



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
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**Robert Lücking, Author of *Foliicolous Lichenized Fungi*,
Awarded Prestigious 2008 Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle
Prize for Best Monograph**

**Published for the Organization for Flora Neotropica
by The New York Botanical Garden Press**

In bestowing what can be considered a “botanical Pulitzer” prize, the Geneva Société de Physique et d’Histoire Naturelle (SPHN) awarded the Botany Prize for 2008 to Robert Lücking, author of *Foliicolous Lichenized Fungi*. Known as the Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle Prize in honor of the seminal Swiss taxonomist De Candolle (1778-1841), whose concept of plant competition directly influenced Charles Darwin’s theories, the award recognizes the author or co-authors of the best monograph of a genus or family of plants. The prize is open to authors of any nationality or domicile, writing in Latin, French, German, English, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese.

Foliicolous Lichenized Fungi, published in October 2008, is unique in treating an ecologically defined group and representing a wide range of systematic lineages. The book treats an enigmatic group of organisms: lichens that grow on living leaves of vascular plants in tropical rain forests of the New World. It covers more than 600 species in over 70 genera, 23 families, and eight orders, or about 70 percent of all lichenized fungi species occurring worldwide. Leaf-dwelling lichens are unusual in that they are small and have very short life-cycles. Representatives can be found in almost all major lineages of lichenized fungi. Up to 50 species can be found on a single leaf the size of a hand, and up to 300 species within a hectare of tropical rain forest. No other lichen group exhibits such extraordinary diversity.

The book is an excellent introduction to the study of tropical lichens in general. More than 600 species are fully illustrated with habitat photographs and line drawings. The work features natural keys to families and artificial keys not only to genera and species but also to usually sterile or anamorphic taxa. It allows identification of a wide range of samples from different perspectives and provides an understanding of the phylogenetic relationships among foliicolous lichens. This is a work that will stimulate lichen research in the tropics for many years to come.

All taxa are keyed out in the book and each species is treated in detail, including photographic illustrations and line drawings. The book features a lengthy introductory chapter covering the history of foliicolous lichen research, morphology and anatomy, taxonomy and systematics, evolution and phylogeny, ecology, and biogeography, interactions with other organisms, and potential applications of these tiny organisms, such as their vital role as bioindicators.

About the Author

Robert Lücking, Ph.D., is Research Collections Manager (Mycology) at the Field Museum in Chicago, where he has worked since August 2001. His specialty is tropical foliicolous and crustose lichens, including taxonomy and systematics, floristics and biogeography, ecology, biodiversity, bioindication, and lichen–invertebrate interactions. Dr. Lücking studies the role of lichens in tropical ecosystems and uses them as models to address questions such as microclimatic zonation and biodiversity maintenance in highly diverse communities. He has published more than 200 scientific papers and has traveled to many

regions in the Neotropics and southern South America. A native of Germany, he received his doctorate from the University of Ulm.

About the Organization for Flora Neotropica

The Organization for Flora Neotropica, established in 1964, is the only organization with the mission of producing a published botanical inventory of the American tropics. This region, also known as the Neotropics, supports the richest and most poorly known plant communities of any tropical flora. The main objective of the organization is to publish the monographic series Flora Neotropica (of which Lücking's work is volume 103). The series has been published by The New York Botanical Garden Press since 1967.

About The New York Botanical Garden Press

Established in 1896, the New York Botanical Garden Press (www.nybgpress.org) is one of the largest publishing programs of any independent botanical garden. It publishes and disseminates the results of research by scientists around the world, in pursuit of its mission to advance knowledge about the classification, conservation, and uses of plants and fungi.

PRODUCT DETAILS

Price: US \$125

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Series & Volume: Flora Neotropica Monograph 103

Hardcover: 866 pages; over 250 figures

Language: English. Abstract also provided in Spanish.

ISBN: 0893274917

Dimensions: 7 x 10 inches

INQUIRIES AND ORDERS

Foliicolous Lichenized Fungi can be purchased by calling 718.817.8721 or online at <http://www.nybgshop.org/NYBG-Press-p-1-c-333.html>

Orders can also be placed with:

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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