

Tree Lungwort

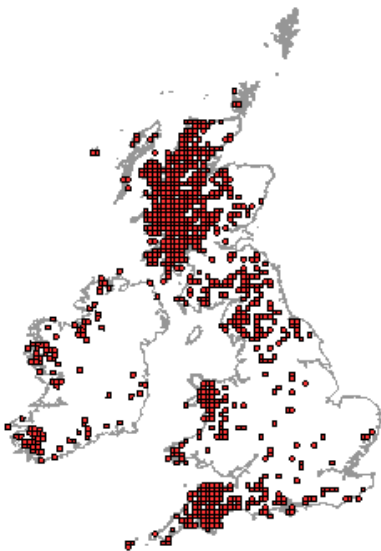
DESCRIPTION

Tree lungwort is a green leafy lichen, that grows in Scotland's best Atlantic woodland along the west coast. Its lobes look a bit like the billowing shape of human lungs, hence its name. In fact, because of this resemblance, mediaeval medics used it to treat lung disorders. Tree lungwort is one of the largest lichens and is an indicator of ancient woodland.

Tree lungwort is found mainly in Scotland, particularly the west coast, where the wetter climate provides the moisture it requires to thrive. Because of air pollution, it is much sparser in the rest of Britain, confined to a few sites in wilder areas, such as the Lake District and parts of Wales.

Listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List

DISTRIBUTION MAP



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THREATS

Invasion by *Rhododendron ponticum*
Long term overgrazing or undergrazing of woodland

Balallan House
Allan Park, Stirling
FK8 2QG
Tel: 01786 478509
scotland@plantlife.org.uk
www.plantlife.org.uk



Photo: Deborah Long

ACTION REQUIRED

- Sign up as a Flora Guardian to help monitor this rare species at www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland
- If you own or manage some Atlantic woodland, see if you have tree lungwort using Plantlife guides http://www.plantlife.org.uk/publications/lichens_of_atlantic_woodlands_-_guide_1_lichens_on_ash_hazel_willow_rowan_and_old_oak/?cat=13 and contact Plantlife for advice
- If you own or manage some Atlantic woodland with *Rhododendron* in it, consider removing the *Rhododendron* [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/fcpg017.pdf/\\$FILE/fcpg017.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/fcpg017.pdf/$FILE/fcpg017.pdf)

FURTHER READING

Gilbert, O. (2004) *Lichens: Naturally Scottish*. SNH publication. <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/naturallyscottish/lichens.pdf>

Plantlife (2010) Lichens & bryophytes of Atlantic woodland in Scotland. http://www.plantlife.org.uk/publications/lichens_and_bryophytes_of_atlantic_woodland_in_scotland/?cat=13

