Halobacterium salinarum nom. corrig., a Name To Replace *Halobacterium salinarium* (Elazari-Volcani) and To Include *Halobacterium halobium* and *Halobacterium cutirubrum*

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The specific epithet of *Halobacterium salinarium* is a grammatically incorrect form for the genitive of *salinae* (salt works). Therefore, we propose that the name of the type species of the genus *Halobacterium* should be changed to *Halobacterium salinarum* nom. corrig. This species includes strains often designated *Halobacterium halobium* or *Halobacterium cutirubrum*.

Halobacterium salinarium is the type species of the genus *Halobacterium* in the order *Halobacteriales* and family *Halobacteriaceae* (2). This species was originally described as *Pseudomonas salinaria* (3) and was later included in the genus *Halobacterium* as *Halobacterium salinarium* comb. nov. (1).

The specific epithet of *H. salinarium* is a grammatically incorrect form for the genitive of *salinae* (salt works, salt pan); the correct form is *salinarum*.

According to Rule 57a of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria* (4), a name or epithet should conform with the spelling of the word from which it is derived and be in strict accordance with the rules of Latin and latinization. According to Rule 57b the epithet *salinarium* should be considered an orthographic variant of *salinarum*, which is the grammatically correct form.

At meetings of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Halobacteriaceae* in Manchester, United Kingdom, in 1986 and in Prague, Czech Republic, in 1994, members called for a formal proposal for a correction to be made by the Chairman and the Secretary on behalf of the subcommittee (5, 7). Thus, we propose that the name of the type species of the genus *Halobacterium* should be changed to *Halobacterium salinarum* nom. corrig. (sa.li.na'rum. L. gen. pl. n. *salinarum*, belonging or pertaining to salt works). The type strain of this species is strain NRC 34002 (= ATCC 33171 = DSM 3754 = NCIMB 764).

The species *H. salinarum* includes strains that are often called *Halobacterium halobium* or *Halobacterium cutirubrum*. *H. halobium* and *H. cutirubrum* have been designated species *incertae sedis* (2, 6), but no properties that differentiate them from *H. salinarum* and justify assignment of these strains to separate species have been described.

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