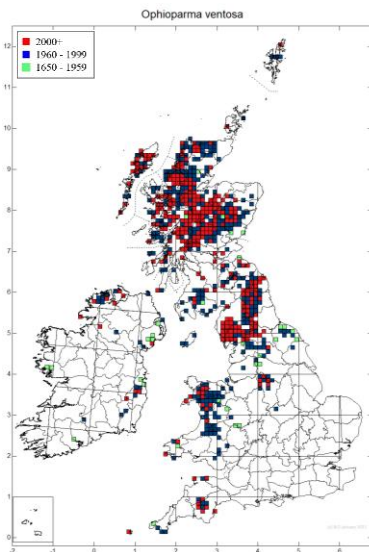


Ophioparma ventosa



Identification: A distinctive crustose lichen found on siliceous rock. The crust is thick, deeply cracked and lumpy. Individual areoles may protrude like warts. Two chemical variants are grey or yellowish grey and may grow nearby or even adjacent, as shown. Apothecia are blood-red with a pale margin which gradually becomes excluded, and are often variable in size up to 3mm diameter.

Chemistry: Thallus K+ yellow-orange. Apothecia: K+ purplish-blue.

Similar species: *Haematomma ochroleucum* also has blood-red apothecia but the thallus is soft and is usually powdery.

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

Distribution: Common throughout the uplands, mainly over 250m. Absent from arable agricultural land or urban areas.