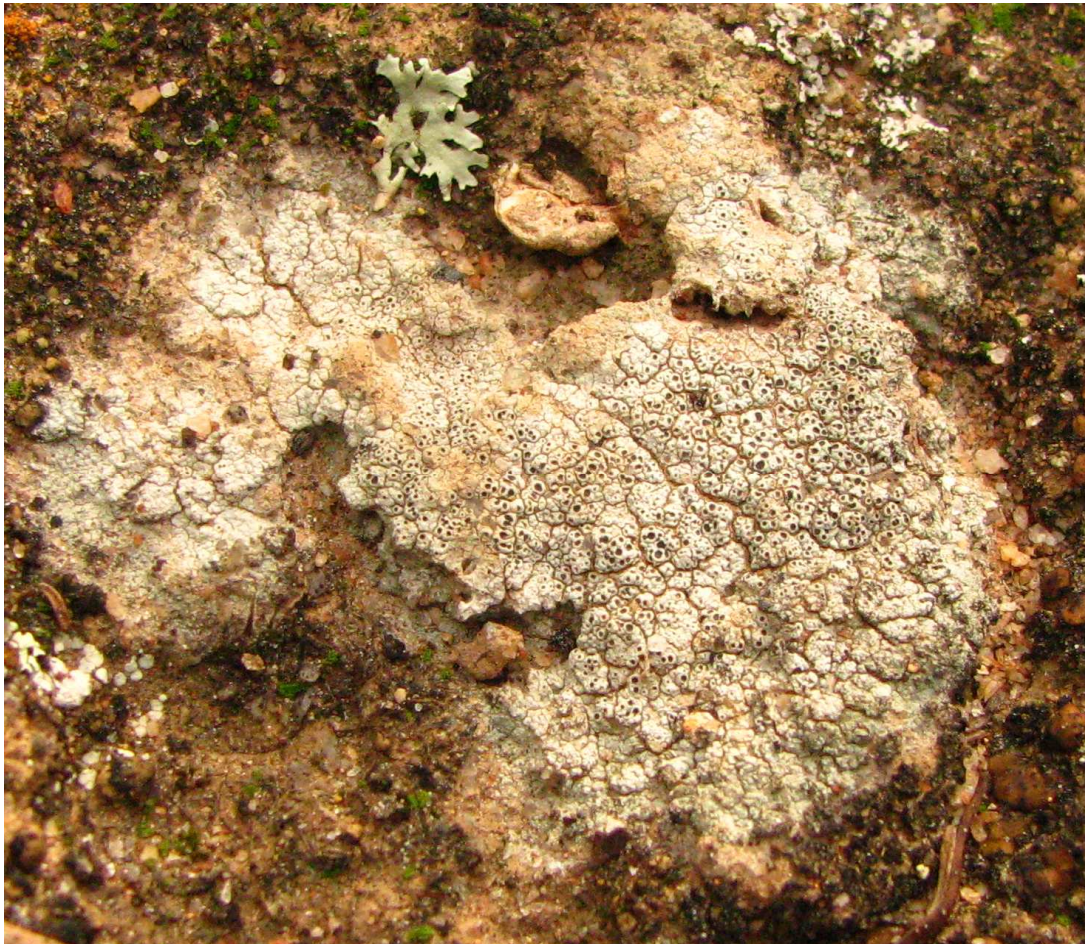


Cryptogam of the Month-August 2010



Diploschistes conceptionis

Diploschistes conceptionis is a under collected crustose soil lichen that occurs mainly on clay based soils. Appearing as a flat circular blob, it is characterised by the white powdery thallus along with the presence of black immersed urceolate fruiting bodies. This species reacts to chemical spot applications of bleach (C+) by turning red at point of application but will not respond to a spot of Potassium hydroxide (K-).

Diploschistes thunbergianus appears similar in appearance to this species but will react to potassium hydroxide to turn the chemical spot yellow (K+).

Diploschistes conceptionis occurs in South America and in the semi-arid regions of Western Australia but appears to be absent in the other Australian state.

R.J. Cranfield. Science Division. DEC Manjimup.