

# Lichen Specialist Group



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I am based near Zürich and work in Birmensdorf and Berne. I am affiliated with the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, WSL, 8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland.

The group has 17 members.

## 2011 Update

### Awareness raising

- Brochure “What do you know about steppe lichens? Minute world under your feet” (in Ukrainian, 20 pages with photographs; supported by Rufford SGF)

- Book „The change in biodiversity in Switzerland since 1900 - has the lowest point been reached?“ (in German and French) Co-authored book published under the umbrella of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

Lichens are included in chapters about forests, agriculture and urban areas.

### Fund raising

- Biodiversity and Livelihood development in Land-use gradients in an Era of Climate Change in the Himalayas, Nepal (Swiss National Science Foundation; includes WP on lichen conservation biology)
- Swiss project on conservation biology and management of *Bactrospora dryina*

## Success Stories

- Arid lichens from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: studying, conservation and perspectives



## Challenges

- More lichen species to be Red Listed
- Promote research in lichen conservation biology
- Capacity building in lichen conservation
- Ways of *enlichenment* (Trevor Goward)
- Searching sponsors for lichen conservation projects!

## Future Goals

- Population dynamics of patch-tracking symbiotic organisms in primeval and managed landscapes
- Conservation biology of lichens
- Restoration of microbial soil crusts in steppe zones and semi-desert ecotopes
- Include algal symbionts!



*Lobaria pulmonaria*