BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY

AUTHORIZATION OF A COMMITTEE ON BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE AND OF A JUDICIAL COMMISSION

An Amendment to the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature

Edited by R.E. Buchanan, Robert S. Breed and S.T. Cowan

UPON RECOMMENDATION of the Judicial Commission and of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, the concluding Plenary Session of the Fifth International Congress of the International Association of Microbiologists held at Rio de Janeiro in August, 1950, agreed by unanimous vote to rescind Provision 4 of the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature as approved at the Copenhagen Congress of 1947, and to substitute for said Provision 4 the following Provision 4 and Provision 5.

PROVISION 4. AUTHORIZATION OF A NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE. A permanent International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature has been established by the International Association of Microbiologists in Congress. This Committee is so constituted that wherever practicable each country is represented by at least one member and no country by more than five. Nominations for membership are made preferably by one or more of the microbiological societies in each country. If nominations are not made by the microbiological societies of a country, nominations may be made by members of the Nomenclature Committee. Nominations should be made in writing to one of the Permanent Secretaries of the Committee. Acceptance will be indicated by the Secretaries, and the nominees given temporary membership in the Committee pending action of the Committee and of the next International Congress, when the election will be confirmed.

The several societies and Committee members making nomina-

tions are urged to nominate persons representing all branches of microbiology, so that the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature may have broad representation of all microbiological interests in nomenclature. The International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature through its Permanent Secretaries shall submit a list of its members to the last Plenary Session of each International Congress for confirmation.

Two Permanent Secretaries are chosen by the Committee and confirmed by the Plenary Session of the Congress. One of the Permanent Secretaries shall primarily represent the interests of medical and veterinary bacteriology and one the interests of non-medical bacteriology. Vacancies in the position of Permanent Secretary which may occur in the interim between Congresses of the International Association of Microbiologists shall be filled by the Judicial Commission, such appointment to be temporary unless confirmed by the next Congress. The Permanent Secretaries shall be regarded as members at-large and shall not be included in the quota of any nation.

At least one year before each Congress each national society shall inform the Permanent Secretaries of any recommendations relative to changes in its representation.

At a meeting held at each International Congress the Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman,

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who shall hold office until the close of the next succeeding Congress.

A. The duties of the Chairman of the Committee shall be:

- 1 To preside at all meetings of the Committee.
- 2 To collaborate with the Permanent Secretaries in the preparation of the Agenda for the meetings of the Committee.
- 3 To appoint members of such subcommittees as may be approved by the Committee and not otherwise provided for.
- 4 To assume such other duties as may be requested by the Committee.

B. The duties of the Permanent Secretaries shall be:

- 1 In cooperation with the Chairman of the Committee, to prepare the Agenda for all meetings of the Committee.
- 2 To keep the minutes of the Committee, and submit them for publication in the Proceedings of the appropriate International Congress.
- 3 To serve *ex-officio* as voting members of the Judicial Commission; they shall act as Secretaries to the Commission.
- 4 To secure from the several national societies representing microbiology their nominations for membership. When such nominations are in accordance with the Provisions of this Code of Nomenclature, to certify such nominees to temporary membership, and to prepare a list of all nominations for presentation to the committee at its first regular meeting at each International Congress.
- 5 To receive from the Judicial Commission such recommendations as may require action by the Committee. Between International Congresses to duplicate such recommenda-

tions and send them to all members of the Committee. If the members of the Committee are circularized to secure comments and suggestions, to tabulate the information received. If the members are asked to vote upon any proposal, to tabulate and announce the result of the ballot, and to certify the results to the Chairman of the Committee and to the Chairman of the Commission.

- 6 With the Chairman of the Judicial Commission to serve as members of the Editorial Board to edit and prepare for final publication all Opinions issued by the Judicial Commission, the International Code of Bacteriological Nomenclature and its amendments, and all other publications authorized or sponsored by the Committee or by the Judicial Commission.
- 7 To present to the Plenary Session of the Congress all actions of the Judicial Commission or the International Committee requiring approval of the Session.
- 8 One or other of the Permanent Secretaries shall be designated a member of each subcommittee, and shall be responsible for the transmission of all reports and recommendations from the subcommittee to the Committee.
- 9 With the Chairman to authorize the formation of new subcommittees to consider the taxonomy and classification of special groups of microorganisms, such subcommittees to have provisional status only until they are duly authorized by action of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature. Proposals for the formation of such subcommittees may be made to one of the Permanent Secretaries by an individual or by a group of individuals.

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C The International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature has the following functions:

- 1 To hold meetings at the time of and as a part of the Sessions of each Congress of the International Association of Microbiologists.
- 2 To consider and pass upon all recommendations made by the Judicial Commission relative to the formulation, the modification or the amendment of the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature, or relating to the nomenclature of other groups of microbiological concern. In cases in which the approval of the Congress is also necessary the Committee will make the appropriate recommendations. Proposals for amendment of the Bacteriological Code shall be submitted to one of the Permanent Secretaries at least one year before the next International Congress.
- 3 To consider all Opinions issued by the Judicial Commission. Such Opinions become official and final unless rejected by majority vote at the meeting of the Committee next following the date on which the Opinion was published or submitted to the Committee.
- 4 To authorize or appoint special subcommittees of experts to consider and report on the classification of special groups of microorganisms and on other phases of their taxonomy, to sponsor one or more sessions of a Section on Taxonomy and Classification at each International Congress at which these reports of subcommittees may be presented and discussed; to receive and recommend for publication the reports of these subcommittees, and to refer to the Judicial Commission any special problems that have been raised or recommendations that have been

made respecting Nomenclature.

5. To elect from the membership of the Committee the members of the Judicial Commission as vacancies may occur and to replace the members of the several classes as their terms expire.
6. Whenever a vacancy may occur, to nominate a Permanent Secretary to the next Plenary Session.
7. To appoint as Life Members of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, individuals who have rendered distinguished service to bacteriological nomenclature and taxonomy. Such Life Members shall be regarded as members at large and not as representing the microbiologists of any nation.

PROVISIONS 5 AUTHORIZATION OF A JUDICIAL COMMISSION. A Judicial Commission is authorized; it shall consist of fourteen members, twelve elected by the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature from its membership, together with the two Permanent Secretaries. The Commissioners are elected to serve in three classes of four Commissioners each, one class retiring at the close of the meeting of each Congress of the International Association of Microbiologists. In case of the resignation or death of a Commissioner between Congresses, the vacancy may be filled by letter ballot of members of the International Committee.

One of the Commissioners shall be chosen as chairman and one as vice chairman by vote of the Judicial Commission. The chairman and vice-chairman shall hold office during their unexpired terms as Commissioners.

A The Chairman of the Judicial Commission shall have the following duties.

1. To preside at all meetings

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- of the Judicial Commission.
2. To prepare, with the collaboration of the Permanent Secretaries of the Committee, the Agenda for all meetings of the Judicial Commission.
3. To appoint such committees as are authorized by the Judicial Commission but whose appointment has not been otherwise provided for.
4. To serve as Chairman of the Editorial Board.
5. With the cooperation of the Permanent Secretaries to formulate tentative opinions and proposals either for discussion or for vote by the members of the Judicial Commission, and to receive and codify or tabulate the results.
6. To maintain a list of all requests for opinions or for assistance in nomenclatural problems which come to the Commission and to expedite the formulation and publication of Opinions of the Judicial Commission.
7. With the cooperation of the Permanent Secretaries, to put in form for consideration requests or suggestions for emendation of the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature, to circulate such requests or formulations to the Commissioners, to call for votes, to tabulate them and to make the appropriate recommendations to the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature.
8. Through the Permanent Secretaries to transmit to the International Committee the Opinions issued by the Judicial Commission, and all recommendations and actions of the Judicial Commission requiring the consideration or approval of the International Committee.
9. To represent the Judicial Commission on such International Committees, Boards or Commissions as may be organized to

consider cooperation in biology in the solution of common problems of nomenclature or taxonomy, particularly to work with other similar Commissions or Executive Committees organized for action on problems of nomenclature in Botany and in Zoology.

10. To Undertake such other duties as may from time to time be requested by the Judicial Commission.

B The Judicial Commission has the following functions:

- 1 To hold meetings at the time of each Congress of the International Association of Microbiologists.
- 2 To consider all requests for Opinions relative to the interpretation of the Principles, Rules, Recommendations and Provisions of the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature where application is doubtful. In suitable cases an Opinion shall be prepared, which if approved by eight or more Commissioners shall be issued and published, becoming thereby available for the guidance of bacteriologists. All Opinions are reported to the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature and unless rescinded by majority vote of this Committee such Opinions become final.
- 3 To consider each proposal for amendment of the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature, and to formulate a recommendation for such amendment. When approved by eight or more Commissioners it shall be submitted to the members of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, and shall be considered as tentatively approved when it has been accepted by seventy per cent of the members voting. It shall be submitted

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for final approval to the next Plenary Session of an International Congress.

- 4 To exercise the plenary powers conferred upon the Commission by the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature and by the fourth Congress of the International Association of Microbiologists to suspend the rules as applied to any given case, where, in its judgement, the strict application of the rules will clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity. If the suspension of the rules is by unanimous vote of the Commissioners, the decision is final except that an appeal may be taken to the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, which may rescind the action by majority vote of those voting. If the suspension of the rules is initially approved by nine or more Commissioners, but the vote is not unanimous, the resolution for suspension shall be submitted to the members of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, and will be validated by an affirmative vote of seventy per cent of those voting.
- 5 To establish lists of the names of taxonomic groups (taxa) that are to be conserved (*nomina conservanda*) on the basis of Opinions issued relative to the status of such names. There shall be included a list of conserved generic names (*nomina generica conservanda*), together with a list of generic names against which each name is conserved (*nomina generica rejicienda*), also a list of conserved specific epithets (*epitheta specifica conservanda*), together with a list of the specific epithets against which they are conserved (*epitheta specifica rejicienda*), also a list of conserved names of taxonomic groups (taxa) of higher rank than the genus (*nomina conservanda ordinum, familiarum, etc*).
- 6 To prepare and publish lists of types which have been fixed by Opinions of the Judicial Commission. These may include lists of type specimens, cultures, etc for species or subdivisions of species, type species for genera, type genera for higher taxonomic groups (taxa). Type cultures of species and subdivisions of species may be designated by the number or other symbol under which they are carried in the type culture collections.
- 7 To prepare and publish lists of names of bacterial genera that have been validly published, and if advisable, lists of the generic names of other groups in which microbiologists are interested. Such lists would be designed to assist authors publishing new names and combinations to avoid proposing invalid later homonyms.
- 8 To prepare and publish a list of publications in the field of bacteriology in which names proposed shall be regarded as not validly published and having no standing in bacteriological nomenclature.
- 9 To report to the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature at its first meeting at each International Congress the names of all Commissioners whose terms of service expire at the close of the Congress, and a list of other vacancies in the membership of the Commission, all of which should be filled by election by the Committee.
- 10 When requested, to prepare Opinions relative to the nomenclatural status of microorganisms studied by microbiological techniques, but not classed with the

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- bacteria or the viruses, as for example, the yeasts, molds, algae and protozoa. However, Opinions relating to organisms in these groups shall not be issued until they have been approved by the Commission or Executive Committee charged with the interpretation of the appropriate code of nomenclature (Zoological or Botanical).
11. Through its chairman and with the collaboration of the Permanent Secretaries to cooperate with other Commissions or similar bodies appointed by the International Botanical and Zoological Congresses to consider problems of nomenclature
 12. Upon approval of the International Committee to establish such Trusts or enter into such agreements as may be advisable for the auditing and administration of funds which may be designated for the payment of the necessary operating expenses of the Judicial Commission and Committee, whether such funds originate from grants-in-aid, gifts, royalties or monies received from the sale of publications or from other sources
 13. To request from appropriate international agencies of the United Nations, or from other organizations or foundations, grants-in-aid for the payment of the necessary expenses of the work of the Judicial Commission and of the Committee.
 14. To establish an Editorial Board, composed of the Chairman of the Commission and the two Permanent Secretaries. This Board is charged with the responsibility of editing and arranging for publication of the Opinions issued by the Judicial Commission, the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature with amendments and all other publications issued or sponsored by the Judicial Commission or by the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature.
 15. To sponsor or establish such publications, bulletins, or journals, as may be found necessary adequately to present requests for Opinions from the Judicial Commission, to present discussions of these requests and to give the steps from the inception of the study to the final Opinion, suspension of a rule, or allocation to lists of *nomena conservanda*.