ATOMY OF A FERN
BLADE
PINNA a leaflet
AXIS the stalk within the blade
PINNULE one piece of the pinna
FIDDLEHEAD a frond that will unwind
STALK
RHIZOME
FROND blade + stalk
NETTED CHAIN FERN (Woodwardia areolata)
NEW YORK FERN (Thelypteris noveboracensis)
MAIDENHAIR SPLEENWORT (Asplenium trichomanes)
PRETTY, PRETTY LICHEN
Lichens are a fascinating union of fungus and algae living as one organism. Lichens are not bright green like mosses and lack a leafy structure.
Though they grow all over the world under extreme natural environments like deserts, arctic tundra, and sea-battered coasts, lichens are also good pollution indicators, often refusing to grow in areas with congested urban air.
It's estimated that lichen covers up to 6 percent of the earth's land surface.
ELEGANT SUNBURST LICHEN (Xanthoria elegans)
COMMON ORANGE LICHEN (Xanthoria parietina)
WHITE-WORM LICHEN (Thamnolia vermicularis)
TUMBLEWEED SHIELD LICHEN (Evernia prunastri)
CAPERAT LICHEN (Flavoparmelia caperata)
A Few Lichens
Dimelaena oreina Moonglow Lichen
Lobaria pulmonaria Tree Lungwort Lichen
Candelariella aurella Eggyolk Lichen
Usnea barbata Old Man's Beard Lichen
Rhizocarpon geographicum Map Lichen
Menegazzia pertransita Honeycombed Lichen
Evernia prunastri Oak Moss Lichen
Cladonia asahinae Pixie Cup Lichen
Pilophorus acicularis Nail Lichen
Diploschistes scruposus Crater Lichen
Collema polycarpon Jelly Lichen
Cinnamon fern fronds, rolled up in spring, are called "fiddle heads." In summer they're big and leafy.
Mosses are flowerless, green plants. They grow on the forest floor, and on old stumps and rotting logs.
Lichens grow on stumps, old logs, tree trunks, and rocks. The green cup lichen often grows on pine stumps.
Mosses send up threadlike stems with spore cases growing at their tips. Look at other flowerless plants to see if you can find the spore-bearing parts.
Horsetails have hollow stems. Pioneer women used them to polish pewter.
Club moss is not a real moss. It is related to the ferns.
Mushrooms like the shade of forests in which to grow. Many kinds are gay in color. Some kinds are poisonous.
Among the larger and more colorful insects of the forest are the moths and butterflies. The females lay their eggs on the leaves of trees and other plants. When the caterpillars hatch out of the eggs, they begin feeding on the leaves right under their feet. The females are careful to lay their eggs on the kind of leaves their babies will like.
Bees, wasps, crickets, and ladybugs are other insects that you may know. A great many different kinds stay hidden among leaves, grasses, mosses, or in some other safe spot.
If you tear apart a rotting log, you will find many of these tiny creatures hiding inside. They may be spiders carrying their eggs, or baby spiders riding on the backs of their mothers. Beetles and their grubs, centipedes, robber flies, and ants are among the kinds of life that dwell in decaying wood.
Raising Little Shoots
Phenology Wheel Guide
By Lynn Seddon
A Few Mosses