The year 1997 was the tenth year of activity of the Bryological and Lichenological Section of the Czech Botanical Society. The establishment of the Section (28.2.1988) was a response to a poor situation in bryology and especially in lichenology in the eighties. Although both disciplines have a long tradition in the present territory of the Czech Republic, the number of lichenologists was decreasing in the last decade. There were no lichenologists working at any university in the Czech Republic at the end of the eighties with the notable absence of any representative of those in middle and younger generations (Bryonora 9: 20-27). Consequently, surveys of lichen distribution in the country were rather scarce. The main objects of the new section were to encourage and promote in lichenology among students and botanists, together with the co-ordination of lichenological research. Since its foundation ten years ago the number of members has more than doubled (from 32 to 77 members) and the varied activities are well attended. Now many students at almost all of our universities are interested in lichenology, while post-graduate students will form new centres of lichenology soon. Contacts with lichenological friends and colleagues abroad are very important and valuable. A retrospective view on the last ten years of our Section summarizes the main facts (see Bryonora 20: 3-4).

Last year field meetings were organised in western Bohemia (Slavkovský les Mts., 36 participants) in spring and in eastern Moravia (White Carpathians Mts., 43 participants) in autumn as well as several short excursions for students. A small lichenological exhibition "The mysterious world of lichens" by J. Halda (originally displayed in 1996 at the Museum in Deštné in Orlické hory Mts.) travelled in 1997 to the regional museums in Litoměřice and Šumperk.

In the newsletter Bryonora 19 there is e.g. an article on the Czech distribution of Micarea lithinella by Z. Palice. This lichen species was often overlooked formerly and many new localities were found by the author. A short report on a revisit to some localities in SW Moravia after 40 years by J. Liška, A. Vězda and R. Dětinský highlighted the extinction of many lichens. There was also a short obituary of F. H. Brightman. In Bryonora 20, short articles on the rare species Collema dichotomum in Bohemia by I. Pišút and on an interesting locality of epiphytic lichens in the Malá Fatra Mts., Slovakia by A. Guttová were published. There was also a list of lichens collected during the 9th Bryological-Lichenological Days and additions to the Czech and Slovak lichenological bibliography.

Jiří Liška and Zdeněk Černohorský