

---

ANNALES  
UNIVERSITATIS MARIAE CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA  
LUBLIN – POLONIA

VOL. LXXI, 2

SECTIO C

2016

---

JOLANTA BYSTREK<sup>1</sup>, JAN BYSTREK<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Emeritus Director of the Library of the Institute of Philosophy  
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

<sup>2</sup>Emeritus Prof. of the Department of Botany and Mycology, Institute of Biology  
and Biochemistry, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, ul. Akademicka 19, 20-033 Lublin,  
Poland; Department of Botany, Institute of Biology, University of Białystok,  
ul. Ciołkowskiego 13, 15-245 Białystok, Poland

*Usnea balcanica* Bystr. – a new *Usnea* species in Poland  
(Ascomycota, Parmeliaceae)

---

SUMMARY

*Usnea balcanica* Bystr., a new species in Poland, was collected in the Roztocze National Park in 1962. It grew on a branch of an old beech, in a light beech forest, in the Obroc reserve. This very rare species is known so far only from the mountain forests of the Balkan Peninsula (11).

**Keywords:** *Usnea balcanica*, the lichens of Poland, Roztocze National Park

STRESZCZENIE

*Usnea balcanica* Bystr., nowy dla Polski gatunek porostu, został zebrany przez Bystrka na terenie Roztoczańskiego Parku Narodowego w 1962 r. Brodaczka bałkańska rosła na konarze sędziwego buka w widnym lesie bukowym w rezerwacie Obroc. Jest to gatunek bardzo rzadki, znany dotychczas tylko z górskich lasów Półwyspu Bałkańskiego (11).

**Słowa kluczowe:** *Usnea balcanica*, porosty Polski, Roztoczański Park Narodowy

INTRODUCTION

In the middle of the 20th century, species from the genus *Usnea* were common organisms occurring worldwide from the polar regions (mainly the *Neuropogon* subgenus) to tropical zones.

In Eurasia and North America, they occurred mainly in mountain and boreal forests and old deciduous and mixed forests (e.g. Białowieża Primeval Forest, Central Roztocze) as well as mixed forests of the lower montane zone in the Carpathians. They grew mainly on tree bark as well as wood and, only few species, on a rock substrate. In a world monograph (38), Motyka mentioned 451 species from the genus *Usnea*. Since that time, approximately 150 new species of the genus *Usnea* have been described, also through taxonomic verification conducted with modern research methods. This was facilitated by the available herbarium specimens. One of the richest collections of the genus *Usnea* representatives is the herbarium of the Department of Botany and Mycology UMCS, Lublin, Poland. The collection created by Professor J. Motyka comprises tens of thousands of specimens collected in thousands of localities in different geographic zones of the globe. The collection was completed by e.g. Rydzak, Sulma, Fabiszewski, Tatarkiewicz, and Bystrek. Many specimens were collected by foreign lichenologists. Many publications and reports have been prepared based on studies of materials gathered in the Lublin Herbarium (LBL-L). These include the floristic studies by Bystrek et al. and Rydzak (44), taxonomic papers (3, 7, 8, 9, 11), and regional-scale studies from e.g. the Lublin region (22) and the Świętokrzyskie Mountains (31). Data on the occurrence of the *Usnea* spp. in Poland were published by Motyka in 1962 (43). Data on its occurrence in Poland in the second half of the 20th century have been provided in many publications by other authors (e.g. 4, 5–7, 12–31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 45, 46, 49, 50). The descriptions of the habitats indicate that *Usnea* spp. colonised in Poland mainly branches and dying twigs in mature coniferous, mixed, and deciduous forests. They were found on roadside trees as well as those growing along riverbanks and in midforest clearings. Several species grew on wood (e.g. old fences and walls of buildings in forest settlements). Epiphytes formed their own associations, e.g. *Usneetum comosae* and *Usneetum dasy-pogae*, and significantly contributed to formation of other associations, e.g. *Evernietum divaricatae* and *Lobarietum pulmonariae* (e.g. *Usnea ceratina* as a companion species) and associations of the order *Parmelietalia physodo-tubulosae*. A peculiarity of the mixed forest in lowland Poland was the widespread occurrence of species that were listed as rare species by Motyka, e.g. *Usnea cavernosa*, *U. ceratina*, *U. glabrata*, *U. florida*, *U. faginea*, *U. prostrata*, and *U. rugulosa*.

## MATERIAL

The *Usnea balcanica* was described as a new species to science by Bystrek in 1994 (11) based on a specimen collected in 1986 by Murat Murati. This specimen grew on an old fir tree in a fir forest on the Korytnik mountain slope in Mitrowica Kosowska (Kosovo, former Yugoslavia). The holotype is stored in the lichen herbarium of UMCS in Lublin – LBL-L 1344.

## SHORT DIAGNOSIS OF THE SPECIES

Thallus pale green or light green, up to 60 cm long, pendulous, submonopodially branched, in the form of a single, clearly thicker branchlet profusely and irregularly fruticose; holdfast conspicuous, shortly blackened, slightly dilated. Secondary branchlets with varied thickness and length, the shortest protruding, longer ones arcuate, the longest loosely pendulous and anisotomically fruticose. Main branchlets up to 2-mm diameter, cylindroid, irregularly transversely cracked, irregularly flattened, and unevenly segmented. Cortex smooth, slightly shiny, with low warts; cortex up to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, medulla white, up to 350  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, solid, white axis. Warts only on braches with fruiting bodies; fruiting bodies numerous, large, ca. 1 cm diameter, terminate branch growth, varied length cilia on the thallus, absence of soralia, K–, PD–, C–, KC+lut.

Upon the taxonomic verification of the specimen described in this paper, which was collected by Bystrek, in the Obroc reserve in Central Roztocze in 1962 and deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Botany and Mycology UMCS, Lublin, Poland (LBL-L 1345). This lichen grew

on the bark of an old beech in the association *Fagetum carpaticum* and was initially identified by Bystrek as *Usnea faginea* Mot.

Currently, the authors have identified this specimen as *Usnea balcanica*. This is a new species in the lichen biota in Poland.



Fig. 1. *Usnea balcanica* Bystr. (3x smaller).



Fig. 2. *Usnea balcanica* Bystr., thallus fragment (slightly magnified).



Fig. 3. Known localities of *U. balcanica* Bystr.: n – *locus classicus*, l – new locality in Roztocze.

#### DISCUSSION

The second half of the 20th century was a period of mass extinction of *Usnea* representatives caused by an increase in the concentration of gaseous pollutants in the air. All species were included in the Red List (31, 32). In lichen indication tables, they are regarded as bioindicators of clean air (4). Simultaneously, they are indicators of forest naturalness.

Investigations of herbarium materials, in particular such rich collections as those established by J. Motyka, have great importance for assessment of changes in the lichen biota. It is probable that this collection comprises representatives of yet undescribed species, e.g. *Usnea balcanica*. Perhaps through examination of undescribed herbarium collections, e.g. of Sulma from the Czywczyńskie Mountains or Rydzak from Białowieża Primeval Forest, new information about the localities of *U. balcanica* and other rare species of genus *Usnea* will be provided.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors sincerely thank Dr. Philippe Clerc, who inspected the specimen described in this paper and suggested that it is the species *U. balcanica*.

## REFERENCES

1. Asahina Y. 1956. Lichens of Japan 3. *Usnea*. Tokyo.
2. Bystrek J. 1962. Studia nad florą porostów Tatr. 1. Rodzaj *Alectroria* Ach. w Tatrach polskich. *Fragm. Flor. Geobot.* 8, 2: 191–204.
3. Bystrek J. 1970. Rozmieszczenie *Usnea silesiaca* Mot. w Europie. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 25: 167–169.
4. Bystrek J. 1974. Wrażliwość porostów na zanieczyszczenia atmosferyczne. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 29: 413–419.
5. Bystrek J. 1979. Porosty rezerwatu Obroc w Roztoczańskim Parku Narodowym. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 34: 9–24.
6. Bystrek J. 1980. Porosty rezerwatu Czerkies w Roztoczańskim Parku Narodowym. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 35: 53–64.
7. Bystrek J. 1983. *Usnea carpinea* Bystr., nouvelle espèce de lichen dans foretes de Białowieża. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 38: 41–43.
8. Bystrek J. 1992. *Usnea plicata* and *U. prostrata* (Lichenes, Usneaceae) in Europe. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 47: 119–123.
9. Bystrek J. 1993. *Usnea capillaris* Mot., *U. rugulosa* Vain. and *U. scrobiculata* Mot. in Europe. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 48: 127–135.
10. Bystrek J. 1994. Studien über Flechtengattungen *Usnea* in Europa. 1–69. Wydawnictwo UMCS.
11. Bystrek J. 1994. *Usnea hirta* (L.) Mot. in Europe. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 49: 19–30.
12. Bystrek J., Anisimowicz A. 1981. Porosty rezerwatu leśnego Budzisk w Puszczy Knyszyńsko-Białostockiej. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 36: 109–117.
13. Bystrek J., Bystrek J. 1972. Materiały do flory porostów Suśca na Roztoczu Środkowym. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 27: 160–189.
14. Bystrek J., Chwojko A. 1982. Porosty rezerwatu leśnego Karczmisko w Puszczy Knyszyńsko-Białostockiej. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 37: 215–222.
15. Bystrek J., Flisińska Z. 1981. Porosty Wyżyny Lubelskiej. *Fragm. Flor. Geobot.* 27(3–4): 239–260.
16. Bystrek J., Górzyńska K. 1977. Porosty Pojezierza Łęczyńsko-Włodawskiego. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 32: 53–68.
17. Bystrek J., Górzyńska K. 1979. Porosty okolic Radzyna Podlaskiego (studium florystyczne). *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 34: 25–36.
18. Bystrek J., Górzyńska K., 1981. Porosty Roztocza. *Fragm. Flor. Geobot.* 27 (1–2): 213–237.
19. Bystrek J., Górzyńska K., Sawa K. 1981. Gatunki rodzaju *Usnea* Wigg. emend. Ach. w Makroregionie Lubelskim. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 36: 135–145.
20. Bystrek J., Karczmarz K. 1987. Zmiany we florze porostów i mszaków nadrzewnych w rezerwacie leśnym na Bukowej Górze w Roztoczańskim Parku Narodowym. *Parki Nar. Rez. Przyr.* 8(2): 5–14.
21. Bystrek J., Karczmarz K. 1988. Epifityczna flora i jej zanikanie pod wpływem zanieczyszczenia powietrza. Strefy skażeń środowiska w woj. chełmskim na podstawie lichen- i brioidynkacji. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 43: 185–213
22. Bystrek J., Kolanko K. 1991. Epifityczna flora Usneaceae i jej wymieranie w Puszczy Białowieskiej. *Folia Soc. Sc. Lubl.* 32(1–2): 3–7.
23. Bystrek J., Kolanko K. 2000. Porosty (Lichenes) w Puszczy Knyszyńskiej. Instytut Biologii, Zakład Botaniki, Uniwersytet w Białymstoku, 98.
24. Bystrek J., Matwiejuk A. 1994. Porosty rezerwatu Monkinie w Wigierskim Parku Narodowym. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 49: 31–42.
25. Bystrek J., Matwiejuk A. 1999. Porosty obszarów chronionych i proponowanych do ochrony w lasach wigierskich. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 54: 93–124.

26. Bystrek J., Ożóg K. 1974. Materiały do flory porostów okolic Krasnobrodu na Roztoczu Środkowym. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 29: 259–270.
27. Bystrek J., Przepiórkowska A. 1994. Porosty rezerwatu Sernetki w Wigierskim Parku Narodowym. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 49: 43–58.
28. Bystrek J., Sulma T. 1986. Materiały do flory porostów Karpat. Epifityczna flora porostów w Gorganach centralnych (Karpaty ukraińskie, ZSRR). *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 41: 21–32.
29. Bystrek J., Wójciak H. 1985. *Usnea tenax* Mot. nowy dla Polski gatunek porostu w Tatrach. *Folia Soc. Sci. Lubl. Biol.* 27: 41–46.
30. Bystrek J., Wójciak H. 1994. *Usnea motykana* (Usneaceae), a new lichen species from the Carpathians. *Fragm. Florist. Geobot.* 39(1): 117–120.
31. Cieśliński S., Bystrek J. 1983. Gatunki rodzaju *Usnea* Wigg. em. Ach. na obszarze Gór Świętokrzyskich i problem ich wymierania. *Rocznik Świętokrzyski. Kieleckie Towarzystwo Naukowe* 10: 101–118.
32. Cieśliński S., Czyżewska K., Fabiszewski J. 1988. Czerwona lista porostów zagrożonych w Polsce. PWN, Warszawa.
33. Cieśliński S., Tobolewski Z. 1988. Porosty (Lichenes) w Puszczy Białowieskiej i jej zachodniego przedpola 1 (suppl.) *Cartogr. Geobot.* 1: 1–216.
34. Fabiszewski J. 1968. Porosty Śnieżnika Kłodzkiego i Gór Bialskich. *Mon. Bot.* 26 (1): 115.
35. Frey E., Motyka J. 1936. Les lichens des hautes altitudes au Ruwenzori. *Résultats botaniques de l'expédition scientifique Belge au Ruwenzori par A. Zahlbruckner & L. Hauman. Publ. par l'Inst. Royal Colonial Belge. Sc. Nat. Méd.* 5(2): 1–31.
36. Glanc K., Tobolewski Z. 1960. Porosty Bieszczadów Zachodnich. *Prace Kom. Biol. Pozn. Tow. Przyjaciół Nauk* 21(4): 1–108.
37. Leczewicz W. 1954. Porosty Białowieży. *Fragm. Flor. Geobot.* 1(2): 38–47.
38. Motyka J. 1936–38. *Lichenum generis Usnea. Studium monographicum. Pars systematica.* Leopoli, Lwów, 651.
39. Motyka J. 1947. *Lichenum generis Usnea studium monographicum. Pars generalis.* *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 1: 277–476.
40. Motyka J. 1954. O kilku nowych i mniej znanych gatunkach rodzaju *Usnea*. *Fragm. Flor. Geobot.* 1(2): 25–37.
41. Motyka J. 1956. Die Flechtengattung *Usnea* Wigg. im Wirunga-Gebiet (Zentralafrika). *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 11: 103–150.
42. Motyka J. 1961. *Usneae* a R.A. Maas Geesteranus in Africa orientali et australi anno 1949 collectae. *Personia* 1 (4): 415–431.
43. Motyka J. 1962. Porosty (Lichenes) *Usneaceae*. *Flora polska. Rośliny zarodnikowe Polski i ziem ościennych.* 5.2. PWN Warszawa, 353.
44. Rydzak J. 1969. Badania nad stanem ilościowym flory porostów nadrzewnych na Roztoczu. *Annales UMCS, Sectio C* 24: 41–63.
45. Tobolewski Z. 1955. Porosty Gór Stołowych. *Prace Kom. Biol. Pozn. Tow. Przyjaciół Nauk* 16(1): 1–100.
46. Tobolewski Z. 1958. Porosty Pienin. *Prace Kom. Biol. Pozn. Tow. Przyjaciół Nauk* 17(5): 1–124.
47. Truong C., Clerc P. 2013. Eumitrioid *Usnea* species (Parmeliaceae, lichenized Ascomycota) in tropical South America and the Galapagos. *Lichenologist* 45: 383–395.
48. Truong C., Clerc P. 2016. New species and new records in the genus *Usnea* (Parmeliaceae, lichenized Ascomycota) from tropical South America. *Lichenologist* 48: 71–93.
49. Warمیńska B. 1973. Materiały do flory porostów nadleśnictwa Kosobudy. *Fragm. Flor. Geobot.* 19(1): 91–100.
50. Zielińska J. 1967. Porosty Puszczy Kampinoskiej. *Mon. Bot.* 24: 1–130.