CLASSIFICATION OF THE "COLIFORM" SEROTYPES
792 AND 147

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SUMMARY. Serotypes 792 and 147 should be classified within Shigella subgroup D. Provisional denomination S. scholtensii is proposed for serotype 792 and S. manolovii for serotype 147.

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Recently Manolov and Trifonova (1962) and Stenzel (1962a) proposed some atypical, immobile and anaerogenic strains for admission into the Shigella group. Above all, serotypes 792 and 147 are concerned in this.

The chief objections to the inclusion of these types in the Shigella group are substantiated in some biochemical properties exhibited by them, such as splitting of salicin, alkalization of Christensen's citrate agar, and the formation of hydrogen sulfide in comparatively large amounts. But now, as the authors showed, neither biochemical nor serological criteria are suitable for the establishment of a borderline between the taxa Shigella and E. coli. Especially Stenzel (1962a) pointed out that there are examples for almost any biochemical atypity within established types of Shigellae.

In these circumstances only enteropathogenicity serves as a criterion for membership in the Shigella group. Indeed, in an individual case natural enteropathogenicity may be difficult to ascertain, but now there are animal tests, developed and checked during recent years, the results of which show absolute correspondence with natural pathogenicity for man (see Stenzel 1962b). The infection of the guinea pig's eye or urinary bladder may serve as a fairly specific method for differentiating between Shigellae and shigella-like coliforms, and the property of freshly isolated cultures to cause keratoconjunctivitis on the guinea pig

should therefore be included in the definition of the Shigella group.¹

In our opinion Shigella subgroup D should be opened for admission of any atypical, immobile and anaerogenic serotype exhibiting certain biochemical properties as typical for the Escherichia group, but causing keratoconjunctivitis in the animal test. Consequently we propose to admit serotype 792 (S. scholtensii, "Katwijk-Coli," S. lom) and serotype 147 (145/46, "Shigella 13," S. sofia) into subgroup D.

If these two types are to be denominated with specific epitheta, serotype 792 must unequivocally be named Shigella scholtensii by reason of priority (Scholtens 1940). Following the custom of using the name of the author having done the basic work on the type concerned, we propose denominating serotype 147 as Shigella manolovii (Manolov 1959; Manolov and Trifonia 1962).

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¹ (Editorial Note). Proposals and recommendations made by both Stenzel and Manolov were submitted to the Enterobacteriaceae Subcommittee and discussed at Montreal. In the minutes of the Subcommittee Meeting is the statement that the Subcommittee was unanimously of the opinion that pathogenicity tests such as the keratoconjunctivitis and guinea pig bladder tests should NOT be the criterion for the inclusion of an organism in the Shigella group.