

Summary: Larissa N. Vasilyeva, Pyrenomycetous Fungi

Dr. Larissa Vasilyeva, Principal Researcher, Cryptogamic Laboratory Institute of Biology and Soil Science of the Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Vladivostok, Russia is fascinated with Pyrenomycetous fungi. The distinguished Russian researcher was invited to participate in the Thicket of Diversity. Linda Brindle was Director at the time. A proposal “*Pyrenomycetous Fungi (Ascomycota) of the Big Thicket National Preserve*” was approved in the Minutes of March 3, 2007 for \$1600. There is a permit from NPS to collect in 2007 with Jane Packard. It appears travel arrangements may not have been secured, and a similar proposal of the same name for \$1600 was approved in the Minutes of April 21, 2009. Vasilyeva was in the area and made presentations according to a schedule in October 2009. Another proposal was submitted for \$2200 and approved Oct. 8, 2010.

Mary C. Johnston continues to research the financial records to determine if 3 proposals or 2 were funded. She found that a payment made refunded airfare for \$1182, Ck #1293 on March 23, 2011.

Through the ToD ATBI an initial survey was conducted in the Big Thicket National Preserve in 2007 and a second survey in 2009. Vasilyeva’s Annual Report for Permit filed in 2010 documents findings. At present 65 species of Pyrenomycetous fungi have been identified. Other findings include rare species such as *Rosellinia glandiformis* found in Turkey Creek Unit and *Rosellinia langloisii* in Lance Rosier Unit and *Jumillera viridis* found in Canyonlands Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve. The first record in the USA of *Hypoxylon lividipigmentum* was found on the Kirby Nature Trail outside Kountze. Another first for USA was *Biscogniauxia arima* found in the Lance Rosier Unit in Saratoga. Previously, both were found in Mexico.

Dr. Vasilyeva’s credits are extensive. Her publications total over 125 (119 research papers and 6 books.)

Johnston and Halvorsen recognized her efforts to the ToD and shared her obituary. Co-researchers expressed appreciation for the tribute.

Submitted by Mary C. Johnston, Nov. 7, 2020

In 2026, ToD Chair Mary C. Johnston and Intern Natalia Doiron reviewed data and records. The 65 species listed in the 2022 Taxa Tally remain accurate. The problem was verification of new species. New species to science must be substantiated with a formal publication. Sometimes new species are identified while continued investigation with DNA sampling and the submission of a scientific publication are pending. From a list of 12 New to Science species originally identified by Vasilyeva, 6 have been confirmed in ToD records. Of the 41 News to Park species, 14 were confirmed. The original 2 New to US grew to 3 verified species.

Submitted by Mary C. Johnston, April 2026