

Leptochidium M. Choisy
(COLLEMATACEAE)

After Thomson, 1984

Rev. 5/94

Thallus similar to a middlesized species of Leptogium or Collema, foliose, lobed, dark green to brownblack, the lobes flat, with a multicellular paraplectenchymatous cortex of isodiametric cells on both sides and usually with small hyaline cellular hairs projecting from the surface, especially on the margins.

Photobiont Scytonema. Apothecia adnate to sessile, lecanorine, with paraplectenchymatous cortex, often with hairs as on the thallus. Paraphyses \pm branched and capitate, septate. Spores 8, colorless, ellipsoid, straight, 2celled. On soil or moss and over rock. Monotypic. Type species: L. albociliatum.

Differs from Leptogium in having cortical hairs on both surfaces, 2celled spores, and containing Scytonema.

L. albociliatum (Desmaz.) M. Choisy

Thallus dark greenish black; lobes 35 mm wide, the tips rounded or divided into smaller lobes or with crenulate margins; upper surface smooth, without isidia (according to Thomson), usually with abundant small hyaline hairs projecting from the surface, especially marginally; attached by fasciculate rhizines; cortices multicellular, paraplectenchymatous. Photobiont Scytonema. Apothecia to 1.2 mm broad, adnate; disk reddish brown, flat; spores hyaline, oblongellipsoid to ellipsoid, 2celled, 1826 x 59 μ m. (If lobes 410 cm broad, with isidia, photobiont Nostoc, and spores muriform, see Leptogium burnetiae var. hirsutum). On mosses in moist habitats (but also quite common in semiarid areas?). Alaska to California, east to Colorado and with a disjunct occurrence in Greenland. The material I have identified as this species seems quite variable, but I may well have included Leptogium burnetiae v. hirsutum.

Literature

Poelt, J. 1969. Bestimmungsschlüssel europischer Flechten.

Thomson, J. W. 1984. American Arctic Lichens I. The Macrolichens. Columbia University Press, New York.

