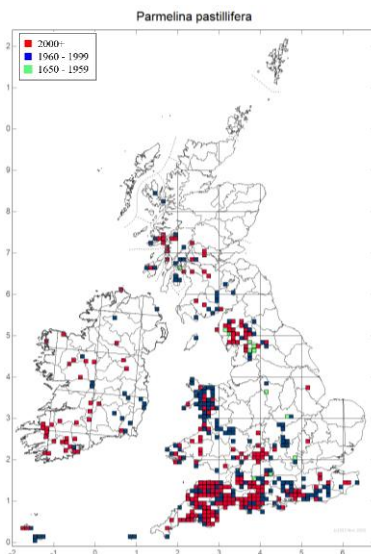


Parmelina pastillifera



Identification: A distinctive foliose lichen with a smooth shiny pearl-grey upper surface. Blue-black bun-like isidia, up to 0.3 mm wide, occur on the surface. The rounded lobes are 3-7 mm wide. The lower surface is dark brown to black, with simple rhizines that continue to the margin. Apothecia are not known in Britain.

Chemistry: Medulla C+ red.

Similar species: All *Parmelina* species are C+ red, but *P. tiliacea* has pin-like, simple to branched isidia. The much rarer *P. carporrhizans* has apothecia but no isidia.

Habitat: On branches of nutrient-enriched deciduous trees as well as on roofs and on memorials in churchyards.

Distribution: Common in the west of Britain.