

ECI @ TO: first contribution on the presence of *Erbario Crittogamico Italiano* lichens in the Torino Herbarium

Deborah Isocrono

Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie, Forestali e Alimentari, Università di Torino

One of the current taxonomic difficulties in the cryptogam research is the failure in finding earliest material: in this connection, knowledge of the present location of the historical herbaria is of crucial importance.

In the *Herbarium Universitatis Taurinensis* (TO) non-vascular cryptogams specimens were merged into big herbaria. This task, carried out at the end of XIX century, completely destroyed the unity of the individual collections, making their detection very complex.

The present study summarizes researches conducted in the *Herbarium Universitatis Taurinensis* on the lichen specimens of the *Erbario Crittogamico Italiano* (ECI), a fundamental collection of Italian cryptogams compiled between 1858 and 1885 by the most important Italian botanists. The herbarium material hosted in TO was not included among those checked by Cuccuini for the drafting of the 1997 book *L'Erbario crittogamico italiano: storia e struttura di una collezione*.

From a comparison with the catalogue of Cuccuini emerged that almost all lichen species occur in TO: 577 out of 589. We found samples of both Series I 1858-1867 (3 missing) and Series II 1868-1885 (9 missing).

The *Erbario Crittogamico Italiano* original setting up is not present in TO: neither the fascicle, nor the containers, original sheets and indices distributed with the fascicles were preserved with the *exsiccata*.

We found ECI samples in the herbaria of Martino Anzi, Antonio Carestia, Patrizio Gennari and Alessio Malinverni: handwritten notes or stamps on the envelopes allowed to detect the origin. For each species, from one to five copies are present, depending on the way of acquisition since samples of the ECI have come to Torino Herbarium with different purchase lots and donations.