

Botryolepraria Canals, Hernández-Mariné, Gómez-Bolea & Llimona

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Thallus sterile, without ascomata or conidiomata, byssoid, minutely cottony, caespitose, forming lax, microscopic shrub-like clusters.

Differs from Lepraria because of its microscopic shrub-like clusters, consisting of free hyphae crowned by subterminal algal cells in a form resembling a bunch of grapes. It differs from Leprocaulon because of a lack of conrescent hyphae forming little stems. It further differs from both genera by the lack of typical soredia, i.e., the algal cells are not completely enclosed by fungal hyphae in this genus, and the presence of lesdainin as the major lichen compound.

Botryolepraria lesdainii (Hue) Canals, Hernández-Mariné, Gómez-Bolea & Llimona (syn.: L. lesdainii (Hue) R. C. Harris)

THALLUS leprose, of a mass of powdery irregular granules, to 0.1 mm diam., but often much smaller, with numerous projecting, septate hyphae which tend to form a weft over the surface, when well developed forming a thick powdery crust, dark verdigris green, but becoming dull greenish gray in herbarium; forming \pm irregularly orbicular patches in the early stages, without marginal lobes.

CHEMISTRY: Thallus UV-. FeCl₃-. In GE forming moss-like branching patterns of minute crystals. With the triterpene lesdainin (= 6 α -acetoxypolan-22-ol) only, without atranorin or other substances, K-, C-, KC-, P-.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION: On rock and over mosses in limestone caves and clefts, and on limestone cliffs shaded by trees, confined to damp, heavily shaded habitats, in deeper shade than Caloplaca chrysodeta with which it often grows.

See Canals et al. 1997 for fuller description of the species.

Literature:

Canals, A., M. Hernández-Mariné, A. Gómez-Bolea & X. Llimona. 1997. Botryolepraria, a new monotypic genus segregated from Lepraria. Lichenol. 29: 339-345.