

An Abstract of Our First Lichen Paper. George F. Howe and M. H. Armitage. 2002. Lichens: A partnership for life. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Volume 39, Number 2, pp. 81-88. Enjoy an introduction to lichens, covering many topics including the form, growth rates, size, habitats, extreme high and low temperatures, soil formation, taxonomy, reproduction, and laboratory synthesis of lichens. Lichens involve a close union between fungi and algae, in which the two live together. The various types of lichen fungi and algae are discussed. Depending on the authorities consulted, there are anywhere from 7,400 to 25,000 species of lichens.

Lichenologists themselves assert that **no convincing links** exist to show that one lichen species has ever had a common ancestry with another. Evolutionists say that lichens probably constitute a group of very similar but unrelated forms, which arose independently of each other. Since **lichens do not give rise to new species of lichens**, evolutionists speculate that many of them must have arisen by repeated “parallel evolution” in which numerous unrelated lines of fungi each independently became stable partners with their associated algae. There is no proof, however, for such widespread parallel evolution.

Many lichenologists think that evolution produced lichen fungi from some of the non-lichen fungi in nature. But one of the lichenologists has frankly stated, “...there is little evidence to support this view.” There has been no success in attempting to relate several lichen fungi to non-lichen fungi.

An alternative to evolution is that the Creator produced many separate kinds of lichens from the very onset. The special creation origins model is in closer alignment with actual science, which shows that there has been virtually **no evolution in lichens**. The creation view and the intelligent design theory should not be suppressed but deserve discussion in high schools, colleges, and universities worldwide, wherever evolutionism is studied.