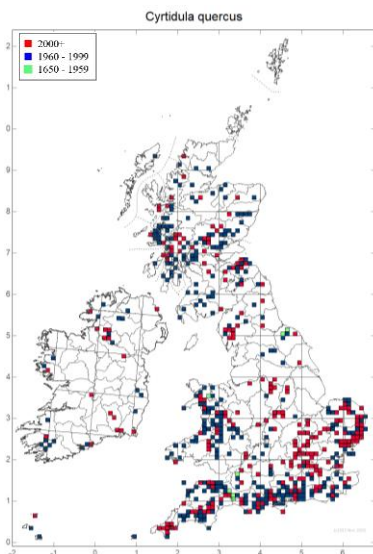


Cyrtidula quercus



Identification: A crustose species that is immersed in the bark of its host so that only a faint silvery stain is present on the young bark. The irregular clusters of dark brown fruiting bodies (perithecia) arise from the bark surface. The individual perithecia are about 0.3mm in diameter with up to five in a cluster.

Chemistry: Reactions are negative.

Similar species: The fruiting bodies of this species are irregular with two to five in a cluster while *Tomasellia gelatinosa* has blister-like clusters of up to twelve perithecia in a distinctly circular group.

Habitat: This species is mainly found on the smooth bark of young twigs of oak but may also occur on the bark of hazel and holly.

Distribution: Widespread in oak woodlands across Britain except in areas of agricultural pollution where algal growth obscures the twig surface.