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Cryptogam of the Month – May 2012



Flavoparmelia marchantii

Flavoparmelia marchantii, distinctive recognisable foliose lichen described in 2005. This species occurs on dead and burnt wood and bark of trees/ tall shrubs in fringing thickets associated with rivers and wetlands. The thallus varies in colour from yellow-green, brown to greyish with distinctive globose to cylindrical dactyls which gives the upper surface a pimply wrinkled appearance. Apothecia are common and usually have cinnamon brown centre and rim with dactylate protrusions.

A similar looking species that may cause some confusion is *Flavoparmelia haysomii* that prefers to grow on rock (saxicolous) while *F. marchantii* occurs on bark (corticolous).

At present this species occurs mainly in a number of locations in south western Western Australia.

The former director and botanist Dr. N Marchant was honoured by naming this species after him.

R.J. Cranfield. Science Division, DEC Manjimup.