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Lavar – en fältguide

MOBERG, R. and HULTENGREN, S. 2016. *Lavar – en fältguide* [Lichens – a field guide]. Naturcentrum, Stenungsund, 244 pp.

This elegant book in Swedish is a substantially updated edition of the earlier well-known *Lavar, en fälthandbok* (*Lichens – a field guide*) by Roland Moberg and Ingemar Holmåsen from 1982, but this time is co-authored by Svante Hultengren. The new book is a richly illustrated guide to the lichen flora of the Nordic countries, containing general descriptions of the commonest foliose and fruticose species, and a selection of crustose species. Keys are provided to most foliose and fruticose species occurring in the Nordic countries, an area where lichens are an important part of the biodiversity, dominating many habitats, particularly saxicolous and terricolous ones in mountain regions and corticolous and lignicolous ones in boreal forests. About 2700 species occur in the Nordic countries, of which about two thirds are crustose species, including lichenicolous fungi, the latter group numbering about 500 species.

Examples of major changes from earlier volumes are found in the family Collemataceae, including the genera *Enchylium* and *Scytinium*, in the Parmeliaceae, where the new genus *Montanelia* appears, the Carbonicolaceae with *Carbonicola*, the Megasporaceae accepting the genus *Circinaria*, including several old *Aspicilia*-species, the Lecideaceae with *Romjularia*, and particularly the Teloschistaceae with several new genera, *i.e.* *Athallia*, *Calogaya*, *Flavoplaca*, *Polycauliona*, *Rusavskia*, and *Variospora*. Most of these segregates have arisen from molecular investigations and will probably settle with time.

The nomenclature follows the regularly updated list of Scandinavian lichens and lichenicolous fungi, “Santesson’s list”, available at the web page <http://www.evolutionsmuseet.uu.se>

The major part of the species presented in the book are the conspicuous fruticose and foliose lichens, which generally can be identified with or even without a hand lens. The large crustose group of lichens in the book are primarily by easily identified species, namely those with morphological characters where no detailed microscope is necessary, nor data from secondary chemistry or DNA-analyses.

The book is pleasantly illustrated with 350 high quality colour images of species and their characteristic habitats, a few black and white illustrations describing basic anatomical features. More than 300 distribution maps are appended. This field version of 244 pages has a practical soft cover for outdoor-use. Roland Moberg was responsible for the text, whereas Svante Hultengren has taken most of the photographs.

The book, which is strongly recommend for purchase, will be appear in bookstores, but can be ordered directly from Naturcentrum AB where it costs 295 SEK + shipping; to order, contact: ncab@naturcentrum.se.

Ingvar Kärnefelt and Arne Thell

