

**Letharia** (Th. Fr.) Zahlbr.  
(LECANORALES)

After Hale (1979) and Hale & Cole (1988)

Rev. 5/94

Thallus fruticose, erect to pendent, with a basal attachment disk, irregularly branched, principally radial in crosssection, yet usually angular and flattened, with cortical hyphae anticlinal and with many strands often lying together in the cortex; surface intensely greenyellow to yellow, containing vulpinic acid. Algae Trebouxia. Apothecia lecanorine; discs brown; spores simple, hyaline. Pycnospores acicular. On bark or wood.

**1. Thallus diffusely soresdiate or isidiatesoresdiate; apothecia and pycnidia rare (usually absent).** Thallus golden yellowgreen to chartreuse, 315 cm tall and broad; branches 38 mm wide, wrinkled. Often covering large areas of trunk and branches above snow line. Very common on trunks and dead and living branches of conifers, fenceposts, and rarely on rocks, in north coastal, montaine and subalpine forests (in California, 16008500 ft, especially in redwood and Sequoia forests, as well as pine forests; in northern areas mostly in montane pine forests in fairly dry areas east of the Cascades), extending north to British Columbia and east to Montana and Wyoming. .... L. vulpina

**1. Thallus not soresdiate or isidiate; apothecia or at least pycnidia present.** Thallus chartreuse yellowgreen, 311 cm tall and broad, intricately and divaricately branched; branches 0.53 mm wide, matt, irregularly flattened, shallowly lacunose, wrinkled and sometimes cracked, with black pycnidia; branches terminating in attenuated subulate forked divisions. Apothecia usually common, 317 mm wide, solitary or often occurring together by 23, sessile, terminating the shorter restricted branches, and irregularly hollow in the center; disk brown with a lobulate rim. Very common on trunk and branches of conifers in habitats generally similar to those of L. vulpina but starting at somewhat higher elevations (30008000 ft in California) and usually growing higher up on the trunks (often out of reach in the canopy in dense forests); geographic distribution apparently similar to that of L. vulpina. .... L. columbiana

**Literature**

Hale, M. E. 1979. How to Know the Lichens. Wm. C. Brown Co., Dubuque

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