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Naked Amoebae in Epiphytic Biotopes of Ukraine

Marina Patsyuk

Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, Ukraine

Corresponding author e-mail: kostivna@ukr.net

Abstract

Naked amoebae are a polyphyletic group of protists which include lobose and filose species, common in soil, fresh and sea waters. There are no data on the naked amoebae of epiphytic biotopes, hence we aimed to study the species composition of these protists in epiphytic mosses and lichens of Ukraine. Our research was conducted in 2018–2019 in mixed forests, at model objects located in several regions of Ukrainian Polissia. In epiphytic habitats, 13 species of naked amoebae were found: *Saccamoeba stagnicola* Page, 1974, *Saccamoeba* sp., *Korotnevella diskophora* Smirnov, 1999, *Thecamoeba striata* Schaeffer, 1926, *Thecamoeba* sp., *Ripella* sp., *Vannella* sp., *Cochliopodium* sp., *Mayorella cantabrigiensis* Page, 1983, *Paradermamoeba levis* Smirnov et Goodkov, 1994, *Vexillifera* sp., *Acanthamoeba* sp., and *Stygamoeba polymorpha* Sawyer, 1975. The species occurrence was highest for *Saccamoeba* sp. (56 %), *Vannella* sp. (72 %), and *T. striata* (50 %), the lowest for *S. polymorpha* (15 %). According to our data, the species composition of naked amoebae in epiphytic biotopes is fairly similar to that of soils.