This special issue of MycoKeys includes review papers from presentations given at the 7th meeting of the International Association for Lichenology (IAL) in Bangkok in January 2012. The issue includes discussions on our changing understanding of symbiotic relationships of fungi with their photosynthetic partners (algae and cyanobacteria), evolutionary relationships of tropical lichen-forming fungi, and new insights into the relationships of carbon, water, and nitrogen in the lichen symbiosis. The review papers demonstrate the progress in understanding these symbiotic fungi by using molecular data and new analytical tools in physiological research.
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