

Helmut Mayrhofer – a tribute on the occasion of his 65th birthday

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Abstract: BILOVITZ P.O., SPRIBILLE T., RESL P. & HAFELLNER J. 2018: Helmut Mayrhofer – a tribute on occasion of his 65th birthday. – *Herzogia* 31: 341–358.

Helmut Mayrhofer has been contributing to understanding the systematics and diversity of lichenized fungi for over four decades. In this paper introducing a Festschrift on the occasion of his 65th birthday, we review the impact of Helmut Mayrhofer's scientific work on the systematics of lichenized fungi with special emphasis on the family Physciaceae and highlight his studies of the lichen flora of the Balkan Peninsula, the Alps and other regions. We also present a bibliography of his publications from 1973 to the present.

Zusammenfassung: BILOVITZ P.O., SPRIBILLE T., RESL P. & HAFELLNER J. 2018: Helmut Mayrhofer – eine Würdigung anlässlich seines 65. Geburtstages. – *Herzogia* 31: 341–358.

Helmut Mayrhofer trägt seit über vier Jahrzehnten zum Verständnis der Systematik und Vielfalt der Flechten bei. In diesem einleitenden Beitrag einer Festschrift anlässlich seines 65. Geburtstages geben wir einen Überblick über den Einfluss von Helmut Mayrhofer's wissenschaftlichen Arbeiten auf die Systematik der lichenisierten Pilze im Besonderen der Physciaceae und beleuchten seine Forschungen bezüglich der Flechtendiversität der Balkanhalbinsel, der Alpen und anderer Gebiete. Eine Publikationsliste des Jubilars (1973–2018) wird vorgelegt.

Key words: Bibliography, biography, eponymy, Festschrift, lichenology, Physciaceae, *Rinodina*.

Introduction

For over four decades, Helmut Mayrhofer's energy and dedication to the study of lichens has been felt across the lichenological community. Closest to home, his commitment to lichen research has shaped the dynamics of the various incarnations of the botany department at the University of Graz, and its ripple effects have left an indelible mark on the study of lichen diversity in the Balkans and as far away as Central Asia, Australia and North America. In the present paper we will attempt to present an overview of Helmut Mayrhofer's scientific interests, activities and achievements, and reflect on how Helmut is perceived by students and colleagues. In the lichenological community Helmut is well known as an expert of crustose members of the family Physciaceae and as an author of numerous contributions on the lichen flora of the Alps and southeastern Europe. However, his scientific interests are broad, and in addition to his main fields of research, he has published papers on other groups of lichenized as well as phytoparasitic microfungi, and to date has authored or co-authored no fewer than 201 scientific publications.

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