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Toniniopsis verrucarioides reported for the first time from the Eifel

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Abstract

The lichen *Toninia verrucarioides* is reported for the first time from the Eifel. It is a species that is parasitizing on cyanophilic lichens, usually *Placynthium nigrum*. Its distribution is very scattered and it is rare in lowland temperate regions.

Introduction

The lichen species *Toniniopsis verrucarioides* (Nyl.) Kistenich, Timdal, Bendiksby & S. Ekman is a characteristic element of the limestone lichen flora, parasitizing on cyanophilic lichens, usually *Placynthium nigrum* (Huds.) Gray. It is treated in the world monograph of the genus *Toninia* A. Massal. (Timdal 1991) as *Toninia verrucarioides* (Nyl.) Timdal and was in the decennia before that mostly known under the name *Toninia kolax* Poelt (Poelt 1957).

It is known from Europe and North America, mostly from boreal regions. It occurs here and there in lowland temperate regions, where it is an infrequent part of the lichen flora on limestone. In Germany, it is known from five regions in four Länder.

The Eifel specimen

On 19 October 1977 (when I was aged 16 years), I collected a specimen of *Toniniopsis verrucarioides* in the the Eifel, on the Auberg near Gerolstein. The specimen bears the collecting number Aptroot 7398 and is preserved in ABL herbarium; it will eventually be sent to B. Some years later I identified this as *Toninia kolax*. I realized that it was not known from the Eifel, but somehow it was was never reported, mainly because it was not seen on successive excursions, only some of which led to publications. Therefore, I like to report it here. It is unclear whether it still occurs on this locality, but it is by no means unlikely, because the area has, as far as I know, never been systematically mapped for lichens, and in any case, much of this Auberg is inaccessible without climbing tools.

Acknowledgement

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Literature

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