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BOOK REVIEW

Mráz, Oldřich, Jan Tesarčík and František Vařejka. 1963.
Nomina and synonyma der Mikroben. VEB. Gustav
Fischer, Verlag, Jena. 488 pp.

The full title (in translation) reads "Names and synonyms of the pathogenic and saprophytic microorganisms isolated from vertebrates of economic or epidemiological significance and from food of animal origin." It includes the names and synonyms of the vira, bacteria and fungi to be found in the pertinent medical, veterinary medical and food literature of the preceding 30 years. The volume is planned primarily for the veterinary microbiologist and for the food technologist concerned with meat products.

The first 52 pages of the three sections, including the orders Virales and Rickettsiales is compiled by F. Vařejka. Subheadings are: A. Index, B. Names with Synonyms, C. synonyms in Alphabetic Arrangement, and a list of 286 references. The author recognizes conventional binary combinations for the listed species of the Rickettsiales, 89 in all, and for their synonyms. The list of synonyms in some cases is long, 13 subspecies and varieties of Rickettsia tsutsugamushi are included. There is no recognition that these forms belong with the Schizomycetes rather than the viruses. The virus names "accepted" by the author are in all cases the German vernacular names. In each case the synonymy consists of the conventional binary combinations as given by authors who adhere to the rules of the several biological codes of nomenclature together with recognition of the so-called "non-Linnaean" nomenclature proposed by the International Subcommittee on Taxonomy of the Viruses. Many of these "non-Linnaean" names are included as synonyms of the German vernacular names coordinate with conventional names, but all are indefinitely cited as "Internationales Mikrobiologischer Kongress in Rom. 1953." Citations to names ascribed to Andrewes et al. are seemingly taken from "Burrows 1959, Textbook of Microbiology XVII. ed. Philadelphia." (See "Myxovirus parainfluenzae Andrewes et al. 1951. ") Other secondary citations are sometimes given.

The vernacular names accepted as standard in many cases are long and awkward as contrasted with the Latin names listed as synonyms. The designation "Virus" is followed by the German vernacular name of the disease. Contrast the accepted vernacular name "Virus der ansteckenden pustulösen nekrotisierenden Hautentzündung der Schafe und Ziegen" ascribed to Glover in 1928 with the comparative simplicity of the first latinized synonym listed as "Strongyloplasma paravaccinniae Morosow 1930."

A third well-organized division is an alphabetized list of the conventional and international subcommittee names with the allocations proposed by the author. A list of 286 references to the taxonomic literature of the Virales and Rickettsiales is appended.

The section by Vařejka constitutes a helpful contribution to an understanding of the nomenclature of the Virales and Rickettsiales, but illustrates quite clearly lack of stabilization in the current nomenclature of the viruses. Evidently those who use virus names are to be grouped in three categories, those who follow the suggestions of the International Subcommittee on Taxonomy of the Viruses, those who use the conventional names conforming to the biological codes of nomenclature and those who prefer to use the various polyglot vernacular names.

The section of the class Schizomycetes (281 pages) by Mráz includes 6 sections: Index; Names and Synonyms; Vernacular Names in German, English, French, and Russian; Synonyms Alphabetically Arranged; and a list of 1210 references. The several compilations are well done and constitute a substantial and important contribution to the systematization of bacterial nomenclature.

The Index is an alphabetized list of the scientific names of the pertinent bacteria accepted by the author as authentic. All but a few designated names are recognized as validly published and legitimate. In general, the nomenclature of the 7th edition of Bergey's Manual (Breed, Murray and Smith 1957) is accepted as a basis but many additional species are listed. Names that are questionable are clearly indicated, as are "cultural varieties," toxogenic types, biotypes, and forms of species showing host pathogenicity.

The section "Nomina and Synonyma" lists the accepted names with their synonyms. In general the synonyms listed are definitely objective, but some may be questioned as

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subjective. This listing is valuable, and should prove helpful to those to whom the volume is addressed. However, many of the hundreds of nomenclatural errors current in the literature are perpetuated. For example, the names ascribed to Holland in the several editions of Bergey's Manual and here recognized were not validly published and have no standing in nomenclature.

The lists of German, English, French and Russian vernacular names may well be helpful.

In the section on "Synonyms Arranged Alphabetically" each synonym is equated to its putative or accepted name. This list apparently goes much beyond enumeration of the names of organisms (126 pages in length) useful in veterinary and meat microbiology. It should be not only immediately useful but pave the way for the correction of cumulative nomenclatural errors of the past.

The third section prepared by Tesarčík treats of the nomenclature of fungi significant in the defined fields. It is based primarily upon Coudert's "Guide pratique de mycologie medical Paris 1955." Appendix 9, which outlines Coudert's classification, includes the actinomycetes with the bacteria and excludes them for consideration in his listing of the Fungi.

In this section the pattern noted above for the consideration of the Schizomycetes is repeated. The Index, the Nomina and Synonyma, and Synonyms in Alphabetical Arrangement, are well organized. The list of accepted names (12 pages) is surprisingly long, but the list of synonyms given for some species is even more surprising. For Candida albicans (Robin) Berkhout 1923, one hundred thirty-one synonyms are listed. Under "Synonyms Alphabetically Arranged" there is an equating of the listed synonyms to the accepted binary combinations. There are 253 references cited.

The authors have done a much needed job (albeit in a somewhat restricted field) with credit to themselves and have made much simpler the eventual correction of the many nomenclatural errors that persist in the literature.

R. E. Buchanan