A Proposal for the Transfer of *Halorubrobacterium distributum* and *Halorubrobacterium coriense* to the Genus *Halorubrum* as *Halorubrum distributum* comb. nov. and *Halorubrum coriense* comb. nov., Respectively

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As the genus *Halorubrum* was validated before the genus *Halorubrobacterium*, we propose that the species *Halorubrobacterium distributum* and *Halorubrobacterium coriense* should be reclassified as *Halorubrum distributum* comb. nov. and *Halorubrum coriense* comb. nov., respectively.

At its open meeting on 4 July 1994 in Prague, Czech Republic, the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Halobacteriaceae* discussed the taxonomic position of several species that were previously classified in the genus *Halobacterium* but were sufficiently different from *Halobacterium salinarum*, the type species of the genus, to warrant classification in a separate genus (7). These species included *Halobacterium saccharovororum*, *Halobacterium trapanicum*, *Halobacterium sodomense*, and *Halobacterium lacusprofundi*.

A new genus, the genus *Halorubrum*, comprising the new combinations *Halorubrum saccharovororum* (type species), *Halorubrum sodomense*, *Halorubrum trapanicum*, and *Halorubrum lacusprofundi*, was proposed by McGenity and Grant (6), and the new names were validly published in January 1996 (1). Independently, Kamekura and Dyall-Smith proposed the genus *Halorubrobacterium* to include *Halorubrobacterium saccharovororum* comb. nov. (type species), *Halorubrobacterium sodomense* comb. nov., *Halorubrobacterium lacusprofundi* comb. nov., *Halorubrobacterium distributum* comb. nov., and *Halorubrobacterium coriense* sp. nov. (3). The new genus name and new combinations were validated in April 1996 (2).

According to Rule 51b of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria* (5), the name *Halorubrobacterium* is a later synonym of the name *Halorubrum* and as such is illegitimate. Accordingly, *Halorubrobacterium coriense* sp. nov. and *Halorubrobacterium distributum* (Kostrikina et al. 1990) (4) comb. nov. (basonym, *Halobacterium distributum*) should be classified in the genus *Halorubrum*, which was validated earlier. A footnote to Validation List 57 (2) states that, "Since the new name and the new combinations were already announced in Validation List 56, they have priority over *Halorubrobacterium* and the corresponding new combinations and therefore they have to be regarded as later synonyms. Consequently, *Halorubrobac-*

terium distributum and *Halorubrobacterium coriense* should read *Halorubrum distributum* and *Halorubrum coriense*, respectively. For reasons of clarity, a taxonomic note would be welcome to solve the problem."

On the basis of their polar lipid patterns (the lipids include a sulfated diglycosyl diether lipid and the diether derivative of phosphatidylglycerol sulfate), the nucleotide sequences of their 16S rRNA-encoding genes, and other criteria, *Halorubrobacterium distributum* and *Halorubrobacterium coriense* conform with the description of the genus *Halorubrum* (6). Therefore, we propose the following new combinations: *Halorubrum distributum* (Kostrikina et al. 1990) comb. nov. (basonyms, *Halorubrobacterium distributum* and *Halobacterium distributum*) (type strain, strain VKM B-1733 [= JCM 9100]) and *Halorubrum coriense* (Kamekura and Dyall-Smith 1995) comb. nov. (basonym, *Halorubrobacterium coriense*) (type strain, strain ACM 3911).

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