International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Subcommittee on Taxonomy of *Brucella*

Minutes of the Meeting, 3 September 1974

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

1. The Subcommittee on Taxonomy of *Brucella* met on 3 September 1974 at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo during the First Intersectoral Congress of the International Association of Microbiological Societies. Members present were Professor W. Wundt (Chairman), Dr. W. J. Brinley Morgan (Secretary), and Professor N. B. McCullough. Dr. Suto, Dr. Isayama, and Professor C. Pilet were also present at the invitation of the Chairman.

2. Because of the lack of support the Subcommittee did not meet in Jerusalem in 1973; since the last meeting in Mexico City in 1970, Dr. G. C. van Drimmelen and Dr. G. Renoux have resigned. Dr. K. F. Meyer died recently. Thanks and tributes were paid for the services of these colleagues.

3. New members proposed in 1970 were Dr. M. J. Corbel (Britain), Dr. E. A. Dranovskaya (Soviet Union), and Dr. R. Diaz (Spain). At the 1974 meeting it was proposed that Dr. Isayama from Tokyo should be invited to become a member.

4. Although it had not formally met since 1970, the Subcommittee had been active by correspondence. A paper on "Designation of neotype strains and biotype reference strains for species of the genus *Brucella* Meyer and Shaw" had been prepared and published (3). As a result, a valid description of named neotype and biotype reference strains is now available. A paper, "Proposal for Minimal Standards for Descriptions of New Species and Biotypes of the Genus *Brucella*," prepared on behalf of the Subcommittee by Dr. Corbel and Dr. Morgan, had been circulated previously and revised in the light of comments received from members. The paper has been submitted [accepted: reference 2] for publication. After further comments and consultation as necessary, it is hoped to produce a document on detailed techniques and procedures for the required tests.

Papers by Professor Vershilova and by Dr. Gargani were available to the Subcommittee.

5. Since the 1970 Meeting, further work has been done on phages first described by Moreira-Jacob (3) and on a new phage lytic for *Brucella suis*; the latter, designated "Weybridge phage" has properties including host range identical to phages M51 and S708 reported by Moreira-Jacob, although the three phages were serologically different. None of these phages is lytic for *B. melitensis*, *B. ovis*, or *B. canis*. The Weybridge phage is available for study by other research workers (6).

A phage isolated from *B. ovis* has been reported from the Soviet Union. This phage does not lyse *B. ovis* but lyses most strains of *B. abortus* and, distinct from the Tb phage, also lyses some strains of *B. melitensis*. Further work is indicated.

6. Further work on the measurement of absorption spectra of the major cytochrome bands (7) and of the

use of polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (5) have confirmed the value of these techniques as aids in identification at the generic level.

7. The position regarding *B. canis* is unchanged from that reported at the Mexico Meeting, and its inclusion as a separate species is still provisional. Further work on *B. suis* biotype 5 indicates that this does not belong to the genus *Brucella* (1, 5) and it would therefore be deleted from the genus; this was agreed.

8. Reports from the Soviet Union on further work on strains isolated from rodents indicate that these fit more closely the species *B. suis* as a separate biotype, but the Subcommittee recommended that other examinations including those at other laboratories should be made.

9. No further changes in properties or characters were made since the 1970 meeting.

10. Professor Wundt now retires as Chairman of the Subcommittee, but because of the limited attendance the election of officers was deferred for consideration by a postal ballot.

LITERATURE CITED

1. Corbel, M. J. 1973. Examination of two bacterial strains designated "*Brucella suis* biotype 5." J. Hyg. 71:271-282.
2. Corbel, M. J., and W. J. B. Morgan. 1975. Proposal for minimal standards for descriptions of new species and biotypes of the genus *Brucella*. Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 25:83-89.
3. Meyer, M. E., and W. J. B. Morgan. 1973. Designation of neotype and biotype reference strains for species of a genus *Brucella* Meyer and Shaw. Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 23:135-141.
4. Moreira-Jacob, M. 1968. New groups of virulent bacteriophages showing differential affinity for *Brucella* species. Nature (London) 219:752-753.
5. Morris, J. 1973. The use of the polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in taxonomy of *Brucella*. J. Gen. Microbiol. 76:231-237.
6. Morris, J., and M. J. Corbel. 1973. Properties of new phage lytic for *Brucella suis*. J. Gen. Virol. 21:539-544.
7. Vershilova, P. A., E. A. Dranovskaya, and V. M. Kushnarev. 1973. An additional method of determining the relationship of bacteria to the genus *Brucella*. Zh. Mikrobiol. Epidemiol. Immunobiol. 12:98-101.

The membership at the close of the meeting was:
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11. The open meeting took place on the morning of 4 September when a general discussion was held on the current situation on the taxonomy of *Brucella*. Later a round table discussion on brucellosis was held and the following papers were presented.

1. Brief note for recent bovine brucellosis in Japan by R. Azuma, Y. Isayama, and T. Tanaka (National Institute of Animal Health)
2. Report on canine brucellosis in a beagle breeding colony by A. Gohda and S. Suzuki (Kitasato Institute)
3. Detection of *Brucella canis* infection in dogs in the Tokyo area by K. Udeda, J. Saegusa, and K. Fujiwara (Institute of Medical Science, Tokyo University)
4. On pathogenicity and antigenicity of *B. canis* QE13 for experimental animals by Y. Isayama (National Institute of Animal Health)
5. Standardization of the tube test antigens of the brucellae: Determination of the 50% agglutinability with a spectrophotometer by S. Tanaka and T. Suto (National Institute of Animal Health)
6. The growth behaviour of *B. abortus* in bovine serum by M. Nakamura (Tohoku University)

There was a lively discussion on all these papers, and during the course of the discussion the need for reference sera preparations for standardizing *B. canis* antigens was stressed.

W. Wundt, Chairman

W. J. Brinley Morgan, Secretary

International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Staphylococci and Micrococci

Minutes of the Meeting, 24 September 1974

Hotel International, Brno, Czechoslovakia

The Fifth Meeting of the Subcommittee, held on 24 September 1974, at the Hotel International, Brno, Czechoslovakia, was called to order at 2000 h. Members present were: L. R. Hill (Secretary), M. Kocur (Acting Chairman), P. Oeding, and K. H. Schleifer. Apologies for absence were received from A. C. Baird-Parker (Chairman), J. B. Evans, L. Grun, and W. E. Kloos.

1. The Subcommittee recorded with deepest regret the death of Dr. T. Gibson, who had been a member from the inception of the Subcommittee in 1963 until 1971.

2. The Chairman's Report (A. C. Baird-Parker) was read: Scripts for the *Micrococcaceae* chapters in *Bergey's Manual* (8th ed.) had been finalized (authors: A. C. Baird-Parker for *Staphylococcus* and *Micrococcus*, M. Kocur for *Planococcus*) to include recent findings by Subcommittee members and others, and thanks were extended to Subcommittee members for their help. Numerous new species have been described recently, some arising from collaborative work between some of our members. There is a lack of a specific and simple test to separate staphylococci and micrococci (in discussion, mention was