

# Dictyonema interruptum, new for the Pyrenees

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The basidiolichen *Dictyonema interruptum* has been recorded for the first time in Europe outside the British Isles and Macaronesia, in a small area in the French Pyrenees. The species is also recorded from Gomera (Canary Islands).

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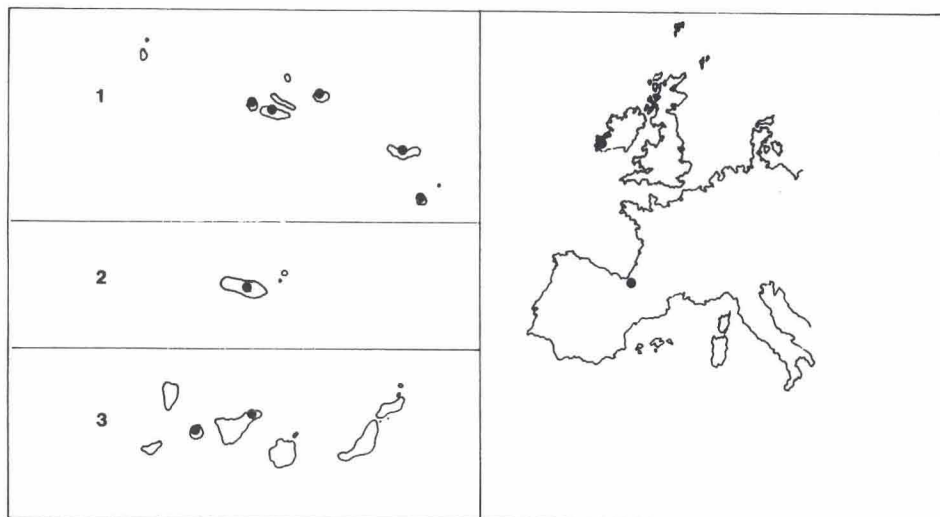
The basidiolichen *Dictyonema interruptum* (Carm. ex Hook.) Parmasto was known last century in some points in the British Isles (Killarney, Montgomery, Denbigh, Island of Mull), but seems now to survive only in north Kerry, southwest Ireland (Purvis & Coppins 1992). Outside the British Isles the species is also known in Europe from Macaronesia: the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands (Arvidsson & Wall 1985, Etayo 1992, Topham & Walker 1982). In Madeira the preservation status of *D. interruptum* is good, and, especially on rocks, it is possible to find it with a well developed hymenium on the underside. In Tenerife and Gomera abundant material has been discovered by Topham & Walker (1982) and Etayo, respectively; these populations seem to be in good condition.

So far *Dictyonema interruptum* has not been recorded in continental Europe outside the British Isles. We recently discovered it in three localities in the French Pyrenees (Pyrénées-Atlantiques). It is best developed in the Gorges de Kakouetta. Here it is possible to find it on branches and trunks of *Buxus sempervirens* and *Quercus robur*, covering

mosses and lichens (e.g. *Leptogium*). Normally it forms small, sterile thalli reaching 2 or 3 cm in diameter, but in the base of a shaded oak, we found one thallus of more than 20 cm in diameter. Although it probably exists in other nearby stations, its status is very vulnerable in the Pyrenees and, due to its lack of reproductive structures, it is probably in the risk of extinction.

The thalli of *D. interruptum* are not showing well-formed brackets but only interwoven tufts of *Scytonema* surrounded by hyphae. One of the samples from the Pyrenees (Diederich 9246) showed a few clamp connections, the major feature of *Dictyonema irpicinum* Mont. (Parmasto 1978). Because of the tropical distribution of *D. irpicinum* and the presence of scanty clamps in European material of *D. interruptum* (Coppins & James 1979, Fig. 1A), we consider it as belonging to the latter species.

*Specimens examined:* **France.** *Pyrénées-Atlantiques:* au SSW d'Oloron-Ste-Marie, près de la route de Arette vers l'Espagne, au sud de la Mouline, "Lacets d'Urdette", 1990,



**Figure 1.** Current distribution of *Dictyonema interruptum* in Macaronesia and Europe. 1, Azores: Faial, Pico, Terceira, Sao Miguel and Santa Maria (from west to east); 2, Madeira; 3, Canary Islands: Gomera and Tenerife.

Diederich 9246 (herb. Diederich); south of Tardets-Sorholus, Gorges de Kakouetta, below the bridge, c. 550 m, 1993, Etayo 5792 (herb. Etayo); ibid., near the entrance, 1993, Etayo 5798 (herb. Etayo); ibid. 1991, Etayo 2574 & Diederich (herb. Etayo); S de Tardets-Sorholus, crevasses d'Holçarté, 750 m, 1985, Sérusiaux 7613 (LG). **Spain.** *Canary Islands:* Gomera, Hermigua, Garajonay park, Tajaque, 1300 m, on *Erica arborea* and *Myrica faya*, 1994, Etayo s. n. (herb. Etayo).

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