

STEPHENSON, S. L., ROLLINS, A. W., SCHNITTLER, M., MORENO, G., VILLABA, A. L., 2024: First records of nivicolous myxomycetes from the central Appalachian Mountains, eastern North America. – *Austrian Journal of Mycology* **31**: 169–176.

**Key words:** biogeography, ecology, slime molds, snowbanks, taxonomy.

**Abstract:** Nivicolous (snowbank) myxomycetes are commonly associated with alpine snowbank habitats in temperate and (more rarely) boreal regions of the world, where the species that make up this distinct ecological assemblage can be found fruiting along the margins of melting snowbanks in late spring and early summer. In the Central Appalachians, snow rarely accumulates enough to persist as sizeable snowbanks of the type found in typical habitats for nivicolous myxomycetes. However, the snow-making equipment used by ski resorts in the region produce “artificial” snowbanks that can persist for weeks beyond the period when naturally occurring snow accumulations have melted away. In the present study, one example of such an artificial snowbank yielded, over the course of three years, three species of nivicolous myxomycetes (*Lamproderma ovideum*, *Polyschismium chailletii*, and *Trichia alpina*). These appear to be the only records known for the group from both the Central and Southern Appalachians.