



RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH ON THE GENUS *PUNCTELIA*

A *Punctelia* nemzetség kutatásának eredményei

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Among the species of the genus *Punctelia*, until recently only *Punctelia subrudecta* (Nyl.) Krog was known from Hungary. However, as a result of field studies conducted in recent years, two other corticolous species of the genus have also been recorded in the country. *Punctelia jeckeri* (Roum.) Kalb was discovered in 2022, while in 2025 the occurrence of *Punctelia borrieri* (Sm.) Krog (*Kitaibelia* 31(2): in press) was also discovered in the Transdanubian Mountains. *P. jeckeri*, previously unrecognized in Hungary, appears to be the more common species; it has already been collected from more than 50 CEU grid cells, predominantly in areas of Hungary characterized by the Atlantic climate. *P. borrieri* is considerably rarer and has so far been confirmed only in the Balaton Uplands, the Bakony Mountains, and the Vértes Mountains.

During the field studies, sampling was conducted in more than 100 forest stands, ranging from mountainous regions to hilly and lowland areas. Most of the habitats investigated were semi-natural forests, but shrublands, wood-pastures, and, in some cases, plantation forests and habitats in anthropogenic environments (parks, avenues) were also studied.

The spread of both *Punctelia* species newly recorded from Hungary in Western Europe over recent decades has been documented. However, since before the targeted field data collection initiated by us in 2022, only eight specimens of the genus had been deposited in collections in Hungary since 1970; no well-founded conclusions can be drawn regarding range expansion.

In parallel with the field studies, a revision of the European *Punctelia* specimens in the Lichen Collection of the Department of Botany (BP) was also carried out. As a result, five specimens of *P. jeckeri* were identified among the earlier Hungarian collections, the earliest dating from 1925, while it was confirmed that the BP collection contains no specimens of *P. borrieri* collected in Hungary. In the European *Punctelia* material, however, a specimen of *P. borrieri* originally identified as "*Parmelia dubia* Schaer." was identified, along with specimens of *Punctelia perreticulata* (Räsänen) G. Wilh. & Ladd and *P. jeckeri* that had likewise been misidentified. Of the latter, 17 specimens were identified in BP, from Germany, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Slovakia, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Before the revision, five of the *Punctelia* species occurring in Europe were distinguished as separate taxa in the BP herbarium; as a result of the present revision, this number has increased to seven.