

Lichens
of
BWI Cuskinny Marsh
Nature Reserve

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Dr Jim Wilson,
IWC Chairman,
Blanan,
Rushebrooke,
Cobh,
Co. Cork.

Dear Dr. Wilson,

I visited Cuskinny Marsh earlier this month and conducted a brief survey the lichen flora. I was engaged on a lichen/air quality baseline survey for Dr Gerard Morgan of the Aquatic Services Unit, Zoology Department, UCC, Tel. 021-904179. For this extensive survey the area covered runs from Lota to Rochestown to Monkstown to Cuskinny to Lissanisky Hill to Glounthaune to Lota. I have recorded lichens in plots on trees and these are marked by 1" diameter tags and in each instance, I have sought agreement from landowners to tag their trees.

I tagged 4 trees in Cuskinny Marsh Nature Reserve and I am writing to you to check whether this is alright. For your IWC site conservation files, I enclose a copy of my Cuskinny Marsh lichen data which is to be included in my forthcoming survey report for Dr Morgan. In the local context, Cuskinny Marsh appears to be one of the most interesting places on Great Island for epiphytic lichens.

As a member of the British Lichen Society conservation committee, over the past 8 years I have collected lichen data from many other sites around Ireland, in which the IWC have interests (Sheppard, R. 1993 *Ireland's Wetland Wealth*, Anon. 1981 *Areas of Scientific Interest in Ireland*). Unpublished site data on Irish lichens held in British Lichen Society files are not readily accessible to researchers in Ireland. As a result, my longer term research interests are to remedy this situation, and would like to establish some links with the IWC on Irish lichens and site conservation. For this year and next, I have research in progress on three main topics: Wicklow lichens & habitats, Irish lichenicolous fungi and Cork & Kerry lichens.

I am always available to contribute lichenological data on sites of interest and to provide advice on lichens and their habitats throughout Ireland. I would be grateful if you could mention this at IWC council.—

Yours sincerely,

Howard F. Fox

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Site 12

Cuskinny Marsh, IWC Nature Reserve (W 81 67).

Four Alders in wet wood. Go in Hospital gate, keep straight onto minor track, cross bridge and gate, follow path for another 20 m, veer right, over barbed-wire fence into swampy Alder woodland, go in about 30 m, crossing a miniature stream, near the back hedge. Tree 1 (Tag 1), Tree 2 (Tag 2), Tree 3 (Tag 3) and Tree 4 (Tag 4) are more or less in a line trending from E to W. The boles of tagged trees are dominated by *Parmelietum revolutae* community. Lichens here are interesting with *Parmelia subrudecta*, *Parmelia reticulata*, *Macentina stigonemoides* (fertile), *Gyalideopsis anastomosans*, *Graphis elegans*, *Arthonia didyma*, *Arthonia ilicina* and *Dimerella pineti*. *Stenocybe pullatula* should occur (McCarthy 1978), but I did not search for it. Lichenicolous fungi occur, *Vouaxiomyces truncatus* on *Parmelia caperata* and several others seen on foliose lichens on Alder and Salix, W of the track were not collected. Bleaching of *Parmelia subrudecta* is curious, and might be a symptom of pollution injury.

Cuskinny Marsh shares a similar flora to that found at Ballyphehane by McCarthy (1978, *Ir. Nat. J.* 19(5): 154-156). *Hypogymnia*, *Ramalinaceae* and *Physciaceae* are not prominent in Cuskinny, and *Gyalideopsis*, *Macentina* and *Dimerella* were probably overlooked in Ballyphehane. In the survey area, Site 16, Belvelly ponds and Site 24, Hop, Rochestown were similar, harbouring pockets of pollution sensitive lichens.

The lichen parasite *Arthonia punctella* on *Diplotomma epipolium* was seen on the sea-wall below the Cork Harbour Commissioners offices (W 808.666) and again on the sea-wall at Cuskinny (W 820.673). *Arthonia punctella* was first described by Nylander from a Carroll specimen collected 'below Queenstown' [W 80 66] in the 1860's. Since then, the species has been found twice, in West Kent, England and Caithness, Scotland. It is reassuring that a population still persists at Cobh. Presumably, it grows elsewhere in Ireland, and will be found occasionally when sought.

Appendix B — Cork lichen dataset

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Species	%Cover	OnTr	SiteNo	SiteNa	TreeNo	TagNo	Aspect	Girth	Host
358	Fuscidea lightfootii	5		12	Cuskir	1	1	10	23	Alnus
359	indet alga trentepohlia	0.5		12	Cuskir	1	1	10	23	Alnus
360	Parmelia revoluta	10		12	Cuskir	1	1	10	23	Alnus
361	Parmelia subrudecta	75		12	Cuskir	1	1	10	23	Alnus
362	Dimerella pineti	2		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
363	Fuscidea lightfootii	2		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
364	Graphis elegans	1		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
365	Gyalideopsis anastomosans	0.5		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
366	Leproloma vouauxii	1		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
367	Parmelia caperata	15		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
368	Parmelia reticulata	20		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
369	Parmelia revoluta	45		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
370	Parmelia subrudecta	10		12	Cuskir	2	2	80	31	Alnus
371	Evernia prunastri	2		12	Cuskir	3	3	275	23	Alnus
372	Fuscidea lightfootii	3		12	Cuskir	3	3	275	23	Alnus
373	Leproloma vouauxii	8		12	Cuskir	3	3	275	23	Alnus
374	Parmelia caperata	55		12	Cuskir	3	3	275	23	Alnus
375	Parmelia revoluta	30		12	Cuskir	3	3	275	23	Alnus
376	Parmelia subrudecta	5		12	Cuskir	3	3	275	23	Alnus
377	Ramalina farinacea	1		12	Cuskir	3	3	275	23	Alnus
378	Evernia prunastri	2		12	Cuskir	4	4	135	29	Alnus
379	Fuscidea lightfootii	3		12	Cuskir	4	4	135	29	Alnus
380	Parmelia caperata	75		12	Cuskir	4	4	135	29	Alnus
381	Parmelia revoluta	8		12	Cuskir	4	4	135	29	Alnus
382	Dimerella pineti	a		12	Cuskir	1			23	Alnus
383	Graphis elegans	a		12	Cuskir	1			23	Alnus
384	Gyalideopsis anastomosans	a		12	Cuskir	1			23	Alnus
385	Leproloma vouauxii	a		12	Cuskir	1			23	Alnus
386	Ramalina farinacea	a		12	Cuskir	1			23	Alnus
387	Arthonia didyma	a		12	Cuskir	2			31	Alnus
388	indet alga trentepohlia	a		12	Cuskir	2			31	Alnus
389	Normandina pulchella	a		12	Cuskir	2			31	Alnus
390	parasite Vouauxiomyces truncatus	a		12	Cuskir	2			31	Alnus
391	Ramalina farinacea	a		12	Cuskir	2			31	Alnus
392	Dimerella pineti	a		12	Cuskir	3			23	Alnus
393	Gyalideopsis anastomosans	a		12	Cuskir	3			23	Alnus
394	indet alga trentepohlia	a		12	Cuskir	3			23	Alnus
395	Parmelia reticulata	a		12	Cuskir	3			23	Alnus
396	Pertusaria pertusa	a		12	Cuskir	3			23	Alnus
397	Dimerella pineti	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
398	Graphis elegans	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
399	Gyalideopsis anastomosans	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
400	indet alga trentepohlia	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
401	Leproloma vouauxii	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
402	Macentina stigonemoides	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
403	parasite Vouauxiomyces truncatus	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
404	Parmelia subrudecta	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
405	Pertusaria albescens	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
406	Pertusaria pertusa	a		12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus

Appendix B — Cork lichen dataset

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Species	%Cover	OnTr	SiteNo	SiteNa	TreeNo	TagNo	Aspect	Girth	Host
407	Phaeographis dendritica		a	12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
408	Usnea subfloridana		a	12	Cuskir	4			29	Alnus
409										