

Lecidea Ach. (s. str.)
(LECANORALES: LECIDEACEAE)

Thallus crustose, superficial or immersed, continuous to areolate, usually whitish or grayish; prothallus present or absent. Photobiont chlorococcoid, mostly Trebouxia (incl. Pseudotrebourgia), but also Chlorosarcina and perhaps other genera.

Apothecia immersed to sessile, usually persistently marginate; thalline exciple absent. True exciple of irregular chains of swollen cells, outer layer brown to dark brown, internally \pm colorless. Epihymenium often pigmented, olivaceous or brown to blackish or green-black. Hymenium usually I+ blue. Hypothecium colorless to brown or black. Paraphyses simple to sparsely branched, with few or no anastomoses, the apical cells usually pigmented. Asci elongate-clavate, Lecidea-type, outer coat I+ blue, apex thickened, apical dome I+ pale blue, usually with a distinct I+ blue meniscus-like, shallow subapical ring but sometimes prolonged into a tube. Spores usually 8, ellipsoid to oblong, simple, with a central plasma bridge, smooth, without a perispore, colorless.

Pycnidia when present immersed, black; conidia elongate-bacilliform, simple, colorless. Chemistry includes orcinol para-depsides and β -orcinoln depsidones, rarely with traces of atranorin. On rocks, especially common on hard siliceous substrata. Widely distributed but centered in humid and cool regions.

Hawksworth, D. L. & B. J. Coppins. 1992. Lecidea. In: Purvis, et al., Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland.