

## A tribute to James D. Lawrey, honoring a unique career in the biology of lichens and lichenicolous fungi



Dr. James D. Lawrey in Costa Rica at the OTS lichen course in 2012. Source: Robert Lücking

This special issue of *Plant and Fungal Systematics* is dedicated to Dr. James Donald Lawrey on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. It presents thirteen papers related to his scientific interests. Dr. James (Jim) D. Lawrey is an outstanding scientist who has devoted his academic career to research in biology, ecology, systematics, and evolution of lichens and lichenicolous fungi, as well as to extensive teaching. Jim was born on December 15, 1949 in Arlington, Virginia, and grew up in Rockville, Maryland. In 1973 he received his master's degree in biology at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He completed his Ph.D. in botany in 1977 under the supervision of Prof. Emanuel Rudolph at Ohio State University. As a graduate student, Jim met Mason Hale, a lichenologist who worked at the National Museum of Natural History, and that is when his adventure with lichenology began. Jim pursued his entire academic career at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where he continues, to this day, his scientific research and teaching. In 2015, he also became Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution.

Recognizing Dr. J. Lawrey's significant contribution to the field of lichenology, and in particular the biology of lichenicolous fungi, it is our honor to dedicate this issue to him in celebration of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and to wish him well for his future endeavors. We would also like to thank all the authors for their contributions to this issue, enabling the celebration of Jim's accomplishment.

Paul Diederich  
Musée national d'histoire naturelle, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Robert Lücking  
Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum, Freie Universität  
Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Damien Ertz  
Meise Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium

Jolanta Miadlikowska  
Department of Biology, Duke University, Durham NC, USA

Adam Flakus  
W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences,  
Kraków, Poland