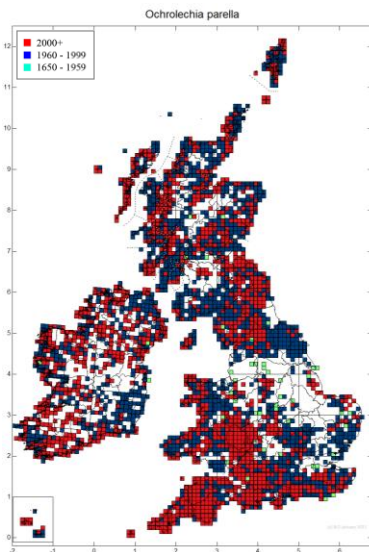


Ochrolechia parella



Identification: Thallus grey to buff-grey with a paler prothallus around the edge. It forms large patches up to 20cm across, often with zoned 'growth rings' towards the margin. Thick and warty in the centre but sometimes smoother when on trees. Usually abundantly fertile. Apothecia 2-3mm diameter with thick, swollen margins. Discs are flesh to pink and are often covered with grey-white crystals.

Chemistry: Cortex, C- (rarely yellow), UV- Disc C+ red, KC+ red, UV+ white.

Similar species: The thallus of *Ochrolechia tartarea* and *Ochrolechia androgyna* is C+ red.

Habitat: Common on hard, smooth siliceous rocks and walls, especially slates and schists. More rarely found on trees.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland.