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Cryptogam of the Month-December 2010



Hypocenomyce scalaris

Hypocenomyce scalaris a small squamulose lichen that can usually be located either upon charred bark or decaying wood. The small green to cream coloured shell like thallus is usually curved upwards with the underside exposing a powdery mass (soredium). Apothecia are rarely seen but when present are grey pruinose discs. This species appear to be a primary coloniser on bark and has been noted to appear 2-3 years after a fire.

This species can be confused with another species of *Hypocenomyce* but easily separated using a chemical spot test of chlorine bleach. The negative reaction of the confusing species separates this species which has a positive reaction C+red.

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