Asahinea Culb. & C. Culb.
(LECANORALES: PARMELIACEAE)

After Thomson, 1984, and others

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Thallus appressed large foliose, yellowish (usnic acid) or gray to brownish (atranorin), often black flecked or edged; cortex prosplectenchymatous (with thick walls and tiny lumina); upper side with punctiform pseudocyphellae in one species, isidia in another; margin not ciliate; underside black except for the + brown margin, completely without rhizines. Nonpored epicortex present. Cell walls with isolichenan. Photobiont trebouxioid.

Apothecia very rare, lecanorine, marginal or becoming laminal, imperforate. Asci 8spored; spores simple, hyaline, ellipsoid, 813 x 58 um. Pycnidia rare, marginal, immersed; pycnospores cylindrical (pegshaped), straight, 510 x 1 um. Medulla with orcinol depsidones (alectoronic acids) + or quinones. On rock or soil, arcticalpine. Type species: A. chrysantha.

A cetrarioid genus.

Ahtiana, which is superficially somewhat similar to Asahinea chrysantha, has Cetrariatype lichenan, globose spores, emergent pycnidia with bifusiform pycnospores, appressed lobes, and simple rhizines.

1. Thallus yellow mottled or edged with black, lacking isidia but pseudocyphellate above; usnic acid present. On boulders, plant debris and humus, occasionally on soil, in tundras, arctic. ..... A. chrysantha
1. Thallus whitish to tan, mottled with black and becoming mostly black; upper surface isidiate, nonpseudocyphellate (but scars of isidia sometimes resembling pseudocyphellae); usnic acid absent. On boulders, less commonly on humus, in tundras, western arctic. ..... A. scholanderi

Literature: Poelt, 1969. Bestimmungschlssel europischer Flechten. Thomson, J. W. 1984. American Arctic Lichens I. The Macrolichens. Elix, J. 1993. Genera of Parmeliacae.