

Book Review

***Flora Liquenologica Iberia. Vol. 3. Lecanorales Bacidiaceae I. Bacidia y Bacidina.* By Llop, E. 2007.**
Barcelona: Sociedad Espanola de Liquenologia (SEL). Pp 49, one map, two colour pages, two illustrations, 275 × 195 mm with monochrome covers. ISSN 1696-0513 Paperback. Available from Sociedad Espanola de Liquenologia, www.ucm.es/info/seliquen. Price €10. In English.
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The Iberian 'Flora' is being produced in parts dealing with particular families and genera. This, the first part, deals with the *Bacidiaceae* in a traditional sense, while, in its strict sense, it is now being subsumed within the *Ramalinaceae*. The key to genera in the family also includes a few now placed elsewhere, for example *Catinaria* and *Solenopsora*, but excludes certain genera that, in practice, are more likely to be confused with *Bacidia* and *Bacidina* (e.g. *Fellhanera*, *Fellhaneropsis*, *Micareia*, *Mycobilimbia*, *Scoliciosporum* and *Toninia*). Also excluded are *Arthrosporum* and *Bilimbia*, although these are included in the key to species of *Bacidia*. *Bacidia* and *Bacidina* are treated separately, but as the former genus (as treated) is certainly not monophyletic, and the differences between the two are often unclear, this is far from being a pragmatic approach for a 'flora' treatment. In the generic description of *Bacidina*, the ascus structure is said to be *Lecanora*-type without qualification, although such qualification is given in some of the species descriptions. The distinction between ascus structure of *Bacidia*-type in *Bacidia* s. str. versus *Lecanora*-type in *Bacidina* is not so clear-cut, as can be seen in the many drawings by Ekman (1996).

The entry for each species has a full citation of the basionym and type, references to illustrations, a detailed description, notes on habitat and distribution, and other observations. The descriptions are generally excellent,

but the treatment of pycnidial characters is woefully inconsistent. They are described for some species, but surprisingly, not for others. For example, no mention is made of them for *B. incompta*, a species which is commonly to be found without apothecia, although its characteristic pycnidia, with bacilliform conidia, are invariably present. Also, the almost straight conidia of *B. phacodes* set it apart from most other *Bacidina* species, where they are usually strongly curved or hamate. The biggest contribution of this work is the treatment of the troublesome southern European species, namely *Bacidia iberica* and *B. parathalassica*, and their distinction from *B. fraxinea*, *B. rosella* and *B. rubella*. Another important contribution is the correct distinction between the calcicolous *B. coprodes* and the calcifuge *B. trachona*, two species that have hitherto been much confused. Therefore, for all students of 'bacidioid' lichens, this is an essential reference.

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REFERENCES

- Ekman, S. (1996) The corticolous and lignicolous species of *Bacidia* and *Bacidina* in North America. *Opera Botanica* 127: 1–148.