Research

The Krzemionki Opatowskie Reserve: a refuge of lichen diversity in Central Poland

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Abstract

The Krzemionki Opatowskie Reserve being an archaeological site, protects the largest and best preserved Neolithic mine of striped flintstone in Europe. The floristic-phytosiociological studies indicate the high value of undisturbed nature in the reserve. From the lichenological standpoint, this site is of supraregional importance. The lichen biota contains great species and ecological diversity. A total of 151 lichen species have been found in the reserve. The species represent all lichen groups linked to specific habitats. The most numerous is the biota of epiphytic lichens. Among the others, are numerous groups of typically forest species, albeit rare in Poland, including some threatened with extinction (e.g. CR, EN categories). The reserve is an important refuge of diversity in forest lichens associated with old forests in Central Poland.

Key words

Lichens, Krzemionki Opatowskie Reserve, human impact, Central Poland.