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AN AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCED IDENTIFICATION KEY TO THE LICHENS  
OF MT VALERIO (TRIESTE, NE ITALY)

*UNA CHIAVE DI IDENTIFICAZIONE DEI LICHENI DEL MONTE VALERIO  
(TRIESTE, NE ITALIA) PRODOTTA AUTOMATICAMENTE*

**Abstract** - An identification key to the 110 lichens known from Mt Valerio (Trieste) is presented as a contribution to the study of the biodiversity of this area. The key was produced using FRIDA (FRiendly IDentificAtion), a new computerised tool for the automatic creation of interactive identification tools.

**Key words:** Biodiversity, Identification keys, Interactive keys, Lichens, Trieste, Italy.

**Riassunto breve** - Viene presentata una chiave di identificazione dei 110 licheni noti per il M. Valerio (Trieste) come contributo allo studio della biodiversità di quest'area. La chiave è stata prodotta usando FRIDA (FRiendly IDentificAtion), un nuovo strumento informatico per la creazione di chiavi computerizzate ed interattive.

**Parole chiave:** Biodiversità, Chiavi di identificazione, Chiavi interattive, Licheni, Trieste, Italia.

## Introduction

Starting from 2001, two national projects, co-ordinated by prof. P. L. Nimis, Department of Biology, University of Trieste and involving several Italian Universities, focused on the development of computerised databases and interactive identification tools accessible via Internet for different groups of plants and fungi of Italy. Computerised floras may provide updated information on biodiversity, and readily generate products such as regional-local floras (e.g. of a biotope, a natural park, a province). Interactive identification tools may simplify identification, by adopting user-friendly interfaces, easy-to-look-at characters, and multi-criteria filters. An original and flexible computerised system, FRIDA (FRiendly IDentificAtion), was developed by the senior author. The keys produced by FRIDA may be delimited on the basis of different criteria: the species of a biotope or of an administrative region, plants with red flowers, lichens with black, lecanorine apothecia, etc. They are available in two forms: 1) paper-printed, with traditional dichotomous keys, descriptions and images; 2) interactive form, accessible on-line, with friendly user interfaces.

