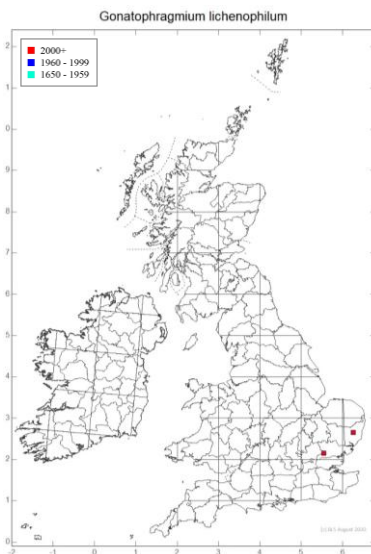
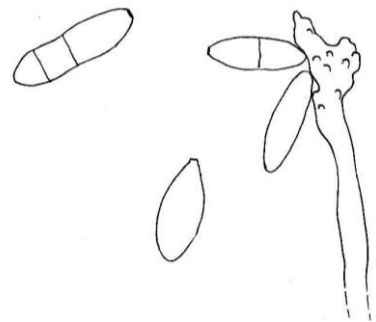


Gonatophragmium lichenophilum



Identification: This fungus causes a fuzzy, brown coating on slightly, or very, bleached areas of the thallus and apothecia of *Xanthoria parietina*. Spores are formed around the tips of specialised hyphae. The spores break away to leave distinct scars that give the tips of these hyphae a knobby appearance. Spores are variable but generally ellipsoid with 1-4 cells.

Similar species: Two other fungi produce coloured layers on *Xanthoria parietina* but only on the apothecia. *Cladosporium lichenophilum* produces a brown, spiky layer. Its spores are produced on hyphae that are thick-walled and have lots of cross walls. *Xanthoriicola physciae* causes a black sooty surface.

Habitat: On the thallus and apothecia of *Xanthoria parietina* in nitrogen-rich lichen communities.

Distribution: Very few records in the UK but probably overlooked.

References: Berger *et al* (2015) *Mycobiota* 5: 7-13

<http://fungi.myspecies.info/all-fungi/gonatophragmium-lichenophilum>