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Cryptogam of the Month – April 2009



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Cladia ferdinandii

Cladia ferdinandii is a white to cream coloured, spectacular lichen found on several granite outcrops and is usually associated with moss and herb mats. Massed displays on several outcrops gives the appearance of snow drifts. The open net like appearance and texture when dry is reminiscent of a marine coral. In the dry state it is easily damaged and crumbles when stood upon but when moist is robust and can resist being broken up into fragments. Many of these fragments may develop in new individual clumps over an extended period free from stomping.

The type specimen (original sample) was collected between 1864 and 1890 in the Esperance area. In Australia this species occurs in South Australia (where it is considered rare) and the southern corner of Western Australia where it may be considered common.

R.J. Cranfield. Science Division, DEC Manjimup