**KUV : A NEW PROBE FOR LICHEN IDENTIFICATION**

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In a previous publication, we have shown that two depsides (Glomelliferic acid and Glomellic acid) extracted from *Xanthoparmelia delisei* or *X.* *loxodes*, exhibited a blue fluorescence at 365 nm when aqueous solutions of KOH (reagent K) were added. These two secondary metabolites are substituted on the C-6 by an alkyl chain with a keto function in beta-position (2-oxo chain). This fluorescence was confirmed with other depsides such as Confluentic, 2’-*O*-Methylmicrophyllinic, 2’-*O*-Methylsuperphyllinic, Olivetoric or Arthoniac acids whereas adding KOH to 2-oxo alkyl C-6 substituded depsidones (-Collatolic acid, -Alectoronic acid, Physodic acid) results in suppressing fluorescence. A physico-chemical study, including additional depsidones with the same 2-oxo chain in C-6, was performed in order to explain this particular behaviour. The chemical mechanism of this reaction allows us to explain the different behavior of depsides and depsidones. Therefore, we propose a new probe, called **KUV,** which has been efficiently applied to the determination of morphologically close lichens species such as *Xanthoparmelia pulla* and *X. delisei, Xanthoparmelia verruculifera* and *X. loxodes, Porpidia macrocarpa* and *P. cinereoatra.* Another important application of this **KUV probe**, concerning the metabolites revelation on TLC plates is also illustrated.