B5_024_PA: A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON LICHEN LITTERFALL IN A TROPICAL SECONDARY FOREST IN THAILAND Sumrit Senglek, <u>Pitakchai Fuanngkeaw</u>*, Chaiwat Boonpeng, Kansri Boonpragob Lichen Research Unit, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok 10240, THAILAND *e-mail: pfuangkeaw@gmail.com

Abstract: Lichens are important for ecosystems, involving in nutrient cycles, being food sources and nesting materials for some creatures. The natural loss rate of lichens is essential for conservation purpose and maintaining ecological integrity. Thus, the main objective of this study was to preliminarily observe lichen litter falls in a successional forest. Foliose (lobed-like) lichen litterfall was surveyed in 25 2-m radius circular plots in each of 3 locations at the secondary forest in Khao Yai National Park. Tree density at each location was estimated using the Point Center Quarter Method. Diameters of tree branches that hosted the lichens were also measured. A total of 626 lichen thalli, 7 genera, 9 species were found at 47 out of 75 plots. Overall, there were 6,645 thalli/ha could be seen in this forest ecosystem. *Parmotrema* spp., *Bulbothix* sp. and *Dirinaria* sp. were common lichens. A higher number of thalli and frequency of occurrence were discovered at locations with lower tree density and smaller tree branches. This result suggests that the lichen loss rate could be influenced by tree density. More information such as seasonal effects, forest types and floristic data on lichen litterfall are necessarily for the conservation of lichens and forest management at this area.