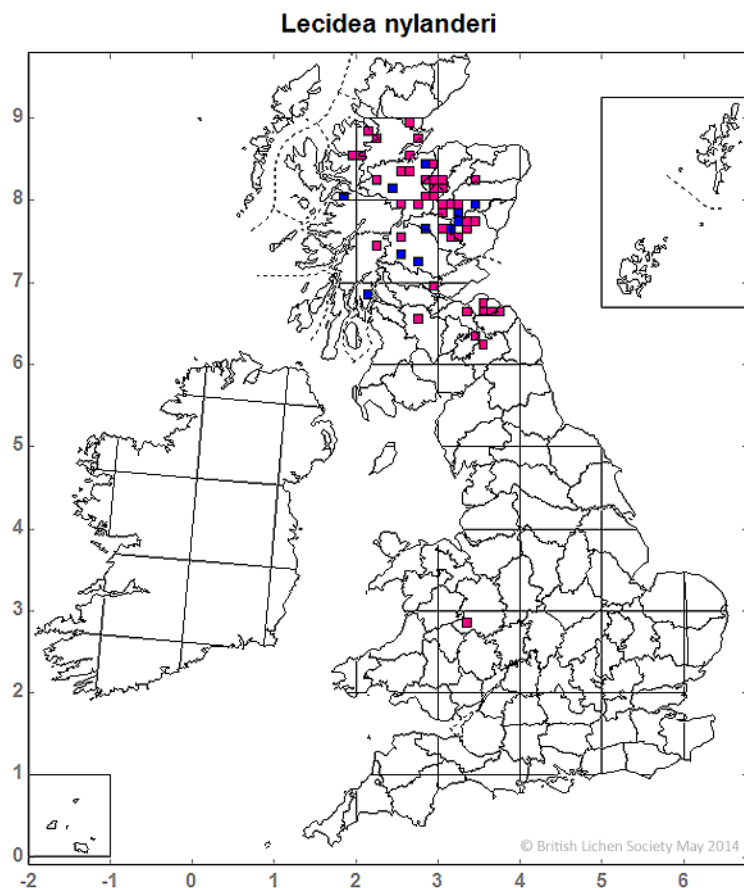


## *Lecidea nylanderi* at Burnham Beeches

Aptroot *et al.* (2009), in the last edition of the British Lichen 'Flora', state that *Lecidea nylanderi* is a species of bark and exposed wood of old tree trunks in the Scottish Highlands with only a single record outside Scotland (Welsh borders). Subsequently it was found in Somerset, then in an old park in Oxfordshire in 2017. The Burnham Beeches discovery is the third English record and a considerable expansion of its known range into the London area. This rather non-descript but important species has only been found in England at sites with a long ecological continuity, associated with veteran trees. Its bluish grey granular crust could be quite easily overlooked for the ubiquitous lichen *Lepraria incana*, but *L. nylanderi* stains the bark black while having a white fluorescence when viewed in UV light. A layman might be distinctly unimpressed if shown the grey granular crust of *L. nylanderi* but to those who understand the ecology of ancient trees it is an exciting discovery. Its British conservation designation is 'Least Concern' because substantial populations are present in Scotland. It is officially listed as Nationally Scarce (having been found in fewer than 100 British hectads ( $10 \times 10$  km squares)).



The distribution of *Lecidea nylanderi* as of 2016.



*Lecidea nylanderi* growing on the exposed wood (lignum) of a veteran tree in Oxfordshire. Note the grey granular crust (with a hint of slate blue) and the black staining of the wood beneath and around the granules.



Another photograph of *Lecidea nylanderii*, again growing on the lignum of a veteran oak in Oxfordshire. At Burnham Beeches this lichen was found growing on living bark of a living oak.

Further images are available under the media tab here:

<http://fungi.myspecies.info/all-fungi/lecidea-nylanderii>

See also:

<http://www.britishtichensociety.org.uk/resources/species-accounts/lecidea-nylanderii>

**Aptroot, A., Gilbert, O.L., Hawksworth, D.L. & Coppins, B.J.** (2009) *Lecidea*. In *The Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland*. (C.W. Smith, A. Aptroot, B.J. Coppins, A. Fletcher, O.L. Gilbert, P.W. James & P.A. Wolseley, eds): 502-519. London: British Lichen Society.