

# RECROD OF A FRUITICOSE LICHEN *Ramalina farinacea* (L.) Ach. for Qatar

By

EKHLAS M. ABDEL BARI

Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Qatar University

P.O. Box : 2713, Doha, Qatar

## إضافة الأشن الشجيري *Ramalina farinacea*

إخلاص محمد عبد الباري

قسم علم النبات، كلية العلوم، جامعة قطر

الأشنان نباتات بدائية، ثالوسية عديمة الجنين. نوع *Ramalina farinacea* (L) Ach. من الفصيلة الرامالينية يمثل النوع الوحيد من الأشنان الشجيرية الموجود في دولة قطر ويوجد على الأراضي الصخرية القريبة من شواطئ قطر مع مجموعة من الأشنان القشرية وهي الأكثر شيوعاً.

إن الأشنان دليل حساس لأي تغيرات في البيئة والحاجة لدراسة تصنيفية لبيئة الأشنان في قطر توفى غرضين :

(أ) سوف تكون أول دراسة على هذه المجموعة في قطر.

(ب) سوف تمثل أول دراسة لتوزيع أنواع الأشنان ومدى احتمالها في منطقة جفافية.

**Key Words :** Fruticose Lichen, Qatar.

### ABSTRACT

Lichens are thallophytic lower plants. *Ramalina farinacea* (L.) Ach., family Ramalinaceae, is the only fruticose lichen recorded in Qatar. It occurs on stony terrain bordering the coastline in association with other more common crustose lichens. Lichens are good monitors of environmental changes however slight these are. The need to study the eco-taxonomy of Qatar lichens is two-fold : a) it will be the first study on the group in Qatar and b) it will be the first study to cover the species distribution and tolerance in an arid zone.

## INTRODUCTION

Lichens are lower thallophytic plants whose plant body constitutes an algal and a fungal component living together and producing a lichen body with its own reproductive structure.

Lichens, mainly crustose saxicolous taxa are quite common on rocky terrain throughout Qatar. No foliose taxa are reported but one fruticose species *Ramalina farinacea* (L.) Ach. has been found on the eastern coast of Qatar in the vicinity of Al Khor and Al Dhakira.

*R. farinacea*, family Ramalinaceae occurs at ground level and on the vertical faces of the small surrounding mounts on rocks. On sites, where it is encountered, it is quite common. It occurs in association with a number of crustose lichens belonging mainly to the genera *Buellia* (most common *B. subalbula*), *Caloplaca* (most common *C. irrubescens*) and *Lecanora* of the lichen families Physciaceae, Teloschistaceae and Lecanoraceae respectively (Plate 1 (a,b,d) and Plate 2,b).

*R. farinacea* has a pale greenish, erect, tufted, much-branched thallus. The margin of the thallus is undulate and soraliolate. No apothecia were seen. The medulla is K<sup>-</sup> PD<sup>+</sup> (orange red). Soralia are more common on and near the margin. On higher magnification (SEM), the soralia appear as protrusions. Internally they are formed of dense mats of filaments (Plate 3a,b).

Records and studies of lichens from the Gulf States are quite rare. The study of Saudi Arabian lichens (Abu Zinada *et al.*, 1974, 1986) and the lichens of Bahrain (Lamb, 1936) document initial check-lists. It is hoped that further

collections throughout the Gulf States would bring about more detailed studies on this interesting group of plants. The lichen under study is reported as a good camel fodder in Qatar.

## MATERIAL EXAMINED

A/Bari, Q70/96, 10.3.96; Al Khor, on road to Ras Laffan, on rocky terrain on small mount; very common.

A/Bari, Q71/96, 15.5.96; Al Khor — Al Dhakira road, on rocky terrain at ground level; frequent.

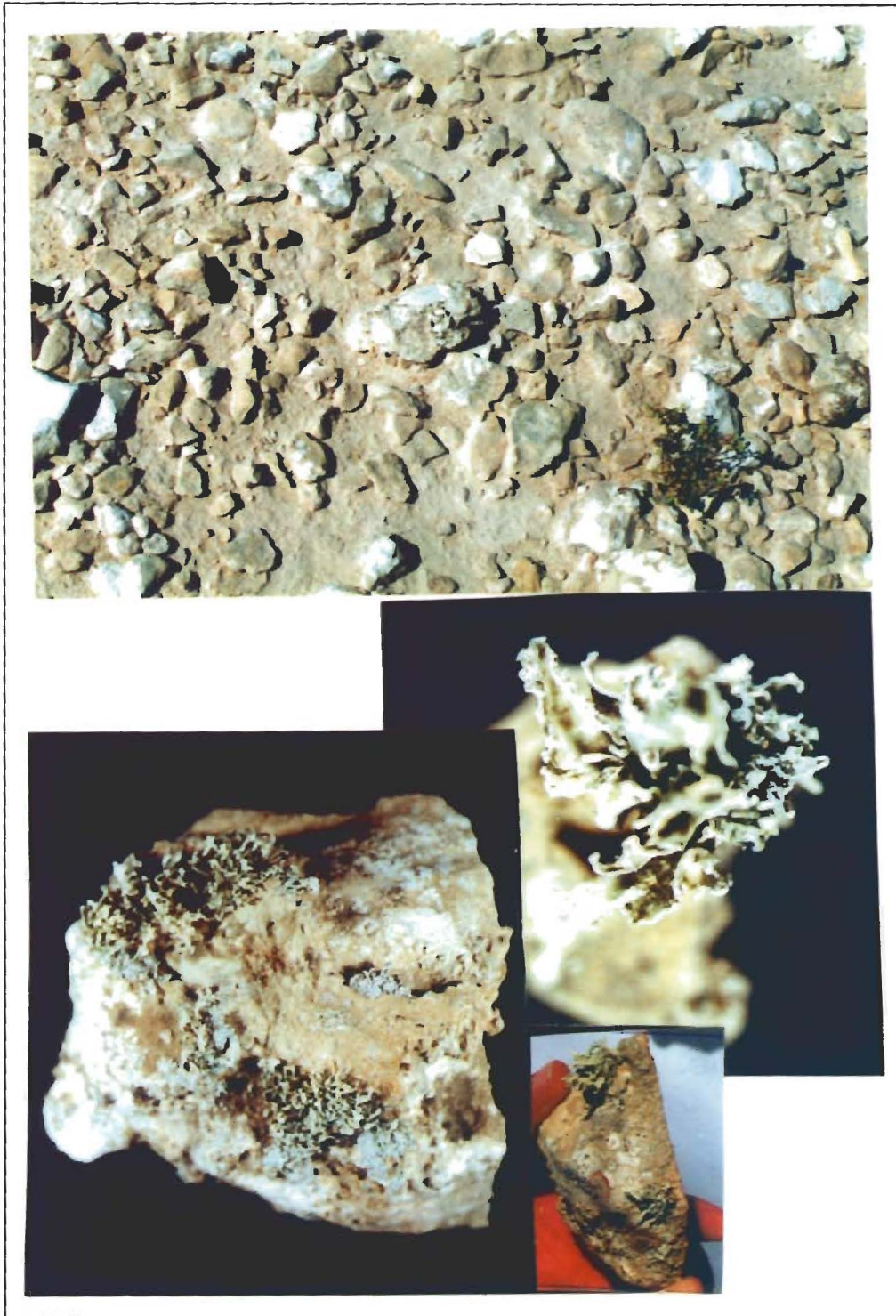
A/Rahman, Q72/97, 1.4.97; Zakhariat near Dukhan, on rocky terrain of the Dukhan jebels facing the coast; frequent.

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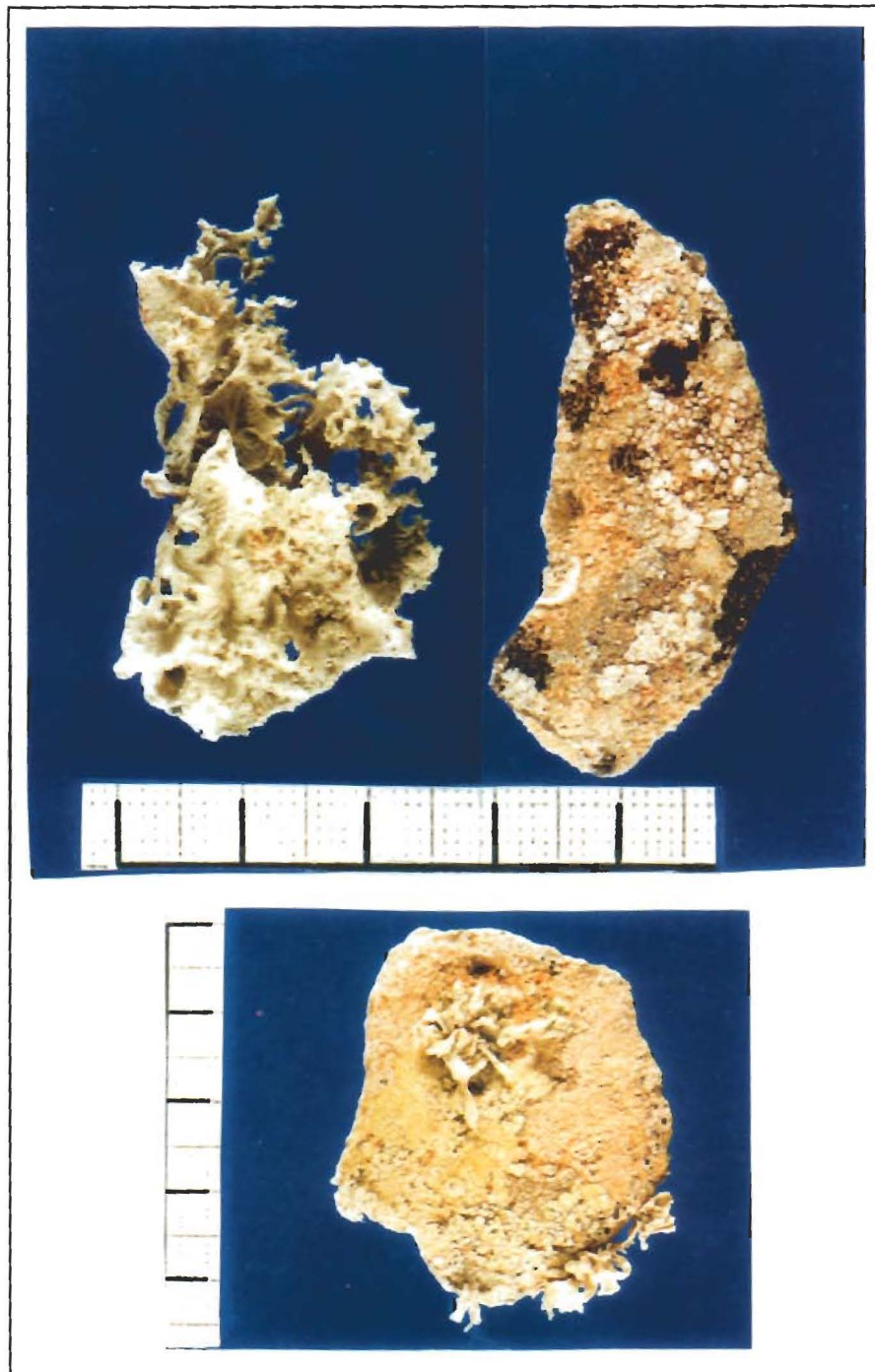
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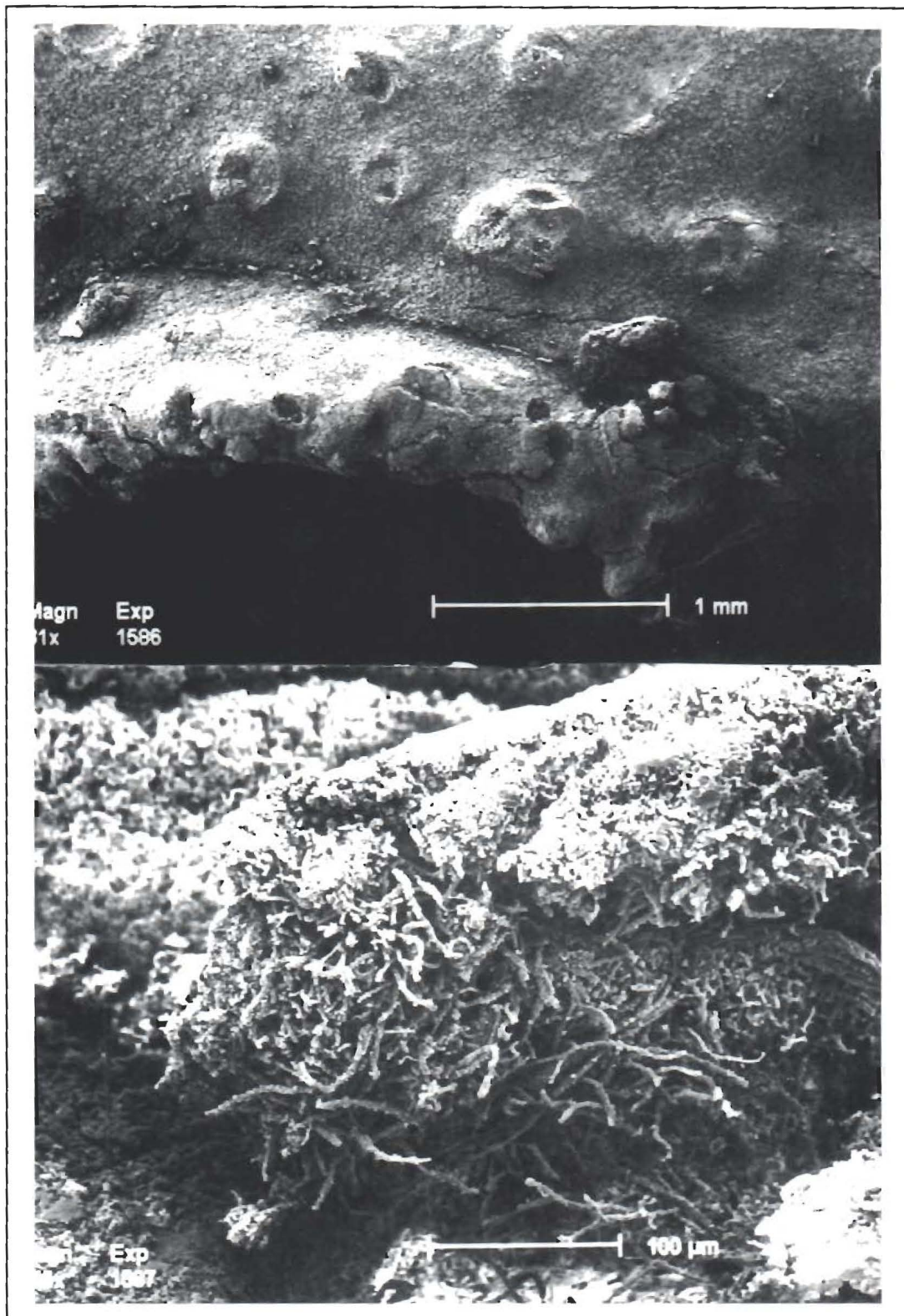


**Plate 1.** (a-d) *Ramalina farinacea* on stony terrain in association with some crustose lichens at Al Dhakira, Qatar.





**Plate 2.** (a,c) *Ramalina farinacea* samples and (b) its association with crustose lichens at Zakhariat, Qatar.



**Plate 3.** (a) SEM showing details of undulate edge with soralia developing in *Ramalina farinacea*; (b) a broken area exposing their filamentous composition.