

CLASSIFICATION

It is difficult to give a natural system of lichen classification because there are the associations of the two different organisms (Algae & Fungi) with different evolutionary history.

Several systems of classification have been reported, particularly by Vainio (1890), Reinkel (1896), Fink (1911), Hataan (1953), Zahlbruckner (1926), Korf (1958), Dennis (1960), Poelt (1973) etc.

The classification is based mainly on the fruiting body of the fungal partner.

Zahlbruckner (1926) classified lichens into two groups:

LICHEN	
Sub class	
Ascomichenes	Hymenomichenes
Series:	

- i) Pyrenocarpeae - fruiting body - flask shaped.
- ii) Gymnocarpeae - " " " - saucer shaped.

Sub-series:

- a) Coniscarpineae [order - Caliciales]
- b) Uraphidineae [order - Hysteriales]
- c) Cyclocarpineae [order - Lecanorales]

A more recent & modified system of classification is given by Luttrell (1955) for the fungi & modified by Santesson (1953) for the lichen.

Class = Ascomycetes (Ascomichenes)

(i) Sub-class = Leculomycetes (Ascomichenes)

= Ascocarp is ascus in locules of an ascostroma among pseudoparaphyses.

Order (a) - Pleosporales (Ascomycete - flask shaped resembling perithecia)

Order (b) - Hysteriales (Ascocarp & Hysterothecia)

(ii) Sub-class - Ascomycetes (Rascomyeniales) - Ascocarps
with unitunicate ascii & paraphyses in a

hymenium.

Order (a) - Sphingales (Pyrenocarpeae)

- Ascocarp a perithecium

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Order (b) - Lecanorales (Gymnocarpeae)

- Ascocarp a pithecium

Class - Basidiomycetes (Hymenolichenes)

Order - Agaricales

Class - fungi imperfecti