

Editorial

A TRIBUTE TO TIINA RANDLANE ON HER SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY!

The current 60th issue of *Folia Cryptogamica Estonica* is dedicated to Tiina Randlane on the occasion of her 70th birthday. She is an esteemed lichenologist and researcher who has made exceptional contributions to the field of lichenology in Estonia and worldwide. This collection of articles is prepared by admiring colleagues and friends who wished to pay tribute and celebrate this remarkable occasion.

Born in Tallinn on the 10th of September 1953, Tiina graduated *cum laude* from Tartu State University in 1977. She continued her studies at the same graduate school, earning her candidate's degree in 1986 with a topic "Analysis of lichen flora of the western islands of Estonia". She began her career at the University of Tartu in 1975 as a technician and has remained at the same institution ever since, currently working as an associate professor.

Her scientific research has been mainly carried out in the field of taxonomy and ecology of lichens. In addition to publishing nearly one hundred scientific articles and book chapters, Tiina has led the compilation of a global taxonomy database of cetrarioid lichens. She has been a member of the organizing committee for international professional conferences and coordinated the Estonian branch of the international project KeyToNature. Her significant contributions to the international lichenological community also include the organisation of IAL5 in Tartu in 2004. Notably, Tiina's research has placed special emphasis on the lichen biota of Estonia and the Baltic region. She has been actively involved in the compilation of Red Data Books of Estonia and later Red Lists of Lichens. Tiina served as a member of the Editorial Board of *Folia Cryptogamica Estonica* from 1996 to 2020. Since 2020, she has been an associate editor of the eminent scientific journal, *The Lichenologist*.

Tiina has been a leader of Estonian lichenology for many years. Through her well-structured lectures and field courses she has inspired



enthusiastic students and sparked interest in often-overlooked lichens, ensuring growth of the next generation of lichenologists in Estonia. Tiina has devoted particular attention to popularization of lichens: in addition to books in Estonian intended for specialists, a multilingual trilogy on Estonian macrolichens aimed at all interested people was published in cooperation with colleagues. Beyond the confines of lichen keys and books, Tiina contributed to developing educational web resources addressing Estonian lichens, mosses and vascular plants. She has also played an active role in the development of the lichen herbarium at the University of Tartu, personally collecting and identifying almost 7000 specimens.

Tiina's relentless dedication to her profession has also brought repeated recognition from her home university. In 2003, she received the medal of the University of Tartu, followed by the medal of honour in 2013. In 2021, she was awarded the

medal “100 semesters at the University of Tartu”. In 2010, the interactive online identification guides prepared with Tiina’s participation were honoured with the main prize for the best new initiative in Estonian science popularisation.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Tiina for her remarkable contributions to lichenology

and wish her all the best. Let Tiina’s expertise continue to inspire fellow researchers and contribute to the conservation of lichens. Happy 70th birthday, Tiina!

Estonian lichenologists, colleagues & friends