# *Evernia prunastri*

| Category | Description |
|---|---|
| Overall appearance | Bushy, soft, strap-shaped, palmately branched, often pendulous thallus forming small tufts |
| Habitat | Widespread on neutral to acidic bark, especially oak, pine, fir, and other deciduous trees; prefers sunny, exposed branches and twigs |
| Thallus type | Foliose (though appearing fruticose) |
| Thallus size | Typically 2–6 cm long, occasionally up to 10 cm; lobes 2–4 mm wide |
| Thallus colour | Upper surface green-grey to pale green-yellow; lower surface white |
| Thallus edge | Margins often with soralia, sometimes eroded; tips palmately branched |
| Thallus features | Soft, strap-shaped lobes with elongate ridges on upper surface; lower surface whitish |
| Rhizines | Absent |
| Cilia | Absent |
| Soredia | They start as tiny round powdery spots on the edges and surface, then grow and merge into larger patches |
| Isidia | Absent (contrast with Pseudevernia furfuracea, which has isidia) |
| Pseudocyphellae & cyphellae | Absent |
| Apothecia | Rare; 2–5 mm diameter; brown disc; thin exciple that soon disappears |
| Any other surface features? | Upper surface often shows an incomplete network of elongate ridges; lower surface occasionally dotted green near tips |
| Reaction with K | K+ yellow (Cortex), K- (Medulla) |
| Reaction with C | C– (Cortex and medulla no reaction) |
| Reaction under UV (Fluorescence) | UV– (no fluorescence) |
| Similar species | ***Ramalina farinacea*** *(not white beneath; more cartilaginous, rope-like);* ***Pseudevernia furfuracea*** *(grey upper surface, isidia present, underside darkening to black)* |

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**LICHENS OF MILTON KEYNES**

# *Glossary*

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Thallus | The main body of the lichen — the part you see attached to bark, stone, or other surfaces. It can be crusty, leafy, shrubby, or powdery. |
| Thallus type | A thallus type describes the overall shape and growth form of a lichen. These forms are one of the first things used to identify species. The main types are:<br>**Crustose**<br>Flat and tightly attached to the surface, like a thin crust of paint. You can't lift it without scraping it off.<br>**Foliose**<br>Leaf-like, with lobes that lift away from the surface. They often have rhizines underneath for attachment. They often have two different colours on the upper and underside.<br>**Fruticose**<br>Shrubby or hair-like, growing upright or hanging down. They look three-dimensional, like tiny bushes or threads. They usually have the same colour all the way around.<br>**Squamulose**<br>Made of small, scale-like plates that overlap or sit loosely on the surface. A mix between crustose and foliose.<br>**Leprose**<br>Powdery or granular, with no clear structure — just a loose, dust-like layer of fungal and algal material. |
| Rhizines | Root-like threads on the underside of leafy lichens. They don't absorb nutrients — they simply anchor the lichen to its surface |
| Cilia | Fine, hair-like strands that stick out from the edges of some lichens. Their shape and length can help with identification. |
| Soredia and Soralia | Tiny, powdery bundles of algal cells wrapped in fungal threads. They easily disperse and act as "starter kits" for new lichens. Found in patches called soralia or scattered across the lichen's surface. |
| Isidia | Small, finger-like or wart-like bumps on the thallus. They break off to form new lichens and are a type of vegetative reproduction. |
| Pseudocyphellae & Cyphellae | Cyphellae are tiny, round pits with well-defined walls, while pseudocyphellae are pale spots or cracks where the surface layer is thin or missing. The key difference is that cyphellae are true, structured openings, whereas pseudocyphellae are simpler breaks in the cortex (upper surface). |
| Apothecia | Small disc- or cup-shaped structures on the lichen surface where spores are produced — essentially the lichen's fruiting bodies. |