

IUCN SSC Rust and Smut Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



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Chair

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

9

Mission statement

The mission of the Rust and Smut Specialist Group (RSSG) is to promote the study and conservation of the rust and smut fungi by: (1) increasing current knowledge on the taxonomy of the species, (2) identifying and documenting threats to the survival of the species and (3) assessing and monitoring their conservation status.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Capacity building

i. We organized a workshop for the Red List assessments of rust and smut fungi: Red-listing Rusts & Smuts, 4 October, 2017, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia. The following activities took part within this workshop: (i) an oral presentation: "Assessment of threat status of smut fungi", (ii) a training course in assessing rust and smut fungi for the IUCN Red List, (iii) four posters with preliminary assessments of smut fungi were presented as examples of how the conservation status of this species is determined. (KSR #5)

Acknowledgements

We thank the European Mycological Association for financial support for the organization of the workshop. The assistance of David Minter and Anders Dahlberg in the organization of the workshop is also kindly acknowledged.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: Red List assessments of 50 species of smut fungi (subphylum *Ustilaginomycotina*) and rust fungi (subphylum *Pucciniomycotina*). The geographic regions considered for assessments include Europe, Central, East, and South Asia, Australasia, Africa, and Central and South America.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The conservation status of 50 species of rust and smut fungi will be assessed.



Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 1/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
-

Main KSRs addressed: 5

KSR: Key Species Result

Sporisorium elionuri-tristis, from Madagascar
Photo: T.T. Denchev



Microbotryum piperi, from Bulgaria
Photo: T.T. Denchev