Report (1970–1974) of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Staphylococci and Micrococci to the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Since our last Report (1966–1970; Kocur and Baird-Parker, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 21:164, 1971), the Subcommittee has met twice (Fourth Meeting, 7 April 1971, London; Fifth Meeting, 24 September 1974, Brno, Czechoslovakia) and participated in two joint meetings with the Subcommittee on the Phage-Typing of Staphylococci (8 April 1971, London, and 26 September 1974, Brno). In addition, the Chairman (A. C. Baird-Parker) and Secretary (M. Kocur) have contributed chapters to *Bergey's Manual* (8th ed.). Draft documents relative to lists of Approved Names and Lists of Minimal Standards have been circulated to all members of the Subcommittee.

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting were not published; the salient points of that meeting were:

1. **Closed Meeting, 7 April 1971.** This meeting was attended by A. C. Baird-Parker (Chairman), J. B. Evans, L. R. Hill (Acting Secretary), D. A. A. Mossel, and A. Torres-Pereira. Resignation of Dr. T. Gibson from the Subcommittee had been received (his later death was recorded with deep regret at the Fifth Meeting), and Dr. K. H. Schleifer and Dr. W. E. Kloos were invited to join the Subcommittee. Papers were read by A. Torres-Pereira ("Comments on *Staphylococcus aureus* Variation") and J. B. Evans and C. Puzniak ("An Interim Evaluation of the Species *Gaffkya homari*").

2. **Meeting with invited guests.** Papers were read by K. H. Schleifer ("Amino Acid Sequences of the Murein as a Criterion in the Classification of *Micrococcaceae*") and W. E. Kloos ("Different Chromosomal Arrangements of Tryptophan and Histidine Loci in *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Micrococcus luteus*").

3. Arising from an approach made to the Subcommittee by the Chairman of the Phage-Typing Subcommittee (M. T. Parker) for joint investigation into the taxonomic use of bacteriophage, the second day (8 April 1971) took the form of a joint meeting at which several papers were read by members of the Phage-Typing Subcommittee (M. T. Parker; H. Rische; D. Ziomek and W. Meyer; R. E. O. Williams; K. C. Winkler). Collaboration between the two Subcommittees has not progressed very far, but the first joint meeting has been followed up by a second meeting, 26 September, Brno, where the Phage-Typing Subcommittee specified an area in which the assistance of the Taxonomy Subcommittee would be appreciated, namely, the supply of a list of well-documented strains (for deoxyribonucleic acid base compositions, cell wall compositions, serology, etc.) of staphylococci for basic studies in phage typing. This will be supplied by the Taxonomy Subcommittee.

M. Kocur, Secretary
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