

Leproplaca (Nyl.) Harm.
(LECANORALES: TELOSCHISTACEAE)

After Laundon (1974)

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Thallus leprose, noncorticate, sometimes with ± distinct marginal lobes; surface of powdery, yellowish or dull orange, convex granules; medulla white; prothallus and hypothallus absent. Photobiont chlorophyceous. Ascocarps and pycnidia apparently unknown (but apothecia have reportedly been discovered in L. xantholyta and the genus reunited with Caloplaca. Parietin or other anthraquinones, K+ dark violetred. On shaded calcareous rocks, especially limestone, on dry vertical surfaces.

1. Thallus of pulverulent spherical granules (ca. 0.1 mm diam.), without marginal lobes; when well developed producing a thick, areolate crust; color greenish yellow or dull orangeyellow, brownish to grayish yellow. On limestone cliffs and other dry, shaded, calcareous rocks, often overgrowing mosses, occasionally on mortar of shaded walls. L. chrysodeta

1. Thallus ± plane, or rarely of convex granules, ± orbicular, with a pulverulent surface, when well developed delimited by ± distinct, radiating, flat to slightly convex, noncorticate marginal lobes; color yellow; medulla white, often exposed in places. On damp limestone cliffs and limestone walls.

(Caloplaca citrina, which is partly corticate, rather bright yellow or orange, and sometimes fertile, will also key out here; it grows on smooth, illuminated ± calcareous or basic surfaces). L. xantholyta

[Note: these species may possibly also occur on siliceous or ultramafic rocks].

Literature

Laundon, J. R. 1974. Leproplaca in the British Isles. Lichenologist 6: 102-105.

Laundon, J. R. 1992. Leproplaca. In: Purvis, et al., Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland.