Taxonomic Note

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Neo-Latinists worldwide willing to help microbiologists

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As knowledge of Latin is no longer widespread in the community of natural scientists, the International Association for Neo-Latinist Studies (IANLS) has been contacted and asked for assistance in Latin (Neo-Latin) name formation for the formal description of newly isolated prokaryotes. Here, the names and addresses of sixteen Neo-Latin scholars and three microbiologists with knowledge of Latin and relevant experience are given, all of whom offer their help. Instructions about the procedure necessary for such consultations are included.

The number of microbiologists who have sufficient knowledge of Latin to form correct Latin names for newly isolated micro-organisms appears to decrease steadily. Therefore, I contacted the International Association of Neo-Latinist Studies (IANLS) before their XIIIth International Congress in Budapest 2006 and asked their secretary, Professor Dr Marianne Pade, to inquire whether there were members of this association who would be interested and willing to help microbiologists in the formation of Latin/Neo-Latin genus names and specific epithets for newly found prokaryotes that are ready to be properly described following the Rules of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes (formerly: of Bacteria), ICNP. The results of this approach were very positive and you will find a list of nineteen names and addresses below.

When microbiologists ask Latinists for help, they should be aware, however, that they are dealing with excellent language experts who have probably never seen the ICNP and are therefore not familiar with the rules that govern the formation of names and epithets in microbiological nomenclature. In the past, I have published several papers (Trüper, 1996, 1999, 2001) which may be useful to bridge this gap in understanding and which should be within reach for most microbiologists. I have also published such a paper aimed at Neo-Latinists (Trüper, 2004).

The last printed edition of the ICNP, the so-called 1990 revision, appeared in 1992 (Lapage *et al.*, 1992). A new edition of the ICNP that will contain all changes since 1990 is currently in preparation. The changes since 1990 are listed in the Minutes of the Meetings of the Judicial Commission and the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (formerly: on Systematic Bacteriology), ICSP, which

are regularly published in the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* (IJSEM).

Of central importance for microbiological name giving is Appendix 9 of the ICNP. Although Appendix 9 of the 1992 edition has been completely replaced and rewritten, the new wording of Appendix 9 is not yet available anywhere in print or on the internet. To facilitate access to the full text of the new Appendix 9 (until it appears in print), I have made it available at <http://www.ifmb-a.uni-bonn.de/icnp-appendix-9.pdf> via the homepage of the Institute for Microbiology & Biotechnology, University of Bonn, Germany.

When a microbiologist plans to name a newly isolated prokaryote genus, he/she has to make sure that the chosen name does not already exist as a validly published prokaryote name. This may be checked easily in the *List of Prokaryotic Names with Standing in Nomenclature* provided by Jean P. Euzéby at <http://www.bacterio.net>. As specific epithets can only exist once within a genus, this may also be verified by consulting this database.

In addition, a check has to be made to ensure that a new prokaryote genus name (not specific epithet!) has not been used previously under the Botanical or the Zoological Code. To avoid such homonyms, new genus names may be checked with an appropriate search engine on the internet (e.g. <http://www.google.com/>) and in J.P. Euzéby's *Biological Nomenclature* site (<http://www.bacterio.cict.fr/links.html#biologicalnom>). These databases are, however, not exhaustive.

When the new name is finally published, the assistance of the person(s) who helped in the formation of the correct names for the new isolates should be properly acknowledged in the publication.

The names, addresses and e-mail addresses of Neo-Latinists willing to help microbiologists are (alphabetically):

Abbreviation: ICNP, International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes.

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Please support this initiative and name further Neo-Latinists who may be willing to assist microbiologists in the formation of new names.

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