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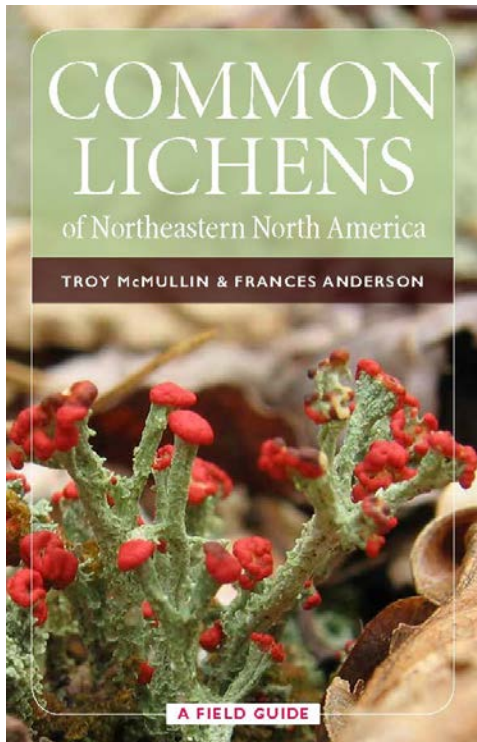
# THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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For Immediate Release  
April 7, 2015

## ***Common Lichens of Northeastern North America* Fills the Need For an Easy-to-Use Guide to these Important but Overlooked Organisms**

**New NYBG Press Book is an Ideal Introduction to Lichens for Non-Specialists—  
Take It Along on Hikes and Nature Trips or Use It in the Backyard**



Designed to be a user-friendly reference for non-specialists, *Common Lichens of Northeastern North America* is a light and easy-to-use field guide that covers the rich lichen flora of northeastern North America. Authors Troy McMullin and Frances Anderson have designed their book, now available from The New York Botanical Garden Press, for amateur naturalists, nature interpreters, forestry workers, land surveyors, researchers, and anyone who is interested in learning more about this important but often neglected type of plant life.

Meant to fit in a pocket or backpack, *Common Lichens* requires no previous botanical experience and is written in non-technical language. The book covers 138 species mostly seen in New England, the Canadian Maritimes, Newfoundland, Quebec, and eastern Ontario.

Lichens, which are composite organisms formed by the combination of a fungus and a plant component, are important to the full functioning of an ecosystem, and their presence or absence is an indicator of the health of that ecosystem. They provide food and shelter for animals and invertebrates, increasing the biodiversity of many ecosystems, and certain

types of lichen are often among the few nitrogen-fixing organisms in some habitats, making them vital to plant life. Because they absorb nutrients directly from the atmosphere and the water that washes over them, they are sensitive environmental indicators. Many species die when air pollution is too great.

Each lichen species included in *Common Lichens* has its own page, including a full-color photograph accompanied by a black-and-white drawing to help with identification in the field. The guide is formatted so that species are arranged as they are encountered in the field, starting with the surface on which they live (trees, rocks, or soil), then by their shape or growth form, color, and features that are distinctive to each species. Apart from the book, all that is needed to identify these lichens is a magnifying glass.

*Common Lichens* also contains practical tips to help amateurs begin collecting and preserving lichens, whether on nature trips or in the backyard. Recognizing and appreciating these fascinating and often beautiful organisms will enrich the user's understanding of the diversity of the natural world.

### **About The Authors of *Common Lichens of Northeastern North America***

Troy McMullin, Ph.D., is a lichenologist and forest ecologist at the University of Guelph. His ecological interests are diverse, but they became focused when he began studying lichens in the old-growth forests of southwestern Nova Scotia as part of his Master's research at Dalhousie University in Halifax. This research led to consulting work on lichens in the public and private sector. He has worked closely with provincial and federal governments in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and several other Canadian provinces. He completed his doctoral work at the University of Guelph, where he studied the effects of forestry on lichen diversity in northern Ontario.

Frances Anderson, a Research Associate at the Nova Scotia Museum, has published a provisional checklist of larger lichens for Nova Scotia and coauthored research reports into the risk status of two lichen species for the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, among other scientific publications. She has done lichen surveys for forestry companies and conservation groups, produced several lichen brochures related to particular geographic areas or hiking trails, written a book chapter on lichens, and led lichen walks for naturalists.

### **Advance Praise for *Common Lichens of Northeastern North America***

“Finally, a book for anyone who has seen a lichen and wondered what that growth might be and what caused it.”

—James Lendemer, Ph.D., Institute of Systematic Botany, The New York Botanical Garden

“Naturalists, botanists, and students will enjoy exploring a new miniature world.”

—Bruce McCune, Ph.D., Oregon State University

“An easy-to-transport, must-have resource for any natural history enthusiast of the I-95 corridor and beyond.”

—Erin Tripp, Ph. D., Museum of Natural History, University of Colorado, Boulder

### **About The New York Botanical Garden Press**

Since 1896 The New York Botanical Garden Press ([nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org)) has been publishing books and journals based on original research by plant scientists from around the world. Its mission is to put information in the hands of those engaged in exploring, understanding, and conserving plants and fungi. Areas of focus include floristics, systematics, economic botany, ecology, evolution, and ethnobotany. A growing list of books for general readers includes field guides and botanical history.

**Ordering Information:** *Common Lichens of Northeastern North America* (\$39 spiral-bound hardcover) is available through NYBG Press. To order, call 718.817.8721 or go to [nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org). Also available through online retailers.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, the Botanical Garden is one of the world's preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. Garden scientists conduct fundamental research on plants and fungi globally, as well as on the many relationships between plants and people. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden's 250-acre site is one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world and the largest in any city in the United States, distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens, as well as by the scope and excellence of its programs in horticulture, education, and science. Learn more: [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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