WELCOME TO FINLAND

The Finnish Museum of Natural History LUOMUS and co-organisers welcome the 8th IAL Symposium participants to Helsinki in August 2016. The Symposium’s overall theme, **Lichens in Deep Time**, includes the following sessions:

- Early evolution of lichens
- Lichens at extremes
- Hidden diversity
- Lichen conservation
- Lichen ecology and biogeography
- Systematics and phylogenetics
- History of lichen research
- Sessions on Cladoniaceae, Parmeliaceae, Peltigerales
- Genomics and bioinformatics
- Lichen secondary metabolism
- Population genetics
- Lichens in a changing environment
- Evolution of lichen symbiosis
- Tropical lichens in the 21st Century

FIELD TRIPS

Pre-Symposium excursion to the **Southern Finnish Archipelago**, off Finland’s south-west coast, where lies one of the country’s most beautiful and unique areas. Shaped by the Ice Age, the archipelago consists of over 20,000 islands and islets. You will find an array of crusts, including *Verrucaria* and *Caloplaca*, and foliose species such as *Lasallia*.

Post-Symposium excursion to **Northern Finnish Lapland**, Europe’s last wilderness. Its barren, beautiful natural landscape has an irresistible charm, and the changing seasons are more clearly evident on the northern side of the Arctic Circle than anywhere else. In the north, *Nephroma*, *Solorina*, and *Bryoria* are found, for instance.

Mid-Symposium daytrip to **Helsinki’s surroundings**. Mixed forests with bare outcrops offer much for the lichenologist. Carpets of *Cladonia* are everywhere, as are *Peltigera*, *Stereocaulon*, and many parmelioid species.

TIMELINE

- 4th August 2014, First Circular, website opens
- 15th October 2015, Second Circular and call for papers
- 31st January 2016, Submission of abstracts opens
- 15th March 2016, Submission of abstracts closes
- 15th April 2016, Early registration opens
- 15th May 2016, Late registration opens
CONTACT INFORMATION
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LOCAL ORGANIZING TEAM
Marko Hyvärinen (chair), Soili Stenroos, Leena Myllys, Hanna Lindgren, Annina Launis, Laura Hilisivuori, Seppo Huhtinen, Juha Pykälä, Jouko Rikkinen and Jouni Aspi

ABOUT FINLAND
Located between East and West, with snowy winters and warm, light-filled summers, Finland offers a number of fascinating contrasts. Finland’s unspoilt forests and thousands of lakes and islands provide plenty of opportunities for visitors to enjoy beautiful natural surroundings.

THE VENUE
The Symposium will take place in the Main Building of the University of Helsinki, in the heart of the capital. Getting to Helsinki is easy. There are direct flights from many Asian and North American locations, and from most major European cities. Reaching Helsinki from Scandinavia and the Baltic republics is also possible by ferry, and from St. Petersburg, Russia, it is only a few hours by train.

International Association for Lichenology
The IAL promotes the study and conservation of lichens. It organizes symposia, field trips, and distributes a biannual newsletter. On-line discussion of topics of interest is enabled.