

A LICHEN CATALOGUE OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES OF CANADA

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The central Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are collectively referred to as the “prairie provinces” and cover a wide variety of ecosystems, including prairie, boreal forest, alpine, and tundra. Unfortunately, little is known about the lichen diversity of this area. The most recent catalogue of lichen collections from this area was published in 1972 and listed a total of 542 species and 669 taxa. We have taken on the task of revising and updating this catalogue. The resulting database will hopefully prove useful for anyone investigating the biodiversity, ecology, or phytogeography of the region. Records of biodiversity are increasingly important given the rise in disturbance due to human activity and climate change. We hope to use the data collected for this project to educate both scientists and the general public about the lichens around them.