

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

Used as food

Cladonia alginate + Saxanigalia + Cetraria in the North America. The Barber fibers in the roots of alginate are considered as a food for the growing and population are found in their grain + porridge.

(2) Used as medicine

- i) The lichen Lobaria pulmonaria is used to treat lung disease.
 - ii) Rabies is cured by taking powdered Peltigera + black pepper + warm milk (in previous preparation [This lichen was named by Linnaeus in 1753 as Lichen Cornu or dog lichen]).
 - iii) Many of the lichens are antibiotic in nature. Gram -ve bacteria are resistant to all lichen acids but gram -ve bacteria of tuberculosis bacteria are inhibited by protolichenic acid, uric acid etc. [uric acid is widely used in European countries as a chemotherapeutic agent for external application.]
- (3) Used as soil formation:—

Lichens happen to be the first plants that look part in active soil formation. It is thought that delimitated lichen thallus break the soil or rocks as they expand or contract when wet or dry. It is also believed that lichen addition in all integrate rocks by chelation (a process that removes Ca, Mg and other minerals from crystals).

(4) Used for the extracting dyes:—

The only important use in the green dyes is in the preparation of litmus paper.

(5) Extracts of Evernia, Parmelia & Ramalina:— They contain various essential oils that are extensively used as soap scents.

(6) In Europe — it is reported that some of the lichens causing the etching of the window glasses.

(7) Growth of lichens as an indicator of climate:—

[Slow growth of lichens can be made use of for dating, for instance glacial moraines, lava flows, ancient human, monument etc. Selected sps of lichens can possibly be used to estimate mean sulphur dioxide levels (Hawksworth 1971, Gilbert 1975)]

(8) Lichen as Pollution Indicator:—

The lichens have been found to be useful and permanent indicators for environment pollution (Hawksworth & Rose 1976). *Lecanora* is found only in Urban areas where the air is polluted due to industries.

(9) Useful in tanning, brewing & distilling:—

In parts of Russia & Siberia, lichens are used in the brewing of beer. *Cladonia rangiferina*, *Uznea florida* & *Ramalina flaxinea* have been used in the prepn of alcohol.