International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Listeria* and Related Bacteria

Minutes of the Meeting, 22 September 1981, Madrid, Spain

Minute 1. Call to order. The Acting Chairman, H. P. R. Seeliger, called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Those present were F. Baquero, A. L. Courtieu, R. G. Dijkstra, I. Ivanov, D. Jones, S. Ortel, B. S. Ralovich, J. Rocourt (observer), and H. P. R. Seeliger.

Minute 3. Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from I. E. Bakulov, H. J. Welshimer, and M. Woodbine.

Minute 4. J. Donker-Voet. The members learned with deep sorrow of the death of J. Donker-Voet on 1 March 1979. Several members spoke warmly of her great contributions to our understanding of the epidemiology and taxonomy of the listeriae.

Minute 5. International Microbiological Congress, Boston, Mass. The Subcommittee decided to meet during the International Microbiological Congress despite the possibility that not all members could be present. It was decided that at the meeting in Boston elections would be held for the offices of Chairman and Secretary.

Minute 6. Results of the second study of minimal standards for examination and identification of listeriae. The results of investigations on 10 strains of *Listeria* carried out in nine laboratories were discussed. These strains included representatives of *Listeria monocytogenes* (including serovar 5), *Listeria denitrificans*, *Listeria grayi*, *Listeria murrayi*, and *Listeria innocua*. With the exception of the results from one laboratory, all of the results were highly reproducible. The Subcommittee is now in a position to recommend minimal standards if the same medium is used by all workers. The Subcommittee noted the difficulty posed by the use of commercial media, which were kindly donated by Difco Laboratories, for all of the tests. Such media are not readily available to workers in all countries because of cost. The Subcommittee also noted that the media used were from particular batches.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 and was reconvened at 14:30.

Minute 7. Recommendation that the Judicial Commission be requested to change the type strain of the type species of *L. monocytogenes*. The results of the cooperative studies reported at Varna in 1977 and at the meeting in Spain confirmed the views of earlier workers that the present type strain of *L. monocytogenes* (strain ATCC 15313 [= strain 53 XXIII of E. G. D. Murray]) is not a suitable type strain and should be replaced by *L. monocytogenes* strain ATCC 19111 (= strain 58 XXIII of E. G. D. Murray). At the time of the Second Symposium on Listeric Infections, which was held at Bozeman, Mont., in 1963, when E. G. D. Murray proposed strain 53 XXIII as the type strain, he was not aware that this strain is not beta-hemolytic. Beta-hemolysis is a very important diagnostic character for *L. monocytogenes*. H. P. R. Seeliger and D. Jones agreed to write to the Judicial

Commission to ask that it give consideration to the request of the Subcommittee.

Minute 8. Taxonomic status and composition of the genus *Listeria*. There was much discussion concerning the suggestion of H. J. Welshimer that the Subcommittee recognize the genus "*Murraya*" Stuart and Welshimer, 1974 for the taxa *L. murrayi* and *L. grayi*. This genus name was not included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, and therefore it would have to be repropounded formally. The Subcommittee recognized that such a proposal could be made by any worker, but agreed that, in its view, such a move would be premature until more information becomes available. The Subcommittee noted the proposal by Seeliger and Schoofs in 1978 that strains previously designated as nonhemolytic *L. monocytogenes* serovar 6 strains be named *L. innocua*. There was discussion concerning the desirability of awarding species status to strains of *L. monocytogenes* serovar 5 (Ivanov, 1962). The Subcommittee was of the opinion that these strains probably do merit distinct species status. It was agreed that consultation regarding a formal proposal should take place among I. Ivanov, D. Jones, and H. P. R. Seeliger. The Subcommittee agreed unanimously that, as previously decided at Varna in 1977, the organism named *L. denitrificans* is not a member of the genus *Listeria*. It also agreed that at the present time there is not enough information to permit correct taxonomic placement of this bacterium.

Minute 9. International phage typing project. S. Ortel and A. L. Courtieu agreed to coordinate an international working group on the phage typing of *L. monocytogenes*. It was agreed that these workers would consult with A. Audurier, A. Taylor, A. Schrettenbrüner, J. Rocourt, and J. Durst and report back to the Subcommittee at the meeting in Boston.

Minute 10. Collation of epidemiological data. At the request of B. S. Ralovich, it was agreed that the Subcommittee would make every effort to support him in his effort to collate epidemiological data. The Subcommittee further agreed that it would be pleased to receive his report.

Minute 11. *Erysipelothrix*. No report was presented by the *Erysipelothrix* workers. D. Jones agreed to write to the members concerned to find out whether they wished to continue to serve on the Subcommittee.

Minute 12. Next meeting of the Subcommittee. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will be held during the International Microbiology Congress, Boston, Mass., 7-14 August 1982. An invitation from A. L. Courtieu to hold the IXth Symposium on the Problems of Listeriosis in Nantes, France, in 1985 was gratefully accepted. A meeting of the Subcommittee will take place at the same time.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:00 on 22 September.

D. JONES, *Secretary*
H. P. R. SEELIGER, *Acting Chairman*