International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Listeria*, *Brochothrix*, and *Erysipelothrix*

Minutes of the Meetings, 4 and 7 July 1994, Prague, Czech Republic

Session 1. Open meeting.

Minute 1. Call to order. Chairman H. P. R. Seeliger called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. on 4 July 1994.

Minute 2. H. P. R. Seeliger welcomed subcommittee members and about 10 other persons. He commented on the decline in the number of large outbreaks of human listeriosis worldwide but cited the 1992-1993 outbreak in France as an example of the need for continued vigilance.

Minute 3. Oral presentations. Three oral presentations were listed in the program. (i) "Propositions for optimising the international phage typing system for *Listeria monocytogenes*, combined analysis of phage lytic spectrum and variability of typing results" by Nathalie Van Der Mee-Marquet, Tours, France, was well received; the propositions were based on a comprehensive study. (ii) "Listeriosis in Russia" by V. M. Cotlyarov, Pokrov, Russia, was awaited with interest because of the paucity of information from Russia. Unfortunately, V. M. Cotlyarov was not able to attend but by good fortune H. P. R. Seeliger had been sent the information and spoke briefly on the subject. The number of cases reported in animals in Russia appeared to be very high, but clarification of the results is required. (iii) "Update on common panel of strains for typing" by J. McLauchlin took the form of a very brief report on the collaborative work instigated at the Copenhagen meeting (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 43:186, 1993) because the results were to be discussed in greater detail at a meeting the next day (The World Health Organization collaborative study of subtyping methods for *Listeria monocytogenes*).

Minute 4. Reminder. *Listeria* workers were reminded that the XII International Symposium on Problems of Listeriosis would be held in Perth, Western Australia, Australia, on 2 to 6 October 1995. Details could be obtained from The Symposium Organisers, Promaco Conventions Pty. Ltd., Unitqa, Canning Bridge Commercial Centre, 890-892 Canning High Way, Applecross, Western Australia 6153, Australia.

Minute 5. Speakers thanked. H. P. R. Seeliger thanked all of the speakers.

Minute 6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Session 2. Closed meeting.

Minute 7. Call to order. Chairman H. P. R. Seeliger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on 7 July 1994.

Minute 8. Record of attendance. Those present were A. Audurier, L. Dominguez, P. Gerner-Smidt (by invitation, representing W. Frederiksen), D. Jones (Secretary), J. McLauchlin, A. Schönberg, H. P. R. Seeliger (Chairman), J. Smola, and G. Suarez.

Minute 9. Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from H.-W. Ackermann, F. Fiedler, W. Frederiksen, S. Ortel, B. Ralovich, J. Rocourt, and W. F. Schlech.

Minute 10. Minutes of the last meeting. H. P. R. Seeliger proposed and G. Suarez seconded a motion that the minutes of the meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark, be accepted as distributed.

Minute 11. Resignation. A letter of resignation was received from W. Frederiksen. The Secretary agreed to write to thank W. Frederiksen for his valuable contributions.

Minute 12. Election of new member. Peter Gerner-Smidt, Copenhagen, Denmark, was elected a member of the subcommittee.

Minute 13. Members to consider the genera *Brochothrix* and *Erysipelothrix*. Experts in the study of the genera *Brochothrix* and *Erysipelothrix* were to be contacted as soon as possible.

Minute 14. Minimal standards. The drafts of minimal standards for the genera *Listeria*, *Brochothrix*, and *Erysipelothrix* were considered. The Secretary was instructed to produce completed versions suitable for publication as soon as possible.

Minute 15. Proposal to establish an international center for *Listeria* phages. A proposal to establish an international center for *Listeria* phages arose because several workers felt that an international set of standardized phages and propagating strains was required. After some discussion A. Audurier and J. McLauchlin agreed to pursue the problem and suggest possibilities.

Minute 16. International Symposium on Problems of Listeriosis, Perth, Australia. The subcommittee agreed to support the International Symposium on Problems of Listeriosis to be held in Perth, Australia.

Minute 17. Election of new officers and remit of the subcommittee. The Secretary explained that the election of officers had been delayed because of the uncertainty surrounding the future of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology taxonomic subcommittees. It appeared that the subcommittee would continue to be concerned with the taxonomy of the genera *Listeria*, *Brochothrix*, and *Erysipelothrix*. Although phylogenetically the last genus would be better dealt with by the *Mycoplasma* subcommittee, members of the *Listeria-Brochothrix* subcommittee had more experience in handling these bacteria. A postal ballot for new officers would take place before the next meeting of the subcommittee in Perth in 1995. The Secretary indicated that she would resign office at or just before that meeting.

Minute 18. Election of Emeritus Chairman. It was agreed that H. P. R. Seeliger should be designated Emeritus Chairman. This honor was conferred on H. P. R. Seeliger to mark his signal contributions to our knowledge of the genus *Listeria* and listeriosis. Until the elections H. P. R. Seeliger will continue as Chairman of the subcommittee.

Minute 19. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will take place during the XII International Symposium on Problems of Listeriosis, which is to be held in Perth, Australia, on 2 to 6 October 1995.

Minute 20. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Dorothy Jones, Secretary
H. P. R. Seeliger, Chairman