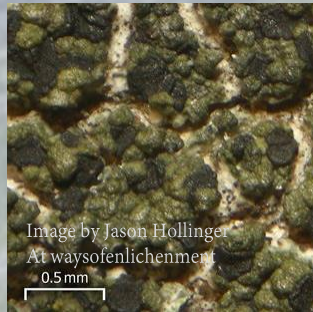


Common Lichens on Rocks

The most common lichens at the Lehigh Gap two pioneer species that are known for growing in disturbed or polluted areas. They both are crustose (crust-like) lichens that grow on exposed rocks. From a distance both look like lead-grey smears across rocks. Look closer!



Leimonis erratica

Close up, this lichen is grainy green and its apothecia (fruiting bodies) are black dots.

Trapelia involuta

Close up, this lichen has tiny purple-brown apothecia, and is otherwise pale grey to whitish pink.



Image Leif and Anna Stridvall

Scoliosporum umbrinum is also a common lichen, with a green powdery thallus, and black apothecia.

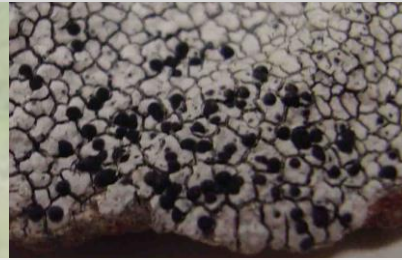


Other Lichens on Rocks

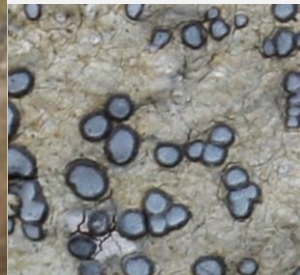
There is a zone about two-thirds of the way up the mountain at Lehigh Gap where lichen diversity increases significantly. These are crustose lichens on rock in that area.

Lecanora oreinoides

Lecanora oreinoides is a thick white lichen with dark cracks and sunken black apothecia (fruiting bodies)



Porpidia albocaerulescens



Smoky-eyed boulder lichen grows in shady areas and makes whitish patches on rock. It has large grey fruiting bodies that are smoky-grey with black rims.

Acarospora fuscata



Image by Jason Hollinger
At waysofenlichenment

Acarospora fuscata is made of tiny plate-like brown areoles

Psiolechia lucida



This powdery lichen grows on the underside of boulders, often in areas enriched in heavy metals. It turns yellow orange under a blacklight!

Other neat Lichens

Phaeocalicium polyporeum
Stubble lichen



Image by Jason Hollinger
at CNALH

Phaeocalicium polyporaum is a tiny, brown, pin-like lichen that grows on polypore mushrooms, which grow on wood.

Vezdaea leprosa
Moss lichen



Image by Norbert Staffier at Lichenology.Info

Vezdaea leprosa grows mainly in metal-enriched areas. It is a bright green felty overgrowth on mosses. It is only with a microscope or a magnifying glass that you can see its orange fruiting bodies.

To Learn more about Lichens



Brodo, I.M., S. Sharnoff, & S. Sharnoff. 2001. Lichens of North America. Yale University Press, New Haven.



<https://lichenportal.org/cnalh/index.php>



Find lichens by walking with a local mushroom club:
Philadelphia Mycology Club
New Jersey Mycological Association



This brochure was made by N. Howe with assistance from J. Lendemer for S. Willig's Regional Field Ecology Course, 2021

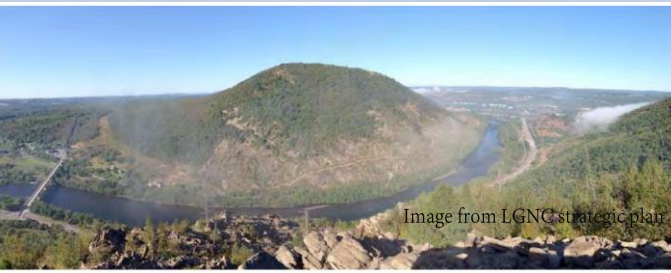


Image from LGNC strategic plan

Visitor Guide to Lichens of Lehigh Gap Nature Center

If you look closely, you can find lichens all over the Lehigh Gap, on rocks, trees, and even on soil patches! A lichen is a fungus that grows with algae in its tissues; many are sensitive to air pollution, which is why their presence here is interesting. They can be very tiny, so look carefully! Lichens at the Lehigh Gap might be growing on:

Rocks



Trees

Soils

I hope you enjoy and appreciate the lichens of the Lehigh Gap!

Lichens on Trees

Some of the lichens at Lehigh Gap that are easiest to find grow on trees. These lichens are often foliose or leaf-like, with distinct top and bottom surfaces.

Flavoparmelia caperata
Greenshield Lichen

Greenshield lichen is easy to spot because it is very large and greener than most lichens



Flavopunctelia soledica
Pom-pom edged lichen



This lichen is also greenish, and has reproductive structures like pompoms at the edges

Parmelia sulcata
Hammered shield Lichen



The white cracked ridges are distinctive features on this lichen

Candelaria concolor
Candleflame lichen

Candleflame lichen has tiny bright yellow lobes and is common in urban areas



Lichens on Soils

Many *Cladonia* lichens are pollution-tolerant – they are the most common lichens on soil at Lehigh Gap. Sometimes they grow at the base of trees. They are mats of greenish flakes, with different kinds of stalks growing out of them.

Cladonia subcariosa

This is the first lichen I ever found at the Lehigh Gap, It grows in pincushion-like clumps of flakes with a white underside.

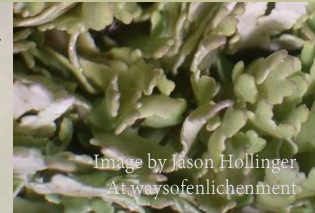


Image by Jason Hollinger
At waysoflichenment

Cladonia grayi



Cladonia reii



Sтивен Шарнофф, CNEI.H

C. macilenta



James Lindsey Wikimedia

The stalks of Pixie cup lichen (*Cladonia grayi*) form wide cups (Left); *Cladonia reii* forms narrower cups with extensions like points off a crown (Middle). *Cladonia macilenta* has straight stalks with red at the tips (Right)

Baeomyces rufus - Fairy puke lichen

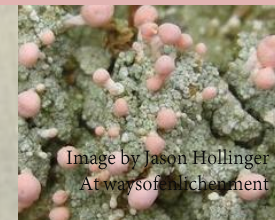


Image by Jason Hollinger
At waysoflichenment

A delightful soil-dwelling lichen that makes tiny pink lollipops. Under a blacklight, it fluoresces yellow-orange.