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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., 1966). 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 & Lizoň, 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 diagnosis is taken from Nannfeldt's German text:

HELOTIALES Nannfeldt

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

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

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

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