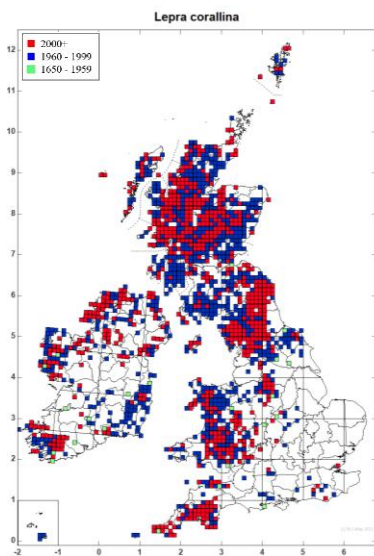


Lepra corallina



Identification: Previously known as *Pertusaria corallina*. This is one of the whitest crusts on rock and often shows a zoned margin. The central part becomes covered in a dense mass of peg-like 'isidia' that seems to enhance the whiteness. When mature the crust becomes very thick with an irregular surface and deep cracks. Apothecia are very rare. In places there are often black tufts of a parasitic fungus which suppresses the formation of isidia.

Chemistry: Thallus C-, K+ yellow to yellow-orange.

Similar species: *Pertusaria pseudocorallina* has a darker tinge from isidia that have brown tips; it has a similar distribution. *P. coccodes* has a greenish tinge from isidia that have greenish-brown tips; it mainly grows on trees in the south and east. Both are K+ yellow becoming red.

Habitat: On exposed, nutrient-poor, rough boulders, drystone walls or scree, especially of greywacke, schist and granite.

Distribution: Very common in upland and coastal areas in the north and west of Britain and around Ireland.