

18 Lichens

Caloplaca luteoalba orange fruited elm-lichen

Current status WCA 8; vulnerable RDB (GB).

Widely distributed in western Europe but markedly declined, also recorded from N. America. Formerly relatively frequent in England, Scotland and Wales but declined dramatically in this century, and more particularly since the 1960s. Probably still present in the region though status needs to be verified. Last recorded from the East Riding in the 1990s. Predominantly an epiphyte of elm, though sometimes on soft calcareous rocks of natural outcrops, walls and gravestones. Mainly restricted to parkland and wayside locations with an annual rainfall below 750 mm.

Threats Air pollution; changes in the rural landscape and Dutch elm disease.

Collema dichotomum river jelly lichen

Regionally extinct

Current status WCA 8; Vulnerable RDB (GB); endangered RDB (EC).

Present in Scotland, Wales and Northern England. Some old Yorkshire records may be errors.

Gyalecta ulmi elm gyalecta

Regionally extinct?

Current status Endangered RDB (GB).

Wide European distribution, although has suffered a marked decline. Formerly recorded in England and Scotland. Although seen during the 1990s in the Yorkshire Dales this is probably extinct following Dutch elm disease. Probably no longer found as an epiphyte in this country after Dutch elm disease eradicated host trees, but now found on Carboniferous limestone, calcareous mica-schist or dolomitic conglomerate rocks, often overgrowing mosses.

Threats Overshading by invading trees and shrubs.