

Exploration of the lichen flora of the Balkans (László Lőkös)

Several bryological-lichenological collecting trips have been carried out in the Balkans in the last 10–15 years, mostly in montane and maritime areas of nature conservational interest in the following countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece (incl. Crete), Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. Compared with other parts of Europe, the lichen flora of the Balkans is insufficiently known, due to the limited number of local lichenologists and properly managed local lichen herbaria. Lichen floristical research on the Balkan Peninsula has old traditions in Hungary, marked by our notable lichenologists (Ödön Szatala, György Timkó) who made many field trips to different areas in the Balkans. The identification of a great number of the recent collections is in progress. New records for countries or studied areas were presented in conference posters.



A huge thallus of *Lobaria pulmonaria* on an old beech trunk (Stara Planina Mts, Serbia, 2005)



Thamnolia vermicularis, an alpine lichen species, also occurring in the alpine grasslands in the high mountains of the Balkans (Stara Planina Mts, Serbia, 2005)