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Class : Deg. I (Subs.)

Topic : General characters of Lichen (Contd.)

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General characters of Lichen (Contd.):

Internal Structure :

The thallus of foliose lichens consists of four different regions :

(i) Upper cortex :

(ii) Lower cortex :

Made up of closely packed hyphae. The lower cortex is provided with hyphal outgrowths (rhizines).

(iii) Algal layer or gonidial layer :

It is just below the upper cortex, intermingled with loose hyphae.

(iv) Medulla :

The zone following the algal layer, consisting of only loose interwoven hyphae.

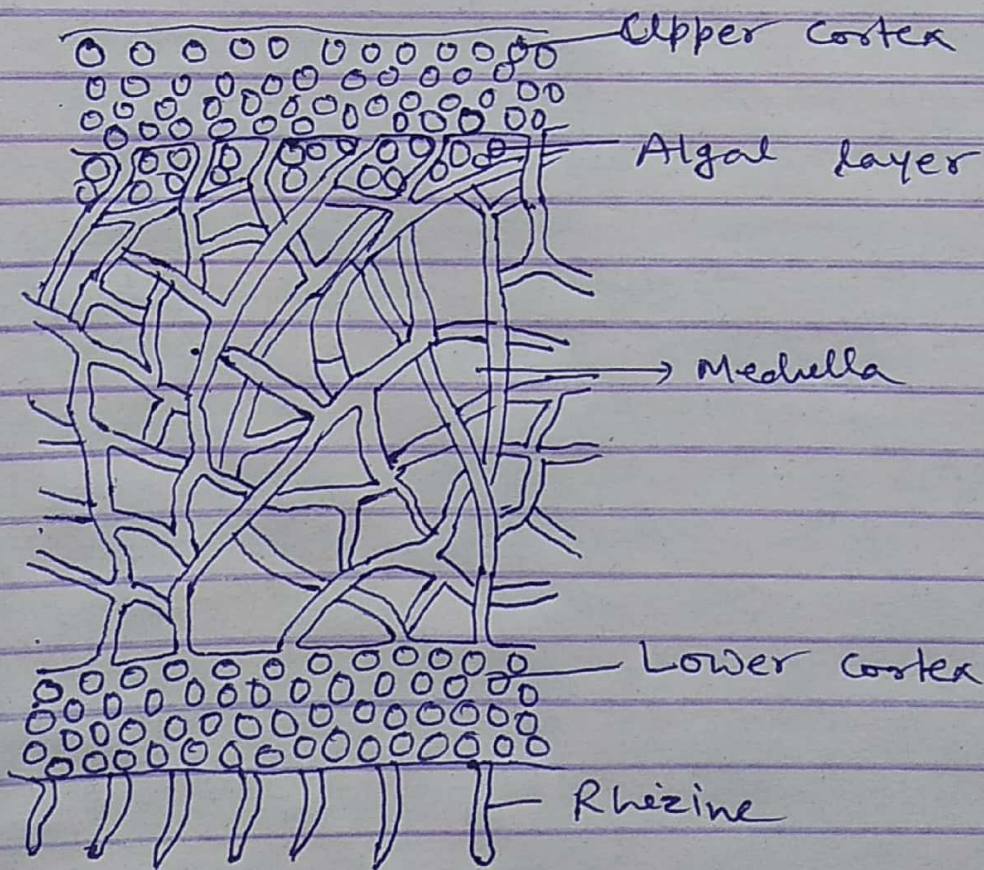
However, on the mode of the distribution of the algal cells in the thallus, the lichens are divided into two major groups.

(i) Heteromerous:

Algal cells are restricted to the layer of hyphae just below upper cortex, e.g., Parmelia, Xanthosia etc.

(ii) Homomerous:

Algal cells are uniformly distributed throughout the thallus, e.g., Collema, Leptogium etc.



(Fig: Section through a thallus of Lichen)