

INTERNATIONAL LICHENOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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The opinions expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those held by
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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 listserv 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 pay their membership fee (one payment of 40 USD for 2016-2020) using PayPal or by bank transfer. All details available at <http://www.lichenology.org/>.

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 10 and November 10 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 IAL8 Symposium (Helsinki, Finland, 2016) are listed below, and will serve until 2020.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear IAL Members,

We are approaching the end of 2020 but the COVID-19 pandemic is clearly not near its end. It is likely that we will have to live with this for some time.

As you are all aware, we had to postpone the IAL9 Conference and General Meeting of the IAL, until August 2021. We must still prepare for the contingency that COVID situation may not have improved by then and that it may become impossible for us to meet in person in Bonito. Even so, Council has decided to have our postponed IAL9 Conference and General Meeting even if that will be the case, but entirely on-line. It is not yet clear how we will arrange this and here we need your assistance. The IAL9 organisers have, as you can see in this Newsletter, asked the IAL membership about your plans for the IAL Conference. Please respond to this poll, as it will greatly help the organisers in their planning!

As you can see, contributions in this Newsletter are not only reporting from all the activities in lichenology around the world, but also focussing very much on COVID-19-related consequences for our community. I enjoyed the contributions in this issue much. In particular, the photograph of the people present (well, most of them) at the beginning of the IAL in 1964, was fun to see. As you may see from the contributions in the IAL Newsletter 52(1), we count the IAL as having formally started in 1969. The 1964 meeting was when the lichenologists present first discussed the idea of an IAL and took the initial steps of forming the society. When studying the list I realise that I have actually met at least 13 of the 23 people that were present then, and I have fond memories of each of them!

We are approaching the celebration of the midwinter solstice (“jul”) here in Sweden. Traditionally this is the most important family get-together event of the year, but now we have this complicated situation where we are strongly advised to avoid traveling, avoid meeting people, and most importantly, avoid putting our elderly relatives at risk. Many children will not be able to meet their grandparents this year.

I sincerely hope that 2021 will become much better than 2020, and that the possibility for socializing and travel will improve. I do hope that all of you remain healthy and safe and that you still manage to enjoy lichens as much as possible! Finally, I still hope to meet many of you next year in person in Bonito, even if this wish seems very optimistic at present!

Happy Holidays!

Mats Wedin, IAL President

NEWS

UPDATES ABOUT THE IAL9 IN BRAZIL (AUG 1ST–6TH 2021)



Due to COVID-19, the IAL9 organizing committee together with the IAL council agreed to postpone to 2021 the IAL9 in Brazil originally planned for 2020. Given that the pandemic has not substantially improved worldwide since this decision was made, we would like to ask the community for their input.

In order to contribute to our organization, if you are a member of IAL, please fill out this poll (<https://forms.gle/UGBRWczgPNbG2KEx5>) to answer:

"ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND IAL9 IN BRAZIL IN 2021?"

Please respond to this question if we were still under similar conditions next year (e.g., considering your country policies, personal choice, family responsibilities, work commitments, resources available, etc.), so we can get a sense of attendance. Name and country are entirely optional, but please select a choice of YES/NO in the required questions and share any thoughts, suggestions or concerns you may have.

Our very best wishes and thanks for participating.

IAL9 Organizing Committee

World's first 'Lichen Garden' is developed in Munsiyari, India

The research wing of Uttarakhand State Forest Department developed the world's first 'lichen garden' at Munsiyari, India, under the supervision of Mr. Sanjiv Chaturvedi, Chief Conservator of Forests, with technical guidance from Drs. D.K. Upreti and S. Nayaka of CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow. Munsiyari (30° 4' 17.4612" N 80° 14' 14.424" E) is located in the Western Himalayas at an altitude of 2,200 m. It has a picturesque landscape surrounded by snowcapped mountains. The garden is spread over two acres and about 80 species of lichens are found naturally growing on various substrates. Most of these lichens are identified and labelled. The pictures of lichens, their diagnostic features, uses and importance are displayed all over the garden. The garden's guides have been appointed to take the visitors around the garden and explain about lichens. The aim of the garden is to create awareness among people about the importance of lichens; the ecology of the Himalayas; to link the livelihood of locals with lichens; and to check their exploitation. The garden will also serve as center for education, research, introduction and conservation of temperate lichen species. The garden was inaugurated and opened to visitors on 27 June 2020.

Sanjeeva Nayaka



Entrance of the Lichen Garden at Munsiyari, India (Photo: Yogesh Chandra Tripathi).

REPORTS

LICHENOLOGISTS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A COVID-19 LICHEN STORY FROM CANADA

Although I retired from curating lichens at the Canadian Museum of Nature in November, 2000, I continued coming in to the Museum three or four times a week to do research on lichens. That continued until March of this year when the COVID-19 pandemic required us all to stay home and stay safe. This was especially true for Research Associates like myself (we couldn't go to the building even with special permission unlike the regular staff members). The shut-down adversely affected

many people more than it did me because, many years ago, I had set up a small lab in my home where, on stormy or wintery days, I could do routine identifications and small projects, supported by a limited library of references. I always had a few trays of “backlog” to work on, lichens collected in the past but never identified. So, I dug in and quickly finished what I had on hand. Now what?

The Chief of the Botany Collections, Jennifer Doubt, generously volunteered to exchange my completed trays with new trays full of unidentified material, and so I remained busy with my unknowns in isolation. Early in the summer in one of these boxes, I discovered a good specimen of the rare lichen-like fungus, *Xerotrema megalospora* Sherwood & Coppins, among my British Columbia collections. This was only the third North American collection, and it was unknown for Canada. I had collected it 54 years ago in the Garibaldi Mountains where it was growing on *Thuja plicata* bark. If I had tried to identify it at that time, I would have gotten nowhere because it was only described as new in 1980. Thanks to a good description in Bruce McCune’s new books on the Microlichens of the Pacific Northwest, I was able to find a name for this tiny, sometimes lichenized fungus. So, in the midst of a pandemic shutdown, thanks to help from colleagues, newly published research and, let’s not forget, the Internet, I was able to find something rare and interesting among my long-forgotten collections, identify it, and prepare a paper on its discovery. (The article is in press in *Evansia*.) I am grateful to all those people and sources for making it possible, but not to the terrible virus, despite the serendipity.

Irwin M. Brodo

NOT A SILVERED MIRROR, JUST A MERCURY CONTAMINATED LICHEN, REFLECTS PROBLEMS WITH THE COVID VIRUS

Saint Mary’s University is a medium-sized university in Halifax Nova Scotia, which in response to the COVID -19 pandemic, moved to on-line teaching in March of 2020 and this has been extended until at least January 2021. The university was initially closed to all faculty and students, but there has been a very gradual approval for faculty to be able to return to their offices, this autumn and for graduate students can once again engage in limited research; field work, however, has been restricted. Permission to return to offices at the university has reflected the very low number of active virus cases (<10) in Nova Scotia; a reflection of the fact that Canada’s border to the USA has been closed, as well as that to the rest of Canada at the New Brunswick border. All those allowed to cross have to self-isolate for two weeks, and the wearing of masks is mandatory in shops and indoors in public places. Masks are not required on the street, but physical distancing has been strongly encouraged, as has limiting associations to small family bubbles with respect to in-house interactions.

Interactions between lichenologists in the province have been limited to on-line communications as well as the rare coffee in the Public Gardens or other places—but the latter will probably be curtailed by the coming winter. Every year, I attend the British Lichen Society AGM and Lecture meeting in the UK in February to meet and interact with friends and colleagues. Unfortunately, this will not be possible for 2021 because even if I went, I would have to self-isolate for two weeks on my return and my wife and two grandchildren (13) who live in the same house would not be able to leave or attend school during that time. While I have been affected by the restrictions, I have still been able to continue editing *Symbiosis* and COSEWIC lichen reports. I thought it would be of greatest interest to include an account by one of our Graduate students, Michael Smith, which documents his experience over the last six months.

David Richardson
Saint Mary’s University, Halifax Canada

MASTER'S RESEARCH

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact my master's research. I'm investigating mercury and arsenic in dust at a contaminated site using lichens as biomonitors in a former gold-mining area near Halifax Nova Scotia. The university closed just as I was beginning to process over 400 lichen samples in the lab— that data forming the central component of my thesis. I've also dealt with major delays with other labs that will be analyzing my samples for arsenic. Since being permitted to return to campus, all of my time has been spent in the lab catching up on processing my samples. Because of this, and also because of field restrictions, I was unable to collect some additional samples this summer at other potential study sites.

Despite these setbacks and a change of plans, I was able to use my time at home to focus on writing portions of my thesis and take some time to develop skills for my future data analyses. I've been able to enroll in courses/workshops, and will attend virtual international conferences to share my work about using lichens as biomonitors. I would have been unable to attend these in person as a result of virus-related travel restrictions. I am looking forward to seeing the analytical data, especially after a long wait, and months of hard work collecting and preparing the samples.

*Michael Smith
Saint Mary's University, Halifax Canada*

FROM THE NETHERLANDS

In lockdown during Corona, there was finally time to clean up. Between all my papers I found this letter with a photo from 1964. I also learned to meet online by participating in the International Symbiosis Conference. This new experience gave me the idea to share my vision of lichens and their place in biology with the younger generation of scientists.



The foundation meeting of the International Association for Lichenology during the Botanical Congress in Edinburgh in 1964.

University Dept. of Botany
 PARKS ROAD
OXFORD

6th OCT 1964

Dear D^r Henssen

I enclose a photograph taken at Edinburgh during the Botanical Congress of the foundation meeting of the International Association for Lichenology. I apologise for the poor quality of the photograph - it had to be made from a colour transparency taken on a bad day against a dark background!

Those present on the photograph are (from left to right):-

W. S. Maas	F. H. Brightman
Aino Henssen	E. Schofield
Teuvo Ahti	Rolf Santesson
V. Ahmadjian	Roland Beschel
Irwin Brodo	Eilif Dahl
Ove Almborn	
Mrs. Fenja Brodo	<u>Present at Foundation Meeting but not on photograph</u>
I. Mackenzie Lamb	
Mrs. Hildur Krog	Prof. G. Einar Du Rietz
Mrs. C. F. Culberson	George Llano
Miss Sandra Brightman	P. W. James
W. L. Culberson	D. C. Smith
Mrs. F. H. Brightman	
D. H. S. Richardson	

Yours sincerely,

David Smith

D. C. Smith

Letter from D.C. Smith to A. Henssen.



Who recognizes this mystery couple in the photo found together with this letter?

*Ineke Beltman
Doorwerth, Netherlands*

REVIEWING OLD LICHEN SPECIMENS

In the Covid-19 limitations, I have been reviewing my old lichen specimens that have laid dormant for so many years. Going back to the early 1960s they take me back to all kinds of lovely places, occasions and meetings. I have been checking the identification according to more recent taxonomic understanding and entering the data into a spreadsheet for the British Lichen Society database which will link up to the National Biodiversity Network and hopefully GBIF later on. It is at times a bit of a drag but there are nice surprises too for example finding lichenicolous fungi which were overlooked and other lichen species with the named material. But I am also sorry to admit some misidentifications by me and others! Altogether a rewarding experience – well so far: I have only got to *Cladonia*! entering nearly 700 records into the spreadsheet for the BLS. I have set aside all specimens I have collected from other countries – I have not decided what to do with these yet! Despite the Covid-19 I have been able to go out too, to do some field work – first on my own and then with the little Bristol and Gloucestershire Lichen Group which I run and have made nearly 1500 records. But of course I have missed our BLS meetings and seeing lichen friends at them.

David J. Hill

AN UNEXPECTED STAY IN GUADELOUPE (LESSER ANTILLES)

At the end of February 2019, I left Paris (France) to go to Guadeloupe (French overseas territory, Lesser Antilles) for a two-week lichen collection campaign. Unfortunately, the border closure and the COVID crisis took place a few days after my arrival. The airport was closed. I had to stay 3 months in Guadeloupe, and teleworking was very complicated because I had a limited internet connection. All the work had to be reorganised and the internet was only used to send emails and for video-conference meetings.

Moreover, during the confinement, I couldn't even collect lichens for 2 months because going out in the forest was strictly forbidden. When it was possible to go out again, my permission to collect lichens was no longer valid. It was a really frustrating experience.

*Elise Lebreton
National Museum of Natural History (Paris)*

A MOST UNUSUAL SEMESTER: NEVER EATEN AS MANY DANDELIONS BEFORE!

In an ideal world, 2020 would have been a year where I would have been traveling all over: to Finland, to the Canary Islands and to the Outer Hebrides in Scotland for sample collection, and, most importantly, to the IAL meeting in Brazil. Little did I know then that my trip to Helsinki via the land-and-seaway in early February would be the only trip planned for this year that would actually ever happen, but that I would nevertheless spend a large part of the year abroad.

When a friend told me in December that she thought we might soon have a viral pandemic hit Europe, I shrugged it off as unlikely. After all, an earlier SARS outbreak never made it very far from China? They certainly had the situation under control?

By February, it became clear that Covid-19 was not under control at all. We had the first cases of Covid-19 in Munich; numbers worldwide went up. I diluted the number of people on site in my lab by lending my five students who were identifying lichens for their research the materials so they could work from home, by sending everyone not requiring labwork into home office, and told everyone in my group to avoid our cantina where huge, unmasked crowds were still to be found for a long time into the pandemic.

A lichen, plant and bird excursion to Majorca island had been planned for mid-March by my post doc and me and our LMU students. Just days before the trip to Mallorca, all teaching requiring personal presence was banned, so our excursion got cancelled. I was considering for a short while if I should go to Majorca on holiday by myself but I luckily decided against that. Instead, I repacked my bags to visit my partner in Switzerland, intending to stay there for two weeks. Just days afterwards, Central Europe was in complete lockdown with borders between countries closed. I ended up being in home office for the larger part of the summer term, teaching plant identification and other courses online, doing my lichen research, and managing my lab via phone and emails. My lab continued its work in my absence, with my technicians and students doing their research work on lichens while avoiding physical contact, e.g. working shifts. I also got the chance to revise some manuscripts from past projects. In Switzerland, after work, my partner and I got to explore the beautiful Prealps, and during these trips, developed an avid interest in foraging. For weeks on end we mainly survived on dandelions, nettle, wild garlic and other wild plant species, eggs and cheese from our neighbor's farm, and my own home-made yoghurt. We were in social isolation for many weeks but were always allowed to go for walks. I think this situation helped to put into reality an idea that had already been in our heads for a long time: we created **biodiversity.vision**, a website to campaign against biodiversity loss, because we think this critical topic is not receiving enough public attention, let alone

the necessary funding to counteract its effects. We are planning to found a charity organization that will be run mainly by volunteers, to create political momentum for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Lichens are of course a vital part of biodiversity, since they dominate in 12% of terrestrial land surfaces.

On the day after the border reopened in mid-June, I returned to Munich, just a few days before my lab was going to move within the Munich area from Großhadern to Nymphenburg. Little by little, lab life has returned to a slightly different, post-pandemic normal. Currently, at the end of October, we have a lot of students carrying out their lichen research projects.

One negative aspect of the lockdown time for us was that some of our lab members were unable to renew their visa because the authorities in charge were overloaded with work or closed down. This has in turn led to some students being unable to renew their work contracts. Moreover, with the switch to online teaching, far less students would get tutoring contracts with the University for some reason. This has created unnecessary suffering. But we were lucky because LMU never had to close labs during the Spring lockdown and until now. This is certainly a much different story than what people living in many other parts of the world can say about their work during the lockdown.

Prof. Silke Werth, LMU Munich

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS: A DESPERATELY NEEDED BREAK

Lately, life had become too busy due to several commitments, assignments and a hectic academic schedule. Travel for official meetings used to consume lots of time. This is the age and period in my career where saying ‘no’ would create doubt about my efficiency, or I may lose opportunity in future. Due to the busyness, my research work started suffering: I had no time to guide students, no good research output, and above all no personal life or quality time with family. Just when my situation was about get worse, COVID-19 arrived with bang to take lives—but also to save people like me. Suddenly I realized that most of these travels could have been avoided by using online meeting tools, as we are in digital era. We were under a compulsory lockdown for 45 days, after which came a restricted (or lenient) attendance. Now, although life is coming back to normalcy, travel is not yet recommended. The COVID-19 lockdown, restriction and fear gave me a wonderful opportunity to improve my health and my personal life, and also save money. All raw data were converted into manuscripts. I am happy to say no one in my team sat idle; everyone came out with either a research article, review, or popular article. Online tools were efficiently used for conducting meetings with our team. Future work and resource planning were projected. In the absence of physical conferences, I presented no less than six webinar lectures on various aspects of lichens. Certainly, due to COVID-19, field-based work suffered a bit, but I am confident of pursuing it in the future. Finally, and most importantly, none in my team became COVID positive.

*Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka
Secretary, Indian Lichenological Society
CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Lucknow-226001, India*

ADVENTURES IN PANDEMIC LICHENOLOGY - TEXAS EDITION

When the pandemic hit, my husband and I already had plans to go to Texas in early April to be with his sister while she recovered from a major cancer-removing surgery. Her doctors did not want to postpone her surgery, and she had no one else who could help her, so we had no choice but to go as planned. Since airplanes seemed dangerous at the time, we chose to drive from North Carolina to Texas—we took our cat since we didn't know how long we would be gone. We braved hotel rooms, and navigated state-line-quarantine restrictions, and arrived in Magnolia in two days. Along the way we stopped at an old picnic area in rural Texas with some amazing lichens growing on the lumber and stonework—including a beautiful saxicolous *Chrysothrix* sp. that I was dying to collect! Some of the lichens I couldn't even place to genus! Unfortunately I didn't have a hammer—and in any case it was a public facility—so I had to forego the collecting. (I marked my map however so that I could return to the spot in the future.)

The next six weeks were very busy for us, helping his sister recovery, taking care of her small farm, and working from home. Luckily I had spreadsheets full of specimen records to upload to Duke's herbarium database—but even more luckily, I had come prepared to work on a number of lichen manuscripts that had been sitting on “the back burner”—some for years. In-between feeding horses and chickens, and helping his sister with PT, I finished no less than four papers: (1) notes on the chemistry of the *R. siliquosa* complex; a checklist of lichens from a tree in south Florida; a description of a new variety of *Ramalina*; and a description of a new species of *Chrysothrix*. I also “put to bed” a new issue of *Evansia* (of which I am editor). The trip was exhausting but very satisfying and also comforting. We felt very safe being isolated on six acres surrounded by a tall fence; we arranged food deliveries from local stores, which were left just outside the gate. And it was fun and relaxing, taking early-morning jogs down country roads; or lying under the stars after cleaning stalls, smelling the fresh hay, after a long day. I even collected a few *Ramalina stenospora* specimens that fell on limbs out of the trees on the farm—like gifts from heaven. Tina our cat even seemed to enjoy meeting the farm animals—she had never seen a horse



Scott working on the farm (Photo: Keoth Babuszcak).

or a donkey before in her life! In the end, I was very grateful for the change of pace, and the opportunity to make a difference in someone else's world.

When his sister began to feel better, she taught me how to sew; and within a week, I had bought my own sewing machine and was making face masks. I had acquired a valuable new skill during my stay in Texas! Since returning home to North Carolina with my machine, I've continued to sew—in fact, I just purchased a “lichen”-pattern fabric (thanks to Roger Rosentreter for the link!), from which I am fashioning some lichen-patterned face masks to give as Christmas gifts.



Scott and his sewing machine (Photo: *Keoth Babuszcak*).

Scott LaGreca
Collections Manager, William L. & Chicita F. Culberson Lichen Herbarium
Duke University, Durham NC USA

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR JAN BYSTREK

(17 JUNE 1934 – 20 FEBRUARY 2020)



Sadly, Polish Lichenologist Professor Jan Bystrek passed away this past winter. His friends and colleagues mourn this important contributor to the study of lichens (Photo: *K. Kozi*).

Professor Jan Bystrek was born on June 17, 1934 in Grodzany near Bychawa in the Lublin Province in Poland. During the years 1952-1957, he studied biology at the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, after which he was employed at the Department of Systematic and Geography of Plants UMCS (1956-2004). He went through all levels of scientific promotion at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. He obtained his doctorate in 1965, habilitated doctor in 1977, and the title of professor in 1991.

Professor Jan Bystrek was an excellent lichenologist and taxonomist, with particular expertise in the family Usneaceae. He described a new species of *Sulcaria* as well as several dozen new taxa of various ranks (including new species) of the genera *Bryoria* and *Usnea*. The taxonomic divisions made by him have been adopted all over the world. He investigated the lichen biota of the Carpathians, Świętokrzyskie Mountains, the Lublin region and north-eastern Poland including many National Parks. He was the author or co-author of over 120 scientific papers, including the only two lichenology books in Polish. He also wrote many entries about lichens in the PWN Universal Encyclopedia. He promoted 5 doctors and over 180 masters, and he was a reviewer of over a dozen reviews of the scientific achievements of candidates for the title of professor, habilitation doctor and doctor.

From 1986-2007, Professor Bystrek co-founded and developed the Department of Botany at the Institute of Biology, Branch of the University of Warsaw in Białystok (since 1997, called the University of Białystok), which he headed for many years. He was a member of the Lublin Scientific Society; the Polish Botanical Society (and in 1978 he co-founded the Lichenology Section of the Polish Botanical Society); the Scientific Council of the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences the Lublin Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences; the Regional Board of the Society of Universal Knowledge; and the Polish Teachers' Union.

In recognition of his active and fruitful scientific, didactic, organizational and social work, Professor Bystrek received many distinctions and decorations, including: the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta; the Medal of the National Education Commission; the Gold Badge of the Society of Universal Knowledge; and the Gold Badge of the PNA.

In our memories, Professor Jan Bystrek will remain not only as a scientist with extensive knowledge and experience, but also as an exceptionally kind, open, helpful and straightforward man. We will miss him very much.

Beata Krzewicka
President of Lichenology Section of Polish Botanical Society

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM A. WEBER (1918–2020)

William Alfred Weber, known to many of us as “Bill”, one of the preeminent botanists of western North America for a period spanning more than 70 years, passed away on March 18, 2020 in Longmont, Colorado, aged 101.

The first time I remember seeing the name W.A. Weber was in a bookstore in Fort Collins, Colorado on March 21, 1989, when I was 13. I remember the day clearly: the smell of the books, the impressive diversity of the natural history section, the rays of spring sunlight dappling the shelves through a big east-facing window. As I had done for as long as I can remember, I checked out the selection of plant field guides, and my father let me pick out one book. I chose Weber's *Rocky Mountain Flora*. It was with this book that I learned to use dichotomous keys and move beyond the picture-based field guides that had nourished my botanical curiosity in earlier childhood. I wrote Bill a letter a few years later, in 1993, after my family had moved from Colorado to a rural community in Montana, hoping to find someone to answer my many botanical questions. That letter proved to be the first of many.

As I sit and leaf through the ensuing 27 years of our correspondence, I am struck by Bill's patience, by his commitment to mentoring a quirky home-schooled kid, by his willingness to examine the many specimens I sent to him for identification, his willingness to take the time, at the age of 77, to explain to a 19-year-old how to recognize *Poa compressa*. Those days now seem long ago, and today I read his letters (and mine, good grief) with different eyes. I know academics today both kind and unkind, but reading Bill's letters, I am struck by his extraordinary humility, his willingness to admit mistakes, his ambivalence about an emerging world in which society was starting to value broad knowledge of

the natural world less and less, while valuing specialized competence with abstraction, molecular biology and innovation more and more.

William Alfred Weber was born on Nov. 16, 1918, five days after the Armistice of World War I, in the Bronx, New York, the third of four children of Henry Paul Weber and Emilie Agnes Weber, née Rilke. He described himself as “a sickly child suffering from an enlarged heart, rheumatic fever, la grippe, lice, and prone to accidents... restricted to playing indoors on the floor with Lincoln Logs and tin soldiers”. He showed an interest for nature at an early age, after having been gifted a microscope by his cousin at the age of five. Like so many of us, he went through phases of interest in different organismal groups and never entirely let go of any of them. Towards the end of the year 1934, at the age of 16, he co-founded the Sialis Bird Club in New York City together with some other youngsters. Their club was “taken under the wing”, to quote his daughter, by members of the Bronx County Bird Club, where he was invited on field trips with several other young birders: Roger Tory Peterson, then 26; Allan D. Cruikshank, 27, of later photography fame; and Ernst Mayr, who was 30, and went on to think about evolution. Weber described one field trip, to Cape May Point, in Peterson’s biography (Rosenthal 2008): “Oh boy. Standing under that lighthouse at night, we were watching birds ... against the moon. And Roger could pick out the sounds of the different sparrows. The Henslow’s sparrow and the chippie and all of the others. That was amazing! ... I will never forget that.”



Bill Weber, second from left, with the Sialis Bird Club on February 29, 1936 at Grassy Sprain, Yonkers, New York. Also present are (left to right Al Milch, B.W., Morty Spitz, Johnny Philips, Gerard Haigh, Elmer Torgersen). Photographer unknown. All photos courtesy of Linna Müller-Wille.

Birds make several appearances in Weber’s formative experiences. More than once he wrote me about one such experience, which he said happened in 1931. This time, he was 13 and had started rollerskating to Evander Childs High School in the north Bronx. He would take a path through the Bronx Botanical Gardens and one day met an elderly gentleman who lent him his opera glasses so he could see his first and only ever Prothonotary Warbler. One day, the gentleman took Weber and his friends to his house on Webster Avenue to show them his collection of Bolivian hummingbirds and “a real honest-to-goodness Irish shillelagh”. The man was Robert Statham Williams, the founder of the Sullivant Moss Society and bryologist extraordinaire whose collections laid the groundwork for

the first floristic assessments of the bryophytes of Montana and the Yukon. Weber often associated our friendship with his childhood meeting with Williams because of a couple curious coincidences. At the time I began my correspondence with Weber, I was living in Columbia Falls, Montana, population 2,900. About one hundred years before, Williams appears to have used Columbia Falls as his base between 1890 and 1896, collecting not only bryophytes but also vascular plants and lichens (Steere 1945). I might not have been on rollerskates, but on mountain bike trips—to Badrock Canyon, to Teakettle Mountain, and to West Glacier—I was learning bryophytes and lichens scraped off of the very same boulders and old-growth Douglas-fir trunks that Williams had stood in front of only a brief century before, and I was slipping them into padded U.S. Postal Service envelopes week by week for Weber to study. He kindly corrected my many misidentifications, and encouraged me to collect more than just tiny tufts (Montana has enough to spare, he once admonished). The holy grail was the type locality of *Grimmia brittoniae*, thought to be a Montana endemic at the time and not relocated since Williams' original collection. In an interweaving plot twist I only learned of later, Williams had named *G. brittoniae* for Elizabeth G. Britton of the New York Botanical Garden, who personally expelled Weber from the garden as a boy when he was trying to collect a leaf of the skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus*. The type locality was eventually relocated by Jim Shevock in 1997 (Greven & Spribille 1999).

Bill Weber studied at Iowa State College from 1937 to 1940 and met his wife Selma (“Sammie”), née Herrmann (1917-1996), there in a bird study class in 1938. Together, they had three daughters, Linna, Heather and Erica. While at Iowa State College, Weber was required to enroll in the military Reserve Officers Training Corps, but he had already become steeped in the writings of Mahatma Gandhi and strongly sympathized with what we would today call issues of social justice. He decided he could not continue, and was allowed to disenroll as a conscientious objector. According to Linna, who graciously filled in missing details from this time, Bill and Sammie would attend lectures by Bayard Rustin, later an advisor to Martin Luther King, on achieving civil rights through nonviolent means.

In 1940, Weber received a fellowship to do work at Washington State College (now Washington State University, in Pullman). Here, through Marion Ownbey, Weber became acquainted with the work of Wilhelm Suksdorf, the self-taught botanist and correspondent of the lichenologist Edward Tuckerman and the botanist Asa Gray, who lived in Bingen, Washington, a small hamlet on the outskirts of the larger community of White Salmon on the Columbia River, up until his death less than a decade earlier, in 1932. Suksdorf, a German immigrant, never moved out from his parents' home and was something of a plant press-toting romantic in his lone, long rambles in nature. He gave many of his collecting sites German names only he knew, and for better or worse used these names on herbarium labels that went around the world. For his Master's thesis project at Washington State, Weber took on the task of decoding Suksdorf's German script and the geography of his collecting localities, many of which are type localities for vascular plants and lichens. Weber stayed on at Washington State College to begin work on a Ph.D. thesis on a taxonomic revision of the Asteraceae genus *Wyethia*.

Weber's pacifism resulted in the loss of his freedom during World War II. He was sent to an internment camp at Cascade Locks, coincidentally a few kms downstream from Suksdorf's home on the opposite bank of the Columbia River in Oregon, where he spent 12 months from September 1944 to September 1945. He was joined by Sammie and Linna, and Heather was born there in the White Salmon, Washington hospital. They were only released, on compassionate grounds but well after the war had ended, when Sammie was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. In the camp, he continued work on *Wyethia*, but did not complete the thesis until he was released and returned to Iowa State College. There he taught botany, worked in the library, and got work doing household chores for local professors.

Weber was not in a good position to get a job after the war. Conscientious objectors (“conchies”) faced discrimination, and most job opportunities were at small religious colleges. Eventually Weber was offered an instructorship at University of Colorado to fill the position of Joseph Ewan. Weber

was an instructor from 1946 to 1953, Professor from 1953 to 1962, Professor of Natural History and Curator of the Herbarium from 1962 to 1990, and Professor Emeritus from 1990 onwards.

Weber authored over a dozen books including at least five floras and five biographies, as well as many peer-reviewed journal articles. His *Rocky Mountain Flora*, first published in 1953, went to five editions, while his *Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope* and *Colorado Flora: Western Slope* went to four editions each. His first journal article, a noteworthy record of a *Potamogeton*, was published in 1940 in *Rhodora*. Weber's interest in lichens came from an assignment he received to acquire lichen material for a plant morphology course taught by Sam Shushan at UC Boulder around 1950. At the time there were few books on North American lichens, and he and Shushan acquired a collection of lichen books from Prof. Lawrence W. Durrell, who had retired from Colorado State University and intended to spend his retirement studying lichens. Among them were the then-recently-published

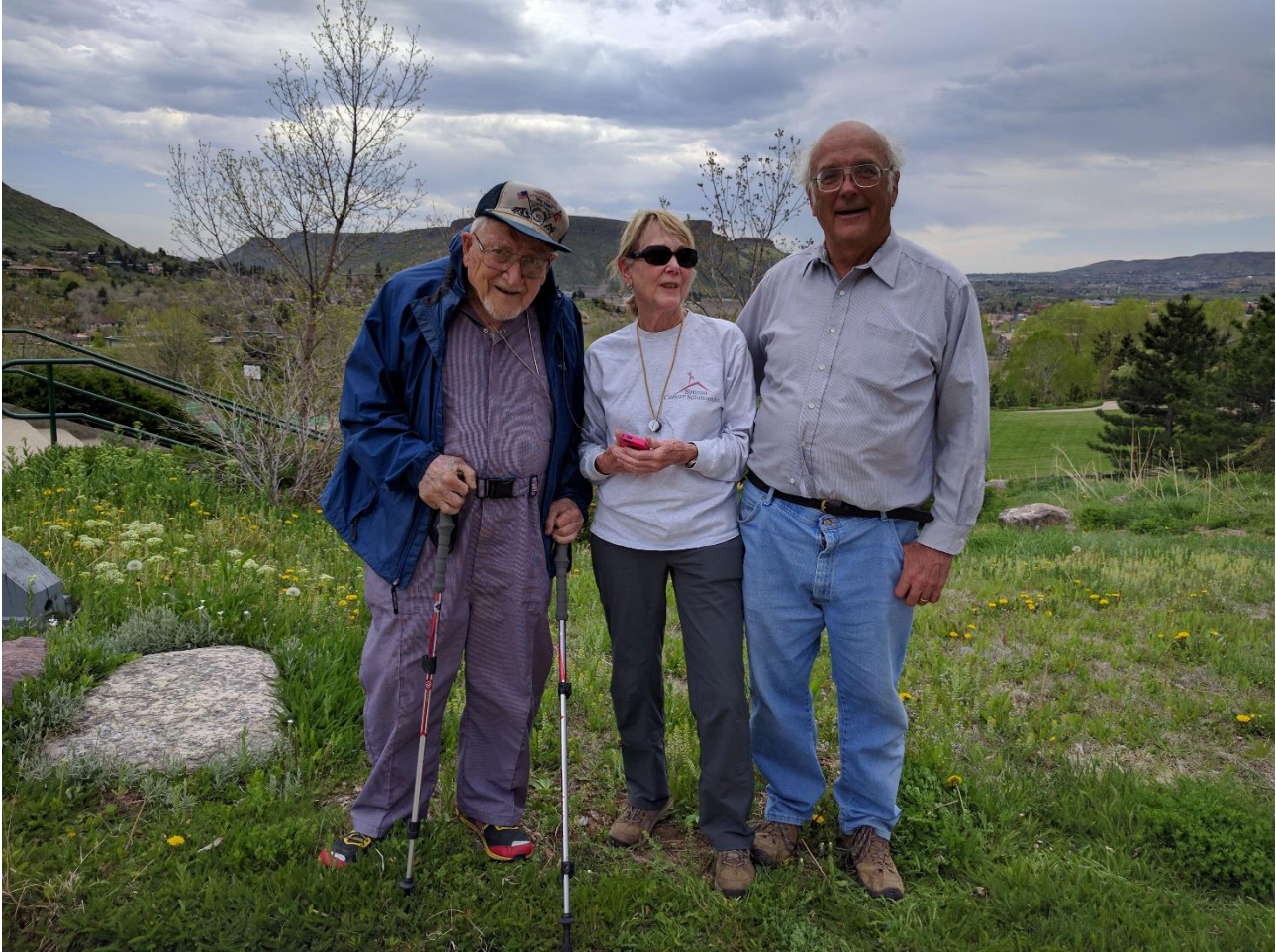


Bill Weber studying a plant specimen in the 1950s, photographer unknown.

monographs of Hugo Magnusson on Central Asian lichens. Studying these books, Weber noticed that many of the lichens seemed quite similar to those he saw on Colorado rocks. In 1952 he hosted Prof. Eilif Dahl who provided a "lichen lesson on the tundra", and in 1953 he began serious lichenological studies. Weber applied for and got a National Science Foundation Fellowship to study lichens (and vascular plants, and mosses) at the Riksmuseum in Stockholm from 1957 to 1958, where he had the opportunity to work with many of Fennoscandia's leading lichenologists. Between 1954 and 1996, he authored 48 papers on lichen floristics and taxonomy concerning species from Colorado, Alaska, and elsewhere in the North American Intermountain West; the Galápagos, New Guinea and Australia; and, with James Corbridge, a popular guidebook to central Rocky Mountain lichens. He issued 700 replicate specimen sets as part of his *Lichenes Exsiccati COLO* that are held in herbaria all over the world. He named 23 lichen species and one genus and, rather symmetrically, is commemorated in the names of 23 lichen species and one genus. In 2018, he was awarded the Acharius Medal by the International Association for Lichenology.

Perhaps more than anything else, Bill Weber was intensely proud of the herbarium he built at University of Colorado Boulder (COLO). It comes easy to some to criticize him today for his taxonomic decisions and what he missed, but consider the literature he had available to him when he started. For lichens, the only book of remotely any use in western North America was Bruce Fink's *Lichen Flora of the United States*. When he arrived at his new job the university had little more than a "teaching collection" of a couple binders of pressed plants, but when he died, COLO reported holdings of 312,000 specimens of vascular plants more than 110,000 specimens each of bryophytes and lichens. The rechristened William A. Weber Collections are a monumental legacy to his work documenting the diversity of the central Rocky Mountains as well as to his deep connection to nature and place. We are lucky today to stand on such shoulders.

Bill Weber touched the lives of many people during his long and productive life. He could see the erosion of education and intellectual curiosity in society, and bemoaned in particular the decline in



Bill Weber with Patricia Nelson and Ron Wittman on a search party for the moss *Leptodon smithii*, May 2016.

knowledge of plants, mosses and lichens and field natural history. He was always interested to hear about new methods and happy to see many of his taxonomic decisions, particularly in splitting excessively large genera, supported by DNA evidence. Bill once told me that he only wanted to do for me what others had done for him: give me a boost and help me. He copied papers and sorted out duplicate specimens and old books he thought could help build my collection and library; when I first discovered *Verrucaria kootenaica* and told him I didn't have a proper chisel to collect a type with, he sent me his own in the mail to borrow. He also introduced me to colleagues before it was as easy as typing "cc"; and he wrote letters for me when it looked like my home schooling could become an impediment to getting accepted to university. He loved the natural world and the mountain biota and wanted nothing more than to give a young person, whom he met only a few times, the chance to indulge his curiosity; to remove barriers for me; and to make things possible and give me options. I feel this thrill of possibility come back reading through the 25-year-old letters. It is like a beam of light slipping through a crack in a time awash in peril, biodiversity loss and normalized disregard for the natural world. And I think he would want nothing more than that we not accept defeat, but turn around and open doors and make good things possible for another generation of young naturalists.

Note: The University of Colorado Library in Boulder maintains an archive of the papers and letters of W.A. Weber. The family is releasing many of his unpublished works, including an autobiography, in the series *Acta Botanica Weberi*, hosted at <http://williamaweber.com/acta-botanica-weberi/>.

Acknowledgments: I would like to thank Linna Müller-Wille for giving graciously of her time to share stories about her late father, and for checking the biographical details in this tribute for accuracy.

Literature Cited:

Greven, H. & Spribille, T. (1999) *Grimmia brittoniae*, a rare moss endemic to northwestern Montana. *The Bryologist* 102: 116–118.

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Steere, W.C. (1945) Robert Statham Williams (1859-1945). *The Bryologist* 48: 93–99.

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REMEMBERING ANTONÍN VĚZDA (1920–2008)

25 November is the name day for the Christian name ‘Katalin’ in Hungary, but for lichenologists it is more important to know that it is the birthday of Antonín Vězda. If he was still with us, I would address these very personal words to him on this day in 2020:



Antonín Vězda in the Tatra Mts in 1993 (Photo: Edit Farkas).

„Dear Toni,

You were perhaps most famous for your exsiccates: *Lichenes Bohemoslovakiae* (1957–1959), *Lichenes Selecti Exsiccati* (1961–1991), and *Lichenes Rariores Exsiccati* (1992–2003). The first one contained 300 numbers and it was already published before I was born. It is three times as much what I edited for your celebration during the last c. 10 years (*Lichenes Delicati Exsiccati Editae*, 2010–2021). Your three exsiccates totalled 3300 specimens spanning 46 years. But it is pointless to compare these numbers. My exsiccate is different from yours, in that it is symbolic: one lichen for each year of the 100 since you were born. Your friends and colleagues collected them whilst remembering your life-long activity and never-ending energy and enthusiasm.

Life and nature have changed a lot. We are not collecting as many lichens nowadays. Nature is under constant threat from development of the human world. Taxonomists are also threatened, and it may be that most species – and not just lichens – will never be described. Therefore the value of your collections will become greater and greater over time, since some species might be kept exclusively in your exsiccate specimens in herbaria of the world in the future. In your c. 400 publications you described nearly 500 taxa, for which you were single author for most of them. For several current readers of the ILN, it is probably hard to imagine how it was possible for you to reach such a high number. It is admirable for me too, though I was present sometimes. You visited several countries—later also far continents—but Rokytná at Moravský Krumlov, or the Tatra Mts, was always the most important for you. Our excursions were special for me, both for scientific and personal reasons. We visited places where one of my grandfathers spent his childhood, and we collected and investigated the lichens there. I learned several alpine plants as well. It happened once that we were going to meet at the railway station in Nitra: I was traveling there by train, and you were driving your car to meet me. The train, however, was not planning to stop there because the timetable had changed. It was before the time of the mobile phones; thus while you were on your way by car from Brno, there was no way to let you know this. When you arrived to the station, you also learned that most probably we wouldn't be able to meet. However, I learned from the conductor that the train would in fact stop for a short time to take the mail, and it was suggested that I use this time to quickly disembark. I did as was suggested, and fortunately you were also waiting there, just in case I might still arrive. We both were extremely happy that finally we could meet and neither of us had to travel home without the planned field trip. It was perhaps the most adventurous trip we ever had.

My father died at the age of 63. I often think of that how interesting it is that you were the same age, when I first met you in 1983. It was the time when my lichenological knowledge needed to grow, and you were there to help. We had language problems, but I could always count on you; your library and herbarium in your home laboratory were always open for me. You spoke German and I hardly knew any words when we met, so we used various dictionaries (various combinations of English, German, Czech, Hungarian ones); when words failed, however, you could explain almost everything by your excellent drawings.

We could have worked even longer together, but time is short. In the mid-1990s, you perhaps did not understand why I answered your letters late. Later you learned that it was the time when I was editing the *Bibliotheca Lichenologica* volume for you, together with Volkmar Wirth and Robert Lücking. It was for your 75th birthday. Now we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of your birth with never-ending gratitude.”



Antonín Vězda is honoured by a decoration from Slovakian botanists. Here he is being greeted by Anna Lackovičová on this occasion in Svätý Jur (Jur pri Bratislave), 1995.

I wish these words could reach Toni now. And for younger colleagues who never had the chance to meet him, I can tell you he was an extremely modest and helpful person, for whom the beauty of lichens meant perhaps the most in life.

*Edit Farkas
(Vácrátót, Hungary)*

PERSONALIA

NEW PHD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE (BELGIUM)



Antoine collecting lichens during a field trip in Japan in August 2019 (Photo: *Emmanuël Sérusiaux*).

On October 19th, 2020, Antoine Simon successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled "The multi-organismal nature of lobarioid lichens: phylogenetic and transcriptomic studies on photomorphs" at the University of Liège (Belgium). The thesis is composed of 5 chapters (including 3 published articles) spanning comparative transcriptomics and microbiome studies to taxonomic and phylogenetic revisions in the genera *Sticta*, *Dendrioscicta* and *Emmanuelia*. The jury was composed of E. Sérusiaux, N. Magain (advisors), B. Goffinet, T. Spribille, A. Vanderpoorten and D. Baurain. We wish good luck to Antoine in his future endeavours!

Nicolas Magain

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE

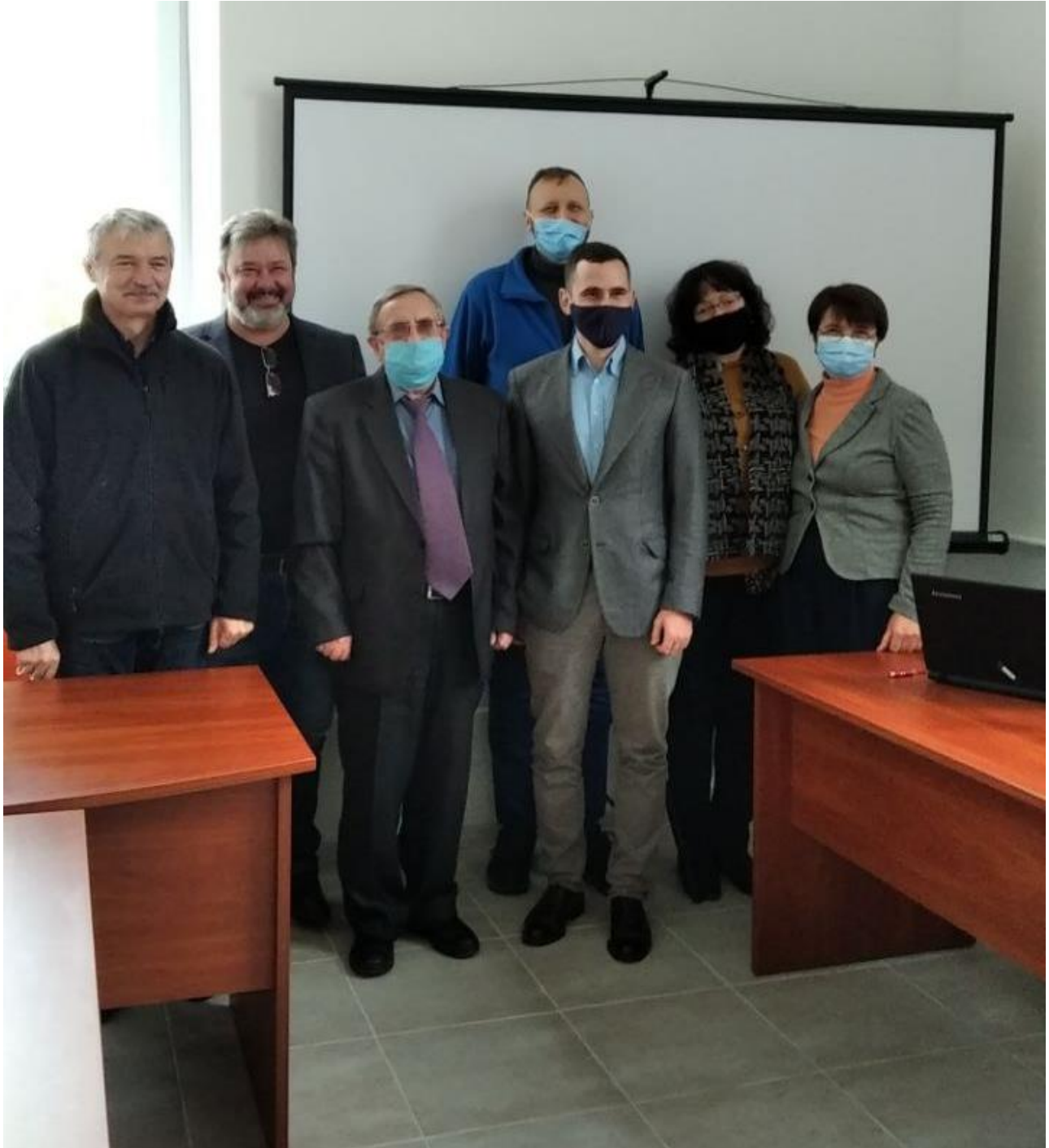
Nicolas Magain is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Liège, Belgium, starting in October 2020. After a PhD under the supervision of Prof. Emmanuël Sérusiaux (University of Liège, 2010-2014) and postdoctoral research in the lab of Prof. François Lutzoni (Duke University, 2015-2018), Nicolas will continue exploring the evolution of symbioses, using phylogenetics and genomics, with special emphasis on *Peltigera*, the Peltigerales and cyanobacteria. Nicolas welcomes collaborations and student applications.

Nicolas Magain

NEW PHD IN UKRAINE

New PhD thesis: Valerii Darmostuk successfully defended his thesis on 9 November 2020. The title was “Lichenicolous fungi of the steppe zone of Ukraine”. The defense was held at the MG Kholodny Institute of Botany National Academy of Science of Ukraine in Kyiv. Scientific advisor was Prof. Alexander Khodosovtsev, and opponents were Prof. Maryna Sukhomlyn from Kyiv and Dr. Alexander Akulov from Kharkiv. The full text of the dissertation is available on the official website of the Institute of Botany (<https://www.botany.kiev.ua/>).

Valerii Darmostuk



Form the left: Prof. Sergii Kondratyuk, Prof. Alexander Khodosovtsev, Prof. Vasyl Heluta, Valerii Darmostuk, PhD. Alexander Akulov (behind V. Darmostuk), Prof. Maryna Sukhomlyn, Ph.D. Vera Hayova.

DR. G.P. SINHA SUPERANNUATES FROM BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Dr. G.P. Sinha superannuated from his services as Scientist and Head of the Office, Central Regional Center, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Allahabad, on 31 August 2020 at the age of 60.

Dr. Sinha served lichenology for 36 years beginning in 1984 when he joined BSI, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong as a Junior Research Fellow. He completed his doctorate under the mentorship of Dr. K.P. Singh and joined the same institute as Junior Scientific Assistant in 1991. He was regularly promoted to higher positions and transferred to other centers of the institute such as Sikkim, Shillong and Allahabad. In his career Dr. Sinha has undertaken over 40 expeditions to various parts of India, collected 8600 lichen specimens, carried out about 20 projects, and published 150 research articles and five books. He has described 44 new species, 14 new combinations and about 120 new distributional records to India. Some of his notable contributions include Lichen Flora of Nagaland (first state lichen flora of India); Macrolichens of Sikkim; Lichens of Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, Assam, Rajasthan; Revision of lichen family Roccellaceae sensu lato in India; and An Annotated Checklist of Indian lichens. Dr. Sinha has several plans for post-retirement life, including updating the checklist of Indian lichens and writing new manuscripts. He has also committed to render his expertise to fellow lichenologists of India.



Dr. G.P. Sinha

DR. GAURAV K. MISHRA JOINS CSIR-NBRI, LUCKNOW AS SCIENTIST

Dr. G.K. Mishra, an active Indian lichen researcher, secured a scientist position at CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. Dr. Mishra started his career in lichenology in 2009 when he joined CSI-NBRI as a Project Assistant. He completed his doctorate under the mentorship of Dr. D.K. Upreti in 2012. Along with regional lichen floras, Dr. Mishra also engaged in studying the genus *Phyllopsora*, family Teloschistaceae, as well as the cetrarioid and pyrenocarpous lichens of India.



Dr. Gaurav K. Mishra

MR. C.P. SINGH PARTICIPATED IN 39TH INDIAN SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA



Mr. C.P. Singh posing nearing saxicolous lichens (Photo: Mr. Naveen Tripathi).

Mr. C.P. Singh, Scientist, Space Application Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad participated in the 39th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA). The expedition was launched during November 2019, and the summer team returned to the mainland on 10 April 2020. Mr. Singh's goal was to carry out lichen community mapping using suitable spectral indices and techniques. According to him, with deglaciation exposing new substrates for growth of lichens, a reliable wide-scale mapping method is required to study the impact of climate change in Antarctic region. Even though the overall lichen diversity in Antarctica is known, these studies are confined to only a few locations, and complete spatial distribution map is not available. The inaccessibility of lichen habitats in Antarctica and logistic limitations makes traditional surveys tedious and time-consuming. Therefore, remote sensing-based techniques can offer a better solution. Towards this end, geocoded occurrence records with *in-situ* end-member spectra were taken by Mr. Singh at 16 sites during the 39th ISEA. These sites are distributed in the Larsemann Hills islands, Reinbolt Hills (Amery), Bollingen Island, and the Schirmacher Oasis in East Antarctica. Around 100 *in-situ* end-member spectral signatures of lichen species were recorded using a field hyperspectral spectroradiometer. The reflectance spectra of lichens are unique in both the visible and the infrared portions of the solar spectrum due to the presence of pigments and metabolites. This uniqueness is expected to offer measurement of lichen abundance using available satellite datasets with suitable bands. The preliminary observations suggest that the maximum variability between lichen species occurs around 950 nm. Most of the lichens show a more gradual increase through 400 -1300 nm with a max inflection point at about 680 nm (red edge). Spectra of common lichens are somewhat similar in shape beyond 700 nm, but the magnitude of reflectance varies. An analysis is in progress to understand the species-specific patterns and differences.

Sanjeeva Nayaka

NEW BOOKS

Burgaz, A. R., T. Ahti & R. Pino-Bodas 2020: Mediterranean Cladoniaceae. 117 pages, 86 illustrations in colour, 93 distribution maps. Madrid: Spanish Lichen Society (SEL).

ISBN 978-84-09-21610-9. Available via www.ucm.es/info/seliquen (pdf) or arburgaz@ucm.es (printed copies).

A treatment of 92 species of the Cladoniaceae in the Mediterranean region in Europe, Africa and Asia from Portugal to Turkey and Lebanon. Includes 86 illustrations in colour and 93 dot distribution maps.

LIST OF SOCIETIES

Australasia: Australasian Association for Lichenology. Info: W.M. Malcolm, Box 320, Nelson, New Zealand 7040. Phone: (+64) 3-545-1660, e-mail: nancym@clear.net.nz

Journal: *Australasian Lichenology*, web-page: <http://nhm2.uio.no/botanisk/lav/RLL/AL/>

Brazil: Grupo Brasileiro de Liquenólogos (GBL). E-mail: BrazilianLichens@gmail.com; Web-page: <https://brazilianlichens.wixsite.com/website>,

Central Europe: Bryologisch-lichenologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Mitteleuropa (BLAM). Contact: Martin Nebel, Wellingstr. 14, 70619 Stuttgart, Germany, e-mail nebel_martin@web.de, web-page: <http://blam-bl.de/>

Journals: *Herzogia*, *Herzogiella*, web-page: <http://www.blam-hp.eu/herzogia.html>

Colombia: Grupo Colombiano de Liquenología (GCOL). Info: Bibiana Moncada. E-mail: bibianamoncada@gmail.com; web page: <http://grupocolombianodeliquenologia.blogspot.com/>

Czech Republic: Bryological and Lichenological Section of the Czech Botanical Society. Chairperson: Svatava Kubešová, e-mail: svata.kubesova@gmail.com, web-page: <http://botanika.bf.jcu.cz/bls/english/index.html>

Journal: *Bryonora*, web-page: http://botanika.prf.jcu.cz/BLS/bryonora_en.php

Ecuador: Grupo Ecuatoriano de Liquenología (GEL). Info: Alba Yanez, e-mail: albayanez8@gmail.com; web page: <http://grupoecuadorianodeliquenologia.blogspot.com/>

Estonia: Mycology Society, Estonian Naturalists' Society, Struve 2, Tartu 51003, Estonia, web-page: <http://mukoloogiauhing.ut.ee/avaleht> (in Estonian). Chairman: Külli Kalamees-Pani, e-mail: kulli.kalamees-pani@ut.ee

Journal: *Folia Cryptogamica Estonica*, web page: <http://www.ut.ee/ial5/fce/>

Finland: Lichen Section, Societas Mycologica Fennica. C/o: Botanical Museum (Lichenology), P.O. Box 7, FI-00014, Helsinki University, Finland. Info: Teuvo Ahti, e-mail: teuvo.ahiti@helsinki.fi

Journal: *Karstenia*, web-page: <http://www.karstenia.fi/index.php>

France: Association française de Lichénologie (AFL). Président: Jean-Pierre Gavériaux, e-mail: jp.gaveriaux@numericable.fr, web-page: <http://www.afl-lichenologie.fr>.

Bulletin: *Bulletin d'Informations de l'Association française de lichénologie* (deux Bulletins annuels), web-page: http://www.afl-lichenologie.fr/Afl/Publications_afl.htm

Great Britain: The British Lichen Society (BLS). C/o: Department of Botany, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK. President: Dr. A. Pentecost. Secretary: P.A. Wolseley. For membership go to <https://my.britishlichensociety.org.uk/>, Society web-page: www.britishlichensociety.org.uk/

Journal: *The Lichenologist* (accessible via Cambridge Core <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/lichenologist>); *British Lichen Society Bulletin*

India: Indian Lichenological Society. Address for correspondence: Lichenology Laboratory; CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute; Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow-226001, U.P., India. President: Dr. D.K. Upreti. Secretary: Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka, e-mail: indianlichenology@gmail.com, webpage: <http://www.indianlichenology.com>

Iran: Lichenology Branch, Iranian Mycology Society, C/o: The Museum of Iranian Lichens. P.O. Box 33535111, Tehran, Iran, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST). Info: Mohammad Sohrabi, e-mail: sohrabi@irost.org

Italy: Società Lichenologica Italiana (SLI). President: Sonia Ravera, via del Labaro 54, I-00188 Roma, e-mail: presidente@lichenologia.eu, web-page: <http://www.lichenologia.eu/>

Journal: *Notiziario della Società Lichenologica Italiana* (in Italian), web-page: http://www.lichenologia.eu/index.php?procedure=pubbl_not

Japan: The Lichenological Society of Japan (LSJ): President: Hiromi Miyawaki, e-mail: miyawakh@cc.saga-u.ac.jp, web-page: <http://eng.lichenjapan.jp/>

Journal: *Lichen*, web-page http://lichenjapan.jp/?page_id=19

The Japanese Society for Lichenology (JSL). President: Kunio Takahashi, contact email (secretary): kawahara@kansai-u.ac.jp, web-page: <http://www.lichenology-jp.org/index.php/en/>

Journal: *Lichenology*, web-page: <http://www.lichenology-jp.org/index.php/en/journal/>

The Netherlands: Dutch Bryological & Lichenological Society (Bryologische +Lichenologische Werkgroep, BLWG). Contact: L.B. (Laurens) Sparrius, contact e-mail: sparrius@blwg.nl, web-page: <http://www.blwg.nl>

Journals: *Buxbaumiella* and *Lindbergia*, web-pages: www.buxbaumiella.nl (open access) and www.lindbergia.org (open access)

Nordic Countries: Nordic Lichen Society (Nordisk Lichenologisk Förening, NLF). President: Ave Suija, e-mail: ave.suija@ut.ee, web-page: <http://nhm2.uio.no/lichens/nordiclichensociety/>

Journal: *Graphis Scripta*, web-page: see NLF web page

North America: American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Inc. (ABLS). President: Catherine LaFarge, contact e-mail: clafarge@ualberta.ca, web-page: <http://www.abls.org/>

Journals: *Evansia*, web-page: <http://www.bioone.org/loi/evia>; and *The Bryologist*, web-page: <http://www.bioone.org/loi/bryo>

North America, Northwest: Northwest Lichenologists (NWL). Info: Bruce McCune, contact e-mail: bruce@salal.us, web-page: <http://www.nwlichens.org>

Newsletter: *Northwest Lichenologists Newsletter*, web-page: <http://www.nwlichens.org>

North America, California: The California Lichen Society (CALs). President:, contact e-mail: president@californialichens.org, web-page: <http://californialichens.org/>

Bulletin: *Bulletin of the California Lichen Society*, web-page: http://californialichens.org/?page_id=15

North America, East: Eastern Lichen Network. Info: Marian Glenn, e-mail: glennmar@shu.edu, web-page: <http://www.nybg.org/bsci/lichens/eln/>

Poland: Lichenological Section of the Polish Botanical Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Botaniczne). President: Beata Krzewicka, W. Szafer Institute of Botany Polish Academy of Sciences, Lubicz 46, PL 31-512 Kraków, Poland, b.krzewicka@botany.pl, web-page: <http://www.porosty.varts.pl/>

Slovakia: Slovak Botanical Society – Lichenological Working Group, c/o Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, 841 01, Bratislava 4, Slovakia. Info: Alica Košuthová, e-mail: alica.kosuthova@savba.sk, web-page: <http://sbs.sav.sk/>
Journal: *Bulletin Slovenskej botanickej spoločnosti*, web-page: <http://sbs.sav.sk/SBS1/content.html>;
<http://ibot.sav.sk/lichens/>

South America: Grupo Latino Americano de Liquenólogos (GLAL). Info: Susana Calvelo, e-mail: scalvelo@crub.uncoma.edu.ar
Journal: *GLALIA*, web-page <http://nhm2.uio.no/botanisk/lav/RLL/GLALIA/>

Spain: Sociedad Española de Liquenología (SEL). President: Isabel Martínez, e-mail: isabel.martinez@urjc.es, secretary: Sergio Pérez-Ortega, e-mail: sperezortega@rjb.csic.es, web-page: <http://www.ucm.es/info/seliquen/>
Journal: *Clementeana*, web-page: <http://www.ucm.es/info/seliquen/cl.htm>

Sweden: Svensk Lichenologisk Förening (SLF). President: Martin Westberg, e-mail: martin.westberg@em.uu.se, web-page: <http://lavar.se>
Bulletin: *Lavbulletinen*, web-page: <https://lavar.se/lavbulletinen/>

Switzerland: Swiss Association of Bryology and Lichenology (BRYOLICH). President: Ariel Bergamini, e-mail: praesidium@bryolich.ch, web-page: http://www.bryolich.ch/index_en.html
Journal: *Meylania*, web-page: http://www.bryolich.ch/meylania/meylania_en.html

Venezuela: Grupo Venezolano de Liquenólogos (GVL). Info: Jesús Hernandez, e-mail: Jeshernandezm@gmail.com, web-page: www.bit.ly/lqvzla

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The cover-page illustration

Dermaticum thunbergii (Ach.) Nyl. (Lecanoromycetes, Caliciaceae), photo taken in 2019 during
GoLife fieldwork in South Africa (Photo: Adam Flakus and François Lutzoni).