichen tentatively identified as (9) *Aspicilia calcarea*.

Further into the woods we chose to take the anti-clockwise route. Someone pointed out the fresh **Cow Parsley** *Anthriscus sylvestris*. Other plant species we saw were the delicate blue-petalled **Siberian Squill** *Scilla siberica* (not native to Siberia despite its name), **Blue Anemone** *Anemone apennina* and **Lesser Periwinkle** *Vinca minor*.

Another fallen twig offered more examples of lichen species – (10) *Lecanora chlarotera* (with fruiting bodies like jam tarts), (11) *Lecidella elaeochroma* (with fruiting bodies like fruit gums) and (12) *Phycia tenella* (with powdery soredia on the lobe-ends).



(10) *Lecanora chlarotera*



(11) *Lecidella elaeochroma*



(12) *Phycia tenella*

An interesting black discoid fungus – *Diatrype disciformis* - was observed on a fallen twig.

In the butterfly meadow a **Buff-tailed Bumble Bee** *Bombus terrestris* was looking for a home. Fallen tree trunks block the path to the cemetery. More *Lecanora* and *Lecidella* were found on twig bark. Sprouting **Goat Willow** was in evidence, a brown butterfly (possibly a woken-up Tortoiseshell) fluttered by.

The scent of the **Few-flowered Garlic** *Allium paradoxum* was detected. There was a lot of interest in the hybridised pink *Polyanthus* next to the *Allium*. We examined the flowers to see if they were pin-eyed or thrum-eyed.

An exciting finale to the walk were the sightings of a male **Brimstone Butterfly** *Gonepteryx rhamni* over the pond.