

SHORT NOTES –  
 TRUMPI PRANEŠIMAI

***PYCNORA SOROPHORA (LECANORACEAE) – LICHEN SPECIES NEW TO BELARUS***
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**Abstract**

Tsurykau A., Khramchankova V., Motiejūnaitė J., 2012: *Pycnora sorophora* (Lecanoraceae) – lichen species new to Belarus [*Pycnora sorophora* (Lecanoraceae) – nauja kerpių rūšis Baltarusijoje]. – Bot. Lith., (18)1: 80–82.

*Pycnora sorophora* (Vain.) Hafellner was reported for the first time in Belarus. It was recorded in three localities, growing on bark of *Pinus sylvestris* in various types of pine forests in Gomel region, the southeastern Belarus.

**Keywords:** *Pycnora sorophora*, crustose sorediate lichens, Gomel, Belarus.

The lichen biota of Belarus, though having a long history of studies (YATSYNA & YURCHENKO, 2007) is still insufficiently known. Especially understudied are crustose sterile species that have gained some attention only during the last decade (CZYŻEWSKA & KUKWA, 2005; GOLUBKOV & KUKWA, 2006). This paper aims to contribute to the knowledge on this group of lichens.

The genus *Pycnora* was established by J. Hafellner (HAFELLNER & TÜRK, 2001) to accommodate crustose (occasionally subsquamulose) species with usually conspicuous black pycnidia and alectorialic acid as the main component of secondary chemistry that were formerly included into the genus *Hypocnomyce* M. Choisy. Currently the genus encompasses four species with circumpolar, predominantly boreal distribution: *Pycnora leucococca* (Vain.) R. Sant., *P. praestabilis* (Nyl.) Hafellner, *P. sorophora* (Vain.) Hafellner and *P. xanthococca* (Sommerf.) Hafellner.

Recent fieldwork in the southeastern Belarus has yielded quite a rich material of sorediate sterile spe-

cies, part of which appeared to be *Pycnora sorophora* – a new to Belarus lichen. The lichen is widely distributed in boreal and temperate Europe and is not uncommon in the countries neighbouring to Belarus – Lithuania and Poland (KUBIAK et al., 2003) as well as close-laying regions of Russia (URBANAVICHUS & HIMELBRANT, 2008) and the Ukraine (KONDRATYUK et al., 1998).

The specimens were collected during the Scots pine forests biotical inventory in 2011. The lichen biota was investigated in different types of pine forests. Seven study plots were selected: *Pteridium aquilinum*-type (2 plots), *Pleurosium*-type, *Ledum palustre*-type, *Oxalis acetosella*-type, *Cladonia*-type and *Calluna vulgaris*-type pine stands. The size of each plot was limited by forest sub-blocks and occupied 2–12 ha. In each plot 10 trees were selected randomly and all lichens were registered on them. *Pycnora sorophora* was found on five trees in three forest types.

### The species and specimen characteristics

*Pycnora sorophora* (Vain.) Hafellner, Hafellner & Türk, Stapfia 76: 158 (2001).

The Belarusian specimens had typical characteristics of the species (fide TIMDAL, 1984; COPPINS, 2009): thallus crustose, areolate, areolae weakly convex, light grey or yellowish brown, soralia apical, yellowish to yellowish brown, soredia farinose, thallus and soralia K+ yellow, C+ red, KC+ red, P+ yellow. Pycnidia present in all specimens, to 200 µm in diam. Conidia ellipsoid, 3.5–4.8 × 1.9–2.7. Apothecia were not found in the Belarusian material.

The specimens were collected exclusively on bark of *Pinus sylvestris* L. in various types of pine forests in Gomel and Loyew districts, Gomel region, the southeastern Belarus (Fig. 1). All habitats were well-lit with varying degree of humidity – from humid *Ledum palustre*-type to rather dry *Calluna vulgaris*-type stands. *P. sorophora* occurred together with *Chaenotheca ferruginea* (Turner ex Sm.) Mig., *Chaenothecopsis pusilla* (Ach.) A. F. W. Schmidt, *Cladonia* spp., *Hypocenyomyce scalaris* (Ach. ex Lilj.) M. Choisy, *Hypogymnia physodes* (L.) Nyl., *Lecanora pulicaris* (Pers.) Ach., *Lepraria elobata* Tønsberg, *Lepraria incana* (L.) Ach., *Lepraria jackii* Tønsberg, *Micarea prasina* s. l.



Fig. 1. Localities of *Pycnora sorophora* in Belarus

Notably, TIMDAL (1984) showed *Pycnora sorophora* to be almost exclusively a lignicolous species in Scandinavia; in Poland the species equally occurs on the lignum and as an epiphyte as well (KUBIAK et al., 2003, 2010; KUKWA & ZDUŃCZYK, 2011), but in

Lithuania it is most often found on bark of pines (KUBIAK et al., 2003, MOTIEJŪNAITĖ, unpublished data).

**Specimens examined:** Belarus, Gomel region; Gomel district, 1 km NE of Tereshkovichi village, *Pteridium aquilinum*-type pine forest, 52° 15' N, 30° 58' E, 3 Aug. 2011; Gomel district, 1.8 km NE of Asovina village, *Ledum palustre*-type pine forest, 52° 13' N, 31° 02' E, 8 Aug. 2011; Loyew district, 5 km W of Kawpenj village, *Calluna vulgaris*-type pine forest, 51° 56' N, 30° 35' E, 9 Aug. 2011.

All voucher specimens are deposited at the Belarusian Polesye Scientific Herbarium of Francisk Skorina Gomel State University (GSU).

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