

Overview of *Xanthoparmelia* taxa from South Korea including the description of two new species (Parmeliaceae, Ascomycota)

UDENI JAYALAL¹, PRADEEP K. DIVAKAR², SANTOSH JOSHI¹, SOON OK OH¹, JUNG A KIM¹ & JAE-SEOUN HUR^{1,3}

¹Korean Lichen Research Institute, Sunchon National University, Sunchon 540–742, Korea

²Departamento de Biología Vegetal II, Facultad de Farmacia, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Plaza de Ramón y Cajal s/n, 28040 Madrid, Spain

³Author for correspondence, email: jshur1@sunchon.ac.kr

Abstract

In the genus *Xanthoparmelia*, species boundaries are based on morphological and chemical features such as the presence and/or absence of secondary metabolites, diagnostic reproductive structures, isidia morphology, and color of lower surface. Two new species of *Xanthoparmelia* are described from South Korea, *X. kolriana* with cylindrical isidia containing atranorin and salazinic acid as major components in the medulla together with cortical usnic acid, while *X. volcanicola* is characterised by a red coloured medulla, and subglobose isidia. The characteristics of *Xanthoparmelia* species and their distribution in South Korea are outlined and an identification key given. Additionally, we used ITS ribosomal DNA sequences to assess the monophyly of *Xanthoparmelia* species from South Korea. Our results reveal that traditionally circumscribed species were not recovered as monophyletic clades. Further, we here show that ITS is insufficient to estimate a well-supported phylogenetic hypothesis, but suggests that traditional taxonomy may not reflect natural groups. This communication provides an important framework for future studies assessing species boundaries in *Xanthoparmelia* species in South Korea.

Key words: ITS rDNA, molecular phylogeny, new species, endemic species, character distribution, pigmented medulla, volcanic rock

Introduction

The genus *Xanthoparmelia* belongs to the large family Parmeliaceae (Crespo *et al.* 2010, Eriksson *et al.* 2004, Lumbsch & Huhndorf 2007), with over 800 accepted species world-wide (Blanco *et al.* 2004). Of these at least 600 species have a yellow green upper surface and contain cortical usnic or isousnic acids (Blanco *et al.* 2005). The first synopsis of *Xanthoparmelia* was published by Hale in 1990. This synopsis included 406 species mainly from South Africa and Australia region. Subsequently many additional species have been recognized in Australasia (Elix 2003a, 2007, Elix *et al.* 1986, 2000, Elix & Kantvilas 2009, Galloway 2007), South Africa (Nash & Elix 1987, Elix 1999, 2002), North America (Nash & Elix 2004), South America (Nash *et al.* 1995, Eliasaro & Adler 2002) and Asia (Divakar & Upreti 2005, Kurokawa 1989a, 1989b, 1989c, Sharma & Kurokawa 1990).

Early molecular studies carried out by Crespo *et al.* (2001) revealed that species from the genera *Xanthoparmelia*, *Neofuscelia*, *Paraparmelia* and *Chondropsis* were recovered together within a single large clade. On the basis of these findings, the older generic name of *Chondropsis* was transferred to the genus *Xanthoparmelia* by Hawksworth and Crespo (2002). Subsequently, also the genera *Albornia*, *Karoowia*, *Namakwa*, *Neofuscelia*, *Omphalodiella*, *Paraparmelia*, *Placoparmelia* and *Xanthomaculina* were synonymized with *Xanthoparmelia* (Elix 2003b, Blanco *et al.* 2004, Thell *et al.* 2006, Amo de Paz *et al.* 2010 a, b).

Although *Xanthoparmelia* species occur commonly throughout Asia, specimens from Asia have been poorly represented in molecular phylogenetic analyses to date. Twenty-eight *Xanthoparmelia* species have been recorded for China, including Hong Kong (Wei 1991, Aptroot & Sipman 2001), nine for Japan (Harada *et al.* 2004), two for Thailand (Wolseley *et al.* 2002) and three species for Taiwan (Wei 1991). *Xanthoparmelia* is particularly well represented in the Korean Peninsula, while only three species have been recorded for North Korea, including *X. subramigera* (Gyeln.)

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