Status of Nomenclatural Types in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names

Request for an Opinion

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The Approved Lists of Bacterial Names form the new starting document for bacterial nomenclature, and therefore it is implied that the nomenclatural types given there should be accepted as correct. The Judicial Commission is requested to issue an Opinion confirming this. A list is given of genera whose type species differ from those previously accepted. Two of these, *Nocardia* and *Pasteurella*, have in the Approved Lists type species contrary to those in an earlier Opinion, and the Commission is also requested to confirm these changes.

The Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (15) was prepared by an Ad Hoc Committee of the Judicial Commission in accordance with Commission Minutes 22 (14) and 33 (9) and along lines described in the first draft of the Lists (1). The Approved Lists form the new starting document for names of bacterial taxa under the Revised Code (13).

The Ad Hoc Committee was required to consult with Subcommittees of the ICSB and with other experts on names to be placed on the Lists and on the type strains for species and subspecies. In view of the innovative nature of the enterprise and the limited time before publication, the Ad Hoc Committee had to make a number of decisions on matters of nomenclature that might otherwise have taken many years to determine through the normal channels of Requests for Opinions. It therefore in general accepted the advice given to it on nomenclatural types.

It was implied in the concept of the Approved Lists (as the new starting document) that the types listed therein should thenceforward be the correct nomenclatural types. This was not explicitly stated in the Revised Code.

The present Request, therefore, is to ask for an Opinion confirming that the types in the Approved Lists are the correct ones, but without prejudice to the power of the Commission to review individual cases. It is also to ask that the Opinion confirm the types in the Approved Lists in those few cases where they are in conflict with an earlier Opinion.

No attempt has been made to list changes in type strains. Such an endeavour would be impracticable, and most cases would have to be reevaluated by the experts who first considered them. Any pressing cases can be drawn to the attention of the Commission under Rule 18i of

the Revised Code (13), but it is to be hoped that very few will need examining. However, Table 1 shows the small number of genera where the type species in the Approved Lists are different from those generally accepted in the past. Cases under consideration by the Commission—the family name *Enterobacteriaceae* (6, 7, 12) and the type species of the genera *Eubacterium* (4), *Flavobacterium* (8), and *Spirochaeta* (3)—are not reviewed here.

Two genera have, in the Approved Lists, type species that are in conflict with those given in an earlier Opinion of the Judicial Commission. By Opinion 13 (11), the type species of the genus *Nocardia* is *Nocardia farcinica*. The genus was omitted in error in the published Opinion (11), but authority was given elsewhere (5, 10); also, see the Revised Code (13). The type species of the genus *Pasteurella* is *Pasteurella cholerae-gallinarum* (11). In the Approved Lists the type species are, respectively, *Nocardia asteroides* and *Pasteurella multocida*. The second case also requires the rejection of the species name *Pasteurella gallicida*. This species has the same type strain (NCTC 10322) in the Approved Lists as *P. multocida* and is therefore an objective synonym. The citations of these names are given (2, 15), respectively, as *P. gallicida* (Burrill 1883) Buchanan 1925 and *P. multocida* (Lehmann and Neumann 1899) Rosenbusch and Merchant 1939. Therefore, unless *P. gallicida* is suppressed, it would have to replace *P. multocida* under Rule 24b of the Revised Code (13) because of its earlier date of publication.

The Commission is therefore asked to clarify the situation by issuing an Opinion to the following effect. First, the types in the Approved Lists are confirmed as the nomenclatural types but without prejudice to the powers of the Commission to amend them and without reference to the

TABLE 1. Genera whose type species in the Approved Lists are different from those accepted earlier

Genus ^a	Type species in the Lists	Previous type species ^b
<i>Acinetobacter</i>	<i>A. calcoaceticus</i>	<i>A. anitratus</i> ^c or <i>A. stenohalis</i> ^c
<i>Beneckea</i>	<i>B. campbellii</i>	<i>B. labra</i> ^d
<i>Borrelia</i>	<i>B. anserinum</i>	<i>B. gallinarum</i> ^e
<i>Cellulomonas</i>	<i>C. flavigena</i>	<i>C. biazotea</i> ^d
<i>Cristispira</i>	<i>C. pectinis</i>	<i>C. balbianii</i> ^e
<i>Frankia</i>	<i>F. alni</i>	<i>F. subtilis</i> ^e
<i>Halobacterium</i>	<i>H. salinarum</i>	<i>H. marismortuis</i> ^e
<i>Halococcus</i>	<i>H. morrhuae</i>	<i>H. littoralis</i> ^e
<i>Leptospira</i>	<i>L. interrogans</i>	<i>L. icterohaemorrhagiae</i> ^e
<i>Methanobacterium</i>	<i>M. formicicum</i>	<i>M. soehngenii</i> ^c
<i>Nocardia</i>	<i>N. asteroides</i>	<i>N. farcinica</i> ^{c,f}
<i>Pasteurella</i>	<i>P. multocida</i>	<i>P. choleraegallinarum</i> ^{c,f} (with suppression of <i>P. gallicida</i> as an objective synonym of <i>P. multocida</i> despite Rule 24b)
<i>Spirillum</i>	<i>S. volutans</i>	<i>S. undula</i> ^c
<i>Thiospirillum</i>	<i>T. jenense</i>	<i>T. sanguineum</i> ^c
<i>Toxothrix</i>	<i>T. trichogenes</i>	<i>T. ferrugineum</i> ^e

^a The cases *Eubacterium*, *Flavobacterium*, and *Spirochaeta* are not considered (see text).

^b Authority for the type status is *Index Bergeyana* (2) unless otherwise noted.

^c By subsequent designation.

^d By original designation.

^e By monotypy.

^f Opinion 13 (11).

genera *Eubacterium*, *Flavobacterium*, and *Spirochaeta*, which are at present under consideration by the Commission. Second, the type species of the genus *Nocardia* nom. approb. is *Nocardia asteroides* nom. approb. (thus reversing the decision in Opinion 13). Third, the type species of the genus *Pasteurella* nom. approb. is *Pasteurella multocida* nom. approb. (likewise reversing the decision in Opinion 13), and the objective synonym *Pasteurella gallicida* nom. approb. is placed on the list of nomina rejicienda.

REPRINT REQUESTS

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