

VALIDATION OF NANNFELDT'S ORDINAL NAME HELOTIALES

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ABSTRACT

The ordinal name *Helotiales* Nannfeldt, in common use for over 60 years, was not validly published, since it was based on an invalidly published family name, *Helotiaceae* Rehm. Rehm's family name has recently been conserved, but since the ordinal name is still technically incorrect, steps are taken here to validate it.

KEYWORDS: *Leotiales*, nomenclature, invalid publication

Nannfeldt's (1932) exceptionally important contribution to the systematics of inoperculate discomycetes has led to adoption of his system and nomenclature by the great majority of discomycete workers. Unfortunately a technical problem invalidates the ordinal name *Helotiales*, which he proposed. The name was based on a family name, *Helotiaceae* Rehm, which lacks nomenclatural status (Korf & al., 1996). This led Carpenter (1988) to propose *Leotiales* Carp. as a nomen novum to replace *Helotiales*. Even though many authors have since followed Carpenter, that ordinal name is also not validly published (Korf & Lizon, 2000). Following conservation of *Helotiaceae* Rehm by the most recent International Botanical Congress, it is now appropriate to propose a valid ordinal name for these fungi. We validate Nannfeldt's name by providing it with a Latin description, which becomes necessary when publishing a new name under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Art. 36.1). The description is taken directly from Nannfeldt's German text in his key to orders:

HELOTIALES Nannfeldt, ord. nov.

Cum algis numquam symbioticae; saprophyticae vel parasiticae; ascis inoperculatis, ascarum parietibus exilibus, clavatis, pariete apicali nec vel parum incrassato; sporis rare sphaericibus, elongatis, numquam filiformi-cylindricis nec in "part-spores"

discedentibus; paraphysibus non cartilagineis, tantum rare epithecium formantibus; apotheciis plerumque perumper perdurantibus, carnosis, rare coriaceis vel cartilagineis.

Typus: *Helotium* Pers. 1801 non Tode 1791, = *Cudoniella* Sacc. [type of the family name Helotiaceae Rehm, *nom. conserv.*]

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