

Churchyard key – notes – January 2025

A field key to *Common Churchyard Lichens* by Frank Dobson is no longer available in hard copy, but the latest, 4th edition is now available from the BLS website as a PDF. This is undoubtedly a useful part of a learning lichenologist's library, not just for the keys but also for the introductory sections. The latter includes a section on chemical spot tests but was prepared before the now widely used UV test, which can help with many identifications. A spectacular example is the UV+ bright yellow reaction given by *Myriolecis semipallida*, easily distinguishing it from other similar species of the *M. dispersa* group.

Since 2013, there have been major developments in our understanding of lichen phylogenetics arising from the use of molecular techniques. This has led to a better understanding of generic delimitations, but with the consequence of many name changes. A list of these changes is given below. These can also be found by searching in the BLS Taxon Dictionary <https://britishlichensociety.org.uk/resources/lichen-taxon-database> or keying in a name into the latest version of the BLS recording spreadsheet <https://britishlichensociety.org.uk/recording/downloads>

While checking the names, it was apparent that there were some problems that did not concern just a name change. Some notes on these are given below but are by no means comprehensive.

It was also apparent that although several species were strangely included in the 'Keys', others were not included. Some examples of these are provided below in two sections. The first for species found in southern Britain or widely occurring; several of these were not well understood up until 2013. The second is for species occurring mostly in northern Britain. The 2013 Keys have a very southern bias and do not include many common or locally frequent denizens of churchyards further north, especially in the Scottish Highlands. For further information on these species, the reader is referred to the *Revisions of British and Irish Lichens* <https://britishlichensociety.org.uk/identification/lgbi3> and the Species and Maps pages on the BLS web site <https://britishlichensociety.org.uk/resources/species-accounts>

Name changes or later interpretations of names

Aspicilia caesiocinerea = *Circinaria caesiocinerea*

Aspicilia calcarea = *Circinaria calcarea*

Aspicilia contorta = *Circinaria contorta*

Aspicilia radiosa = *Lobothallia radiosa*

Bacidia bagliettoana = *Toniniopsis bagliettoana*

Belonia nidarosiensis = *Clathroporinopsis nidarosiensis*

Caloplaca arcis = *Flavoplaca arcis*

Caloplaca aurantia = *Variospora aurantia*

Caloplaca chalybaea = *Pyrenodesmia chalybaea*

Caloplaca chrysodeta = *Leproplaca chrysodeta*

Caloplaca citrina agg. = *Flavoplaca citrina* s. lat.

Caloplaca crenularia = *Blastenia crenularia*

Caloplaca crenulatella = *Xanthocarpia crenulatella*

Caloplaca dalmatica = *Flavoplaca itiana*

Caloplaca decipiens = *Calogaya decipiens*

Caloplaca flavescens = *Variospora flavescens*

Caloplaca flavocitrina = *Flavoplaca flavocitrina*
Caloplaca flavovirescens = *Gyalolechia flavovirescens*
Caloplaca holocarpa = *Athallia holocarpa*
Caloplaca marina = *Flavoplaca marina*
Caloplaca oasis = *Flavoplaca oasis*
Caloplaca marmorata (lactea) = *Xanthocarpia fulva*
Caloplaca ruderum = *Flavoplaca ruderum*
Caloplaca saxicola = *Calogaya pusilla*
Caloplaca teicholyta = *Kuettlingeria teicholyta*
Caloplaca variabilis = *Pyrenodesmia variabilis*
Caloplaca xantholyta = *Leproplaca xantholyta*
Cladonia subsquamosa = *Cladonia squamosa* var. *subsquamosa*
Collema auriforme = *Lathagrium auriforme*
Collema crispum = *Blennothallia crispa*
Collema tenax = *Enchylum tenax*
Cyphelium inquinans = *Acolium inquinans*
Cyphelium notarisii = *Calicium notarisii*
Hypocenomyce caradocensis = *Xylopsora caradocensis*
Hypocenomyce friesii = *Xylopsora friesii*
Lecania erysibe = concept here probably comprises *Lecania inundata* and *L. rabenhorstii*
Lecania erysibe f. sorediata = *Lecania erysibe* s. str.
Lecanora albescens = *Myriolecis albescens*
Lecanora chlarotera – many reports will refer to what is currently called *Lecanora hybocarpa*
Lecanora conferta = *Myriolecis antiqua*
Lecanora crenulata = *Myriolecis crenulata*
Lecanora dispersa = *Myriolecis dispersa*
Lecanora muralis = *Protoparmeliopsis muralis*
Lecanora rupicola = *Glaucomaria rupicola*
Lecanora semipallida = *Myriolecis semipallida*
Lecanora subpallida (slip of the pen) = *Myriolecis semipallida*
Lecanora zosteræ = *Myriolecis zosteræ*
Leptogium gelatinosum = *Scytinium gelatinosum*
Llimonaea sorediata = *Ingaderia vandenboomii*
Opegrapha atra = *Arthonia atra*
Opegrapha gyrocarpa = *Gyrographa gyrocarpa*

Pertusaria corallina = *Lepra corallina*

Polysporina simplex = *Acarospora privigna*

Toninia aromatica = *Toniniopsis aromatica*

Verrucaria baldensis = *Bagliettoa baldensis* s. str.; but records not confirmed by molecular sequencing should be called *Bagliettoa parmigera* s. lat. Also included here is *Bagliettoa calciseda*, which has often been misidentified as “*Verrucaria baldensis*” or “*V. sphinctrina*”

Verrucaria fuscella = *Placopyrenium fuscellum*

Verrucaria maura = *Hydropunctaria maura* (see note below)

Xanthoria candelaria = *Polycauliona candelaria*

Xanthoria elegans = *Rusavskia elegans*

Xanthoria polycarpa = *Polycauliona polycarpa*

Xanthoria ucrainica = *Polycauliona ucrainica*

Further notes on included taxa

Arctoparmelia incurva – is included in Key J but has never been recorded on sawn wood in a churchyard. However, it has been recorded on acid gravestones and should have been included in Key F and key out alongside *Xanthoparmelia mougeotii*. Also, *Parmeliopsis ambigua* should be included in this part of the key.

Cliostomum corrugatum – most records probably refer to *C. griffithii*. In modern times, *C. corrugatum* is confirmed to occur only on old pine in the Scottish Highlands.

Calcium notarisii (as *Cyphelium notarisii*) [Key J (121)] – in NE Scotland this would be *Calicium tigillare*; examination of spores is required for certain identification.

Chaenotheca brachypoda – there is only a single record from a churchyard (in East Ross) and was on bark of Norway maple.

Chaenotheca trichialis – there are no churchyard records for this species.

Cladonia carneola – there are no churchyard records for this species.

Cladonia cornuta – there are no churchyard records for this species.

Cladonia incrassata – there are no churchyard records for this species.

Cladonia parasitica – there are no churchyard records for this species.

Cladonia sulphurina – there are no churchyard records for this species.

Hydropunctaria maura (as *Verrucaria maura*). Although included under Key J, this species has no British records on lignum. However, it has been recorded several times on stonework in churchyard close to the sea in western Britain.

Lecanora campestris – indeed a common species of stonework, but users should be aware that some normally corticolous look-alikes can also occur on saxicolous substrata (e.g. gravestones). These include *Lecanora chlarotera* s. lat. (on sandstone) and *L. horiza* (on limestone).

Micarea cinerea – not known from churchyards. However, the externally similar *Micarea peliocarpa* is found in churchyards on worked timber and more rarely on acid stonework.

Ochrolechia turneri – most records on sandstone stonework and lignum from churchyards will refer to the similar *O. microstictoides*.

Opegrapha sp. – most arrivals at Key C (3) and G (22) will be *Arthonia calcarea* (syn. *Opegrapha calcarea*).

Stenocybe pullatula and *S. septata* are included in Key J for lichens on sawn wood, but neither occur on lignum.

Trapelia glebulosa – as used in Key G (54), this refers to *Trapelia involuta*. Although both species occur in churchyards, the latter is evidently the most common.

Xylographa truncigena – not known from churchyards or from the built environment.

Xylopsora friesii (as *Hypocenomyce friesii*) – not known from churchyards or from the built environment.

Examples of additionally common or locally frequent taxa, many not known or well understood as denizens of churchyards in 2013.

Macrolichens

Melanohalea elegantula

Melanohalea exasperatula

Melanohalea laciniatula

Punctelia jeckeri

Ramalina fastigiata

Scytinium plicatile

Scytinium pulvinatum

Scytinium turgidum

Crustose

Bacidia fuscoviridis

Bacidina spp.

Bagliettoa calciseda

Buellia griseovirens – as saxicolous

Catillaria atomarioides

Catillaria lenticularis

Diploschistes muscorum

Flavoplaca dichroa

Flavoplaca limonia

Fuscidea lightfootii

Kuettlingeria albolutescens

Kuettlingeria ceracea

Lecania inundata

Lecania rabenhorstii

Lecanora chlorotera s. lat. (probably *L. hybocarpa*) – as saxicolous

Lecanora horiza

Lecanora pulicaris – as saxicolous

Lepraria finkii

Micarea coppinsii

Myriolecis hagenii

Opegrapha mougeotii

Pertusaria pertusa

Petractis clausa

Porina chlorotica

Porina linearis

Psorotichia schaeereri

Rinodina calcarea

Thelocarpon spp.

Verrucaria obfuscans

Verrucaria ochrostoma

Verrucaria romeana

Veizdaea spp. (esp. *V. aestivalis*)

Violella fucata

Examples of additional lichens found commonly or quite frequently in graveyards in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, but many also in southern Scotland and northern England (and a few further south too!)

Macrolichens

(NW) – mainly North-west Highlands

Collema furfuraceum (NW)

Lathagrium cristatum
Lathagrium fuscovirens
Leptogium britannicum (NW)
Leptogium cyanescens (NW)
Lobaria pulmonaria (NW)
Lobarina scrobiculata (NW)
Nephroma laevigatum (NW)
Nephroma parile (NW)
Parmeliella parvula (NW)

Parmeliella thriptophylla (NW)
Pectenaria spp. (NW)
Physconia enteroxantha
Scytinium lichenoides
Scytinium palmatum
Scytinium teretiusculum
Sticta spp. (NW)
Umbilicaria spp. (esp. *U. polyphylla*)
Tuckermannopsis chlorophylla

Crustose

Aspicilia cinerea s. lat.
Calogaya oblitterata
Fuscidea lygaea
Fuscidea praeruptorum
Fuscidea recens
Immersaria athroocarpa
Ionaspis lacustris
Lambiella furvella
Lecidea auriculata
Lecidea diducens
Lecidea lactea
Lecidea lapicida
Lecidea lithophila
Lecidea plana
Lecidella asema (W coast)
Lepra albescens

Lepra amara
Lepra aspergilla
Lepraria caesioalba
Miriquidica leucophaea
Pertusaria lactescens
Protoparmelia badia
Rhizocarpon lecanorinum
Rhizocarpon polycarpum
Schaereria cinereorufa
Schaereria fuscocinerea
Secoliga jenensis
Tephromela grumosa
Tremolecia atrata
Varicellaria lactea
Verrucaria fusconigrescens