REPORT OF THE TAXONOMIC SUBCOMMITTEE ON
LACTOBACILLI AND CLOSELY RELATED ORGANISMS
1962 - 1966

Membership: The members of the Subcommittee are:

Beerens, H., Lille, France
Clark, W.A. (ex officio, ICNB), Rockville, Maryland, USA
Gasser, F., Paris, France
Gyllenberg, H.G., Helsinki, Finland
Hansen, P. Arne (Secretary), College Park, Maryland, USA
Kandler, O., Munich, Germany
Kitahara, K., Tokyo, Japan
Langston, C.W., Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Mitsuoka, T., Tokyo, Japan
Mocquot, G. (Chairman), Jouy-en-Josas, France
Pederson, C.S., Geneva, New York, USA
Petuely, F., Vienna, Austria
Reuter, G., Berlin-Dahlem, Germany
Rogosa, M., Bethesda, Maryland, USA
Sharpe, Elisabeth, Reading, England
Sneath, P.H.A., Leicester, England
Sode Mogensen, M. Copenhagen, Denmark
Tittsler, R.P., Washington, D.C., USA
Williams, N.B., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

A major effort of the Subcommittee has been a study of those strains which are candidates for type or neotype strains of many of the generally recognized species of Lactobacillus. A search for original strains has been made, and a large number of these were located, critically examined and approved. Of strains which are candidates for neotype status, four have been approved by the Subcommittee, and still others are being considered and are the subject of active discussion by the members. A number of candidate strains were, after careful study and consideration, rejected. As soon as these studies are concluded, the Subcommittee will publish a list of the type and neotype strains it is recommending.

A report on a list of characters to be considered in taxonomic studies of Lactobacillus is in preparation.

In order to promote uniformity in serological designations, the Harrison-Williams types and corresponding sera

have been distributed to all members for comparison and evaluation.

During the International Association of Microbiological Societies meeting in Moscow, the Subcommittee met at the Academy of Medical Sciences. The meeting was convened by the chairman, Dr. Elisabeth Sharpe, at 2:15 p.m. on July 22, 1966. An additional session was held at 2:00 p.m. on July 26 in Building G of the University of Moscow. Present were members F. Gasser, T. Gibson, P. Arne Hansen, O. Kandler, G. Mocquot, G. Reuter, M. Rogosa and Elisabeth Sharpe. The associate member of the Bifidus Subgroup, H. Beerens, the newly elected chairman of the ICNB, V. B. D. Skerman, and the chairman of the subgroup on the taxonomy of the microaerophilic actinomycetes, J. M. Slack, were present at the second session. P. Arne Hansen acted as an alternate for C. W. Langston, O. Kandler for F. Petuely, and M. Rogosa for both R. Tittsler and N. B. Williams; in all cases proper authorization had been received.

T. Gibson and H. P. R. Seeliger tendered their resignations from the Subcommittee, and their resignations were accepted with regret. E. Sharpe resigned as chairman but was retained as a member. H. Beerens was added to the membership.

After a review of the membership, it was decided that a few active Lactobacillus research workers should be approached concerning the possibility of their becoming members or associates. It was also considered that members who had not actively participated in the work of the Subcommittee or who no longer have sufficient interest in the genus should be dropped from the membership.

The Subcommittee discussed the suitability of Lactobacillus caucasicus as the type species of the genus. The consensus was that due to the inadequacy of the description of this organism and to the fact that no original strains or suitable candidates for neotype strain are extant, L. caucasicus is unrecognizable, and an Opinion should be sought from the Judicial Commission for the purpose of establishing a suitable type species for the genus Lactobacillus.

The Subcommittee also plans to publish a request for an Opinion rejecting the name Lactobacillus pastorianus.

The membership of the subgroup organized for the purpose of studying the bifid bacteria is:

Dr. H. Beerens (Chairman), Dr. F. Gasser, Dr. H. G. Gyllenberg, Dr. P. Arne Hansen, Dr. O. Kandler, Dr. F. Petuely, Dr. G. Reuter, and Mr. M. Rogosa.

Supplemented with the following associates:

Dr. G. Davis, Brisbane, Australia

Dr. R. F. Norris, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. H. Werner, Bonn, Germany.

P. Arne Hansen, chairman of the subgroup, resigned in favor of H. Beerens, but remains as a member of the subgroup. This subgroup will engage in a cooperative research project proposed by M. Rogosa.

J. M. Slack reviewed the project underway with respect to the actinomycetes. In order to avoid possible overlapping of interest and effort by the microaerophilic actinomycetes and bifid bacteria subgroups, H. Beerens was appointed as liaison officer.

The members agreed that four years was too long an interval between meetings of the Subcommittee, and the Secretary was charged with the responsibility of exploring the possibility of meeting every second year, possibly at the time of an international or national meeting in Europe or the eastern United States.

A resolution of appreciation of the work of the retiring chairman, Dr. Elisabeth Sharpe, was unanimously passed. The new chairman, Dr. G. Mocquot, then conducted the meeting until its adjournment at 5:00 p. m.

P. Arne Hansen
Secretary
January, 1967