While Sweden can be considered the cradle of lichenology, since the likes of William Nylander and Edvard August Vainio, Finland has taken a firm spot on the lichenological landscape. To support this claim, I checked the **Recent Literature on Lichens** (RLL) database [http://nhm2.uio.no/botanisk/lav/RLL/RLL.HTM], using selected countries as key words and counted the number of publications overall and since 2000. RLL is to some extent incomplete and country key word entries will under- or overestimate the scope of work published by authors living in that particular country, but it seems a good approximation. Here, Germany ranks first in overall publications, followed by Spain, Great Britain, France, and Italy, with Finland ranking 14th (**Table 1**). However, when taken **per capita**, Finland comes third after Norway and New Zealand, followed by Sweden and Austria. Considering only the time since the year 2000, the list is led by Spain, Russia, Poland, Australia, and Great Britain, with Finland coming in 22nd; however, **per capita** Finland ranks fourth, after Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden, and followed by Austria. Together with Germany, Finland is third in overall publication balance over time, which suggests a consistently strong output, outranked by France and Hungary and followed by Sweden and Belgium; in contrast, the countries with the strongest increase in publications since 2000 are Thailand, China, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Poland (**Table 1**). Thus, while this admittedly quick and dirty analysis paints a colorful picture on the geographical breadth and historical development of lichenology, Finland is a persistent factor in the lichenological landscape and contemporary Finnish lichenologists continue to have significant impact in the field.

It is therefore very timely that the Finnish lichenological community, with 14 authors and 27 photographers, joined the exclusive club of fully colored, high quality, heavy weight treatments of their lichen biota. What started with Wirth’s trend-setting **Die Flechten Baden-Württembergs** (Wirth 1995) and continued with the global impact of the **Lichens of North America** (Brodo et al. 2001) and the **Lichen Flora of the Greater Sonoran Desert Region** (Nash et al. 2002, 2004, 2007) and recently with a substantial expansion of Wirth’s original work for all of Germany (Wirth et al. 2013), now finds its “nordic” version in the **Lichens of Finland**. The book was presented on a perfect occasion, the 8th IAL Symposium “**Lichens in Deep Time**” held in Helsinki in early August this year, and one can only imagine the pressure of the editors and authors in getting this monumental work ready for print while at the same time organizing an international congress. To be fair, the treatment was not entirely made from scratch, but is a combination of two earlier books on Finnish macrolichens (“**Suomen jääkäläopas**”; Stenroos et al. 2011) and microlichens (“**Suomen rupijääkälät**”; Stenroos et al. 2015). Yet, translation into English and updating the taxonomy and nomenclature must have been quite a daunting task considering the...