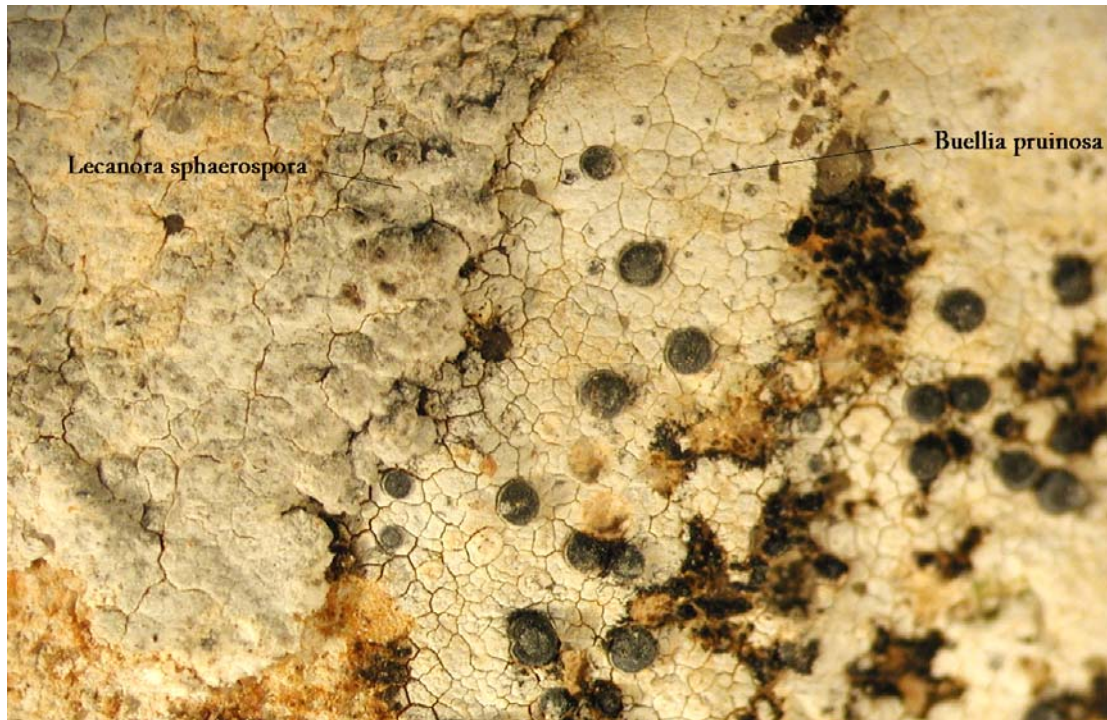


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Cryptogam of the Month-March 2010



Buellia pruinosa

Buellia pruinosa is common coastal crustose lichen occurring on limestone or other calcareous stone. The fruiting bodies are not always present but the white cracked thallus is obvious but would require chemical tests to positively determine. When present the apothecia or fruiting body appears as a black or grey disc that is frosted with a grey powder. It is this reference to the powdery pruina that the species is named after. On many coastal populations it can be found associated with *Lecanora sphaerospora* which has a thallus containing numerous crystalline structures embedded in the tissue. This mixed association can appear confusing as both species tend to grow together but the thalline characters will separate the species. *Buellia pruinosa* is found in all southern Australian states usually in exposed situations.

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