

Ledges Lichen Trail photo gallery

Forty species of common lichens are identified on a newly established, self-guiding interpretive trail in Ledges State Park.

The photographs in the following slideshow illustrate these lichens and are meant to accompany an interpretive text that describes their location along the trail, appearance and natural history.

The lichen trail is located in the picnic area between the east entrance and the "Oak Woods" shelter. A map of the park and the text of the trail interpretive guide are available as PDF documents on the Ledges State Park webpage:

http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/state_park_list/ledges.html

Enjoy the show...



White Cobblestone Lichen
Acarospora impressula



White Cobblestone Lichen
Acarospora impressula



Brown Cobblestone Lichen
Acarospora veronensis

Brown Cobblestone Lichen, dry/wet
Acarospora veronensis, red-eyed form

WET

DRY





Brown Cobblestone Lichen
Acarospora veronensis

Black-Button Lichen, on rock
Amandinea punctata



Black-Button Lichen, on wood
Amandinea punctata





Frosted Period Lichen
Arthonia caesia



Comma Lichen
Arthonia dispersa



Asterisk Lichen
Arthonia radiata



Gray-rimmed Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca cerina



Powdery Sulfur-Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca chrysophthalma



Powdery Sulfur-Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca chrysophthalma, with apothecia



Mealy Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca citrina

A close-up photograph of Sidewalk Firedot Lichen (Caloplaca feracissima) growing on a textured surface. The lichen consists of numerous small, bright orange, dot-like structures (fruiting bodies) scattered across a grey, granular substrate. Some larger, translucent, pinkish-orange structures are also visible. The overall appearance is that of a dense, multi-colored microbial community.

Sidewalk Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca feracissima



Sulfur Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca flavovirescens



Sulfur Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca flavovirescens



Bark Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca holocarpa



Orange-Dust Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca microphyllina



Black-and-White Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca soralifera



Crater-Dust Firedot Lichen
Caloplaca ulcerosa



Lacy Lemon Lichen
Candelaria concolor



Lacy Lemon Lichen
Candelaria concolor



Scatter-dot Goldspeck Lichen
Candelariella xanthostigma



Mint Moonglow Lichen
Dimelaena oreina



Common Script Lichen
Graphis scripta

A close-up photograph of a tree trunk covered in Common Script Lichen (Graphis scripta). The lichen appears as a dense, intricate pattern of small, overlapping, script-like structures in shades of grey and brown. Two prominent vertical cracks in the bark run parallel to each other, one on the left and one on the right, providing a sense of scale and texture. The overall appearance is highly detailed and textured.

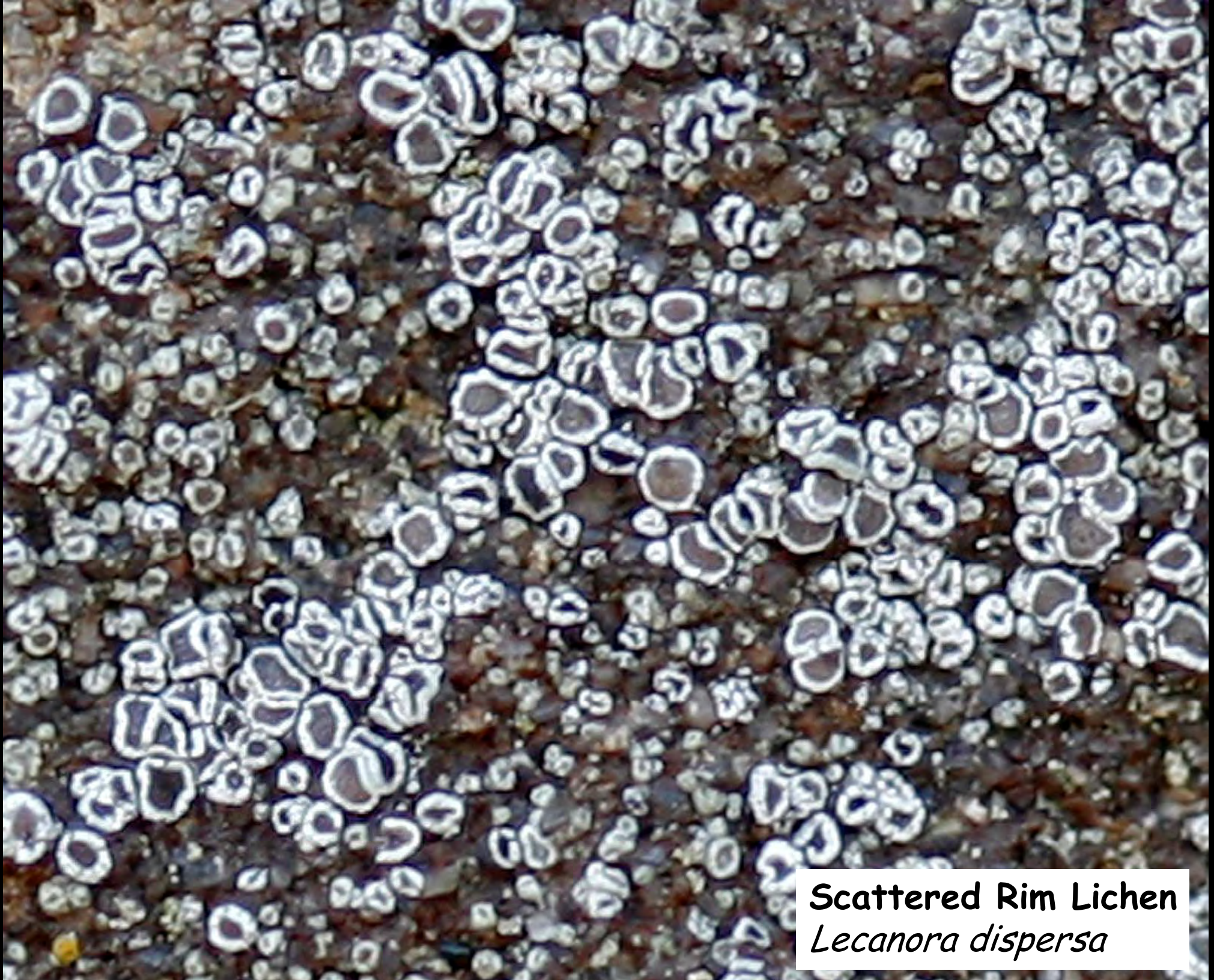
Common Script Lichen
Graphis scripta



Grainy Shadow-Crust Lichen
Hyperphyscia adglutinata



Clustered Rim Lichen
Lecania perproxima



Scattered Rim Lichen
Lecanora dispersa



Scattered Rim Lichen
Lecanora dispersa



Stonewall Rim Lichen
Lecanora muralis



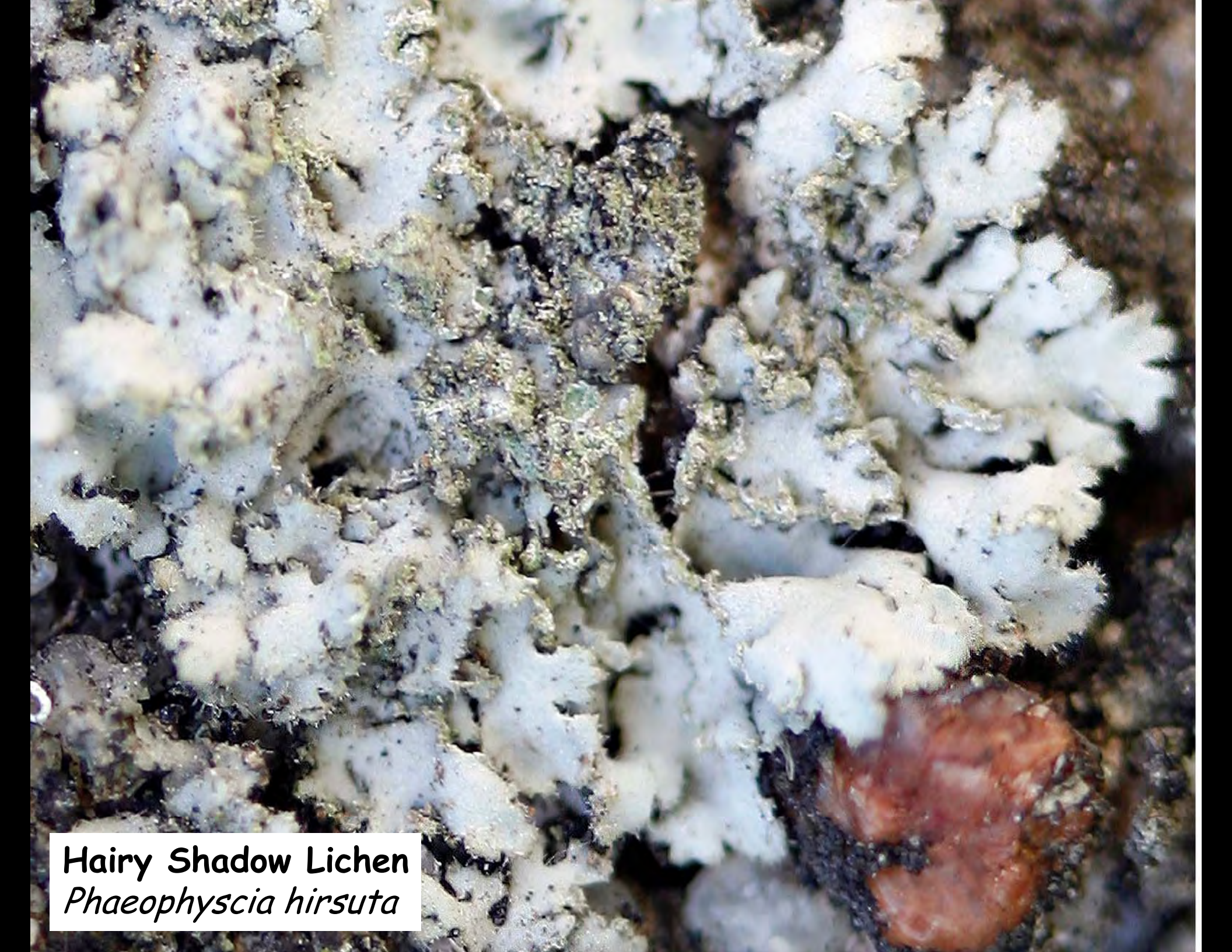
Fluffy Dust Lichen
Lepraria lobificans



Powder-edge Shadow Lichen
Phaeophyscia adiaastola



Smooth Shadow Lichen
Phaeophyscia ciliata

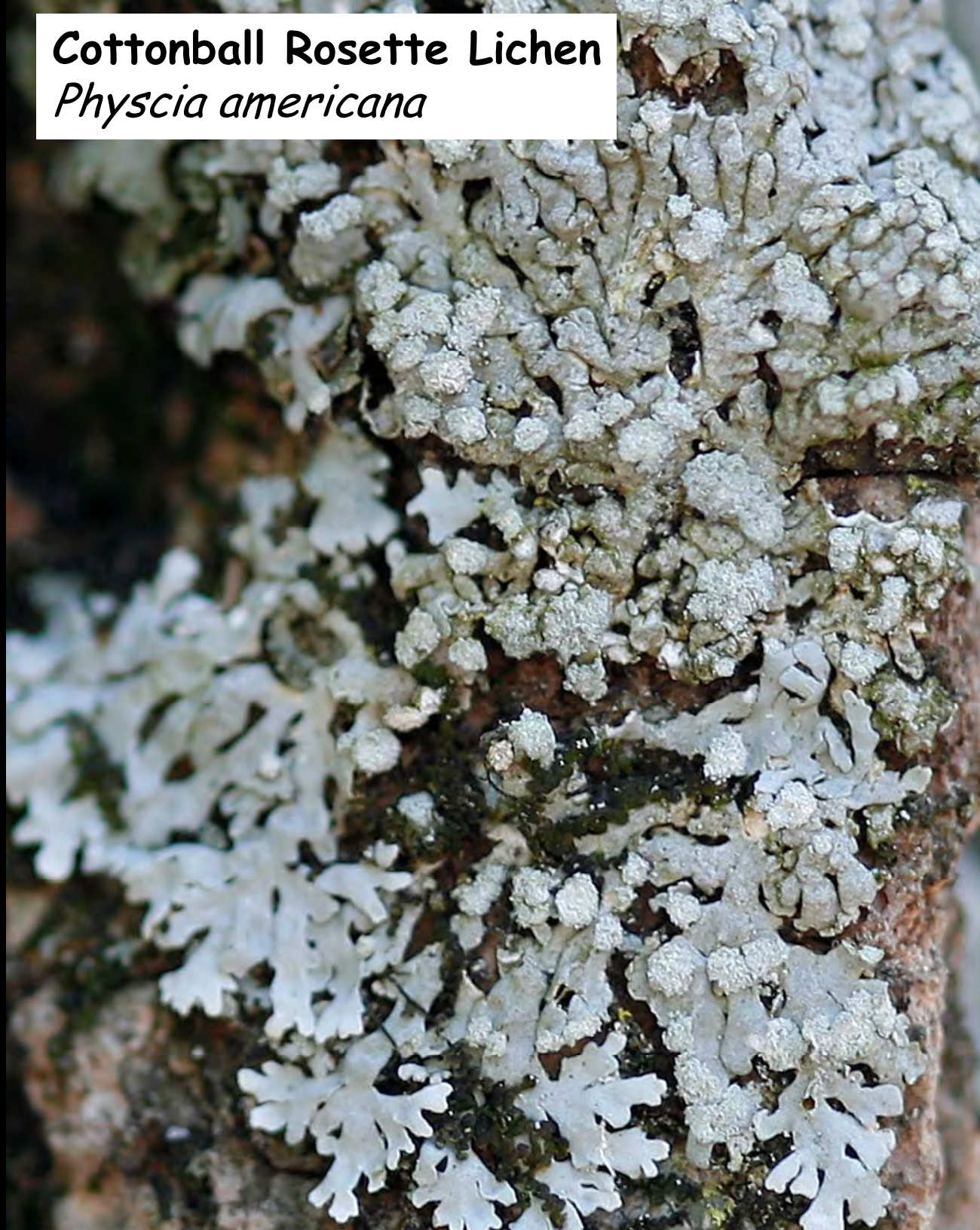


Hairy Shadow Lichen
Phaeophyscia hirsuta



Hoary Rosette Lichen
Physcia aipolia

Cottonball Rosette Lichen
Physcia americana



Dakota Rosette Lichen
Physcia dakotensis



Frilly Rosette Lichen
Physcia millegrana

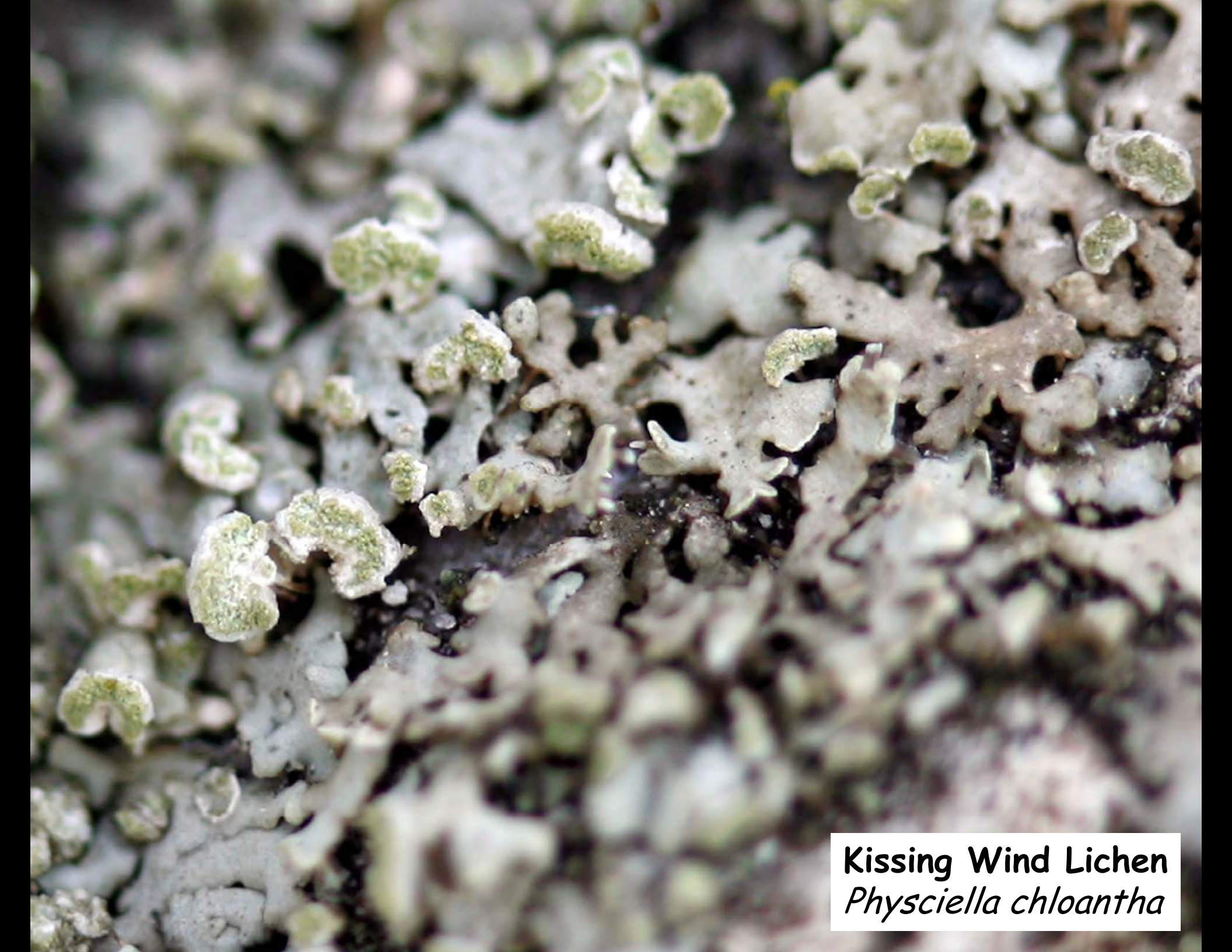




Star Rosette Lichen
Physcia stellaris



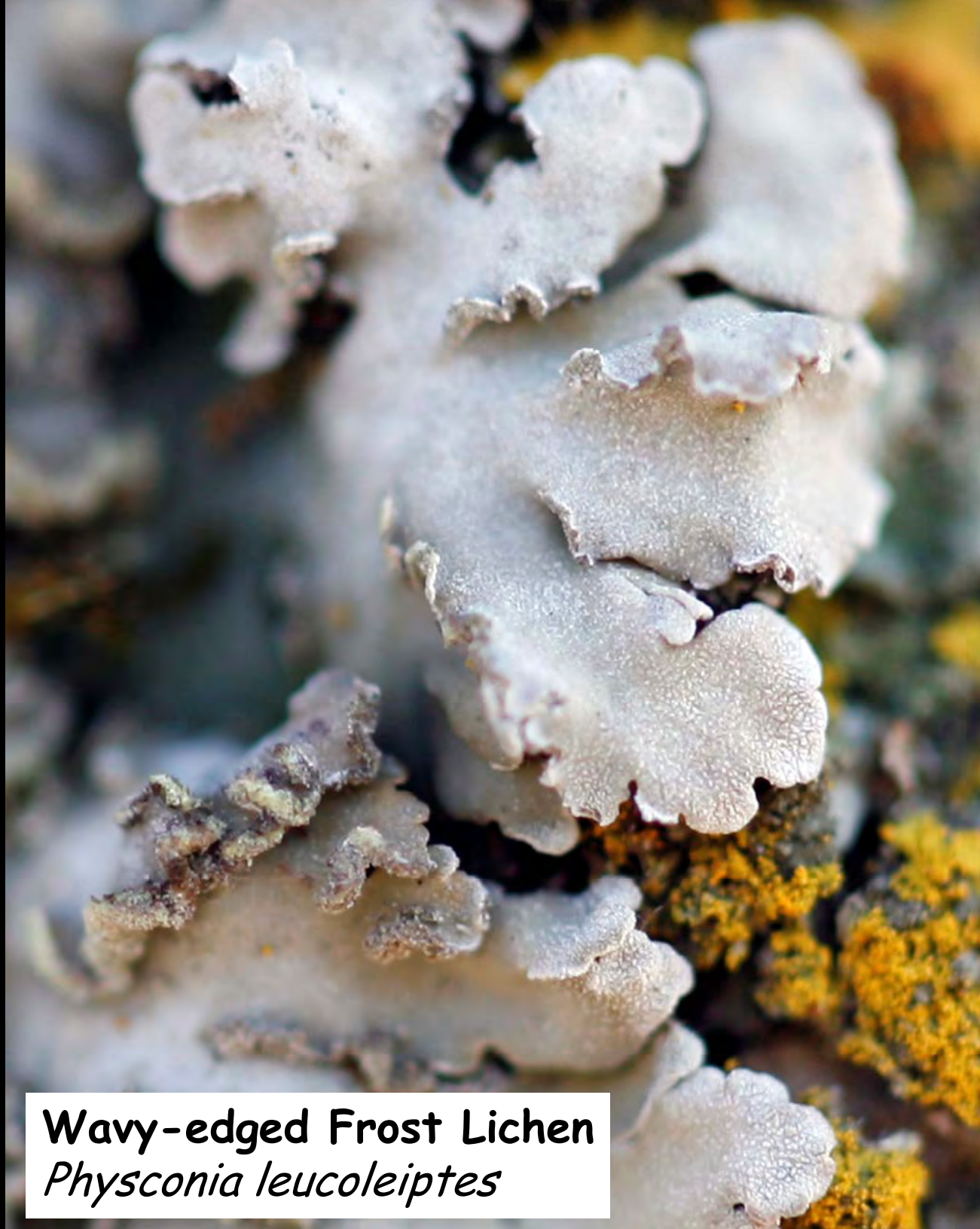
Star Rosette Lichen
Physcia stellaris



Kissing Wind Lichen
Physciella chloantha



Sandpapered Wind Lichen
Physciella melanchra



Wavy-edged Frost Lichen
Physconia leucoleiptes

Rough Speckle-shield Lichen
Punctelia rudecta



Pepper-Spore Lichen
Rinodina cf. pyrina



A close-up photograph of Birds-Nest Sunburst Lichen (Xanthomendoza fallax) growing on a rock surface. The lichen is characterized by its bright yellow, cup-shaped or sunburst-like structures, which are densely packed and have a slightly raised, textured appearance. The rock surface is light-colored and appears to be covered with a thin layer of lichen, with some areas showing more prominent, darker, and more irregular growth patterns. The overall scene is brightly lit, highlighting the vibrant yellow color of the lichen against the lighter rock background.

Birds-Nest Sunburst Lichen
Xanthomendoza fallax



Narrow-lobed Sunburst Lichen
Xanthomendoza fulva

Frilly Sunburst Lichen
Xanthomendoza ulophyllodes



Lichen Trail Credits

M.K. Advaita of The Nature Conservancy's Great Plains Lichen Team originated the idea of the Ledges Lichen Trail, designed its layout, and composed the interpretive text.

Diane Michaud Lowry of Ames photographed the lichens along the Trail.

John Pearson, ecologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines, served as project coordinator.