



SOME LICHENICOLOUS FUNGI FROM EAST AFRICA (KENYA AND TANZANIA) II

Néhány zuzmólakó gomba a kelet-afrikai Kenyából és Tanzániából II

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Biodiversity in Africa remains significantly underestimated and underinvestigated, including the diversity of lichens and lichenicolous fungi, despite increasing research activity, particularly in tropical regions. Nevertheless, our knowledge of the diversity and host range of lichenicolous fungi remains limited. Rapid land-use changes further increase the importance of natural history collections from a nature conservation perspective. The study of previously undetermined and insufficiently investigated herbarium material can contribute to a better understanding of both past and present biodiversity.

During the identification of lichen material from East Africa, collected mainly by Tamás Pócs and Edit Farkas in the 1980s and 1990s and deposited in VBI, lichenicolous fungi were observed relatively frequently. We carried out microscopic morphological investigations and identifications. However, only a very limited amount of comparative material from the region is currently available. Consequently, identifying the host lichen, particularly in genera such as *Usnea*, remains problematic in several cases. Comprehensive revisions of several lichen groups, based on both fresh and historical material are required. As lichenicolous fungi are often highly host-specific, reliable identification and revision of their host lichens is also essential.

Among gall-forming basidiomycetous lichenicolous fungi, the *Biatoropsis usnearum* species complex is particularly noteworthy. As a more precise species-level identification was not possible, the designation “species complex” is used to indicate the need for further investigation. The galls observed in our material vary considerably both in size and colour, with younger galls being light brown. The numerous overlapping micro- and macromorphological characteristics within this group make species delimitation difficult, and several specimens therefore remain unidentified. Consequently, changes in the taxonomic status and the number of recognised species of lichenicolous basidiomycetes associated with African *Usnea* species can be expected when additional material becomes available.

Roselliniella africana, a perithecioid species, represented a new distribution record for Tanzania. The species was originally described from Rwanda, and its distribution remains poorly known, with only a few records currently available.

Further studies will be based on the recent knowledge work and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the diversity and distribution of lichenicolous fungi in Africa.