

Taxonomic notes on the lichen genera *Lepraria* and *Leproloma*

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The genus *Leproloma* Nyl. ex Croub. is reduced to a synonym of *Lepraria* Ach. and all taxa of the former are transferred to the latter. The following new combinations are proposed: *Lepraria diffusa* (J.R.Laundon) Kukwa *comb. nova* var. *diffusa*, *L. diffusa* var. *chrysodetoides* (J.R.Laundon) Kukwa *comb. nova* and *L. sipmaniana* (Kümmerling & Leuckert) Kukwa *comb. nova*.

Key words: *Lepraria*, *Leproloma*, lichens, taxonomy

The genus *Leproloma* Nyl. ex Croub. was established for *L. lanuginosum* Nyl. ex Croub. (= *L. membranaceum* (Dicks.) Vain.), but it was forgotten for almost 100 years and only recently resurrected by Laundon (1989). Laundon (1989, 1992) added three species to the genus: *L. angardianum* (Øvstedal) J.R.Laundon. (= *L. cacuminum* (A. Massal.) J.R.Laundon), *L. diffusum* J.R.Laundon and *L. vouauxii* (Hue) J.R.Laundon. He characterised *Leproloma* as a natural group containing dibenzofurans in the thallus, which was the feature distinguishing it from *Lepraria* Ach. Laundon (1989) also reported ascomata for *Leproloma membranaceum*, but later it was discovered that they belonged to another lichen overgrown by *L. membranaceum* (Tønsberg & Jørgensen 1997). A further species in the genus, *L. sipmanianum* Kümmerling & Leuckert, was described by Leuckert and Kümmerling (1991).

In 1995 *Leproloma cacuminum* was independently transferred to the genus *Lepraria* by Lohtander (1995) and Kümmerling and Leuckert (Leuckert *et al.* 1995), but Lohtander's combination (5 May 1995) has a priority over Kümmerling & Leuckert's (15 May 1995). The position of *Lepraria cacumina* in this genus is supported by the similarities in chemistry and morphology to the *Lepraria neglecta* group (including *L. caesioalba* (de Lesd.) J.R.Laundon and *L. neglecta* (Nyl.) Erichsen). Furthermore, all these taxa uniquely share the lichenicolous fungus *Rhymobocarpus neglectus* (Vain.) Diederich & Etayo (syn. *Llimoniella neglecta* (Vain.) Triebel & Rambold) (Kümmerling *et al.* 1993, Lohtander 1995, Diederich & Etayo 2000). As a consequence, the delimitation between *Lepraria* and *Leproloma* based on the presence or absence of dibenzofurans lacked foundation. In my studies on *Lepraria* and *Leproloma* I did not find any

morphological features clearly characterizing or discriminating these two genera. Although all *Leproloma* species contain substances related to pannaric acid, this is not a sufficient reason for separating them. Therefore the name *Leproloma* must be synonymized with *Lepraria*.

Three species, *Leproloma cacuminum*, *L. membranaceum* and *L. vouauxii*, were earlier placed by authors in the genus *Lepraria*, but the recently described taxa have never been transferred to this genus; the new combinations of these are validated below:

Lepraria diffusa* (J.R.Laundon) Kukwa, *comb. nova

Basionym: *Leproloma diffusum* J.R.Laundon, *Lichenologist* 21: 16. 1992.

Lepraria diffusa* var. *chrysodetoides* (J.R.Laundon) Kukwa, *comb. nova

Basionym: *Leproloma diffusum* var. *chrysodetoides* J.R.Laundon, *Lichenologist* 21: 18. 1992.

Lepraria sipmaniana* (Kümmerling & Leuckert) Kukwa, *comb. nova

Basionym: *Leproloma sipmanianum* Kümmerling & Leuckert, *Nova Hedwigia* 52: 27. 1991.

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