International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on Numerical Taxonomy

Minutes of the Meeting, 4 September 1978

Munich, F.R.G.

Minute 1. *Call to order.* P. H. A. Sneath called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. on 4 September 1978.

Minute 2. *Past activities.* Activities of the Subcommittee since the last Congress were reviewed. The Subcommittee has been relatively inactive, although it is available to the parent committee for programs and advice.

Minute 3. *Future projects.* Statistics of test reproducibility was considered an area suitable for activity for the Subcommittee. Several taxonomic subcommittees of ICSB have started work on test reproducibility. Test reproducibility is, indeed, a serious problem. Mathematical and systematic methods, i.e., tests, techniques, should be studied, with respect to reproducibility.

There are, also, real problems in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)/DNA homology, for example, highly stringent versus less stringent methods for assessing homologies. The effects of having too few reference strains, in light of statistical applications, should be considered. The relationship of DNA homologies and phenotypic similarities also needs to be examined.

A project that the Subcommittee also might consider is a publication on numerical identification for distri-

bution as an educational module for teaching identification methods.

As a result of the discussion, it was decided that objectives of the Subcommittee should include; (i) preparation of a "state of the art" report on numerical identification and (ii) preparation of concise lists of groups for which reasonably reproducible and useful matrices are available. Sneath agreed to circulate a report presently available on state of the art in computer identification and to make enquiries on information on taxonomic groups for which there are good matrices.

Minute 4. *New members.* Membership on the Subcommittee was discussed, and the Secretary is to send letters of invitation to various workers.

Minute 5. *Current membership.* Current membership of the Subcommittee is as follows: P. H. A. Sneath (Chairman), Leicester, U.K.; R. R. Colwell (Secretary), College Park, Md., U.S.A.; G. J. Bonde, Aarhus, Denmark; D. J. Brenner, Atlanta, Ga., U.S.A.; P. A. Grimont, Bordeaux, France; L. R. Hill, London, U.K.; O. Lysenko, Prague, Czechoslovakia, V. D. B. Skerman, Brisbane, Australia.

R. R. COLWELL, Secretary

International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on *Pasteurella*, *Yersinia*, and *Francisella*

Minutes of the Meeting, 4 and 5 September 1978

Munich, F.R.G.

Minute 1. *Call to order.* W. Knapp, Chairman, called the closed meeting to order at 2 p.m. on 4 September. A second open meeting was held at 2 p.m. on 5 September. Minutes 8 and 9 contain the transactions of the open meeting.

Minute 2. *Record of attendance.* Members present on 4 and 5 September were: W. Knapp (Chairman), N. S. Mair (Secretary), E. L. Biberstein, W. Frederiksen, H. H. Mollaret, G. Wauters, J. E. Phillips, and B.

Rowe. The corresponding members H. Bercovier (Paris, France) and B. Hurvell (Stockholm, Sweden) were also present. Nonmembers present on 5 September were: D. J. Brenner (Atlanta, Ga., U.S.A.), A. Hewstone (Parkville, Australia), K. Tamura and R. Sakazaki (Tokyo, Japan), and J. Vandepitte (Leuven, Belgium).

Minute 3. *Minutes of the previous meeting.* Minutes of the meeting held in London on 17 and 18 September

1975 and circulated in November 1975 (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 26:337-338, 1976) were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Minute 4. Matters arising from the minutes. The Subcommittee were unable to confirm the validity of the infraspecific division of *Francisella tularensis* proposed by N. Olsuvjev.

Minute 5. Changes in membership and officers. W. Knapp resigned from the post of Chairman but remains a member of the Subcommittee. N. S. Mair resigned from the post of Secretary. N. S. Mair was appointed Chairman and G. Wauters took over as Secretary of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee accepted with great regret the resignation of E. Thal (Stockholm, Sweden), a member of the Subcommittee since its formation. H. Bercovier (Paris, France) and B. Hurvell (Stockholm, Sweden) were proposed to fill vacancies in the Subcommittee.

Minute 6. Reorganization of the Subcommittee. The proposal to reorganize the Subcommittee was discussed. It was agreed that the Subcommittee should continue in its present form until more information was obtained about *Y. enterocolitica* and *Y. enterocolitica*-like organisms. The possibility of a future *Pasteurella-Actinobacillus* Subcommittee was also discussed.

Minute 7. Current membership. The current membership of the Subcommittee is as follows: N. S. Mair (Chairman), Leicester, U.K.; G. Wauters (Secretary), Brussels, Belgium; H. Bercovier, Paris, France; E. L. Biberstein, Davis, Calif., U.S.A.; G. R. Carter, East Lansing, Mich., U.S.A.; I. V. Domaradskij, Moscow, U.S.S.R.; W. Frederiksen, Copenhagen, Denmark; B. Hurvell, Stockholm, Sweden; W. Knapp, Erlangen, F.R.G.; I. L. Martinevskij, Alma Ata, U.S.S.R.; H. H. Mollaret, Paris, France; N. G. Olsuvjev, Mos-

cow, U.S.S.R.; J. E. Phillips, Edinburgh, U.K.; B. Rowe, London, U.K.; S. Winblad, Malmö, Sweden; H. Zen-Yoji, Tokyo, Japan.

Minute 8. Scientific matters. H. Bercovier described the characteristics of *Yersinia* strains isolated from the environment. *Y. enterocolitica* strains isolated from various sources belonged to the classical biotypes 1, 2, or 5, or to two new biotypes designated 3A or 3B. *Y. enterocolitica* strains responsible for human mesenteric syndromes were not found in the environment, but typical and atypical *Y. enterocolitica* strains that produce various clinical entities were isolated from the soil and other components of the terrestrial ecosystem. He compared the epidemiology of *Y. enterocolitica* infection with that of *Salmonella* infection, with well host adapted strains passing from man to man and more ubiquitous strains found in the environment and occasionally in human pathology.

G. Wauters discussed the significance of β -lactamase activity in the *Y. enterocolitica* group. The analysis of enzymes by isoelectric focusing resulted in several patterns correlated to the biochemical and serological properties of the strains. Strains belonging to biotypes 2, 3, 4, and 5 exhibit quite identical patterns of their β -lactamases, whereas strains of biotype 1 and rhamnose-positive strains were different in this respect. Electrofocusing of the β -lactamases might therefore be helpful in taxonomy of *Y. enterocolitica* and *Y. enterocolitica*-like organisms.

Minute 9. Next meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting be held in Erlangen, German Federal Republic, on 5 and 6 October 1979.

G. WAUTERS, Secretary
N. S. MAIR, Chairman

International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on Phage-Typing of Staphylococci

Minutes of the Meeting, 2 September 1978

Munich, F.R.G.

Minute 1. Call to order. The Seventh Meeting of the Subcommittee was called to order on 2 September 1978 by the Chairman, P. M. Rountree.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Members present were: P. M. Rountree (Chairman), M. de Saxe (Secretary), H. Brandis, J. Casal, G. Dimitracopoulos, J.-M. Fouace, C. Godard, W. Koller, M. T. Parker, K. Rosendal, R. Skalova, A. Torres Pereira, W. J. van Leeuwen, A. Vickery. Two members unable to attend the meeting sent representatives: I. Rantasalo (repre-

sented by J. Ojajarvi) and L. Sjöberg (represented by A. Lindberg).

Minute 3. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the sixth meeting of the Subcommittee (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 25:233, 1975) were tabled.

Minute 4. Election of officers. K. Rosendal was elected as the new Chairman by the Subcommittee, and M. de Saxe was elected Secretary.

Minute 5. Policy of the International Centre. The difficulties experienced by the International Centre in