New records of lichens from Mount Carmel National Park and Atlit Beach (Israel)

Marina Temina & Irwin M. Brodo


Details of 27 lichen species from Mount Carmel National Park and 9 species from Atlit Beach are presented, of which 10 species (Arthonia albopulverea, A. pinastri, Bacidia circumspecta, Caloplaca navasiana, C. oasis, Collema subnigrescens, Enterographa crassa, Gyalecta truncigena, Lecania spadicea and Lecanora symmicta) are new to Israel.


Key words: Biodiversity, fire, lichens, Mediterranean region.

Introduction

The increasing influence of anthropogenic factors on the environment is the most acute problem of our time. Therefore, the creation of nature reserves has a pivotal role for the preservation of wildlife, biodiversity, unique ecosystems and landscapes, as well as to conserve important archaeological sites. Over the years the state of Israel has established a wide network of protected nature areas. There are currently 190 nature reserves and 66 national parks, covering c. 20% of Israel (http://www.parks.org.il/). Mount Carmel National Park is one of the largest and most beautiful national parks, occupying 84 km² in the mountainous Carmel ridge in northern Israel. The park was founded in 1971 to protect Mediterranean nature and landscape, including several nature reserves and historical, religious and archaeological sites (Alon 2007). A large part of the park is covered with natural forests and groves, the dominant tree species being Pinus halepensis, Quercus calliprinos, Q. ithaburensis and Ceratonia siliqua.

The lichen flora of the National Park has been studied several times over the past 47 years (Galun & Reichert 1965, Galun 1970, Wasser et al. 1995, Galun & Mukhtar 1996, Temina et al. 2004, 2005, Kondratyuk et al. 2005). Currently it includes 108 species, 59 species on rocks and stones, 33 species on trees and 16 species on soil. The present paper adds a further 27 species to this list.