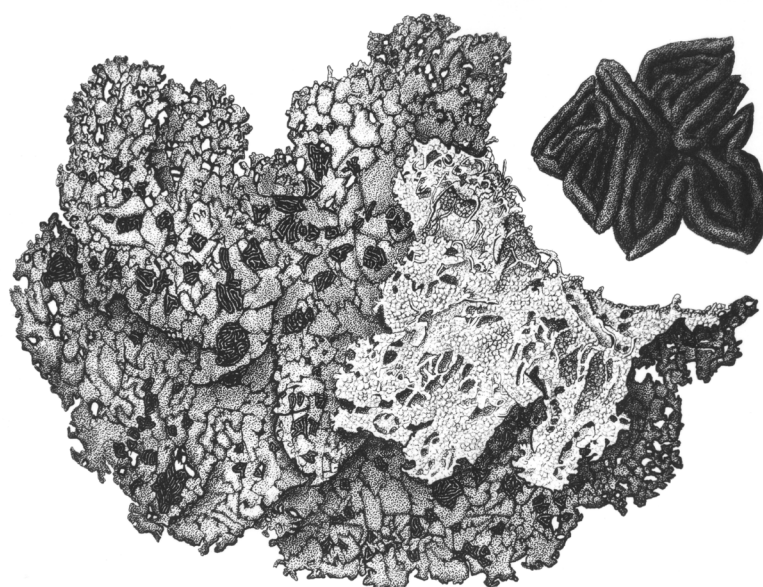
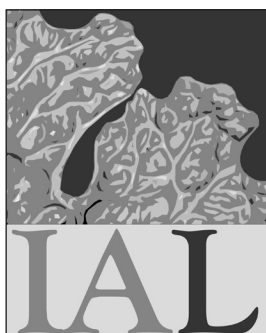


INTERNATIONAL LICHENOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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The opinions expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those held by the International Association for Lichenology

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LICHENOLOGY

The International Association for Lichenology (IAL) promotes the study and conservation of lichens. It organizes symposia, field trips, and distributes a biannual newsletter. There is a listserver that enables on-line discussion of topics of interest. Webpages devoted to lichenology are also maintained by members of the Association. People wishing to renew their membership or become members of IAL are requested to send their subscription (one payment of 40 USD for 2009-2012) to either Treasurers.

The **International Lichenological Newsletter** is the official publication of IAL. It is issued twice a year (July and December) in English. The *Newsletter* is also available on the Internet. The *Newsletter* is divided into four main sections: 1) **Association news**: official information concerning the Association, such as minutes of Council meetings, proposals of Constitutional changes, new members, changes of addresses, etc. 2) **News**: information about lichenologists, institutional projects, herbaria, requests of collaboration, announcements of meetings, book reviews, etc. 3) **Reports**: reports of past activities, short lectures, obituaries, short historical novelties, etc. 4) **Reviews**: presentation of recent progress and other topics of interest in lichenology with optional discussion. When the material exceeds the available space, the Editor will prepare a summary, on prior agreement with the contributors.

Any information intended for publication should reach the Editor on or before June 15 and November 15 for inclusion in the July and December issues, respectively.

IAL affairs are directed by an Executive Council elected during the last General Meeting. Council members elected at the IAL6 Symposium (Asilomar, California (U.S.A.), 2008) are listed below, and will serve until 2012.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

IBC2011 Melbourne

The Australian botanical community invites you to Melbourne, Australia in July 2011 to participate in the XVIII International Botanical Congress. Australia has a vibrant scientific community active across all botanical disciplines and its researchers play a prominent and highly collaborative role in international biological sciences.

The Australian flora, with its many endemics and strong Gondwanan element, provides a unique opportunity full of inspiring experiences for the botanical visitor. Its ancient landscape includes vast deserts, tropical and temperate rainforests, floristically rich heathlands and unique eucalypt forests. Marine environments include a rich flora and the most extensive coral ecosystem, the Great Barrier Reef.

Australia's botanical community is eager to welcome our colleagues from around the world to the 2011 IBC for an intellectually stimulating and socially memorable occasion.

Judy West, Congress President

Address change

Imke Schmitt, Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F), Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Senckenberganlage 25, D-60325 Frankfurt, Germany

PERSONALIA

Chantal Van Haluwyn and **Juliette Asta**, in collaboration with **Jean-Pierre Gavériaux**, have recently published a book about epiphytic lichens, which is entitled *Guide Lichens de France, lichens des arbres* (Belin, 2009, www.editions-Belin.com, ISBN 978-2-7011-4700-0). In this book of 240 pages with 300 photographs, 150 epiphytic lichens are described and classified with the typical features of each species clearly presented and illustrated, following a new pedagogical method with many comparative tables. No equivalent book about this lichen group was previously available in French for those working in the field; for such a purpose, this small-sized book is appropriate for transport and field manipulation. The authors are now involved in the preparation of similar publications on terricolous and saxicolous lichens.

Imke Schmitt has accepted a teaching position at Goethe University Frankfurt and at Senckenberg Museum and is therefore moving back to Germany during this summer.

NEWS

New literature:

BERGER, F. ; PRIEMETZHOFFER, F. & R. TÜRK (2009): Atlas der Verbreitung der Flechten in Oberösterreich. – Stapfia **90**. – Linz, Austria. 320 pages. Paperback. ISSN 0252-192X. Price: 30.00 Euro.

25 years after the first publication of a lichen atlas for the Austrian district (Bundesland) of Upper Austria (Oberösterreich) by Türk & Wittmann (volume 11 in the same series), a new one has been launched. The differences between these two publications are striking: the new one presents grid maps for 1296 lichen species of the 1378 species known from the area (versus 411 maps and 542 taxa in the first issue). Nevertheless the old Türk & Wittmann atlas was the starting point for many mapping activities in Austria, especially in Upper Austria, which finally resulted not only in the new opus under review, but also in an increasing number of atlases for other Austrian provinces. The number of pages has increased from 98 to 320 despite the fact that the individual maps are much smaller now, in order to provide additional detail on altitude, distribution, ecology and rareness for each taxon.

The book starts with introductory chapters on the 150 years of history of lichenology in the province and a detailed description of the study area in respect of geology, climate and vegetation. The chapter on lichen-rich habitats is a very informative introduction to the lichen ecology of the area. Finally some distribution patterns are explained and aspects of lichen conservation are discussed, which includes also a red list for Upper Austria.

The mapping base is unchanged. The basic unit is one sheet of the topographical map scale 1 : 25.000 which means that each grid comprises 10 to 6 geographical minutes (c. 11 x 12 km). The book is well laid out, but this has resulted in many maps not being on the same page as the text for a species; therefore the user has to search for the corresponding numbers.

The book is concluded by 48 plates each with 6 mostly superb lichen photographs. The selection of illustrated species is certainly a compromise of common species for a broader audience and some rarely illustrated specialities for the connoisseur. The information given for every photograph is very precise, but the pictures themselves are only numbered. As mentioned with the maps, a system which allows lichen names printed on the map or photograph would have been more user friendly.

Unfortunately the work is not free from some unpleasant spelling errors. The name of the well known Czech lichenologist A. Vězda is permanently given with wrong diacritic ž. The genus *Lichenomphalia* is generally misspelled as *Lichenomphalina*. Despite those few shortcomings, the book is a major contribution to our knowledge of Central European lichens and gives a precise overview on the state of the art for that area. Because of the information given on every accepted species, it will be of good use for everybody honestly interested in the lichens of Central Europe and the Alps. The very reasonable price should allow its wide distribution among people interested in lichen floristics and ecology.

The Editor

BLAZROV, L. G. (2009): Epifitnye Lišajniki G. Moskvy: Sovremennaja Dinamika Vidovogo Raznoobrazija. [Epiphytic lichens of Moscow city: recent changes of species diversity] – Moscow: KMK Scientific Press. – 146 pages. Paperback ISBN 978-5-87317-621-2. Price: 26.00 USD.

Changes in the diversity of epiphytic lichens are studied in many parts of the world, especially in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, resulting in an enormous literature on the topic. In Russia and the former Soviet Union, such studies had regularly been done in various parts of the country and especially in the densely populated or heavily industrialized areas. Moscow was studied in 1988-1991 by Lev Blazrov, and now he presents the results of a new study carried out in 2006. In general the methodology in both studies was the same, namely mapping all epiphytic lichens on tree trunks from the ground up to 2.5 m within mapping units of 1 km². All available trees have been investigated in each of the studied. The difference between the first investigation and the more recent one was only the number of researched units: in 2006, only transects were used, but in the first study the whole area was included. In the first study, despite the large number (908) of investigated units, 43 epiphytic species were found, whereas in 2006, 64 species occurred within 336 investigated units; the average number per unit increased from 0 (33% of squares) to 18 in a park near the river Moskva in the 1990s to 2-26 in 2006. Various reasons for these changes and the performances of different species are discussed in detail.

This new booklet is published in Russian with an English summary of 9 pages. A shorter paper in German on recent changes in epiphytic lichens in northern Moscow has also been published by the author in the internet *Archive for Lichenology* 6: 1-8 under the title *Die Dynamik der Artendiversität den epiphytischen Flechten des Nordbezirks des Moskaus (Russland)*; it can be downloaded at <http://www.fschumm.de/Archive/>.

The Editor

FRAHM, J.-P.; SCHUMM, F. & N. J. STAPPER (2010): Epiphytische Flechten als Umweltgütezeiger. – Norderstedt: Books on Demand. – 164 pages. Paperback ISBN: 978-3-8391-5299-7. Price: 27.90 Euro.

The use of epiphytic lichens for air pollution studies and for monitoring changes in atmospheric pollution has advanced over the years. For some time Verein Deutscher Ingenieure (VDI) developed guidelines for such investigations which have been revised on several occasions. A small book by Kirschbaum & Wirth (1995, Stuttgart: E. Ulmer) was published to popularize some aspects of these guidelines, illustrated by high quality photographs of the relevant species. Over the years, it got out of print and it was eagerly searched for. Moreover, with increasing knowledge and changes in the epiphytic lichen flora as a result of decreasing sulphur dioxide pollution, as well as changes in nomenclature, the book became somewhat dated.

Now the new book claims to fill this gap. It starts with introductions on lichens as bioindicators, explanations of the VDI guidelines and discussions of the pros and cons of such methods. This is followed by short introductions into lichen morphology and lichen determination techniques. The main part of the book describes and illustrates some 170 epiphytic lichens of central Europe grouped into crustose, foliose and fruticose lichens for practical reasons. Keys for the included taxa are provided. The quality of the photographs is generally high and the book will certainly allow the determination of many common

epiphytes, even for beginners. Unfortunately there are some severe shortcomings. First of all there is no index and species are not always presented in alphabetical order. So it is sometimes rather time-consuming to find the photograph of a certain species or even to find out whether a species is included or not. Moreover, photographs are not always named. This is not a problem as long as descriptions and photographs are on opposite pages; but the layout of pages is confusing and especially beginners can quickly become uncertain about the relevant photograph for a given description; this is annoying, since this is a book for beginners. There are also omissions in the two literature lists which are divided into reference literature (p. 26/27) after the introductory chapters, and into determination literature (p. 164). The new British Flora (Smith *et al.* 2009) is cited on page 99 as a reference for nomenclature and a basis for the key to foliose lichens, but is omitted in both reference lists; but the earlier Flora (Purvis *et al.* (1992) is given; Dobson's illustrated guide is given as the 4th edition (2000) instead of the revised and enlarged 5th edition (2005). The overall impression is that a potentially useful book was produced somewhat hasty, and a more careful editing work could have improved its value considerably. Unfortunately, after the publication of the above book, it became clear that a revised edition of the Kirschbaum-Wirth book was already in hand and that this will also be published this year. It is sad that those who have knowledge of such conflicting interests do not share this information to prevent duplication of effort and expenditure.

The Editor

HAFELLNER, J., I. KÄRNEFELT & V. WIRTH (eds.) (2010): Diversity and Ecology of Lichens in Polar and Mountain Ecosystems. – Bibliotheca Lichenologica 104. – J. Cramer in Gebr. Borntraeger Verlagsbuchhandlung, Berlin & Stuttgart. 389 pages. Paperback. ISBN 978-3-443-58083-4, ISSN 1436-169. Price: 104.00 Euro.

This is a Festschrift without mentioning it in the title. However, in addition to the remarks in the short preface, the first contribution by J. Hafellner, O. L. Lange & V. Wirth is entitled *Roman Türk – Notizen zu Leben und Werk anlässlich seines 65. Geburtstages* and contains in addition to the biography of Roman Türk, his bibliography up to the beginning of 2010. Roman's special interests are reflected in the next chapter too. I. Kärnefelt, A. Thell, P. Frödén & M. Seaward summarize the development of Austrian lichenological activities over more than 200 years by presenting biographical notes for 18 of the most active persons from past and present under the headline *Austrian lichenologists exploring the Alps*. Here the long-running activities of Roman Türk, exploring and mapping the lichen biodiversity of Austria, come into the framework of history. It was Roman Türk who started lichen mapping in Austria about 40 years ago resulting in several distribution atlases, the most recent one reviewed above.

Then follow 15 chapters on various aspects of lichen systematics, taxonomy and floristics, mostly related to the Alps or other high mountains. To mention just a few of them: the longest contribution (80 pages) *On saxicolous lecideoid lichens growing in the European Alps at high altitudes* by H. Hertel & F. Schuhwerk treats 92 taxa (81 species) growing in higher altitudes of the Alps (which is defined as above 2500 m). Brief remarks on published illustrations, ecology, global distribution, distribution in the Alps and a list of records from the whole of the European Alps, sometimes with added taxonomic notes, are provided. Within this paper the new combination *Carbonea nivaria* (Arnold) Rambold is proposed.

Another paper (in German) of great importance on *Verrucaria* species with brown thalli in the Austrian Limestone Alps includes a key for 36 accepted species. Although the authors (O. Breuss & F. Berger) call their paper a provisional overview, this will become most probably an important step forward to a better understanding of *Verrucaria* with its many insufficiently known species. Further papers in direct relation to the Alps are entitled *A key to the Parmeliaceae in the Alps with notes on their distribution and phylogeny* by I. Thell, M. Westberg & I. Kärnefelt and *Lichen diversity on marble outcrops at mid to high elevations in the Eastern Alps (Austria)* by A. Wilfling & J. Hafellner.

There are six newly described taxa listed on page 6, including the new genus *Porpidina* Timdal to accommodate the former *Toninia tumidula* as the only species, *Calicium pluriseptatum* Tibell & Frisch from Tanzania, *Leptogium insigne* P. M. Jørg. & Tønsberg from the Pacific Northwest of North America, and *Stereocaulon soufrieranum* Øvstedal & Elix from Guadeloupe.

Contributions are in English except of the two papers mentioned above and a paper on beech forest lichens by V. Wirth. Authors and editors are to be thanked for a well-balanced volume which reflects the work of Roman Türk as well as the development of alpine lichenology. There is no question that it is a must for lichenologists working in the European Alps and for all major lichenological libraries.

The Editor

MENDES GODINHO, R. (2010): Lichen biomonitors: factors affecting response behaviour. – Amsterdam: IOS Press. viii + 170 pages. Paperback. ISBN 9781607504825. Price 65 Euro.

This is the “proefschrift” (= PhD thesis) of the Portuguese author presented to the Technical University Delft in The Netherlands. Work for this has been carried out in a joint project between the Neutron Activation in Environment, Nutrition and Epidemiology group of the Technological and Nuclear Institute of the New University of Lisbon, headed by C. Freitas, and the Radiation and Isotopes for Health group of the Department of Radiation, Radionuclides and Reactors at Delft, headed by H. Th. Wolterbeek.

The main goal of this study is the accurate evaluation of the performance of heavy metals within a lichen thallus and the variations of these performances under changing pollution and environmental conditions. The main lichens involved, *Flavoparmelia caperata* and for comparison *Evernia prunastri*, were transplanted into a polluted site in Portugal. After a general introduction the author structured her methods and results into chapters on the accumulation of trace elements in the peripheral and central parts of the two lichens, micro-scale elemental distribution in the thallus of *F. caperata*, assessment of lichen vitality during the experiment, assessment of acid-base buffering properties of *F. caperata* in respect to the influence of age and pollution exposure, bioaccumulation behaviour of transplants of *F. caperata* in relation to total deposition at the study site and dynamics of element accumulation and release of *F. caperata* during the transplant experiment. Many of the author’s conclusions are of great importance for biomonitoring studies. For example, in both lichens it was shown that the inner and peripheral parts of the thalli show different concentrations of elements. The inner parts have higher concentrations of elements of limited metabolic significance while elements of metabolic interest were more abundant in peripheral parts. Another of the major results is that it was clearly shown that *F. caperata* responds fast (within month) to environmental changes and that the lichens most probably reflect a memory-dependent period of environmental exposure rather than

an integrated record of the full lichen's history and that lichen's memory length is element specific. The book is concluded by a chapter entitled *Discussion, conclusion and outlook*, with English and Dutch summaries and a Curriculum Vitae including a list of the author's publications.

Unfortunately, the good overall impression of the study is overshadowed by technical shortcomings, especially in relation to literature references. For unknown reasons, the author presents for each of the 8 chapters a list of references which leads to some papers being cited up to 6 times. Curiously, the references in chapter 3 do not have their titles. On page 124 several references are cited (e.g. Showman 1997, Purvis *et al.* 2003, Hultengren *et al.* 2004), but not given in the corresponding list. In some reference lists, the order is incorrect, etc. It is somewhat surprising that such formal mistakes slipped through the control of author, referees and publishers.

The Editor

ØVSTEDAL, D. O.; T. TØNSBERG & A. ELVEBAKK (2009): The Lichen Flora of Svalbard. – Sommerfeltia 33. - Oslo: Natural History Museum. 393 Pages. ISBN 82-7420-047-0, ISSN 0800-6865. Price 425 NOK.

This is the first lichen flora of Svalbard, the archipelago north of Scandinavia which is by an international agreement ruled by a Norwegian governor. Although some of the islands are easy to reach by air or boat, large areas are covered by glaciers and still very remote. Over the years, numerous expeditions have visited the islands and collected a remarkable amount of information. Now three Norwegian lichenologists have undertaken the task of preparing a flora with keys and full descriptions of 742 accepted species, 151 of which are reported for the first time from Svalbard. 7 species in the genera *Bryocaulon*, *Buellia*, *Lepraria*, *Placynthium*, *Rhizocarpon* (2) and *Tephromela* are described as new to science, and a further five new combinations are proposed in the genera *Aspicilia* (2), *Cetraria*, *Miriquidica* and *Stereocaulon*. Other taxa in the genera *Allantoparmelia*, *Fuscidea* (2), *Porpidia*, *Rhizocarpon* (3), *Rimularia* (3), *Sporastatia* and *Verrucaria* are included, but not described formally or assigned to known taxa but they are fully treated in the keys and descriptions.

The book begins with an extended list of contents (pp. 5-27) which includes the full names of all treated taxa; as this list is in strict alphabetical order, it can also serve as a checklist. Unfortunately, the authors missed the opportunity to mark in this list the species which are new to Svalbard; therefore this information can only be found in the notes within the text for every species. Following this list are the usual introductory chapters which provide descriptions of the area, especially in relation to geology, climate and bioclimatic zonation. The results are discussed with respect to biogeography, biodiversity and some major ecological factors and lichen habitats (e.g. reindeer grazing). Beginning on page 41, the taxonomy part starts with keys to genera which are divided into fruticose, foliose and crustose genera followed by two keys to sterile species, but only for sorediate species. Since these keys are very formal and generally use only one distinguishing character, often relating to a chemical compound, such as "thallus with stictic acid" or "thallus without stictic acid" or a difficult anatomical character, such as "asci of *Psora*-type" or "asci of other types", it is difficult to use by those not very familiar with lichen taxonomy, especially as there are neither explanations of special terms or spot reactions to distinguish some groups of lichen compounds, nor drawings of ascus types. A flora is often also used by non-specialists especially in an area as Svalbard with so many lichen dominated

habitats of interest to ecologists and botanists in general who will have considerable difficulties in using such keys, especially as a number of species cannot be keyed out (e.g. *Rimularia furvella*). However, the number of species is rather moderate compared to Scandinavia or the British Isles where much better and more user friendly keys are available.

Nevertheless, the book succeeds in providing an overview of the lichen flora and in providing descriptions and further information on all species, particularly since most of this information is difficult or impossible to obtain from other sources. Nobody working on lichens of Svalbard or other high arctic regions will find this work invaluable.

The Editor

ROMANOVA, E. V. & N. V. SEDELNIKOVA (2010): Lichens – bioindicators of atmospheric pollution of Novosibirsk city agglomeration. – Novosibirsk: Academic Publishing House “Geo”. 99 pages, hardback. ISBN 978-5-904682-04-0. Price not given, but information about purchase is accessible on <http://www.izdatgeo.ru>.

Novosibirsk, the largest industrial city in Western Siberia and main centre for academic science of Siberia, is located on both banks of the river Ob', the largest river Western Siberia. The authors of this book, lichenologists from the Central Siberian Botanical Garden of Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, have summarized (in Russian) the results of 9 years' research of both Novosibirsk city and some of its suburban territories. The lichen list of 291 species from 84 genera and 40 families is supported by short data on location, ecology and biogeography. An index of poleotolerance (I.P.) has also been adopted for ranking territory according to the degree of air pollution, with maps of Novosibirsk, Berdsk, Ob', Kol'zovo and Krasnoobsk to illustrate this. More than one third part of Novosibirsk city is a lichen desert. Appendix 1 provides a list of epiphytic lichen species with their poleotolerance classification and Appendix 2 provides maps of rare species within the studied territory.

Lev G. Biazrov, Moscow

SCHUMM, F. & A. APTROOT (2010): Seychelles Lichen Guide. – Privately printed. 404 pages. Paperback. ISBN 978-3-00-030254-1. Price: 128.00 Euro. Available from: Koeltz Scientific Books

The aim of this book is to provide information on the lichens of the Seychelles by illustrating 238 species known to occur or expected to be found there. Thus most of the genera and many of the species known from the islands are illustrated by colour plates, each of which usually consisting of several photographs showing general habit, details of thallus structure, sections of apothecia, and, if appropriate, spores. The quality of these illustrations is generally high and in many cases they will allow to recognize species if these pictures are carefully compared to the short descriptions provided. Unfortunately, illustrations and corresponding descriptions are often not on opposite pages, hence the user has to change pages for comparison. No list of accepted species is provided, and there are no keys.

Within such a poorly known region (from lichenological point of view) as tropical lowlands, there will undoubtedly be different opinions on species concepts. However, with the aid of the list of collecting localities for the illustrated specimens it will be possible to

use the book even with different taxonomic concepts. In this list, 62 species are marked by an asterisk as new to various countries; as well as the Seychelles, this includes the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, La Reunion and Madagascar. Although not mentioned in the introduction or elsewhere, except in the list of collecting localities, two new species of *Pyrenula*, both from Seychelles, are described within the main part of the book. The descriptions of localities are a mixture of German, English and rarely even French.

There is a large number of spelling errors and mistakes in the reference list (e.g. citations of papers by Seaward & Aptoot 2004 and 2006 are similar, but that for 2004 is missing). Most of the species included will doubtfully be noticed by the ordinary tourist, but for lichenologists and botanists visiting tropical lowlands this will be of some value, but more careful editing would have improved its usefulness.

The Editor

REPORTS

Fresh Lichenicolous Fungi Required

A major project to grow lichenicolous fungi in culture, examine them for extrolite production, and ascertain their phylogenetic positions by molecular methods is currently underway at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. The project is entitled "Hongos liquenícolas: cultivo, producción de metabolitos secundarios y relaciones filogenéticas" and supported by Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación grant CGL2008-01600; it continues until September 2011. Dr Constantino Ruibal, well-known for his pioneering work on the isolation and characterization of fungi from bare rock, is employed on the project. Also involved in the project are Dr Ana Millanes (Madrid) and Dr Mats Wedin (Stockholm). We are aiming to determine the phylogenetic position of as many genera currently of uncertain position as possible, and to assess the species concepts in selected genera in which numerous species have been described from different lichens. The best results come from material collected within a few months which have been only air-dried. This is a great opportunity to enhance our understanding of these fascinating fungi, and we would be very pleased to receive abundantly sporulating material of diverse lichenicolous fungi, and in particular from the genera *Abrothallus*, *Lichenocodium*, *Nesolechia*, and especially *Stigmatidium*. Specimens can be sent direct to Constantino in Madrid (Departamento de Biología Vegetal II, Facultad de Farmacia, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Plaza Ramon y Cajal, Madrid 28040, Spain) or myself (Milford House, The Mead, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2LZ, UK) as is most convenient. All those donating material will be acknowledged in the resultant publications.

David L. Hawksworth (d.hawksworth@nhm.ac.uk)

Lichen Flora of Russia

Within the project of a *Lichen Flora of Russia* we would like to collect all available information about lichen specimens collected on Russian territory and kept in Herbaria all around the world. We would like to ask you to inform us if you have any noteworthy Russian collections filling the following form. We will much appreciate if you could send any information to the address *andreevmp@yandex.ru*. It is not necessary, but welcome to fill all fields. We are going to use the data for a chapter of the first volume of the Flora, and will publish the whole database in the Internet.

Laboratory of lichenology and bryology of the Komarov Botanical Institute.
St. Petersburg, Russia

Questionnaire

Herbaria and lichen collections from Russia and adjacent territories

1.	Name of herbarium/collection	
2.	Index (for example: LE)	
3.	Status (state or private)	
3.	Belong to: (institute, university)	
4.	City, country	
5.	Established in the year:	
6.	Established by:	
7.	Amount of specimens/species	
8.	Main collectors	
9	Regions and systematic groups	
10.	Important characters	
11.	Condition	
12.	Availability	
13.	Address, including e-mail	
14.	Curator and contact person	
15.	Person, who give the information	
16.	Position	
17.	Address	

EOL meeting in Chicago:***Parmeliaceae – improving our understanding of taxonomy, classification and biogeography of the largest family of lichen-forming fungi***

The EOL Parmeliaceae meeting in Chicago 13-15 May 2010 was the second workshop on Parmeliaceae since the post-IAL6 meeting in California organized by Tom Nash. Two years later we were invited to a second Parmeliaceae workshop, this time supported by the Encyclopedia of Life, EOL, at the impressive Field Museum in Chicago. Each of the three days had its own theme, the first dedicated to phylogeny and classification. A phylogeny of the entire family, combining the different clades and data sets through cooperation between parmelioid, cetrarioid, hypogymnioid and usneoid research teams of the family, using an extended taxon sampling and additional genes, including some genera with isolated or unknown positions, will be undertaken by the very active Spanish Parmeliaceae team in Madrid, lead by Ana Crespo. The EOL species pages and other web site projects, such as LIAS and the European KeyToNature, were presented during the second day. Andres Saag showed how to use the key to Estonian macrolichens in an Android phone.



Participants at the Parmeliaceae workshop: from the left to right: Sarah Kim (EOL staff), Adriano Spielmann (Brazil), Guillermo Amo (Spain), Luciana Canez (Brazil), Dalip Upreti (India), David Hawksworth (UK and Spain), Pradeep Divakar (Spain), Jarle Bjerke (Norway), Ruth del Prado (Spain), Steven Leavitt (USA), Paul Kirika (Kenya), Theodore Esslinger (USA), Matt Nelsen (USA), Emilia Perez (Mexico), Tiina Randlane (Estonia), Andres Saag (Estonia), Inger Kristin Tronstad (Norway),

Checklists and phylogenetic methods were treated during the third and last day. The meeting was ready to decide about a world checklist of the c. 2500 species of the Parmeliaceae, almost a sixth of all known lichens. In addition, the EOL web pages will gradually be filled with information about Parmeliaceae species through contributions by specialists of different subgroups of the family. The meeting gathered 30 researchers from 12 countries and all continents. Senior lichenological expertise, such as Bob Egan, Ted Esslinger, David Hawksworth and Tom Nash, shared their wisdom with students and specialists, some of them from countries previously without lichenologists, such as Paul Kirika from Nairobi, who is working on a lichen checklist for Kenya. The friendly and fruitful meeting was greatly appreciated. The participants managed their flights home, in spite of volcanic ash emanating from Iceland, with lots of new enthusiasm, thanks to Thorsten Lumbsch, Robert Lücking and the EOL staff for their excellent organization, and look forward to the next Parmeliaceae workshop which will be held at the IAL congress in Thailand in 2012.

Arne Thell, Lund



Kawinnat Buaruang (Thailand), Nathan Wilson (EOL staff), Thomas Nash (USA), Robert Egan (USA), Maria Herrera-Campos (Mexico), Philippe Clerc (Switzerland), Eimy Rivas Plata (USA), Bruce McCune (USA), Robert Lücking (USA), Arne Thell (Sweden), Ana Crespo (Spain), Gintaras Kantvilas (Australia), Thorsten Lumbsch (USA) and Mark Westneat (Director of the BioSync Center at the Field Museum)

**Myco-Lich: Online Mycology-Lichenology of Iran.
(A new information system on Mycology-Lichenology in Iran)**

Lichenology in Iran has a relatively short history, but the first collectors of Iranian plants more than 180 years ago also collected lichens. Since 1999, lichenology in Iran has made substantial progress, with two checklists published in 2004 and 2008, each with a wealth of new information. The most recent advance in Iranian lichenology is a newly created information system, MYCO-LICH, accessible from www.myco-lich.com, which has served users since autumn 2009. Important sections featured in MYCO-LICH include: National, Provincial and Regional checklists, History of Iranian lichenology, Research groups, Photo gallery, Field trips, List of seminars, Red lists, Herbaria, Identification tips and keys, Distribution maps, Collectors of Iranian lichens, Bilingual glossary, References to the lichens of Iran, and Education. This website has been designed with advanced methods (powered by google) according to current world-wide E-taxonomy studies, provides users with the latest updates on lichenology in Iran at national and regional levels, and will revolutionize the education of Iranian mycology and lichenology.

Mohammad Sohrabi, Helsinki

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