Verrucaria breussii, a new name for Verrucaria sorbinea Breuss

Paul Diederich & Pieter van den Boom


The name Verrucaria sorbinea Breuss is recognized as a later homonym of Verrucaria sorbina Nyl. ex Hulting. As both species are distinct, a new name, Verrucaria breussii Diederich & van den Boom, is proposed here to replace Verrucaria sorbinea Breuss.


Der Name Verrucaria sorbinea Breuss wird als späteres Homonym von Verrucaria sorbina Nyl. ex Hulting erkannt. Da beide Arten verschieden sind, wird für Verrucaria sorbinea Breuss der neue Name Verrucaria breussii Diederich & van den Boom eingeführt.

Key words: Nomenclature, Verrucariaceae.

Over ten years ago, both authors discovered a new species of Verrucaria, corticolous on Sorbus domestica and Quercus ilex in Luxembourg and Spain (Mallorca). Our friend, Dr Othmar Breuss (Vienna), kindly confirmed that the material represents a new species, and eventually described it as the new Verrucaria sorbinea Breuss, choosing the Luxembourg collection as the holotype (Breuss 1998). This author was aware of a similar name, V. sorbicola Servit, distinguished from V. sorbinea by ascomata with a distinct involucrellum and slightly broader ascospores (23–29 × 12–16 µm, versus 23–26 × 10–12.5 µm) (see identification key and comments in Breuss 1998: 833–835). However, he obviously missed the existence of a further similar name, Verrucaria sorbina Nyl. ex Hulting. The two epithets sorbina and sorbinea are so similar that they must be considered as homonyms (see ICBN, Art. 53.3, Ex. 6, where Eschweilera and Eschweileria are said to be homonyms). Furthermore, considering Stearn (1985: 309), sorbina means “resembling Sorbus”, and this is surely not what Breuss intended to say, whilst sorbina is the right word (meaning “belonging to Sorbus”). Therefore, Breuss’ epithet sorbinea should be considered as a typographical mistake for sorbina and might thus be corrected to sorbina. As a consequence, a new name has to be introduced for Verrucaria sorbinea Breuss. As this is an uncommon and rarely reported species, a conservation of Breuss’ name under Art. 14 of the ICBN is unlikely to be accepted.

Verrucaria sorbina Nyl. ex Hulting, described from Sweden on Sorbus aucuparia, is a synonym of Normandina acroglypta (Norman) Aptroot (Aptroot 1998).
**Verrucaria breussii** Diederich & van den Boom, nom. nov.


Type: Luxembourg, Gutland, Larochette, alt. 370 m, on *Sorbus domestica*, 1 February 1998, P. Diederich 13482 (LG – holotype; hb. Diederich, LI, W – isotypes).


**References**


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