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Book reviews: Suomen Rupijäkälät

Kärnefelt, Ingvar; Thell, Arne

Published in:
Graphis Scripta

2017

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Kärnefelt, I., & Thell, A. (2017). Book reviews: Suomen Rupijäkälät. *Graphis Scripta*, 29(1-2), 47-47.

Total number of authors:
2

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LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

Suomen Rupijäkälät

STENROOS, S., VELMALA, S., PYKÄLÄ, J. and AHTI, T. (eds). 2015. Suomen Rupijäkälät. *Norrinia* 28 [in Finnish]. Luonnontieteellinen keskusmuseo [Finnish Museum of Natural History], Helsinki, pp. 454. ISBN: 978-951-51-0837.

The second of two volumes of Finnish lichens, by the same editorial team, is released. The first volume, on foliose and fruticose species, published five years ago (Stenroos *et al.* 2011) was very appreciated (Thell 2011). The new volume is a solid work with top quality colour photos of 300 crustose species occurring in Finland. The concept of presenting a balanced selection of characteristic species from different habitats and different parts of the system reminds us of *Die Flechten Baden-Württembergs* by Wirth (1987), a pioneer lichen flora of this kind, which was followed by several high-quality works, such as *Lichens of North America* (Brodo *et al.* 2002), *Lichen Flora of the Greater Sonoran Desert Region* in three volumes (Nash *et al.* 2002, 2004, 2007) *The lichens of Great Britain and Ireland* (Smith *et al.* 2009), and the most recent German lichen flora, *Die Flechten Deutschlands*, by Wirth *et al.* (2013).

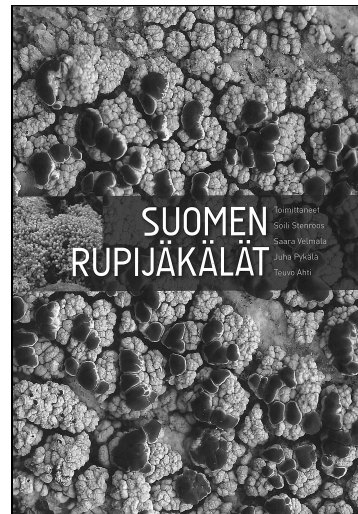
Unlike the lichen flora by Moberg and Hultengren (2016), this book was not meant to be used in the field. However, in spite of its considerable size, it is a less comprehensive volume compared with the foliose and fruticose part, although two thirds of all lichen species belong to the crustose group, but the selection is still impressive. The most important part of the book concerns the colour pictures since it lacks identification keys. It would simply not be possible to construct useful keys to all the 300 species included, not least in view of that more than 1200 crustose species occur in Finland in total.

The introductory chapters, dealing with morphology, anatomy and ecology, are supplied with tasteful illustrations. The most important results of the book are, however, the updated distribution maps attached to each species. More information is provided in a detailed table in the book's end where all 1249 species are represented. Some well-known synonyms are listed in the same table, which is very useful after the last decades rapid development of systematics resulting in many nomenclatural novelties, most of which are accepted in the flora. Nearly 350 species have been added to the Finnish lichen flora since the checklist by Vitikainen *et al.* (1997).

The 300 species are arranged alphabetically according to the genera, from *Acarospora fuscata* to *Xylospora friesii*. The genus and species descriptions include morphological and chemical characters, as well as ecology and distribution. The colour photos attached, where also details can be observed, belong to the best ever published. Furthermore, these pictures are of great help in identifying the species.

It is indeed a shame that only a small part of the possible readership fully can enjoy this lovely volume because of the Finnish language.

Ingvar Kärnefelt and Arne Thell



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