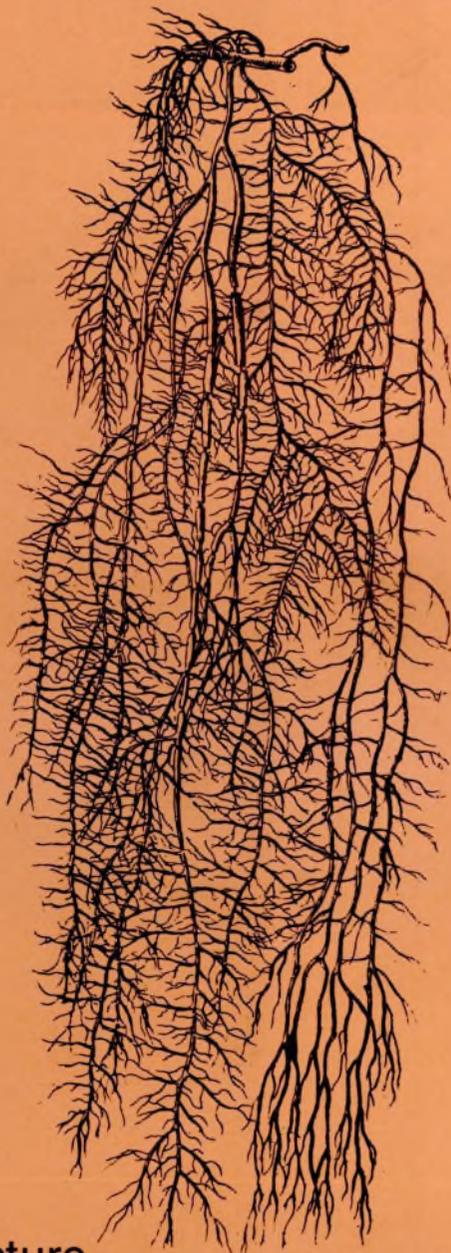


No. 63
Winter 1988

**BRITISH
LICHEN
SOCIETY
BULLETIN**



Edited by O. L. Gilbert
Dept. of Landscape Architecture,
The University, Sheffield S10 2TN

YET MORE LICHENS ON TREES IN THE CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

Gilbert (Bulletin 58: 28, 1986) reported seven lichens on trees in the Chelsea Physic Garden, including Hypogymnia physodes. The following year, as a result of a visit by Dr D.J. Galloway, Mr J.R. Lauñdon, Dr J.H. Looney and Dr O.W. Purvis, Parmelia subaurifera, and Placynthiella icmalea were added (Purvis, Bulletin 61: 4, 1987). We visited the garden on 21 July 1988 and, in addition to confirming all nine species recorded on the above two visits, found also the following additional seven species on trees: Buellia punctata (on Diospyros lotus), Candelaria concolor (on D. lotus) Candelariella vitellina (on Paulownia), Parmelia sulcata (on Paulownia), Physcia adscendens (on D. lotus), P.tenella (on Pyrus salicifolia) and Xanthoria polycarpa (on P. salicifolia).

On the same tree from which Lecanora muralis was reported by Gilbert and Placynthiella icmalea by Purvis, Candelaria concolor is represented by several small thalli and is evidently spreading; lobes were well-developed in one thallus and a small fragment was removed and confirmed as K-. This was most exciting as this species was last recorded in the London region from Walthamstow by Forster in the 1780s.

Xanthoria polycarpa was found in Blackheath in 1806, but is now very well established and we have found it in 18 other London sites so far. The Parmelia subaurifera we saw was only on Diospyros and could not be seen on the Catalpa from which it was reported by Purvis; this is now known to us from a further 23 London sites.

We wish to stress that this site is not the only rich lichen locality in central London. Evernia prunastri and Ramalina farinacea occur close by in West Brompton Cemetery; E. prunastri, Rinodina exigua and Xanthoria candelaria are amongst 17 corticolous species now present on trees in Regents Park.

Parmelia caperata has extended dramatically into Greater London since 1980, being present at least in Colindale, Gunnersbury Park, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Osterley Park, Ickenham Marsh, Richmond Park, and Radlett. Parmelia subrudecta is now present in Kew Gardens, and Usnea subfloridana has been found as far into Central London as Dollis Brook in West Finchley.

David Hawksworth and Paulette McManus



In the grounds of Iona Abbey lie the lichen clad graves of Scottish kings. (Susan Griggs Agency Ltd).