International Committee on Nomenclature of Bacteria

Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Leptospira*

Minutes of Meeting, 6-8 August 1970

Hotel Maria Isabel, Mexico City, Mexico

Minute 1. Call to order. The closed session of the meeting was called to order by the chairman, C. Borg-Petersen, at 9:00 AM on 6 August.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Members present were C. Borg-Petersen (Chairman), L. H. Turner (Secretary), B. Babudieri, S. Faine, and R. C. Johnson. Absent were A. D. Alexander, E. Kmety, A. A. Varfolomeeva and J. W. Wolff.

Minute 3. Deceased members, advisers, and collaborators. The Subcommittee records with deepest regrets the deaths of two members, Mildred M. Galton and J. van der Hoeden; of two advisers, R. D. Stuart and Mme B. Kolochine-Erber; and of one collaborator, V. V. Ananyin.

Minute 4. Election of members. S. Faine and R. C. Johnson had been unanimously elected to membership by postal ballot. M. Torten was elected as a member.

Minute 5. Election of adviser. J. W. Wolff, Chairman of the Subcommittee from its inception (in 1950) to 1966, has resigned. The Subcommittee unanimously elected Wolff as adviser in recognition of his valuable services to the study of *Leptospira* and leptospirosis over the last fifty years.

Minute 6. Election of Secretary. L. H. Turner had been reelected secretary by postal ballot.

Minute 7. Report to ICNB. A Report of Subcommittee activities from 1966 to 1970 has been prepared for submission to the ICNB.

Minute 8. Discussions in open sessions. It was decided that the discussions in the open sessions should be concentrated on techniques (materials and methods). It was agreed that all efforts to formulate a stable classification will be fruitless until some standardized basic techniques are agreed upon.

Minute 9. Nomenclatural considerations. It was agreed that consideration of nomenclatural problems be postponed until the Subcommittee is in a better position to take action on reliable findings and until the Code has been revised. The prime object is to abide by that part of Principle 1 of the Code which states that an

essential point in nomenclature is to avoid throwing science into confusion.

Minute 10. Future policy. Considering future policy—perspectives in taxonomy of *Leptospira*—the Subcommittee, most of whom acted as Consultants at a meeting convened by WHO in 1969, endorse the relevant part of their WHO Report which is in press.

Minute 11. ICNB Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of the Spirochaetales. The Subcommittee welcomes the authorization by the ICNB of a new Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of the *Spirochaetales* and looks forward to close and fruitful collaboration with it.

Minute 12. Taxonomy of *Leptospira*. The Subcommittee reviewed the status of the taxonomy of *Leptospira* and noted, with approval, the rapid advances in studies of genetic characters, chemical composition, nutritional requirements, and metabolic activities. The Subcommittee consider that further studies are required before any subdivision of the genus into species can be recommended with confidence.

Minute 13. Intrasubspecific categories. At the infrasubspecific level the basic taxon is still the "serotype." Recent immunological studies, partly unpublished, are likely to have a profound influence on the definition of leptospiral serotype and on the techniques of serotyping.

Minute 14. Publication of further statements. If, in the opinion of the Subcommittee, the issue of further statements and recommendations is advisable these will be submitted for publication in the IJSB.

Minute 15. Open Sessions. In addition to Subcommittee members, those present at the open sessions of the meeting were: Adviser: M. Kitaoka; Observers and Collaborators: C. Lataste-Dorolle, Mrs. C. R. Sulzer, C. D. Cox, A. E. Ritchie, W. P. VanEseltine, E. Shenberg, H. Dikken, and S. Graves.

Minute 16. Adjournment. After six sessions, each of which lasted 3 hours, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM on 8 August.

L. H. Turner,
Secretary