

ABSCONDITELLA LIGNICOLA (STICTIDACEAE) – LICHEN SPECIES NEW TO BELARUS**Pavel BELY**

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Abstract

Bely P., 2012: *Absconditella lignicola* (Stictidaceae) – lichen species new to Belarus [*Absconditella lignicola* (Stictidaceae) – nauja kerpių rūšis Baltarusijoje]. – Bot. Lith., 18(2): 164–165.

Absconditella lignicola Vězda et Pišút is reported for the first time in Belarus. It was recorded in one locality, growing on decaying pinewood on the opencast peatland in Brest region, the south of Belarus.

Keywords: *Absconditella lignicola*, lignicolous lichens, Brest region, Belarus.

The genus *Absconditella* was established by VĚZDA (1965) to accommodate crustose species with very fine, membranous, ephemeral thalli and minute pale apothecia. All species of the genus occur mostly on acid, moist substrata, usually covered by a thin algal film. According to many authors the genus is more common in reality, but because of very thin, inconspicuous, ephemeral thalli and minute apothecia its representatives are often overlooked and their distribution is poorly documented (BIELCZYK & KISZKA, 2001).

During our field work in the south of Belarus in 2011, some material on *Absconditella* genus was collected, which was identified as *Absconditella lignicola* Vězda et Pišút – a species hitherto unknown from Belarus. This paper presents the data on its morphology, ecology and distribution in Belarus, and contributes to its known distribution in Europe.

The study is based on voucher specimens collected by the author. The apothecia were cut into sections, and I and K/I were used to check the colour reaction of the hymenium. Additionally, the size, shape and structure of apothecia and ascospores were examined by stereo- and light microscopy. The voucher herbarium specimen is deposited at the Herbarium of the Central Botanical Garden of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (MSKH).

THE SPECIES AND SPECIMEN CHARACTERISTICS

Absconditella lignicola Vězda et Pišút, Nova Hedwigia 40: 344. 1984.

The Belarusian specimen had typical characteristics of the species (BIELCZYK & KISZKA, 2001; COPPINS, 2009). It formed thin, crustose, dark green, granular-leprose thallus adhering to the substratum, gelatinous when moist. Small (0.1–0.3 mm in diam.) pale cream apothecia scattered on the thallus. Mature ascospores ellipsoid, thin-walled, 3-septate, 11–15 × 4.5–5.3 μm. Spot reactions (K, C, KC, P) are negative.

The specimen was collected on the opencast peatland (peat field ‘Morochno’) in Stolin district, Brest region, the south of Belarus (Fig. 1). It was found growing on decaying wood of *Pinus sylvestris* log semi-immersed in water on the bank of a ditch, in a well-lit situation. *A. lignicola* occurred together with *Hypocenomyce scalaris* (Ach.) M. Choisy and *Placynthiella icmalea* (Ach.) Coppins.

Absconditella lignicola is widespread in temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere (BIELCZYK & KISZKA, 2001) and is known from the countries neighbouring to Belarus. It is widespread throughout



Fig. 1. Locality of *Absconditella lignicola* in Belarus

Poland and locally even very common (CZARNOTA & KUKWA, 2008). It is also known in the Ukraine, Russia, Latvia and Lithuania (BIELCZYK & KISZKA, 2001; BLINKOVA et al., 2003; MOTIEJŪNAITĖ et al., 2006; MOTIEJŪNAITĖ, 2009). It has broad ecological amplitude and grows both in natural forests as well as in completely artificial coniferous monocultures or heavily managed woodlands. It seems to occur in almost every type of older forest, where some decaying wood is laying (CZARNOTA & KUKWA, 2008). Therefore, it is possible to expect that *A. lignicola* will be more or less widespread on the territory of Belarus, when the ecological requirements are met.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED

Belarus, Brest region, Stolin district, 1.5 km S of Luka village, opencast peatland (peat field 'Morochno'), 51° 53' 34" N, 26° 37' 15" E, on decaying wood of *Pinus sylvestris* log semi-immersed in

water on the bank of a ditch, in a well-lit situation, 26 April 2011, leg. P. Bely, MSKH 4252.

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