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<u>Some Aspects of the Effect of</u>

<u>Atmospheric Pollution on the Lichen Flora to the</u>

<u>West of Consett   Co. Durham.</u>

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University of Durham

1966

Being a dissertation presented in candidature for the
Degree of Master of Science in the Department of Botany at
the University of Durham.

16 JAN 1984

" No witchcraft, no enemy action had silenced the rebirth of new
life in this stricken world. The people had done it themselves".

(R. Carson in Silent Spring)

Summary

The effect of atmospheric pollution on the growth of lichens has long been discussed. This work was aimed at obtaining data on the effect of such pollution, from the Iron and Steel works at Consett Co. Durham, on the lichen flora of the district.

The degree of pollution found to the west of Consett was evaluated by analysis of lichen thallus for sulphur and from bark washings for ammounts of deposited matter. These results were compared with standard pollution data at Consett, obtained from the D.S.I.R, and a pollution gradient passing west from Consett was plotted.

The distribution of corticolous, saxicolous and terricolous lichens in this area was mapped. The results from these distributions were applied to the pollution data and the control of lichens by pollution shown. The modification of the pollution effect by humidity factors is also discussed.

Contents.

Introduction

The phenomenon that lichens are rarely found in built-up and industrial areas is frequently observed, and attributed to a number of factors, chiefly effects of toxic pollution and of low humidity. Consett is a town with a residential population of 38.7 thousand and an Iron works producing some one million ingot tons of steel per annum. This work deals with the pollution from this source using data obtained from the D.S.I.R. and with the amounts of pollution found to the west of Consett as evaluated by bark washings and lichen thallus analysis. The distribution of lichens to the west of Consett was assessed and correlated with the pollution data.

Historical background to the study of atmospheric and humidity effects on lichens.

It has been clear to lichenologists and other investigators that lichens are practically absent from industrial and densely populated regions, and those present are often much reduced in quality. Such disappearance was noted in England by Nylander in the mid-nineteenth century, and more recently by Wheldon and Wilson in 1915. That this situation occurs throughout the world is shown by the accounts of Hansgja and Skye in Scandinavia, Tobler in Germany and noted by Lamb in North America.

A.L.Smith (1921) in her work on lichens indicates that the chief impurity in the air is coal smoke, produced not only from factories, but also from private dwellings. She notes that the effects are seen to reach far beyond the limits of settlement and that lichens are seen to deteriorate primarily due to the decomposition coal combustion products, especially sulphur compounds. Skye (1958) also asserts that toxicity, chiefly by sulphur dioxide, is the main cause for the scarcity of lichens in towns. In addition to these views of Smith and Skye there is the opinion, first expressed by Rydzak (1953) that low humidity and the virtually total absence of dew in towns is the prime factor controlling the degree of absence of lichens. Smith has little to say on the subject of humidity except to state that a high degree of humidity is of district advantage to the growth of the lichen thallus.

Wind, in itself, does little direct damage except as icy blasts in the circum-polar area, to crustose or foliose lichens as the substrate offers sufficient shelter. However wind

does have a drying effect, reducing the humidity of the air layer over the thallus. Wind also acts as a transporting agent for abrasive sand and dust particles and also serves to disperse pollution from its source. Thus the limits of the effect of pollution are determined by the prevailing wind (Fig.1) and the centre of such an area is usually stated to be about one mile down-wind from the pollution source.

Barkman (1958) discusses the "drought or poisoning" problem very fully for situations in the Netherlands, giving both positive and negative arguments for both views, finally concluding that both factors are of importance. Jones (1952) indicates a number of ways in which lichens reflect such indirect effects of man. Barkman also shows how other effects of pollution are felt, by changing pH of substrate, blocking out of light by dust deposits as well as direct toxicity.

In Britain, at least, small particles of dust and smoke are attributed to the action of man; though in certain geographical areas volcanicity may contribute. To be of effect to the epiphgte these chemicals must achieve solution, either in precipitation or fog or in the moisture content of the substrate. Lichens have a remarkable capacity for absorbing vast quantities of water, and at very rapid rates (Smith 1961). In addition to this they have the ability to absorb a variety of minerals from solution, often against concentration gradients; and they may even absorb water from air that is not toally saturated. Large quantities of nutrients and other minerals are thus taken up, indiscriminately, during the short times when saturation and humidity is high. This is often quoted as an adaptation to a xerophytic mode of life but it also means that lichens are extremely susceptible to toxic substances. Tobler (1925) has shown in Germany that lichens are sufficiently xerophytic to withstand the drought

Wind Force and Direction.

Data from Durham Observatory (196 4-5)

Calm 52 Days

Wind Force.

—————— 0-10 knots

▭ 10-20 "

▯ 20+ "

↕ ≡ 5 Days Duration
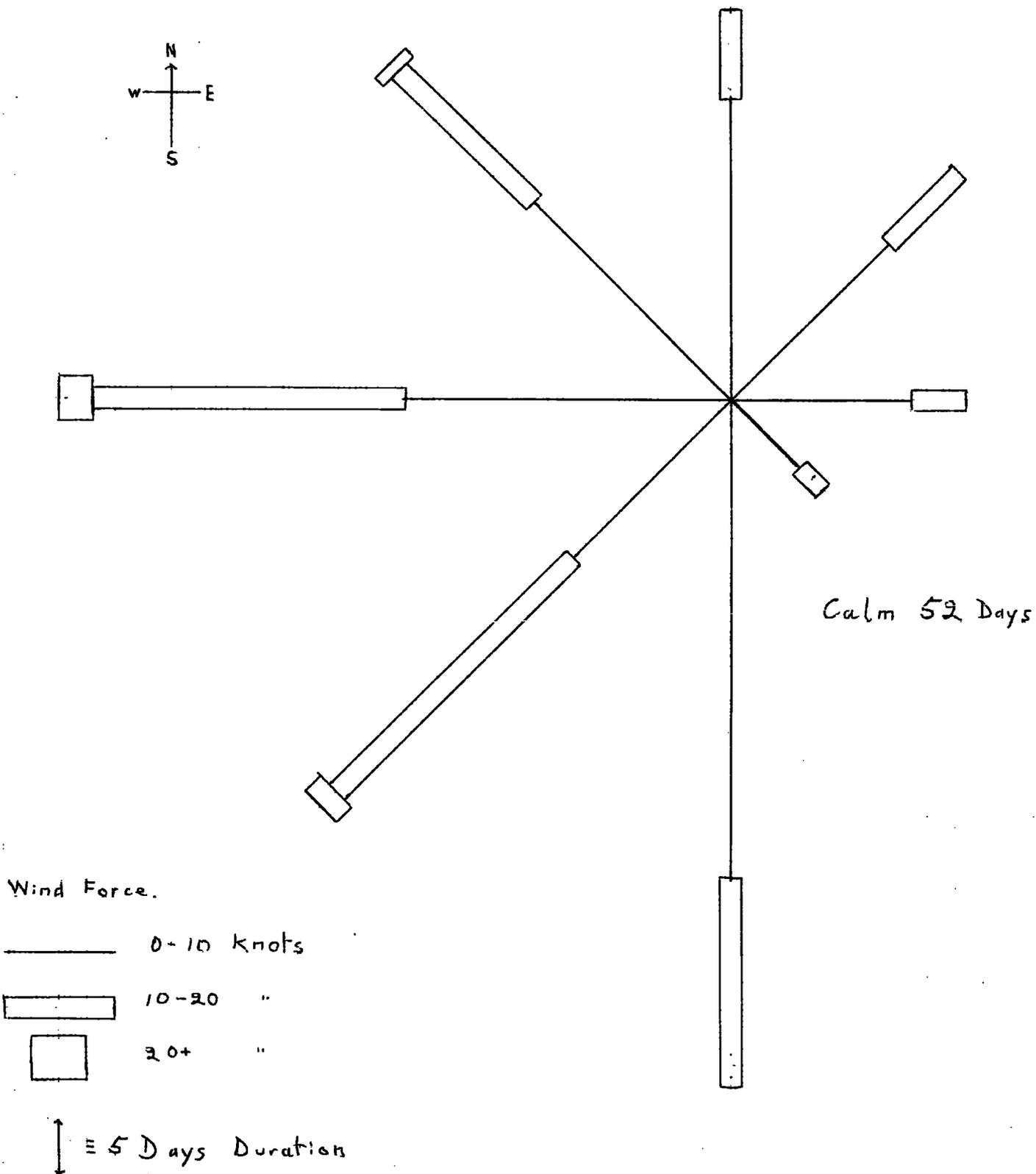
Fig 1

and absence of dew from towns, and as their assimilation and growth is so slow the "blocking out" is of no significance until it is virtually complete, when toxicity will have asserted its effect. Varying degrees of susceptibility of lichens to atmospheric pollution can thus be attributed to a less rapid rate of uptake of water, coupled with a higher selectivity for the absorbed ions; and the crustose and closely adpressed foliose growth form where more of the water and thus the nutrients are taken up by the rhizoids or by direct absorption from the bark. It is these latter forms and those with a rapid and indiscriminate uptake of moisture and ions that are found nearest to the centre of an area of pollution.

Many workers (e.g. Brightman 1962) have observed that along uphill stretches of trunk roads and roundabouts in rural areas lichens are found growing well, on stone walls and on tree bases, despite a covering of toxic exhaust gases, soot and dust, and thus discount the theory that lichens are absent from towns due to toxicity. However as Tobler suggests in such situations moisture content of the substrate is probably high enough for the lichens to avoid taking in water directly from the atmosphere and sufficient light would penetrate the dust film to allow the very slow metabolism and growth rate to take place unimpeded. Thus there may be a potential source of toxicity in such cases which, due to other factors of humidity and substrate moisture content, is not apparent.

Gilbert (1965) suggests, as does Borkman that it is toxicity that is of prime importance but that humidity is also relevant and that there is an interrelationship between the two. In "dry" areas (i.e. built-up areas) the bulk of water uptake comes directly from the atmosphere as rain, mist or fog and not from the substrate. In this way non-selective rapid absorption takes

place and toxic substances are rapidly accumulated. In habitats of higher humidity not only do lichens tend to be more selective in their ionic uptake, but more is taken from the substrate and as the lichen remains in condition capable of carrying out metabolic conversion of sulphite to the less toxic form of sulphate for far longer the effect of pollution is less marked.

Country to the W. of Consett (showing line of transect)

Area of Study

The area just to the west of Consett lies
in the north of County Durham (Vice County 66, M.R. 45/05 to 10,
48 to 51). It borders the eastern foothills of the north
Pennines and is an area designated as of landscape, scientific
and historic value. The river Derwent and it tributaries
Hisehope and Wharnley burns, cut deep valleys into the
Carboniferous Millstone Grit. West of this area is heath moorland
of Calluna and Pteridium with some rough pasture. Wartime
influences upon the pattern of agriculture were pronounced with a
greatly increased anable acreage under corn and potatoes. By 1958
the natural factors of climate and terrain were reasserting
themselves resulting in an increase of both temporary and
permanent pasture for both cattle and sheep. The valley's of
the river Derwent and its tributaries, Wharnley, Hisehope,
Deneburn, carry dense mixed woodland, with a few small conifer
plantations. (see map).

The   Iron   and   Steel   Works
at   Consett.

Historical Background to Industry in the Area.

Records show that Consett grew from a small
village during the 1820's to an urban industrial town by the
mid-twentieth century. The nineteenth century industrial
development was based on the utilisation of local iron ore from
the millstone grit deposits. The mining villages of Leadgate
and Knitsley grew up around Consett, producing the coal for the
growing steel industry. The Fell coke works arose from the need
to convert the coal to coke for use in the manufacture of Iron.

The Iron Works now (1966) produces about one
million ingot tons of steel, mostly by the L.D. method, but also
some by the Kaldo method. The approximate consumption of the
principal raw materials is :-

1,315,000   tons Iron Ore

825,000   tons Coal

2,250   million cubic feet Oxygen.

The Urban population of Consett reached a density
of 1,500 - 5,000 per square mile in 1949 and the present population
of the Borough (which includes Leadgate, Knitsley and the newer
estates of Moorside and the Crave) is 38.7 thousand and covers
10,042 acres. This represents a density of nearly 162 persons
per square mile.

The atmospheric pollution influencing the lichen
growth in this area thus comes from two main sources; from
domestic fires, which have their main effect in winter, and from
industrial smoke and dust which is of more or less equal effect
throughout the year. (Fig.2,3).

Data of the amount of atmospheric pollution at Consett was obtained from the D.S.I.R., who, as part of a national monitoring scheme have three sites at which there is apparatus for the daily recording of smoke and sulphur dioxide, and also a deposit gauge which records the amounts of heavier particles such as fly ash and soot which settle quickly (details of these instruments will be found in the appendix). The smoke control meters are sited as follows :-

1. R.C.Church, Moorside (45/088494). This is in the middle of a medium-density housing estate with some industrial undertakings and surrounded by other built-up areas. It is about one mile S.W. of the main steel works, and is thus to the leeward during prevailing winds (Fig.1).

2. Y.M.C.A. (45/106510). This gauge is situated in a high density housing area within one eigth of a mile of the Consett Iron Company steel works and blast furnaces. It is to the N.E. and is thus in line of the prevailing winds.

3. Council Yard, Leadgate (45/128516). This is also in a high density housing area and is one mile N.E. of the Steel works.

The results show that pollution is heaviest at site (3) (Fig 2) thus bearing out the earlier statement that the centre of pollution is about one mile downwind of the source. The least pollution is at site (1) but the difference between the three sites is not very marked and does tend to be greater in the winter. This suggests that most of the smoke, especially in the winter months is produced from domestic fires and that industrial pollution is fairly evenly spread at about 75 ug/m^2/month of smoke. The greater values at site (2) (Fig 3) indicates that, as would be expected, the Iron works produces much more sulphur dioxide than domestic fires.

Results from the deposit gauge which is sited just outside the steel works to the N.E. give a mean of 33 tons/square mile/month of undissolved dust. (see Appendix).

Mean Daily Average Smoke values per month.

1962-65 for 3 sites at Consett.

$\mu g/m^3$

Council Yard
Leadgate

Y.M.C.A.
Consett.
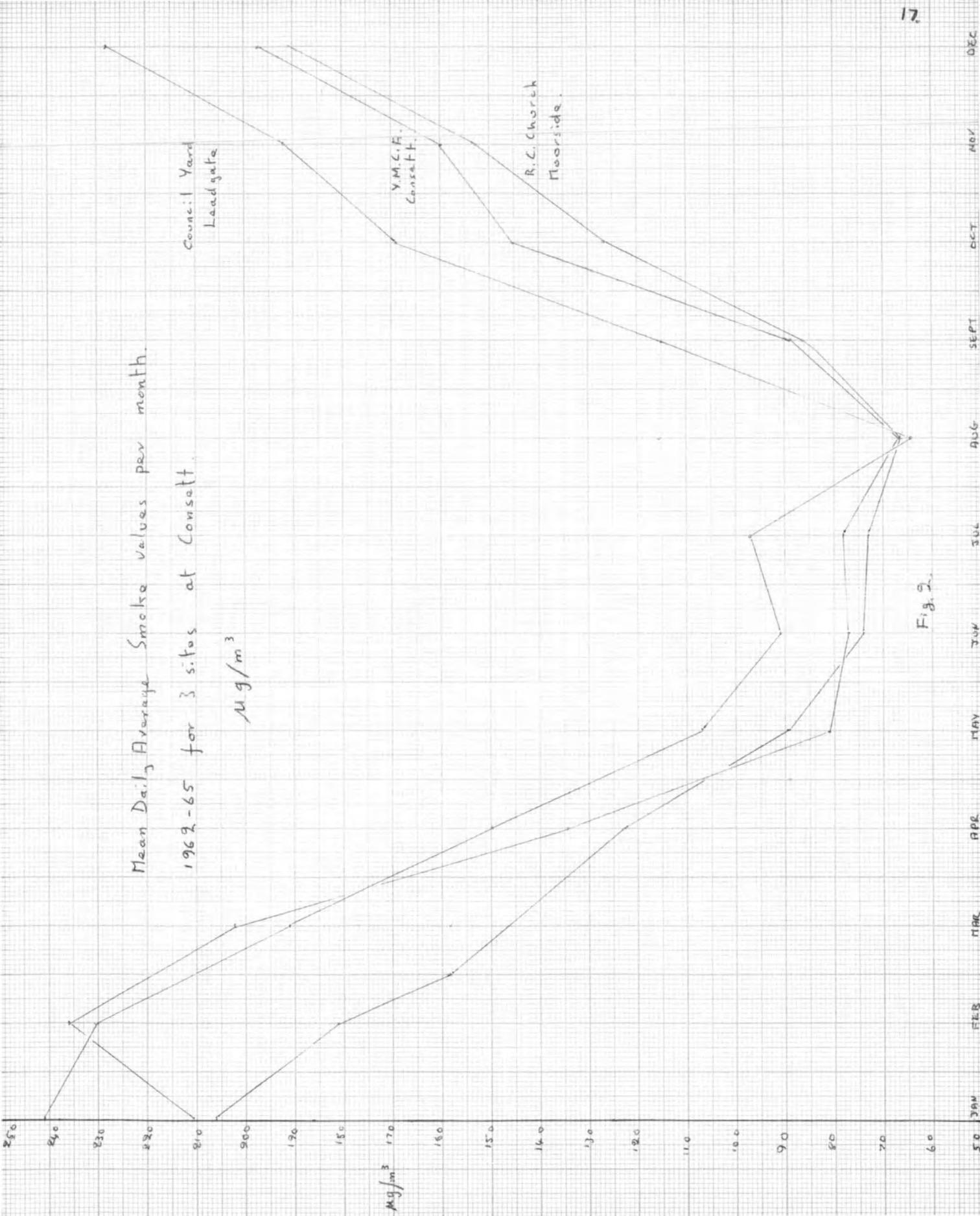
R.C. Church
Moorside.

Fig. 2.

Mean Daily Average SO₂ values per Month
1962-65 at 3 sites in Consett.
$\mu g/m^3$

Y.M.C.A. Consett

Council Yard Leadgate

R.C. Church Moorside.
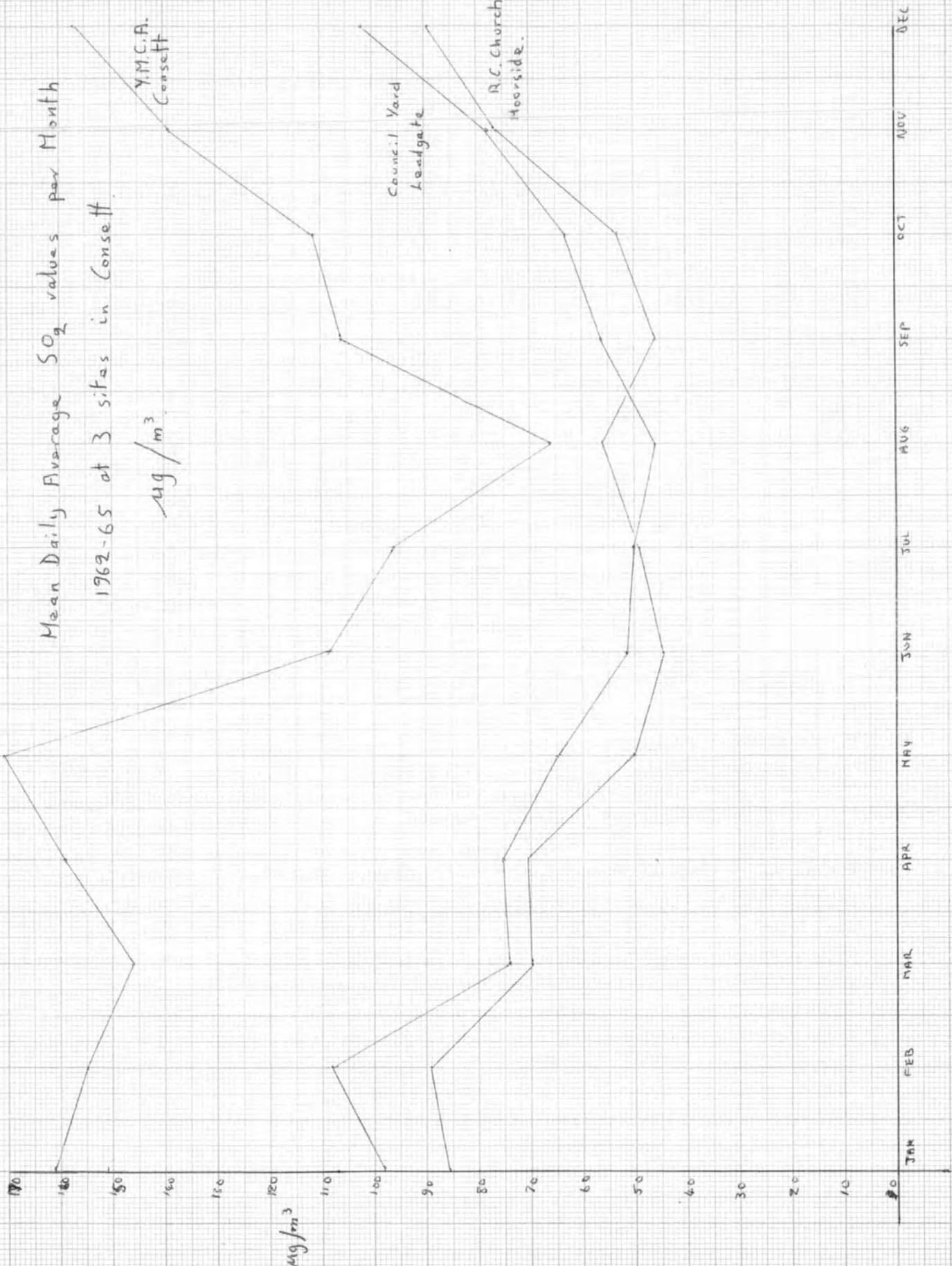
Fig. 3.

Method of Investigation

In order to assess the distribution of lichens to the west of Consett a rough transect line was drawn. This followed Consett Lane and Pemberton Road to Allensford, a small section of the A68, Corbridge, Tow Law road and then followed minor roads from Wharnley Burn Bridge through Derwent Grange farm to Muggles wick (see Map, Photo p. 11). Apart from the small stretch of A68, these roads carry little traffic so that any effect of road dust or toxic exhaust fumes would be strictly limited and probably of insignificant nature.

Quercus robur was the tree species most intensively studied for epiphytic lichens as it was the commonest tree along the transect line. The corticolous species on Fagus silvatica, Fraxinus excelsior, and Betula alba were also studied as were saxicolous species on the millstone grit walls, and the terricolous species. The epiphytic lichen communities were studied only on trees which were without any obvious tendency to lean, which were free standing and not especially sheltered in any way from the east. Where possible examination was made of lichen communities for a single species stand of tree.

The lichen cover on the tree was measured with a point quadrat. This was found to be the most convenient method and gave consistent results with the cover expressed as a percentage. The quadrat (see photo p 20) was placed between 1.5 and 2 metres from the ground on the trunk of the tree. The quadrat was placed 10 times on each trunk, roughly equally spaced round the circumference. Care was taken that the quadrat was not consciously placed in any particular position, but true random sampling in this situation was not thought to have any special merit. This is basically the method as used by Kershaw (1964).

The 10 cm. point quadrat - (10 pins inserted headfirst
at 1 cm. spacing on a perspex strip). - in use on Oak
covering Parmelia physodes and Pertusaria amara.

It was noted that lichens tended to form vertical distributions on one side of the trunk. If the trunk was leaning they tended to prefer the upper side and the various species obviously formed a pattern related to variations of water regime of the bark. (Fig.4). Even on vertical trunks it was often noted that similar distributions were found. In such cases there was no apparent relationship to prevailing wind direction, direction of insolation or even to the direction of the source of pollution. Perhaps even in these cases rain tracks down the trunk and other factors associated with shelter provided by cracks in the bark and local high humidity are of prime importance for determining the distribution of lichens on the tree. The total number of lichen species, including those at the base, was also noted.

For many of the trees and sites studied a circle of bark was cut from the east side of the trunk. These were washed and the surface dust collected and weighed to give an indication of the dust settling out on the tree and lichens. The discs were also used to give pH measurements, to see if the pollution affected the pH of the bark and thus indirectly the lichen assemblage.

Leaning Betula alba. (1.85 km from Consett).

to illustrate

1) Lichen zonation on leaning trunk

2) Increasing richness of Lichen flora at base

3) Effect of local high humidity

Lecanora conizaeoides

Parmelia saxatilis

Pleuroccus vulgaris

Parmelia physodes

Cetraria glauca

Moss

Parmelia sulcata

Parmeliopsis ambigua

stream
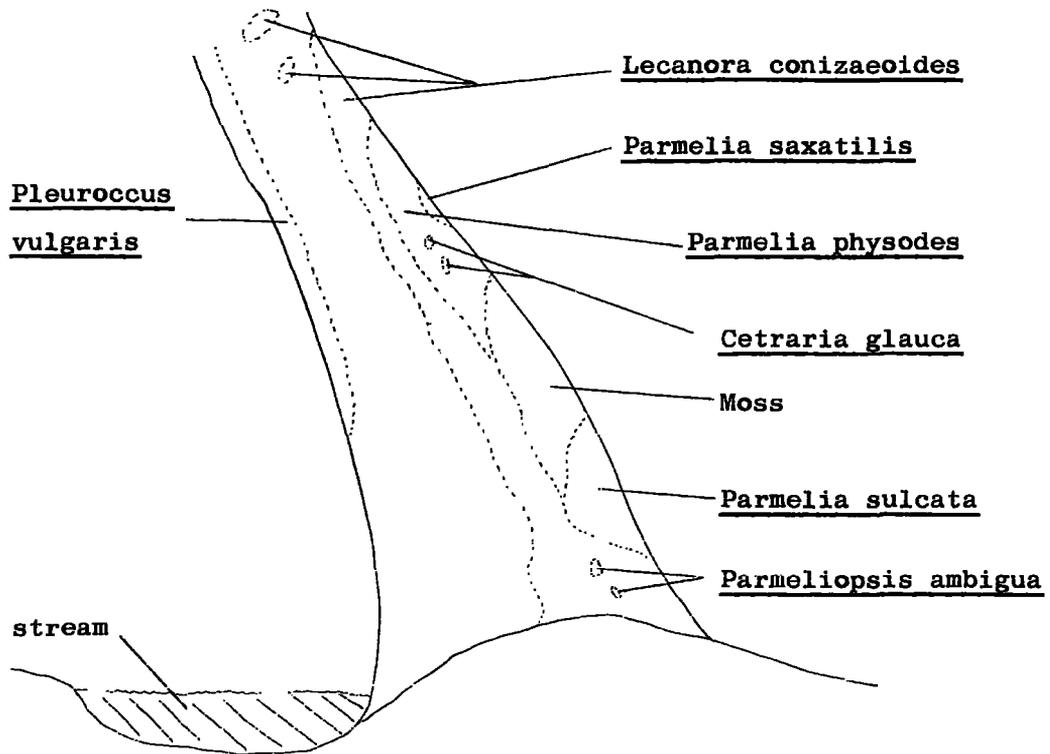
This Birch, though only 1.85 km out was in a sheltered position
with high humidity at its base. This lichen assemblage was not
found at a height of 1-1.5 metres on birch anywhere in the area
studied. This emphasises the great moderation of pollution toxicity
by a high humidity level.

Fig.4.
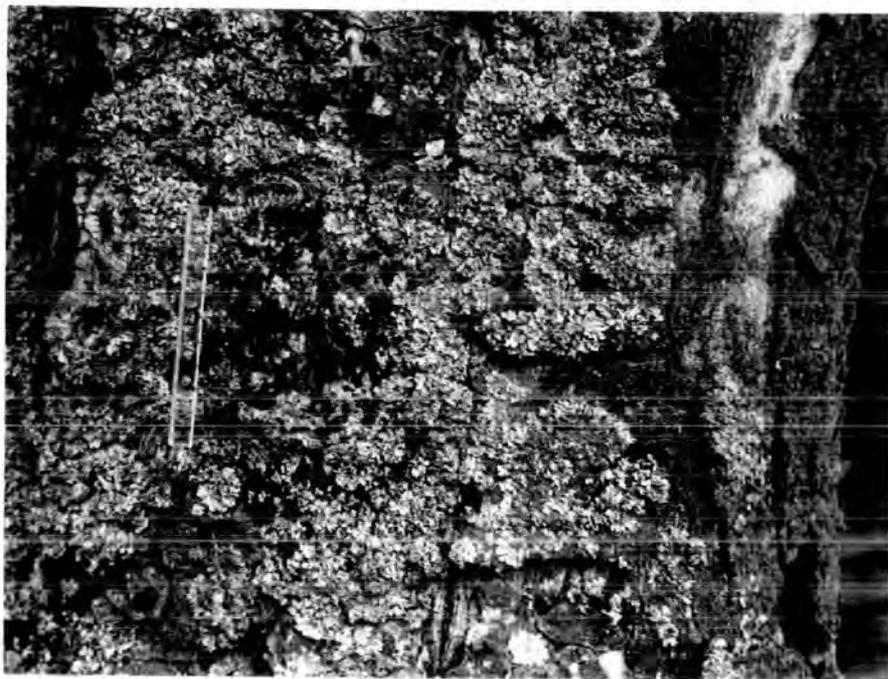
Point quadrat covering <u>Parmelia physodes</u>
and <u>Cetraria glauca</u> on

(6 km from Consett)

Observations of Epiphytic Lichens.

By measuring percentage cover in the manner described there is shown an evident decrease in both numbers and coverage of most lichens (Fig.5,9). The chief exception to this is Lecanora conizaeoides (Fig.6,7). This lichen exhibits a high degree of toxitolerance and may even be called toxicolous. Parmelia physodes and P. saxatilis also show a similar tendency to be able to exist well into the polluted area, although they do decrease in coverage (Fig.6).

Usnea, a genus that is characteristic of pure air regions was not represented within 4.6 km of the Iron works. Even this near only a few small specimens were observed in sheltered positions in the cracks of rough bark of old Quercus robur.

Oak was the commonest tree species encountered and was thus the most intensively studied. It carried a lichen flora which was rather richer than expected, as Quercus robur is usually among the "poorer" species. Betula alba had, as expected the poorest lichen assemblage encountered, only Lecanora conizaeoides being found above one meter within 4 km of the Iron works (see data in appendix). The paucity of lichens growing on Betula alba has often been noted and I think this may be due to some inhibitive agent in the phellem, as when lichens are found (e.g. Lecanora conizaeoides) they are seen initially to appear where the outer bark layer has peeled off, or where transverse splits have occurred in it. The lack of lichen colonisation of Betula alba was quite marked. At 3.8 km out it still had only Lecanora conizaeoides whilst Quercus robur had 9 species, Fagus silvatica 8, Fraxinus excelsior 7. (Fig.8). Although the percentage coverage of most species

tends to be shown as being rather variable, the increases in
bare bark and <u>Lecanora conizaeoides</u> with the concommitent
decrease in the majority of fruticose and foliose lichens is
demonstrated (Fig.5). It is also shown that crustose species
are carried further in to the centre of pollution than the
foliose species (Fig.5). The decrease in richness of the lichen
flora as the Iron works is approached is also shown (Fig.9).

Percentage cover of Lichens on Oak (Q. Robur)

Classed by Form :- Crustose
Foliose
Fruticose

% Cover

Distance from Consett Iron Works - km.
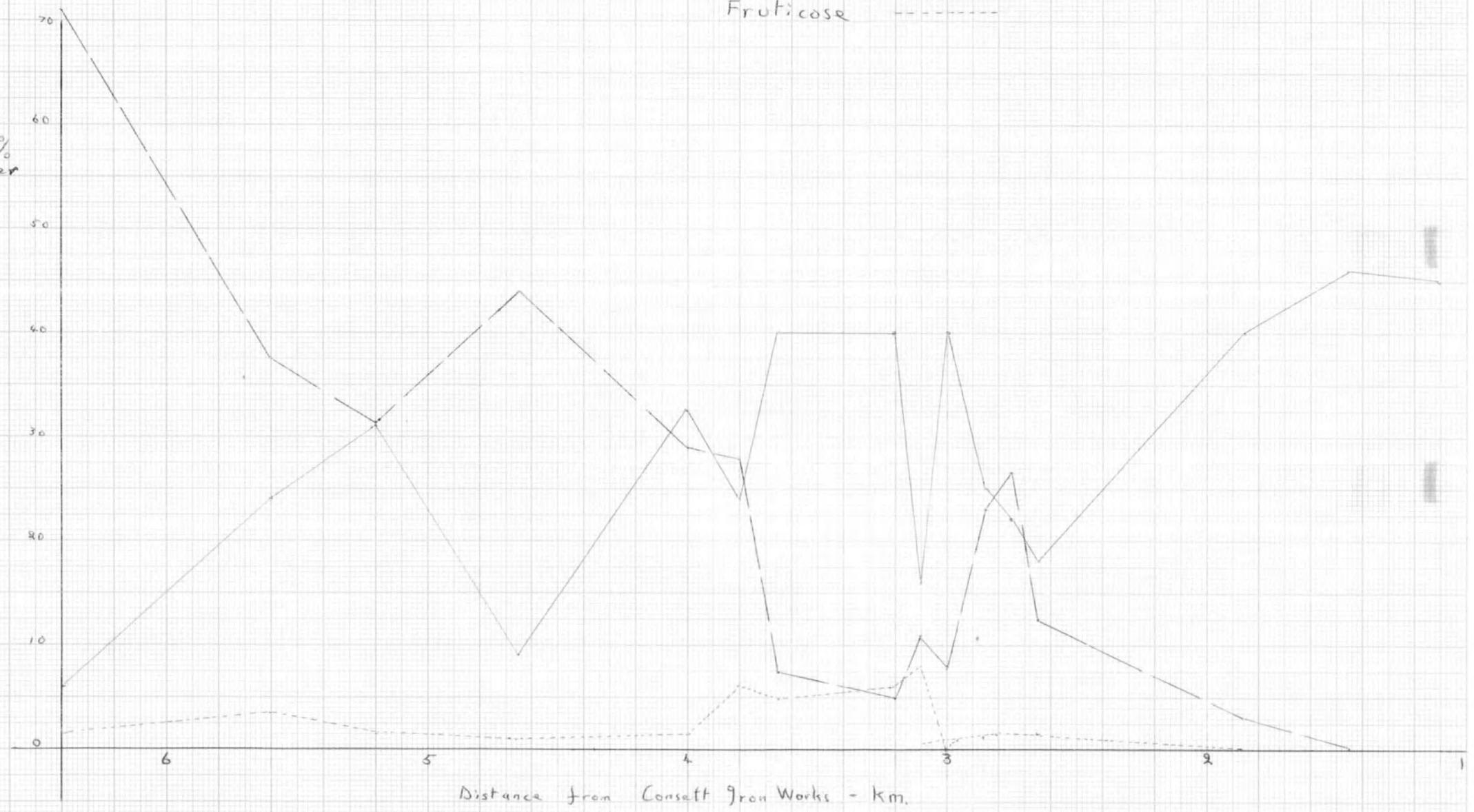
Fig. 5

Percentage Cover on Oak (Q. Robur) of the principal Lichen species
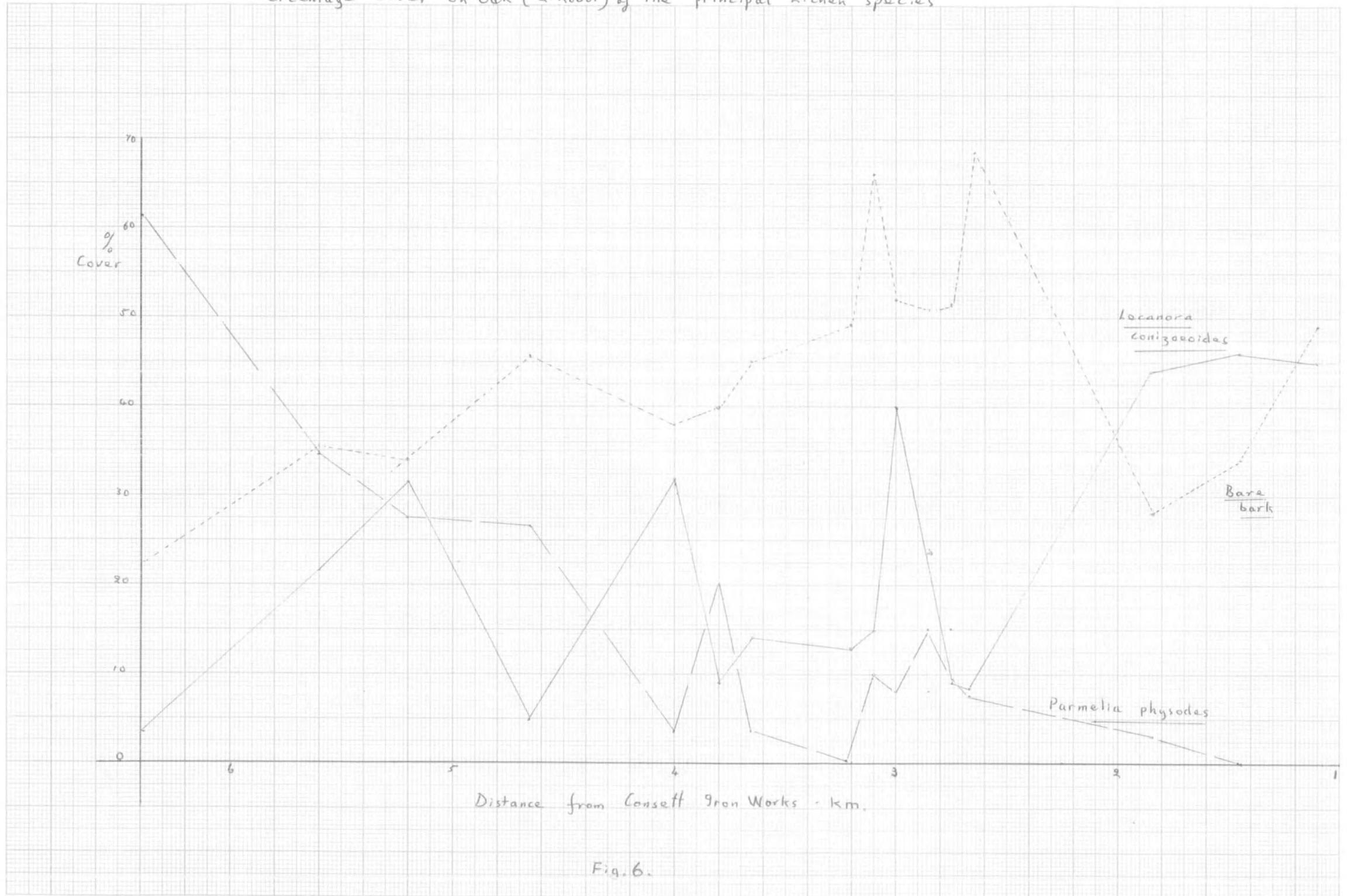
Fig. 6.

Percentage Cover on Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) of the principal Lichen species

Lecanora conizaeoides

Bare bark

Pleurococcus vulgaris

Parmelia physodes

Distance from Consett Iron and Steel Works - Km
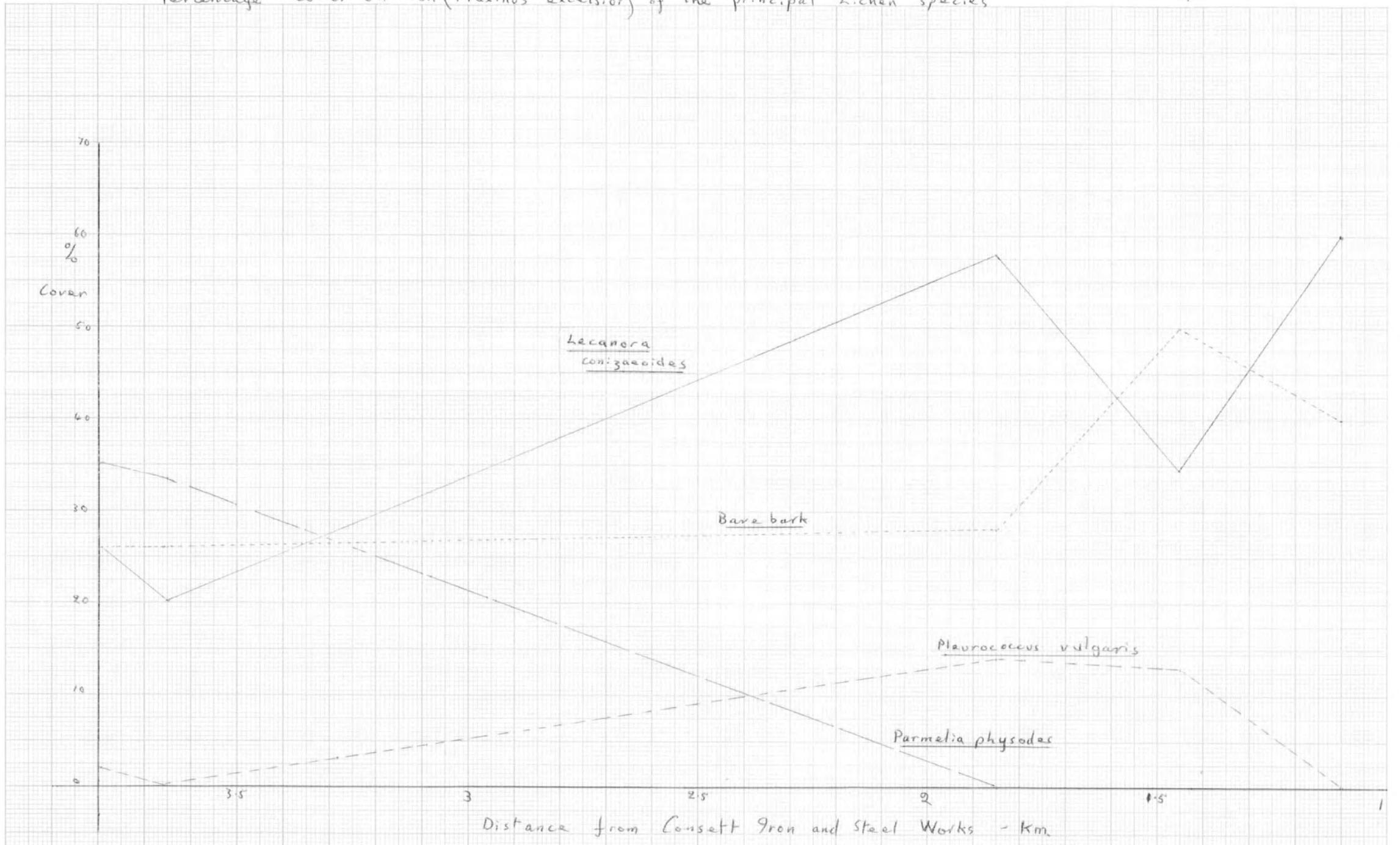
Fig 7.

Total numbers of Lichen species at 1-1·5m. high on various Trees

Number
of
Species

Fagus
silvatica

Quercus robur

Fraxinus
excelsior

Betula alba

Distance from Consett Iron Works - km.
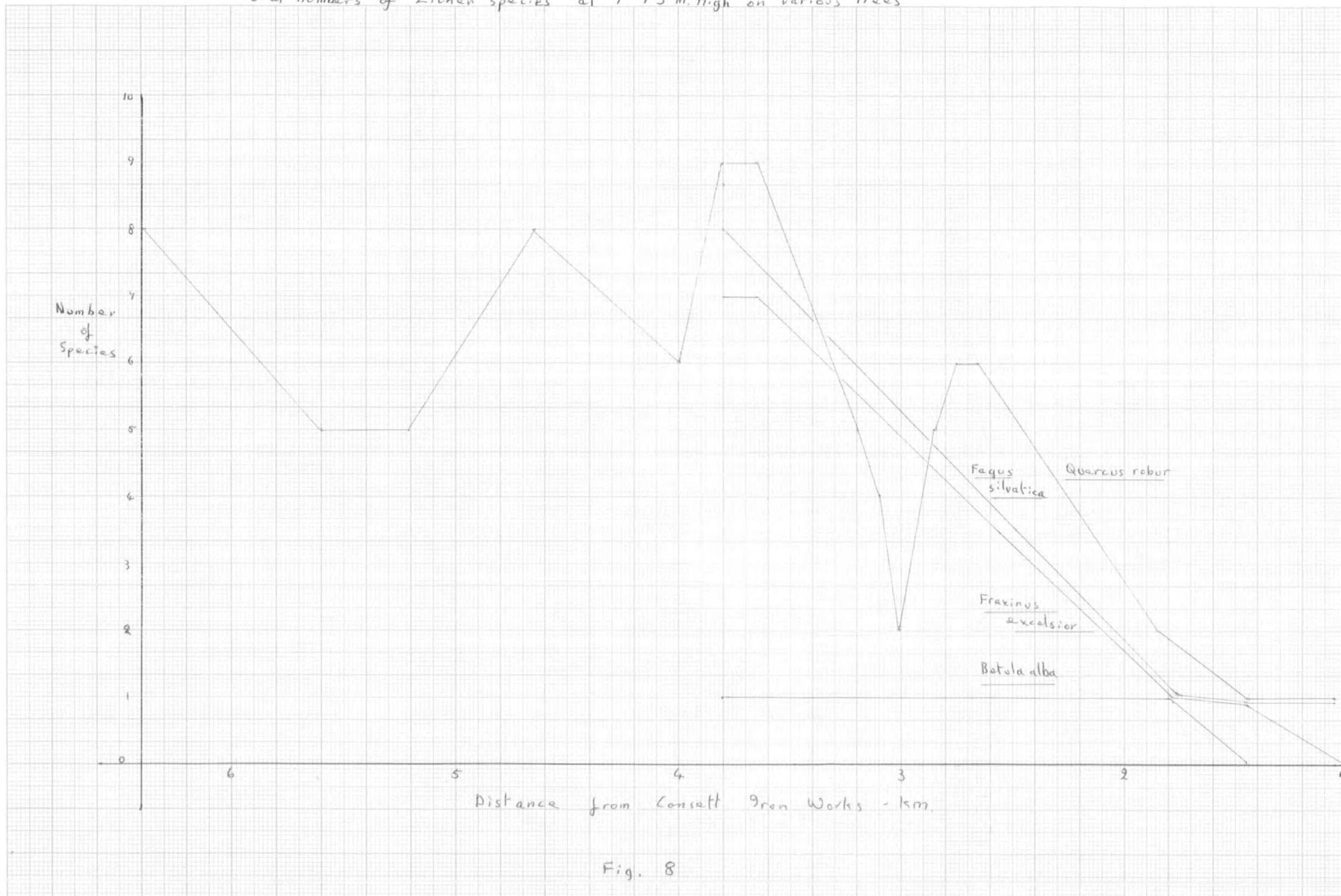
Fig. 8

Saxicolous species of low toxitolerance.

Rhizocarpon geographicum on Millstone Grit (5 km from Consett)

Parmelia furfuracea (+ P. saxatilis) on Millstone Grit.
(4.5 km from Consett).

Observations of Saxicolous lichens

On the millstone grit walls Lecanora
conizaeoides and Candelariella vitellina occur to within
0.8 km of the Iron works. Parmelia saxatilis, P. physodes
and Xanthoria parietina are found outside a 1.6 km limit
and Parmelia glabratula, Lecidea macrocarpa and Physcia
orbiculoris occur no nearer than 2.8 km. Outside a 4 km
limit various Lecanora species occur. e.g. L. gangaleoides,
L. badia, L. intricata, L. polytropa, L. soralifera, also
Lecidea tumida and Parmelia furfuracea. The nearest occurrence
of Rhizocarpon geographicum was 4.8 km.

Saxicolous species of Moderate Toxitolerance

Xanthoria parietina on Millstone grit and Mortar (3 km from
Consett)

Parmelia saxatilis on Millstone grit (2 km from Consett)

Observations of Terricolous Lichens

It was noticed that the lichens growing amongst grass and moss on the ground show a tendency to penetrate nearer to the centre of pollution than might otherwise be expected. This may be observed at Consett, where in areas of permanent meadow Cladonia pyxidata, C.papilloria, C.furcata, C.fimbriata, and Peltigera polydactyla were found to within 3.5 km of the Iron works. Cladonia conio craea was found, growing chiefly around tree bases to within 1.85 km. The tree bases in general supported a greater diversity and quantity of lichens than the rest of the trunk and species otherwise regarded as absent at a height of 1-1.5 m were often found to be present at the base of the tree (Fig.4). The first occurrence of a species as you progress away from the Iron works was also often noted to be at the base of the tree. For example Parmelia sulcata and Evernia prunastri were found at the base of Quercus robur 1.85 km out but did not appear at a height of 1-1.5 m until 2.65 km from the Iron works. This richer lichen growth amongst the ground flora and on tree bases is attributed to the consistently higher lands of relative humidity found there.

Increasing species diversity of Lichens, on differing substrates, with increasing distance from the source of Pollution.
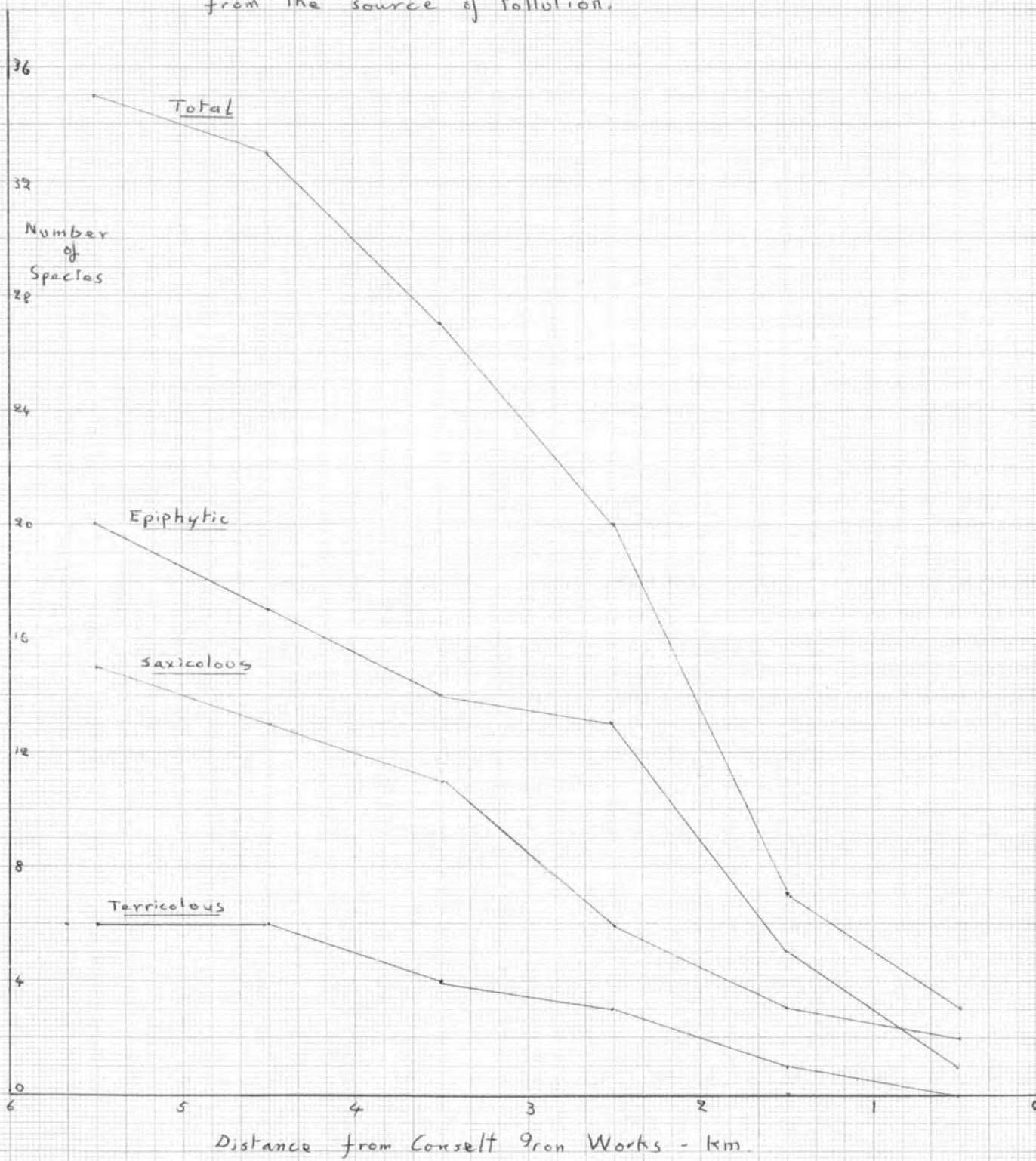
Fig. 9.

Correlation of Pollution effects on Lichens

In order to try and account for this observed distribution of lichens on trees three possible effects of pollution were studied. The direct effects of toxicity and "blacking out" and the indirect effect of altering the pH of the substrate.

pH

The main components of atmospheric pollution tend to give it an acidic nature and it is thought that dust and smoke settling on dead bark can influence or modify the pH. This may in turn have an inhibitory effect on the establishment of lichen colonies. Only the so called "toxicolous" species having a sufficiently wide range of pH tolerance to withstand this effect, Barkman (1958) gives pH values for dead bark of trees in areas of the Netherlands free from pollution and shows that the pH is reduced when atmospheric pollution is high. Gilbert (1965) gives a similar illustration for Newcastle (England) though here pH rises again slightly due to soot (which is only slightly acid). My readings for Consett show that no consistent decrease in pH occurred towards the Iron works, though in some cases there is a slight trend in lowering the pH to 1.5 km from the source of pollution and then an increase in pH, perhaps due to domestic pollution, such as soot, becoming more apparent.

Distance from Consett in km.	*	2.3	1.8	1.45	1.1
Quercus robur	3.7-5.0		4.881±.227	4.657±.152	5.344±.067
Fraxinus excelsior	5.2-5.8	5.867±.172	4.581±.084	6.050±.124	5.720±.058
Fagus silvatica	5.1-5.8		5.725±.144		5.883±.061
Betula alba	3.7-4.9	5.947±.073	4.613±.124	6.036±.083	
Acer pseudoplatanus	6.1-6.9	6.047±.098		6.157±.078	5.947±.067
Aesculus hippocastanum	6.0-6.1	6.114±.127			
Ulmus compestris	5.1-5.8			6.343±.112	

* Average range from pollution
  free bark - J.J.Barkman (1958)

Sulphur content

Evaluation of the effect of the main component of industrial pollution, that of sulphur dioxide on the lichen thallus was achieved by assuming that the substance was absorbed by the lichen in amounts consistent with its occurrence in the atmosphere. During short periods of high humidity, such as occur during rain showers or fog, in otherwise physiologically "dry" areas the lichen thallus absorbs rapidly and indiscriminately, so obtaining sufficient minerals for its metabolic processes. Where humidity is continually high the thallus remains in a condition amenable to nutrient uptake for far longer as it is not subjected to long periods of partial dessication. Thus the lichens found in habitats with consistent high humidity values are seem to have a slower and more selective mechanism for the uptake of mineral ions from the atmosphere. Where humidity is continually high therefore the amounts of sulphur dioxide absorbed may not reflect the amounts present in the atmosphere. Parmelia physodes, which was used for the sulphur extraction was taken between 1 and 1.5 metres from the ground on tree trunks. Being a lichen with less contact with the bark than crustose or the more closely adpressed foliose lichens and must receive the bulk of its nutrients from the atmosphere, being dependent on spasmodic periods of high humidity for its nutrient uptake. Parmelia physodes was also easy to collect and occurred more commonly than the other foliose lichens in the sampling area.

The sulphur dioxide absorbed can be analysed as amounts of elemental sulphu present, by quantitative miro-chemical methods (Gilbert 1965, method given in appendix). Results from this show a consistent decrease away from the centre of pollution (Fig.10). To check the accuracy of this method of extraction for sulphur most of the experiments were duplicated.

Even allowing for the fact that pollution is lower from Consett than in Newcastle _Parmelia physodes_ shows a lower sulphur content than _Parmelia saxatilis_ (Gilbert 1965). This may be partly explained by the fact that _Parmelia saxatilis_ was growing on sandstone around Newcastle and probably acquired its nutrients from the atmosphere. Further _P. saxatilis_ tends to be most frequent on horizontal surfaces such as the tops of walls and sheds where dust settling out will accumulate more rapidly than on vertical surfaces. Thus _P. saxatilis_ will be subjected to much higher local accumulations of sulphurous compounds than _P. physodes_ .

Distance from Consett in km.	6.4	5.6	4.65	4.0	3.8	1.85	
Sulphur content of area dried P. physodes thallus in p.p.m.	102.8	212.6	274.2	325.6	446.0	610.0	

Dust Washings

For an organism with such a slow rate of metabolism and growth as a lichen it may not seem immediately obvious that the "blocking out" of light, or interference with carbon dioxide absorption will have any marked effect until it is virtually complete, by which time toxicity of the dust deposit will have had its effect. This may in fact be so for lichens that are well established and obtaining their nutrients from the bark, but the deposit may also have the effect of modifying the bark pH, so limiting or preventing further spread or new colonisation by the lichen and thus reducing percentage cover of the epiphyte. By influencing such conditions as pH, dust will also effect the numbers of species present, as already mentioned.

It is obvious that dust settling out from the atmosphere will be graded; greater quantity and size of particles being found nearer the source of pollution (Fig.10). The effect of dust may thus vary away from the centre of pollution, as smaller particles may be of different material from larger particles. This has already been noted where the effect of soot is seen to modify somewhat the general acidyfing effect of pollution (see chapter on pH). The bulk of the industrial pollution as dust is flyash and coky matter. The ratio of fly ash: coky matter increasing away from the centre of pollution.

Washings of discs of bark were made, the deposit centrifuged out, dried and weighed. The results are expressed as milligrams per square centimetre and tons per square mile.

Km.from Consett	4.65	4.0	2.3	1.85	1.45	1.1	0.8
Dust in mg/cm^2.	0.66	0.8	0.42	1.19	2.22	2.93	4.9
tons/sq ml.	1.68	2.04	1.08	3.04	5.65	7.48	18.1

This compares with a mean monthly deposit just to the windward of the Iron works of 33 tons per square mile.
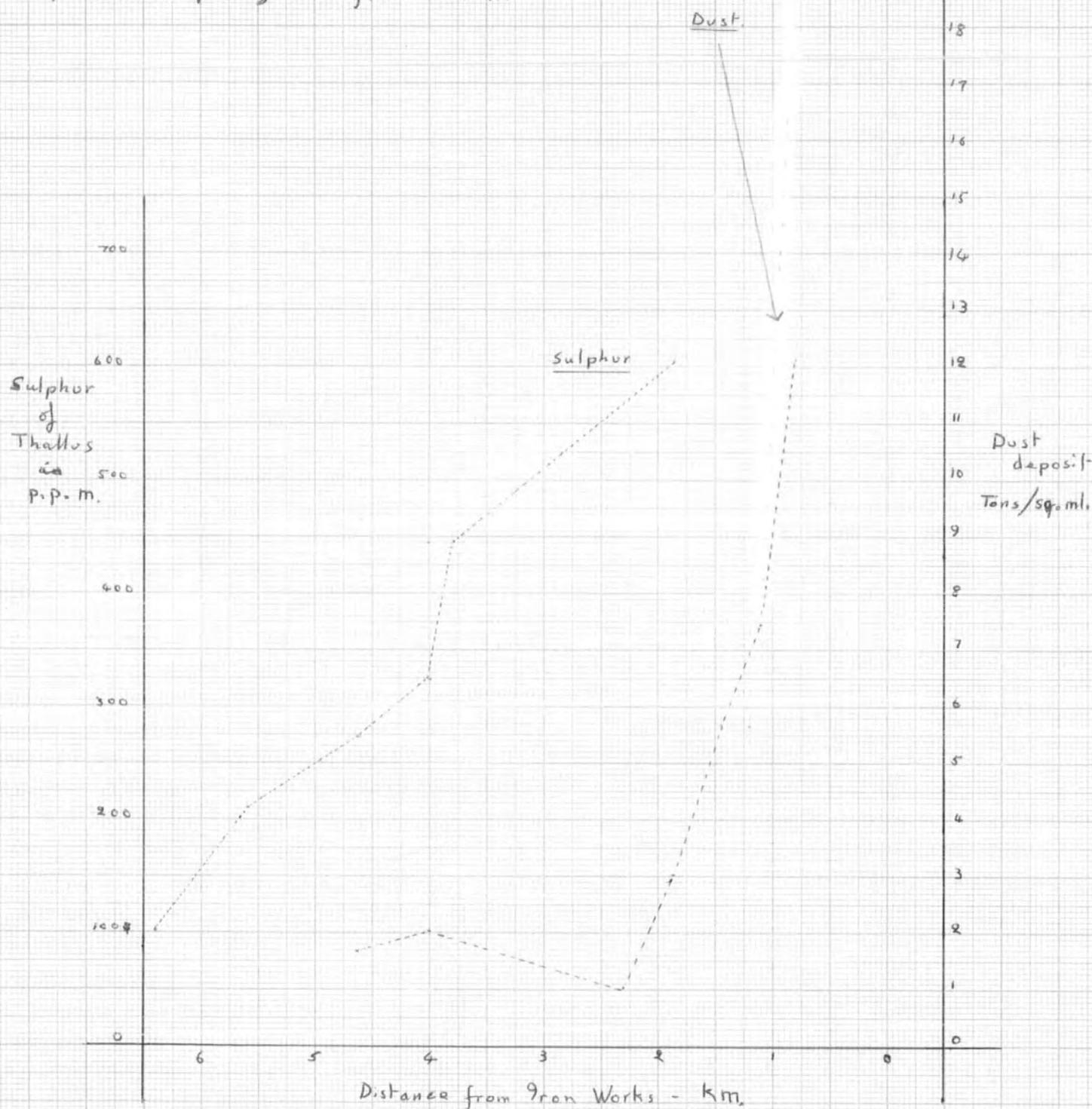
Fig. 10.

<u>Discussion.</u>

Lichens are generally associated with undisturbed areas. This is a reflection of their slow growth and establishment rate. The paucity of lichens around towns and industrial areas is however not merely due to physical disturbance but is also due to indirect effects brought about by civilisation, such as modification of the microclimate and the production and accumulation of pollution in amounts that are harmful to the balance of nature. The county to the west of Consett has been subjected to relatively little physical disturbance and a moderate development of lichens is seen. 5 km.west of Consett there is a total of nearly 35 species, all of which are commonly encountered. Within 2 km.of Consett this number has been more than halved (Fig.9) and the species are less frequently found. Besides this reduction in numbers there is also an overall reduction in both quality and percentage cover, <u>Lecanora conizaeoides</u> being the exception. As the denser polluted area is approached the individual lichens become stunted, and the patches of colonisation on trees less confluent and more isolated. The stunted form of lichens near to their pollution tolerance limit is best seen in the fruticose species. The species of <u>Usnea</u> 4.65 km. out from Consett had a growth of only 1 cm in length; <u>Evernia prunastri</u> became reduced from well branched healthy specimens of 5 cm. long at a distance of 6.4 km.out, to smaller less branched forms only 1.5 cm. long at a distance of 2.65 km.out.

To account for this distribution in both quantity and quality of lichens the pollution data was applied. From the dust washings it seems unlikely that fruticose species such as <u>Evernia prunastri</u> can stand more than a deposit equivalent to 0.8 mg/cm^2 , whilst <u>Usnea</u> may have a much lower limit. Foliose and

crustose species appear in general to be able to tolerate a dust covering of up to about 1.2 mg/cm^2 , though species such as Parmelia physodes and P. saxatilis may be able to tolerate amounts of the order 2.5 mg/cm^2 . It is difficult to give an indication of the dust tolerance for Lecanora conizaeoides but it was found growing well in areas with a 5 mg/cm deposit.

These deposits are too small to have an effect on the lichen thallus by "blocking out" thus preventing light and carbon dioxide absorption. Though these may be some small degree of interference in this way this will probably be negligible when related to the very slow growth and assimilation rates (Smith 1961). If dust is a major cause of lichen control it is most likely to have its effect via the toxic substances it contains which will be concentrated and rapidly absorbed during periods of high humidity. The work also shows that good lichen growth can be found in pockets of high humidity in an otherwise poor locality (Fig.4). This further tends to suggest that a continually high humidity can madify to a great degree the delebrious effect of pollution. Without further investigation it is not possible to say with conviction that humidity can totally nullify the effect of pollution and that it is humidity not pollution which controls lichen growth in industrial areas. There are indications that this is not the case, as the sitings of the sampling areas were made with the aim of having, as near as possible, similar levels of humidity. It is suggested that the main value of high humidity in highly polluted areas is that the lichen thallus remains in an actively metabolic condition for long periods and is able to convert such toxic substances to less toxic forms. (e.g. oxidation of sulphite to the less toxic sulphate - Thomas 1961). Smith (1962) has correlated physiological activity with thallus water content. Further physiological work will help to clarify this theory. Where pollution reaches a low value (below 0.5 mg/cm^2 and

less than c.165 p.p.m. of S) then perhaps humidity may be the chief environmental factor, though there will also tend to be some degree of overlap between humidity and pollution as overriding factors, as the individual lichen species will have slightly different pollution tolerance limits and varying degrees of susceptibility to the low humidity values which are usually associated with high pollution and industrialisation.

The results obtained from this analysis of the lichen flora to the west of Consett agree favourably with other work along similar lines carried out in other areas by previous workers. (Jones 1952, Barkman 1958, Gilbert 1965). Basically it has been shown that, with certain exceptions of lichens which can be described as being toxicolous (Lecanora conizaeoides), both the total cover and species diversity of lichens decrease as pollution increases (cf Fig.9 and 10). It is also shown that crustose species in general penetrate farthest in towards the polluted area (Fig.5). The fruticose species are least toxitolerant, Usnea being especially so. There are some crustose species which are also very toxiphorbic, Rhizocarpon geographicum being an example. It is thus difficult to generalise and if it is wished to map lichen zones and accurately relate these to pollution values then the complexes of lichens chosen for determination of the various zone boundaries must be very carefully chosen. The effect of pollution is also extensively modified by humidity values and these must also be taken into account.

The study of lichens has been much less intensively developed than other fields of botanical or ecological research. Early work was mainly descrptive and physiological work is now chiefly based on interpreting lichen chemistry. Work on basic physiology is still lacking, though work of this nature has been done on Peltigera polydactyla by D.C.Smith (1961).

When results of such work are available perhaps a fuller
understanding of the symbiotic nature of the thallus and
why many of the species are so sensitive to pollution will
be possible.

A closer study of the lichen associations
and their correlation with microenvironments such as
"rain tracks" in tree bark would also lead to a better
understanding of how pollution effects are modified and so
give a clearer explanation of the overall picture.

Conclusion

This investigation has demonstrated both
quantitavely and qualitatively the relative paucity of the
lichen flora of polluted areas when compared with surrounding
localities where pollution is low or absent. The total number
of lichens increases steadily from the centre of pollution
until it begins to stabilise at 4.5 km (Fig. 9). This increase
represents numerical increases of species and cover for
corticolous, saxicolous and terricolous groups of lichens as
well as a qualitative increase. This stabilisation takes place
where the sulphur content of over dried <u>Parmelia physodes</u> is
below c. 325 p.p.m. and where dust deposits are below 0.8 mg/cm^2.
These may be taken as levels of pollution above which a natural
expression of lichen distribution will not be found. With levels
of pollution in excess of this limit the performance of lichens
is shown to be affected, though there is also a moderating
effect brought about by high levels of humidity.

Acknowledgements.

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Appendix.

Appendix A

Monitoring of smoke and Sulphur Dioxide

(1) Principle of Operation of Pollution Guage.

When air is drawn through the filter paper the smoke present in the air is retained and forms a stain on the paper. "Smoke" is taken to include particles of 10 (1/2500) or less in diameter. Such particles do not fall noticeably under their own weight and can thus be regarded as being suspended in the air. The darkness of the stain depends on the amount of smoke collected and also, to some extent, on the nature of the smoke. The darkness of the stain is measured with a reflectometer. The weight of smoke on the filter paper can thus be inferred in terms of a standard smoke for which the calibration of the reflectometer has been calculated. Hence the equivalent concentration per unit volume of air can be determined.

After passing through the filter the air is bubbled through H_2O_2 which is later titrated with a standard alkali solution and the amount of So_2 present can be evaluated. Other strong acids or alkalis in the air may effect this estimation but under all normal circumstances the concentration of such substances is negligible compared with that of SO .

After passing through the filter paper and dreschel bottle, which are changed every day (as daily readings are made), the air passes through the meter which accurately measures the volume of air drawn through the apparatus.

OUTSIDE

EXTERNAL WALL

INSIDE

AIR INLET

UPPER FILTER CLAMP

TIGHTENING SCREW

HOLDER

LOWER FILTER CLAMP

FILTER PAPER

DRECHSEL BOTTLE BUBBLER

METER

SUCTION PUMP
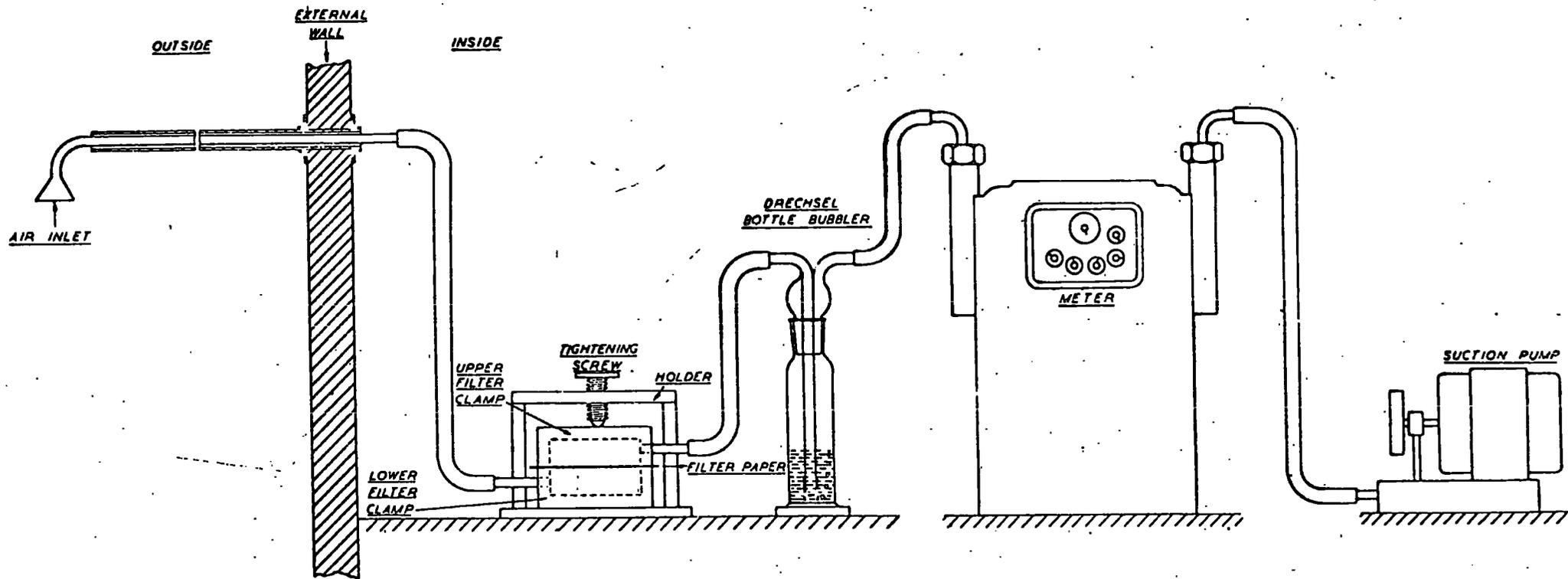
FIG.1 APPARATUS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN THE AIR

Mean Daily Average SO$_2$ values per Month. $(\mu g/m^3)$

Council Yard Leadgate.

	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.	Mean.
J		123	112	60	98.3
F		165	108	52	108.3
M		90	93	40	74.3
A		71	80		75.5
M		60	70		65.0
J	48	51	55		51.3
J	42	58	52		50.7
A	37	62	39		46.0
S	44	67	59		56.7
O	60	75	54		63.0
N	89	94	52		78.3
D	109	134	64		102.3

Y.M.C.A.

	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.	Mean.
J		162	195	126	161.7
F		228	173	63	154.7
M		178	167	93	146.0
A		126	192		159.0
M		180	162		171.0
J	135	75	115		108.3
J	80	122	86		96.0
A	57	88	53		66.0
S	97	115	106		106.0
O	131	126	78		111.7
N	152	172	93		139.0
D	150	234	88		157.3

Moorside.

	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.	Mean.
J		129	86	42	85.7
F		146	78	43	89.0
M		76	83	52	70.3
A		90	51		70.5
M		47	53		50.0
J	35	62	37		44.7
J	52	59	37		49.3
A	28	49	91		56.0
S	39	80	39		46.0
O	55	66	39		53.3
N	100	98	30		76.0
D	91	131	47		89.7

Mean Daily Average Smoke Values. $(\mu g / m^3)$

Council Yard, Leadgate.

	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.	Mean.
J		264	253	207	241.3
F		293	234	164	230.3
M	.	192	185	197	191.3
A		153	148		150.5
M		117	97		107.0
J	84	90	100		91.3
J	111	93	87		97.0
A	86	92	16		64.7
S	123	112	111		115.3
O	149	134	226		169.7
N	188	199	190		192.3
D	191	253	241		228.3

Y.M.C.A. Consett.

	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.	Mean.
J		227	187	218	210.7
F		314	242	154	236.6
M		174	258	175	202.3
A		159	110		134.5
M		85	78		81.5
J	60	82	91		77.7
J	92	79	65		78.7
A	41	67	90		66.0
S	93	81	94		89.3
O	114	77	185		145.3
N	159	170	152		160.3
D	136	249	206		197.0

R.C. Church Moorside.

	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.	Mean.
J		215	211	193	206.3
F		221	158	164	181.0
M		146	175	155	158.7
A		141	104		122.5
M		93	85		89.0
J	63	79	81		74.3
J	89	70	60		73.0
A	59	66	74		66.3
S	93	90	77		86.7
O	119	103	160		127.3
N	161	148	151		153.3
D	152	221	201		191.3

(ii) Deposit Guage.

This is designed to trap the denser particles falling through the atmosphere. They fall into the collecting bowl where they settle until washed by rain water into the collecting bottle. This method has the disadvantage of depending upon rain for collection of the dust and is thus liable to inaccuracies during dry months as the dust is blown about in the collecting bowl by high winds and much may be lost. As the area of the top of the collecting bowl is known the deposit can be evaluated as a weight per unit area per month.

Bird-guard

Collecting bowl

Tubing
(bound with adhesive
tape)

Inverted funnel

Collecting bottle

Supports

Stand

48 in

Appendix B   Percentage Cover of Epiphytic Lichens on Quercus Robur.

Distance from Consett (Km).	6.4	5.6	5.2	4.65	4	3.8	3.65	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.85	2.75	2.65	1.85	1.45	1.1
Bare Bark	22.4	35.4	33.8	45.6	38	40	47.5	49	66	52	51	51.5	68.5	28	34	49
Pleurococcus vulgaris	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	20	6
Lecanora conizaeoides	3.6	21.4	31.6	2.6	31.8	9	14	13	15	40	24	9	8.5	44	46	45
Parmelia physodes	61.2	34.8	27.6	26.6	3.4	20	3.5	-	10	8	15	9.5	7.5	3	-	-
Pertusaria hymenea	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	18	-	-	1	-	1.5	-	-	-
Pertusaria amara	-	-	1	-	2	-	5.5	-	-	-	-	7.5	-	-	⊥	-
Pertusaria pertusa	2.2	2.5	0.2	5.4	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pertusaria albescens	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calicium viride	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	-	-	-	-	2.5	7.5	-	-	-
Chaenotheca ferruginea	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Ochrelechia turneri	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parmelia sulcata	2.2	-	-	-	-	3	4	5	1	-	8	17	5	-	-	-
Parmelia saxatilis	0.6	-	-	0.8	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parmelia omphalodes	6.6	2.5	5.2	16.8	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evernia prunastri	0.6	3.4	1.6	0.6	1.6	9	5	6	8	-	1	⊤	1.5	-	-	-
Cetraria glauca	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Usnea sp.	0.6	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Percentage Cover of Epiphytic Lichens on Fraxinus excelsior.

Distance from Consett (km)	3.8	3.65	1.85	1.45	1.1
Bare bark	26	26	28	50	40
Pleurococcus vulgaris	2	-	14	13	-
Lecanora conizaeoides	26	20	58	37	60
Parmelia physodes	35	32.5	-	-	-
Pertusaria hymenea	2	1.5	-	-	-
Pertusaria amara	3	2.5	-	-	-
Calicium viride	2	4.5	-	-	-
Parmelia sulcata	2	8	-	-	-
Evernia prunastri	-	3.5	-	-	-
Cetraria glauca	2	1.5	-	-	-

Percentage cover of Epiphytic Lichens on Fagus silvatica.

Distance from Consett (km)	3.8	1.85	1.1
Bare bark	23	19	46
Pleurococcus vulgaris	1	36	9
Lecanora conizaeoides	10	45	47
Parmelia physodes	40	-	-
Pertusaria hymenea	6	-	-
Pertusaria albescens	8	-	-
Calicium viride	1	-	-
Chaenotheca ferruginea	3	-	-
Parmelia sulcata	7	-	-

Percentage cover of Epiphytic Lichens on Acer pseudoplatanus.

Distance from Consett (km)	1.45	1.1
Bare bark	20	49
Pleurococcus vulgaris	29	-
Lecanora conizaeoides	51	51

Percentage cover of Epiphytic Lichens on Betula alba.

Distance from Consett (km)	3.8	1.85	1.45	1.1
Bare bark	40	50	95	-
Pleurococcus vulgaris	5	13	-	-
Lecanora conizaeoides	55	37	5	-

Appendix C

Total Number of Lichen species per sampling area.

Corticolous species.	5-7	4-5	3-4	2-3	1-2	0-1	km from Steel Works.
Lecanora conizaeoides	-	-	-	-	-	-	
" expellans	-			-			
" dispersa	-	-					
Parmelia physodes	-	-	-	-	-		
" sulcata	-	-	-	-			
" saxatilis	-	-		-	-		
" omphalodes	-	-					
" glabratula	-	-					
Parmeliopsis ambigua	-	-	-	-	-		
Pertusaria albescens	-	-	-	-			
" amara	-	-	-	-			
" pertusa	-	-					
" hymenae				-	-		
Cetraria glauca	-		-		-		
Evernia prunastri	-	-	-	-			
Buellia punctata	-	-	-	-			
Pyrenula nitida	-						
Coniocybe pallida		-					
Graphis elegans		-					
Calicium viride				-	-		
Cladonia coniocraea	-	-	-				
" fimbriata	-						
" pyxidata	-						
Ochrelechia turneri				-			
Chaenotheca ferruginea				-	-		
Usnea	-	-					

Total Numbers of Lichen species per sampling area.

Distance in km from Iron Works.	5-7	4-5	3-4	2-3	1-2	0-1
saxicolous						
Cetraria glauca	-					
Parmelia furfuracea	-					
" glabratula				-		
" physodes	-	-	-	-	-	
" saxatilis	-	-	-	-	-	
Physcia orbicularis	-	-	-	-		
Xanthoria parietina	-	-				
Candellariella vitellina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lecanora badia	-	-	-			
Lecanora conizaeoides						-
" gangaleoides	-	-	-			
" intricata	-	-	-			
" polytropa	-	-	-			
" soralifera	-	-	-			
Lecidea macrocarpa	-	-	-	-		
" tumida	-	-	-			
Rhizocarpon geographicum	-	-				
Terricolous						
Cladonia coniocraea	-	-	-	-	-	
" fimbriata	-	-	-	-		
" glauca	-	-				
" pitraea	-	-				
" pyxidata	-	-	-	-		
Peltigera polydactyla	-	-	-			

Appendix D.

(i)   pH Estimation.

      Circles of bark, 3.6 sq.cm. in area (in actuality those used for dust washings were used for pH after being washed) were obtained from between 1 and 1.5 m from the ground and any surface dust washed off. The discs were then crushed in a pestle with a mortar and added to 100 ml. D.W. The mixture was allowed to settle for one hour and the pH measured with a glass electrode.

Results at 1.1 km								Mean	Variance
Oak	5.45	5.25	5.4	5.31	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.344	.067
Ash	5.75	5.70	5.75	5.6	5.71	5.8	5.73	5.72	.058
Beech	5.9	5.95	5.85	5.92	5.91	5.9	5.78	5.883	.061
Sycamore	5.95	6.1	5.95	5.92	5.9	5.88	5.93	5.947	.067

at 1.45 km									
Oak	4.85	4.4	4.5	4.75	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.657	.152
Ash	5.95	6.1	5.8	6.15	6.05	6.1	6.2	6.05	.124
Silver Birch	5.95	5.9	6.1	6.15	6.0	6.05	6.1	6.036	.083
Sycamore	6.2	6.3	6.05	6.1	6.15	6.1	6.2	6.157	.078
Elm	6.55	6.45	6.30	6.25	6.35	6.3	6.2	6.343	.112

at 1.85 km										
Oak	5.2	4.8	5.15	4.9	4.6	4.7	4.75	4.95	4.881	.227
Ash	4.65	4.7	4.6	4.55	4.6	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.581	.084
Beech	5.6	5.55	5.95	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.65	5.85	5.725	.144
Birch	4.4	4.7	4.75	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.55	4.613	.124

at 2.3 km									
Ash	6.1	6.05	5.62	5.65	5.95	5.9	5.8	5.867	.172
Silver Birch	6.1	5.95	5.9	6.0	5.88	5.91	5.89	5.947	.073
Sycamore	5.93	6.2	6.17	6.0	6.0	6.08	5.95	6.047	.098
Horse Chestnut	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.1	6.15	6.0	6.05	6.114	.127

(ii) Sulphur Estimation.

A 2 gm sample of washed oven dried thallus was heated with 250 c.c. conc. HNO_3 at 80-85°C until the solution turned from a dark brown to a pale straw colour (3-5 days). The insoluble residue was spun off and 2 gm Ba Cl_2 added to the supernatant. The solution was then left for a further 2 days when the resultant precipitate was centrifuged off. This p.p.t. was then washed to remove any Ba NO_3, thus leaving only Ba So_4 which was centrifuged out, oven dried and weighed. By using atomic weights the amount of elemental Sulphur in p.p.m. of oven dried P.physodes thallus could be evaluated.

Results.

Km.	6.4	5.6	4.65	4	3.8	1.85
Wt. tube + Ba So_4	13.0365	12.4588	12.5415	12.4605	12.5440	12.5415
" "	13.0350	12.4556	12.5375	12.4556	12.5375	12.5320
∴ wt Ba So_4	.0015	.0032	.0040	.0049	.0065	.0095
∴ S. in p.p.m.	102 .8	219.4	274.2	335.9	445.6	651.24
Wt. tube + p.p.t.		12.4586		12.4602	12.4622	13.0397
Wt. tube		12.4556		12.4556	12.4556	13.0314
p.p.t.		.0030		.0046	.0066	.0083
S. in p.p.m.		205.7		315.3	446.5	568.9

Appendix

(iii) Bark Washings for Dust

From each site five discs of bare bark, each
3.6 sq.cm. in area, were collected at a height of 1.0 to 1.5
metres from the ground. The discs were shaken with water for
30 minutes. After the first 10 minutes the surface of the discs
were brushed with a stiff brush to loosen any closely adhering
particles or tarry matter. The discs were then used for the pH
measurements. The dust was centrifuged out, oven dried and weighed.

Distance from Iron Works (km)

Centrifuge tube + dust	12.4635	12.5521	13.0390	12.6084	12.5769	12.5869	12.6851
Centrifuge tube	12.4556	12.5375	13.0314	12.5869	12.5360	12.5341	12.5969
Dust in gm/18 sq.cm.	0.0119	0.0146	0.0076	0.0215	0.0399	0.0528	0.0882
Dust in mg/cm^2	0.66	0.80	0.422	1.194	2.22	2.933	4.9
Dust in tons/sq.ml.	1.68	2.039	1.076	3.044	5.65	7.477	12.098

<u>D.S.I.R. Deposit Guage Data</u> (Tons/sq.ml.)

1964	Oct.	20.08	
	Nov.	23.09	Mean = 33.0 Tons/sq.ml./month of
	Dec.	59.70	total undissolved matter.
1965	Jan.	34.57	= 12.936 mg/cm^2/month.
	Feb.	6.71	
	Mar.	48.43	
	April.	13.69	
	May.	27.42	
	Jun.	47.49	
	July.	12.48	
	Aug.	52.62	
	Sep.	33.59	
	Oct.	44.42	
	Nov.	-	
	Dec.	26.75	

CONSETT

CONSETT PH

BLACK HILL
BRIDGE HILL

Shotley Grove
Southfield Plantation
Brownsbog Wood
Sodine Wood
Sodine Reservoir
Howden Wood
Howden Cottage
Consett Plantation
Consett Hall
Beech Grove

Consett Iron Works

Mosswood Cottages
Mosswood
Mosswood Farm
Wallish Walls Road
Wallish Walls
Allensford Cottage
Allensford Mill
Allensford Bridge
Allensford
Allensford House
West Finns Wood
Hole House
Denehurst Wood
Temperley Wood
West Wood
Consett Low Wood

Moss Wood
Crooked Oak Cottages
Crooked Oak
Snape Wood
Windpump

Derwent Grange
Whamley Burn
Whamley Burn Bridge
Sand Pit
Old Quarries

Sewage Farm (Consett)

Consett Park
Consett Park Terrace
Moorside
Stanefordham
Consett High Wood

West Crag
Graham Flat
Graham Quarry
Lead Mill
Leadmill Bridge
Black Pool
Narrow Combe Wood
Comb Bridges

Silvertongue Lead Mine
Foz Holes
Windybank Wood
Dean Howl Farm
Sewage Works
Fleece Inn
Castle Hill
Cragg Buildings
Maudville Institute
Four Lane Ends
Park Terrace
Howards Buildings

Birks Well
Birks Wood
St John's Ch
Castleside
Old Shafts
Healyfield Quarry
War Meml
Vicarage
Sun Sch

HEALEYFIELD

Houndsill Cottages
How's Quarry
How's Wood
Old Drift
Middle Gap
Middle Heads
The Sycamores
Beech Lodge
Rowley Farm

NZ 05 SE

Metres