International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of the Actinomycetes

Minutes of the Meeting, 13 July 1972
University of Technology, Loughborough, United Kingdom

1. *Call to order.* The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, D. Gottlieb.

2. *Record of attendance.* Members present were T. Cross, G. A. De Vries, D. Gottlieb, W. Kurylowicz, E. Küster, R. Locci, T. P. Preobrazhenskaya, and S. T. Williams.

3. *Report on Subgroup activities.* After an extensive discussion, the Subcommittee agreed unanimously that the Chairman of each Subgroup should continue coordinating projects on the organisms for which he is responsible. Each is asked to provide the Secretary with a list of the people actively working in their particular field. Subgroups will be called upon to give advice and guidance to the Judicial Commission of ICSB in regard to recognized taxa and minimum standards for descriptions of bacteria.

4. *Chairman's report on the International Streptomyces Project.* Some 150 additional descriptions of actinomycetes are ready for publication. A request has been made to the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) to publish the International Streptomyces Project (ISP) results as a monograph. If not accepted by the ASM, the possibility of dealing directly with a private publisher will be considered. The monograph will include, in addition to the actual descriptions of ISP strains, an introduction and sections on methods, keys, etc. Some ISP participants have been contacted and have agreed to continue the cooperative work on a small scale for newly described species.

5. *Secretary's report.* (a) *Newly described species.* A tentative list of new names and combinations of actinomycetes which appeared in the literature after publication of the *Index Bergeyana* and its subsequent addenda has been drawn up. This is being circulated so that corrections and additions can be made. Members are requested to assist in such work by informing the Secretary of newly named and described taxa. Each member should act for his own country in this regard. In this way it is hoped that a more accurate and complete list will be made available shortly.

(b) *Minimal standards for the description of bacterial taxa.* With regard to articles 9 and 8b of the new ICSB statutes, the Subcommittee has been called upon to set up minimal standards for the description of new bacterial

taxa. These include a list of characters and methods for their assessment. The Subcommittee has decided to take as a working basis the ISP standards; additions, deletions, and modifications should be proposed to the ISP list of methods which will be circulated by the Secretary. Subgroup Chairmen are invited to formulate a tentative list of methods relative to the organisms for which they are responsible (microaerophilic and oligosporic actinomycetes, nocardias). If cooperative projects have been carried out, a list of adopted procedures should be sent directly to the Secretary, so that circulation of the list can proceed without further delay. In this connection the Subcommittee points out that its members are the experts in the field and that, if outside opinions are needed, they themselves should best know to whom to turn. Otherwise it would appear that the Subcommittee is redundant.

(c) *Approved lists of names and new starting date for the nomenclature of bacteria.* As a working basis, the Subcommittee has agreed to adopt the scheme appearing in the next edition of *Bergey's Manual*, for which Subcommittee members acted as authors of sections dealing with actinomycetes. At the next Subcommittee meeting, discussions on the Approved Lists of Names and on the new starting date will be held. Subcommittee members who have written particular sections of *Bergey's Manual* are therefore requested to send either a copy of their contribution or a list of the described species, together with the relevant literature citations, to the Secretary, who will then circulate the list and request comments from the members. The Secretary will contact, for the same purpose, individuals who are not members of the subcommittee.

(d) *Methods for coding data on microbial strains.* Concerning the call for constructive suggestions from specialist groups for modification of the prototype suggested by Rogosa et al. (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 21: 217 [1971]) for codifying strain data, the Subcommittee has agreed that it will not act as such on this matter but that the members, as individuals, may, if they so desire, make suggestions and criticisms.

(e) *Next Subcommittee meeting.* The Subcommittee has agreed to hold its next meeting

in connection with the First Intersectional Meeting of the IAMS in Japan (1974). Dr. Arai of the National Committee of Microbiology of the Science Council of Japan has offered to organize a symposium on that occasion. The Subcommittee has accepted Dr. Arai's invitation and has suggested that, among the various

items of the symposium, the problem of "the understanding and the use of numerical taxonomy in the description, classification and identification of actinomycetes" be dealt with.

6. *Adjournment.* The meeting was adjourned.

R. Locci, Secretary