

Institute of Biology of the Komi Science Center of the Ural Branch
of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Federal Research Center "Komi Science Center of the Ural Branch
of the Russian Academy of Sciences"
Komi branch of the Russian Botanical Society
Komi branch of the Society of Plant Physiologists of Russia

THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "LICHENS: FROM MOLECULES TO ECOSYSTEMS"

July 1-5, 2024 Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, Russia

Welcome to Syktyvkar for the International Conference!

The Institute of Biology of the Komi Science Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences invites you to take part in the International Conference "Lichens: from molecules to ecosystems", which will be held on July 1-5, 2024 in Syktyvkar (Komi Republic, Russia)

The following key topics will be discussed at the Conference:

1. Biodiversity and distribution of lichens
2. Lichens in plant communities and ecosystems
3. Experimental biology and ecology of lichens
4. Modern methods of lichens' investigations and herbarium collections databases creating
5. Lichenology and education (roundtable discussion)

Please be advised that **the deadline for the registration and materials submission** has been extended until **25 May 2024** due to the long May holidays in Russia. **The deadline for organising fees and registration for excursions is 10 June 2024.**

A personal invitation will be sent by the organising committee to those interested in attending the conference and/or the lichen field excursion. To request an invitation, please send a free-form letter to the conference address at lichens2024@ib.komisc.ru.

The conference working languages are English and Russian.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION

We would like to inform you that in addition to face-to-face participation, an online presentation will be organised for those who are unable to attend our conference. Online

broadcasting of reports and breakout sessions will be provided with the help of the «TrueConf» programme (<https://trueconf.com>, https://trueconf.com/download/client/windows/trueconf_client_x64.exe?v=8.4.0.1956).

EXCURSION PROGRAMME

Following the conclusion of the main conference programme, three one-day field trips will be offered to those interested **on 4 July**. The field trips will take place in the following locations:

- The Bely State Nature Reserve of Republican significance (Syktyvdinsky and Ust-Vymsky districts of Komi Republic).

- The Paraskiny Lakes State Nature Reserve of federal significance (Ukhta district of Komi Republic).

- The Lekhta Projected State Nature Reserve (Priluzsky district of the Komi Republic).

The approximate cost of the excursion is **up to 2000 RUB**. This covers travel from Syktyvkar to the place of excursion and back, lunch, and the excursion programme. Payment for excursions can be made on arrival to the conference.

Further details about each excursion can be found below and on the conference website in the "**EXCURSION PROGRAMME**" section. **Please note that registration for the excursion is only available until 10 June 2024. Each excursion will be held on the same day, so please choose carefully.**

The Bely State Nature Reserve of Republican Significance

The Bely Reserve is located in the middle taiga subzone on the right coast of the Vychegda River, 45 km north-west of Syktyvkar. Its area is 7800 ha. The Reserve was established in 1989.

The landscape of the reserve is mainly represented by typical middle taiga watershed hog terraces cut by river and stream valleys. The key protected component of the reserve is pine forests of various ages. Spruce forests, birch forests and mixed spruce-birch forests are widespread along stream valleys. The ecosystems of the protected area are marked by regular human activity, including traces of trampling, felling and fires. "Bely" is one of the most popular wildlife sanctuaries in the Republic, especially among mushroom hunters.

Two species of protected vascular plants are found on the reserve: *Pulsatilla patens* (L.) Mill. and *Poa remota* FORSELL. One species of moss, one species of fungi and three species of lichens included in the Red Book of Komi Republic are also present. A total of 139 lichen species have been identified in the reserve.

A 3.5 km long eco-trail, "Visiting Versa", has been set up in the Bely Reserve. The route passes through a pine forest, stream terrace, and forest glades. The excursion comprises 15 stations, each of which features a stand with information about the specially protected natural territory and its ecosystem, inhabitants, plants, soil composition and Komi people hunting traditions. We will be accompanied on the excursion by an Reserve employee.

The Paraskiny Lakes Nature Reserve of federal significance

Reserve is located in the middle and northern taiga zones, 55 km south-west of Ukhta city, in the basin of the Ukhta River and Tobys River. Its area is 17.11 thousand ha. The reserve includes landscapes of the Middle Timan. The reserve was established in 2021. Its unique features include karst relief forms, which have been formed as a result of the dissolution of carbonate rocks and appear in the form of sinkholes up to 20-25 m in diameter and up to 20 m deep. The reserve also includes three karst lakes, which are included in the Federal Reserve. Bolshoye Paraskino Lake (approximately 450-256 m) is situated in a forest area and has a maximum depth of 17.8 m. Goluboe Lake and Kaufman's Lake are smaller, with depths ranging from 3 to 15-20 m.

The vegetation cover of the reserve is primarily pine forest, with spruce and birch forests occupying a relatively insignificant area. A total of 334 species of spore and seed plants have

been identified within the reserve. Among these, the endemic European North-East species *Thymus paucifolius* is notable. The presence of carbonate soils in the reserve has led to the appearance of rare calcophytic plants, including *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Dactylorhiza cruenta*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Dracocephalum ruyschiana* and *Paeonia anomala*.

There are 219 species of lichens and fungi in the Paraskiny Lakes Reserve. The greatest diversity of lichens is characterised by pine forests. Many of them are rare in the Komi Republic. For example: *Acolium inquinans*, *Bryoria fremontii*, *Chaenothecopsis fennica*, *Cheiromicina flabelliformis*, *Felipes leucopellaeus*, *Hypogymnia austerodes*, *Lobaria pulmonaria*, *Microcalicium ahlneri*, *Peltigera kristinssonii*, *Peltigera collina*, *Ramalina roesleri*, *Vulpicida juniperinus*.

The reserve offers an ecological trail, accessible via an archway. Along the way, visitors will find wooden sculptures and benches where they can relax. There are also swings for children. The excursion will be accompanied by an employee of the Paraskiny Lakes Nature Reserve.

The Lekhta Projected State Nature Reserve

The Lekhta Nature Reserve has been established with the objective of rare lichen species habitats preserving. The reserve is located on the watershed of the rivers Eshtom'el and Sotchem'el, 2.2 km west of the Lekhta village (Priluzsky district of Komi Republic).

The territory includes parts of the Loemsky district forestry of Priluzsky forestry. The protected area is 1046 ha.

The territory includes areas of old-growth aspen-spruce and spruce forests, which play a key role in supporting rare lichen species, including representatives of the non-moral complex, whose habitats are known only in the south of Komi Republic.

The protected area is home to numerous rare lichen species, including *Dendriscosticta gelida*, *Cetrelia olivetorum*, *Heterodermia speciosa*, *Lobaria pulmonaria*, *Nephromopsis laureri*, *Usnea longissima*. The species listed in the Red Data Book of Komi Republic (2019) are characterised by a relatively high frequency of occurrence, with *Lobaria pulmonaria*, *Heterodermia speciosa*, *Tuckneraria laureri* and numerous identified populations being notable examples.

It should be noted that the forests currently allocated to the sanctuary were partially logged during the winter period of 2017-2018. Following negotiations with scientists and the PA Centre, an agreement was reached with loggers to halt logging in rare lichen species habitats. This will allow the area to be reserved.

HOTELS

Below is a list of the most popular hotels in Syktyvkar.

Hotel	Address	Price 2024, RUB/day
Avalon Hotel	Internatsionalnaya St., 33 Phone: +7 (8212) 259 809, +7 (8212) 280 999 e-mail: info@hotelsyktvkar.ru https://hotelsyktvkar.ru	Single – from 5500; Double – from 5500; One-room – from 8800; Suite – from 9800; Apartments – from 15900
Syktyvkar Hotel	Kommunisticheskaya St., 67 Phone: +7 (8212) 257 515, e-mail: info@avalonhotel.ru https://avalonhotel.ru	Standard – from 2465; Comfort – from 4335; Suite – from 6375; Apartments – from 10200
Hotel SNEGIRI	Kommunisticheskaya St., 21/1 Phone: +7 (800) 101-54-27, e-mail: snegirihotel11@mail.ru http://snegirhotel.ru	Standard – from 3000; Studio-comfort – from 3800; Two-room comfort - 4200

Hotel "Pelys"	Babushkina St., 4; Phone: +7 (8212) 24-24-77, +7-900-978-76-75; e-mail: gostpelys11@mail.ru https://hotel-pelys.com	Single – from 1600; Double – from 2800; Triple – 3600
Hotel Stroitel	Karla Marksa str. Karla Marksa, 182 tel. 8 (8212) 24-67-73, https://stroitel11.ru	Comfort – 2900; Comfort "Plus" – 3100; Suite – 3850
Hostel "Klukva"	Sovetskaya St., 80 tel+79121520011; e-mail: info@klukva-hostel.ru http://klukva-hostel.ru	Inexpensive rooms from 2 to 6 beds

You can also use <https://sutochno.ru/>, <https://ostrovok.ru>, www.167000.ru, <https://2gis.ru/syktyvkar> to search and book accommodation.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The Conference will include free excursions to the historical part of Syktyvkar and to the museums of the institutes of the Komi Scientific Centre of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A friendly dinner will also be organised (recording and payment during the conference).

We would be grateful for any proposals for the organisation and holding of the international conference "Lichens: from molecules to ecosystems" at e-mail lichens2024@ib.komisc.ru