

Abstract

This thesis summarizes the current knowledge of photobionts of the lichen family Verrucariaceae. It classifies the free-living photobionts systematically, mentions their main morphological features, distribution, and ecology, and notices their participation in the symbiosis. Subsequently, it also describes and characterizes the fungal component of mycobionts, their phylogenetic position, the main morphological features, distribution, and the most common habitats. Finally, it studies the influence of the environment, mycobiont, and other factors in the occurrence of particular photobionts in lichens.

Keywords: Verrucariaceae, photobiont, mycobiont, lichen, diversity, symbiosis, characterization