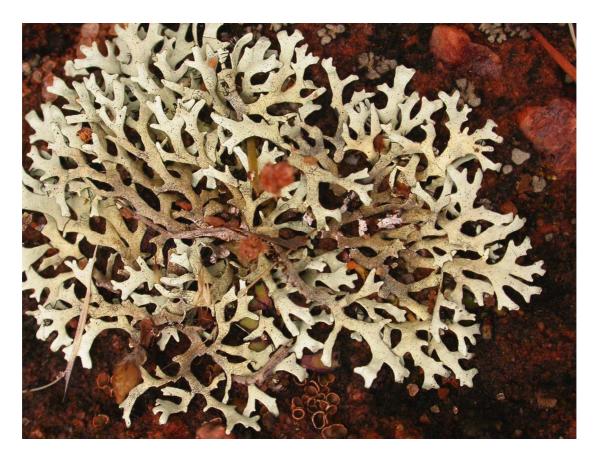
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Cryptogam of the Month- March 2011



Xanthoparmelia reptans

Xanthoparmelia reptans a foliose lichen that is common on drier soils in semi arid areas. Forming scattered rosettes loosely attached to the surface of clay soils and range in size from1-5 cm wide. The pale yellow to greenish yellow thallus is multi branched and the lower surface is brown. Simple dark rhizines (1-2 mm long) are present but sparse and can be easily seen protruding from the lower surface. A spot test of the medulla with Potassium Hydroxide (K) reacts positively and shows as a brown colour.

This species occurs in most Australian states and has also been reported from the South Island of New Zealand.

Closely related to *Xanthoparmelia amphixantha* and *Xanthoparmelia willisii* both species occur in WA and can be found in similar habitats. Character do exist that separate these species and can be found in the Flora of Australia volume 55.

R.J. Cranfield Science Division DEC Manjimup.