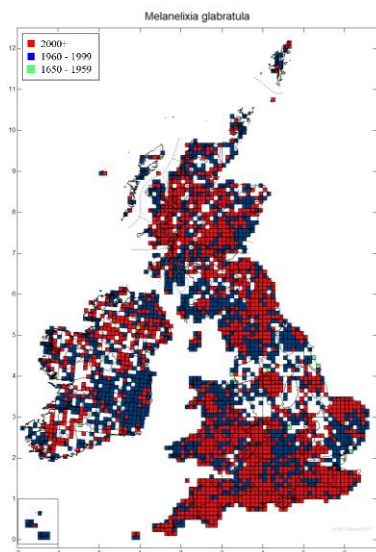
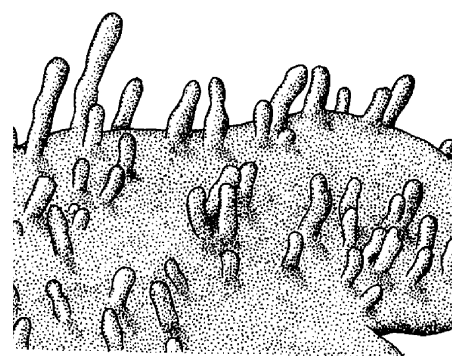
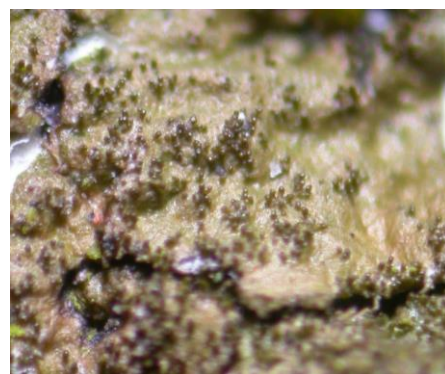


Melanelixia glabratula



Identification: The edges of the shiny, green to brown thallus lie flat on the substrate. The short lobes are up to 4 mm wide with a notched outer edge. Small, pin-like projections (isidia) cover the surface, particularly towards the centre. If eroded, these leave tiny white marks. Apothecia are infrequent, to 5 mm diameter with a shiny red-brown disc.

Chemistry: Medulla: C+ red, K-, KC+ red. However, the lower part of the medulla is K+ purple.

Similar species: *Melanelixia subaurifera* forms its isidia in clusters. *M. fuliginosa* tends to be darker and is much more likely to be found on rocks.

Habitat: Mainly on trees and fences. Rarely on rocks.




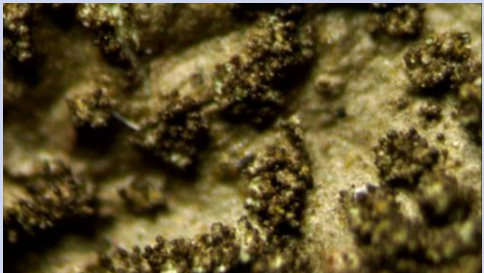
Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland.

Separating *Melanelixia glabratulata* & *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 glabratulata</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

Separating *Melanelixia glabratulata* & *M. subaurifera*

Feature	<i>Melanelixia glabratulata</i>	<i>Melanelixia subaurifera</i>
Early development of isidia		
Isidia	Isidia may be crowded but they grow separately from each other.	Tiny raised matt patches break down into little patches of soredia and/or isidia.
Well developed isidia		

Photos Mike Sutcliffe (bottom left) Mark Powell (others) Text Fay Newbery

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