***Parmelia encryptata* is probably a widespread species, restricted to natural forests, with notes on re-evaluation of its molecular characteristics**

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*Parmelia encryptata* A. Crespo et al. (Parmeliaceae, Ascomycota) is a cryptic species, morphologically indistinguishable from *P*. *sulcata* Taylor, which was previously found only in the Iberian Peninsula and Ireland. Here, we present first records of *P*. *encryptata* from Poland (Białowieża Forest) and Switzerland with the discussion of its possible forest relict character and re-evaluation of its molecular data. Also the abundance and shape of rhizines in both species are discussed. The obtained results indicate that re-evaluated characteristics of *P*. *encryptata* should be used in its identification, i.e. seven nucleotide positions in nucITS rDNA distinguish *P*. *encryptata* from *P*. *sulcata*. Both species are morphologically and chemically identical, however the differences in the abundance and shape of rhizines is worth to be considered in *P*. *encryptata* recognition. The presence of *P*. *encryptata* in the Białowieża Forest together with other locations in Killarney National Park in Ireland, the slope of the Iberian Mountain and the Swiss Alps suggests that *P. encryptata* can be forest lichen species, which probably maintained in isolated populations in large, well preserved forest ecosystems in Europe.

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