BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE
AND TAXONOMYTHE CORRECT SPELLING OF A SPECIFIC EPITHET
IN THE GENUS SHIGELLA.
EQUIRULIS VERSUS EQUULI.

File No. 41.

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The species of the genus Shigella (as Shigella equirulis (de Blicck and van Heelsbergen) Edwards) under No. 8 in the sixth edition of Bergey's Manual was originally named Bacillus equuli* by van Straaten (1). The literature has been previously reviewed by me (2).

The epitheton speciale "equuli" for this bacterium is accompanied by a description sufficient for the recognition of the organism. There can be no doubt that the name was given in accordance with the codex.

The epitheton speciale "equirulis" was cited by Miessner and Wetzel (3) who ascribed the authorship of the name to van Straaten 1917, apparently without having seen the original paper, and in reliance upon a paper by de Blicck and van Heelsbergen (4). These latter authors erroneously, probably as a result of a misprint, used the spelling equirulis.

Edwards (5)**, relying upon the publication of Miessner and Wetzel used the epitheton equirulis, from which publications it was taken over by Bergey's Manual in the fourth edition. The first scientific name given to the organism, Bacillus nephritidis equi Meyer (7), was illegiti-

*From the Latin equulus, a colt, a foal.

**Editorial Note. Dimock, Edwards and Bruner (6) in a footnote state "The valid name of this species appears to be Shigella equuli (van Straaten 1918). Apparently the authors were the first to use this binomial in naming this species in the genus Shigella."

mate, as was also the second name Bacterium viscosum equi, inasmuch as the specific epithet in each case consists of two words which may not properly be united or joined by hyphens as required by Rule 6 of the codex. Although not a matter specifically covered by the codex, I may be allowed to state that several authorities in the Latin language have been unable to find any Latin stem to which the name equirulis might be referred.

I hold the epitheton speciale "equuli" to be valid for species No. 8 of the genus Shigella in the sixth edition of Bergey's Manual.

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BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE
AND TAXONOMY

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