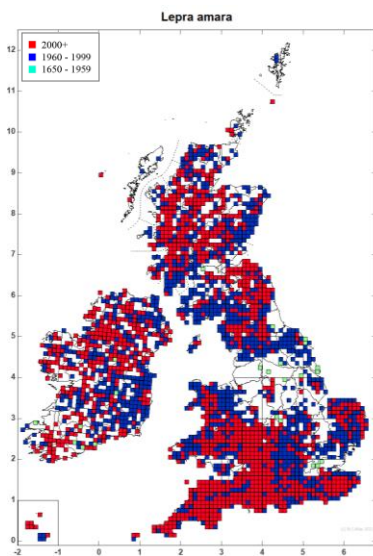


Lepra amara



Previously known as *Pertusaria amara*.

Identification: A crustose lichen. Thallus grey, thin to thick, with clearly defined borders. Sprinkled with punctiform soralia up to 1mm diameter, containing white soredia with a bitter taste when 'sampled' with a moist finger. Apothecia vary rare.

Chemistry: Soralia KC+ violet (fleeting), P- (but P+ red for 25% of specimens).

Similar species: Visually similar to *Lepra albescens* (*Pertusaria albescens*) but without a bitter taste and soralia are always KC- *Lepra pulvinata* is only found on veteran trees and has a warty thallus with smaller, neater raised soralia.

Habitat: Very common on trees, sometimes found overgrowing mosses on the ground or on rock.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland.