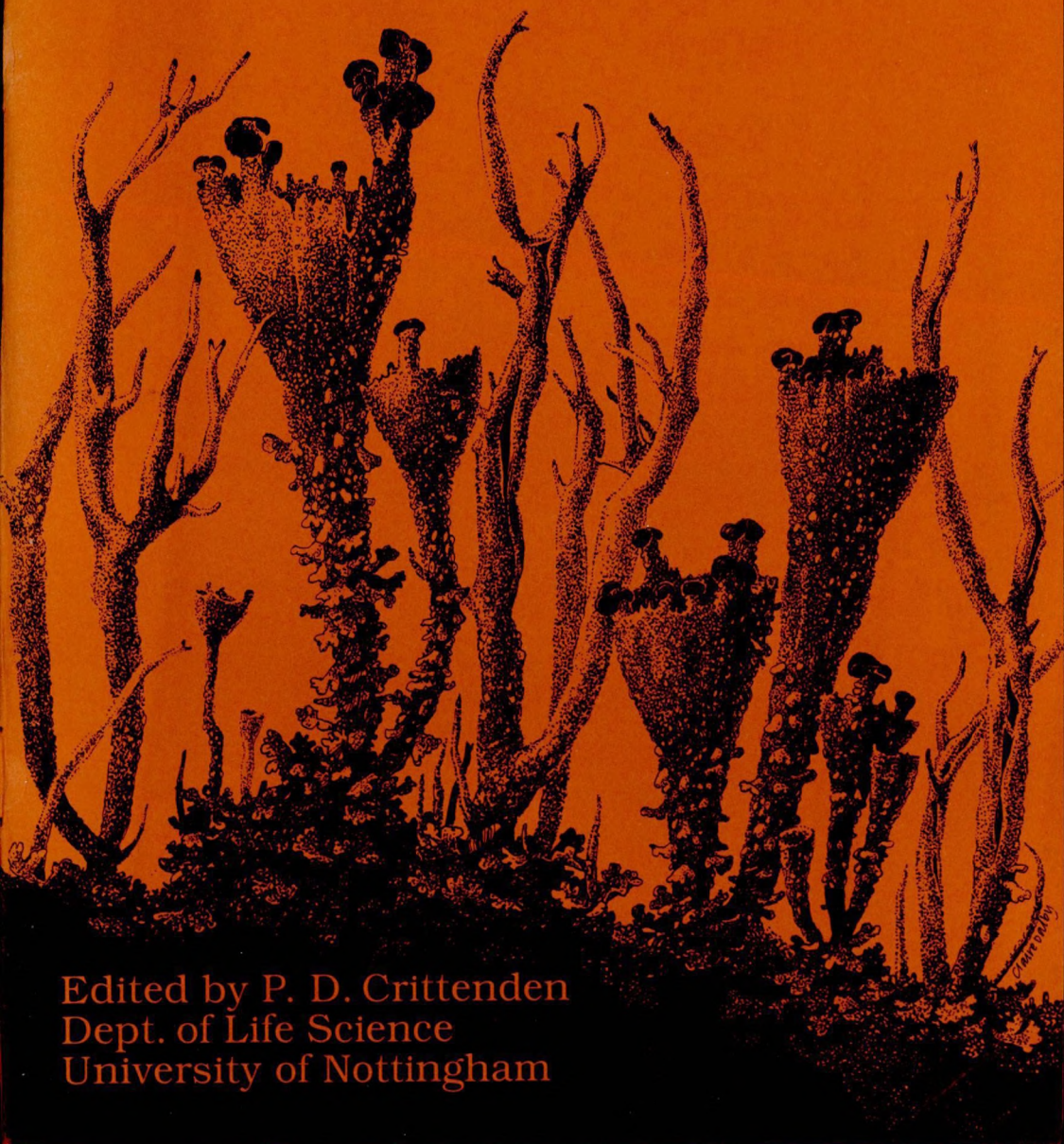


# BRITISH LICHEN SOCIETY BULLETIN

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## PARMELIA AND RAMALINA WORKSHOP

Slapton Ley Field Centre, 26 July to 2 August 1996

Peter James and Frank Dobson led a highly successful workshop devoted to the study of *Parmelia* and *Ramalina*. Slapton Ley is an ideal venue for such a study as many of the species are to be found within a relatively short distance from the centre itself. Eighteen students attended the sessions and were joined on two of the days by a Dutch cryptogamic group which was holding a meeting in South Devon at the same time.

At an introductory lecture on *Parmelia* on the Saturday morning, Peter James gave an overview of the genera, basing them on the thirteen groups currently used by some European authors but not yet fully accepted world-wide. Samples of all the species were on display and available for detailed study. In addition to the lectures, Jeremy Gray brought an impressive set of *Parmelia* photographs covering all the species discussed as well as his early, and very successful, attempts to put these onto CD-ROM together with the scanned distribution maps. These clearly point the way to the future development of this field and he was given every encouragement to pursue this medium.

Trevor Duke ran thin-layer chromatograms of *Parmelia* and *Ramalina* species, illustrating well the power of this technique in supporting the taxonomic separation of species in both genera.

All sites visited during the workshop were in vice county 3.

### Slapton Ley Nature Reserve (20/82-44-)

Behind the laboratory, on the fence rails, we were able to compare *Parmelia caperata* and *P. soredians* directly. Alongside the wooden raised path over the causeway on a variety of trees we recorded *Parmelia glabratula*, *P. subrudecta*, *Ramalina calicaris*, *R. farinacea*, *R. fastigiata*, and *R. canariensis*. Alongside the nature trail, *Parmelia reddenda* and *P. quercina* were observed on a fallen *Salix* and on *Fraxinus*, together with *P. pastillifera*. On a young oak tree, *Phaeographis lyelli* was also seen. *Cryptolechia carneolutea* occurred on *Fraxinus*, together with *Wadeana dendrographa* and *Rinodina roboris*, and *Gyalecta truncigena* occurred on some old oak trees.

The walls of the village were rich in a number of species. Here both *Solenopsora vulturiensis* and *S. holophaea* were recorded as well as extensive patches of the overlooked species, *Caloplaca dalmatica*.

### Yarner Wood (20/78-78-)

This delightful old woodland site was visited briefly. Six *Parmelia* species were seen, the most outstanding of which was *Parmelia horrescens* flourishing near the car park itself. Within the wood the following old woodland indicator species were recorded: *Parmeliella triptophylla*, *Pannaria conoplea*, *Micarea alabastrites*, *Nephroma laevigatum*, *N. parile*, and *Arthropyrenia antecellans*. *Rhizocarpon hochstetteri* was noted on rocks at the side of the road. Whilst lunching at this site during a short shower, we were entertained by some fine silver-washed fritillary and white admiral butterflies flying amongst the trees or visiting bramble flowers, especially during the brief, intermittent bursts of sunshine.

### Saddle Tor (20/75-76-)

This fine saddle-shaped tor set in Dartmoor was a rich site for several saxicolous species. Of particular note were the fine colonies of *Lasallia pustulata* growing on the eastern facing edges of the tor. Other species noted included *Stereocaulon vesuvianum*, *S. evolutum*, *Aspicilia caesiocinerea* and *Parmelia conspersa* in nutrient-enriched tracks, and *Fuscidea kochiana*, *F. cyathoides*, *F. praeruptorum* (the first record for Devon) and *F. lygaea*. Other *Parmelias* included *Parmelia exasperatula*, *P. glabratula* ssp. *fuliginosa*, *P. loxodes*, *P. mougeotii*, *P. omphalodes*, *P. saxatilis* and *P. verruculifera*. Other interesting species of note included *Lecidea pycnocarpa*, *Porpidia contraponenda*, *P. cinereoatra*, *Rhizocarpon lecanorinum*, and *Rinodina atrocinerea*.

### Start Point (20/82-37-)

This is a rocky promontory at the base of Start Bay which also accommodates the local lighthouse. On a very warm and sunny day, it was possible to investigate the nooks and crevices of these numerous rocks in detail and in comfort. Of particular note were some fine colonies of *Teloschistes flavicans*, and in three crevices, colonies of *Rocella fuciformis* and *R. phycopsis* were found. The rock outcrops and the ground supported many examples of *Parmelia*, including *P. britannicum*, *P. caperata*, *P. conspersa*, *P. crinita*, *P. glabratula* ssp. *fuliginosa*, *P. omphalodes*, *P. perlata*, *P. pulla*, *P. reddenda*, *P. reticulata*, *P. revoluta*, *P. saxatilis*, *P. subrudecta* and *P. verruculifera*. Another first for Devon, *Arthonia atlantica*, was found in dry sheltered rock underhangs at this site. Other species included *Rhizocarpon richardii*, *Caloplaca ceracea* and *Lecanora praepostera*.

### Widdicombe House (20/81-41-)

At the rear of this house there was a row of isolated, somewhat windswept sycamores which were unusually rich in lichens. Most conspicuous of these were the many fine colonies of *Teloschistes flavicans*. The *Parmelias* included *Parmelia caperata*, *P. glabratula* ssp. *glabratula*, *P. pastillifera*, *P. perlata*, *P. reddenda*,

*P. reticulata*, *P. soledians*, *P. subaurifera*, *P. subrudecta* and *P. sulcata*. Alongside these species were *Hyperphyscia adglutinata*, *Physcia clementei*, *P. semipinnata*, *P. tribacioides* and *Pertusaria coccodes*, the last much more common in the eastern counties. Other species of note were *Opegrapha corticola*, *Ochrolechia subviridis*, *Gyalecta derivata*, *Rinodina roboris*, *Usnea cornuta* and *Caloplaca citrina* f. *phlogina*. Four Ramalinas were present, *R. calicaris*, *R. canariensis*, *R. farinacea* and *R. fastigiata*.

On a nearby wall, *Sticta fuliginosa* and a large colony of *Nephroma laevigatum* were observed; in a more shaded corner, *Lecania hutchinsiae* was abundant.

#### **Shaugh Bridge (20/534637)**

This was a rich old woodland site with a stream containing large partially submerged granite boulders. One hundred and thirty species were recorded at this site, the most striking lichen being *Herteliana taylorii*, an old woodland indicator forming extensive pale green patches on boulders and apparently able to inhibit the growth of encroaching mosses; although often devoid of apothecia due to browsing molluscs, some fine fruiting specimens were present. Within the vicinity of the car park, old ash trees supported some fine specimens of *Parmelia horrescens*, although *Lobaria pulmonaria*, seen on previous visits, was not refound on this occasion.

Up stream, on boulders, both *Parmelia endochlora* and *P. laevigata* were recorded. Other species included *P. taylorensis* (on granite boulders and alder), *Ochrolechia inversa* (on oak), *Micarea stipitata* and *Lecidea doliiformis*. Both *Arthonia arthonioides* and *A. astroides* were observed on ancient holly: this was the second Devon record for the former species. *Usnea ceratina* with its "rosa unterhosen elastische" medulla was well illustrated. *Usnea cornuta*, *U. flammea*, *U. rubicunda* and *U. fragiles* were also present. Amongst other species recorded were *Arthonia vinosa*, *Bacidia viridifarinos*, *Pachyphiale carneola*, *Pannaria conoplea*, *Sticta fuliginosa*, *S. limbata*, and *Zamenhofia coralloidea*.

#### **Bickleigh Village (20/52-62-)**

Three or four lime and oak trees on the green in front of the church at Bickleigh supported a number of interesting twig species of *Parmelia*. Thirteen were recorded: *Parmelia caperata*, *P. exasperata*, *P. exasperatula*, *P. glabrata*, *P. laciniatula*, *P. perlata*, *P. reticulata*, *P. reddenda*, *P. saxatilis*, *P. soledians*, *P. subaurifera*, *P. subrudecta*, and *P. sulcata*.

#### **Bolt Head (20/725361)**

Enjoying a superb morning, with dodder in bloom over the gorse, we explored the lichen-rich coastline. Fifteen species of *Parmelia* were seen at this site

including the first Devon record this century for *P. minarum*. Other species included *P. britannicum*, *P. caperata*, *P. conspersa*, *P. delisei*; *P. glabratula* ssp. *fuliginosa*, *P. loxodes*, *P. omphalodes*, *P. perlata*, *P. revoluta*, *P. saxatilis*, *P. soledians*, *P. sulcata* and *P. verruculifera*.

A total of seventy species were recorded for this site including *Aspicilia epiglypta*, *Caloplaca ceracea*, *Lecanora praepostera*, *Porpidia platycarpoides*, *Solenopsora vulturiensis*, *Trapeliopsis wallrothii*, *Verrucaria fusconigrescens*, *Acarospora impressula* as well as *Lecanora subcarnea*. Brian Coppins informs us that material of *L. subcarnea* from SW England appears to all contain norstic acid, and is referable to *L. ochroidea* (Ach.) Nyl. (the first vice county record for this species). A more detailed note will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

#### Dartmeet (20/67-73-)

This is a popular and very attractive woodland on the borders of the boulder-filled Dart river. It has some large old trees as well as riverside willows and alders which support many twig species. It was here that both *Japewia carrollii* and *Lecanora jamesii* occurred together on willow twigs, a tribute to Peter. Along the roadside some very shaded outcrops of local rock supported an interesting flora of *Enterographa zonata*, *Opegrapha gyrocarpa*, *Polysporina simplex*, *Porina lectissima* and *Psilolechia lucida*. *Massalongia carnosa* and *Leptogium cyanescens* were also noted. Among the *Parmelias* seen at this site were *P. caperata*, *P. conspersa*, *Pexasperata*, *Pexasperatula*, *P. laciniatula*, *P. pastillifera*, *P. perlata*, *P. revoluta*, *P. subaurifera* and *P. sulcata*. On the boulders in the river there were some fine examples of *Dermatocarpon luridum*, *Porpidia hydrophila*, *Hymenelia lacustris*, and *Polychidium muscicola* as well as *Endocarpon adscendens*, an extremely rare lichen in Britain and an exciting discovery.

#### Sharp Tor (20/686729)

The last site visited was another of the many granite outcrops which stand proud over Dartmoor. Passing through a dry marsh, which nevertheless supported *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea* and *Hypericum elodes* in bloom, we reached the Tor. Some fifty four species were recorded on this short visit including eight *Parmelias*: *Parmelia conspersa*, *P. glabratula* ssp. *fuliginosa*, *P. incurva*, *P. loxodes*, *P. mougeotii*, *P. omphalodes*, *P. saxatilis* and *P. sulcata*.

Of particular interest was the clear distinction between *Fuscidea cyathoides* and *F. lygaeae* which grew abundantly on these rocks. Especially striking were the large colonies of *Lasallia pustulata*. Other interesting species encountered were *Ramalina siliquosa*, *R. subfarinacea*, *Stereocaulon evolutum*, *Umbilicaria polyrrhiza* and *U. polyphylla*.

## Churchyard records

During the course of the workshop seven sites were visited, five of them relatively briefly. In total, 170 taxa were recorded: a high figure compared with other recent workshops and field meetings. Slapton churchyard was visited every day by some members of the course and 125 lichens were found, including three species of *Ramalina* and no less than fourteen saxicolous *Parmelia* species. Among these were *P. borrieri* and *P. britannica*. The church walls were largely composed of Devonian slate and the most distinctive lichen on them was *Solenopsora vulturienensis*. While the rest of the party visited a local woodland, a small group spent around three hours in Bickleigh churchyard and recorded 95 species. *Anaptychia runcinata* was abundant on a north-facing window sill and calcareous chippings were well covered with *Leptogium plicatile*. Using the tlc facilities on the course, the first confirmed churchyard record of *Pyrrhospora querneae* was also found on a slate headstone. It is much more coarsely granular than the saxicolous form of *Lecanora expallens* which occasionally can have a similar fawn tint (cf *Lichen Flora* p 523). The whole party called in at Dodbrooke churchyard on the outskirts of Kingsbridge to see *Moelleropsis nebulosa* and *Leptogium cyanescens* which had been previously recorded among mosses on the churchyard wall. While there the team scored probably the fastest century ever, recording 103 species in 27 minutes! These included the first churchyard record of *Diploschistes gypsaceus*.

Other saxicolous species not generally found in lowland churches away from the coast included *Aspicilia grisea*, *Caloplaca ceracea*, *Lecanora fugiens*, *L. gangaleoides*, *Lecidella asema*, *Physcia clementei*, *Porpidia platycarpoides*, *Rhizocarpon richardii* and *Solenopsora holophaea*. On the other hand, some common lowland species were conspicuously diminished in numbers, such as *Caloplaca aurantia*, *C. saxicola*, *C. teicholyta*, *Candelariella medians*, *Lecanora conizaeoides*, *L. crenulata*, *L. muralis*, *Leproplaca chrysodeta*, *Physcia dubia*, *Psilolechia lucida*, *Scoliciosporum umbrinum*, *Trapelia placodioides*, *Verrucaria viridula*, and *Xanthoria candelaria*. The low figure for *Verrucaria viridula* may reflect some confusion with *V. macrostoma* and *V. nigrescens* which requires more careful resolution.

## General aspects of the Meeting.

Apart from the lichen work at the meeting, two visits were arranged in the late evening: one to observe a glow-worm colony, which was preceded by an excellent review of these creatures by Frank Dobson, and the other to a badger sett where two young and the dam were seen at very close quarters. Evening visits to the Tower and the Queen's Arms were also much appreciated by some members!

Brian Fox