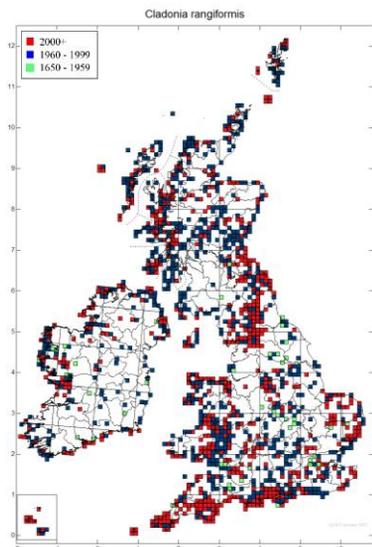


Cladonia rangiformis



Identification: Leaf-like scales (squamules) at the base are small and may be absent. Grey to grey-green podetia form up to 5 cm tall with many branches that have pointed tips. Branching occurs at quite a wide angle. The surfaces of the podetia are covered with green islets on a uniform white background, looking rather like the neck of a giraffe.

Chemistry: K+ yellow, Pd+ red (usually).

Similar species: There are a number of similar richly branched *Cladonia* species. They can be separated using chemistry. See overleaf.

Habitat: On neutral or basic grassland, cliffs and dunes, especially along the coast.

Distribution: Throughout the lowlands of the British Isles

Similar species for *Cladonia rangiformis*

Podetia: In *Cladonia* species the upright parts of the thallus are referred to as the podetia.

Squamules: Leaf-like scales found below the podetia.

Species	Description	
<i>Cladonia arbuscula</i>	Podetia in tufted mats to 8 cm high. Green-grey with a yellowish tinge and a slightly wooly surface. Branching is three or four-fold. Terminal branches curve strongly in one direction. KC+ yellow, Pd+ red.	
<i>Cladonia ciliata</i>	Podetia up to 6 cm long. Pale green-grey to yellowish green often with a purplish tinge towards the tips. Richly branched with mainly twofold branching. Extreme branch tips are brownish and curve in the same direction. Pd+ red.	
<i>Cladonia furcata</i>	Podetia form a loose tufted mat up to 8 cm high. Brown-grey to olive-green sometimes with a purplish tinge and a smooth surface. Tips are pointed. Scales present at base of podetia. Branching is twofold at a narrow angle. K- or K+ yellow, Pd+ rust-red	
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	Podetia form a light greyish green to cream richly branched interwoven mat up to 6 cm tall with a slightly wooly surface. Branching is threefold but tips give the appearance of dividing into two. K-, KC+ yellow, Pd-, UV+ white on the cortex at the base.	

Photos Paul Cannon & Neil Sanderson (*C ciliata*) Text David Brabban

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