

Lichenicolous fungi from the Samara Region, southern part of European Russia

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Abstract: Twenty two species of lichenicolous and two occasionally lichen-inhabiting fungi are reported from the Samara Region. Twenty three of them are new to the region, eighteen – to southern part of European Russia; *Intralichen lichenum* is new to European Russia, and *Phoma grumantiana* and *Pyrenidium crozalsii* are reported for the first time for Russia.

Keywords: biodiversity; distribution; new records

INTRODUCTION

Lichenicolous fungi in Russia are studied very unevenly. The main data concern its Arctic part, Karelia, Ural Mountains and the Caucasus (e.g. Zhurbenko, 2007 and literature cited therein) while large territories in European and Asian parts of Russia are understudied. This also concerns ‘Southern part of European Russia’ (Es) according to Andreev & Himelbrant (2014), which remains one of the least explored areas in Russia in respect to lichenicolous fungi. In total, 9 species of lichenicolous fungi can be enumerated from the area, namely *Arthonia epiphyscia* Nyl., *A. hertelii* (Calat., Barreno & V.J. Rico) Hafellner & V. John, *A. urceolata* (Elenkin) V.J. Rico, Calat. & Barreno, *Cercidospora epicarpinea* (Nyl.) Grube et Hafellner, *C. macrospora* (Uloth) Hafellner et Nav.-Ros., *Echinothecium reticulatum* Zopf, *Illosporiopsis christiansenii* (B. L. Brady & D. Hawksw.) D. Hawksw., *Muelerella erratica* (A. Massal.) Hafellner & V. John, *M. pygmaea* (Körb.) D. Hawksw. s. lat. and *Trichonectria rubefaciens* (Ellis & Everh.) Diedrich & Schroers (Merkulova, 2006; Zhurbenko, 2007; Korchikov et al., 2014, 2015; Korchikov & Travkin, 2015).

In the Samara Region lichenicolous fungi were neglected until very recently, when Korchikov et al. (2015) reported *Illosporiopsis christiansenii* and *Trichonectria rubefaciens* from Zhiguli Mts. as new to the area. Here we present 22 species of lichenicolous and two occasionally lichen-inhabiting fungi from the Samara Region.

Of these, 23 are recorded for the first time for the Samara Region, southern part of European Russia, European Russia or Russia.

STUDY AREA

The Samara Region is a large (53 600 km²) territory of southern European Russia, located within 47–52°N and 51–54°E (Poroshina, 2002). The region borders three Russian administrative regions (Saratov, Ulyanovsk, Orenburg), the Republic of Tatarstan and Kazakhstan (Fig. 1). The main part of the region comprises flat lowland terrain. The central part has rugged relief (Zhiguli Mts., Fig. 2) with the highest point reaching 381 m, the only mountainous area of tectonic origin throughout the East European platform. The main rocks, outcrops and cliffs are formed of limestone, dolomite and gypsum (Poroshina, 2002; Chistova & Saksonov, 2004).

The climate of the region is continental. Average temperatures in July vary from +19.3°C in the northeast to +21.9°C in the southwest, in January from -13°C in western part to -14.5°C in the southeast. The annual mean precipitation does not exceed 300 mm in southwestern and ca. 450 mm in northeastern part of the Region (Poroshina, 2002).

The natural vegetation in the area is mainly represented by meadow steppes and desert steppes (Fig. 3) with fescue-feather, fescue-wormwood and sagebrush communities (Golov-

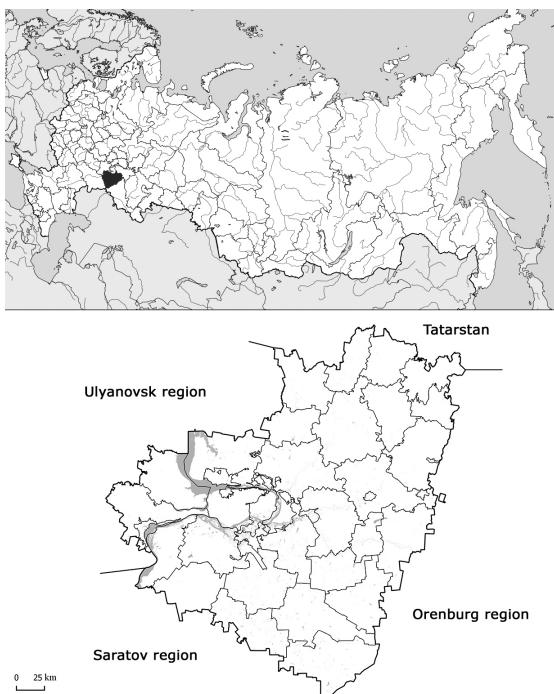


Fig. 1. Location of the study area (Samara Region).



Fig. 2. Bol'shaya Bakhilovaya Mt. and Volga river (I. I. Sprygin Zhigulevskij State Reserve).

lev & Prokhorova, 2008). Forests cover less than 13% of the total area and are confined either to northern part of the region or to the river valleys. Forests are mainly dominated by *Quercus robur*, while the other common trees are *Acer platanoides*, *Betula pendula* and *Tilia cordata*.

In the floodplain areas the most common trees are *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pendula*, *Populus nigra*, *P. tremula*, *Salix alba*, and *Ulmus glabra*. Pine forests which cover Zhiguli Mts. as well as limestone and dolomite sandy soils are considered relict (Gerasimova, 1971; Poroshina, 2002; Kudinov, 2007).

The modern landscape of the steppes mostly consists of agricultural areas as 95% of the Samara Region is economically managed. Main biodiversity is located within protected areas, viz. a nature reserve, two national parks and 214 monuments of nature (Poroshina, 2002; Golovlev & Prokhorova, 2008; Pazhenkov, 2010).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material was collected mainly by the second author during field studies in different parts of the Samara Region. Cited specimens are housed in the herbaria of Samara National Research University (SMR) and F. Skorina Gomel State University (GSU, one specimen). The material was examined using dissecting microscope MicroMed MC-2 and compound microscope MicMed 6; valuable and taxonomically critical



Fig. 3. Grass-wormwood steppe, monument of nature "Gryzly – desert steppes".

material was additionally studied using Nikon SMZ 745 and Nikon Eclipse 80i microscopes. Microscopic examination was done in water, 10% KOH (K), Lugol's iodine, directly (I) or after a KOH pre-treatment (K/I). Measurements were taken from water mount. Values are indicated as

(minimum–){X–SD}–{X+SD}{(–maximum)}, where X is the arithmetic mean and SD the corresponding standard deviation, followed by the number of measurements. The names of the main collectors in the species list are abbreviated as follows: EK – Evgeny S. Korchikov, VT – Vladimir P. Travkin.

THE SPECIES

ABROTHALLUS SUECICUS (Kirschst.) Nordin (anamorph) – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, 52°29'N, 51°03'E, linden forest, on *Ramalina pollinaria*, EK, 27.06.2004 (SMR 909).

Note. New to Es. Distribution in European Russia: Republic of Karelia (Zhurbenko & Ahti, 2005).

ATHELIA ARACHNOIDEA (Berk.) Jülich – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, Samara river floodplain, 52°59'N, 51°04'E, linden-aspen forest, on *Physcia tenella* and *Xanthoria parietina*, EK, 08.07.2008 (SMR 1148); same forest, 52°59'N, 51°03'E, oak-linden forest, on *Melanohalea exasperata*, EK, 29.06.2005 (SMR 647); Krasnoyarsk district, natural monument “Shilanskiye Genkovskiye Lesopolosy”, 53°30'N, 50°33'E, ash-maple forest, on *Xanthomendoza fallax* and *Physconia distorta*, K. S. Kharitonova, 04.09.2016 (SMR 1155).

Note. New to the Samara Region. This necrotrophic basidiomycete is common in European countries and inhabits lichens, algae, mosses, leaf litter, bark and wood (see e.g. Yurchenko & Golubkov, 2003). According to Zmitrovich (2004), the species is widely distributed throughout the whole territory of Russia.

CLYPEOCOCCUM HYPOCENOMYCIS D. Hawksw. – Borskij district, Buzulukskij Bor National Park, Koltubanovskij forest, 52°58'N, 52°00'E, pine forest, VT, 20.05.2014 (SMR 126); same forest, 52°58'N, 52°03'E, top of a ridge on the river Samara fluvial terrace, EK, 05.08.2014 (SMR 1161); Krasnoyarsk district, close to Zharenjy Bugor village, 53°33'N, 50°16'E, mixed forest, E. S. Sochneva, 11.06.2016 (SMR 1052); all on *Hypocenomyce scalaris* (thallus).

Note. New to Es. In European Russia, this widespread lichenicolous fungus has been reported from many regions from Kaliningrad Region

(Dedkov et al., 2006) to Komi Republic (Zhurbenko, 2007).

CORNUTISPORA LICHENICOLA D. Hawksw. & B. Sutton – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, 52°58'N, 51°01'E, birch forest, on *Hypogymnia physodes*, EK, 10.07.2004 (SMR 493).

Note. New to Es. Distribution in European Russia: Leningrad, Murmansk and Tula Regions, Republic of Karelia, and Komi Republic (Alstrup et al., 2005; Zhurbenko, 2004, 2009a; Himelbrant et al., 2013; Zhurbenko & Gudovicheva, 2013).

HETEROCEPHALACRIA PHYSCIACEARUM (Diederich) Millanes & Wedin – Borskij district, Buzulukskij Bor National Park, Koltubanovskij forest, 52°59'N, 51°59'E, mixed forest, on *Physcia aipolia* (thallus), VT, 20.05.2014 (SMR 502).

Note. New to Es. In European Russia the species was known in Leningrad Region, Republics of Bashkortostan, Karelia and Mordovia, and Komi Republic (Alstrup et al., 2005; Zhurbenko, 2007; Himelbrant et al., 2013; Urbanavichene et al., 2013; Urbanavichene & Urbanavichus, 2016).

INTRALICHEN CHRISTIANSENII (D. Hawksw.) D. Hawksw. & M. S. Cole – Stavropolskij district, I. I. Sprygin Zhigulevskij State Reserve, Gudronnyj area, 53°23'N, 49°45'E, birch forest, on *Lecania* sp. (apothecia), EK, 16.08.2008 (SMR 110); same district, Samarskaya Luka National Park, monument of nature “Mogutovaya Gora”, northern slope, 53°25'N, 49°30'E, herbage-feather grass steppe, on *Caloplaca* sp. (apothecia), E. D. Iljina, 10.06.2015 (SMR 535); same locality, western slope, 53°25'N, 49°29'E, herbage-feather grass steppe, on *Candelariella* sp., EK, 03.05.2014 (SMR 980); same place, on *Caloplaca saxicola*, E. D. Iljina, 03.05.2014 (SMR 1087).

Note. New to Es. In European Russia this widespread species has been reported from Komi Republic, Republic of Bashkortostan and Nenets Autonomous Area (Zhurbenko, 2008; Urbanavichus & Urbanavichene, 2011; Zhurbenko et al., 2012).

INTRALICHEN LICHENUM (Diederich) D. Hawksw. & M. S. Cole – Stavropolskij district, Samarskaya Luka National Park, 2 km E of Bolshaya Ryazan village, 53°15'N, 49°20'E, aspen forest, on *Lecania cyrtella* (apothecia), EK, 14.08.2008 (SMR 519, SMR 522).

Note. New to European Russia. The species has been recently reported as new to the country from the Republic of Adygeya (Zhurbenko & Kobzeva, 2016). Our samples were characterized by subspherical, brownish, simple, smooth conidia (3.0–3.4–4.4(–5.0) × (2.5–)2.8–3.7(4.5) µm, n=50, arranged in sometimes branched chains composed of 2–9 conidia. This species is most similar to *Intralichen christiansenii*, which differs in generally larger (5–8 × 4–6 µm) 1-septate conidia (Hawksworth, 1979; Hawksworth & Cole, 2002).

LICHENOCHEIRA OBSCUROIDES (Linds.) Triebel & Rambold – Borskij district, Buzulukskij Bor National Park, Koltubanovskij forest, 52°59'N, 51°59'E, mixed forest, VT, 20.05.2014 (SMR s. n.); same forest area, 52°59'N, 52°01'E, linden forest, VT, 04.08.2014 (SMR 1152); Kinel district, Kinel forest, 53°04'N, 51°03'E, aspen forest, EK, 22.07.2007 (SMR 177), all on thalli of *Phaeophyscia orbicularis*.

Note. New to Es. In European Russia the species was known from Kaliningrad and Leningrad Regions and Republic of Bashkortostan (Frolov & Paukov, 2005; Dedkov et al., 2006; Himelbrant et al., 2016).

LICHENOCONIUM ERODENS M. S. Christ. & D. Hawksw. – Borskij district, Buzulukskij Bor National Park, Koltubanovskij forest, 52°56'N, 52°01'E, pine forest, on *Hypogymnia physodes* (thallus), VT, 20.05.2014 (SMR 1151); Kamyshla district, 1 km N Novoje Usmanovo village, 54°07'N, 52°21'E, broadleaved forest, on *Evernia prunastri* (thallus), EK, 06.10.2010 (SMR 1149); Kinel district, Kinel forest, 53°25'N, 49°43'E, birch forest, on *Bryoria nadvornikiana* (thallus), EK, 07.07.2007 (SMR 123); same forest, 52°58'N, 51°02'E, pine forest, on *Parmelia sulcata* (thallus), EK, 02.07.2004 (SMR 26); Krasnosamarskoje forest, 52°59'N, 51°02'E, oak-linden forest, on *Melanohalea exasperata* (thallus), EK, 29.06.2005 (SMR 1127); same area, 52°59'N, 51°02'E, pine forest, on *Lecanora* sp. (apothecia), EK, 26.05.2005, (SMR 545); same area, 53°00'N, 51°00'E, birch forest, on *Parmeliopsis ambigua* (thallus), EK, 19.07.2005, (SMR 792); same area, 53°02'N, 51°04'E, oak-linden forest, on *Ramalina farinacea* (thallus), EK, 20.07.2003, (SMR 898); same area, 52°58'N, 51°01'E, birch forest, on *Usnea scabrata* (thallus), EK, 18.07.2004, (SMR 966); same area,

53°00'N, 51°02'E, oak forest, on *Evernia mesomorpha* (thallus), EK, 15.07.2004, (SMR 445); Krasnoyarsk district, close to Novyj Buyan village, 53°41'N, 50°03'E, oak-linden forest, on *Parmelia sulcata* (thallus), I. N. Goreslavets, 10.09.1989 (SMR 447); Syzran district, close to Rameno village, 53°14'N, 48°22'E, broadleaved forest, on *Evernia prunastri* (thallus), T. M. Matyunina, 07.09.2013 (SMR 443).

Note. New to Es. The species seems to be the most common lichenicolous fungus within the study area inhabiting a wide range of host lichens. *Lichenoconium erodens* is a widespread species in European Russia being known from Arkhangelsk, Kaliningrad and Leningrad Regions, Republics of Karelia and Mordovia, and Komi Republic (Zhurbenko & Santesson, 1996; Zhurbenko & Himelbrant, 2002; Zhurbenko, 2004; Dedkov et al., 2006; Himelbrant et al., 2014; Urbanavichene & Urbanavichus, 2016).

LICHENOCONIUM LECANORAE (Jaap) D. Hawksw. – Borskij district, Buzulukskij Bor National Park, Koltubanovskij forest, 52°57'N, 51°57'E, broadleaved forest, on *Flavopunctelia soredica* (thallus), EK, 01.08.2014 (SMR 1154).

Note. New to Es. In European Russia this widespread species was reported from Arkhangelsk, Kaliningrad, Leningrad and Murmansk Regions, Republic of Karelia and Komi Republic (Zhurbenko & Santesson, 1996; Zhurbenko & Himelbrant, 2002; Zhurbenko, 2004, 2009a; Dedkov et al., 2006; Kuznetsova et al., 2012).

LICHENOCONIUM PYXIDATAE (Oudem.) Petr. & Syd. – Borskij district, Buzulukskij Bor National Park, Koltubanovskij forest, 52°58'N, 52°03'E, top of a ridge on the river Samara fluvial terrace, pine forest, on *Cladonia botrytes* (apothecia), EK, 05.08.2014 (SMR 1162).

Note. New to Es. In European Russia the species has been reported from Arkhangelsk and Tula Regions (Zhurbenko & Santesson, 1996; Zhurbenko & Gudovicheva, 2013).

LICHENODIPLIS LECANORAE (Vouaux) Dyko & D. Hawksw. – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, Samara river floodplain, 52°59'N, 51°03'E, oak-linden forest, on *Lecania cyrtella* (apothecia), EK, 07.07.2004 (SMR 521); same locality, on *Lecanora* sp., EK, 23.09.2007 (SMR 668).

Note. New to Es. Distribution in European Russia: Leningrad Region and Republic of Mordovia

(Stepanchikova et al., 2011; Urbanavichene & Urbanavichus, 2016).

LICHENOSTIGMA MAURERI Hafellner – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, Samara river floodplain, 53°00'N, 51°00'E, birch forest, on *Usnea subfloridana* (thallus), EK, 10.07.2005 (SMR 970).

Note. New to Es. The species is widespread in European Russia being known from Leningrad and Vladimir Regions, Republics of Karelia and Mordovia, and Komi Republic (Alstrup et al., 2005; Zhurbenko, 2004; Kuznetsova et al., 2012; Zhurbenko et al., 2012; Zhurbenko & Zhdanov, 2013; Urbanavichene & Urbanavichus, 2016).

MUELLERELLA LICHENICOLA (Sommerf. ex Fr.) D. Hawksw. – Stavropolskij district, Samarskaya Luka National Park, monument of nature “Mogutovaya Gora”, northern slope, 53°25'N, 49°30'E, herbage-feather grass steppe, on *Caloplaca* sp. (apothecia), E. D. Iljina, 10.06.2015 (SMR 535).

Note. New to Es. Formerly known in European Russia from Arkhangelsk, Kaliningrad and Murmansk Regions and Republic of Bashkortostan (Zhurbenko & Santesson, 1996; Dedkov et al., 2006; Zhurbenko, 2009a; Urbanavichus & Urbanavichene, 2011).

MUELLERELLA PYGMAEA (Körb.) D. Hawksw. var. PYGMAEA – Stavropolskij district, I. I. Sprygin Zhigulevskij State Reserve, Strelnaya Mt., 53°26'N, 49°45'E, stony steppe, on *Acarospora cervina*, E. A. Petrova, 15.09.2012 (SMR 5).

Note. The species was previously reported for southern part of European Russia (lower portion of Volga basin) by Zhurbenko (2007) as *M. pygmaea* s. lat. on the basis of historical collection by V. P. Savicz. Here we report this species as new to the Samara Region. Distribution in European Russia: Komi Republic (Zhurbenko, 2009b; Zhurbenko et al., 2012).

NIESSIA CLADONIICOLA D. Hawksw. & W. Gams – Stavropolskij district, I. I. Sprygin Zhigulevskij State Reserve, Gudronnyj area, 53°23'N, 49°45'E, birch forest, on *Cladonia squamosa*, EK, 16.08.2008 (SMR 358).

Note. New to Es. In European Russia this infrequently recorded species has been reported

from Leningrad Region and Republic of Karelia (Alstrup et al., 2005; Himelbrant et al., 2014).

PHOMA GRUMANTIANA Zhurb. & Diederich – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, 52°59'N, 50°58'E, edge of pine forest, on *Cladonia rei* (primary thallus), EK, 06.05.2008 (SMR 1156).

Note. New to Russia. The species has previously been reported from Italy, Luxembourg, Svalbard, Spain and the USA (Diederich et al., 2007, 2009; van den Boom & Etayo, 2014; Brackel & Puntillo, 2016). Conidia in our specimen are simple, hyaline, oblong to ellipsoid, apically rounded, with a small guttule near each apex, (3.5–)3.8–4.5(–5.5) × (1.5–)1.8–2.1(–2.5) µm, 1/b (1.5–)2.0–2.4(–3.0), n=100. Other members of the genus parasitizing *Cladonia* species, *Phoma cladoniicola* Diederich, Kocourk. & Etayo and *P. foliaceiphila* Diederich, Kocourk. & Etayo, differ by larger conidia, which are 4.7–5.9 × 2.4–3.0 µm in *P. cladoniicola* and 5.8–7.1 × 2.2–2.7 µm in *P. foliaceiphila* (Diederich et al., 2007).

PRONECTRIA ROBERGEI (Mont. et Desm.) Lowen (anamorph) – Bolshechernigovskij district, monument of nature “Gryzly – desert steppes”, 51°46'N, 50°45'E, fescue-feather grass steppe, on *Peltigera didactyla* (thallus), EK, 09.05.2012 (SMR 1150).

Note. New to Es. The species is widely distributed in European Russia being previously known in Kaliningrad, Kaluga, Murmansk and Tula Regions, Republic of Karelia, Komi Republic and Nenets Autonomous Area (Zhurbenko & Himelbrant 2002; Zhurbenko, 2004, 2008; Dedkov et al., 2006; Urbanavichus et al., 2007; Gudovicheva & Himelbrant, 2012).

PYRENIDIUM CROZALSII (Vouaux) Nav.-Ros. & Cl. Roux – Stavropolskij district, I. I. Sprygin Zhigulevskij State Reserve, Strelnaya Mt., 53°26'N, 49°45'E, stony steppe, on *Caloplaca aurantia* on exposed calcareous rocks, E. A. Petrova, 15.09.2012 (SMR 1157).

Note. New to Russia. The species is rarely reported from Europe, being known from Austria (Hafellner & Wieser, 2000), Italy and France (Clauzade et al., 1989; Roux, 2012). Perithecia in small groups, black, ostiolate, c. 150 µm; hamathecium I-, K/I-; paraphysoids well developed, numerous, filiform, hyaline, septate, abundantly branched and anastomosed, longer

than asci, 1.5–2.0 µm wide; asci clavate, stipitate, bitunicate (fissitunicate), 8-spored, 80–95 × 15–17 µm; spores broadly ellipsoid, brown, (1–)3-septate, slightly constricted at the septa, with shorter end cells, guttulate, with 4 large guttules disappearing with age, (17.0–)18.9–22.1(–23.0) × (6.0–)6.5–8.2(–9.0) µm, n=25. The characteristics of our specimen fit mostly the original description in Vouaux (1913), except for he stated some mature asci to be 4-spored. *Pyrenidium actinellum* s. lat. has also been reported from *Caloplaca*, however, it differs by larger spores (20–30 × 7–10 µm) and mainly 4-spored asci (Navarro-Rosines & Roux, 2007).

TAENIOLELLA BESCHIANA Diederich – Borskij district, Buzulukskij Bor National Park, Koltubanovskij forest, 52°58'N, 52°03'E, top of a ridge on the river Samara fluvial terrace, pine forest, on *Cladonia phyllophora*, EK, 05.08.2014 (SMR 1164); Volzhskij district, close to “154 km” station, 53°26'N, 50°09'E, pine forest, on *Cladonia rei* (primary thallus), EK, 16.05.2005 (GSU 229).

Note. New to Es. Distribution in European Russia: Arkhangelsk and Murmansk Regions, Republics of Bashkortostan and Karelia (Zhurbenko & Santesson, 1996; Zhurbenko & Himelbrant, 2002; Zhurbenko & Alstrup, 2004; Urbanavichus & Urbanavichene, 2011).

TAENIOLELLA PHAEOPHYSCIAE D. Hawksw. – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, 52°59'N, 51°02'E, aspen forest, on *Phaeophyscia ciliata* (thallus), E. A. Gafiyatova & E. A. Petrova, 17.07.2009 (SMR 774); Volzhskij district, Srochinskije Mts., close to the city of Samara, 53°20'N, 50°13'E, broadleaved forest, on *P. orbicularis*, Ju. V. Khot'ko, 29.09.2016 (SMR 1153).

Note. New to Es. In European Russia the species has been reported from Tula Region and Komi Republic (Zhurbenko et al., 2012; Zhurbenko & Gudovicheva, 2013).

TAENIOLINA SCRIPTA (P. Karst.) P. M. Kirk – Stavropolskij district, I. I. Sprygin Zhigulevskij State Reserve, Malinovyj ravine, 53°25'N, 49°40'E, maple-linden forest, on *Biatora carneoalbida* (thallus), E. A. Sinichkin, 15.09.2013 (SMR 108).

Note. New to Es. The species inhabits different substrates and its occurrence on lichens is secondary. In European Russia it was previously

reported from the Leningrad Region growing on bark of *Betula pubescens* and lignum (Mel'nik, 2000).

TRICHONECTRIA RUBEFACIENS (Ellis & Everh.) Diederich & Schroers – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, 52°59'N, 51°03'E, oak-linden forest, on *Melanohalea exasperata* (thallus), EK, 29.06.2005 (SMR 647).

Note. This is the second record for the Samara Region after Korchikov et al. (2015). The species was recently reported as new to European (Kuznetsova et al., 2012; Gudovicheva & Himelbrant, 2012) and Asian (Zhurbenko, 2014) parts of Russia.

XANTHORICOLA PHYSICAE (Kalchbr.) D. Hawksw. – Kinel district, Krasnosamarskoje forest, 53°02'N, 50°59'E, black poplar woodland, on *Xanthoria parietina* (apothecia), EK, 23.09.2007 (SMR 1011).

Note. New to Es. Formerly known in Russia from Leningrad Region (Stepanchikova et al., 2011), Stavropol Territory (Zhurbenko & Kobzeva, 2014) and Republic of Mordovia (Urbanavichene & Urbanavichus, 2016).

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