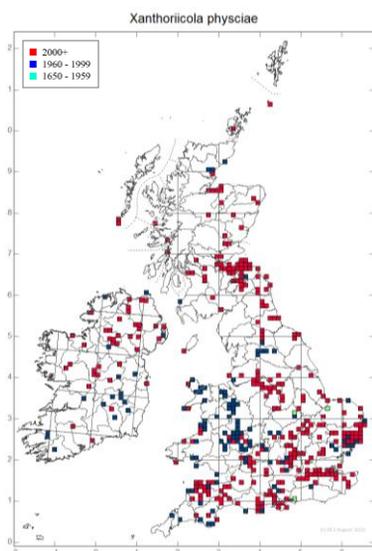
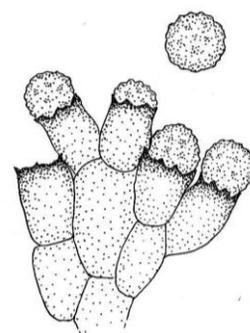


## *Xanthoriicola physciae*



**Identification:** Known as 'Xanthoria smut'. This fungus infects *Xanthoria parietina* and produces a sooty, black coating over the surface of the apothecia. The fungus grows in the upper layer of the apothecia producing chunky-appearing hyphae which release globose spores from their tips. The spores are dark brown and are covered in tiny warts.

**Similar species:** *Gonatophragmium lichenophilum* causes a brown, fuzzy-appearing coating on both the thallus and apothecia of *Xanthoria parietina*. *Cladosporium licheniphilum* causes a brown, spiky coating only on the apothecia of *X. parietina*.

**Habitat:** On the apothecia of *Xanthoria parietina*. It may, in the future, turn up on other species of *Xanthoria*.

**Distribution:** Common.

**References:** <http://fungi.myspecies.info/all-fungi/xanthoriicola-physciae>