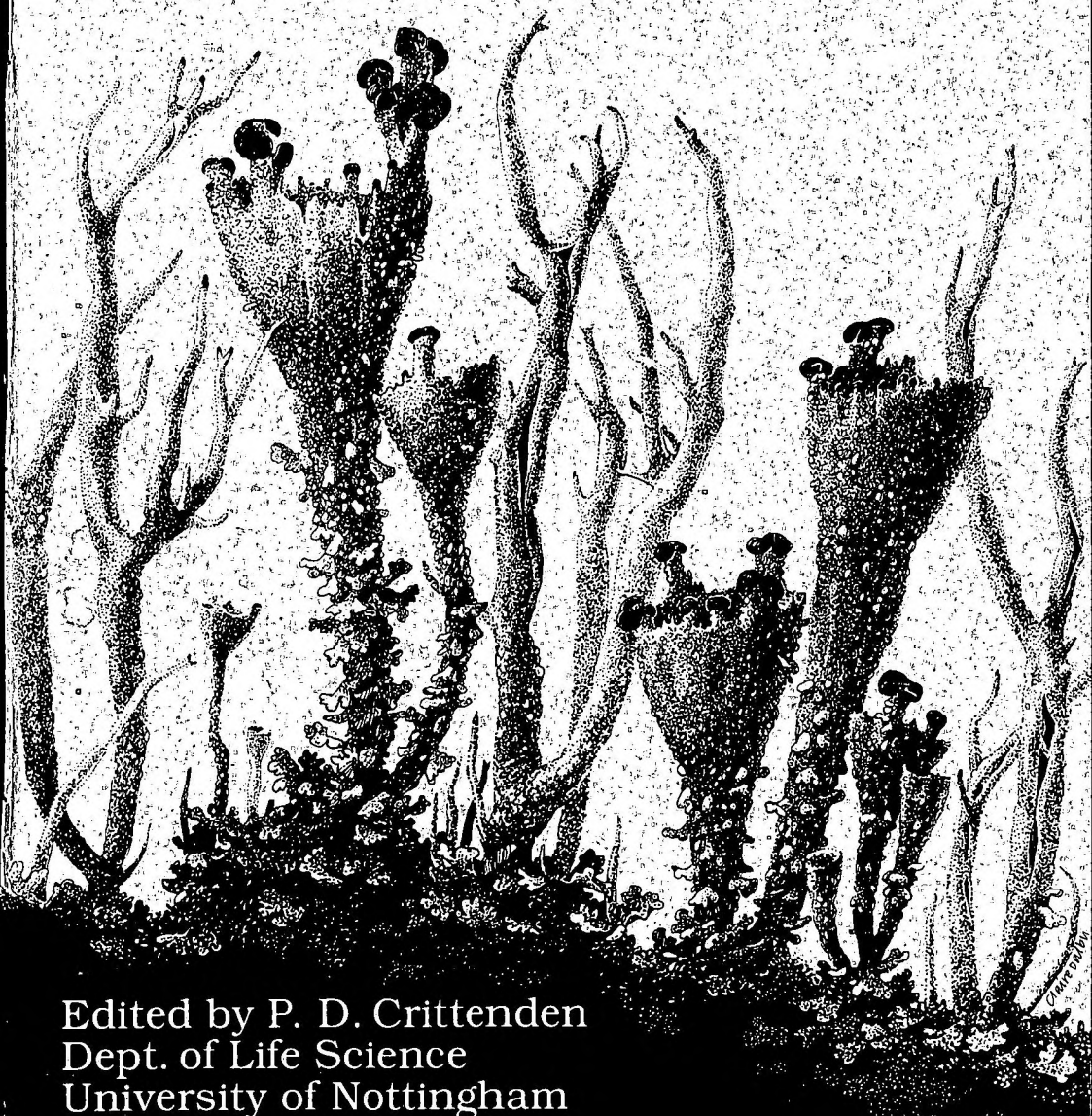


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SURVEYS OF HAMPSHIRE CHURCHYARDS

For some years I have been working with Ken Sandell (with help of course from Tom Chester) on the churchyards of Hampshire. Well over 200 of these have now been visited at least once, some several times. Besides recording the lichens present, I have become very interested in the question of ecological continuity. The question that has intrigued me very much is whether there are saxicolous lichens that, in this part of England at least, are 'faithful', or nearly so, to medieval stonework. I am coming to the conclusion that many are largely so restricted, so that the concept of an 'Index of Ecological Continuity' for old stonework could be produced comparable to the REIC and the NIEC for our ancient woodlands.

In this study, mere numerical richness in species is not the key factor. A 19th century churchyard or cemetery, with its great variety of substrates, may have a very large number of species present, but many of these most certainly have arrived fairly recently, and reflect the diversity, rather than the age of the habitat.

It is suggested that some at least of the lichens in the list below are strongly correlated with the occurrence of unrestored (or sensitively restored) medieval stonework, or very early brickwork on Hants. sites:

<i>Acrocordia salweyi</i>	<i>Lecania turicensis</i>
<i>Agonimia tristicula</i>	<i>Lecanora conferta</i>
<i>Caloplaca aurantia</i>	<i>pruinosa</i>
<i> cirrochroa</i>	<i>Leptogium plicatile</i>
<i> dalmatica</i>	<i> teretiussculum*</i>
<i> holocarpa</i>	<i>Lempholemma polyanthes</i>
<i> lactea</i>	<i>Leproplaca xantholyta</i>
<i> variabilis*</i>	<i>Opegrapha saxatilis</i>
<i>Clauzadea monticola</i>	<i>Ramalina canariensis</i>
<i>Dirina massiliensis</i> f. <i>sorediata</i>	<i> lacera</i>
<i>Gyalecta jenensis*</i>	<i> siliquosa</i>
<i>Hymenelia prevostii*</i>	<i>Verrucaria macrostoma</i>

Some of these* today are mainly found on the horizontal surfaces of very old chest-tombs and always close to existing (or former) medieval stonework, but may well have colonised the 17th or early 18th century chest tombs from medieval stonework. They are rarely found on more

recent stonework, and all occur on medieval stonework in such places as the ruins of medieval abbeys. All also occur in other counties on natural limestone rocks.

I put forward these ideas tentatively to stimulate research and discussion, in the hope that we may be able in due course to establish indices (perhaps regional ones) of ecological continuity for lichens of old stonework. Much more analysis is required. The Victorian restorers of our old churches have clearly destroyed a great deal!

The repointing of medieval walls, (which is necessary for conservation of the buildings) does not normally exterminate these rarer species if carried out carefully. Some recolonisation has been seen to occur from adjacent surfaces. The BLS should be able to give advice on this matter.

Francis Rose

FROM THE ASSISTANT TREASURER

Delays in receiving *The Lichenologist*

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 January but a number of members who renewed their 1995 membership after this date have experienced a delay, in some cases over two months, in receiving copies of *The Lichenologist* already published this year. I understand from Academic Press that this is because of 'system problems with catch-up labels'. I only became aware of this when members contacted me, and too many of you have had to do so. I have asked Academic Press to write to you.

In order to reduce further delay in despatching parts of *The Lichenologist* already published, which you expect to receive after paying subscriptions, **please send claims, in future, direct to Academic Press.**

Membership List

The most recent Membership List was published as a Supplement to the Winter 1991 *Bulletin*. It is hoped to publish a new List with the next *Bulletin*. Your address, as it appears on the label of this *Bulletin*, will be used. You have probably thrown it away by now but if you think it was incorrect in any way please let me know!

Jeremy Gray