

Lichen Project Update

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Lichens are a symbiotic association between fungi and algae. They grow on many substrates including rock, soil, moss, plant litter, and bark. The photos show the cup shaped podetia of *Cladonia pyxidata* (right) and a crustose lichen on decayed roots (below). We found these two species in a planted field with little vascular plant diversity. We will collect lichen species this summer and identify them in the fall.





Macrolichens are either foliose like the dark specimen (above) or fruticose like the pendulous specimen (below).





We found fruticose lichens typical of forested habitat in a decadent stand of sagebrush. The photo above reveals *Alectoria*, *Bryoria*, and *Letharia*. The photo below outlines the sagebrush area.





Wolf lichen (*Letharia vulpina*) clings to a ponderosa pine bough near the summit of Mt. Baldy.