

An Abstract of Our Second Lichen Paper. George F. Howe, G. F. and Mark H. Armitage. 2003. Lichens: a study in color. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Volume 39, Number 4, pp. 245-251. This paper illustrates the remarkable colors of lichens, demonstrating that God produced living organisms not only for our physical wellness but also for aesthetic enjoyment as well. The greenish-gray lichen color results from chlorophyll in the algae with the whitish color of the fungi. Other colors emerge from a blend of the green and white with substances colored red, orange, yellow and other shades, compounds deposited in the lichen body. The colored pigments are placed in the upper lichen layer where the algae live, while colorless substances go to the medulla, below. The **colored substances** in the upper portion of the lichen thus **shield** the algae for survival in intense sunlight. This **segregated secretion** shows the work of a sagacious Creator. In fact, one of the colored substances **absorb light and then even re-emit it** at 425 nm, a wavelength easily re-absorbed by chlorophyll in nearby lichen algae—thus trapping and revising light waves for efficient photosynthesis.

Lichen **fungi** growing alone in the laboratory produce only the simpler precursor molecules for these so-called lichen substances. Possibly the **algae** are needed to couple the smaller molecules into finished substances. **Cooperative action** between the algae and fungi indicates intelligent planning whereas gene mutations and natural selection have never been shown to accomplish such feats.

Evolutionists also proposed that **supposedly “ancient,” lichens have “modern” fungi!** While evolutionists assume lichens have evolved “early” in geological “time”, the fungi inside lichens are curiously highly “advanced.” One evolutionist attempted to solve this biological anachronism by proposing that our modern lichens are not even the descendants of the supposedly simple early lichens!