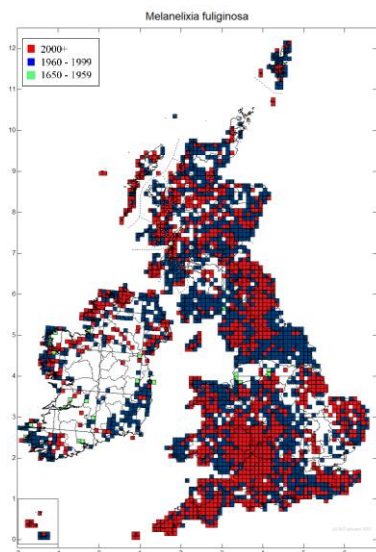


Melanelixia fuliginosa



Identification: The glossy green-brown thallus becomes very dark or black when dry. It lies flat on the substrate and has lobes up to 4 mm wide at the margin. The centre is densely packed with small, glossy pin-like projections (isidia).

Chemistry: Medulla C+ red, K+/- purple, KC+/- red.

Similar species: *Melanelixia glabratula* has a lighter thallus and is mainly found on trees.

Habitat: Common on siliceous rocks and gravestones. Occasionally on exposed acid-barked trees.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland.

Separating *Melanelixia glabratula* & *M. fuliginosa*

These two lichens were previously considered to be two subspecies of *Melanelixia fuliginosa*. The majority of characters overlap so all useful characters should be considered before an identification is made. Whether growing on bark/wood or rock and how dark the thallus is are the most useful characters.

Feature	<i>Melanelixia glabratula</i>	<i>Melanelixia fuliginosa</i>
Growth surface	Usually bark or worked wood.	Usually rock.
Colour	Olive green to brown.	Dark brown to nearly black.
Gloss	Matt to shiny. Rarely glossy.	Shiny to glossy. Rarely matt.
Isidia	Sparse to abundant.	Numerous to abundant.
Marginal zone without isidia	2.5 – 6.0 mm.	1.5 – 3.75 mm