

To mentum

(plural- tomenta; adj. tomentose ; from Latin tomentosus, furnished with hairs)

To mentum are hair-like hyphae produced on the upper or lower surfaces of the lichen as a felt-like covering on the thallus. The hairs may be simple, branched or coiled and have no photosynthetic partner so do not contribute to photosynthesis. This surface can absorb water and minerals or prevent water loss from the thallus, and may protect the lichen from extreme conditions or predators. To mentum can be found for example on the upper surface of *Erioderma*, *Peltigera* and *Leptogium*, and on the lower surface of *Lobaria*, *Nephroma*, *Sticta*, *Crocodia*, *Pseudocyphellaria* and *Leptogium*. It can also be found in some *Stereocaulon*.



Crocodia aurata

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Leptogium burgessii

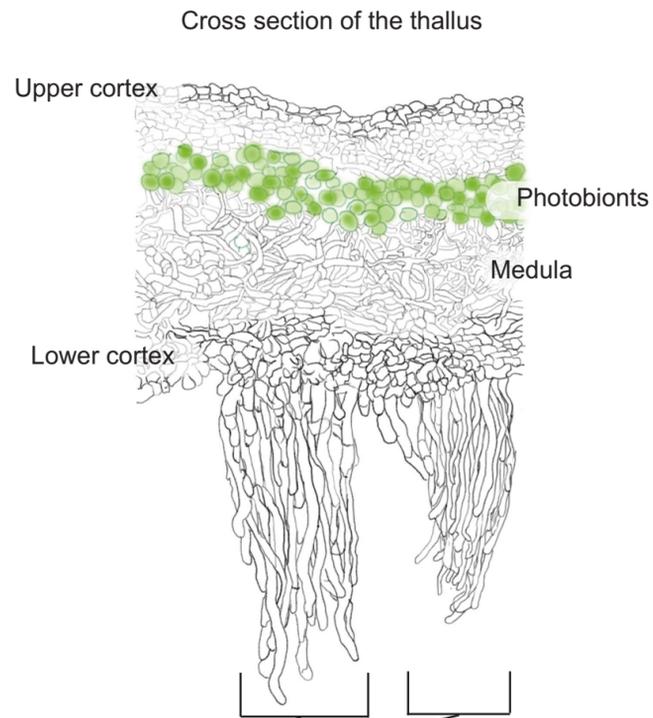
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5 mm

Erioderma tomentosum

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Nephroma resupinatum

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Stereocaulon alpinum

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To mentum



Sticta sp.

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Yoshimuriella peltigera

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