

Biodiversity of *Usnea* (Parmeliaceae; Lecanorales) of Phu Luang Wildlife Sanctuary at Loei Province, Thailand

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The fruticose lichen genus *Usnea* (Lecanorales, Ascomacota) belongs to the family Parmeliaceae. This genus is characterized by the presence of axis layer along the fruticose thalli and cortical substance, usnic acid. The aims of this study were to i) taxonomically identification of lichen in the genus *Usnea* at Phu luang wildlife sanctuary and ii) preserve specimens at RAMK herbarium for taxonomic references. Specimens were collected from four difference forest types including mixed deciduous forest, lower montane scrub forest, lower montane rain forest, coniferous forest. Totally 700 specimens were identified into 2 subgenera and 10 species. Subgenera *Eumitria* had one species, *Usnea baileyi*. Subgenera *Usnea* had 9 species namely, *U. bicolorata*, *U. exasperata*, *U. himantodes*, *U. perhispidella*, *U. roseola*, *U. rubicunda*, *U. solediosula*, *U. undulata* and *U. PL1*. Diagnostic character of *U. PL1* was closely *U. undulata* but arrived difference in structure of morphological, chemical and expected to be a new species. Distribution of *Usnea* were explicated in most lower montane scrub forest, coniferous forest, lower montane rain forest and mixed deciduous forest respectively.

Key word: usnea, parmeliaceae, fruticose lichen, usnic acid

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