

## II. Usnea Subgenus Neuropogon

**Axis solid;**

**Thallus conspicuously variegated and banded with black; On rock**

After Imshaug (1957) and Thomson (1984)

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Thallus attached by a holdfast, branching with or without lateral fibrils; branches terete to anuglar, smooth or minutely scabrid, verruculose, plicate or foveolate, yellow with more or less variegation with black banding; cortex with yellowish granules and pachydermatous hyphae; medulla lax (in arctic species); central axis 1/5 to 1/3 of the diameter of the branches (in northern hemisphere species), hard and horny in texture; sorediate in northern hemisphere species, the soredia yellow to blackish, borne in rounded soralia on the branches. Apothecia lacking in northern hemisphere species. On rock.

Thallus to 23(4) cm tall, erect to subdecumbent, narrowly attached to the substrate by basal holdfast, rather sparsely branched, caespitose. Basal branches 0.70.85 mm thick at widest part but tapering to 0.30.4 mm in diam. at point of attachment. Main branches terete, 0.51.3 mm diam., sulphur yellow but occasionally blackening above, smooth or scabrid, matt or subnitid, not foveolate nor verrucose, rarely faintly scrobiculate, often fracturing to expose the central strand; upper parts somewhat soft; ultimate branches terete, 0.10.25 mm diam., tapering to a point, smooth, nitid, blackbanded; tips almost entirely black. Soralia 0.20.5 mm across, abundant on ultimate branches, punctiform; soredia yellowish, occasionally blackening, mealy granulose. Medulla white, usually lax; axis white, well defined, usually rather thin, 1/41/3(1/2) the diameter of the branch. Apothecia and pycnidia absent. Thallus (in N. American material) K, P. On ranitic rocks, arctic, coastal to high elevations, Greenland and northern Canada; alpine, Washington state. .... U. sphacelata