

Economic importance of Lichen.

1. Food for man & animal -

Reindeer moss i.e. Cladonia sps. is a valuable source of food to wild animals, Lecanora Saxicola is taken by snails, slugs etc. Cetraria islandica commonly known as Iceland moss is mixed with wheat flour and is taken as food by travellers in Iceland. Parmelia is famous for its delicacy in Madras.

2. Medicines -

Several lichens are used in the preparation of medicines e.g. Labaria pulmonaria was used in lung's disease, Xanthoria parventina in jaundice, Cladonia pyxidata in whooping cough, Peltigera canina in hydrophobia, Parmelia saxatilis in epilepsy.

3. Dyes - Rocella, Parmelia, Evernia are dye-yielding lichens. Litmus dye is also obtained from some other lichens.

4. Tanning -

In Europe, some sps of lichen are used in tanning industry.

5. Perfume & cosmetics -

Some lichens eg. Evernia prunastri yields perfume of a very good quality. 'Dhup' & 'Hawan' for puja is prepared from lichen.

6. Ecological importance -

Lichen has got ecological importance specially in the pioneer vegetation on the base rocks.