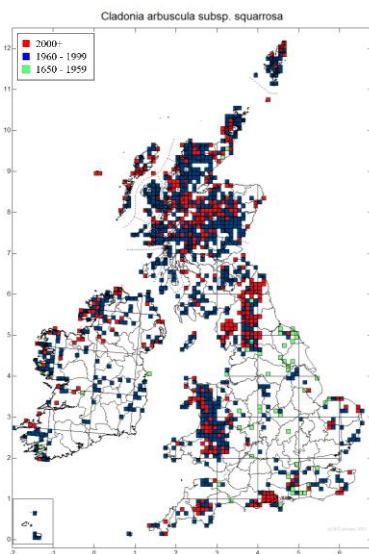


Cladonia arbuscula



Identification: From a granular thallus, podetia form a mat up to 8 cm high. The podetia are grey-green, usually with a yellowish tinge. Branching is three- or four-fold with the terminal branches bending noticeably in one direction.

Chemistry: KC+ yellow, Pd+ red.

Similar species: There are a number of similar richly branched *Cladonia* species. They can be separated using their chemistry. See overleaf.




Habitat: Widespread on acid heaths, particularly on peat moors in upland areas and dunes.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland but rare in central and eastern England.

Similar species for *Cladonia arbuscula*

Podetia: In *Cladonia* species the upright parts of the thallus are referred to as the podetia.

Squamules: Leaf-like scales found below the podetia.

Species	Description	
<i>Cladonia ciliata</i>	Podetia up to 6 cm long. Pale green-grey to yellowish green often with a purplish tinge towards the tips. Richly branched with mainly twofold branching. Extreme branch tips are brownish and curve in the same direction. Pd+ red.	
<i>Cladonia furcata</i>	Podetia form a loose tufted mat up to 8 cm high. Brown-grey to olive-green sometimes with a purplish tinge and a smooth surface. Tips are pointed. Scales present at base of podetia. Branching is twofold at a narrow angle. K- or K+ yellow, Pd+ rust-red	
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	Podetia form a light greyish green to cream richly branched interwoven mat up to 6 cm tall with a slightly woolly surface. Branching is threefold but tips give the appearance of dividing into two. K-, KC+ yellow, Pd-, UV+ white on the cortex at the base.	
<i>Cladonia rangiformis</i>	Podetia to 5 cm tall, grey to grey-green with pointed tips and a smooth surface. Scales present at base of podetia. Frequent twofold branching at a larger angle than <i>C. furcata</i> . K+ yellow, usually Pd+ red.	