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(2235) Proposal to conserve the name *Leptogium* (lichenized *Ascomycota*) with a conserved type

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(2235) ***Leptogium*** (Ach.) Gray, Nat. Arr. Brit. Pl. 1: 400. 1821 (*Collema* [unranked] *Leptogium* Ach., Lichenogr. Universalis: 654. 1810), nom. cons. prop.

Typus: *Leptogium azureum* (Sw.) Mont. (*Collema azureum* Sw.), typ. cons. prop.

It has long been known that the generic limit between the lichen genera *Collema* F.H. Wigg and *Leptogium* (Ach.) Gray, which has been based mainly on cortex anatomy, is artificial (see, e.g., Degelius in Symb. Bot. Ups. 12(3). 1954). Only recently in several molecular works (see Ojalora & al. in Fungal Diversity, in press, DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s13225-013-0266-1>) has it become possible to untangle this complex group of collemataceous genera. It is now quite clear that *Leptogium* as typified by Clements & Shear (in Gen. Fung.: 317. 1931) by “*Leptogium lacerum* (Sw.) Gray” (i.e., *L. lacerum* Gray, nom. illeg. = *L. lichenoides* (L.) Zahlbr, but see Jørgensen in Taxon 58: 1002–1003. 2009) is a genus of small-squamulose species. It comprises only about forty species. The bulk of the species usually referred to *Leptogium*, close to a hundred larger foliose ones, must

change their name to *Mallotium* (Ach.) Gray. Both *Leptogium* and *Mallotium* were established as subdivisions of *Collema* by Acharius (l.c. 1810), the latter comprising species with hairy lower surfaces. *Mallotium* has ever since been used in that sense, though most often at sectional level, though even that use has been challenged, e.g., by Jørgensen (in Herzogia 3: 433–460. 1975). It would be most unfortunate now to take this name up for the whole genus, and it would require more than fifty new combinations. We therefore propose that *Leptogium* be conserved with a new type, the widespread *Leptogium azureum* (Sw.) Mont., a central, non-hairy species included in this subdivision of *Collema* by Acharius, to avoid this major nomenclatural instability. This will keep most species in *Leptogium*, while the smaller, squamulose species would need a new generic name, for which *Scytinium* (Ach.) Gray, Nat. Arr. Brit. Pl. 1: 398. 1821 (“*Scytinium*”) (based on *Collema* [unranked] *Scytinium* Ach., Lichenogr. Universalis: 642. 1810) is available. As it has been typified (Stafleu in Regnum Veg. 102: 1594. 1969) on *Scytinium palmatum* (Huds.) Gray, the only species of the original three treated by Acharius that Gray knew from The British Isles. Gray gives no explanation for his

use of the orthographic variant “*Scytenium*”, rather than Acharius’s original (a misprint?). We prefer the original spelling to which Gray’s variant is correctable.

Should this proposal fail, a great number of the large, wide-spread, none-hairy species (more than fifty) will have to change to

Mallotium, a name which, since its publication by Acharius, about 200 years ago, solely has been connected to the hairy species (on sectional level). The application of *Mallotium* for all these species will be a most confusing factor in the stabilization of the new taxonomy and nomenclature.