



Lichenology studies the amazingly diverse group of plant-like organisms called lichens.

Lichens are found throughout the world and are actually a symbiotic partnership between algae and fungi. Some can live for 100s of years and are important indicators of environmental quality, especially the air we breathe.

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<https://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Dr. Fructose Lichenz

Lichenologist



Which of your talents or skills contributes most to your scientific research and why? My ability to be quiet, observant, and patient are my special skills that help my lichen research. I'm skilled at collecting and storing information. I'm also very good at branching out to other lichenologists and spreading information and knowledge.

Give a simple example of a research question that you have answered or tried to answer: Lichenologists are still trying to figure out how and when the partnership between algae and fungus began, and led to lichens. We learn new things all the time, and our understanding of this special group of plant-like organisms continues to grow and change. That's why science is so exciting!

Give an example of technology or equipment that you use in your job and briefly describe it. I can learn a great deal with a simple hand lens, a notebook, and a brown paper bag for collecting specimens. Other lichenologists use sophisticated DNA sequencing technology and chemical composition analysis to investigate lichen questions. I love lichenology because everyone can learn something with the simplest tools.

What is/was your most exciting discovery? I am always amazed by the diversity of my family! I have relatives that are leafy, or crusty, or stringy, or puffy. And I know there are many relatives that we have yet to find and identify. My relatives are found in every corner of the world, and they serve as signs of the health of our world. I'm very proud to be a lichen!

When did you know you wanted to become a scientist or study science? I was born to be a lichenologist! I've wanted to be a scientist from a little spore, and all my lichen friends and family, support me and help me with my research. I love being a scientist and discovering new things every day.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/lichens/biology.shtml>