

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO MUSEUM
BOULDER, COLORADO



[Red handwritten mark]

8 June 1964

E. P. Menning
Craters of the Moon
National Monument
Arco, Idaho 83213

Dear Mr. Menning:

Here are names for the lichens which you sent for identification. I am including wherever I can some notes which may be of use to you in your educational program.

CATALOG NOs!

687

- No. 1. Acarospora flava (Ach.) Mass. -- found all over the world in arid situations, usually occurs on vertical rock faces. Best described as a crustose species, effigurate (having a lobed circumference). The name Acarosp~~pra~~ is given because these species ~~have~~ produce large numbers of extremely small spores (whereas in most lichens one expects 8 spores in an ascus) Acaro = mite or tick.

chartreuse

688

- No. 2. Caloplaca elegans (Link) Th. Fr. -- Likewise world-wide, especially indicative of nitrogenous compounds in the vicinity; this species frequently adorns bird perches, cliffs below eagle nests, or any flow line below an habitual perch or defecating place of small rodents, this the usual situation in our part of the world. The orange pigment is parietin, a quinone which reacts giving deep purple color with KOH; parietin is closely related to the anthraquinone pigments of fungi and insects.

orange

689

- No. 3. ~~Lep~~ Leparia aeruginosa (Wigg.) Sm. -- an "imperfect" lichen, which is not known to produce spores or fruit of any kind; the plant consists merely of a loosely organized mass of granular units each containing some algae ~~em~~meshed in fungal hyphae. This species is common in shaded sites.

gray - (silver-powdery)

690

- No. 4. ~~Lep~~ Letharia vulpina (L.) Hue -- (Wolf lichen) -- abundant in the northern parts of both hemispheres; this species was used in olden times as an important dye source and was used for ~~poisoning~~ poisoning in control measures for wolves and foxes (I have no information on whether it was effective.) Especially handsome specimens.

foliose chartreuse

Sincerely,

Wm A. Weber

William A. Weber
Prof. of Natural History