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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 from 1-5 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.

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