NOTE

Flavobacterium breve sp. nov., nom. rev.

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The name *Flavobacterium breve* (Lustig) Bergey et al. 1923 was omitted from the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names. The taxon to which this name was applied is a distinct entity, and it can be differentiated from the other recognized species of *Flavobacterium*. Consequently, the name *F. breve* is revived for the same organism to which the name originally referred. The type strain of *F. breve* is NCTC 11099.

The name *Flavobacterium breve* (Lustig) Bergey et al. 1923, 116, does not appear on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (7), has had no standing in bacterial nomenclature since 1 January 1980, and, according to Rule 24a of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (5), will not be added to the lists.

F. breve has been described in every edition of *Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology* to date. However, in the last edition of the *Manual* (8), some characteristics of the species were incorrect (4), and at that time only one reference strain of the species (ATCC 14234, isolated from fish) was available from culture collections. Subsequently, Holmes et al. (4) studied six additional clinical strains of the species. From their study they provided an emended description of the species, proposed NCTC 11099 as the neotype strain, and deposited three of their strains in a major culture collection (4). The taxonomic status of the species was further discussed in a Request for an Opinion to the Judicial Commission (2), in which it was proposed that *F. breve* should replace *F. aquatile*, the current type species of *Flavobacterium*. There is no uncertainty of the validity of the species to which the name *F. breve* has been applied. The name appears (see p. 576) in the first draft of the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (1) and does not appear on the lists of *nomina rejicienda*. The purpose of this report is to revive the name *F. breve* in accordance with Rules 27 and 28a and Provisional Rule B2 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (5).

The morphological and biochemical reaction patterns of strains of *F. breve* are remarkably uniform (4). *F. breve* is a gram-negative, nonmotile rod. Indole is produced, and among named

Flavobacterium species this character is otherwise confined to *F. balustinum* and *F. meningosepticum*. However, *F. breve*, unlike *F. balustinum* and the majority of *F. meningosepticum* strains, does not hydrolyze esculin and does not generally produce acid oxidatively from carbohydrates other than glucose and maltose. These characters distinguish *F. breve* from other recognized *Flavobacterium* species (3, 4). A study of the deoxyribonucleic acids of *F. breve* strains (6) showed that the species constitutes a relatively homogeneous taxon, all the strains of which are readily distinguishable from allied flavobacteria. The history of the species has been described elsewhere (4).

The type strain of *F. breve* is NCTC 11099, and it has been described previously (4). The type strain is typical of the species both phenotypically and genotypically (4, 6) and was chosen for that reason.

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