**MICROLICHENS IN BRAZIL: CURRENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE**

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Microlichens form the majority of the Brazilian lichen flora. In the past decade, research has speeded up considerably, and in many states microlichens were investigated for the first time. As a result, the number of species known from a state was usually raised with several hundreds, often from below 10. More interestingly, new species to science were found on every excursion. About 300 new species have been described from Brazil this decade, and a similar number is already known but awaiting description. In some cases, there were more species newly described in a genus than were previously known. Brazil is the country with the largest number of lichen species, even if only a percentage of them are actually known. The regional differences are large, with *Astrothelium* being the most speciose genus in the Amazon, *Parmotrema* in the South and *Polymeridium* in the Northeast. Surprisingly however, many of the newly described species turn up in many places, even states in different regions in the country.