

Advances in research on Cladoniaceae

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The family Cladoniaceae comprises approximately 500 species and exhibits cosmopolitan distribution. From an ecological perspective, members of this family are among the most important terricolous lichens, playing key roles in many terrestrial ecosystems worldwide. Despite being a relatively well-studied group, our understanding of various aspects within this family remains incomplete. The morphological variability and limited genetic variation of the species in this family have caused significant challenges in their study. However, other important facets, such as symbiotic interactions or ecological roles, also remain insufficiently explored. The objective of this session is to address the current challenges in the study of Cladoniaceae. This session will host contributions focusing on the Cladoniaceae, with particular focus on advancing the taxonomic knowledge of this group, including phylogenetic and biogeographical studies, as well as research exploring ecological functions and mycobiont–photobiont interactions, are particularly encouraged. Our goal is to foster interdisciplinary discussions that advance the knowledge of this ecologically and taxonomically significant lichen family.