

Acharius Medallists

Per Magnus Jørgensen

The Acharius Medal, awarded by the IAL, honours outstanding lifetime achievements in lichenology. This year's Acharius medal was awarded to Per Magnus Jørgensen, during the virtual meeting of the 9th International Association for Lichenology Symposium (IAL9) on August 6th, 2021, in Brazil.

Per Magnus Jørgensen developed his interest in plants early in life. He studied at the University of Bergen resulting in a cand. real. degree in botany (1969) under Professor Knut Fægri. Young Per Magnus found he had a growing interest in lichens, but no others in Bergen had worked with lichens since Havaas, around 1900. Fægri stimulated this interest by inviting Rolf Santesson from Uppsala in Sweden to give a lichen course in Bergen. By that time, Per Magnus had met legendary Swedish lichenologist Gunnar Degelius during one of his travels in Norway, and was very inspired. In 1971, Per Magnus moved to Uppsala and became a student of Santesson, where he worked on a monograph on the Pannariaceae of Europe, which he defended as his doctoral thesis in Bergen in 1978.

But in the mean time, in 1973 he was recruited as curator of the Botanical Garden in Bergen. He was appointed professor there in 1982.

During his career in Bergen, Per Magnus has gradually revised the Pannariaceae of the world, and in 2014 (with Ekman, Lindblom & Wedin) he published a new generic taxonomy of this large and complex family. He has described numerous taxa, including some genera (*Fuscoderma*, *Fuscopannaria*, *Kroswia*) in the Pannariaceae. Per Magnus still works with Pannariaceae today.

Before leaving the topic of Pannariaceae, it has to be mentioned that Per Magnus helped an Argentinian student called Alfredo Passo with his Pannariaceae specimens, resulting in Alfredo later named a new genus in honor of him: *Joergensenia*.

In 2007, Per Magnus summarized what we in the Nordic countries know about our cyanolichens, a treatment filling most of the pages of volume III of the Nordic Lichen Flora. Here he handled the big genera such as *Lobaria* and *Sticta*, as well as all the small crustose genera, known among lichenologists as the "little black ones". His interest in the little black ones dates from his early work with the late Aino Hennsen, a specialist in the order Lichinales.

Per Magnus also has a life outside the Pannariaceae. The Collemales, especially the genus *Leptogium*, has caught his attention over the years. His work with the *L. mallotium* group has been especially helpful to lichenologists. Other families he has studied include Lichinaceae, Massalongiaceae (which he described), and in the beginning of his career, the Parmeliaceae (especially the genera *Alectoria* and *Bryoria*). He has even described a new lichen genus in the Basidiomycetes, *Acantholichen*.

Per Magnus has published around 300 papers in lichenology. And in these papers, he has described something like 300 lichen species, genera—and even families! During his long career, he has carried out copious amounts of field work. Outside of Europe, he has visited 40 of the American states and at least one province (British Columbia) in Canada. He has also collected lichens in Africa, Central America, South America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

His herbarium is at BG, with some duplicates in UPS.

Per Magnus has also been an active member of the British Lichen Society, and in 2008 he became a honorary lifetime member.

Per Magnus became involved in nomenclatural work, and he was a member of the International Nomenclatural Committee of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) for many years. He also served as secretary in the IAL in the years 1981-1987.

In his work for the Universitygardens, Per Magnus established the large *Rhododendron* collection, which he is still works on. He also established a big Japanese garden. In addition, he has been the director of the gardens in many years.

His interest in the history of botany has resulted in several papers on Gunnerus, Linnaeus and others. *Since 2008, Per Magnus has dedicated much of his enormous energy to the work of Johan Ernst Gunnerus—for example, translating his Flora Norvegica from 1770 from Latin to Norwegian. He has also written a book on the history of botany in Norway, and a book on the history of the Museumgarden in Bergen.*

Jørgensen's list of papers comprises more than 300 publications, 6 books and hundreds of popular papers about lichens, rhododendrons, and botanical and garden history. *For 10 years he served as editor of the journal Naturen.*

We have been so lucky to have Per Magnus as our colleague, collaborating with him in many ways. For those of you that have not met Per Magnus (I guess the rest of you will never forget him), I have to say that his is a tall man with a loud voice and lots of energy and a big smile. His enthusiasm and interest is so unique!

Today, Per Magnus is a professor emeritus, still very active in lichenology and botany.

– Heidi Lie Andersen and Tor Tønsberg