**Acarospora cinerascens** (Acarosporaceae), a poorly known species from the southern Central Alps (Italy and Switzerland)

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*Acarospora cinerascens* is accepted as distinct from *A. versicolor* based on larger spores and areoles as well as apothecia with a higher hymenium. *Acarospora cinerascens* is lectotypified. *Acarospora alboatra* is a synonym of *A. cinerascens*.


*Acarospora cinerascens* wird anerkannt und ist von *A. versicolor* sowohl durch die größeren Sporen und Areolen als auch das höhere Hymenium der Apothecien zu unterscheiden. *Acarospora cinerascens* wird lectotypifiziert. *Acarospora alboatra* ist ein Synonym von *A. cinerascens*.

**Key Words:** Alps, alpine lichens, lectotypification, taxonomy, xerothermic lichens.

**Introduction**

In Magnusson (1926), in “New or misunderstood European lichens”, the author revised *Acarospora versicolor* Bagl. & Carestia, articulating the modern concept of the species. In that early paper he gave the average spore range as 3.0–5.0 × 1.8–2.0 µm. But at the end of the discussion he notes that from Schlanders in the Italian Alps some specimens had a spore range of 5.0–7.0 × 3.0–3.5 µm, while others from the same locality had the normal spore range. In the 1950s, Poelt visited Schlanders and collected a large, white-pruinose taxon with ascospores 5.0–7.0 × 3.0–3.5 µm. Magnusson immediately recognized it as a new species which he described as *Acarospora alboatra* H.Magn. (Magnusson 1954). In 1970, Buschardt began his doctoral study of xerothermic habitats in the Alps, under Poelt’s supervision. In Schlanders he collected both *A. versicolor* and *A. alboatra*. In 1979, Arthur Buschardt published the excellent doctoral thesis “Zur Flechtenflora der inneralpinen Trockentäler unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Vinschgaus” (Buschardt 1979), in which he recognized *A. atroalba* as a synonym of *A. cinerascens* J.Steiner, based on his study of the syntypes in Arnold’s excis- cata and Magnusson’s type of *A. alboatra*. This revision went unnoticed. Clauzade & Roux (1981) included the species in *A. versicolor* and at the Italian lichen website *A. cinerascens* is still considered a synonym of *A. versicolor* (Nimis & Martellos 2008). Only recently did

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