**REEXAMINATION OF THE *Lecanora saligna*-GROUP**

Cristóbal Ivanovich1, Christian Printzen1

1Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum Frankfurt

E-mail: \*cristobal.ivanovich@senckenberg.de

*Lecanora* s. lat*.* is a genus of crustose lichens comprising c. 1000 recognized species and subdivided into several morphology-based groups. Some of these groups have been supported through several independent phylogenetic analyses and segregated as new genera. One of the remaining groups that has been seldomly studied by molecular methods in much detail, *the L. saligna*-group, includes corticolous and lignicolous crustose lichens, usually containing isousnic or usnic acid (or both) as major secondary metabolites. Previous research reported *L. saligna*-group as being paraphyletic (Ivanovich et al., 2021), where *L. varia* clade arose within the *L. saligna*-group, and the genera *Protoparmeliopsis* and *Rhizoplaca* emerged sister to the *L. saligna*-group. As part of our ongoing project ‘Lecanomics’, a re-evaluation of the *L. saligna*-group is being conducted, where four new mitochondrial markers have been developed based on draft-genomes, totalling a 6-loci dataset comprising the majority of the recognized species circumscribed to the *L. saligna*-group. Preliminary results based on the sequences of the specimens across *L. saligna*-group had shown to be in conflict with the paraphyletic status of the group. However, the hypothetical new species reported on the previous research have been confirmed in this study, providing stronger support for a geographical separation of lineages hypothesis; for example, most (but not exclusively) North American specimens studied, preliminary identified as *Lecanora saligna* and *L. albellula*, form two supported clades separate from their European namesakes. The enhanced dataset with added four mitochondrial loci provided well-supported and clear delimitation of the species within the *L. saligna*-group. In addition, five potential new species have been confirmed or discovered by phylogenetic analysis, here preliminarily named ‘Lecanora sp. A’, ‘Lecanora sp. B’, ‘Lecanora sp. C’, ‘Lecanora sp. D’ and ‘Lecanora sp. E’.