

Rust and Smut Specialist Group



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The main goals of that group are as follows: (i) organization of global conservation of so-called “microscopic fungi”, placed in basidiomycetes, and (ii) estimation of species conservation status.

The group has 8 members.

2011 Update

- Various difficulties in assessing the status of smut and rust fungi were discussed; some of them described in “Estimating the threat status of smut fungi” in *Mycologia Balcanica* 7: 9-15 (2010).
- Published “Smut fungi in Africa – a checklist” (*Mycologia Balcanica* 8: 1-77 (2011)).
- Published “*Tilletiales, Urocystidales, Entorrhizales, Doassansiales, Entylomatales, Georgefischeriales*” in *Flora Fungorum Sinicorum*, vol. 39 (Guo L. 2011).
- Published “A call for a renewed and pan-European strategic effort on the taxonomy of rust fungi (*Uredinales*)” (Helfer et al. 2011, *Mycologia Balcanica* 8: 79-81).

Success Stories

Publication of “Smut fungi in Africa – a checklist” (Vánky et al. 2011) with information about taxonomy and distribution of the smut fungi in Africa and adjacent islands (427 species in 47 genera). It reflects the great, but incompletely known biodiversity of Africa.



Challenges

- Building awareness that microscopic fungi also need to be included in conservation documents and actions.
- Promote research in rust and smut conservation biology.

Future Goals

- Conservation biology of rust and smut fungi.
- Preparation of a preliminary, global checklist of threatened rusts and smut fungi.

