

# The first records of the lichen-forming, lichenicolous and allied fungi from Ukraine

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**Abstract:** Fifteen species of lichen-forming, lichenicolous and allied fungi are reported for the first time from Ukraine. These species are *Buellia ocellata*, *Catillaria fungoides*, *Cecidonia xenophana*, *Cladonia subturgida*, *Celothelium lutescens*, *Endococcus protoblasteniae*, *Kuettingeria areolata*, *Lahmia kunzei*, *Lecanora microloba*, *Lecidea nylanderii*, *Myriolecis zosterae*, *Pyrenodesmia helgeoides*, *Sagedia zonata*, *Verrucula arnoldaria*, *Zahlbrucknerella calcarea*. The genera *Cecidonia*, *Celothelium*, *Lahmia*, *Sagedia*, *Zahlbrucknerella*, familia *Celotheliaceae*, *Lahmiaceae*, and orders *Lahmiales* and *Phaemoniliales* are also new to the country.

**Keywords:** diversity, taxon occurrences, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Kherson, Kyiv, Rivne, Ternopil, Europe

## INTRODUCTION

The latest edition of the checklist of lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi (Kondratyuk et al., 2021) recently summarized lichenological studies on the territory of Ukraine. The book showed the heterogeneity of data on these organisms within different regions of Ukraine. The Kherson and Mykolaiv regions had the most up-to-date information, including descriptions of new species (e.g. Khodosovtsev et al., 2018; Darmostuk & Khodosovtsev, 2018, 2019), whereas the Chernivtsi, Volyn and Rivne regions had the lowest coverage of lichenological studies. Moreover, the data on some ecological groups are historical and are in need of updating. Thus, lichen-forming fungi of subalpine Carpathian rock habitats were studied in the 1920–1930s (e.g., Hruba, 1925; Suza, 1926; Sulma, 1933), while studies of corticolous lichen-forming fungi in the primeval forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were conducted at the modern level (Malíček et al., 2018; Vondrák et al., 2018). In recent years, we have carried out pilot studies on lichen-forming, lichenicolous and allied fungi in the Carpathians grasslands, Polissia forests in the Rivne region and old oak forests in the city of Kiev within several projects. The information on the localities and distributions of the new species for Ukraine from these regions, including the few herbarium data collected from the Kherson region and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (AR Crimea), are presented in this paper.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material was collected mainly during field surveys in the regions of Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia in July – August 2021, in the Rivne region in November 2022 and in the green areas of Kiev during the black-out in October 2022 – February 2023. Several specimens have been identified from the old collections of the Herbarium (KHER). Specimens of lichen-forming, lichenicolous and allied fungi were examined in nature with a ×10 objective. Standard microscopy techniques were applied using Optika-1 and Zeiss Axioscope microscopes. The microscopic examination was carried out in water and 10% KOH (K). Nomenclature is according to Index Fungorum ([www.indexfungorum.org](http://www.indexfungorum.org)). All study specimens are in the lichenological herbarium of Kherson State University (KSU). The data of the species collected and identified by me before February 2022 will be deposited in the GBIF (<https://doi.org/10.15468/7c7xxz>).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fifteen species of lichen-forming, lichenicolous and related fungi have been found for the first time in Ukraine. Of these, ten species are lichen-forming, three are lichenicolous and two are facultatively lichenized fungi. Also new to the country are the genera *Cecidonia* Triebel & Rambold, *Celothelium* A. Massal., *Lahmia* Körb., *Sagedia* Ach., *Zahlbrucknerella* Herre, the families *Celotheliaceae* Lücking, Aptroot & Sipman, *Lahmiaceae* O.E. Erikss. and the orders

*Lahmiales* O.E. Erikss. and *Phaeomoniellales* K.H. Chen, A.E. Arnold, Gueidan & Lutzoni. The list of species is given below.

## THE SPECIES

### BUELLIA OCELLATA (Flot.) Körb.

The lichen-forming fungus is characterized by a grey-yellowish thallus (C+ orange), immersed apothecia, poorly visible true margin and 1-cell brown ascospores. In Ukraine, the species grows on the schist together with *Acarospora veronensis* A. Massal., *Candelariella vitellina* (Hoffm.) Müll. Arg., *Ionaspis odora* (Ach. ex Schaefer.) Stein., *Lecanora polytropa* (Ehrh. ex Hoffm.) Rabenb., *Lecidella carpathica* Körb., *Rhizocarpon badioatrum* (Flörke ex Spreng.) Th. Fr., *R. geographicum* (Flörke ex Spreng.) Th. Fr., *Porpidia contraponenda* (Arnold) Knoph & Hertel, *Trapelia placodiooides* Coppins & P. James and *T. coarctata* (Sm.) Choisy. The species is known from many European countries, Macaronesia, Australia, Asia, Oceania (New Zealand), North America (Canada, USA), South America (Argentina, Ecuador) (Scheidegger, 1993; Aptroot et al., 2007; Lendemer & Harris, 2013; Elix et al., 2018).

Specimen examined. Zakarpattia Region (Reg.), Rakhiv District (Distr.), Svidovets mountain range, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, near Lake Ivor, 48.22889°N, 24.2333°E, 1630 m a.s.l., plot 21–31, 4 August 2021, A. Khodosovtsev (AK) (KHER 15031).

**CATILLARIA FUNGOIDES** Etayo & van den Boom  
The lichen-forming fungus is characterized by specific black soralia. In Ukrainian localities, the associated species on an aspen were *Athallia pyracea* (Ach.) Arup, Fröden & Söchting, *Catillaria nigroclavata* (Nyl.) Schuler, *Lecania cyrtella* (Ach.) Th. Fr., *Leptorhaphis atomaria* (Ach.) Szatala, *Xanthoria parietina* (L.) Th. Fr., while there were *C. nigroclavata*, *Melanelixia glabratula* (Lamy) Sandler & Arup, *Physcia adscendens* (Fr.) H. Olivier, *P. dubia* (Hoffm.) Lettau, *Phlyctis argena* (Spreng.) Flot. on a hornbeam. It is known from Europe, Africa (Cabo Verde), Asia (Turkey) and North America (USA) (Van den Boom & Etayo, 2001; Van den Boom et al., 2007; Malíček et al., 2014; Cannon et al., 2022; Curtis & Lendemer, 2022).

Specimens examined. Kyiv, Holosiivsky National Park, Teremky, 50.35972°N, 30.45306°E, 187

m a.s.l., on *Populus tremula* L., 23 Feb 2023, AK (KHER 15336); Pushcha Vodytsa, 50.53350°N, 30.42779°E, 175 m a.s.l., on *Carpinus betulus* L., 1 March 2023, AK (KHER 15350).

**CECIDONIA XENOPHANA** (Körb.) Triebel & Rambold  
The species is difficult to distinguish from the host ascoma, but the lichenicolous fungus has smaller black apothecia (0.2–0.3 mm vs. 0.3–0.6 mm in *Porpidia contraponenda*) and smaller ascospores (9–12 × 5–7 µm vs. 15–25 × 5–11 µm in *P. contraponenda*). It is known from Europe, Asia, North America (Canada, USA) and Australia (Triebel & Rambold, 1988; Roux et al., 2006; Brackel von, 2019; Westberg et al., 2021).

Specimen examined. Zakarpattia Reg., Rakhiv Distr., Svidovets mountain range, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, 48.23702°N, 24.22952°E, 1643 m a.s.l., plot 21–28, on *Porpidia contraponenda* on sandstone, 3 August 2021, AK (KHER 15024).

### CLADONIA SUBTURGIDA Samp.

The species is morphologically similar to *C. cervicornis* (Ach.) Flot. but differs in larger squamules with a grey-brownish lower side, K+-yellow chemical test (for main chemotypes) and small podetia, 5–20 mm high, branched at the apices (Pino-Bodas et al., 2020). A consensus distribution model for *C. subturgida* with a Mediterranean range has recently been published (Pino-Bodas et al., 2020). It was shown that the probability of occurrence of this species on the Crimean peninsula is very low. Fortunately, after a complete revision of *Cladonia* P. Browne in KHER, we found a specimen of *C. subturgida* from the southern coast of Crimea with sub-Mediterranean climate (Khodosovtsev et al., 2021).

Specimen examined. AR Crimea, Yalta, Cape Martian Nature Reserve, 44.50975°N, 34.25092°E, 100 m a.s.l., on soil, 30 July 1990, AK (KHER 5536).

**CELOTHELIUM LUTESCENS** F. Berger & Aptroot (Fig. 1)  
The genus *Celothelium* includes three species in Europe. One of them, *C. lutescens*, was described on the bark of *Prunus avium* L. (Berger & Aptroot, 1998). The specimens are characterised by ascomata 150–300 µm in diam. with pitted hemispherical involucellum, pale brownish, yellowish to hyaline exciple (K+ bright yellow). Inside the ascoma there are agglutinated

branched interascal pseudoparaphyses, bitunicate 8-spored asci, spirally twisted ascospores,  $(36\text{--}50\text{--}70\text{--}78) \times (2\text{--}3\text{--}4\text{--}5)$   $\mu\text{m}$  with 5–7 septa ( $n = 30$ ). The morphologically similar species *Leptosillia pinicola* (Samp.) Voglmayr & Jaklitsch differs from *Celothelium lutescens* by unitunicate asci, slightly narrower ascospores,  $(35\text{--}44\text{--}58\text{--}65) \times (1.8\text{--}2.4\text{--}3.0\text{--}3.5)$  and growth on *Pinus L.* (Voglmayr et al., 2019).

In Ukraine, *Celothelium lutescens* usually has a saprotrophic strategy, but often is facultatively associated with *Desmococcus*-like and *Trebouxia*-like algae and does not form its own lichenized thallus. It is abundant on old bark of *Prunus avium* (circumference 190–230 cm), monodominant or associated with *Acrocordia gemmata* (Ach.) A. Massal, *Amandinea punctata* (Hoffm.) Coppins & Scheidegger, *Buellia griseovirens* (Turner & Borrer ex Sm.) Almb., *Candelariella efflorescens* R.C. Harris & W.R. Buck, *Caloplaca obscurella* (J. Lahm ex Körb.) Th. Fr., *Melanelia glabratula*, *Melanohalea exasperatula* (Nyl.) O. Blanko et al., *Micarea*

*denigrata* (Fr.) Hedl., *Parmelia sulcata* Tayl., *Parmelia tiliacea* (Hoffm.) Hale, *Phaeophyscia orbicularis* (Neck.) Moberg, *Physcia adscendens*, *Physconia enteroxantha* (Nyl.) Poelt, *Rebentischia pomiformis* P. Karst. (non-lichenized fungus), *Scoliosporum perpusillum* (Lahm) Körb. and *S. sarothonni* (Vainio) Vězda. The species are known from Austria and Germany (Berger & Aptroot, 1998; Kanz et al., 2005).

Specimens examined (all on *Prunus avium*). Kyiv, park Feofania, 50.34663° N, 30.48457° E, 167 m a.s.l., 26 October 2022, AK (KHER15231); Holosiivsky National Nature Park, landmark Teremky, 50.35799° N, 30.44514° E, 210 m a.s.l., 6 February 2023, AK (KHER 15294); same location, 50.35946° N, 30.45168° E, 22 August 2022, AK (KHER 15239).

**ENDOCOCCUS PROTOBLASTENIAE** Diederich  
This lichenicolous fungus forms semi-immersed subspherical perithecia, 100–150  $\mu\text{m}$  diam. on areoles of *Protoblastenia* (Zahlbr.) J. Steiner, dark brown pigment in all parts of a perithecial



**Fig. 1.** *Celothelium lutescens*: A – section across ascocarp (in water); B – bitunicate asci; C, E – ascospores, D – ascospores in the endoasci. Scale bars: A – 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , B–E – 10  $\mu\text{m}$  (in KOH).

wall, and 1-septate brown ascospores, 9.5–14 × 4.5–5.0 µm (Séruisiaux et al., 1999). It was described from Luxembourg and subsequently found in Denmark, Estonia, France, the UK and Sweden (Séruisiaux et al., 1999; Suija et al., 2005; Roux, 2012; Alstrup et al., 2013; Westberg et al., 2021).

Specimen examined. Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Verkhovynsky District, polonya (alpine grassland) Preluchny, Vasylkova Mt., Verkhovynsky National Nature Park, 47.80454°N 24.89699°E, 1507 m a.s.l., on *Protoblastenia rupestris* (Scop.) J. Steiner, on limestone, 2 July 2021, AK (KHER 14984).

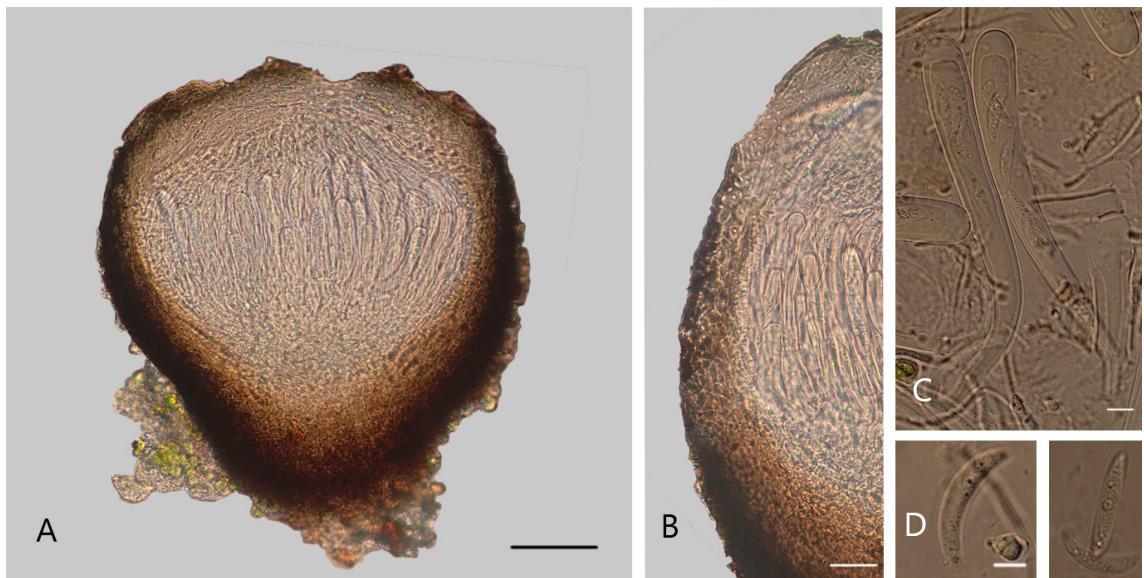
*KUETTLINGERIA AREOLATA* (Zahlbr.) I. V. Frolov et al. The species is characterized a brown-grey to grey thallus without vegetative diaspores and a zeorine apothecia with an orange-brown disc contrasting with a yellow-orange proper margin and a grey thalline margin. In Ukraine, the species grows together with *C. isidiigera* Vézda. It is known from European countries at high altitudes (John, 1996; Frolov et al., 2021; Wirth et al., 2011; Nimis et al., 2018; Arcadia, 2022).

Specimen examined. Zakarpattia Reg., Rahiv Distr., Dragobrat village, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Svydovets mountain range, near Lake Ivor, 48.22764°N, 24.23229°E, 1630 m a.s.l., on base-rich sandstone, 4 August 2021, AK (KHER 15152).

#### LAHMIA KUNZEI Körb. (Fig. 2)

The fungus is characterised by black cleistothecioïd ascomata which appear as stalked black urceolate apothecia when mature, 200–300 µm in diam. and 300–500 µm in height, bitunicate (but not fissitunicate) 8-spored asci and hyaline 0–1(–3)-septate falcate ascospores, 18–37 × 4–5 µm. The species was re-described in North America as *Parkerella* Funk (Funk, 1976) because it is rarely reported in the mycological and lichenological literature. The species is known from Europe and North America (Körber, 1865; Funk, 1976; Eriksson, 1986).

Specimens examined (all on *Populus tremula*). Kyiv, Holosiivsky National Nature Park, landmark Teremky, 50.35969°N, 30.45307°E, 23 February 2023, AK (KHER 15334); Rivne Reg., Sarny Distr., Rivnensky Nature Reserve, near Lake Somyne, 51.39035°N, 26.84965°E, 10 February 2022, AK (KHER 15339).



**Fig. 2.** *Lahmia kuntzei*: A – section across ascomata (in water); B – wall of ascomata (in water); C – asci (in KOH), D – ascospores (in KOH). Scale bars: A – 50 µm, B – 20 µm, C, D – 5 µm.

**LECANORA MICROLOBA Śliwa & Flakus**

The lichen-forming fungus was described from the Carpathian Mountains (Poland) on a mylonitized granite rock (Śliwa & Flakus, 2010) and is characterised by a grey-green to yellow-green small rosule with a minute lobate to crenate marginal areole and containing the gyrophoric acid (C+ red). The species is similar to the microlobate species of the *Lecanora polytropa* group (Roux et al., 2022), but the last differs in the absence of gyrophoric acid in the cortex. This is the first record after the species was described as new to science.

**Specimens examined.** Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Alushta Distr., Pryvitne village, 44.87775°N, 34.69533°E, 660 m a.s.l., NW exposition, on conglomerate, 5 May 2001, AK (KHER 6661).

**LECIDEA NYLANDERI** (Anzi) Th. Fr.

Morphologically, this sterile lichen-forming fungus is similar to *Lepraria incana* (L.) Ach., but differs in larger coarse granules, 20–70 µm in diam. and the presence of a bluish prothallus. This species is known from Europe, North America and Asia (Hauck & Javkhlan, 2006; Smith et al., 2009; Nimis et al., 2018; Christensen, 2020).

**Specimens examined.** Rivne Reg., Volodymyrsky Distr., Rivnensky Nature Reserve, Biloozerske department, quarter 53, part 17, 51.478370°N, 25.794233°E, 163 m a.s.l., on *Picea abies* H. Karst., 11 November 2022, AK (KHER 15343); same location, quarter 53, 51.478134°N, 25.794059°E, 170 m a.s.l., on *Pinus sylvestris* L., 11 November 2022, AK (KHER 15341); Sarny Distr., Rivnensky Nature Reserve, Karasynske department, near Lake Somyne, 51.384830°N, 26.897963°E, 165 m a.s.l., on *Betula pendula* Roth, 10 November 2022 (KHER 15343).

**MYROLECIS ZOSTERAE** (Ach.) Śliwa et al. var. *ZOSTERAE*

The species is similar to *Myrolecia hagenii* (Ach.) Śliwa, Zhao Xin & Lumbsch, but differs in constricted base apothecia. The specimen from the Black Sea coast of Ukraine differs from the type subspecies by a thin white pruina similar to *M. zosterae* var. *palanderi* (Vain.) Śliwa. This lichen-forming fungus is known from European coastal countries, Asia (Mongolia), North America (Canada, USA) and South America (Argentina), Antarctica (Heard Island, Kerguelen)

(Laundon, 2003; Øvstedal & Gremmen, 2006, 2009; Śliwa, 2007, 2017; Dolnik et al., 2008; De La Rosa et al., 2012; Nimis et al., 2018).

**Specimen examined.** Kherson Reg., Skadovsk Distr., Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, Tendrivska Spit Island, 46.24435°N, 31.62287°E, 1 m a.s.l., on *Artemisia* sp., 6 October 2017, AK & V. Darmostuk (KHER 12236).

**PYRENODESMIA HELYGEOIDES** (Vain.) Arnold

Morphologically *Pyrenodesmia helygeoides* is similar to *Kuettlingeria diphyodes* (Nyl.) Frolov & Vondrák, both species have a grey thallus without vegetative diaspores and a black zeorine apothecia without anthraquinones. However, the molecular study (Frolov et al., 2021) showed that it belongs to different clades of *Kuettlingeria* Trevis. and *Pyrenodesmia* A. Massal. The species differ in their ecology. *Kuettlingeria diphyodes* is a rare lichen-forming fungus known from a few localities in France at low altitudes on periodically flooded acidic siliceous rocks in watercourses (Frolov et al., 2021), whereas *P. helygenoides* is an arctic-alpine lichen-forming growth on neutral to carbonaceous siliceous rocks at high altitudes. At the study location, *Pyrenodesmia helygeoides* is associated with *Acarospora badiofusca* (Nyl.) Th. Fr., *Catillaria atomarioides* (Müll. Arg.) H. Kiliás, *Lichinella stipatula* Nyl., *Porpidia macrocarpa* (DC.) Hertel et Schwab and *Pyrenopsis grumulifera* Nyl. The species known from Europe (Italy, Russia) (Frolov et al., 2021; Nimis, 2023).

**Specimen examined.** Zakarpattia Reg., Rahiv Distr., Dragobrat village, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Svydovets mountain range, near Lake Ivor, 48.22835°N, 24.23040°E, 1720 m a.s.l., on sandstone, 4 August 2021, AK (KHER 15139).

**SAGEDIA ZONATA** Ach.

The species is similar to *Circinaria caesiocinerea* (Nyl. ex Malbr.) A. Nordin, Savić & Tibell, but differs in broad pale concentric areas on the thallus. In the Carpathian locality, the lichen-forming fungus is associated with *Acarospora veronensis*, *Candelariella vitellina*, *Ionaspis odora*, *Lecanora polytropa*, *Lecidella carpathica*, *Rhizocarpon badioatrum*, *R. geographicum*, *Porpidia contraponenda*, *Trapelia placodiooides* and *T. coarctata*. The species is known from Europe and North America (Nimis et al., 2018; Westberg et al., 2021).

Specimen examined. Zakarpattia Reg., Rakhiv Distr., Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Svydovets mountain range, near Lake Ivor, 48.22889°N, 24.2333°E, 1630 m a.s.l., on sandstone, 4 August 2021, AK (KHER 15029).

**VERRUCULA ARNOLDARIA** Nav.-Ros. & Cl. Roux  
The host of this species belongs to *Calogaya arnoldii* (Wedd.) Arup, Fröden & Söchting. The specimen is characterized by a pruinose yellow-orange thallus, narrow ascospores (9.5–)10–12.0(–13.5) × (4–)4.5–6.0(–6.5) µm (n=20) and grows on a rain-protected limestone surface. The lichenicolous fungus replaces host areoles and lobes by its own grey thallus and forms ascospores (12.0–)12.25–13.25(–13.5) × (6.25–)6.5–7.5(–7.75) µm (n=10). The species is known from France, Italy and Spain (Navarro-Rosinés et al., 2007; Nimis, 2023).

Specimen examined. Ternopil Reg., Buchach Distr., Perevoloka village, 49.11796°N, 25.35286°E, 255 m a.s.l., on *Calogaya arnoldii*, on travertine rock, 17 May 2019, AK and Valerii Darmostuk (KHER 14648).

**ZAHLBRUCKNERELLA CALCAREA** (Herre) Zahlbr.  
The filamentous lichen-forming fungus differs from *Ephebe lanata* (L.) Vainio by a *Scytonema*-like photobiont, trichomes with false branching and growth on calcareous rocks. At the study location, the associated species were *Circinaria calcarea* (L.) A. Nordin, S. Savić et Tibell, *Lathagrium fuscovirens* (With.) Otálora, P. M. Jørg. & Wedin, *Laundonia flavovirescens* (Wulfen) S.Y. Kondr., L. Lökös & Hur, *Phaeophyscia endococcina* (Körb.) Moberg, *Placynthium asperellum* (Ach.) Trevis., *P. nigrum* (Huds.) S. O. Gray, *Protoparmeliopsis versicolor* (Pers.) M. Choisy, *Toninia candida* (F. Weber) Th. Fr. The species is known from Europe, North America (Canada, USA), Africa (Republic of South Africa), Asia (China, Tajikistan), Australia, New Zealand (Hanssen, 1977; Galloway, 1985; Schultz, 2014; Nimis et al., 2018).

Specimen examined. Chernivtsi Reg., Vyzhnytskyi Distr., Sarata village, Cheremosky Regional Landscape Park, 47.73888°N, 24.98913°E, 1135 m a.s.l., on limestone, 3 July 2021, AK (KHER 15187).

A wide European, Holarctic or cosmopolitan distribution is observed for most of the species recorded. The exceptions are *Celothelium*

*lutescens*, *Lecanora microloba* and *Pyrenodesmia helygeoides*, which are known from a few European countries. The finding of *Lecanora microloba* is the first outside the type localities. *Celothelium lutescens* has only been collected in Austria and Germany. *Pyrenodesmia helygeoides* probably has a wider distribution. However, a detailed survey of European *Pyrenodesmia* collections is needed to determine its true distribution. Some species such as *Buellia ocellata*, *Cecidonia xenophana* and *Zahlbrucknerella calcarea* have a wide distribution but are rarely collected.

*Celothelium lutescens* and *Lahmia kunzei* have been described as lichenized fungi (Körber, 1865; Berger & Aptroot, 1998), but these fungi do not fit the definition of a ‘lichen’ (Lücking et al., 2021). Some ascomata of *Celothelium lutescens* were loosely associated with the *Trebouxia*-like and *Desmococcus*-like algae, but others were found directly on the peridermal cells of *Prunus avium*. Young ascomata of *Lahmia kunzei* grow deep in the peridermal fissures of *Populus tremula*, while mature ascomata are loosely associated with *Desmococcus*- and *Trebouxia*-like algae at the edges of the fissures. Lichenized and non-lichenized forms per species have been illustrated for *Schizoxylon albescens* Gilenstam, H. Döring & Wedin and some *Stictis* Pers. species (Wedin et al., 2006). Perhaps these fungi can be defined as ‘semilichens’ (Vondrák et al., 2022), as they have a commensal strategy with both xylotrophic and algotrophic nutrition.

We took advantage of the blackout in Ukraine in the winter of 2022–2023 to carry out detailed observations of lichenized, lichenicolous and allied fungi in the urbanised parks of Kiev. *Catillaria fungoides*, *Celothelium lutescens* and *Lahmia kunzei* were discovered in the small Teremky Park, part of the Holosiivskyi National Nature Park. Undoubtedly, the Carpathian reserves have a high potential of undiscovered diversity of lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi. This has been demonstrated by a short pilot study, in which *Buellia ocellata*, *Endococcus protoblasteniae*, *Kuettlingeria areolata*, *Pyrenodesmia helygeoides*, *Sagedia zonata* and *Zahlbrucknerella calcarea* have been found.

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