

The Lichens of Lough Carra

By Mike Simms

The damp climate and clean air of the west of Ireland allows many lichens, plant-like organisms that are a symbiosis between a fungus and an alga, to flourish on trees and rocks. More than 1100 lichen species are known from Ireland but some are very fussy about their environment. Many are confined to limestone and are common around Lough Carra. The most conspicuous form white, yellow and black patches on the rock.

Some of those found on trees and in woodlands are very slow to colonise new woodland habitats and so their presence in a particular wood can be a valuable indicator of woodland continuity extending back perhaps hundreds of years. Important old woodland indicator lichens have been found in several woods around Lough Carra.

(Preliminary) Species Inventory at December 2010

n.b. Species in bold are old woodland indicators

DOON PENINSULA

On trees

Amandinea punctata

Arthonia cinnabarina

Arthonia radiata

Biatora spheroides

Caloplaca cerina

Degelia atlantica

Enterographa crassa

Evernia prunastri

Flavoparmelia caperata

Graphina anguina

Graphis scripta

Hypogymnia physodes

Lecanora chlarotera

Lecanora symmicta

Lecidella elaeochroma

Lepraria incana

Leptogium lichenoides

Lobaria pulmonaria

Megalaria grossa

Megalaria pulvereana

Melanelia subaurifera

Normandina pulchella

Pannaria rubiginosa

Parmelia sulcata

Parmotrema perlatum

Peltigera praetextata

Pertusaria albescens albescens

Pertusaria hymenea

Pertusaria leioplaca

Pertusaria pertusa
Phlyctis argena
Physcia adscendens
Physcia aipolia
Physcia tenella
Pyrenula chlorospila
Pyrenula macrospora
Ramalina farinacea
Sticta limbata
Sticta sylvatica
Thelotrema lepadinum
Xanthoria parietina

On limestone

Aspicilia calcarea
Caloplaca flavovirescens
Collema auriforme
Collema cristatum
Physcia tenella
Placynthium nigrum
Protoblastenia rupestris
Verrucaria nigrescens
Verrucaria baldensis
Xanthoria parietina

PARTRY HOUSE ESTATE

Limestone boulder on shore

Aspicilia calcarea
Caloplaca flavescens
Caloplaca holocarpa
Candelariella medians
Collema crispum
Collema cristatum
Dermatocarpon mineatum
Physcia tenella
Placynthium nigrum
Verrucaria nigrescens
Xanthoria parietina

Salix carr

Evernia prunastri
Flavoparmelia caperata
Hypogymnia physodes
Melanelia subaurifera
Parmelia sulcata
Parmotrema perlatum
Physcia tenella
Ramalina farinacea
Ramalina fastigiata
Xanthoria parietina

Fallen ash near house
Collema furfuraceum

CASTLE CARRA

Large Wych Elm
Cladonia fimbrita
Enterographa crassa
Lobaria pulmonaria
Pannaria rubiginosa
Pertusaria leioplaca
Pertusaria pertusa
Pyrenula macrospora
Sticta fuliginosa

Ash trees near ruined houses

Degelia atlantica
Enterographa crassa
Lobaria pulmonaria
Normandina pulchella
Opegrapha atra
Parmotrema perlatum
Pertusaria albescens albescens
Pertusaria pertusa
Phlyctis argena
Pyrenula macrospora
Ramalina farinacea
Ramalina fastigiata



White (*Aspicilia calcarea*), yellow (*Caloplaca* spp.) and black (*Collema*, *Leptogium* and *Verrucaria*) lichens on a limestone boulder on the Partry House Estate.



The large and distinctive *Lobaria pulmonaria* on an ash tree at Castle Carra. This rather scarce lichen is typical of old woodlands in the west of Ireland.



Green lobes of *Lobaria pulmonaria* and lead-grey lobes of *Degelia atlantica*, two lichens characteristic of old humid woodlands in western Ireland. Doon.



Wrinkled brown lobes of *Collema furfuraceum* on a large fallen ash on the Partry House Estate. This lichen is characteristic of old parkland trees.