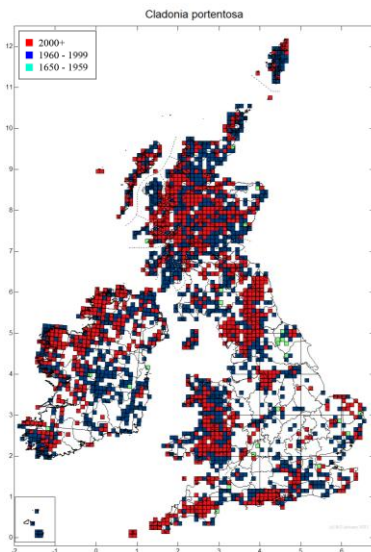


Cladonia portentosa



Identification: The light greenish grey or pale cream thallus is richly branched with a slightly woolly surface. The branchlets divide into three but two branches develop sooner than the third giving the appearance of dividing into two at the tips. The tips often have small holes. Overall the lichen forms a compact, delicately tufted mat up to 6 cm tall.

Chemistry: K-, KC+ yellow, P-, UV+ white on the cortex at base.

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




Habitat: Common on heaths, dunes and peat moors.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland, especially to the west.

Similar species for *Cladonia portentosa*

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 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 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.	