REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
NOMENCLATURE OF BACTERIA BY THE
"SUBCOMMITTEE ON MORAXELLA AND
ALLIED BACTERIA," NOVEMBER 1966

SUMMARY. An earlier ad hoc committee of the Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Nomenclature of Bacteria (ICNB) on "Study of nomenclature and taxonomy of Bacterium anitratum, the Moraxellae, the Mimeae and allied organisms" was replaced by a subcommittee on taxonomy of the ICNB and named "Subcommittee on Moraxella and Allied Bacteria." The objectives of the subcommittee are reviewed and the members listed.

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An ad hoc committee to study the nomenclature and classification of Bacterium anitratum, the Moraxellae, the Mimeae and allied organisms was formed in Montreal in 1962 at the suggestion of the Judicial Commission (Intl. Bull. Bact. Nomencl. and Taxon. 12:125, 1963). The immediate task of the Committee was to give advice to the Judicial Commission on the conservation of the generic name Moraxella.

It was soon realized by the Committee that it would not be possible to formulate satisfactory recommendations until a specially planned study of many selected strains had been undertaken. Therefore it was decided that the Committee should plan and execute such a study before making any recommendations.

The scope of the planned study was such that definite results could not be expected immediately. In these circumstances the members agreed to propose to the Judicial Commission that the status of the Committee be changed from that of an ad hoc Committee of the Judicial Commission to that of a Subcommittee of the International Committee on Nomenclature of Bacteria, and that the Committee be named: "Subcommittee on Moraxella and Allied Bacteria."

During the Moscow Congress for Microbiology in 1966 the Judicial Commission approved the proposal of the ad hoc Committee and dissolved the Committee. The ICNB estab-

lished a new "Subcommittee on Moraxella and Allied Bacteria." The ad hoc Committee held a meeting in Moscow on July 25 with participation of 10 members.

The following is a short summary of the work done by the Committee during its existence from 1962 to 1966 as an ad hoc Committee of the Judicial Commission.

The aim of the planned study is the recognition of existing taxa within the field; preparation of new or emended descriptions of the recognized taxa according to need and feasibility; and proposal of neotypes where necessary. Eventually the Committee hopes to be able to make proposals for the arrangement—including ranking—of the recognized taxa within a system of classification and proposals for a nomenclature in accordance with the proposed classification and the rules of nomenclature of bacteria.

(1) Planning

It has been agreed to examine one or a few representatives of all proposed species of Moraxella and related species. It has been agreed first to undertake an examination of the strains by a series of conventional tests in a number of laboratories in order to obtain a preliminary grouping of the strains. The kinds of tests and the methods to be used were fixed at the Moscow Meeting. Next, one or a few representatives from each of the preliminary groups—probably not more than 10 strains—should be examined by as many different kinds of bacteriologists as possible by tests which, in their opinion, are important in classification. Possible ways of having these special investigations performed were discussed at the Moscow Meeting. At a later stage it might prove necessary to examine a larger number of strains with respect to certain selected characteristics.

Concurrently with the laboratory studies the Committee has planned to undertake an analysis of the literature to clear up the nomenclatural situation.

(2) Collection of strains

About 60 strains representing 40 named species, or varieties of species, have so far been collected. As far as possible, type strains have been obtained. All these strains have been lyophilized at the American Type Culture Collection, and in April 1966 a set of strains was sent to each Committee member. At the Moscow Meeting it was agreed to include an additional 10 strains.

(3) Literature survey

A preliminary bibliography of relevant literature has been compiled and was sent to all members in May 1966. The members were requested to furnish supplementary items, and a more complete bibliography was prepared and issued to members in July 1966. Provision has been made to keep the bibliography up to date.

(4) The present members and officers of the Subcommittee

- Lautrop, H. (Chairman), Statens Seruminstitut, Amager Boulevard 80, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Lessel, E. F. (Secretary), American Type Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852.
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- Cary, Sylvia G., Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C.
- Courtieu, A. L., Service de Microbiologie, Centre Hospitalier, 42 Saint-Etienne, France.
- Henriksen, S. D., Kaptein W. Wilhelmsen og Frues, Bakteriologiske Institut, Oslo University and Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway.
- Murray, R. G. E., University of Western Ontario, London, Ont., Canada.
- Ordal, E. J., Department of Microbiology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98105.
- Piéchaud, M., Service de Microbie Générale, Institute Pasteur, 25, Rue du Docteur Roux, Paris, France.
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- Shewan, J. M., Dept. of Scientific and Industrial Research, Torry Research Station, Aberdeen, Scotland.
- Thornley, Margaret, Low Temperature Research Station, Downing Street, Cambridge, England.
- Seeliger, H. P. (Ex officio member), Institut für Hygiene und Mikrobiologie, Josef-Schneider Strasse 2, Universität Würzburg, 87 Würzburg, Germany.

E. F. Lessel, Secretary
Hans Lautrop, Chairman