Prof. Pier Luigi Nimis
Curriculum

Senior professor of Botany (retired in 2023) at the University of Trieste in Italy. Specialist in Lichenology and Phytogeography, including the uses of lichens as indicators of pollution and devising methods for web-based identification keys.
After the doctorate, Nimis became a member of staff at the University of Trieste and by 1986 he was Full Professor of Systematic Botany. He has since also held several administrative posts such as the chair of the School of Biological Sciences from 1988 to 1994, Director of the Department of Biology from 1996 to 2001, and Dean of the Doctoral School of Biomonitoring from 2009 until 2011.

The research activity was initially on phytogeography and later he began to concentrate on lichens, including their identification and role as indicators of atmosferic pollution. After the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in 1986 he led programmes to map and monitor levels of radioactive caesium in macrofungi, forest plants and mosses in Italy. He extended his research to the use of lichens to monitor air pollution, proposing guidelines for their use as bioindicators and bioaccumulators, and demonstrating a correlation between lung cancer and air pollution by mapping human mortality and lichen biodiversity in the Veneto region of Italy. Nimis was also the co-leader of a NATO Advanced Research Workshop in Wales in 2000 that brought together an international group of researchers working on lichens and air pollution and led to the publication of *Monitoring with Lichens – Monitoring Lichens* in 2002. He also published several papers on lichens as agents of biodeterioration processes on stone, suggesting best-practices to deal with lichen growth on monuments.

His publication in 1993 of a comprehensive catalogue of 2145 infrageneric taxa of lichens found in Italy, followed by an updated version in 2016, are considered significant landmarks in scholarship and thoroughness, and are of value for their descriptions and feature keys of lichens beyond the Italian region.

Nimis's research has also included collaborations on checklists of the lichen biodiversity of the Alps, the Mediterranean and Antarctic regions, as well as development since the 1990s of web-based identification keys that have been applied to several groups of organisms and developed into the *KeyToNature* mobile apps from 2015. Presently, Nimis is working on a computer-aided key to all lichens hitherto known from Italy and neighbouring countries, whose publication in paper-form is foreseen for 2026.The keys are being published online in the site of ITALIC, the information system on Italian lichens.

From 1987 until 1993 Nimis was president of the Italian Lichen Society, as well as one of its founders; editor-in-chief of the International Lichenological Newsletter (1997-2000), he was president of the International Association for Lichenology from 2000 until 2004. In 1993 he was awarded the OPTIMA Silver Medal for the best book on the phytotaxonomy of the Mediterranean area published in the preceding three years, the International Ferrari-Soave Prize for Biology from the Academy of Sciences of Turin in 2009, and the Acharium Medal in 2014.

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