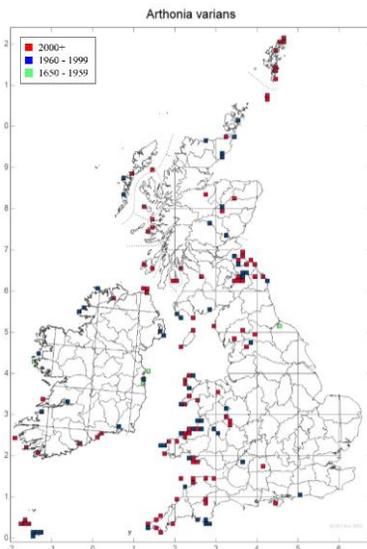


Arthonia varians



Identification: *Arthonia varians* parasitizes the apothecia of some *Lecanora* species. The apothecia of the host can become totally overgrown by the irregularly-shaped apothecia of the parasite. The colourless ascospores can have three or four cells and have no gelatinous sheath.

Similar species: Four other *Arthonia* species occur on the apothecia of *Lecanora* species: *A. lecanoricola* has three-celled spores with one end much narrower than the other; *A. subfuscicola* has four-celled ascospores that become pale brown with age and which have a gelatinous sheath.

Habitat: Parasitic on the apothecia of *Lecanora rupicola*.

Distribution: Often on acidic coastal rocks following the preferences of *Lecanora rupicola*. Less common in East England.

References: <http://fungi.myspecies.info/all-fungi/arthonia-variens>

Cannon *et al* (2020) *Revisions of British & Irish Lichens 1*: Arthoniales: Arthoniaceae.