Yoshihito OHMURAa,*, Hiroaki KINDAICHB and Kozo YOSHICAc: Materials for the Distribution of Lichens in Japan (21) Toninia tristis subsp. fujikawae

aDepartment of Botany, National Museum of Nature and Science, 4-1-1, Amakubo, Tsukuba, 305-0005 JAPAN; bTokyo Metropolitan Medical Plant Garden, 21-1, Nakajima-cho, Kodaira, Tokyo, 187-0033 JAPAN; cSaitama Museum of Natural History, 1417-1, Nagatoro, Chichibu, 369-1305 JAPAN

*Corresponding author: ohmura-y@kahaku.go.jp

Summary: A new locality of Toninia tristis (Th. Fr.) Th. Fr. subsp. fujikawae (M. Satô) Timdal, an endangered endemic lichen growing on calcareous rocks in Japan, is reported from Nippara of Okutama in Tokyo Metropolis. Meanwhile, it has been lost from Meshimori-yama on Mt. Buko in Saitama Prefecture due to extensive mining of limestone. Additional specimens collected from known localities and neighboring sites decades after the first collection suggest that many populations appear to be stable except in habitats subject to destructive practices such as limestone mining.

During the course of floristic studies of Japanese lichens based on our field investigations and the examination of herbarium specimens housed in the National Museum of Nature and Science (TNS) and the Saitama Museum of Natural History (abbreviated as SMNH in the present paper), the occurrence of T. tristis subsp. fujikawae in Nippara of Tokyo Metropolis and several localities of Saitama Prefecture has been confirmed (Table 1, Fig. 1). At Nippara, more than 30 colonies, 2–5 cm in diameter, were found on calcareous rocks around the top of Inamura-iwa Mountain on 24 Sept. 2015. This species was also collected at Nippara on 13 Sept. 1955, confirming the stability of the habitat for 60 years in this area. However, the collection site for an unreported specimen in TNS, collected from Meshimori-yama on Mt. Buko in Saitama Prefecture on 19 July 1970, has unfortunately been completely lost due to extensive mining of limestone. Such habitat losses for this species by limestone mining are also known in Gunma and Kochi Prefectures (Harada and Anzai 2003, Ministry of Environment 2015).

Additional specimens collected from known localities or neighbouring sites after decades of their first collection suggest that most sites seem to be stable as in Nippara (Table 1). Therefore, artificial habitat destruction, such as extensive mining of limestone, is considered to be the most critical factor regarding the future of T. tristis subsp. fujikawae.


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References


