Epiphytic lichen diversity of the Sündiken Mountains (Eskişehir, Turkey)

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Ninety-three lichen taxa belonging to 43 genera are recorded from the Sündiken Mountains, Eskişehir (Turkey), of which 34 are reported for the first time from this area. Calicium parvum and C. trabinellum are new records for Turkey. The lichen diversity in three forests in different phytogeographical regions in the study area is discussed.


Key words: Biodiversity, forest types, lichenized Ascomycota.

Introduction

Lichenological studies reported from Turkey are mainly based on lichen diversity studies, the literature sources of which are listed in detail by John (1992, 1995, 2005). A large number of other studies related to lichen diversity have also been carried out in various regions of Turkey in recent years (e.g. Candan & Özdemir Türk 2008, Halıcı et al. 2005, John & Breuss 2004, Nimis & John 1998, Öztürk & Güvenç 2003, Tufan Çetin & Sümbül 2011, Yazıcı & Aslan 2007).

The diversity of lichens and lichenicolous fungi of the Sündiken Mountains have been studied previously as part of on-going lichenological work undertaken in Eskişehir Province ( Özdemir 1992, Türk 2002, Türk et al. 2007, Halıcı & Candan 2007, Halıcı et al. 2007, 2008, Singer et al. 2014), including a master’s thesis by Yavuz (2011) specifically related to the Sündiken Mountains. In the study below, a significant contribution to our knowledge of the lichen diversity of these mountains, including an assessment of the epiphytic lichens of three forest types there, are provided.

The Sündiken Mountains, located north of Eskişehir, cover an area of 210,000 hectares. The altitude of the mountains ranges from 200–250 m in the north (Sakarya Valley) to 1770 m at the Sündiken summit (Fig. 1); the altitude of the southern side is c. 800 m and is connected to the Eskişehir plateau. The climate of the study area is semi-arid Mediterranean (Akman 2011); data for Alpu (S-facing) and Saricakaya (N-facing) are shown in Figure 2.