The Uwharrie Mountains is an ancient range of isolated peaks (monadnocks) formed ca. 500 mya from the eruptions of a chain of volcanic islands in shallow seas that today stretch SSW - NNE in the Piedmont ecoregion of central North Carolina, USA. To date only one preliminary checklist exists for the lichens of the Uwharries, documenting 78 taxa from the southern and central portions of the range.

Materials and Methods

Three habitats on two monadnocks were sampled using 20 x 50 m plots. Two were on Ridges Mountain: (1) Basic Oak-Hickory Forest with mafic volcanic rocks (Fig1: plot RM1); (2) Piedmont Monadnock Forest in a mafic volcanic boulderfield (Fig1: plot RM2); (3) Piedmont Monadnock Forest with felsic rocks in Purgatory Mountain (Fig1: plot PM3). Specimens were curated and deposited at NCU and determined using standard laboratory techniques.

From these collections checklists for the three plots were compiled and analyzed using Jaccard similarity test, Non multidimensional Scaling and Cluster analyses.

Results & Discussion

Lichen species are substantially different and just XX% is shared among plots; being Graphis scripta, Flavoparmelia caperata, and Punctelia rudecta among the species that are present in all three plots.

RM1 and RM2 share XX species; RM1 and PM3 share XX species; RM2 and PM3 share XX species.

Even when RM1 and RM2 have the highest amount of unique species, they are similar based on the amount of species shared, which is higher than the ones shared with PM3.

The Uwharries are a substantially interesting area due to unique geographic features...