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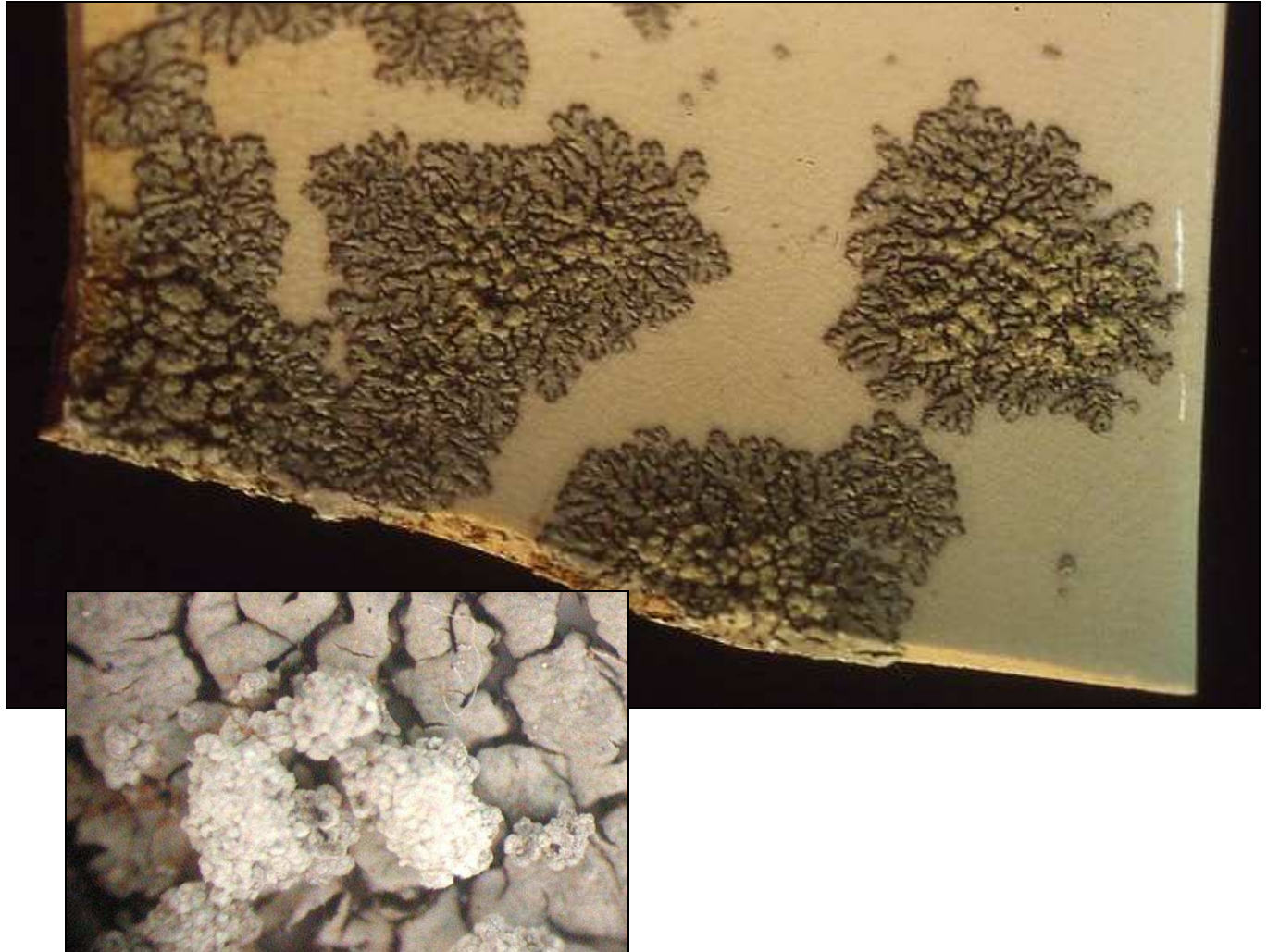
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Xanthoparmelia cranfieldii

Ray Cranfield, DEC Science Division, Manjimup, ray.cranfield@dec.wa.gov.au



Xanthoparmelia cranfieldii is a foliose lichen first collected growing on the shard of a broken tea cup. It is now known to be associated with silica based rocks. Original collections were found in the Murchison region of Western Australia and more recent collections are from the southern goldfields.

The upper surface of the thallus is yellow green which darkens with age. Tips of the lobes are shiny with characteristic fragile powdery outgrowths (called isidia, see inset above) on the upper surface. The lower surface is ivory to pale brown with brown root like structures (called rhizines) that anchor it to the rock surface. A spot of potassium hydroxide (KOH) on the inner tissues of the thallus produces a pale yellow reaction (referred to as a positive or K⁺ reaction).

Xanthoparmelia cranfieldii is similar in appearance to *Xanthoparmelia pustuliza* but which has a dark jet black thallus under side to distinguish it. *Xanthoparmelia cranfieldii* was named after R. Cranfield who collected the original material from which it was described in 2003.