Notes on the genus *Usnea* (lichenized Ascomycota, Parmeliaceae) IV

Philippe CLERC


Several species of the genus *Usnea* occurring supra-continentally are treated. *Usnea barbata* is new to the United Kingdom. *Usnea entoviolata* is new to Europe and a map of its known worldwide occurrence is given. *Usnea perhispidella* (syn. nov: *U. eumitrioides*), *U. poliotrix*, and *U. subdasaea* are new to North America. *Usnea perplexans*, a Himalayan taxon, is the correct name for *U. lapponica*, a widely occurring species in Europe and North America. *Usnea aciculifera*, *U. hondoensis* and *U. pangiana* are also discussed.


**Key words:** Systematics, taxonomy, lichens.

**Introduction**

In terms of species number, *Usnea* Adans. is the largest genus of fruticose lichens worldwide and the second largest genus in the Parmeliaceae; some 1134 names are cited in the literature (CLERC et al. unpublished). The exact number of well-defined and accepted species is still unknown, but it is most probably around 400. *Usnea* is recognized by the presence of usnic acid in the cortex, an elastic central cord in the medulla and the production of various depsides and depsidones but never divaricatic and sekikaic acids. Most species occur on the bark or twigs of trees in well-lit situations; the genus is found in polar, temperate and tropical regions and the center of distribution is in the Neotropics. Many species seem to have a worldwide or at least supracontinental distribution range (CLERC 2011a); this together with the high number of published names makes the search for correct and stable names difficult. The present paper is the result of an ongoing process aiming at studying herbarium specimens and type material from taxa occurring all over the world.

**Material and methods**

The present notes are based on herbarium specimens deposited in the following herbaria: BM, CDS, DUKE, G, H, M, TNS, TUR, UPS, W and WU, as well as in the private herbaria of Otto