

SERIES: LEARN YOUR LICHENS

BERNARD DE VRIES

Common Name: Boreal oak moss, Spruce moss.

Scientific Name: *Evernia mesomorpha* Nyl.

Description: A semi erect lichen with tufted or pendent, pliable, irregular but abundantly divided ridged yellow-green branches with marginal yellowish to greyish vegetative reproduction bodies (soridae).

Habitat: Open mixed boreal forest on coniferous and deciduous tree branches.

Growth form: Pendent.

Provincial Status: Common and wide spread throughout the boreal_ forest and occasionally in the Aspen Parkland.

Comments: This lichen is often confused with *Usnea* species (Beard lichens) which has a similar colour and habitat. However, Beard lichens have a solid central cord which is lacking in Boreal oak moss.



[Editor's note: this series will be running for the next few issues of Blue Jay. Enjoy!]