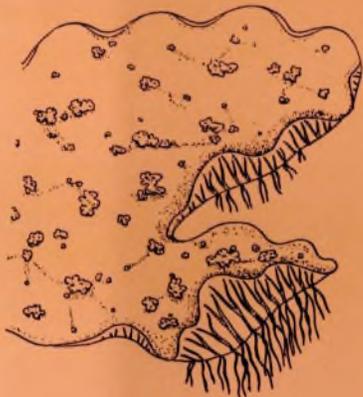


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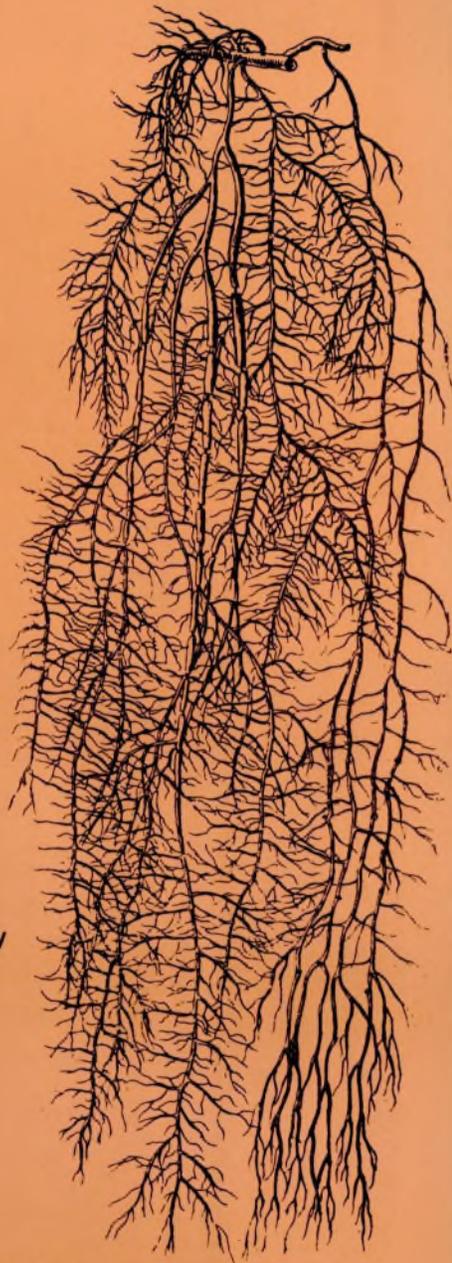
**BRITISH
LICHEN
SOCIETY
BULLETIN**



Nephroma

Peltigera

chemistry



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THE CORRECT NAME FOR *Parmelia perlata*
Or should we have kept our mouths shut?

In Bulletin 59: 14 (1986) Cudbear referred to the name change from *Parmelia perlata* to *Parmotrema chinense* by Mason Hale and me in Taxon 35: 133 (1986). He remarked that we avoided making the corresponding combination in *Parmelia*.

Apart from the fact that it is illegitimate to combine an epithet with two genera in the same paper, there are other reasons for this. The oldest specific epithet available for this species published in the original name *Lichen chinensis* Osbeck 1757 cannot be legitimately combined with *Parmelia* because there is already *Parmelia sinensis* Hue 1899. According to Art. 64.2, Ex. 8 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature "chinensis" and "sinensis" are considered to be orthographic variants of the same word, and the application of chinensis under *Parmelia* would create an illegitimate later homonym.

Instead, when placing this species in the genus *Parmelia* we have to adopt *Parmelia coniocarpa* Laurer 1827. This name was applied to a species described from Australia, but according to Hale in *Brittonia* 13: 366 (1961) it is conspecific with *Parmelia perlata*, which is commonly reported there. I myself have collected this lichen in Australia, and I believe it is the same as the species in Europe.

I am one of the first to regret such name changes. The old name published by Osbeck was actually detected by the bryologist Pekka Isoviita, and I have certainly wondered whether I should have applied the method adopted by some other lichenologists: keep your mouth shut and hope that nobody else will ever come across such an obscure name - or that the rules of nomenclature may change, so that no new name is required!

TEUVO AHTI (agreed with MASON HALE)

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