

A Tale of Ten Lichens

By Matt Groberg

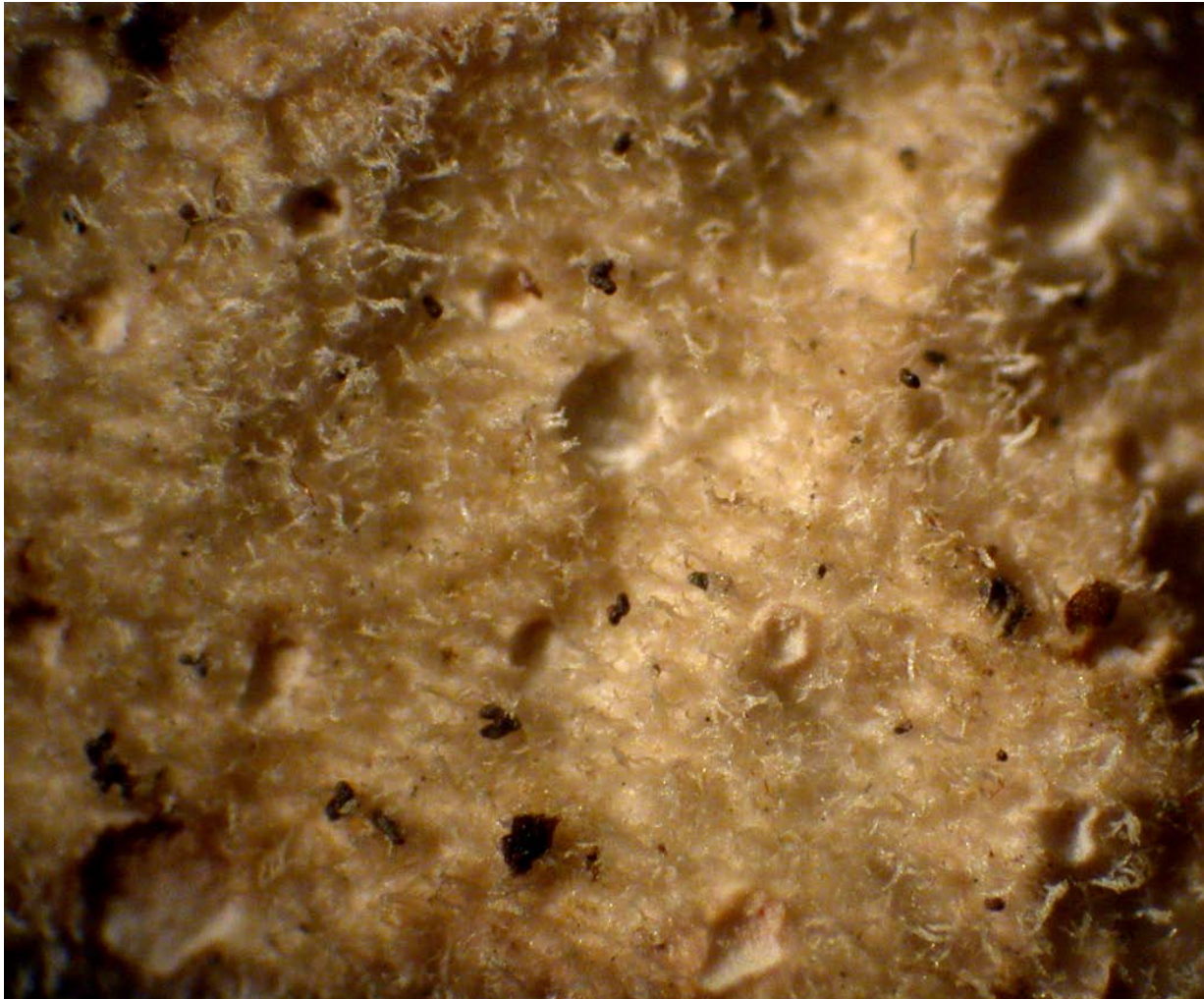
Oh, *Ramalina menziesii*!
You have caught me in your net.
Drooping from trees as if cast by tiny fishermen.
A species I will never forget.



Sticta fuliginosa,

Your cyphellae are round and true.

Although your scent is somewhat pungent,
Other lichen pores are just “Pseudo” to you.

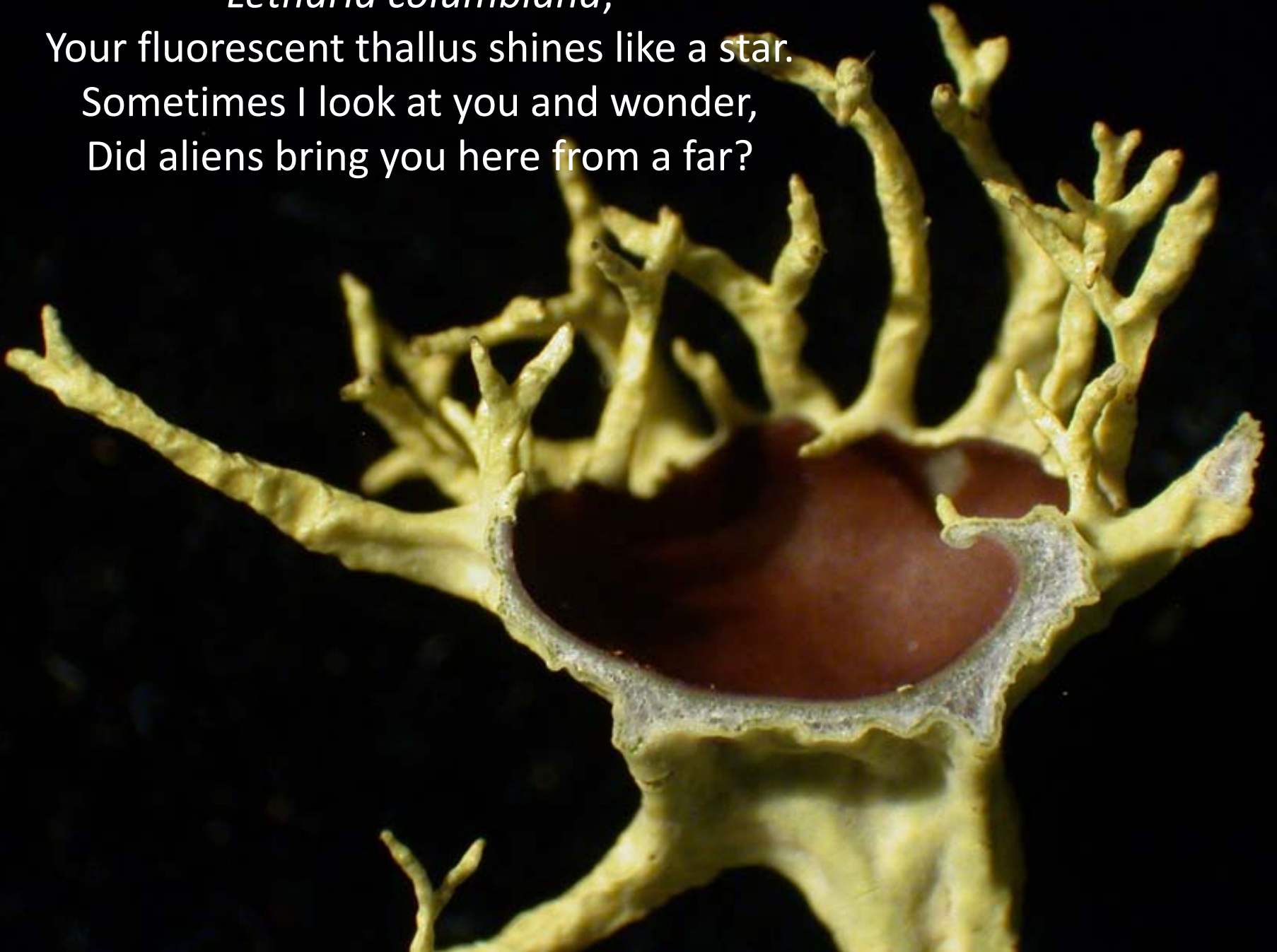


Letharia columbiana,

Your fluorescent thallus shines like a star.

Sometimes I look at you and wonder,

Did aliens bring you here from a far?





Cladonia umbricola,
I collected you off an old ice cream truck.
Your red apothecia caught my eye,
Whilst my feet slipped in the slippery muck.

Little *Physcia aipolia*,
I may have never known you existed.
Until I had to collect 75 species,
Was my appreciation for you shifted.



Of the *Hypogymnia* that I know,
One has an interior that is white as snow.
The reason it stands out from all the rest,
Is because it doesn't require a P-reagent chemical test.



Nephroma laevigatum,
Your apothecia are upside down.
Although you lack soredia,
Your medulla is the yellowest in town!



I'm sure to other people,
I looked strange observing twigs with a lens.
As they walked past I would start to shout:
"It's the same *Xanthomendoza* again"!





Cetraria orbata,

Your marginal pycnidia are black.
When I heard people ate you in Iceland,
I said “hmmm I will have to try that”.



Aleatoria sarmentosa,
Your thallus is pendant and flaccid.
One day I will use you for sunblock,
Because you contain usnic acid.

The End