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Parmelia ernstiae – new to the Nordic lichen flora

ARNE THELL

Parmelia ernstiae – new to the Nordic lichen flora. *Graphis Scripta 14*: 10. Stockholm ISSN 0901-7593.

Parmelia ernstiae Feuerer & A. Thell, recently described from northwestern Germany, is reported from one locality in central Skåne, southernmost Sweden.

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Parmelia ernstiae Feuerer & A. Thell is one of the few recently described macrolichens from Europe. It is distinguished from its closest relative, *Parmelia saxatilis* Ach., by a pruinose upper surface, including pruinose isidia, and an irregular, lacinate, strictly corticolous habit. The status as separate species was confirmed by unique DNA-sequences, most distinctly observed in the rDNA ITS region (ITS1-5.8S-ITS2), where the sequences differed at eight positions between the two species. ITS-sequences of *P. saxatilis* populations were identical, irrespective of their geographical origin (Feuerer & Thell 2002). However, a contemporary molecular study indicate further taxa within *Parmelia saxatilis* – in addition to *P. ernstiae* (Crespo et al. 2002).

P. ernstiae was until now known from northwestern Germany only, where it grows on bark of deciduous trees, preferably *Fraxinus excelsior*, in open or half-open agricultural areas. It is here reported from one locality in southernmost Sweden:

Sweden: Skåne: Eslöv par., 800 m SE Grässjåhus, on *Fraxinus excelsior* at the road, alt. 100 m, 17 February 2001, A. Thell 0101 (HBG), DNA865 (HBG, LD); 1 March 2003, A. Thell 0302 (LD, UPS).

Results

The rDNA ITS sequence of the Swedish sample (AY247007) was compared with the two German *P. ernstiae* sequences available in the GenBank, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>. It was identical with one of these (AF410834), collected in Schleswig-Holstein (T. Feuerer & A. Thell 64330 HBG), whereas the second sequence (AF410833), from the type material from Niedersachsen (G. Ernst HBG-4619), differed by absence of two nucleotides.

References

- Crespo, A., Molina, M. C., Blanco, O., Schroeter, B., Sancho, L. G. & Hawksworth, D. L. 2002. rDNA ITS and β -tubulin gene sequence analyses reveal two monophyletic groups within the cosmopolitan lichen *Parmelia saxatilis*. *Mycological Research* 106: 788-795.
- Feuerer, T. & Thell, A. 2002. *Parmelia ernstiae* – a new macrolichen from Germany. *Mitteilungen aus dem Institut für Allgemeine Botanik Hamburg* 30-32: 49-60.