

common of essex county

(some)

PHYSCIA STELLARIS

Common name: Star rosette lichen

Found on trees, sometimes wood or rock, especially fences

Pale-grey to blue-grey in colour

Distinctive dark apothecia with a defined grey margin. These look like tiny discs lying against the lichen's surface. They are the fruiting bodies of the lichen, producing the spores it needs to reproduce.

Typically grows in circular, shield-like forms. The edges tend to adhere to the substrate (growing surface).

Parmelia sulcata

Common name: Hammered shield lichen

Found on trees and wood, sometimes rock

White-grey to blue-grey thallus, with light markings (pseudocyphellae, tiny openings in the surface) and depressions giving a hammered appearance. Edges often browned or dark.

Coarse, darker soredia on lobe edges and small formations on surface

Extremely tolerant of pollution

XANTHOCARPIA FERACISSIMA

On limestone or concrete in the open (sidewalks, benches, decorative rocks, and fences)

Sunken thallus, appearing as well-defined, very circular orange to orange-yellow apothecia (discs). Can be small and hard to notice. Investigation of yellow or orange colour on concrete in Essex County will almost always reveal either this species or *Candelariella aurella*, which has less-defined, less-circular apothecia and may also grow on wood.

Often co-occurs with *Myriolecis* sp. These also have a sunken thallus and appear as dark apothecia with white to light grey rims.

XANTHORIA PARIETINA

Common name: Maritime sunburst lichen

Found on trees, occasionally rock or concrete

Bright orange to yellow thallus, sometimes greyish or whitish

Flat, broad, round lobes forming rosettes, with plentiful orange apothecia. Colonies may be very small and include only one or two visible rosettes.

FLAVOPARMELIA CAPERATA

Common name: Common greenshield

On deciduous tree trunks, occasionally on rock, often in full sun

Roundish yellow-green to green thallus, with distinct edges, often large with large lobes. Wrinkled with granular soredia on surface.

Called the 40-miles-an-hour lichen due to its shape and colour making it identifiable even from a moving car.

PHYSCIA MILLEGRANA

Common name: Mealy rosette lichen

Found most commonly on deciduous trees, occasionally rock or wood

Grey-white to green thallus, often having an uneven colour or texture and lacking apothecia

Sorediate (mealy) at lobe tips and along edges

May grow in large patches alongside *P. stellaris* and *C. concolor*, especially on roadsides. Very tolerant of pollution

Candelaria concolor

Common name: Candleflame lichen

On trees, wood fences

Bright yellow to orange-yellow thallus. Tiny, fine lobes with granular, marginal soredia (small, round powdery growths of fungi and algae or cyanobacteria).

Often grows in large, blanket-like colonies. Can resemble a yellow crust on trees and occurs frequently at roadsides.

May be confused with *Oxneria fallax*, which upon closer inspection has distinctive "birds' nest" soralia (small openings in the body of the lichen).