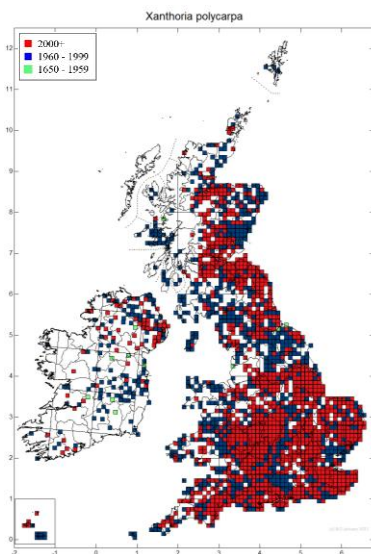


Xanthoria polycarpa



Identification: The thallus of this small foliose lichen has finely divided greyish-yellow finger like lobes about 1 mm wide, which are often obscured by the yellow-orange apothecia which can cover the entire thallus. The apothecia are up to 4 mm wide, with short stalks and raised greyish-yellow margins. They become contorted with age.

Chemistry: Thallus K+ crimson/purple.

Similar species: *Xanthoria parietina* has broad lobes. *Xanthoria aureola* is coastal with narrow strap-like lobes. *Caloplaca* species are K+ crimson/purple but are crustose.

Habitat: Common on young twigs and also on dead wood and rocks in areas where nitrogen deposition is high.

Distribution: Widespread in lowland agricultural areas, but not as common as the map suggests.