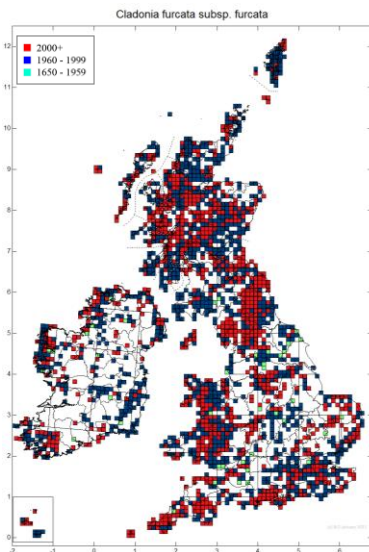


Cladonia furcata



Identification: A very variable species with small scales at the base of the podetia. The podetia form a loosely tufted mat and are brown-grey to olive green, sometimes with a purplish tinge. Their surface is smooth but may show a net-like pattern resembling crazy paving. The branches divide at a narrow angle and end in pointed tips (never cups). Usually infertile.

Chemistry: Usually K- or K+ yellow, Pd+ rust-red.

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




Habitat: On acid heaths and soil in woods.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland.

Similar species for *Cladonia furcata*

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 arbuscula</i>	Podetia in tufted mats to 8 cm high. Green-grey with a yellowish tinge and a slightly wooly surface. Branching is three or four-fold. Terminal branches curve strongly in one direction. KC+ yellow, Pd+ red.	
<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 portentosa</i>	Podetia form a light greyish green to cream richly branched interwoven mat up to 6 cm tall with a slightly wooly 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.	