Lichens are made up of two kinds of organisms, a fungus and an algae. The fungus provides a body that takes up water and minerals, the algae is photosynthetic and makes sugar from sunlight. Because most of the body of a lichen is fungus, lichens are classified as fungi.

**British Soldier Lichen**
*Cladonia cristellata*

**Habitat (home/food/water)**
Mainly forests, but any damp, woody place will do.

**Home**
Damp, woody tissue, sometimes peat, often with other lichens and moss.

**North American Distribution**
![Map of North America showing distribution of British Soldier Lichen.]

**Missouri Distribution**
![Map of Missouri showing distribution of British Soldier Lichen.]

**ECOLOGY**
- **SOIL**: Blank
- **WATER**: Blank
- **ATMOSPHERE**: Blank
- **Plants**: Blank
- **Flowers**: Blank
- **Fungi**: Blank
- **Animals**: Blank
- **Lichens**: Blank
- **Nudibranchs**: Blank
- **Birds**: Blank
- **Other**: Blank

**Human Connections**
Lichens in general are very sensitive to air pollution, so they only grow where the air is not polluted. This makes them good indicators of a healthy environment.

**British Soldier Lichens are eaten by**
White-tailed deer, voles, turkey, springtails, mites, small snakes.

**British Soldier Lichens provide shelter for**
Springtails, mites, spiders, and other small animals.

**Coloring Guide**
- **Upper Cortex (fungus)**: Gray-green
- **Pith (fungus)**: Red
- **Lower Cortex (fungus)**: Yellow
- **Algae Cells**: Blue

**Size**
Stalks are 6 mm (1/4”) tall, the main body grows 1 to 3 mm (1/10”) to 1/8”) per year. Age can sometimes be estimated by body size.

**Fungi**
*Cladonia cristellata*

**Algae**
*Treouixia erici*