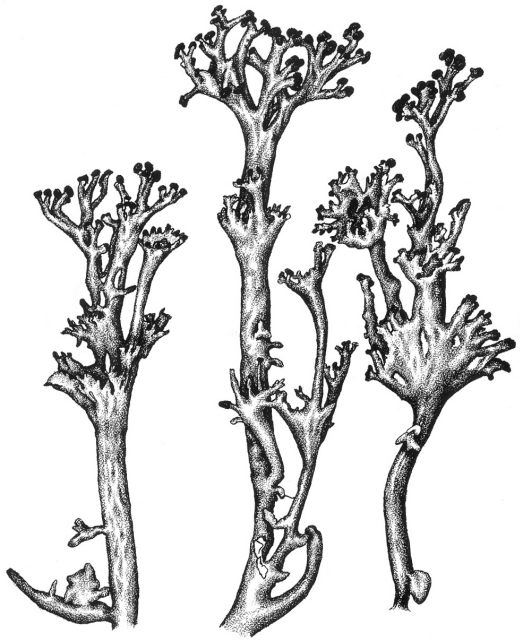
INTERNATIONAL LICHENOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

Vol. **44**, nr. 2, January 2012



Official publication of the
International Association for Lichenology

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ISSN: 0731 − 2830

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

Young Lichenologists Workshop "Lichens in the Alps" 20-22 July, Graz, Austria

The international Young Lichenologists Workshop entitled “Lichens in the Alps” took place in the friendly atmosphere of the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz, Austria. The event was organized by Martin Grube, Lucia Muggia, Toby Spribille and Juri Nascimbene, under the auspices of IAL. The Alps are the largest mountain system in Europe, an environment extremely rich in lichen biodiversity, but very vulnerable to climate change. Lichenologists in Graz have explored the lichen diversity of the Eastern Alps since the 1970s under Josef Poelt’s guidance. The workshop was a good opportunity to talk about a wide range of lichen topics, all related to the alpine environment, including taxonomy, ecology, phytogeography and ecophysiology. The participants of the meeting were a heterogeneous group of master and PhD students and researchers from several countries (Austria, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain and USA). The informal atmosphere during the workshop promoted enthusiastic discussions about techniques, projects and the planning of possible future collaborations. The Institute of Plant Sciences of Karl-Franzens-University of Graz provided an excellent base for talks, as well as laboratory equipment for analysis of specimens, and the possibility to consult its very large herbarium collection of lichens from the Alps.

Bild 1: Maria J. Chesa, Rodert Niederdorfer, Anabel Garcia, Lucia Muggia, Josef Hafellner, Massimo Bidussi.

The three days of meeting were well planned with different activities. The first day was dedicated to talks and presentations: each participant had the possibility to present one topic related to his work. This was a good opportunity for young scientists to present their work to an international audience for critical comments. The next two days were dedicated to field excursions in two environments with contrasting characteristics. The trips were joined by Josef Hafellner and Helmut Mayrhofer, who introduced the participants to rare or otherwise interesting lichens. The first excursion was to montane forest habitats in the Hochschwab area, where the geology is mainly characterized by limestone. On the second day two sites were visited in the Koralpe area, where siliceous rocks with an impressive

population of *Lasallia papulosa* were examined. Lichen hunting with Austrian lichenologists was indeed a very stimulating experience. The excursions were complemented by sight-seeing in Graz. Student participation in the workshop was free of charge – for this and the attention provided by the organizers we are most grateful – and hopefully we will see you again next year!

Massimo Bidussi (UMB, Norway)

Bild 2: Josef Hafellner & Maria J. Chesa watched carefully by cattle

PERSONALIA

Dharani Dhar Awasthi, Emeritus of the Lucknow University, Lucknow, India and one of the first receipients of the Acharius medal of the IAL in 1992, passed away on August 21, 2011. He was born on September 28, 1922 and studied in Lucknow where he received a Ph. D. in 1947. Later he also studied in Boulder (USA) where he received a second Ph. D.

Maria Chesa is maintaining a lichen-specific blog "Vertiliquens: lichens and climbing": http://sironagatta.blogspot.com/

Brian Coppins (Edinburgh) received the Linnean Medal for Botany at the 223rd Anniversary Meeting of the London Linnean Society in May. The Linnean Medal for Botany is awarded by the Society annually and is an expression of esteem and appreciation for service to science. (The Botanics [Edinburgh] 46, 2011)

Andrei H. Tsurykau and **V. M. Khramchankova** published already in 2009 an illustrated introduction to lichen studies in Russian under the title *Foliose and Fruticose Urban Lichens: A Handbook* at F. Skoryna Gomel State University Press.

NEWS

Italian Lichen Society

THE "CARLO GAGGI" AWARD

The Italian Lichen Society is proud to announce an annual international award of 500 Euro dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Carlo Gaggi, member of the Society and prominent ecotoxicologist, to PhD students preparing a thesis with some lichenological relevance.

Submission

Submission is open to anybody currently registered for a PhD based on research with some lichenological relevance, as yet not defended.

Application

Applicants should complete the specific form available on the web-site of the Italian Lichen Society or from the Secretary of the Society (c/o Dr Silvana Munzi, munzi@unisi.it), to reach her by **12 May 2012**.

Participants must provide:

date and place of birth, contact address, telephone and e-mail, as well details of education and qualifications, with date(s), place(s) and final grade(s)

details of current registration for a PhD (the winner will be required to provide the original registration document)

a statement (max 7,000 characters excluding spaces) describing their research activity, organized as follows: state-of-the-art (max. 1,500 char.), aim(s) (max. 500 char.), methods (max. 3,000 char.), preliminary and/or expected results (max. 2,000 char.).

Selection

The Evaluation Panel will be composed of 3-5 members chosen by the Steering Committee of the Italian Lichen Society, one member of which will be selected from the Steering Committee.

The grant will be awarded to the candidate with the highest score according to the criteria selected by the Evaluation Panel. In the absence of suitable projects, the grant may not be awarded.

The judgment of the Evaluation Panel is final and will be based solely on the documents submitted.

Grant awarding

The winner will be notified by 31 July 2012. He/she must accept the award within 10 days of notification and provide the original documentation confirming his/her registration for a PhD. The winner **must** be present at the prize-giving ceremony during the XXV Congress of the Italian Lichen Society in Rome, 3-5 October 2012. In accepting the grant, the awardee **will be required** to show his/her work by means of an oral presentation at the Congress. The winner will not pay the Congress registration fee. If all the above conditions are addressed, the winner will be provided with the grant within 3 months of the prize-giving ceremony.

Italian Lichen Society meeting 2011

The annual meeting of the Italian Lichen Society took place in Terni, 28-30 September 2011, during which about 60 Italian lichenologists attended, most of them contributing oral presentations or posters. Marcus Hauck (University of Göttingen, Germany), the invited speaker, was appointed honorary member of the Society. The first day was devoted to bio-monitoring, with emphasis on the use of biodiversity indices. The second day focussed on ecophysiology and ecotoxicology. The third day dealt with ecology and biodiversity, with an interesting contribution on the lichen vegetation of the desert zones of Namibia and South Africa. During the plenary meeting Stefano Loppi (University of Siena) was elected President for the next three years.

Fabio Candotto Carniel, Trieste

Towards a checklist of lichens in the Alps

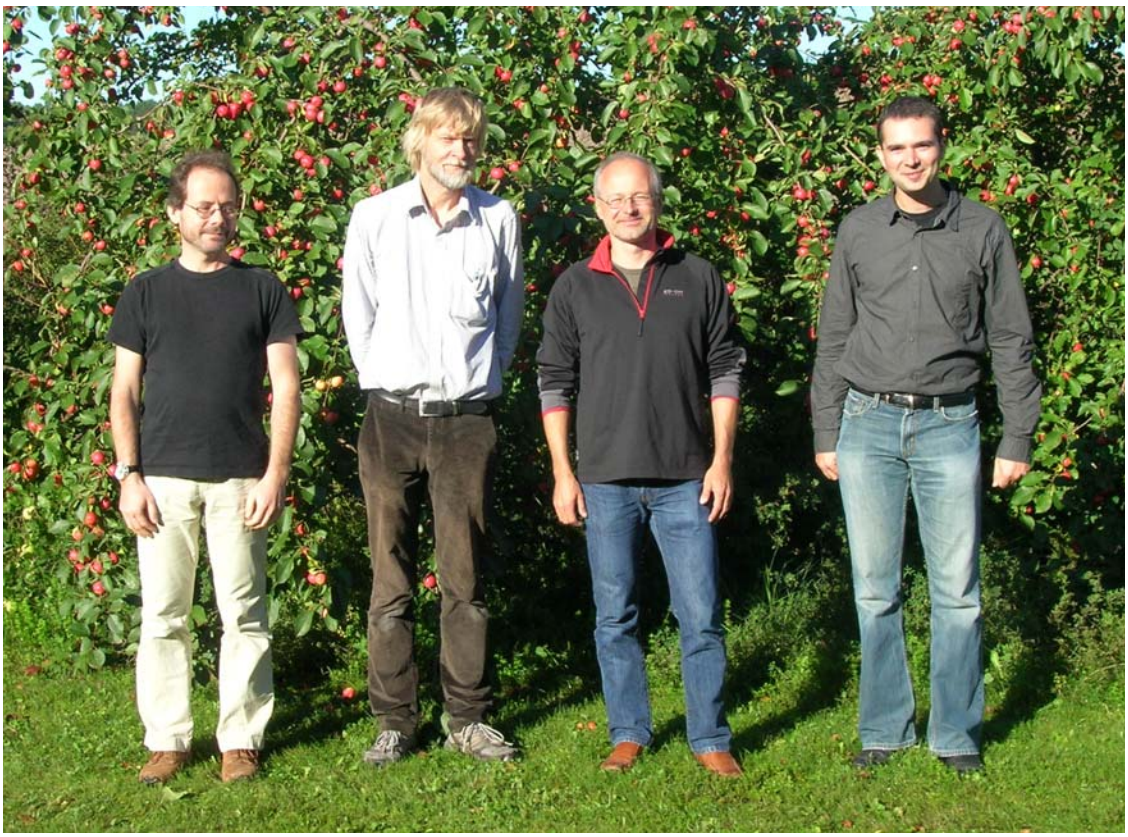
Lichenologists in Graz are currently compiling information on lichens in the Austrian Alps in order to provide additions to the Austrian lichen checklist (Hafellner, J. & Türk, R. 2001. Die lichenisierten Pilze Österreichs - eine Checkliste der bisher nachgewiesenen Arten mit Verbreitungsangaben. *Stapfia* **76**: 1-167). This work will incorporate revisions of herbaria and recently commenced projects in Graz on lichenicolous fungi (Lucia Muggia) and on lichen soil crusts (Martin Grube, in cooperation with the SCIN Biodiversa initiative of B. Büdel). With the help of updated checklists for other countries bordering the Alps and field workshops, this initiative aims at providing a comprehensive lichen survey of the entire Alps within the next few years. This will revitalize earlier ambitions towards an Alpine lichen checklist initiated by P.L. Nimis. Those interested to join the Alpine Lichen Initiative (ALI) should contact Helmut Mayrhofer in Graz.

Martin Grube, Graz

The first Arthoniaceae taxonomy workshop held in Uppsala

Because of the increasing interest in the Arthoniaceae, the first workshop dedicated to this group was arranged at the Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala, Sweden, 13-15 September 2011. The intriguing taxonomy and variety of life forms in this cosmopolitan family, ranging from lichenicolous species to saprophytic fungi to lichens forming symbiosis with chlorococcoid or trentepohlioid algae offers a wide array of opportunities for interesting research. Numerous species are also rare or red-listed and are frequently used as indicator species in nature conservation. The workshop, organized by Göran Thor and Andreas Frisch, was also attended by Martin Grube (Graz, Austria) and Damien Ertz (Meise, Belgium). The Department of Ecology, SLU hosts the largest number of lichenologists in Sweden studying lichens at different organizational levels, from genes to ecosystems. The workshop was most productive. Current projects within Arthoniaceae (phylogeny, systematics, biogeography, nomenclature) were discussed, and future collaborations were planned. There was also time for a short excursion to study, for example, *Opegrapha zwackhii* and *Schismatomma pericleum*.

Göran Thor, Uppsala



Participants (from left to right): Andreas Frisch, Göran Thor, Martin Grube & Damien Ertz

New literature:

CARBALLAL, R. et al. (2011): Pannariaceae. – Flora Liquenológica Ibérica 6. – Pontevedra: Sociedad Española de Liquenología (SEL). Paperback, 44 pages. ISSN 1696-0513. Price: 10.00 Euro.

Part 6 of the lichen flora of the Iberian Peninsula is a multi-authored treatise of the Pannariaceae with an addendum on *Coccocarpia* with the single species *C. erythroxyli*. Authors involved in the present volume in alphabetical order are R. Carballal, M. E. López de Silanes, G. Paz-Bermúdez and C. Pérez Valcárcel in various combinations for different genera. Unfortunately it is not clear from the title page who should be cited as first author of the volume.

The general outline follows the adopted system of the series in presenting full descriptions of all accepted genera and species. Two keys for the family Pannariaceae are given, the first leading to genera and the second to species. 20 species are accepted within the family within the genera *Degelia* (2), *Erioderma* (1), *Fuscopannaria* (5), *Moelleropsis* (1 with 2 subspecies), *Pannaria* (3), *Parmeliella* (3), *Protopannaria* (1), *Psoroma* (1) and *Vahliella* (3). There are no taxonomic novelties. One of the special advantages of this monographic treatment is the very ably drawn line illustrations of most species on 9 tables; their large scale and detail are of considerable help in distinguishing the species. In addition to the species treatments, notes are provided on iconography and internet resources cited.

The publication is a valuable addition to this on-going series and a must for taxonomically orientated lichen libraries.

The Editor

DOBSON, F. S. (2011): Lichens. An illustrated guide to the British and Irish species. – 6th revised and enlarged edition. Slough: Richmond Publishing. 496 pages. Hardcover ISBN 978-0-85546-316-8; soft cover ISBN 978-0-85546-315-1, Price: GBP 50.00 (hardcover) or 34.99 (soft).

Six years after the 5th edition, this enlarged and updated edition is now available. Although the number of pages has grown only slightly, 160 new species have been added, raising the overall number to over 1000 (most important for users within the British Isles, the main target group) and the nomenclature is in accordance with *The Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland* by Smith et al. (The British Lichen Society, 2009); a few recently discovered species are also included.

The book contains descriptions, illustrations and distribution maps for all species included. The illustrations are normally colour photographs, sometimes with additional line drawings. The size of these photographs is restricted but still allows in most cases the recognition of sufficient details to check determinations. The quality of the photographs would certainly allow a larger reproduction, but bearing in mind the number of species covered, this would require a completely different book. The limited space necessitated for a field guide also does not allow distribution maps larger than 3.5 to 4 cm, but even so these small maps are more instructive than verbal descriptions. A new feature of the 10 to 10 km grid maps which are based on the BLS Mapping Scheme is the timescale in three different colours. Unfortunately all three colours are rather dark and it is not easy to distinguish the

green squares for records before 1960 from black ones for later records and even the red for recent records from 2000 onwards is often hard to distinguish.

Nevertheless, the book will certainly serve its purpose as a guide to all the commoner British and Irish lichen species. This aim is supported by the general introduction to lichens and lichen determination on c. 30 pages followed by a generic key and a generic synopsis running over c. 25 pages. Within the genera short keys for included species are provided. That this concept works can be seen by the success of the earlier editions of the book. Finally I can only repeat what I wrote for the 5th edition (*ILN* **38 (**1): 4). This is certainly a most successful lichen book. It will certainly be used outside the British Isles, especially since no other European country has a similar comprehensive volume to offer.

The Editor

KUKWA, M. (2011): The lichen genus *Ochrolechia* in Europe. – Gdańsk: Fundacja Ruzwoju Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego. 309 pages. Soft cover ISBN 978-83-7531-170-9, Price: not indicated.

The monograph of *Ochrolechia* in Europe accepts 27 species for the studied area. It is based on morphology and chemistry of secondary metabolites, but no molecular methods are applied. *Ochrolechia brodoi* Kukwa from Norway and Sweden is described as new and *O. mahluensis* Räsänen is resurrected as the oldest available name for *O. androgyna* A sensu Tønsberg (1992, *Sommerfeltia* **14**). Three of the four taxa provisionally named *O. androgyna* A, B, C and D by Tønsberg (1992) are now given species rank, with *O. androgyna* s.str. for B and *O. bahuensis* Magn. for *O. androgyna* C. *O. androgyna* D comprises several species and is for the moment only partly clarified.

The volume contains all necessary parts of a classical monograph with special emphasis on chemistry which is considered of major importance in this genus. Full descriptions are provided and many annotations and remarks illuminate the taxonomic concepts of the author. The distribution of 25 species is also illustrated by maps and, finally, all species are illustrated by high quality black-and-white photographs, mostly of small but characteristic parts of the species.

A large number of pages are used to give detailed localities of specimens examined which is of course very helpful for all those involved with local floras or checklists, but unfortunately there are a number of mistakes in the allocation of older collections to present states or political units (e.g. p. 118 for *O. frigida* the cited "Insel Röm" for Germany is in fact the Danish island of Rømø or p. 64 for *O. androgyna* the cited specimen from "Zwickau in Böhmen" is wrongly allocated to the Saxonian city of Zwickau in SE Germany. The original name refers to the Czech town of Cvikov and p. 205 for *O. trochophora* Dupku Danda is in Langtang Himal in Nepal, not in China). A rather large number of localities are also misspelled and all too often "partly illegible" is written - there are, of course, native speakers who can read these old handwritings. Nevertheless, the new monograph is a valuable addition to our knowledge of European lichens and will certainly be consulted far beyond the Northern Hemisphere.

The Editor

MARMOR, L. (2011): Ecology and bioindicative value of epiphytic lichens in relation to air pollution and forest continuity. – Dissertationes technologiae circumiectorum universitatis tartuensis 15. Paperback. 96 pages. ISSN 1736-3349, ISBN 978-9949-19-785-9 (printed), ISBN 978-9949-19-785-6 (PDF). Price: not indicated.

This thesis, consisting of four published papers and an introduction of 36 pages, is, with the exception of summaries in Estonian, written in English. The papers are: *Effects of road traffic on bark pH and epiphytic lichens in Tallinn* (by L. Marmor & T. Randlane, *Folia Cryptog. Estonica* **43**: 23-37, 2007); *The vertical gradient of bark pH and epiphytic macrolichen biota in relation to alkaline air pollution* (by L. Marmor, T. Tõrra & T. Randlane, *Ecological Indicators* **10**: 1137-1143, 2010); *Effects of forest continuity and tree age on epiphytic lichen biota in coniferous forests in Estonia* (by L. Marmor, T. Tõrra, L. Saag & T. Randlane, *Ecological Indicators* **11**: 1270-1276, 2011) and *Epiphytic lichen diversity in Estonian and Fennoscandian old coniferous forests* (by L. Marmor, T. Tõrra, E. Leppik, L. Saag & T. Randlane, *Folia Cryptog. Estonica* **48**: 31-43, 2011). The last paper is cited as accepted for publication, but in the meanwhile has been published. It shows important differences in the lichen diversity in old growth forests in Estonia and Fennoscandia. The authors argue that a combination of several factors might be responsible as forest history and size (large old growth forest in Fennoscandia versus small relicts of old growth forests in Estonia), climatic differences and pollution history. The thesis provides a better understanding of the ecology of epiphytic lichens as a necessary background information for their use as indicators.

The Editor

MEINUNGER, Ludwig (2011) Kommentierte Checkliste der Flechten Thüringens [Commented checklist of the lichens of Thuringia] – Haussknechtia Beiheft **16**. – Jena: Herbarium Haussknecht. 160 pp, incl. 32 pages of colour photographs. ISSN 0863-6451. Price: 11 Euro + postage, to be ordered from Herbarium Haussknecht, Fürstengraben 1, D-07737 Jena, Germany.

A checklist of 1150 species of lichenized fungi for the state of Thuringia, Germany, based to a large extent on personal observations by the author. Each species has a small paragraph which contains the red-list status and some details on the occurrence (e.g. grid references), recent records, literature references, and a general circumscription. Occasional records from Bavaria and other German states are also provided. The list of references contains all publications relevant for Thuringia. Colour photographs of 128 species are given. The number of species is remarkably high as few German states are known to have a lichen checklist of over 1000 species. Since the area has been subjected to severe air pollution, the list documents the decline and partial revival of the lichens, as well as their progressing taxonomic knowledge. In German.

Harrie Sipman, Berlin

PAPONG, K., K. BOONPRAGOB, & H. T. LUMBSCH (2011): The Lichen family Lecanoraceae (Lecanorales: Ascomycota) in Thailand [in Thai]. – Mahasrakham University. 39 pages. Paperback. ISBN 978-974-19-5746-0. Price: 80.00 THB.

This booklet written in Thai is the result of the successful co-operation of the Thai lichenologists with Thorsten Lumbsch of the Field Museum of Chicago. It contains all known species from Thailand in the genera *Lecanora* (27), *Ramboldia* (2) and *Vainionora* (1) with descriptions and illustrations. Despite the fact that it is written in Thai, with the exception of the chemical compounds, it is also of good value for users without no knowledge of Thai because of its illustrations (3 colour photographs of each species and a distribution map for their occurrence in Thai provinces) and the fact that all the *Lecanora* species are treated by Papong & Lumbsch 2001, *A taxonomic survey of Lecanora sensu stricto in Thailand*, published in *Lichenologist* **43**: 299-320, with only a few black-and-white photographs but with full descriptions and a key in English. The new publication provides, on the one hand, the results of the authors' taxonomic studies, to the growing number of Thai lichen students and on the other hand, some nice additional illustrations for international workers on lichens from Thailand or in the Lecanoraceae. The additional species not treated in the *Lichenologist* paper are *Ramboldia russula*, *R. siamensis* and *Vainionora flavidorufa*. The publication will be available at the IAL7 congress in Bangkok.

The Editor

RANDLANE, T., A. SAAG, L. MARTIN, E. TIMDAL & P. L. NIMIS (2011): Epiphytic Macrolichens of Estonia. – Tartu: Ülikooli Kirjastus. Soft cover. 326 pages. ISBN 978-9949-19-652-4. Price: unknown.

Estonian lichenology is well known for its systematic and ecological contributions to our general knowledge and the country may well support the highest density of lichenologists in the world. Three of them, supported by E. Timdal from Norway and P. L. Nimis from Italy, have produced another fine result of their efforts – a macrolichen flora and guidebook to the epiphytes of the country. There are a number of facts that distinguish the new book from many other guidebooks – it includes all 120 epiphytic macrolichens known from the country, the standard of its illustrations, and finally much of it is also available in the internet.

Each species is described on one page and illustrated on the opposite page. The illustrations are sometime full-page photographs, but often two or more photographs of the same species show different magnifications or relevant details, sometimes with line drawings in addition. The descriptions include morphology, chemistry, distribution and ecology followed by conservation status or notes if appropriate. The distribution in Estonia is also illustrated by a grid map. Unfortunately the notes on distribution are restricted to Estonia. Space would have allowed some more information on general distribution at least within Europe, which would have been useful for users outside Estonia. Another minor point of criticism is the lack of scales to the illustrations. This might not be important for the more experienced user, but this guidebook will also be used by beginners and non-lichenologists.

The book includes the usual introduction and an illustrated glossary. All accepted species are also incorporated in a trilingual, richly illustrated key running over 50 pages, often

with small photographs. Therefore the key is visual and easy to handle, especially for beginners. Because the book is completely written trilingually (Estonian, English and Russian) it can be used in a wide area outside Estonia, especially in northern and eastern Europe. For those who wish to use the keys on their computer or a smart phone the necessary downloads are available for free.

The Editor

SINGH, K. P., & G. P. SINHA (2010): Indian Lichens an Annotated Checklist. – Dehra Dun: Botanical Survey of India. 571 pages. Hardback. ISBN 978-81-8177-036-3. Price: 72.00 USD.

This new checklist officially published on 1 January 2010 is a large (23 x 29 cm) and heavy (c. 2 kg) volume accepting 2303 species. A further 21 species are given under *Additional new records* on page 461 without any further information. Even with this impressive number of species it becomes clear how much more needs to be done (e.g. only 3 species of *Toninia*). Nevertheless, checklists, especially if reasonably annotated, are necessary tools not only for taxonomy and plant geography but also for conservation agencies and many other users. The value of this list lies in its additional information. For every accepted species the full citation of the original publication is given followed by publications for India. The principal ecology is mentioned and the distributions in India and the world are added. The Indian distribution is according to states, and thereby presents checklists for all Indian states. This concept is also adopted in the appendix where main publications are listed separately for all of the states, clearly indicating insufficient knowledge of some states (e.g. Bihar with one publication, Chhattisgarh with two, and Gujarat with three). A line for secondary chemical compounds and sometimes general notes are added if appropriate. A list of excluded taxa (also with full references) is added on 18 pages, often referring to infraspecific taxa.

Bringing together all this information is an enormous piece of work and many users will be thankful to have this rich source of information. The list of references (20 pages) is also a basic bibliography of Indian lichenology. Furthermore there are 50 plates with colour photographs each depicting 4-6 species. The quality of these illustrations is in most cases acceptable, but there are some obvious mistakes, e.g. *Parmelia sulcata* (pl. 48A) appears completely yellowish-brown and is probably not that species or a very old specimen from the herbarium, and *Acarospora fuscata* (pl. 1B) is unusually whitish pruinose. However, most of the photographs do allow recognition of species. The authors and the Botanical Survey of India are to be thanked for making all this information available.

The Editor

THELL, A. & R. MOBERG (Eds.) (2011): Parmeliaceae. – Nordic Lichen Flora 4. – Göteborg: Nordic Lichen Society. 184 pages + Photo CD. Hardback. ISBN 978-91-85221-24-0. Price: 275 SKR.

The most recent volume of this important flora project is again a collective attempt and for every genus treated different authors or mostly combinations of authors are responsible; they are in alphabetical order T. Ahti, P. Clerc, J. A. Elix, P. Frödén, H. Holien, I. Kärnefelt, R. Moberg, L. Myllis, T. Randlane, A. Thell, G. Thor, S. Velmala and M. Westberg. Through them considerable expertise came into the project resulting in an up-to-date treatment of the family. The format and layout is in accordance with the previous three volumes. Full descriptions are accompanied by small maps illustrating the distribution in the provinces of the Nordic countries. These provinces are given with their 2- or 3-letter acronyms on a large map in the introduction; these acronyms are used for the circumscriptions of the distribution in the text but unfortunately they are not explained within the book. Therefore you need volume 1 of the series, a good knowledge of geography or some help from an atlas or the internet to find the relevant name. However, the remarks on the distribution outside the study area are especially interesting.

All species are also illustrated with a colour photograph on pages 143-174. They are of high quality, but since they are generally reproduced against a black background they sometimes appear rather dark. This minor disadvantage is more than compensated by a photo CD with 296 images which is for the first time in this series provided with the book; not only are all the printed photographs included here, but additional pictures or the same photographs against a brighter background are included.

Taxonomic novelties are listed on pages 139-141 but mainly consist of information on newly selected types with the exception of *Usnea cylindrica* P. Clerc which is described as new to science. According to present knowledge, it occurs in Finland, Norway and Sweden; it was earlier included in *U. chaetophora* by some Scandinavian authors.

This latest volume is an absolute must for every serious lichen library. Congratulations to editors, authors and publishers who managed to produce a very useful volume. With many colleagues, I eagerly await the continuation of the series.

The Editor

WHELAN, P. (2011): Lichens of Ireland. An illustrated introduction to over 250 species. – Doughcloyne, Cork: The Collins Press. 154 pages. Soft back. ISBN 9781848891371. Price: 19.99 Euro.

When I first heard about a book on Irish lichens my first impression was, why another book with all the British floras, guidebooks and introductions which more or less cover the whole of the British Isles? After studying this book for some days I have to say this new guide fills a gap and will certainly find its users. So, what is special about it?

Firstly, it is hard to find any faults with the quality of the illustrations, which are in colour throughout the book. Not only is every species included in the book illustrated by a habitat photograph, but nearly all of them have an inset with an enlarged detail of important structures usually supported by a short note on characteristic features (e.g. lumpy thallus charcoal black discs). Secondly, the known Irish distribution is illustrated by small maps (22 x 16 mm) based on the vice county system which divides Ireland into 40 units of comparable

size. Thirdly the selection of species, 250 of the 1165 presently known from Ireland, include all the important genera from different ecological niches – a necessity for an introduction – as well as a good range of oceanic species which are typical for Ireland; all four species each of *Degelia* and *Sticta* are included.

Finally it should be added that the book contains necessary introductory chapters ranging from lichens in general to the special lichen habitats of Ireland (e.g. Burren Limestone or Atlantic Hazel Woods). All in all, the book shows an amazing density of information and is reasonably free of mistakes. The author, illustrator and designer (Paul Whelan) as well as his publisher are to be thanked for such a nicely produced book at an attractive price. It can be warmly recommended for the use not only in Ireland, but also in other parts of Atlantic Europe.

The Editor

REPORTS

AINO MARJATTA HENSSEN

12 APRIL 1925- 29 AUGUST 2011

Aino Henssen in 2003. Photo R. Honegger

Aino Henssen passed away peacefully in the early morning of 29 August 2011 in the 87th year of her life. She was one of the leading experts on the taxonomy and systematics of lichen-forming fungi and a renowned actinomycete taxonomist. She started her scientific career in times when women where absolute minorities in academia, especially in life sciences.

Aino was born in Elberfeld near Wuppertal (Ruhr area) and grew up in Berlin as the second of three children of Gottfried Henssen (1889-1966), a German narratologist, and his Finnish wife Toini Saraste. She started her studies in biology in autumn 1944 at the University of Freiburg in South Western Germany, but this was interrupted due to the final

year of World War II. From autumn 1945 onwards she continued her studies at the Philipps-University in Marburg where she attended the lectures and practicals on cryptogamic botany (bryology, algology) and mycology of Prof. Peter Claussen (1877-1959); he was the first to describe the dikaryon and nuclear divisions in ascogenous hyphae of ascomycetes. In her PhD thesis project, which she completed in 1953, Aino explored the physiological basis of duckweed hibernation (Henssen 1954, *Flora* **141**: 523-566).

In 1946 her parents moved into an apartment at Biegenstrasse 52 in Marburg, which was to become Aino's home until her death in 2011. Here she kept her extensive private lichen collections and library and her freezing microtome and microscopes which allowed her to continue her studies for many years after her retirement. Friends and colleagues gratefully remember Aino's hospitality, her guestroom being open to visiting scientists from all over the globe. She generously provided access to her collections and library, as well as providing vivid discussions in her lovely winter garden and at her kitchen table, which were unforgettably heavily loaded with delicious food and, after work, with a nice bottle of wine.

After her postdoctoral studies at the Federal Institute of Pomiculture in Bonn, Aino worked from 1954 to 1956 in the Institute of Bacteriology at the Federal Biological Institute of Agrononomy and Forestry in Berlin. There she joined the team of Dr Hermann Bortels who explored the diversity of microbial degraders of organic substrates. Aino focussed on thermophilic actinomycete (= actinobacterial) decomposers of liquid and solid manure. Later she continued her actinomycete studies, had fruitful collaborations with the industry (Bayer & C^{ie}), e.g. in search of actinomycete producers of bioactive compounds, and supervised master and PhD theses on actinomycete systematics. She described two new genera and several new species, published 13 papers on actinomycetes and often cross-financed her lichenological projects with "actinomycete-derived" money from industry.

In summer 1955, Heikki Roivainen (1900-1983) from the Finnish Museum of Natural History in Helsinki invited Aino to join a collecting expedition to Enontekiö-Laponia. There she became interested in lichens which became her lifelong passion. In 1957 she returned to Marburg and worked on Lapponian liverworts and lichens. Supported by scholarships from various organisations Aino pursued her lichenological studies at scientific institutions in Finland (Helsinki), Sweden (Uppsala), Canada (Toronto) and the USA (Boulder and Harvard). From 1959 to 1961 she joined the team at the University of Uppsala under Johan Axel Nannfeldt (1904-1985), a leading expert on the systematics and taxonomy of non-lichenized ascomycetes. Here she adapted modern techniques for studying the taxonomy of lichen-forming ascomycetes, the focus being on the ontogeny of the fruiting bodies. She was among the first lichenologists to combine ontogenetic studies on the sexual reproductive stages with morphological and anatomical analyses of the vegetative thallus, a novel approach in search of a natural classification of lichen-forming fungi. In contrast to conservative lichenologists who still interpreted lichens as a separate group of organisms among the plants, Aino was among those who referred to lichens as nutritionally specialised fungi and became interested in the taxonomic relations between lichenized and non-lichenized taxa. She favoured minute cyanobacterial lichens of diverse taxonomic affiliation, the "little black ones" as she called them, and was likewise interested in lichen photobionts, especially the cyanobacterial ones, which she isolated and cultured.

In 1963 Aino was appointed curator of the cryptogam collection at the Herbarium Marburgense (MB). She gained her habilitation in 1965 and was appointed professor in cryptogamic botany (Thallophytenkunde) at the Philipps-University in Marburg in 1970; she held this position until her retirement in 1990. Besides her duties as university teacher, she supervised her research team with master and PhD students who investigated either lichens

or actinomycetes, sometimes both. Many current leading lichenologists were among her students. Thomas Friedl, Heidi Döring and Thorsten Lumbsch gained their MSc in Aino's laboratory, and Hans Martin Jahns, Gerhard Keuck, Gernot Vobis, Bernd Renner, Burkhard Büdel and Andreas Titze completed their PhD projects on lichens under her supervision. Aino had no family of her own, but was very proud of her scientific family.

Aino commenced her series of lichenological publications with five papers on diverse genera of cyanolichens and with her formidable monograph on the *Lichinaceae* and *Ephebaceae* (*Symb. Bot. Upsal.* **18**: 1-123), all of which appeared in 1963, a brilliant start of a lichenological newcomer! In all, she published 113 papers and book chapters on lichens, and her outstanding book *Lichenes*, *eine Einführung in die Flechtenkunde* (Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1974), with Hans-Martin Jahns, her first PhD student, as co-author. Her last publication appeared in 2007, 17 years after her retirement (*Bibl. Lichenol*. **96**: 129-135). She described 3 orders, 3 families, 21 genera and more than 200 species of lichen-forming fungi (for details see www.mycobank.org), her author abbreviation being HENSSEN. Although molecular phylogenies have revolutionized our current view on taxonomic relationships, the descriptive studies of Aino Henssen and her collaborators are a rich source of information on phenotypic features of lichen-forming fungi.

On occasion of her 65th birthday, Aino was honoured with a *Festschrift* (H.-M. Jahns, ed. 1990, *Bibl. Lichenol*. **38**: 1-427). In 1992 she was among the first recipients of the prestigious Acharius Medal of the IAL. Colleagues and former students named a genus (*Ainoa* Lumbsch & I. Schmitt [Baeomycetaceae]) and at least 11 species of lichen-forming fungi in her honour (*Sticta ainoae* D. Galloway & J. Pickering, *Caloplaca hensseniana* Kalb, *Lecanora henssenii* Vänskä, *Stephanocyclos henssenianus* Hertel, *Diploschistes hensseniae* Lumbsch & Elix, *Gyalidea hensseniae* Hafellner, Poelt & Vězda, *Nephroma hensseniae* P. James & F. J. White, *Parmotrema hensseniae* Krog, *Rhizocarpon hensseniae* Brodo, *Rimularia hensseniae* Hertel & Rambold, *Xanthoparmelia hensseniae* O. Blanco, A. Crespo, Elix,. D. Hawksw. & Lumbsch).

Aino greatly enjoyed fieldwork, especially in remote, poorly explored areas. She collected lichens wherever she was travelling, on all continents, alone or with colleagues or students. When hunting for lichens she was fearless and even more energetic than under laboratory or office conditions. Beside her substantial additions to the Herbarium Marburgense, which houses her type specimens, her private collection comprised c. 40,000 specimens.

Aino's last years of life were overshadowed by illness, her mobility having been drastically reduced due to severe arthritis, which necessitated hospitalization in a nursing home. When she realised that there will be no return to her home at Biegenstrasse 52 she refused life-prolonging, intensive care treatments. Her urn was buried in the grave of her parents in the old cemetery of Marburg, under the birch tree which she had planted for her beloved Finnish mother almost 40 years ago. Her younger sister had died when only four years old and her brother on the battlefield in World War II, like too many other young men of her generation.

Aino donated her private herbarium to the Finnish Natural History Museum in Helsinki and her rich scientific library to the Museum Senckenberg in Frankfurt. Her copious scientific correspondence, a chronologically documented, rich source of information, was transferred to the archives of the Philipps-University in Marburg. Aino Henssen will be remembered as a great scientist and a generous and helpful friend.

Rosmarie Honegger, Zürich

SIEGFRIED HUNECK

9 SEPTEMBER 1928 – 9 OCTOBER 2011

With the death of Siegfried Huneck, one of the great classical chemists of natural products passed away. He most probably isolated more secondary compounds from lichens than anyone else.

He was born and grew up in the small Thuringian settlement of Floh as son of an alternative health practioner. After primary school there he changed in 1939 to a grammar school for boys in nearby Schmalkalden, finishing in 1947, the delay due to the turbulent times at the end of World War II. Because of the increasing enforced role of the socialist/communist party in the selection of pupils for university studies, he was not allowed to go there directly as his father was not a factory or farm worker. So he started a one-year course for chemical-technical assistants at Jena University followed by different occupations, even as a road worker and later as a laboratory worker. In 1951 he succeeded at least to study mathematics in Jena, but after one year he had the chance, for which he hoped from the beginning, to change his subject for chemistry. In 1957 he qualified for a diploma as chemist (Diplom-Chemiker) already in the field of organic natural products. He then obtained a position as assistant at the Institute for Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena where he defended his PhD thesis *On amino acids of pentacyclic triterpenes* at the end of 1959 with outstanding results.

Because his interest in the chemistry of natural products was not much appreciated at his institute in Jena, he went as senior assistant to the Institute for Plant Chemistry of the Technical University Dresden in Tharandt. There he wrote his second thesis (habilitation) *On photo- and stereo-chemical investigations of pentacyclic triterpenes*. The title Dr. rer. nat. habil. would normally open the way to a university teaching position, but university life in socialist and now closed GDR society became more and more influenced by political rather then scientific decisions. Siegfried was unwilling to join the communist party and therefore a university career was virtually impossible. However, in 1969 he moved to the Institute of Biochemistry of Plants of the Academy of Sciences of the GDR where he remained until his retirement in 1993. As a scientific associate he was at least allowed to work in the fields of his main interests, which included secondary products of lichens and the chemistry of higher plants and of liverworts. He was somewhat isolated there but his seniors accepted his work because he regularly published new discoveries and results in leading journals which was good for the reputation of the institute. He also managed, with

the help of international friends, to overcome many technical difficulties in respect to the limited modern equipment of the institute.

He published nearly 250 papers during his time at the institute in Halle, most of them under the series title *Mitteilungen über Flechteninhaltsstoffe*. As he was not allowed, for political reasons, to travel outside the socialist countries, his contacts with colleagues were restricted to letters and occasional visits by people like Josef Poelt or Klaus Kalb to Halle. He took the chance to take part in the International Botanical Congress (IBC) in Leningrad with an excursion to Tajikistan in 1975 and later went on major collecting trips to Mongolia (1978, 1983 & 1988) and North Korea (1982, 1986 & 1988) due to agreements between the academies of these countries with the academy of eastern Germany.

I met Siegfried when I was a young teacher starting to look at lichens in the early 1980s. I was greatly impressed when I visited him in his laboratory to find out whether a certain compound was in my lichen sample or not and he opened his cabinet to take a crystal of the pure substance to run it with my lichen extract on a self-made TLC-plate. When we finished this, all the used glass equipment was put into a desiccator under a fume hood filled with a dark greenish-brown liquid which was chromosulphuric acid followed by his comment "my technical assistant". For most time he was in fact working without a laboratory assistant.

He was professionally and wholeheartedly a laboratory chemist, but he also liked to observe and collect lichens, not only for analysis. One of his favoured areas were the refuse and slag heaps of copper-shale mines in the area east of the Harz Mountains which he visited regularly over many years and with many colleagues including H. Sipman and J. Elix, the results of which were published in a booklet in 2006 (see *ILN* **40** (1): 5).

With the opening of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany many changes came late, but not too late, for Siegfried. He was now able to follow invitations by colleagues from, for example, Switzerland, Japan and Australia, and also took part in the IBC in Tokyo and the IAL congresses in Lund (1992) and Salzburg (1996). He did not stop work after his retirement in 1993, but he no longer had laboratory space in his former institute. He gave his lichen herbarium and his collection of lichen substances and their derivatives (c. 1500) to the Botanical Museum in Berlin (B). A smaller collection of about 950 bryophytes, mainly liverworts, went to Jena (Herbarium Haussknecht, JE). Together with I. Yoshimura, he published his magnum opus *Identification of Lichen Substances* in 1996.

On the occasion of his retirement, a symposium was held at the University of Essen and a *Festschrift* prepared by his colleagues and friends G. B. Feige and H. T. Lumbsch (*Bibliotheca Lichenologica* **53**) was presented to him. He received the Acharius Medal in 1996 and the Japanese Society for Lichenology made him an honorary member. Two lichen species (*Opegrapha huneckii* Follmann & Klement 1970, *Pertusaria huneckiana* Feige & Lumbsch 1993) and an earth star fungus (*Geastrum huneckii* Dörfelt 1981) bear his name.

Siegfried Huneck is survived by his two sons, his wife having died in 2009.

A more extended obituary including a full bibliography appeared in *Herzogia* **24** (2): 185-205.

Peter Scholz, Schkeuditz

Symposium of the Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists and Nordic Lichen Society, Dubingiai (Lithuania), 19-23 September 2011

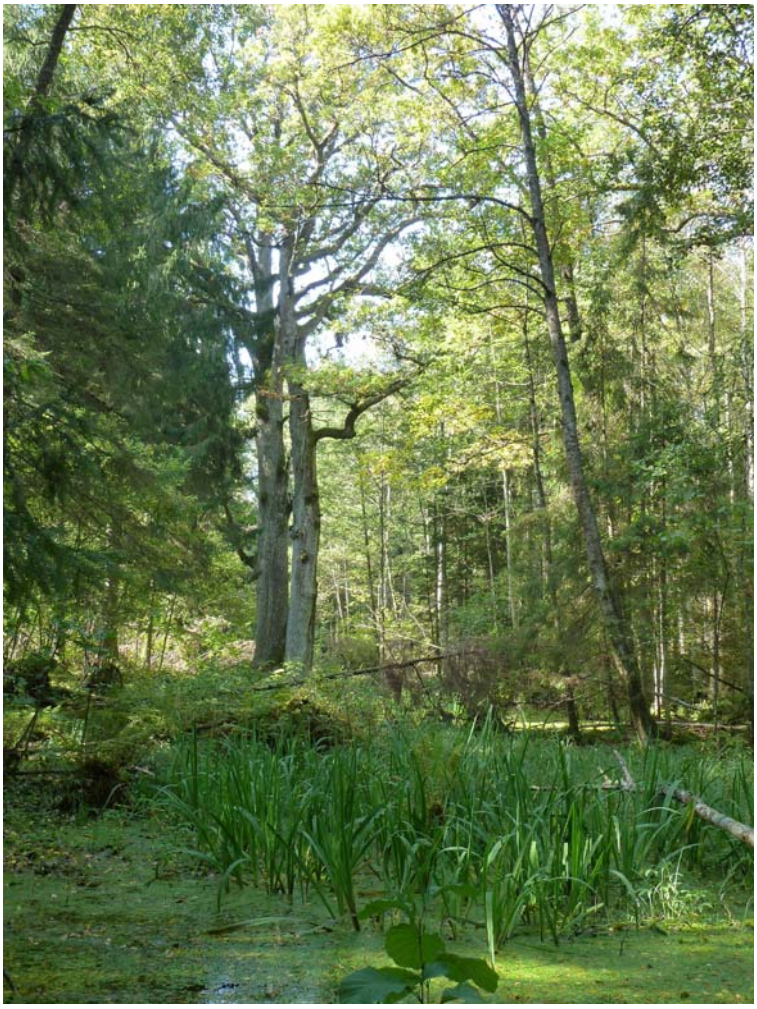
This autumn, the symposium of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists, held every three years, took place for the 18th time, and the biannual meeting of Nordic Lichen Society for the 19th time. For the first time, these two events were held jointly, providing a great opportunity to meet even more colleagues, as well as participants from countries beyond the Nordic and Baltic region. In all there were over 60 lichenologists and mycologists from 12 countries participating in the event.

The symposium took place in Dubingiai, a small town located in a scenic area with numerous lakes in north-eastern Lithuania. The Dubingiai Conference Centre where we were accommodated was located next to Lake Asveja, the longest lake (22 km) in Lithuania. In addition to the great view, the venue had also good possibilities for swimming, had it been slightly warmer, and fishing.

The symposium provided opportunities for discovering the forests and lichens of Lithuania, listening to the presentations on new discoveries in lichenology and mycology, and discussing various topics with the colleagues until late in the evening. The days started with excursions to the surrounding Asveja Regional Park, its beautiful forests and wetlands definitely worth seeing.

Participants ready for field work: From left to right: 1st row: D. Stoncius, E. Kutorga, Z. Preiksa, R. Irsenaite; 2nd row: S. Abdulmanova, I. Daniele, D. Kiesnere (?), A. Suija, G. Bimsteine, S, Markovskaja, D. Himelbrant, P. Czarnota; 3rd row: I. Smolskaite, L. Vilka (?), L. Marmor, T. Varvas, B. Bankina, J. Motiejunaite, P. Hognabba, P. Scholz, S. Wall; 4th row: V. Dirginciute-Volodkiene, T. Iznova, J. Pykkala, I. Prigodina Lukosiene, E. Leppik, D. Kubiak, L. Gagarina, M. Tomoshevich, E. Banaev, A. Thell; 5th row: E. Farkas, G. Adamonyte, M. Kukwa, K. Kuznetsova, I. Stepanchikova, M. Fadeeva, A. Kravchenko, Mrs. Osis, M. Westberg, T. Berglund; 6th row: J. Kasparavicius, M. Osis, K. Molnar, E. Korchikov, A. Tsurikau, A. Kacergius.

On 20th September, we visited a nice old broad-leaved forest on the banks of a small rivulet, on the next day we visited a wetland forest with alder and spruce, and on the third day, a rivulet valley with steep and high slopes overgrown with deciduous stands, including big old ash trees. All the excursion sites provided interesting lichen discoveries, as well as being excellent for hiking and practising orientation skills. Fortunately nobody got lost, but in one place in the middle of a thick young stand we tried to talk to another lichenologist behind the shrubs who turned out to be a row deer!



Lithuanian wetland forest with spruce, alder and some old oaks.

In the afternoons there were parallel sessions of lichenological and mycological presentations. Lichen talks covered wide topics from taxonomy to ecology and conservation, and geographically an area from Europe to the Russian Far East. In the evenings, it was possible to identify the collected specimens in a temporary laboratory. We also greatly appreciated the organizers for the entertainment later in the evenings, with sauna, bowling and improvised examples from Lithuanian and Polish folk songs. Finally, it cannot be left unmentioned that there was plenty of good food, the most extraordinary of which was the Thursday dinner with Lithuanian cuisine, including pork ears and other specialities. For the wonderful week in Lithuania, we are most grateful to all the organizers, Jurga Motiejūnaitė, Gražina Adamonytė, Ernestas Kutorga, Svetlana Markovskaja, Ingrida Prigodina Lukošienė, and Aušra Treigienė.

Liis Marmor & Ede Leppik, Tartu

Symposia of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists – a long-standing tradition

On 23 September 2011 the 18th Symposium of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists (BMLS) concluded its work in Dubingiai, Lithuania. The history of BMLS reaches back to the middle of the 20th century and has a long-standing and well-established tradition. The Symposium combines presentations of reports and lectures with fieldwork. This is also an excellent opportunity to meet mycologists and lichenologists from the Baltic countries, to introduce students and young researchers into the well-established Baltic mycological and lichenological community, to meet different generations of researchers.

BMLS are usually held every third year in a subsequent Baltic country. Only the first four meetings were held every second year and there was a longer break between 1988 and 1993 – the turbulent years of the Baltic countries regaining their independence. The very first Symposium took place in Tartu, Estonia in 1959. The excursion of the first meeting was organised to Taeveskoja, Põlvamaa county and the same excursion was repeated during the anniversary meeting in 1999.

Until the 14th symposium, the publication of the event was a book of abstracts (2008 and 2011) or a book of proceedings (Bankina 2005) or special issues of *Folia Cryptogamica Estonica* or *Botanica Lithuanica*. Since the first sparse notes of only two authors (Miądlikowska & Motiejūnaitė 1994), there is now a steady tradition of publishing lists of lichen found on Symposium field trips.

During the 'Soviet period' the symposia were attended by guests from other Soviet Republics (sometimes from as distant parts as Russian Far East or Caucasus and Central Asia), and on one occasion BMLS was held outside the Baltic countries – in Minsk, Belarus (1982). The first Symposium held in the independent Baltic countries (Vilnius, Lithuania, 1993) saw the first visitors from outside the former Soviet Union – Germany, Poland, Sweden, USA. Since then, it is the usual practice for the BMLS to play host to mycologists within and beyond the Baltics. The history and chronology of BMLS until 1999 can be found in Randlane et al. (2000), since when four Symposia have been held:

Participants of the 12th BMLS, Vilnius 1993.

XV BMLS, 26–30 September 2002, Birštonas, Lithuania

XVI BMLS, 21-25 September 2005, Cesis, Latvia

XVII BMLS, 17-21 September 2008, Saaremaa, Estonia

XVIII BMLS, 19-23 September 2011, Dubingiai, Lithuania

The latest meeting in Lithuania was the first time that it was co-organised by BMLS and the Nordic Lichen Society. Hopefully this will become a tradition, especially when a BMLS year coincides with a NLS meeting, but not in 2014 when BMLS will be in Latvia. However, everyone is welcome to take part in the 19th Symposium of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists. Latvia awaits you!

Bankina, B. (compiler) (2005) Proceedings of the XVI Symposium of Mycologists and Lichenologists of Baltic States. 21-25 September, 2005, Cesis, Latvia.

Miądlikowska J. & Motiejūnaitė J. (1994) Some species new to Lithuanian lichen flora. *Graphis Scripta* **6**: 95-96.

Randlane T., Saag A. & Raitviir A. (2000) Editorial. XIV Symposium of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists, September 3-8, 1999 in Jarvselja, Estonia. *Folia Cryptogamica Estonica* **36**: 1-6.

Jurga Motiejūnaitė, Vilnius

Lichenologists participating at the 12th BMLS (from left to right): J. Motiejūnaitė, A. Saag, T. Randlane, A. Piterans, T. Dudoreva, J. Miadlikowska, N. Malysheva.

Brazilian Lichenology Meeting Amidst Macaws And Fishes

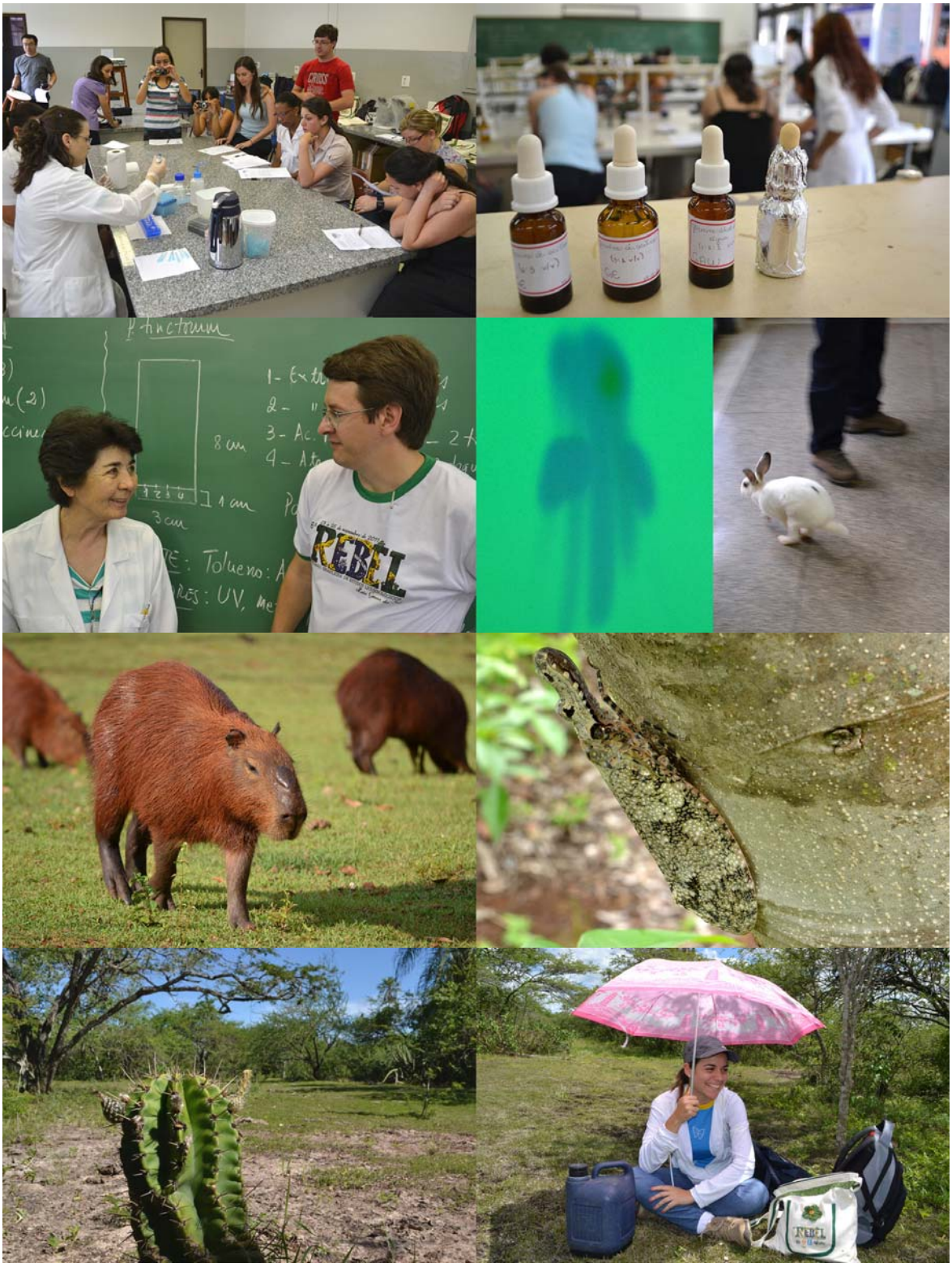
The Sixth Brazilian Meeting on Lichenological Studies (6ª Reunião Brasileira de Estudos Liquenológicos, REBEL) took place November 21–25, 2011, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, one of the regions that gave origin to the historical South American lichen collections of Gustav Malme. The meeting was organized by Dr. Adriano Spielmann (Universidade Federal do Mato Grosso do Sul, UFMS) and Dr. Luciana Canêz (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, UFRG). I had the pleasure to join my Brazilian colleagues for five days full of lichens, sweat, mosquitoes and, yes, plenty of colorful macaws and fishes. The event could not have been organized any better and offered a variety of topics, from mini-courses in DNA extraction and thin-layer chromatography, to field work in the Cerrado and Chaco vegetation, to workshops on Physciaceae and crustose lichens, to lectures about each of the participants' work, and finally to a cool bath with a myriad of fishes and a visit to the Buraco das Araras, the largest sinkhole in South America, inhabited by hundreds of macaws and other birds (and two crocodiles).

Participants of the 6th REBEL Meeting in Mato Grosso do Sul (from left to right): Ana Márcia Charnei, Eurico da Silva (bus driver), Patrícia Jungbluth, Marcos Jungi Kitaura, Alice Gerlach, Síbel Centeno, Ana Letícia Simal Dourado, Camila Beatriz da Silva Rodrigues, Juliana Maria Pedroso Geremias, Luciana da Silva Canêz, Adriano Afonso Spielmann, Marcela Cáceres, Luciana Santos de Jesus, Pedro Henrique Ruppel de Medeiros, Mr. Modesto Sampaio (owner of the Buraco das Araras), Tamires Santos Vieira, Emerson Gumboskim, Robert Lücking, Edvaneide Leandro de Lima.

On the first day, on the UFMS campus in the state capital, Campo Grande, the 17 participants, mostly undergraduates, graduate students and recently graduated postdocs and early-career professors, took a mini-course in DNA extraction with some hands-on experience in the lab of Dr. Aline P. Lorenz Lemke (UFMS), who is working with Dr. Luciana Canêz on the phylogeny of *Punctelia*, followed by another mini-course instructed by renown Dr. Neli Kika Honda (UFMS), one of the world experts on the study of lichen substances and their potential applications. One group of students discovered a new lichen substance during the course, the 'ghostly acid' or 'acido fantásmico', named so because the spots unintentionally merged into a ghost-like shape during the run in the solvent. The course was briefly joined by a rabbit which, however, decided to take a run when the group started to discuss lunch plans. The view out of the lab windows was spectacular, showing a lake on the university campus with its surroundings populated by the largest living rodent, the Capivara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), and a few crocodiles waiting for Capivaras to walk into their wide open mouths. We also got insight into the vegetation of Mato Grosso do Sul, with two entertaining lectures offered by local experts Dr. Ângela Sartori (UFMS) and Dr. Arnildo Pott (UFMS).

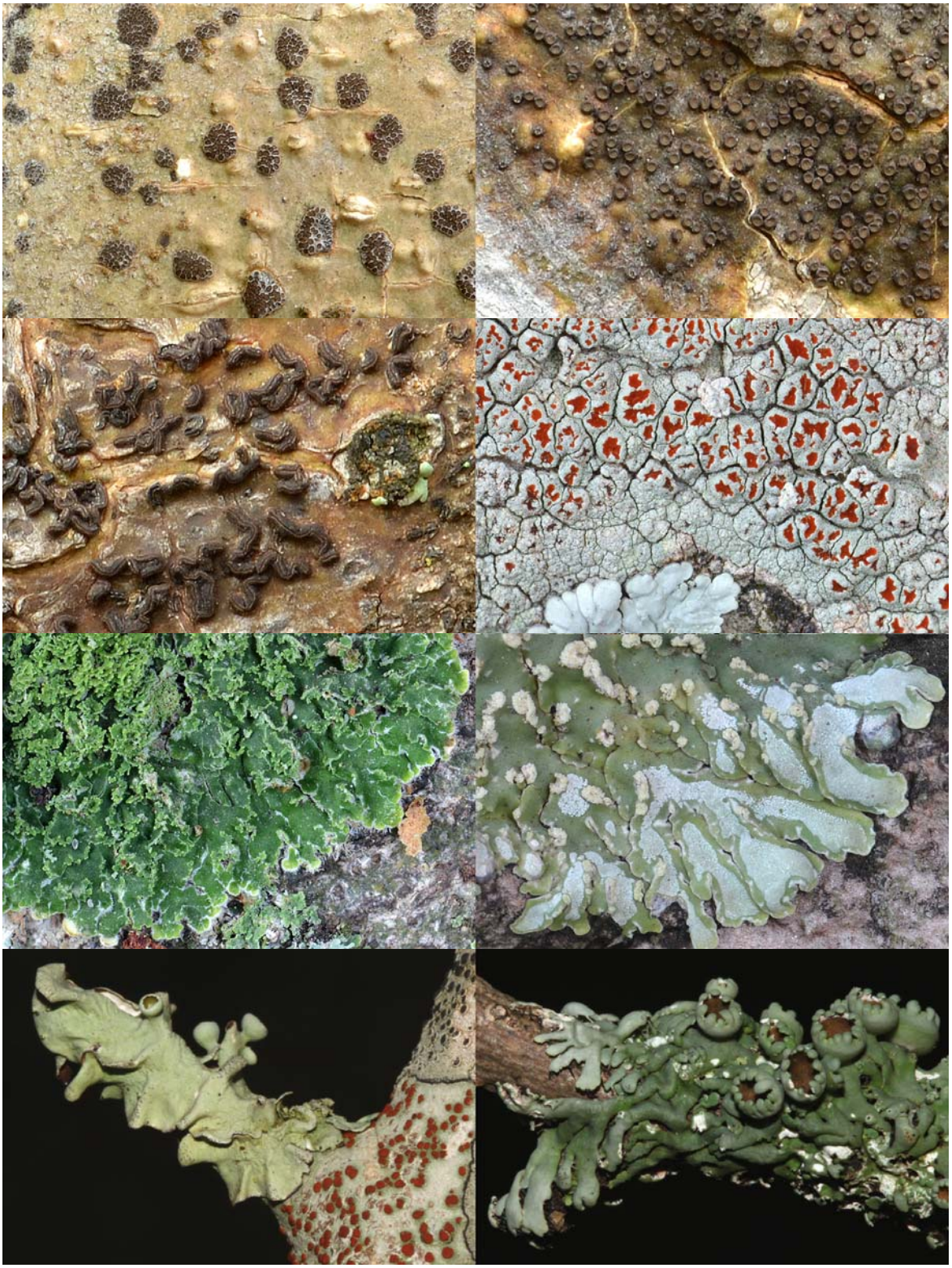
The second day started with a field trip to a nearby Cerradão vegetation, one of the few patches left in the otherwise largely deforested state. Cerradão is considered by some the mature climax stage of the Cerrado vegetation, by others a particular type of forest. Notwithstanding its definition, it is very rich in lichens including both crustose and foliose forms and represents a paradise for those working on Parmeliaceae, Physciaceae, Trypetheliaceae, and Graphidaceae, among other families. Here, I had the pleasure of making acquaintance with a mini-crocodile that was in fact an insect, a so-called Lantern Fly or Alligator Bug (Jequitiranabóia in Portuguese), well camouflaged on the lichen-covered bark. The story goes that if it bites you, you have to have sex within 24 hours or you die. In the afternoon, we travelled by bus from Campo Grande southeast to Porto Murtinho on the border with Paraguay, to collect in the Chaco vegetation which extends eastwards from Paraguay into Brazil. Porto Murtinho is famous for its fishing grounds in the Paraguay River, attracting thousands of tourists during the high season, but during our low-season visit, we had the town, and the hotel, practically for ourselves, which allowed us to move our nightly lichenological discussions to the hotel's swimming pool.

The state of Mato Grosso do Sul covers most of the Pantanal, one of the world's largest wetland areas. Its southwestern corner, however, extends into the Gran Chaco, a dry and hot deciduous forest and thornbush vegetation whose lichen biota is largely unknown. Unfortunately, most of this vegetation on the Brazilian side of the border to Paraguay has been deforested, making space for extensive cattle ranches, but some conserved spots exist here and there and we had the luck to be able to collect in two of them. The lichen biota in this type of vegetation is dominated by crustose forms, with abundance of Trypetheliaceae, Pyrenulaceae, Graphidaceae, Physciaceae, and other groups. Equally spectacular is the wildlife: on the first day in the Chaco, we witnessed a breathtaking show by a pair of Hyacinth Macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), the largest flying parrots, and on the second day, the group was accompanied by the occasional Greater Rhea or Ema in Portuguese (*Rhea americana*), a large flightless bird related to ostriches.



Impressions and moments from 6th REBEL Meeting in Mato Grosso do Sul (from left to right and top to bottom): Aline Lorenz demonstrating DNA extraction; TLC and microcrystallization mini course; Neli Honda and Adriano Spielmann philosophizing about lichen chemistry; the new lichen substance 'ghostly acid', and a rabbit getting away from being eaten for lunch; Capivara, the world's largest living rodent, on university grounds, trying to get a grip on how to study humans; the Alligator Bug (*Fulgora crocodilia*); impression of the Chaco; 'Too hot for lichen!'

Impressions and moments from 6th REBEL Meeting in Mato Grosso do Sul (from left to right and top to bottom): Pair of Hyacinth Macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) in the Chaco; pair of Greater Rhea or Ema birds (*Rhea americana*) on cattle ground; lichen workshop back at the hotel; minor trouble with thirsty bus (luckily solved or else I would not be here writing this report); Piraputanga fishes (*Brycon hilari*) at Bonito; lichenologists looking for aquatic Verrucariaceae; the Buraco das Araras sinkhole; Red-and-Green Macaws (*Ara chloropterus*).



Characteristic lichens from the Cerradão and Chaco vegetation (from left to right and top to bottom; lowermost two photographs by Adriano Spielmann): *Glyphis cicatricosa*, *G. scyphulifera*, and *G. substriatula* commonly growing together on trees in the Cerradão vegetation; an unnamed species of *Haematomma* with almost lirellate apothecia; *Phyllopsora parvifolia* unexpectedly found in the Chaco; *Pyxine cocoes* with strongly pruinose lobes; *Parmotrema mesotropum* mimicking a crocodile; *Heterodermia flabellata* looking like a bug from another world.

After the daily collection trip, participants had the opportunity to work on their material during two mini-workshops on foliose Physciaceae, offered by Dr. Patrícia Jungbluth (UNESP, Botucatu) and on crustose microlichens, offered by Dr. Marcela Cáceres (UFS, Itabaiana) and myself. The practical program was completed by lectures of each of the participants, talking about their work, and by a presentation by Adriano Spielmann and Luciana Canêz on the history of lichenology in the region. It is hoped that the results from this meeting and from the ongoing studies by Adriano and his colleagues will result in a book on lichens of Mato Grosso do Sul within the next two years.

With the almost 500 km trip back to Campo Grande on the last day promising nothing than dozing along the way, or else editing photos or arranging lichen duplicates, the organizers had two further surprises for the group. The first was a visit to the Balneário of Bonito, where one can enjoy swimming and snorkeling in a stunningly beautiful river basin filled with hundreds of Piraputanga fishes (*Brycon hilari*). We tried to do at least some serious lichen work, looking for aquatic Verrucariaceae, although I am not sure if anyone found some. The trip then concluded with a visit to Buraco das Araras, South America's largest sinkhole with a diameter of over 500 meters and a depth of 125 meters. The main attraction are the hundreds of Red-and-Green Macaws (*Ara chloropterus*) inhabiting the trees around the sinkhole, giving us a spectacular show of colors and noises against the sunset.

Thanks goes to the organizers, Adriano Spielmann, Luciana Canêz, Aline Lorenz, Ângela Sartori, and Neli Honda, for arranging a spectacular 6th REBEL meeting, which certainly was a highlight both lichenologically and not so lichenologically, and will be hard to beat. But Marcela Cáceres and her team are already at the ready for the next REBEL meeting 2013 in the state of Sergipe, where the participants will get to know the Atlantic Rainforest, Caatinga and Brejos vegetation in such breathtaking places as the San Francisco river canyon.

Robert Lücking, Chicago

Anniversary: The 10th GLAL Meeting Took Place in Colombia

The 10th biannual meeting of the Grupo Latinoamericano de Liquenólogos (GLAL X) took place this year from November 28th to December 3rd in Bogotá, Colombia, organized by Bibiana Moncada, MSc, from the Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, and her team (Alejandra, Alejandro, Angélica, David, Diego, Edier, Gabriel Felipe, Isabel, Johanna, Leidy, Leonardo, Luis Fernando, Luisa, Martha, Nancy, Rouchi, Sebastián). The meeting was divided into three parts at different locations: a set of eight workshops in the well-equipped labs at the Universidad Distrital (Monday November 28th), the regular meeting with lecture and poster sessions in the beautiful auditorium of the Archivo Distrital (Tuesday November 29th to Friday December 2nd), and a field trip to the nearby Páramo of Sumapaz (Saturday December 3rd).

While previous GLAL meetings had included workshops on lichen taxonomy, this was the first time that an entire day was dedicated to workshops on the most diverse topics, ranging from taxonomy of micro- and foliicolous lichens, Lobariaceae, Parmeliaceae, and *Usnea*, to methods in bioindication, biomonitoring, and bioprospecting. Each was held by experts in their fields: foliicolous lichens by the recently graduated Nancy Mateus, Lobariaceae by Bibiana Moncada (both Colombia), Parmeliaceae by Adriano Spielmann and Luciana Canêz (Brazil), *Usnea* by Marusa Herrera-Campos (Mexico), bioindication and biomonitoring by Cecilia Estrabou (Argentina) and Suzana Martins and Marcia Käffer, and bioprospecting by Eugenia Pereira (all Brazil). The idea of such workshops seems to be a good one and was widely accepted, since it propagates knowledge and methodology especially among young students.

The range of topics covered by lectures and posters during the main program of the meeting was very diverse, from basic lichen taxonomy and inventories to systematics, phylogeny, ecology and biogeography, to the application of lichens as bioindicators and in bioprospecting making use of their primary and secondary chemistry, and the incorporation of lichens in the teaching of science, as shown by Cecilia Estrabou (Argentina) in a theoretical framework and by Robinson Herrera (Chile) using a practical approach giving workshops in schools in northern Chile. Two non-Latin Americans participated in the meeting: Jan Wolf from the Netherlands and myself. Jan Wolf is one of the pioneers in ecological studies of canopy lichens and did his frequently cited thesis work in the early nineties in Colombian montane forests. He presented a very interesting keynote lecture on the idea of viewing trees as islands for epiphyte colonization, an idea much promoted by North American and European researchers but rarely studied in the context of tropical ecosystems. A highlight was certainly the keynote lecture about Brazilian studies on Antarctic lichens presented by Adriano Spielmann. At one point he even had me (and probably most of the other male colleagues in the audience) convinced that global warming is actually a good thing! It is not hard to predict that Adriano will be one of the outstanding Latin American lichenologists in the decades to come.

Participants of the GLALX meeting in Colombia, above in the official group photo in front of the Archivo Distrital and below during the field trip to the Páramo of Sumapaz.

From left to right and top to bottom: Estudiantina LEA performing during the opening ceremony; the auditorium at the Archivo Distrital; Parmeliaceae workshop; poster session; Jan Wolf amidst the organizers; the organizing team; folkloristic dance by the Grupo Combinaciones Folclóricas de Colombia during the cocktail; salsa dancing Puerto Rican style.

As always, Brazil had a strong presence at the meeting, at least in terms of presentations and posters, and has strong programs both in lichen taxonomy and systematics, bioindication, and chemistry and bioprospecting in at least eight different states. Other countries with a constantly high output include Mexico, Argentina and Chile. However, the strong development of lichenology in Venezuela and Colombia over the past few years must be mentioned and Colombia is on the way in becoming the dominant country in the study of tropical lichens in the region. With only four professionals working in lichens a few years ago, Colombia now counts four centers in Bogotá and at least another three in other departments and cities, with other 30 active professionals and students.

This year, for the first time prizes were awarded to the best oral and poster presentations, and the best poster in the undergraduate category was presented by Sandra Lorena Ament from UNAM in Mexico, supervised by Marusa Herrera-Campos, on the species phylogeny of *Usnea* in Mexico. If Lorena stays with the lichens, we certainly will hear a lot from her in the near future. Not surprisingly, the remaining three prizes for oral presentations in the graduate student, professional, and keynote lecture categories went to Brazilians: Nathalia Mossmann Koch, Marcia Käffer, and Adriano Spielmann.

It was good to see that molecular phylogeny is playing an ever stronger role in Latin American lichenology, with surprising results. Genera such as *Dictyonema* and *Sticta*, until recently believed to be well-known, are not what they were before with the doctoral studies by Manuela Dal Forno and Bibiana Moncada. The lichens known as *Dictyonema glabratum* and *Sticta fuliginosa*, each actually contain more than ten different species, distinguished both molecularly and morphologically. *Lobariella* is confirmed as a good genus, now containing eight species (four new ones discovered in the Colombian paramos), and the phylogeny of Lobariaceae is very different from what is reflected in current genus concepts. A similar result can be expected for Parmeliaceae, target of molecular studies by Luciana Canêz and colleagues.

The meeting was accompanied by several social events: the Estudiantina LEA (Director Maestro Julio Ernesto Santoyo) playing skillfully at the opening ceremony, the Grupo Combinaciones Folclóricas de Colombia (Director Miguel Antonio Sánchez Contreras) surprising with their dancing skills at the opening cocktail, and a closing dinner with (Colombia!) lots of salsa dancing (even the Brazilians joined in!). On the last day, the participants got to know the Colombian Páramo in the National Park of Sumapaz, where many made the first acquaintance with lichens such as *Cladia*, *Nephroma*, *Oropogon*, *Siphula*, and *Umbilicaria*, to name a few. Some of the lectures were put in practice as we discovered seven different species of *Dictyonema glabratum* sensu lato and several of the new *Lobariella* species.

Congratulations to the organizers for putting together such an excellent meeting and to all the participants for making it a success. With the next two GLAL meetings to be scheduled in Venezuela in 2013 (hosted by Jesús Hernández) and in Ecuador in 2015 (hosted by Alba Yánez), I am sure that a lot of further progress will be made towards the knowledge of lichens in Latin America.

Robert Lücking, Chicago

List of Societies

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Brazil: Grupo Brasileiro de Liquenólogos (GBL). Info: Marcelo P. Marcelli, Instituto de Botânica, Seção de Micologia e Liquenologia, Caixa Postal 4005, São Paulo – SP, Brazil 01061-970. Fax: (+55)-11-6191-2238, phone: (+55)-11-5584-6304 (inst.), 218-5209 (home), e-mail: *mmarcelli@sti.com.br*

Central Europe: Bryologisch-lichenologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Mitteleuropa (BLAM). Contact: Volker John, Pfalzmuseum für Naturkunde, Hermann-Schäferstraße 17, 67098 Bad Dürkheim, phone 0049 6322-941325 e-mail: *v.john@pfalzmuseum.bv-pfalz.de*, web page: **home.t-online.de/home/blam-ev/home.htm**

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Great Britain: The British Lichen Society (BLS). C/o: Department of Botany, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK. Info: Pat Wolseley, phone: (+44)-20-7942-5617, fax: (+44)-20-7942-5529, e-mail: *bls@nhm.ac.uk*, web page: **www.theBLS.org.uk**

Italy: Società Lichenologica Italiana (SLI). C/o: Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino, v. Giolitti, 36, I - 10125 Torino. Info: Stefano Loppi, Dipartimento di Science Ambientali "G. Saratti", Sezione di Ecologia e Sistematica Animale e Vegetale, Unità di Ricerca di Lichenologia, Università degli Studi di Siena, Via P.A. Mattioli 4, I-53100 Sienna, phone: (+39)-0577-232869, fax: (+39)-0577-232896, e-mail: *loppi@unisi.it*, web page: **http://dbiodbs.univ.trieste.it/sli/home.html**

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The Netherlands: Dutch Bryological & Lichenological Society (Bryologische + Lichenologische Werkgroep, BLWG). Info: Dick Kerkhof, e-mail: *info@blwg.nl*, web page: **www.blwg.nl**

Nordic Countries: Nordic Lichen Society (Nordisk Lichenologisk Förening, NLF). Info: Ulrik Søchting, Dept. of Mycology, Botanical Institute, Ø. Farimagsgade 2D, DK-1353

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North America, California: The California Lichen Society (CALS). P.O. Box 472, Fairfax, CA 94930, U.S.A. Info: Janet Doell, e-mail: *rdoell@sbcglobal.net*, web page: **ucjeps.herb.berkeley.edu/rlmoe/cals.html**

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The cover-page illustration

Cladonia crispata by Bethia Brehmer, first published in *American Arctic Lichens*, Vol. 1.