

# *Physcia adscendens*

Category	Description
Overall appearance	Pale grey to greenish-grey with narrow, ascending lobes and distinct hood-shaped lobe tips (inflated and lifting away from the substrate). Forms loose rosettes or tufted patches.
Habitat	Very common on nutrient-enriched tree bark, twigs, branches; also on calcareous stone, tombstones, asbestos-cement, and occasionally siliceous rock.
Thallus type	Foliose
Thallus size	Typically up to 5 cm across; lobes up to 1 mm wide.
Thallus colour	Upper surface: pale grey to greenish-grey. Underside: whitish with scattered darker-tipped rhizines.
Thallus edge	Lobe ends inflate and split underneath, forming hoods that contain cream-yellowish soredia.
Thallus features	Hood-shaped lobe tips; soralia inside hoods; maculae present; black pycnidia may occur.
Rhizines	Scattered darker tipped rhizines
Cilia	Long, marginal, often dark-tipped, especially near hooded lobe ends.
Soredia	Produced in soralia within hooded lobe tips; Cream to yellowish.
Isidia	Absent
Maculae, Pseudocyphellae & cyphellae	Maculae present and clearer in wet conditions. Pseudocyphellae & cyphellae absent.
Apothecia	Rare; when present, small (to 2 mm), with black, pruinose discs and thick margins.
Any other surface features?	Upper surface often dotted with black pycnidia (asexual spore-producing structures).
Reaction with K	K+ yellow (Cortex), K- (Medulla)
Reaction with C	C- (no reaction)
Reaction under UV (Fluorescence)	No reaction
Similar species	<i>Physcia tenella</i> (soralia in lip-shaped clusters), <i>Physcia aipolia</i> (distinct white spots), <i>Physconia grisea</i> (broader lobes).

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# Physcia tenella

Category	Description
Overall appearance	Pale grey (greener when wet) foliose lichen with narrow, ascending lobes; often forms loose, tufted patches.
Habitat	Common on well-lit trees and twigs but rare on stonework/rocks except where overhung by tree branches.
Thallus type	Foliose
Thallus size	Usually 2–5 cm across, sometimes larger. Lobes 0.4–1mm wide.
Thallus colour	Upper surface: pale grey (greener when wet) Underside: white to tan.
Thallus edge	Lobe ends split revealing coarse, creamy soralia.
Thallus features	Soredia present on lobe tips and margins; white maculae (more visible when wet).
Rhizines	Scattered darker-tipped rhizines
Cilia	Long pale or dark-tipped
Soredia	Present; produced in lip-shaped clusters (soralia)
Isidia	Absent
Maculae, Pseudocyphellae & cyphellae	Maculae present and clearer in wet conditions. Pseudocyphellae & cyphellae absent.
Apothecia	Rare; when present are dark brown with margins the same colour as thallus.
Any other surface features?	The lobe surfaces often dotted with black pycnidia (asexual spore-producing structure).
Reaction with K	K+ yellow (Cortex), K- (Medulla)
Reaction with C	C- (no reaction)
Reaction under UV (Fluorescence)	No reaction
Similar species	<i>Physcia adscendens</i> (hooded lobe tips), <i>Physcia aipolia</i> (distinct white spots), <i>Physconia grisea</i> (broader lobes).

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# 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	<p>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:</p> <p><b>Crustose</b> Flat and tightly attached to the surface, like a thin crust of paint. You can't lift it without scraping it off.</p> <p><b>Foliose</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Fruticose</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Squamulose</b> Made of small, scale-like plates that overlap or sit loosely on the surface. A mix between crustose and foliose.</p> <p><b>Leprose</b> Powdery or granular, with no clear structure – just a loose, dust-like layer of fungal and algal material.</p>
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. Soredia are 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).
Maculae	Maculae are pale spots on the lichen surface where there is little to no algal layer underneath, letting the white medulla show through.
Apothecia	Small disc- or cup-shaped structures on the lichen surface where spores are produced – essentially the lichen's fruiting bodies.