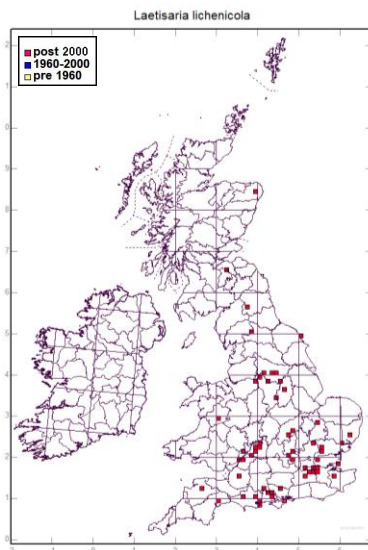


Laetisaria lichenicola



Identification: *Laetisaria lichenicola* grows immersed within the thallus of *Physcia adscendens* and *P. tenella*, turning its host pink. When spores are being produced the infected areas look minutely frosted. The host tissue can degrade into a shiny cellophane-like film. Microscopic basidia have two prongs that each bear a single spore.

Similar species: *Illosporiosis christensenii* forms bright pink blobs composed of coiled spores. These can stain the surface of lichens when the blobs start to wash away after rain. *Erythricium aurantiacum* can leave a pink stain after the bulbils have dispersed.

Habitat: A parasite of *Physcia adscendens* and *P. tenella* in nutrient-rich lichen communities.

Distribution: Scattered throughout England. Known in Scotland and Wales.

References: <http://fungi.myspecies.info/all-fungi/laetisaria-lichenicola>

Deiderich (2011) *Mycologia* **103**: 525-533