Josef Hafellner – a life amongst lichens and their parasites

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The impact of Josef Hafellners scientific work on the systematics of lichenized ascomycetes and on the knowledge on lichenicolous fungi is discussed and the value of his extensive collections (c. 100,000 lichens including c. 8,000 lichenicolous fungi) is highlighted. A bibliography (1975–2016) is presented.


Der Einfluss von Josef Hafellners wissenschaftlichen Arbeiten auf die Systematik von lichenisierten Ascomyceten und auf die Kenntnis von flechtenbewohnenden Pilzen wird diskutiert und auf den Wert seiner umfangreichen Aufsammlungen (ca. 100.000 Belege, davon ca. 8.000 Belege lichenicole Pilze) hingewiesen. Eine Publikationsliste (von 1975 bis 2016) wird vorgelegt.

Key words: Bibliography, eponyms, lichenicolous fungi, European Alps.

Introduction

Few scientists make such a mark on their science that they can be said to change their field, and fewer still are involved in setting up the framework for an entire branch of natural history. One such person is Josef Hafellner, to whom we dedicate the present contribution. Conscious that he is – notwithstanding his recent retirement – still very much fully active as a researcher, we wish here to highlight his impact on our science to date. Josef Hafellner has dedicated his scientific career to the classification and taxonomy of fungi, in particular lichen-forming ascomycetes and the fungi inhabiting lichen symbioses (known as lichenicolous fungi). Consistent with this central theme, he has also contributed a large body of work to lichen floristics, mainly within the eastern parts of the European Alps. Here we provide a short overview of Hafellner’s contribution to the systematics and taxonomy of lichens, of his scientific output resulting from numerous field trips, and of the results coming from one of his favorite hobby horses, the study of lichenicolous fungi.

Studies on systematics and taxonomy of lichens

Josef Hafellner began studying under Josef Poelt soon after the latter was appointed chair of the department of Systematic Botany in Graz in 1972. Under the influence of Poelt, Josef

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