

Lichen Scavenger Hunt

Dear Intrepid Mycologist,

Get ready to head to the field! It is time to get out of your house and go searching for lichens. Below is a scavenger hunt that incorporates morphology, ecology and some interesting things about lichens. This scavenger hunt would work best in a natural woodlands in Florida so find a native habitat nearby to visit.

Here is your assignment: Below is a list of lichen types and features. Head out into the woods and take a photograph of a lichen that fits each of the categories in the checklist below. Then when you get back home, download your photos and organize them in a powerpoint slideshow with labels to indicate which photos correspond with which one of the features or types that are listed below. Then show all your friends, post on the FALAFEL Facebook group, or tweet your results to @FloridaMuseum and @LepLichenLaurel.

Try to find them all!

- A crustose lichen
- A foliose lichen
- A fruticose lichen
- Two foliose lichens with different lobe branching patterns
- A foliose lichen that is tightly attached to the tree
- A foliose lichen that is loosely attached to the tree
- A nitrogen fixing lichen (hint: deep shade and dark grayish-dark green color)
- A lichen with soredia
- A lichen with isidia
- A lichen with apothecia
- A lichen with perithecia
- A greenish foliose lichen that has hairs around the edge of the thallus (look on oaks in sandy areas)
- A greenish foliose lichen with perforated apothecia (look on oaks in sandy areas)
- Two crustose lichens fighting for space, ie boundaries are touching (common on smooth bark)
- A lichen with an apothecial disk that is a different color than the rim

Taxonomic challenges:

- Parmotrema*
- Usnea*

Diversity Challenge:

Pick a tree. Measure a 12 in x 12 in quadrant on the trunk. How many lichens are in that quadrat? Be sure to take a photo of it and indicate the different species in your photo.

Here are two great online resources for Florida Lichens that will help you if you get stuck:

https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/herbarium/lib/pdf/Rosentreter_Field_oriented_keys_to_the_Florida_lichens_Dec_2015.pdf

<https://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/biota/lichens.php>