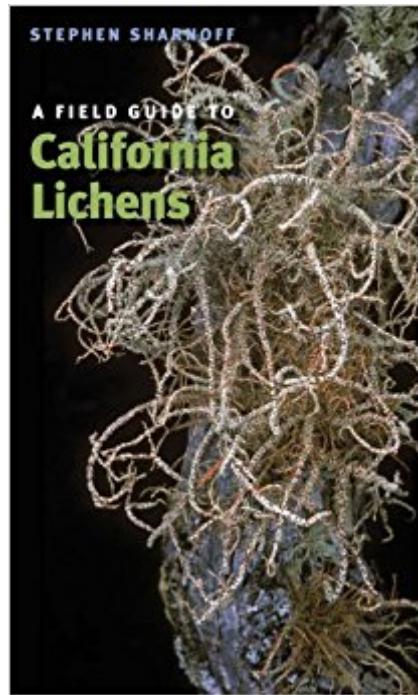


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# A Field Guide To California Lichens



## Synopsis

The definitive guide to California's diverse array of lichen flora, with color photographs and descriptions of over 500 species. Lichens are among the most colorful and abundant organisms in the world. They provide food and nesting material for a wide variety of wildlife, contribute nutrients to the soil, and are indicators of both undisturbed ecosystems and clean air. They lend color and pattern to trees, shrubs, and rocks, yet most people know little about them. This richly illustrated, authoritative guide to the lichens of California draws new attention to these striking and ecologically important organisms, which are symbionts representing a relationship between a fungus and alga and highlights their beauty, diversity, and value as a natural resource. Lichens are especially abundant and varied in California, where climates range from temperate rainforests to arid deserts. A Field Guide to California Lichens features stunning new photographs of some 500 lichen species by award-winning nature photographer Stephen Sharnoff. Up-to-date descriptions accompany each illustration. Among the special contributions of the guide are its coverage of most common macrolichens in California and its inclusion of many of the crust-forming species. For land management professionals and scientists involved with ecosystem studies, for birders, hikers, and all others curious about the natural world around them, this book will be a welcome field companion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A good companion to LICHENS OF NORTH AMERICA and a fine book on its own, this guide is less

technical than the "Big Book" but just as beautiful. It is precise but uncluttered, and thorough without being intimidating. The excellent photos and brief, readable descriptions should appeal to anyone who is curious about lichens, ecology, or general natural history. Although some of the species covered are only found in California, many are widespread in the Southwest and Rocky Mountains, making this a useful regional guide. Coverage of soil crust lichens is particularly good. Another interesting feature of this book is the description (and sometimes multiple photos) of certain lichen species that vary in form depending on habitat or elevation. A lovely and informative book with the potential to become a natural history classic.

While in many cases you can match a picture to the lichen you have in hand, it might have been nice to include a key in this new book. In order to key out what you have, you have to go to another resource. All-in-all, a very helpful guide to California Lichens!

Best available publication on California lichens....for a novice individual just learning about Lichens, it can almost be overwhelming. With patience and time I am sure it will fill that "vacant" niche in my Natural history library.....I am already using it both in the field and with some collected specimens. It truly opened my eyes to the number and in some cases close similarities of our rich lichen flora in California.

Really great photographs and accurate useful descriptions. The overall layout of the book is good. As has been said by others there is no taxonomic key in the book but that would be difficult and I don't know of any lichen field guide that has a key. I just wish that it would rain more in California so that the lichens would revitalize and I could get out and observe them.

Love this book. I have recently become interested in lichen and this book has helped me identify those in my garden. Great resource.

This small book has stunning photos that seem surreal. It is a practical companion to Sharnoff's coffee-table book on lichens.

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