Taxonomic composition and practical importance of lichens of Algeti National Park

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Algeti National Park was taxonomically uninvestigated. In 1915-1919 works by Woronow and Steiner based on collections by Koenig, Nikolaeva and others, mentioning 27 species of lichens from Manglisi vicinity were published. In the botanical section of the National Museum of Georgia five species collected by Zedelmeyer in surroundings of Manglisi in 1920 are kept.

Our collection at present contains specimens collected in 2005-2012. In the collection 175 species of 65 genera were identified; of them *Flavopunctelia flaventior*, *Hypotrachyna revoluta, H. sinuosa* are new for the lichen flora of Georgia.

Epiphytic lichens are specifically the most diverse. Saxicolous lichens are also represented by quite a large number of species. Terricolous species group is the smallest. Lichens of Algeti National Park are widespread species pertaining to multi-regional group.

Lichens have important functions both in natural ecosystems and in human life. Owing to their biological characteristics these organisms are one of the best bioindicators. Lichens are suceessfully used for air quality monitoring. Use of lichens as food my human and animals is noteworthy. Lichens serve as food for reindeers, especially in winter as lichens do not change by seasons. One of the field of the human use of lichens is medicine. It is known that in the Middle Ages medicines prepared from lichens were widely used as stimulators, tonics, antibiotics. Lichens acids are potent for use in phytopathology. Other practical uses of lichens are also known such as use in perfumery as aroma fixatives, material for stable dye production, etc.