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Cryptogam of the Month - April 2013 Science Division

## Flavoparmelia soredians

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*Flavoparmelia soredians* is a cosmopolitan foliose lichen that occurs in scattered populations in southern Australian eucalypt forests as well as in Europe and North America. It is usually found growing on bark or dead wood surfaces.

The colour of the thallus can vary from yellow to greenish yellow and is covered by powdery granular propagules called soredia. Apothecia (small cup-like fruit bodies of the fungal partner) are rarely seen and *Flavoparmelia soredians* thus relies on vegetative spread via the soredia.

Chemical testing, by applying a drop of 10% potassium hydroxide to the internal tissues of the thallus (termed the medulla), will result in a yellow colour that gradually turns red (above, top left corner).

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