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[Watsoniomyces](#) D. Hawksw., M. Powell & T. Sprib.

A new genus [Watsoniomyces](#) was introduced by [Díaz-Escandon et al. \(2021\)](#) with the type *Watsoniomyces obsoletus* (Nyl.) D. Hawksw., M. Powell & T. Sprib. (= *Lecidea lichenicola*). The nomenclature of *Lecidea lichenicola* had uncertainty in the history due to endolithic ecology and the presence of photobiont. Thus, the species was treated under *Lecanoromycetes* due to ascomatal and ascus structures ([Schultz & Büdel 2002](#)). However, metagenome-assembled genome data of six genes multi-locus phylogenetic analyses placed *Lecidea lichenicola* under the family *Lichinaceae* in *Lichinomycetes* ([Schultz & Büdel 2002](#)). Based on the re-examination of fresh and type materials, the earliest name for this species is *Lecidea obsoleta* (syn. *Thrombium cretaceum*) hence, neo-typified under [Watsoniomyces](#) ([Schultz & Büdel 2002](#)). The placement of [Watsoniomyces obsoletus](#) under *Lichinaceae* makes it to be the first member of *Lichinomycetes* with an endolithic thallus. Further the species is characterized by its saxicolous habit on the chalk stones, while the type and other original material of *L. lichenicola* was confirmed not to be on chalk and endolithic and identified as *Trapelia glebulosa* ([Schultz & Büdel 2002](#)). The cyanobacterium *Scytonema* was found in the thallus of [Watsoniomyces obsoletus](#), and other green algae such as *Trentepohlia* and *Chlorella* also co-existed ([Schultz & Büdel 2002](#)). Therefore, the photobiont of [Watsoniomyces obsoletus](#) needs to be further confirmed.

References

- Díaz-Escandon D, Hawksworth DL, Powell M, Resl P, Spribille T. 2020 – The British chalk specialist *Lecidea lichenicola* auct. revealed as a new genus of Lichinomycetes. Fungal Biology 125(7):495–504, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2021.01.007>
- Schultz M, Büdel B. 2002 – Key to the genera of the Lichinaceae. Lichenologist, 34: 39e62. <https://doi.org/10.1006/lich.2001.0367>

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