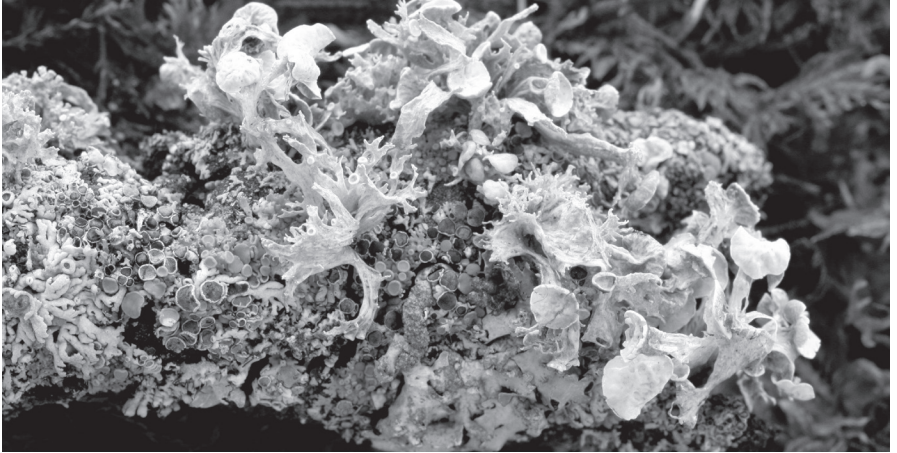


SERIES: LEARN YOUR LICHENS

BERNARD DE VRIES



Ramalina dilacerata (Hoff.) Hoffm. - See colour image on inside back cover
- Bernard de Vries

Common Names: Punctured ramalina, perforated ramalina, cartilage lichen.

Scientific Name: *Ramalina dilacerata* (Hoff.) Hoffm.

Synonyms: *Fistulariella dilacerata*, *F. minuscula*, *Ramalina minuscula*.

Description: This tufted greenish-yellow lichen is characterized by rather flat, smooth and hollow inflated branches with many perforations, a thin protective outer layer and loose fungal strands. The lichen lacks soredia (small powdery clumps of algal cells surrounded by fungal strands as means of vegetative reproduction). Flat apical or near apical or marginally pale yellow fruiting bodies (apothecia) with slight frosted discs are common.

Habitat: On bark and branches of various coniferous or deciduous trees, or tall shrubs and occasionally stumps in open and often lakeshore locations.

Growth form: Shrub-like.

Provincial Status: A common and widespread species in mixed boreal forest and scattered throughout the Aspen Parkland. Also occurring in the Cypress Upland.

Comments: Although the colour, habitat and substratum of this lichen are similar to *Usnea* (Beard lichens) or *Evernia mesomorpha* (Boreal oakmoss), it does not have the central cord as in *Usnea*, nor the physical structure of Boreal oakmoss.

Two other *Ramalina* species can be found in Saskatchewan: *Ramalina intermedia* (Rock ramalina) which has finely divided branches, with apical soredia but rarely with fruiting bodies and mainly a rock species, and *Ramalina obtusata* (Hooded ramalina) has broad, short branches with soredia on the inside of hood-shaped soralia and can be found on shrubs or trees throughout the province. Some cartilage lichens yield essential oils and minerals for use as a pleasant scent in perfumes.

The generic name *Ramalina* comes from the Latin ramalia=preferring twigs. Indeed the preferred substratum of this species are twigs. Of the *Ramalina* species, only *Ramalina dilacerata* is commonly found in our region.

