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News from the Nordic and Baltic areas

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News from the Nordic and Baltic areas

19th Symposium of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists

The 19th Symposium of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists took place in Šķēde, Talsi region, in western Latvia 22–26 September. More than half of the contributions were lichenological, including exciting ones devoted to species delimitations within the genera *Vulpicida* and *Usnea* (Parmeliaceae), new species of *Caloplaca* with black fruiting bodies, and continuously improved national Red Data Lists. Field excursions were arranged in the vicinity, in the province of Kurzeme [Kurland], at the same time a part of the historical country Livonia [Livland], at the most including present day's Estonia and Latvia. The centre of the Livonian culture was visited which was situated just outside the Slītere National Park at the peninsula delimiting the Gulf of Riga in the west, where a thorough investigation of the fungal flora was investigated in detail by the more than 70 participants. The medieval town Kuldīga, one of the capitals of the Duchy of Kurland in the 17th century, was visited on the return to Riga. Some of the participants took the opportunity to complement their collections with additional samples, whereas others enjoyed the town itself. Proceedings from the lichenological parts of the excursions will be published as a joint publication in *Botanica Lithuanica* coordinated by Jurga Motiejūnaitė, Lithuania.

The NLF-meeting in Norway 2015

The NLF meeting and excursion for 2015 will be arranged in Norway 3–7 August 2015. It will be based at the campus of Nord-Trøndelag University College in Steinkjer. The organizing committee, Mika Bendiksby and Håkon Holien, have supplied us with information on registration, accommodation, excursions, prizes, etc. in the second circular on page 34. We are convinced that the meeting will be interesting and well arranged in a beautiful area and trust that it will be well attended.

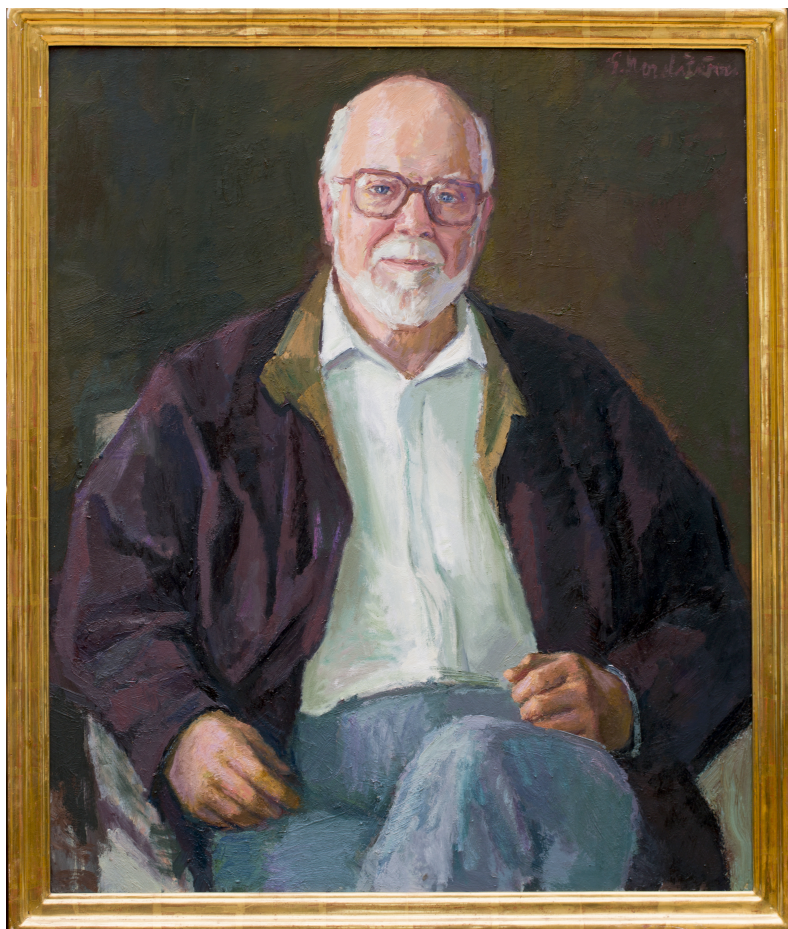
The NLF-excursion Gdansk, Poland in 2017

Since Denmark announced that they will be unable to arrange the NLF-excursion in 2017, according to the schedule, Martin Kukwa was asked if he was willing to co-arrange the 22nd NLF-excursion with the 20th symposium of Baltic Mycologists and Lichenologists and, fortunately, he agreed. In 2011, a similar co-arrangement at a meeting in Lithuania had also been successful.

Hans Runemark 1927–2014

Hans Runemark, professor of Systematic Botany at Lund University 1970–1992, passed away at the age of nearly 88 years. He is not best known as a lichenologist, although he started his career at the Department of Systematic Botany, Lund University. In the late 1940s he undertook his doctoral thesis on the yellow species of *Rhizocarpon*, with Ove Almborn as supervisor. This he completed in 1956, whereafter he left lichenology for an attractive project on the evolution of vascular plants in the Aegeis. His monograph on the yellow species of *Rhizocarpon* was published in *Opera Botanica* (Runemark 1956a, b); it is still a most useful contribution with detailed

distribution maps, but current species concepts based on molecular analyses of the same material would probably give quite different results. We are grateful today for the comprehensive and carefully collected material of lichens from Europe and northern Africa our colleague donated to the Lund herbarium.



Hans Runemark 1927–2014. Oil painting on canvas by Gerhard Nordström.
Photo: Gunnar Menander.

Runemark, H. 1956a. Studies in *Rhizocarpon* I. Taxonomy of the yellow species in Europe. *Opera Botanica* 2(1): 1–152.

Runemark, H. 1956b. Studies in *Rhizocarpon* II. Distribution and ecology of the yellow species in Europe. *Opera Botanica* 2(2): 1–150.

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