

An Abstract of Our Third Lichen Paper. Mark H. Armitage and George F. Howe. 2004. Lichens at VACRC: Lichen surfaces under the electron microscope. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Volume 41, Number 3, pp. 242-252. This paper contains electron photomicrographs of many items found on the upper lichen surface, structures defying evolutionary explanations.

The top lichen thallus layer, called the **dermis**, resembles the epidermis that covers leaves and other organs of flowering plants. This **similarity of tissues**, between lichens and “higher” plants supports the idea that they were all engineered by the same astute Being; **similarity** supports a **common Designer**. It could not indicate that they are closely “related” in the evolutionary sense because they are widely separated in the botanical classification. But nonetheless, each functional lichen surface feature has its counterpart in flowering plant tissues. The origin of parallel forms on widely different organisms by evolution has never been observed. It is flippantly attributed to a fictitious process called “convergent evolution.”

Deep cracks called **fissures** subdivide lichens into patches called **areoles**. The fissures allow gas diffusion to the algae inside the thallus. Fissures also enable the areole patches to break away, forming new lichens. We also reported two kinds of **pores**, which apparently allow gases like carbon dioxide to enter the thallus for photosynthesis. The pores indicate purposeful planning.

In other pockets called **soredia**, lichens manufacture asexual reproductive units called **soredia**, which are composed of one or more algal cells loosely attached to some fungal filaments. Soredia are produced by the algae working together with the fungi. **Evolution fails** to explain the origin of soredia.

The *Xanthoparmelia* lichen has reproductive outgrowths from the upper cortex called **isidia**: see Figures 14 and 15 below. **Asexual Reproduction in Lichens** involves numerous structures such as areoles, soredia, isidia, and many others. In fact, 20 different kinds of lichen reproductive units exist, most of them asexual. Is this reproductive versatility in lichens the result of chance or of craft? If evolution had been able to produce just one reproductive organ, would there have been any “advantage” in evolving the remaining 19?

Evolution theory has contributed very little to **Lichen literature** so that most of the fine lichen books hardly mention evolution; they do not need to. The philosophy of evolutionism is unnecessary in the science of lichenology.

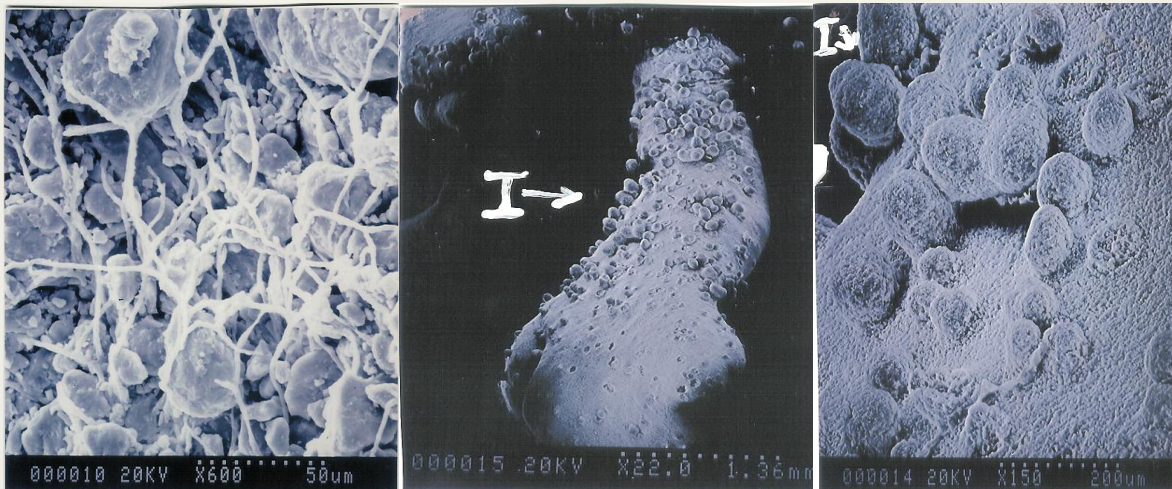


Figure 10. Scanning electron micrograph (SEM) of algae in the lichen *P. chlorophana* showing the closely clasping fungus filaments which extract food from the attached algal cells—magnification 600x. **Figure 14.** SEM micrograph of isidia (I) on the lichen *Xanthoparmelia*. Isidia are miniature lichens which break loose and act as asexual reproductive bodies—magnification 22x. **Figure 15.** SEM showing isidia (I) from the center of Figure 14 magnified to 150x.