

Volkmar Wirth

Lichens of the Namib Desert

A guide to their identification

96 pages, 14,8 x 21 cm, Pb, 95 colour pictures.
Europe: ISBN 978-3-933117-08-3, 18 €
Southern Africa: ISBN 978-99916-57-34-9, N\$ 198

Lichens play a significant role in the ecosystem of the Namib Desert since they can absorb moisture from the frequent fogs to become physiologically active, a strategy which is unavailable for higher plants.

Due to this water source, the desert is therefore less of an environmental problem for lichens, their colourful shrubby, foliose or crustose thalli decorating rocks, boulders, pebbles, twigs of shrubs and soil. In coastal regions, under more favourable conditions, as in the plains north of Swakopmund, they may cover huge areas, where the dense populations form the so-called 'lichen fields'.

This booklet provides information on lichens in general and more specifically on the lichen biota of the Namib Desert, with 75 species illustrated in colour, enabling the user to identify most of the lichens occurring there.

The author Prof. Dr Volkmar Wirth was the director of the State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe/Germany (until 2008). He investigated species composition of lichen biota of the Namib Desert.

Klaus Hess Verlag

Sudetenland-Str. 18, 37085 Göttingen/Germany
Fon +49-551-7076870, Fax 7076871
mail@k-hess-verlag.de

www.k-hess-verlag.de

Klaus Hess Publishers

POBox 90624, Windhoek/Namibia, khp@iway.na

Represented by Demasius Publications cc

POBox 5914, Windhoek/Namibia

Tel +264 61 23 6938, Fax +264 61 22 6187

www.demasius-publications.com, ingrid@demasius-publications.com

