Nomenclature of the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* and of the nine species included in these subgenera and proposal to modify Rule 34a of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision). Request for an Opinion

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The subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* and the nine species included in these subgenera were inadvertently omitted from the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names and have never been revived according to Rule 28a of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision). The author requests that these names be revived and considered to be validly published in the 'Index of the bacterial and yeast nomenclatural changes published in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* since the 1980 Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (1 January 1980 to 1 January 1985)', which appears in the July 1985 issue of the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*. Another problem is the status of the species included in the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* because the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision) does not envisage the status of a species transferred into a subgenus. The same is true for a species transferred into a subspecies. The author requests that such species be considered as new combinations and, according to this, proposes to modify Rule 34a of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision).

Keywords: *Moraxella*, *Branhamella*, revived name, Bacteriological Code, Request for an Opinion

There are several problem areas in the nomenclature of the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* and of species included into these two subgenera. The proposal to divide the genus *Moraxella* into two subgenera was effectively published by Bøvre (1979). This author proposed:

(1) the subgenus *Moraxella* with the following six species: *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *lacunata*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *bovis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *nonliquefaciens*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *osloensis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *phenylpyruvica* and *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *atlantae*;

(2) the subgenus *Branhamella* with the following three species *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella*) *catarrhalis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella*) *caviae* and *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella*) *ovis*.

These proposals were published in the October 1979 issue of the *International Journal of Systematic Bac-*

teriology (Bøvre, 1979), which would qualify them for inclusion in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980, 1989) since Rule 24, Note 1 of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision) (Lapage *et al.*, 1992) states 'Names validly published between 1 January 1978 and 1 January 1980 were included in the *Approved Lists of Bacterial Names*.' However, neither the two subgenera nor the nine species proposed by Bøvre (1979) were cited in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980, 1989) and these omissions are clearly not in accordance with Rule 24a, Note 1.

Rule 24a, Note 1 also states that 'No further names will be added to the Approved Lists.' However, cases of omission from the Approved Lists of well-established names should be remedied by reviving the names under Rule 28a. For example, the species *Spirochaeta litoralis*, *Spirochaeta zuelzeriae* and *Spirochaeta aurantia* inexplicably were not included in the Approved Lists and they have been revived by Canale-Parola (1980).

The names proposed by Bøvre (1979) were never revived but the subgenera *Branhamella* and *Moraxella* were included in Validation List no. 15 (publication date, 16 July 1984) (Bøvre, 1984) as new subgenera with *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella*) *catarrhalis* and *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *lacunata* as nomenclatural types, respectively. However, neither *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella*) *catarrhalis* nor *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*) *lacunata* nor any of the other species proposed by Bøvre (1979) were included in this list.

In addition, Validation Lists are lists that validate bacterial names effectively published outside the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* or outside the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology*, not lists that validate names published in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* but inadvertently omitted from the Approved Lists.

Thereafter, all names proposed by Bøvre (1979) were included in the 'Index of the bacterial and yeast nomenclatural changes published in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* since the 1980 Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (1 January 1980 to 1 January 1985)' (Moore *et al.*, 1985). In this Index, the valid publication date of these names is that of the paper published by Bøvre in 1979 except for the subgenus *Moraxella* for which the valid publication date is that of the Validation List no. 15. According to Rule 24a, 'Priority of publication dates from 1 January 1980', so it is not possible for a name to have a date of valid publication prior to 1 January 1980.

To avoid further confusion, I request that the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* and the nine species proposed by Bøvre be revived and considered to be validly published in the Index published by Moore *et al.* (1985) and that the dates of valid publications be that of this Index (15 October 1985).

Another problem is the status of the species included in the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* because the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision) (Lapage *et al.*, 1992) does not envisage the status of a species transferred into a subgenus. It is interesting to note that the same is true for a species transferred into a subspecies. I request that such species should be considered as new combinations and that the first sentence of Rule 34a be changed as follows:

"When an author transfers a species to another genus (Rule 41), or a species to another subgenus, or a subspecies to another species, or a species to another subspecies, then the author who makes the transfer should indicate the formation of the new combination by the addition to the citation of the abbreviation 'comb. nov.' (*combinatio nova*)."

If the Judicial Commission agrees with the above proposals, then the two subgenera and the nine species proposed by Bøvre should be cited as follows:

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella*) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, subgen. nov., nom. rev. Type species: *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Catlin 1970) *catarrhalis* (Frosch and Kolle 1896) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985.

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella*) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, subgen. nov. Type species: *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *lacunata* (Eyre 1900) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985.

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella* Catlin 1970) *catarrhalis* (Frosch and Kolle 1896) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain Ne 11 = NCTC 11020 = ATCC 25238. Basonyms: *Moraxella catarrhalis* (Frosch and Kolle 1896) Henriksen and Bøvre 1968 (Approved Lists 1980), *Branhamella catarrhalis* (Frosch and Kolle 1896) Catlin 1970 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella* Catlin 1970) *caviae* (Pelczar 1953) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain GP 11 = NCTC 10293 = ATCC 14659. Basonyms: *Moraxella caviae* (Pelczar 1953) Henriksen and Bøvre 1968 (Approved Lists 1980), *Neisseria caviae* Pelczar 1953 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella* Catlin 1970) *ovis* (Lindqvist 1960) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain 199/55 = NCTC 11227 = ATCC 33078. Basonym: *Moraxella ovis* (Lindqvist 1960) Henriksen and Bøvre 1968 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *atlantae* (Bøvre *et al.* 1976) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain 5118 = NCTC 11091 = ATCC 29525. Basonym: *Moraxella atlantae* Bøvre *et al.* 1976 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *bovis* (Hauduroy *et al.* 1937) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain ATCC 10900. Basonym: *Moraxella bovis* (Hauduroy *et al.* 1937) Murray 1948 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *lacunata* (Eyre 1900) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain Morax 260 = NCTC 11011 = ATCC 17967. Basonym: *Moraxella lacunata* (Eyre 1900) Lwoff 1939 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *nonliquefaciens* (Scarlett 1916) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain 4663/62 = NCTC 10464 = ATCC 19975. Basonym: *Moraxella nonliquefaciens* (Scarlett 1916) Lwoff 1939 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *osloensis* (Bøvre and Henriksen 1967) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain A1920 = NCTC 10465 = ATCC 19976. Basonym: *Morax-*

ella osloensis Bøvre and Henriksen 1967 (Approved Lists 1980).

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *phenylpyruvica* (Bøvre and Henriksen 1967) (*ex* Bøvre 1979) Bøvre 1985, comb. nov., nom. rev. Type strain: strain 2863 = NCTC 10526 = ATCC 23333. Basonym: *Moraxella phenylpyruvica* Bøvre and Henriksen 1967 (Approved Lists 1980).

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