

## The lichens and the House of Savoy: Antonio Jatta and the expeditions of Prince Luigi Amedeo, Duke of the Abruzzi

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Prince Luigi Amedeo di Savoia, Duca degli Abruzzi (1873-1933), was a mountaineer and explorer whose ventures ranged from Africa to the Arctic. His expeditions were accompanied by naturalists who had the task to collect natural materials to be brought to Italy. These materials were sent for identification to the most prominent experts of the time; lichens were sent to Antonio Jatta.

The *Herbarium Universitatis Taurinensis* (TO) hosts the botanical collections of three expeditions: the "Stella Polare" towards the North Pole (1899), the "Ruwenzori" in east-central Africa (1906) and the "Uebi-Scebeli voyage" to the source of the Shebelle River in Somaliland (1928). Both phanerogamic and cryptogamic samples are included in these collections; 108 lichens (24, 78 and 4 respectively) have been found. These lichens were mainly identified by Jatta, and in a less extent, by the mycologist Oreste Mattiolo.

Original labels, written during expeditions, are often kept with the specimens thus allowing the correspondence check with sheet labels and data published. By comparing samples in TO and data from the scientific reports of the expeditions, approx. 30 lichens seem to be missing. We found several missing specimens in Naples, in Jatta's herbarium (ongoing study). Lichen specimens are well-preserved, but in some cases, they may be identified with difficulty due to the scarcity of harvested material. Nevertheless, the material can be considered very significant, both for the places in which lichens have been collected and for the occurrence of reference materials. These typi, currently under study, are hosted in TO: *Usnea arthroclada* Fée v. *ruvidescens* Jatta, *Parmelia ducalis* Jatta, *Anaphychia leucomela* Trev. v. *sorediosa* Jatta, *Caloplaca citrinella* Jatta, *Pertusaria Roccatii* Jatta, *Gyrophora haplocarpa* v. *ricana* Jatta, *Lecidea Cagnii* Jatta; *Cladonia squamosa* Hoffm. v. *macra* Jatta is hosted in NAP.