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

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The genus *Leproloma* Nyl. ex Cromb. 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 Cromb. was established for *L. lanuginosum* Nyl. ex Cromb. (= *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 *Rhymbocarpus 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*


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


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


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**References**


