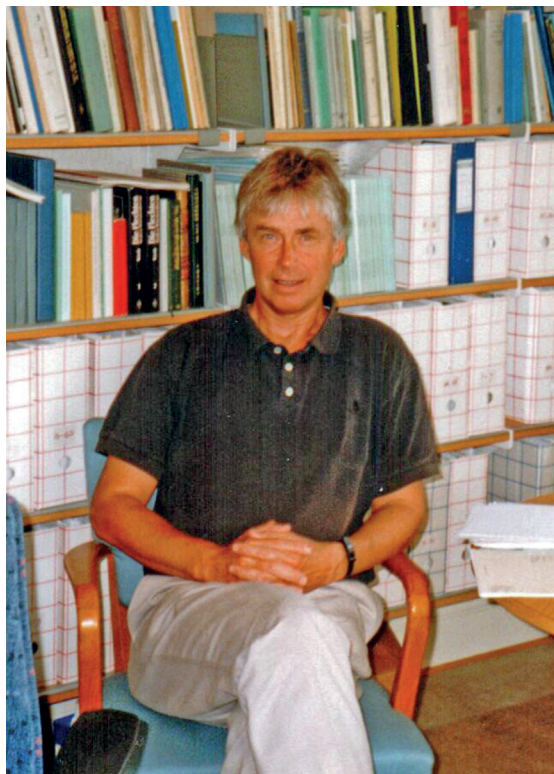


**In memoriam:
Ingvar Kärnefelt
(19.07.1944–24.07.2026)**



Jan Eric Ingvar Kärnefelt, known as Ingvar among the international lichenological community, passed away just a few days before the 10th symposium of the International Association for Lichenology (IAL) in Trieste, Italy. All participants of the general meeting of the IAL remembered him as an organizer of IAL2 symposium (1992), former president of the assembly (during 1992–1996) and a profound researcher.

Ingvar was born in Gothenburg, the second-largest city in Sweden, situated on the western coast of the country. He spent his school years and a part of his university studies there, but finally he finished his academic training at Lund University. Ingvar defended his doctoral thesis “The brown fruticose lichens of *Cetraria*” in 1979 under the supervision of Ove Almborn;

later this world monograph received a prize for the best dissertation in botany over a five-year period, and was also highly appreciated by fellow lichenologists. Ingvar’s main subject in lichenology during his earlier career was the family Parmeliaceae. Together with his doctoral students and later colleagues, he published a large number of systematic papers on this huge lichen family, and described a considerable number of new species and genera. *Masonhalea richardsonii* (Hook.) Kärnefelt (1977) is one example of a cetrarioid taxon with a new generic position; with this genus name he established a new trend in lichenology by combining the given name and surname of a respected individual (the world-famous American lichenologist Mason Hale) into a single word—the lichen’s genus name. His later career in lichenology was related to the family Teloschistaceae where also numerous changes in the systematics were proposed, in close cooperation with Serhii Kondratyuk and Arne Thell.

Ingvar worked at Lund University as an Associate Professor, Full Professor and head of the Biological Museum for many years. He supervised ten doctoral students, who prepared a volume for him in *The Lichenologist* in 2009 (vol. 41, issue 5) on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

Ingvar was also an eager traveler and wherever he went, he always brought with him numerous lichen specimens. He participated in dozens of expeditions, for example, to northern America in 1972 and 1981, Svalbard in 1980, southern Africa in 1984 and 1986, international meetings in Japan in 1993 and Canada in 1994, Russian Far East in 1991, Taymyr peninsula in 1994, Australia in 1997 and 2004, and many others. Furthermore, he was a tourist guide with a special skill to teach botany in the Austrian Alps for over twenty years. He had a keen interest in visiting the territories of different nations that belonged to the USSR. In 1989, when international contacts were no longer so strictly prohibited in the Soviet Union, he organized an

exchange excursion with Estonian lichenologists. Ingvar and three of his doctoral students visited Tallinn, Läänemaa and the western islands (Saaremaa and Kõinastu) in July 1989. Four of us – Hans Trass, Martin Zobel, Kristjan Zobel and myself – went to Sweden for a return visit; among other places, we toured the islands of Öland and Gotland. It was my first trip out of the USSR, and it will always remain vividly in my memory. A few years later, in 1992, I was happy to receive a grant organized by Ingvar, for participating in the IAL2 symposium in Båstad, Sweden. This symposium became a life-changing event for all those ten lichenologists from the former Soviet Union who were invited and whose costs were totally covered by the organizers. Even more, next year Ingvar provided me with a scholarship for internship during four months at Lund University. At that time, I

became lifelong friends with Arne Thell, one of Ingvar's doctoral students. My last meeting with Ingvar took place last autumn in Lund. Arne and Serhii organized a small-scale presentation of the volume marking Ingvar's 80th birthday (*Acta Botanica Hungarica*, 2025, vol. 67, nos 1–3). Despite having suffered from a serious illness for years, Ingvar remained sharp and curious, as always. However, his physical state was not good already then.

Ingvar Kärnefelt had a long and eventful life, lasting 82 years. Lichens and their evolution and systematics fascinated him throughout his lifetime. Many lichenologists, myself included, feel that Ingvar was for us, in a sense, a trendsetter, a supporter and mentor, or a friend.

Tiina Randlane