



# Christmas Lichen

## *Cryptothecia rubrocincta*

### Arthoniaceae

**Basic Description:** Lichens are unique organisms created by algae and fungi that grow together using each other to survive. This type of lichen forms a crust-like growth on the tree's bark. Its red and green colors give the appearance of a Christmas wreath for which it has been named.

**Interesting Facts:** Because most lichens are extremely vulnerable to air pollution, their disappearance gives early warning of harmful conditions. More than 15,000 lichens can be found in our world.

**Flower:** N/A

**Fruit:** N/A

**Wildlife Value:** Lichens are eaten by some animals and used by birds for nesting materials.

**Habitat:** Normally found in subtropical or tropical regions growing on the sides of trees, especially oaks and cypress in less dense, more open woods and swamps.

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**LEAF TYPE**

N/A

**POLLINATOR**

N/A

**WILDLIFE VALUE**

LOW

