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SP11_008_OA: SPECIES DIVERSITY OF LICHEN FAMILY GRAPHIDACEA IN MANGROVE FORESTS: EASTERN AND UPPER SOUTHERN PARTS OF THAILAND

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Abstract:

Lichen is a composite organism consisting of fungus and alga and/or cyanobacterium functioning in a symbiotic association. Graphidaceae is the largest family of tropical crustose lichens and it is one of the most common inhabitants in mangrove forests. The objective of this work was to study the species diversity of lichen family Graphidaceae in mangrove forests in two regions: the eastern part and upper southern part of Thailand. All 3,159 corticolous specimens were collected from mangrove phorophytes during 2012-2019 and identified based on morphological and chemical characteristics. Even though the two locations were similar in the ecosystem, the species numbers exhibited differences. The eastern mangrove habitats were more diverse yielding 25 genera 76 species, compared with 15 genera 45 species from the upper southern forests; however, there was high species similarity between both areas (31 species, 51.2%). Thirty-five and 15 species were found only in the eastern and upper southern parts, respectively. *Graphis analoga* was a common species in East, whereas *G. dendrogramma* was a dominant species in upper South. Twenty-six species had less than three specimens observed which revealed the fragility of these biodiversity resources.