

Two interesting new records for the Spanish lichen flora

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In this paper we report two first records, *Absconditella lignicola* new for Spain, and *Opegrapha zwackhii*, a novelty for the Iberian Peninsula. We also comment on their ecology and distribution.

Key words: Ascomycetes, ephemeral lichens, lichenicolous fungi, Iberian Peninsula.

Resumen: Pérez-Ortega, S. & Fernández-Mendoza, F. 2009. Dos citas interesantes para la flora líquénica española. *Bot. Complut.* 33: 5-6.

Absconditella lignicola se cita por primera vez en España. *Opegrapha zwackhii* representa una novedad para la flora de la Península Ibérica. Se ofrecen comentarios sobre la ecología y distribución de ambas especies.

Palabras clave: Ascomycetes, líquenes efímeros, hongos liquenícolas, Península Ibérica.

Spanish lichen flora is relatively well studied, having a recently compiled checklist (Limona & Hladun 2001) that is being actively updated (Hladun & Llimona 2002-2007). However, many parts of the territory remain either unexplored or understudied (Pérez-Ortega & Álvarez-Lafuente 2006), therefore new species appear quite frequently in the course of floristic studies. During a survey of beech forest lichens in the Principado de Asturias, we found several new and interesting species. We report here two taxa that are new to the Spanish lichen flora.

RESULTS

Absconditella lignicola Vězda & Pisút

Absconditella Vězda is a genus of inconspicuous taxa, frequently overlooked due to their small size and their ephemeral nature. They occur on lignum or plant debris, forming very thin thalli, gelatinous when wet and usually intermingled with algal films. Eight species of this genus are known for Europe, of which apart of *A. lignicola* and *A. delutula* (Nyl.) Coppins & H. Kilius are reported to occur in the Iberian Peninsula. *A. lignicola* can be confused

with *Dimerella pineti* (Shrad.) Vězda, species that grows on similar habitats. The similar apothecia of both species can lead to confusion. Still, *Dimerella* has slightly larger apothecia (0.2-0.4 mm in diam) that are only sunken when young, whereas in *A. lignicola* are smaller (0.1-0.2 mm in diam) and tend to remain sunken. Furthermore, the two species are best differentiated by the presence of *Trentepohlia* as photobiont in *Dimerella* (chlorococcoid green algae in *Absconditella*) and the I+ blue reaction of its hymenium (I- or I+ yellow in *Absconditella*). A thorough description of *A. lignicola* can be found in Vězda & Pisút (1984) and Bielczyk & Kiszka (2001). Our specimens were found growing intermingled with algal films both on bryophytes and lignum (beech stump).

A. lignicola is a widespread species, occurring in both hemispheres. It has been previously reported in North America (Nash *et al.* 1998) and Tasmania (Kantvilas 2005), and in Europe from the British Isles (Coppins 1994), Czech Republic (Vězda & Pisút 1984), Estonia (Halonen *et al.* 2000), Eslovakia (Vězda & Pisút 1984), France (van den Boom *et al.* 1995), Italy (Thor & Nascimbene 2007), Lithuania (Motiejūnaitė & Andersson 2003), Poland (Bielczyk & Kiszka 2001). In the Iberian Peninsula it was previously found in Portugal (van den

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Boom & Giralt 1996), and this locality means a new addition to the Spanish lichen flora.

Specimens examined: **SPAIN: ASTURIAS:** Consejo de Ponga, San Juan de Beleño, Bosque de Peloño, on bryophytes at beech base, 43° 10' 11.88" N, 5° 7' 33.72" W, S. Pérez-Ortega & F. Fernández-Mendoza (herb. Pérez-Ortega). Concejo de Somiedo, Pola de Somiedo, young beech forest close to La Peral, 43° 2' 58.07" N, 6° 13' 53.54" W, S. Pérez-Ortega & F. Fernández-Mendoza (hb. Pérez-Ortega). **GERMANY: HESSEN:** Rhein-Main-Tiefland. Laubwald nördlich der Hanauer Straße, auf entrindetem Holz von liegendem Kiefernstamm, TK 6018-314. 21-IX-2008, R. Cezanne & M. Eichler (herb. Pérez-Ortega).

Opegrapha zwackhii (Zwackh) Källsten

Ascomata roundish, up to 0.6 mm. Hymenium 65-80 µm tall, hyaline to slightly pale brown, ascus *Opegrapha*-type, up to 60 µm tall, 8-spored. Ascospores (3-) 4-septate, hyaline when young and brown to dark brown when old, finely verrucose, 17-15 × 3-5 µm. This species grows lichenicolous on *Phlyctis argena* (Sprengel) Flotow., and

it is characterized in the context of the lichenicolous species of *Opegrapha* by its roundish ascomata and its 4-septate ascospores. It seems to be a boreal-temperate species, already known from Austria (Hafellner 1994), Estonia (Suija 2005), Germany (Scholz 2000), Great Britain (Hawksworth 2003), Sweden (Santesson *et al.* 2004). Up to now, our specimen represents the southernmost record of the species. New to the Iberian Peninsula.

Specimens examined: **SPAIN: ASTURIAS:** Consejo de Ponga, San Juan de Beleño, Bosque de Peloño, on *Fagus sylvatica* on *Phlyctis argena*, N43°10'11.88" W5°7'33.72", S. Pérez-Ortega & F. Fernández-Mendoza (herb. Pérez-Ortega).

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