PROPOSAL FOR THE REJECTION OF THE
GENERIC NAME CLOACA CASTELLANI AND
CHALMERS, AND PROPOSAL OF ENTEROBACTER
AS A GENERIC NAME WITH DESIGNATION OF TYPE
SPECIES AND OF ITS TYPE CULTURE

With Request for an Opinion

E. Hormaeche and P.R. Edwards

Instituto de Higiene, Montevideo,
Uruguay, and Communicable Disease
Center, Public Health Service, U.S.
Department of Health, Education and
Welfare, Atlanta, Georgia

In the International Bulletin 4, pp. 159-161, was published a collection of seven draft proposals entitled "Status of the generic names Escherichia, Klebsiella, Aerobacter and Cloacae."

Proposals 1 and 2 were dealt with (Bact. Code, Opinion 15, sections 3 and 4, p. 162). Proposals 5 and 6, alternative 1, also were subjects of opinions (Bact. Code, Opinion 13, section 1, p. 157).

Proposals 3, 4, and 7 have not been the subjects of opinions. These are as follows:

Draft Proposal 3. The generic name Aerobacter Beijerinck 1900 shall be placed on the list of conserved bacterial generic names (nomina generum conservanda).

Draft Proposal 4. The type species of the genus Aerobacter is Aerobacter aerogenes (Kruse) Beijerinck 1900 (Bacterium lactis aerogenes Escherich 1885). The specific epithet aerogenes in the species name Aerobacter aerogenes is conserved.

Draft Proposal 7. The generic name Cloaca Castellani and Chalmers 1919 shall be placed on the list of conserved bacterial generic names (nomina generum conservanda).

It is wished to bring forward the following facts and upon them to base additional draft proposals. Since the generic name Klebsiella Trevisan 1885 and the specific epithet Klebsiella pneumoniae (Schroeter) Trevisan 1885 have been conserved, taxonomists now have a satisfactory repository for those nonmotile, encapsulated strains which are found

in respiratory infections and which conform to the classical Friedländer, ozena, and rhinoscleroma types of the enteric bacteria. Included also are the numerous cultures isolated from stools, urine, water and soil which are culturally and biochemically indistinguishable from the above-mentioned types (Edwards, J. Bact., 1929, 17: 339). On the contrary, no name has been conserved for the motile cultures of the same general group and which are covered by Draft Proposals 3, 4, and 7, quoted above, but Hormaeche and Edwards (1958, Intern. Bull. Bact. Nomen. and Taxon. 8: 111) have proposed that Aerobacter Beijerinck should be redefined with a motile organism as the type.

The term Aerobacter aerogenes long has been applied by many workers to those nonmotile cultures of Klebsiella pneumoniae which have been isolated from stools, urine, water, and soil. The application of this name has been so indiscriminate that it will be well nigh impossible to prevent it from being applied to organisms which should be classified as Klebsiella. As it now stands, the term Aerobacter aerogenes is practically a synonym for Klebsiella pneumoniae since, with the exception of infrequently occurring motile cultures of A. aerogenes, the cultures placed in that species properly should be called Klebsiella pneumoniae, which has been conserved. Aerobacter cloacae (Jordan) Bergey et al. 1923 is a synonym of Cloaca cloacae (Jordan) Castellani and Chalmers 1919. The latter term is a tautonym and should be rejected under Rule 25 of the Bacteriological Code. In order to solve the difficulty Hormaeche and Edwards (Intern. Bull. Bact. Nomen. and Taxon., 1960, 10: 71-74) proposed a new genus Enterobacter, with the type species Enterobacter cloacae based on B. cloacae, Jordan 1890. Included in the genus was the species Enterobacter aerogenes which was made up of motile forms previously classified as A. aerogenes. The species were described and neotype cultures designated.

In light of these facts it is requested that opinions be given on Draft Proposals 3, 4, 7 cited above. It further is requested that the term Enterobacter Hormaeche and Edwards be placed in the list of conserved bacterial generic names (nomina generum conservandum) and that Enterobacter cloacae Jordan comb. nov. (B. cloacae Jordan 1890) be designated as the type species.