

Parmelia Ach. s. str. in the southern Baltic region

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The lichen genus *Parmelia* in the southern Baltic region

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Summary

The distinguishing morphological and chemical characters of nine species of Parmelia Ach. s. str. occurring in the southern Baltic region, namely P. barrenoae Divakar et al., P. ernstiae Feuerer & A. Thell, P. fraudans (Nyl.) Nyl., P. omphalodes (L.) Ach. (including subsp. discordans (Nyl.) Skult and subsp. omphalodes), P. pinnatifida Kurok., P. saxatilis (L.) Ach., P. serrana A. Crespo et al., P. submontana Nádv. ex Hale and P. sulcata Taylor, are presented. Four of the species are cryptic or semi-cryptic, being recent segregates from *P. saxatilis* and *P. sulcata* based primarily on evidence derived from molecular analyses. P. ernstiae was formerly believed to be chemically distinct from P. serrana by the presence of lobaric acid, but recently this has been reported in both species. Furthermore, three chemotypes of *P. serrana* have been found by TLC in solvents A, C and G: 1) atranorin, consalazinic, salazinic and lichesterinic acids; 2) atranorin, consalazinic, salazinic, protolichesterinic and lichesterinic acids; 3) atranorin, consalazinic, salazinic, protolichesterinic, lichesterinic and lobaric acids. The first chemotype is rarely found while the other two appear to be common. At least three of the species, P. ernstiae, P. serrana and *P. submontana* are increasing in frequency in the region and spreading northwards.

Isidiate species

Parmelia ernstiae Feuerer & A.Thell

Key characters: pruinose, often lobulate, isidia flattened, mainly in central parts. Distribution: Denmark, Estonia, Sweden, Poland, Germany.

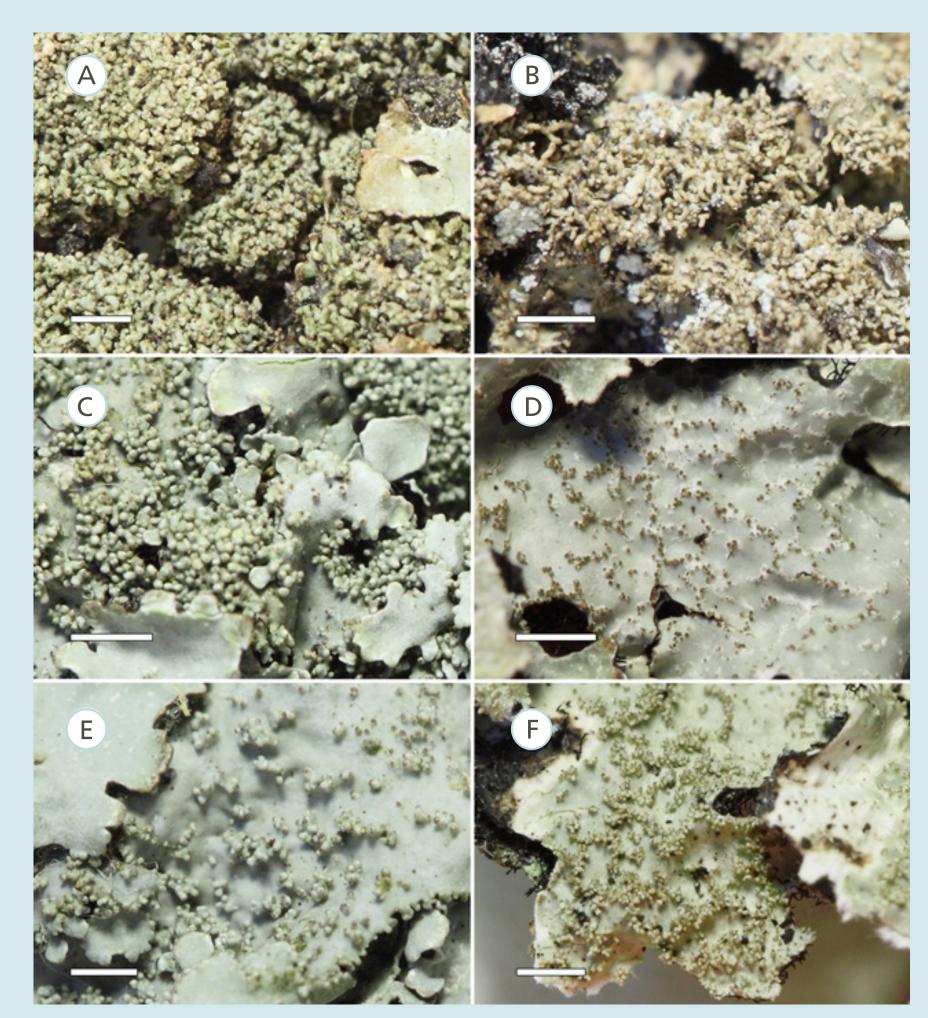
Parmelia saxatilis (L.) Ach. Key characters: reddish margin, isidia blackish at tips.

Distribution: ± common.

Parmelia serrana A.Crespo, M.C.Molina & D.Hawksw. Key characters: isidia clustered marginally or along ridges. Distribution: Denmark (Zealand), Latvia, Poland, Sweden

Comparison of Parmelia ernstiae and P. serrana.

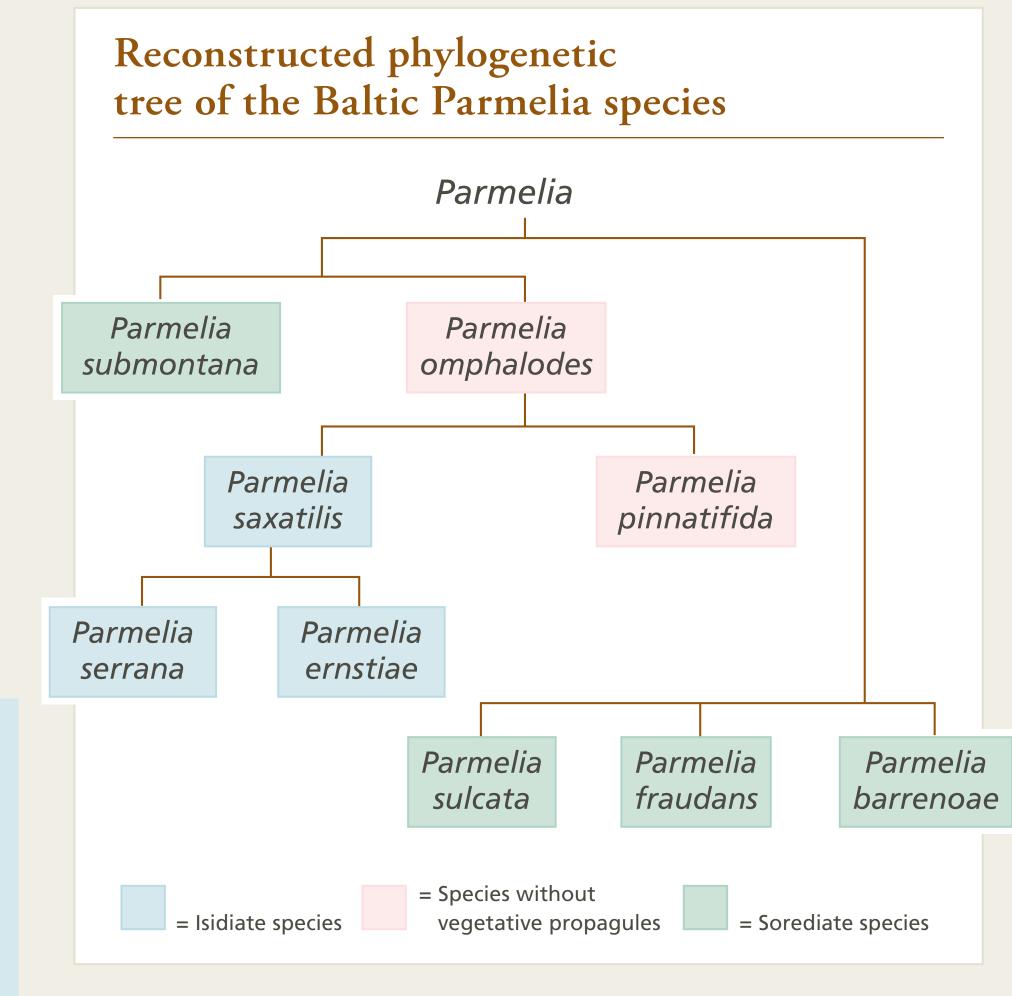
Feature	Parmelia ernstiae	Parmelia serrana	
Isidia			
Form	thick, mainly simple	thin, simple to branched	
Shape	often flattened	never flattened	
Location	cover central parts	develop mainly along ridges	
Surface			
Cortex	mainly dull	mainly shiny	
Pruina	often develop, rarely absent	occasionally develop	
Pseudocyphellae	short, rounded	linear	



Differences in isidia between **Parmelia ernstiae** and **P. serrana**. Scale = 1.0 mm. Parmelia ernstiae: A. Thick short isidia Parmelia serrana: B. Thin long coralloid isidia. **D, F.** Isidia develop in long chains totally cover central part of a thallus. **C.** Few typical flattened isidia develop—along ridges at initial and final stages. along with laciniate pruinose lobes. E. Isidia develop sporadically or in rounded clusters.

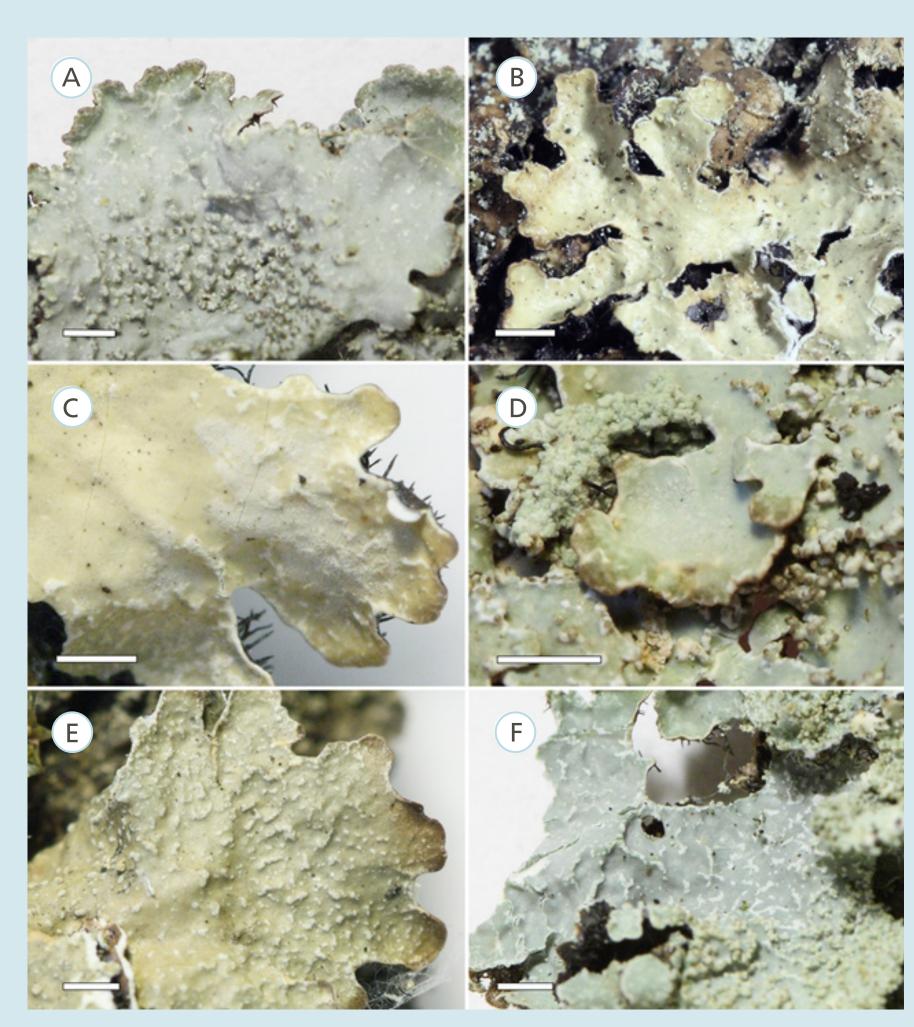


Adjacent Parmelia ernstiae and P. serrana (upper right corner), growing side by side, fighting for space. Sweden, Skåne, Billinge. (Photo: Nataliya Thell 2016)



Key to southern Baltic Parmelia-species

1 Thallus sorediate	2
- Thallus isidiate or without vegetative propagules	
2 Soralia white, laminal	
- Soralia mainly marginal, yellowish	P. fraudans
3 Lobe margins not down-rolled; rhizines simple or squarrose	4
 Lobes down-rolled; rhizines simple 	P. submontana
4 Soredia released from finally empty cracks; rhizines simple	P. barrenoae
 Most of soralia remaining full; rhizines squarrose 	P. sulcata
5 Thallus isidiate	6
– Thallus lacking isidia	8
6 Thallus shiny or dull, most parts without pruina, saxicolous or cortic	colous 7
- Thallus dull, whitish pruinose; mainly corticolous, isidia flattened	P. ernstiae
7 Isidia mainly laminal; most frequent in the central part	P. saxatilis
- Isidia along margins or laminal, clustered, often along ridges	P. serrana
8 Pseudocyphellae marginal; upper surface shiny dark brown P. o	omphalodes subsp. discordans
 Pseudocyphellae both marginal and laminal; upper surface 	
pale brown or grey to blackish	9
9 Lobes 2–4 mm wide; thallus usually pale brown or grey	omphalodes subsp. omphalodes
- Lobes usually less than 1 mm wide; thallus usually blackish	P. pinnatifida



Comparison of Parmelia ernstiae and P. serrana – thallus surface. Scale = 1.0 mm. P. ernstiae: A. Dull epruinose lobe. P. serrana: B. Typical shiny non-pruinose **C.** Typical pruina developed on the upper lobes. **D.** Poorly developed pruina. surface. **E.** short peudocyphellae. **F.** Linear peudocyphellae.



Parmelia serrana growing on medieval gravestone of granite. Sweden, Skåne, Stehag. (Photo: Nataliya Thell 2017)

Species without vegetative propagules

Parmelia omphalodes (L.) Ach. subsp. discordans (Nyl.) Skult

Key characters: adnate thallus, a uniform dark brown colour, overlapping lobes. Distribution: ± common.

Parmelia omphalodes (L.) Ach. subsp. omphalodes

Key characters: distinct laminal and marginal pseudocyphellae.

Distribution: ± common.

Parmelia pinnatifida Kurok. Key characters: narrow, lobes 1–2 mm across.

Distribution: Poland

Sorediate species

Parmelia barrenoae Divakar, M.C.Molina

Key characters: Similar to *P. sulcata* but simple to furcate rhizines, soredia develope in cracks Distribution: Poland

Parmelia fraudans (Nyl.) Nyl. Key characters: yellow soredia

Distribution: Estonia. Sweden (Småland)

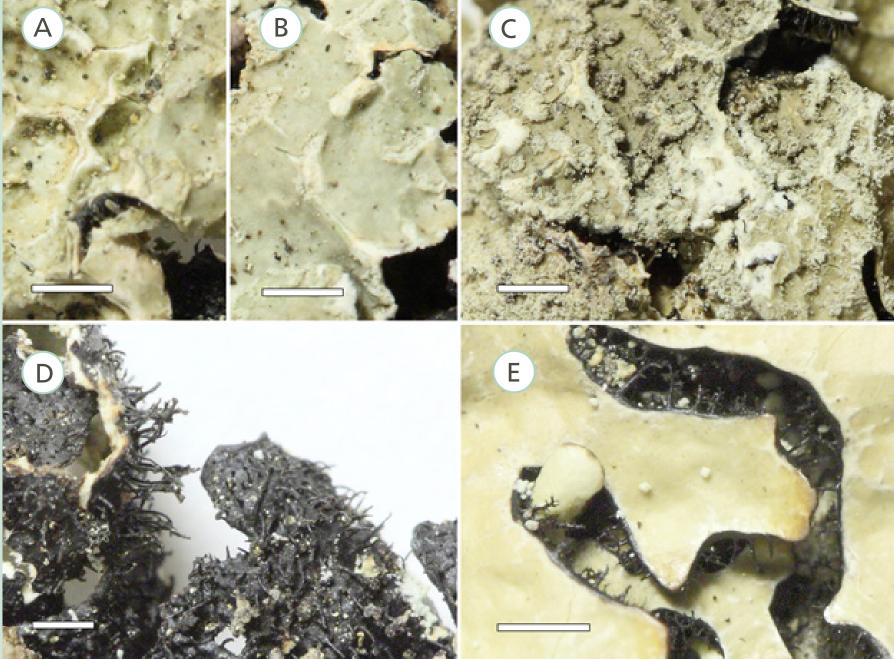
Parmelia submontana Hale

Key characters: Dome shaped lobes, isidia-like soredia, and, in fact, closer related with isidate species

Distribution: Germany (Mecklenburg), Poland, Sweden (Skåne). Probably much overlooked.

Parmelia sulcata Taylor Key characters: Soredia from laminal soralia – not cracks – but very variable morphology

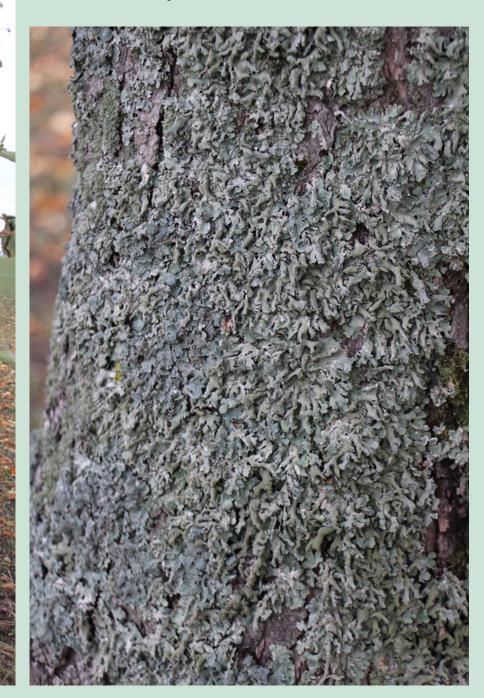
Distribution: ± common.



Distinctive morphological features of Parmelia barrenoae and P. sulcata. Scale = 1.0 mm. Parmelia barrenoae: A, B. soralia de- Parmelia sulcata: C. Most of soralia reveloping and released from finally empty maining full; some lack soredia but not developing from cracks. **E.** squarrose rhizines. cracks; **D.** simple rhizines.



Parmelia submontana, Sweden. Skåne, Västra Sallerup [Eslöv], Kastberga, with interspersed **P. sulcata**. (Photo: Nataliya Thell 2016)



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