

## MAPPING OF LICHENS IN HUNGARY - ITS ROLE IN CONSERVATION

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The first lichen maps in Hungary were prepared with the aim of air pollution mapping. Only zone maps of Debrecen (Felföldy 1942), Szeged (Gallé 1979) and Budapest (Farkas 1982) are available. Dot maps have been prepared at the area of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Pilis Biosphere Reserve (Farkas 1988, 1990). These maps represent a relatively small area of Hungary. Since these areas are affected by a great amount of air pollution, they are poor in lichen species.

During their lichenological exploration of Hungary Antos, Boros, Fóris, Gallé, Gyelnik, Házslinszky, Kiss, Kiszely-Vámosi, Koren, Pokorny, Sántha, Solymosi, Szatala, Timkó and Verseghy collected a large amount of lichenological data (herbarium and published records). The mapping of lichens in the entire area of Hungary has been started just recently. It was already known that a number of lichen species have become endangered or extinct. Our aim is to prepare a database of the herbarium and published records including the grid reference numbers as well as the classical collecting data. The international specifications of the UTM-grid have been successfully applied in the Flora Europaea project (using ca. 25x25 km<sup>2</sup> squares). We will therefore use this system and one of the Central European Flora project for our lichen database. During the first period of the mapping project the International Lichen Mapping Committee compiled a list of 42 species to map urgently throughout Europe. We are responsible for mapping the European distribution of *Cladonia magyarica* and *Solorinella asteriscus*.

From the bioindication point of view it is necessary to separate the data from before and after 1975. Seven of these 42 lichen species are known to occur in Hungary. Seven of them are known only from data older than 15 years. If these species are not found during resurvey of the original habitat, it is necessary to register them as being extinct in Hungary. There is only a slight hope of finding them at a locality where they were unknown before. Studying areas of little known lichen flora, lichens regarded as absent in Hungary or overlooked might be found.