New records of lichenized and lichenicolous fungi from Northeastern Iran

Mahroo Haji Moniri*, Harrie J. M. Sipman & Matthias Schultz


A total of 111 species of lichenized and lichenicolous fungi is reported from two provinces in Northeastern Iran. These species include 22 taxa new to Iran, and another 15 and 34 new to the provinces of Northern Khorasan and Razavi Khorasan, respectively. This brings a 22% increase in the number of species known from the two provinces.


Insgesamt 111 Arten lichenisierter und lichenicoler Pilze werden aus den Provinzen Nord-Khorasan und Razavi-Khorasan im Iran gemeldet. 22 von diesen Arten werden erstmals für den Iran, weitere 15 neu für Nord-Khorasan und 34 neu für Razavi-Khorasan nachgewiesen. Damit steigt die Zahl der aus diesen Provinzen bekannten Flechten und lichenicolen Pilzen um 22%.

Keywords: Biodiversity, lichenized fungi, lichenicolous fungi, South West Asia.

Introduction

The increased interest in the lichens of Iran over the past two decades has resulted in several recent publications (e.g. Valadbeigi et al. 2010, Valadbeigi & Sipman 2010, Kondratyuk et al. 2013a, b) including two checklists (Seaward et al. 2004, 2008). However, only a few publications (Haji Moniri & Kukwa 2009, Haji Moniri & Sipman 2009, 2011) have focused on Khorasan in the northeast of the country, which is divided into three provinces (Southern Khorasan, Razavi Khorasan, Northern Khorasan). The earlier work was summarized by Szatala (1940, 1957) who published 41 records from Khorasan and provided identification keys. Ongoing studies of the first author (MHM) continue to bring additions to the known lichen mycota of the region. The present paper deals with 19 lichens and three lichenicolous fungi new for Iran and other interesting taxa.

Northeastern Iran has an arid to semi-arid, continental climate with almost no precipitation in summer and most falling as snow in winter and early spring. The vascular plant flora of the three Khorasan provinces is composed of Hyrcanian, Irano-Turanian, Sahara-Sindian and Aralo-Caspian phytogeographical elements.

* Corresponding author