

The lichens of the *Cladonia pyxidata-chlorophaea* complex in Belarus

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Abstract: Based on an examination of c. 500 herbarium specimens of the *Cladonia pyxidata-chlorophaea* complex, this study deals with their morphology, secondary chemistry, habitat requirements and distribution in Belarus. Eleven taxa have been accepted, of which *C. conista*, *C. cryptochlorophaea*, *C. homosekikaica*, *C. merochlorophaea*, *C. monomorpha* and *C. novochlorophaea* are new to the country. *Cladonia grayi* appears to be the commonest species in the country (c. 40% of the studied specimens), and *C. pyxidata* is uncommon in Belarus, known only from 10 localities. The chemotypes of the species and their frequency in Belarus are indicated.

Keywords: Cladoniaceae, chemotaxonomy, distribution, ecology

INTRODUCTION

The currently known lichen biota of Belarus includes c. 550 species of lichenized (Yurchenko, 2011) and 30 species of lichenicolous fungi (Tsurykau et al., 2013; 2014). Initial information about Belarusian lichens relates to the end of the 18th century, when Gilibert (1781) reported 42 lichen species including *Cladonia fimbriata* (L.) Fr. (as *Lichen fimbriatus* L.) and *C. pyxidata* (L.) Hoffm. (as *Lichen pyxidatus* L.). Since then lichenological studies in Belarus have been sporadic and focused on floristics. The first chemical study was carried out by Tsettermann (1948) when she investigated the genus *Cladonia* by means of simple spot-test reactions.

The *C. chlorophaea* complex and its allies are probably the earliest designated group of chemical taxa. The species of this complex are characterized by scyphose podetia covered with farinose to granular soredia, corticated granules and cortical layer, and brown apothecia (Ahti, 1966; Kowalewska et al., 2008). At least 14 major chemotypes, containing some 35 secondary metabolites, have been identified within the complex (Culberson et al., 1985). However, the species status of chemically different entities has been frequently questioned, some authors recognizing chemical variability only at the chemotype, varieties or subspecies level (e.g. Wirth, 1995; Brodo & Ahti, 1996; James, 2009), while others support chemically defined taxa at the species level (e.g. Holien & Tønsberg, 1985; Kowalewska et al., 2008; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

In this paper we accept the latter viewpoint although molecular studies do not always provide a clear relationship between morphologically and chemically different individuals (Stenroos et al., 2002; Kotelko & Piercey-Normore, 2010; Pino-Bodas et al., 2012). Therefore the *C. chlorophaea* complex requires further molecular investigation with a larger number of samples and more variable gene regions.

In Belarus, the chemical variation of the *C. pyxidata-chlorophaea* group was neglected as thin layer chromatography (TLC) has not been used during species identification. As a result, only six taxa have been recorded from the country to date, namely *C. chlorophaea* (Flörke ex Sommerf.) Spreng., *C. fimbriata* (L.) Fr., *C. grayi* G. Merr. ex Sandst., *C. humilis* (With.) J. R. Laundon, *C. pocillum* (Ach.) Grognot and *C. pyxidata* (L.) Hoffm. However, these species represent a complex of taxa and are in need of revision by means of TLC.

The aim of this study is to present the range of taxa within the *Cladonia pyxidata-chlorophaea* complex, together with their morphology, chemistry, ecology and distribution in Belarus.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Herbarium material loaned from the following Belarusian herbaria, GSU, GRSU, MSK and MSKU (Thiers, [continuously updated]), has been revised. Morphology was checked under a

stereomicroscope Nikon SMZ-745, and the secondary lichen compounds were studied with TLC in solvent system C according to the methods of Orange et al. (2001). In all, 507 specimens have been studied; when more than one species was present in a packet, each taxon was counted as a separate specimen.

RESULTS

Eleven taxa have been found in the material examined, of which six species, *C. conista* (Ach.) Robbins, *C. cryptochlorophaea* Asahina, *C. homosekikaica* Nuno, *C. merochlorophaea* Asahina, *C. monomorpha* Aptroot, Sipman & van Herk and *C. novochlorophaea* (Sipman) Brodo & Ahti, are new to Belarus. The occurrence of *C. chlorophaea* s. str. and *C. grayi* in Belarus was confirmed by thin-layer chromatography. The presence of *C. humilis* has not been confirmed by TLC, and therefore should be excluded from the Belarusian lichen list. Five taxa, *C. conista*, *C. cryptochlorophaea*, *C. homosekikaica*, *C. novochlorophaea* and *C. pocillum*, are known only from very few locations and may be endangered in Belarus. *C. grayi* appears to be the most widely distributed and commonest species in the country.

THE SPECIES

CLADONIA CHLOROPHAEA (Flörke ex Sommerf.) Spreng.

Morphology: Podetia mainly small, c. 1 cm tall, rarely up to c. 2.5 cm tall, with gradually expanded scyphi up to 0.8 cm wide, surface of podetia and scyphi covered with granular soredia, sometimes mixed with corticated granules. Apothecia brown and stalked, pycnidia common, on scyphal margins.

Chemistry: Fumarprotocetraric acid complex only.

Ecology: The species is ubiquitous and inhabits a wide range of substrata, namely bark (43 specimens), wood (19), soil (11) and stones (1); corticolous samples were collected from *Quercus robur* (15), *Betula* spp. (8), *Pinus sylvestris* (7), *Alnus glutinosa* (5), *Salix* spp. (2), *Tilia cordata* (2), *Acer* sp. (1), *Larix decidua* (1), *Populus tremula* (1) and *Sorbus aucuparia* (1). In Belarus, *Cladonia chlorophaea* is the most indifferent species

within the group as far as substrate selectivity is concerned; a similar ecology was also reported for Poland by Kowalewska et al. (2008).

Distribution: The species is widely distributed in Belarus; however, scattered localities in the western and eastern parts of the country have been recorded (Fig. 1A). *C. chlorophaea* is a cosmopolitan lichen, commonly reported from all continents including the Antarctic region (Archer, 1983; Stenroos, 1993; Kowalewska et al., 2008; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Notes: Individuals of *C. chlorophaea* are often morphologically similar to *C. grayi* and *C. merochlorophaea* and thus may be mistaken for these species.

Selected specimens examined: Brest region, Malorita district, 10 km SE of Malorita town, river Rita valley, 51°52'N, 24°06'E, pine forest, on soil, 19.09.1984, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Vitebsk region, Rossony district, 5 km NW of Gory village, 55°52'N, 29°03'E, black alder forest, on *Alnus glutinosa*, 22.06.1986, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Gomel region, Gomel district, Kalinino forest, 2 km NE of Tereshkovichi village, 52°15'N, 30°59'E, pine forest, on *Pinus sylvestris*, 02.10.2012, leg. A. Tsuryskau (GSU-1946); Grodno region, Svisloch district, Belovezhskaja Puscha National Park, Yazven forest, close to Nemerzha village, 52°50'N, 24°02'E, bank of small river, on *Salix* sp., 21.07.1984, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Minsk region, Lahoisk district, Lahoisk town, 54°12'N, 27°50'E, oak forest, on soil, 16.04.1972, leg. V. Golubkov (MSKU-1433); Mogilev region, Osipovichy region, close to Elizovo village, 53°24'N, 28°59'E, pine forest, on lignum, 08.06.1960, leg. D.K. Ges' (GSU-1974).

Number of specimens examined: 77.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Ahti (1966), Ferry & Pickering (1989), Brodo & Ahti (1996), Ahti (2000), Ahti & Hammer (2002), Stenroos et al. (2002), Kowalewska et al. (2008), James (2009), Ahti & Stenroos (2013) and Osyczka (2013).

CLADONIA CONISTA (Nyl.) Robbins

Morphology: Podetia up to 2 cm high, greyish, simple, with regular, goblet-shaped scyphi up to 0.7 cm wide, phyllidia and squamules absent, marginal proliferations not seen. Upper part of the stalk and cups with farinose soredia, non-sorediate part of the stalk smoothly corticate. Apothecia not seen, pycnidia on margins of scyphi.

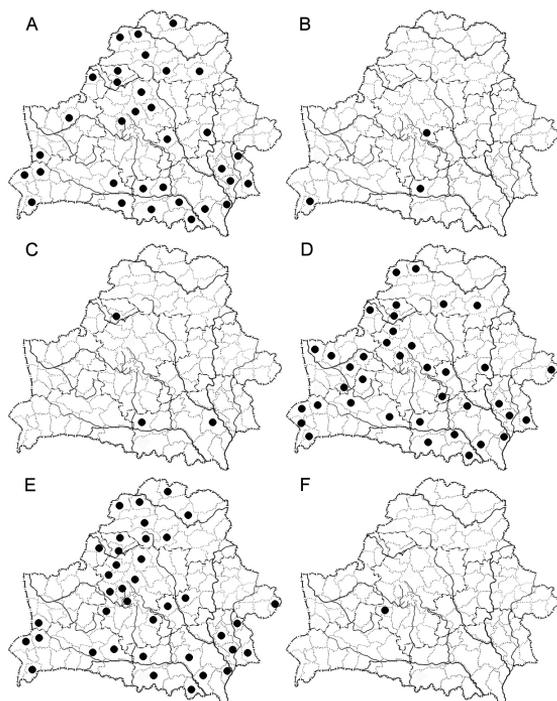


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Cladonia chlorophaea* (A), *C. conista* (B), *C. cryptochlorophaea* (C), *C. fimbriata* (D), *C. grayi* (E) and *C. homosekikaica* (F) in Belarus.

Chemistry: Fumarprotocetraric and bourgeanic acids.

Ecology: According to Holien & Tønberg (1985) and Kowalewska et al. (2008), *C. conista* usually grows on soil in well-lit habitats. In Belarus, it was found in pine and oak woodlands growing on soil and at the basis of aspens.

Distribution: New to Belarus, where it is rare, being known only from three localities in the southern and central parts of the country (Fig. 1B). *Cladonia conista* is a cosmopolitan lichen commonly reported from all continents except Antarctica (Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Notes: The species is almost indistinguishable from morphologically similar *C. humilis* (With.) J. R. Laundon despite its phylogenetic distance (Pino-Bodas et al., 2012). *Cladonia conista* differs by its taller podetia, producing bourgeanic acid and continental distribution, while *C. humilis* has shorter podetia, produces atranorin and

grows along the coastline (Holien & Tønberg, 1985; Kowalewska et al., 2008). In Belarus *C. humilis* was reported by Golubkov & Yesis (1997) and later by Bely (2011). The cited specimens were re-identified during our revision; according to current knowledge, this oceanic species does not occur in Belarus and should be excluded from the present list of taxa.

Specimens examined: Brest region, Malorita district, 6 km SW of Ljakhovtsy village, 51°50'N, 24°09'E, pine forest, on soil, 20.09.1984, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Gomel region, Zhitkovichi district, Pripyatsky National Park, Pererovo forest, close to Khlupinskaja Buda village, 52°02'N, 28°09'E, oak forest, on aspen, 24.08.1982, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Minsk region, Pukhovichi district, Mateevichi Reserve, Talk forest, 53°21'N, 28°18'E, pine forest, on soil, 13.04.2011, leg. A. Yatsyna (MSK-7217).

Number of specimens examined: 3.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Ahti (1966), Holien & Tønberg (1985), Archer (1989), Ahti (2000), Kowalewska et al. (2008), Pino-Bodas et al. (2012), Osyczka (2013), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013).

CLADONIA CRYPTOCHLOROPHAEA Asahina

Morphology: Podetia up to 1.2 cm tall, brownish or greenish-grey, with regular scyphi up to 0.5 cm wide, sometimes with proliferations, surface of podetia is roughly corticate with spherical granules and phyllidia, macrosquamules absent. Apothecia not seen, pycnidia on margins of scyphi.

Chemistry: Cryptochlorophaeic, paludosic and fumarprotocetraric acids, sometimes accompanied by 4-O-methylcryptochlorophaeic acid.

Ecology: The species was found in open and sun-exposed sites, including pine forests and riversides, growing on soil.

Distribution: New to Belarus, being recorded from three localities in Gomel and Minsk regions (Fig. 1C). *C. cryptochlorophaea* is a cosmopolitan lichen known from all continents, except Antarctica, and mostly confined to boreal zone (Archer, 1983; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Notes: Morphologically *C. cryptochlorophaea* is similar to *C. grayi*, *C. merochlorophaea* and *C. novochlorophaea* but differs chemically by producing cryptochlorophaeic and paludosic acids,

almost always accompanied by the fumarprotocetraric acid complex in Europe (Ahti, 1966; Kowalewska et al., 2008; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Specimens examined: Gomel region, Zhitkovich district, Pripyatsky National Park, Ozerany forest, 51°59'N, 27°51'E, pine forest, on soil, 23.06.1971, leg. O. P. Shakhrai (GSU-91); Rechitsa district, close to Borkhov village, 53°14'N, 30°19'E, bank of the river Dnieper, on soil, 19.05.1967, leg. N. V. Gorbach (MSK); Minsk region, Vileika district, 1.5 km SE of Ljudvinovo village, 54°34'N, 27°15'E, pine forest, on soil, 26.06.1984, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK).

Number of specimens examined: 4.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Ahti (1966), Holien & Tønsberg (1985), Ferry & Pickering (1989), Ahti (2000), Kowalewska et al. (2008), Osyczka (2013), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013).

CLADONIA FIMBRIATA (L.) Fr.

Morphology: Podetia up to c. 3.5 cm tall, with goblet-shaped and, usually, abruptly expanded scyphi, up to 0.9 cm wide, sometimes with proliferations, surface of podetia and scyphi covered with farinose soredia, very rarely base of the stalk corticate. Apothecia rare, stalked, simple, brown, pycnidia on podetial margins.

Chemistry: Fumarprotocetraric acid complex only.

Ecology: The species is ubiquitous and inhabits a wide range of substrata. In Belarus it prefers well-lit open pine, oak and birch forests. Some specimens were found in shaded spruce habitats and in urban areas. The species was found on soil (28), *Pinus sylvestris* (23), wood (22), *Quercus robur* (8), *Betula* spp. (7), stones (4), *Alnus glutinosa* (3), *Fraxinus excelsior* (1), *Populus tremula* (1) and *Tilia cordata* (1).

Distribution: *Cladonia fimbriata* is a widespread lichen known from all continents except for tropic regions (Osyczka & Olech, 2005; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013); it is common in Belarus (Fig. 1D).

Notes: The species is the most easily recognizable in the field by its very characteristic morphology. When typically developed, it has a microsquamulose primary thallus, which sometimes breaks up into granular powdery crust, and tall, regular, goblet-shaped podetia covered with farinose soredia. In most cases we found

the inner part of scyphi to be brownish as it was mentioned by Ahti & Stenroos (2013).

In Belarus *C. conista* is the most similar species to specimens of *C. fimbriata* with corticate stalk, but it differs chemically. In some cases *C. chlorophaea* forms regular goblet-shaped podetia, but it differs by having granular soredia, and generally smaller stalks (see Osyczka, 2013).

Selected specimens examined: Brest region, Pruzhany district, Belovezhskaja Puscha National Park, Pererovo forest, 4 km W Viskuli steading, 52°37'N, 24°00'E, oak forest, on *Quercus robur*, 20.06.1983, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Vitebsk region, Lepel district, Berezinsky biosphere reserve, close to Staisk village, on soil, 17.07.1978, leg. N. N. Kobzar (MSK); Gomel region, Buda-Koshelevo district, Klenovitsa village, on soil, 21.10.2003, leg. A. Tsurukau (GSU-96); Grodno region, Novogrudok district, close to Rutka 1st village, 53°34'N, 25°53'E, spruce forest, on soil, 08.05.2012, leg. S. K. Bakei (MSK-10773); Minsk region, Volozhin district, close to Vishnevo village, 54°08'N, 26°11'E, on stone, 19.07.2007, leg. V. N. Tikhomirov (MSKU-2397); Mogilev region, Bykhov district, 4 km S Bykhov town, floodplain of the river Dnieper, on *Quercus robur*, 28.06.1959, leg. N. V. Gorbach (MSK).

Number of specimens examined: 114.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Ahti (1966), Ferry & Pickering (1989), Brodo & Ahti (1996), Ahti (2000), Ahti & Hammer (2002), Kowalewska et al. (2008), James (2009), Osyczka (2013), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013).

CLADONIA GRAYI G. Merr. ex Sandst.

Morphology: Podetia up to 4.5 cm tall, with goblet or trumpet-shaped scyphi up to c. 1 cm wide, often with proliferations, surface of podetia and scyphi covered with granular soredia, verrucose, phyllidiate, sometimes eroded. Apothecia ochraceous to brown and stalked, pycnidia on scyphal margins.

Chemistry: Two chemotypes are recognized in Belarus: grayanic acid always accompanied by 4-O-demethylgrayanic acid (chemotype I), and additionally substances of the fumarprotocetraric acid complex (chemotype II). Ahti & Stenroos (2013) reported chemotype I to be somewhat more frequent in Nordic countries, while Kowalewska et al. (2008) noted that 81% of specimens produced fumarprotocetraric acid in Poland. In Belarus, both chemotype I (114 specimens) and chemotype II (108) are similarly frequent.

Ecology: The species is mostly found in pine forests (90% of the studied material) of varying humidity, from wet boggy areas to extremely dry *Cladonia*-type pine stands. *C. grayi* inhabits *Pinus sylvestris* (93), soil (72), wood (32), *Juniperus communis* (5), *Quercus robur* (3), *Betula pendula* (3), *Carpinus betulus* (2), *Alnus glutinosa* (1), and *Picea abies* (1). We noted that chemotype I is mostly confined to acid bark and inhabits pine trees, while chemotype II prefers soil and wood rather than tree bark in Belarus (Fig. 2).

Distribution: In Belarus *Cladonia grayi* appears to be the most widely distributed and commonest species within the group (Fig. 1E). This widespread and common species was reported from all continents except Antarctica (Kowalewska et al., 2008; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Notes: There are no clear morphological characters that allow one to recognize this species in the field and therefore TLC is the only way to determine *C. grayi*. Thus, only 8 specimens had been previously identified correctly, while 90% of the currently studied material was found in collections of *C. chlorophaea*, *C. pyxidata* and *C. fimbriata*.

Selected specimens examined: Brest region, Kamenets district, Belovezhskaja Puscha National Park, Dmitrovichi forest, 1 km SE Kamenjuki village, 52°32'N, 23°48'E, pine forest, on *Juniperus communis*, 23.07.1983, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Vitebsk region, Shumilino district, 2.5 km W Vishnja village, 55°26'N, 29°16'E, raised bog, on lignum, 18.07.1985,

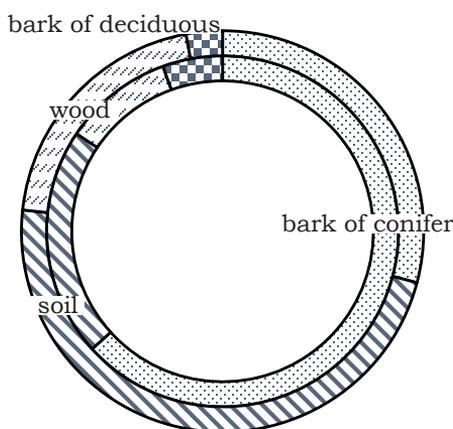


Fig. 2. Substrate selectivity of chemotype I (inner circle) and chemotype II (outer circle) of *Cladonia grayi* in Belarus.

leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Gomel region, Gomel district, Dolgoleskoje forest, 0.5 km NE of Dolgolesie village, 52°16'N, 30°44'E, pine forest, on *Pinus sylvestris*, 07.08.2013, leg. A. Tsurukau (GSU-1864); Grodno region, Svisloch district, Belovezhskaja Puscha National Park, close to Rudnja (Dobrovolja) village, 52°53'N, 24°00'E, on soil in forest, 23.09.1981, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Minsk region, Molodechno district, close to Udranka village, 54°11'N, 27°14'E, pine forest, on soil, 12.08.2004, leg. A. K. Khramtsov (MSKU-2432); Mogilev region, Osipovichi district, 1.5 km NW of Elizovo village, on *Betula pendula*, 03.07.1959, leg. N. V. Gorbach (MSK).

Number of specimens examined: 222.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Ahti (1966), Holien & Tønberg (1985), Brodo & Ahti (1996), Ahti (2000), Kowalewska et al. (2008), Osyczka (2013), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013),

CLADONIA HOMOSEKIKAIICA Nuno

Morphology: Podetia up to 1.8 cm high, with regular cups, without proliferations, up to 0.4 cm wide, surface of podetia continuously corticate on basal parts and finely sorediate on upper parts, podetial squamules. Pycnidia and apothecia not seen.

Chemistry: Two chemotypes are recognized, I with homosekikaic and sekikaic acids, and II additionally contains substances of the fumarprotocetraric acid complex (Ahti & Stenroos, 2013). In the Belarusian specimen homosekikaic, sekikaic and fumarprotocetraric acids were detected.

Ecology: The only specimen was collected from wood.

Distribution: New to Belarus, where it is known from a single locality (Fig. 1F). World distribution data on *C. homosekikaica* are scarce; it has rarely been reported from Europe, Asia, North America and Australia (Archer, 1983; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Notes: Morphologically *C. homosekikaica* resembles *C. fimbriata*, but it differs chemically. The species has similar chemistry to *C. novochlorophaea*, but the latter differs by its verrucose podetial surface, eroded scyphal margins exposing a darkened medulla and lacking soredia.

Specimen examined: Minsk region, Nesvizh district, Nesvizh forest, Alba forest cottage, 53°12'N, 26°38'E, on wood, 23.06.1960, leg. N. V. Gorbach (MSK).

Number of specimens examined: 1.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Kowalewska et al. (2008), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013).

CLADONIA MEROCHLOROPHAEA Asahina

Morphology: Podetia up to c. 3 cm tall, brownish-grey to brownish-green, with gradually flaring, up to 1 cm wide, simple, rarely proliferating from margins scyphi, surface of podetia and scyphi areolate-corticate, covered by coarse granules and verruculae, phyllidia frequent. Apothecia stalked and brown, pycnidia infrequent, on podetial margins.

Chemistry: Merochlorophaeic and 4-O-methyl-cryptochlorophaeic acids with related substances (chemotype I), and additionally with fumarprotocetraric acid complex (chemotype II). In Belarus, 67% specimens contain fumarprotocetraric acid; Holien & Tønberg (1985) reported a similar proportion for Norway, while in Poland almost 90% of specimens produce fumarprotocetraric acid (Kowalewska et al., 2008).

Ecology: *C. merochlorophaea* is mainly an epigeic lichen confined to open habitats (Holien & Tønberg, 1985). In Belarus it is found in well-lit pine forests (71% of the studied material) inhabiting dry and mesic localities in *Cladonia* spp., *Calluna vulgaris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pleurozium schreberi* and *Vaccinium myrtillus* types of pine stands. The frequency on different substrata is as follows: soil (19), *Pinus sylvestris* (5), *Betula pendula* (2), wood (2) and *Juniperus communis* (1).

Distribution: New to Belarus, where it is mainly known from the southern part of the country (Fig. 3A). *Cladonia merochlorophaea* is cosmopolitan, being reported from all continents, except Antarctica (Archer, 1983; Kowalewska et al., 2008).

Notes: Morphologically *C. merochlorophaea* resembles *C. cryptochlorophaea*, but the latter differs chemically by producing cryptochlorophaeic acid.

Selected specimens examined: Brest region, Kamenets district, Belovezhskaja Puscha National Park, Pererovo forest, close to Kamenjuki village, 52°40'N, 23°55'E, spruce forest, on *Pinus sylvestris*, 23.07.1983, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Gomel region, Buda-Koshelevo district, Chebotovichi forest, 1.5 km SW of Elenets village, 52°37'N, 30°18'E, pine forest, on

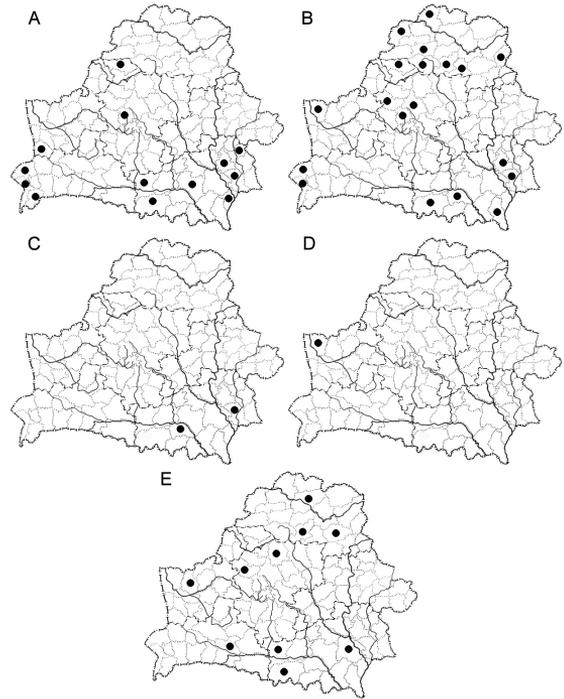


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Cladonia merochlorophaea* (A), *C. monomorpha* (B), *C. novochlorophaea* (C), *C. pocillum* (D) and *C. pyxidata* (E) in Belarus.

Pinus sylvestris, 13.07.2013, leg. A. Tsurukau (GSU-1918); Grodno region, Svisloch district, Belovezhskaja Puscha National Park, close to Rudnja (Dobrovolja) village, 52°53'N, 24°00'E, on soil in forest, 23.09.1981, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Minsk region, Dzerzhynsk district, Negoreloje forest, close to Garbuzy village, 53°34'N, 27°03'E, birch forest, on soil, 15.07.1968, leg. N. V. Gorbach (MSK).

Number of specimens examined: 39.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Ahti (1966), Holien & Tønberg (1985), Ferry & Pickering (1989), Ahti (2000), Kowalewska et al. (2008), Osyczka (2013), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013).

CLADONIA MONOMORPHA Aptroot, Sipman & van Herk

Morphology: Podetia up to c. 2 cm tall, with trumpet-shaped and gradually expanded, simple, rarely with proliferations scyphi, up to 0.9 cm wide, surface of podetia and scyphi covered with bullate corticate plates, often with whitish

margins. Apothecia in glomerulose accumulations, always on marginal proliferations, pycnidia infrequent, on podetial margins.

Chemistry: Fumarprotocetraric acid complex.

Ecology: In Belarus *C. monomorpha* is mostly confined to well-lit open habitats growing on soil (22) and stones (5) which agrees with other investigations (Aptroot et al., 2001; Kowalewska et al., 2008).

Distribution: New to Belarus, where it is the commonest species within the *C. pyxidata* complex. Most of the records come from the northern part of the country (Fig. 3B). *C. monomorpha* was previously reported from Europe, Asia and North America (Kowalewska et al., 2008).

Notes: The species was recently described from Europe (Aptroot et al., 2001) on the basis of its morphology. The presence of bullate plates (commonly with whitish margins) and glomerulose apothecia clearly separates *C. monomorpha* from the related *C. pyxidata* and *C. pocillum*. The most morphologically similar *C. magyarica* Vain. differs chemically as it contains atranorin.

Selected specimens examined: Brest region, Kamenets district, Belovezhskaja Puscha National Park, Korolevo-Mostovskoe forest, 52°35'N, 23°52'E, pine forest, on soil, 14.07.1983, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Vitebsk region, Verkhnedvinsk district, 2 km S of Sukali village, island of Asveja lake, 56°02'N, 28°07'E, on soil, 18.06.1986, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Gomel region, Buda-Koshelevo district, close to Rudnja-Olkhovka village, 52°32'N, 30°22'E, pine forest, on soil, 21.10.2003, leg. A. Tsurykau (GSU-32); Grodno region, Grodno district, 2 km N of Grodno city, 13th fort Grodno fortress, 53°44'N, 23°48'E, on soil, 25.06.2013, leg. S. K. Bakei (GRSU); Minsk region, Dzerzhinsk district, 2 km S of Rubezhevichi village, 53°40'N, 26°51'E, on siliceous stone, 05.05.1989, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK).

Number of specimens examined: 32.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Aptroot et al. (2001), Kowalewska & Kukwa (2004), and Kowalewska et al. (2008).

CLADONIA NOVOCHLOROPHAEA (Sipman) Brodo & Ahti

Morphology: Podetia up to 1.5 cm tall, brownish or blackish, with scyphi up to 0.9 cm wide, simple to proliferating from margins, surface of podetia and outer part of the scyphi roughly

corticate, verruculose, squamulose, inner part of the scyphi eroded, covered with cortical plates. Apothecia stalked, brown, pycnidia develop on scyphal margins.

Chemistry: Homosekikaic, sekikaic and fumarprotocetraric acids.

Ecology: *C. novochlorophaea* grows on soil (1) and *Pinus sylvestris* (1) in open habitats dominated by pines and birches.

Distribution: New to Belarus, being known only from two localities in the Gomel region, in the south-eastern part of the country (Fig. 3C). *C. novochlorophaea* has been reported from Europe, North and South America, New Zealand, and the Antarctic region (Øvstedal & Lewis Smith, 2001; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Notes: *C. novochlorophaea* is similar to *C. merochlorophaea*, but, when typically developed, has very characteristic eroded scyphal margins, revealing darkened medulla, and is never clearly sorediate. The species has a similar chemistry to *C. homosekikaica*, but the latter differs by its continuously corticated basal parts and finely sorediate upper parts of podetia.

Specimens examined: Gomel region, Gomel district, Staro-Djatlavichskoje forest, 2.5 km SW of Staryje Djatlavichi village, 52°13'N, 30°49'E, pine forest, on pine, 01.08.2013, leg. A. Tsurykau (GSU-1921); Mazyr district, close to Provjtjuki village, 51°54'N, 29°22'E, birch forest, on soil, 26.08.1977, leg. V. Golubkov (MSKU-2310).

Number of specimens examined: 2.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Brodo & Ahti (1996), Ferry & Pickering (1989), Ahti (2000), Kowalewska et al. (2008), Osyczka (2013), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013)

CLADONIA POCILLUM (Ach.) Grognot

Morphology: Primary thallus well-developed, rosette-like. Podetia up to c. 1 cm tall, with gradually expanded simple scyphi up to 0.5 cm wide, surface of podetia and scyphi irregularly corticate, areolate, verruculose, squamulose, phylidiate. Apothecia simple and brown, pycnidia pyriform, on scyphal margins.

Chemistry: Fumarprotocetraric acid complex.

Ecology: The specimen was found on moss-covered concrete of World War I fortifications.

Distribution: The present study confirmed only one specimen to be *C. pocillum* (Fig. 3D). It was previously reported from different sites in Belarus (e.g. Golubkov, 1993; 2013), but these samples appeared to be mainly *C. monomorpha*, or had been lost in MSK, so there was no possibility of checking their identity. The species is widespread on all continents, including Antarctica (Stenroos, 1993; Kowalewska et al., 2008).

Notes: *C. pocillum* is very similar to *C. pyxidata*, but it has a conspicuous rosette-like primary thallus and prefers calcareous substrata. Substrate selectivity of *C. pocillum* plays a significant role in its taxonomical concept.

Specimen examined: Grodno region, Grodno district, 1.5 km W of Kamenka village, Grodno fortress (6th fort), 53°35'N, 23°46'E, on moss-covered concrete, 21.04.2011, leg. V. Golubkov (GSU-1568).

Number of specimens examined: 1.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description and further important notes see Ahti (1966), Ahti (2000), Ahti & Hammer (2002), Kowalewska et al. (2008), Kotelko & Piercey-Normore (2010), and Ahti & Stenroos (2013).

CLADONIA PYXIDATA (L.) Hoffm.

Morphology: Podetia up to c. 2.5 tall, trumpet-shaped and, usually, gradually flaring from the base scyphi, up to 0.6 cm wide, surface of podetia and scyphi covered with an irregular areolate cortex. Apothecia simple or ring-like, pycnidia on podetial margins.

Chemistry: Fumarprotocetraric acid complex.

Ecology: In Belarus the species is mainly found in well-lit Scots pine forests growing on soil. One specimen was collected from stones.

Distribution: Although *C. pyxidata* was previously frequently reported from Belarus, it is currently known from only 10 localities (Fig. 3E). Most of the 64 samples housed in herbaria as *C. "pyxidata"* appeared to be other species, mainly *C. grayi*, *C. chlorophaea* and *C. monomorpha*; only one specimen was re-identified as *C. pyxidata* s.str. The species is known worldwide (Osyczka & Olech, 2005; Ahti & Stenroos, 2013).

Notes: In the present concept, the species is distinguishable from similar taxa by its irregular areolate cortex on podetial surface, and simple, globose or ring-like apothecia (Aptroot et al., 2001). *C. pyxidata* is very similar to *C.*

pocillum, which differs by forming rosette-like basal squamules. According to Ahti & Hammer (2002) and Kowalewska et al. (2008), the latter is an ecomorph of *C. pyxidata* growing on basic substrata. We also support this idea since only a few samples with a rosette-like primary thallus growing on acidic substrata were found, but molecular studies should be performed to evaluate the true status of these species.

Selected specimens examined: Brest region, Pinsk district, Logishin forest, 7 km SW Logishin town, 52°17'N, 25°55'E, pine forest, on soil, 23.04.1989, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Vitebsk region, Senno district, 1 km N of Buda village, 54°48'N, 30°06'E, on soil, 21.04.1990, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Gomel region, Lelchitsy district, Pripyatsky National Park, Mlynok forest, 51°55'N, 27°58'E, pine forest, on soil, 05.07.1972, leg. A. Klakotskaja (MSK); Grodno region, Shuchin district, close to Yakubovichy village, 53°51'N, 24°28'E, on stone, 15.08.1999, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK); Minsk region, Logoisk district, 1 km E of Svaby village, 54°17'N, 28°10'E, on soil, 01.07.1987, leg. V. Golubkov (MSK).

Number of specimens examined: 13.

Relevant literature: For a detailed description of the *C. pyxidata*, separating it from the *C. monomorpha* and further important notes see Aptroot et al. (2001), Kowalewska et al. (2008), and Kotelko & Piercey-Normore (2010).

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