NOTES

Proposal of *Ancylobacter* gen. nov. as a Substitute for the Bacterial Genus *Microcycylus* Ørskov 1928

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The bacterial genus *Microcycylus* Ørskov 1928 is illegitimate because of precedence of the fungal genus *Microcycylus* Saccardo 1904. Therefore, a new genus name, *Ancylobacter*, is proposed as a substitute for the bacterial genus. Thus, the type species *Microcycylus aquaticus* Ørskov becomes *Ancylobacter aquaticus* Ørskov Raj comb. nov.

In 1928, Ørskov (7) isolated nonmotile, gram-negative, vibrioid bacteria which under certain cultural conditions formed ringlike and horse-shoe-shaped structures. He isolated these bacteria first from woodlake waters and later from freshwater ponds and occasionally from soil. Ørskov created a new genus, *Microcycylus* (Gr. *micro* very small; *cyclos* circle), for these bacteria primarily on the basis of their unique ringlike morphology and to differentiate them from *Vibrio* and *Spirillum*. Because of the mostly aquatic habitat of these organisms, Ørskov named the only species in this genus *Microcycylus aquaticus*. Morphologically similar bacteria had been observed previously by Weibel (12-15) in nasal mucus and by Sturges (W. S. Sturges, Abstr. Bacteriol. 7:11, 1923) in the floras of ham-curing brines.

The genus *Microcycylus* and the type species proposed by Ørskov have been formally recognized for more than 30 years (1, 2). However, a literature search has shown that the same genus name was assigned by Pietro Andrea Saccardo to some fungi in 1904 (9, 11); one of the nine fungal *Microcycylus* species, *Microcycylus ulei* (basonym, *Dothidella ulei*), has long been known as a plant pathogen that causes South American leaf blight of the Para rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) (4).

According to Rule 51B(4) of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria* concerning the historical precedence of a given taxon (5), the bacterial genus *Microcycylus* Ørskov 1928 should be considered illegitimate and should be rejected even though it was on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (10). Since ringlike shapes are formed very infrequently by these curvy bacteria (3, 6, 8), I propose that the bacterial genus name *Microcycylus* be replaced by *Ancylobacter* gen. nov. (an.cy.lo.bac'ter. Gr.

ankylos sharply curved, crooked; Gr. *bakterion* little rod; M. L. mas. n. *Ancylobacter* a sharply curved rod) and that *M. aquaticus* Ørskov, which is the only species recognized (6, 8), be transferred to the new genus as its type species, *Ancylobacter aquaticus* (Ørskov) Raj comb. nov., with strain Ørskov (= ATCC 25396) as the type strain. The genus and species descriptions characterizing these curvy aquatic bacteria are the same as the descriptions for *Microcycylus* and *M. aquaticus* Ørskov (6).

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