Minutes

David R. Arahal, *Secretary*
Antonio Ventosa, *Chairman*

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Halomonadaceae*

Minutes of the meetings, 7 August 2008, Istanbul, Turkey

Session 1. Closed meeting

Minute 1. Call to order. The closed meeting was held at Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC), Istanbul, Turkey. The chairman, Dr Antonio Ventosa, opened the meeting at 12:15 on 7 August 2008.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The members present were Drs Antonio Ventosa (Chair), David R. Arahal (Acting Secretary) and Aharon Oren. Apologies were received from Drs Victoria Bejar, Agata Gambacorta, William D. Grant, Carol D. Litchfield, Melanie R. Mormile, Emilia Quesada, Brian J. Tindall and Russell H. Vreeland.

Minute 3. Approval of the agenda. The agenda of the meeting was approved.

Minute 4. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the joint meeting of the Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Halobacteriaceae* and the Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Halomonadaceae* held in Colchester, UK, on 3 September 2007 [Oren, Vreeland & Ventosa, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 57 (2007), 2975–2978] were approved.

Minute 5. Current membership. Changes in membership and officers. Drs Rafael Montalvo-Rodriguez and Aharon Oren, who were already nominated for membership at the last closed meeting of the subcommittee, held in San Francisco, CA, USA, on 25 July 2005 [Vreeland & Ventosa, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 56 (2006), 2021–2022], were unanimously elected formally as members of the subcommittee.

Drs Antonio Ventosa and David R. Arahal were nominated and elected unanimously as Chairman for another term and as new Secretary of the Subcommittee, respectively. Supporting votes were also received by e-mail from the members who could not attend the meeting.

The Chairman informed the subcommittee that a resignation letter had been received from Dr William D. Grant due to his retirement. His services and dedication were acknowledged and the gratitude of the subcommittee will be communicated to him by means of a personal letter.

According to Article 9(5) of ICSP statutes, members who have ceased to interest themselves in the work of the Subcommittee shall be deleted from the membership list.

In application of this rule, Dr Yong-Ha Park was removed from the list of members of the subcommittee.

Taking into account these changes, the current membership list contains the following names: Drs Antonio Ventosa (Chair), David R. Arahal (Secretary), Victoria Bejar, Agata Gambacorta, Carol D. Litchfield, Rafael Montalvo-Rodriguez, Melanie R. Mormile, Aharon Oren, Emilia Quesada, Brian J. Tindall and Russell H. Vreeland.

Minute 6. Publication of minimal standards. The publication of the recommended minimal standards for describing new taxa of the family *Halomonadaceae* took place in vol. 57 issue 12 of the IJSEM as an open access article [Arahal *et al.*, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 57 (2007), 2436–2446] and its impact has already been witnessed in papers submitted thereafter. The importance of taking these standards into account (not only for authors, but also for reviewers and editors) was stressed once again.

Minute 7. Other business. No other business was brought to discussion.

Minute 8. Data and venue of next meeting. The next closed meeting is scheduled for the next IUMS Congress, to be held in Sapporo, Japan, on 5–9 September 2011. The subcommittee also proposed to hold an open meeting during the next International Conference on Halophilic Microorganisms in Beijing, PR China, in 2010.

Minute 9. Adjournment. The closed meeting was adjourned at 12:40 on 7 August 2008.

Session 2. Open meeting

Minute 1. Call to order. The open meeting was held at the ICEC, Istanbul, Turkey. The chairman, Dr Antonio Ventosa, called the meeting to order at 13:05.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The open meeting was attended by Drs Antonio Ventosa (Chair), David R. Arahal (Secretary) and Aharon Oren, already present at the closed meeting, and also by Dr Meral Birbir (Istanbul, Turkey).

Minute 3. Chairman's report on membership and activities of the subcommittee. The Chairman informed the meeting about the recent changes in membership and officers resulting from the closed meeting. Minutes of the

previous meetings of the subcommittee were distributed and commented on to review its activities.

Minute 4. Names validly published since the last meeting. As of August 2008 (*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58**, issue 8), the family *Halomonadaceae* contained seven genera and 68 species. Reports on the following new taxa were presented.

The name *Halomonas alkaliphila* sp. nov. [Romano *et al.*, *J Gen Appl Microbiol* **52** (2006), 339–348], with type strain ATCC BAA-953^T, DSM 16354^T, has been validly published [Validation List no. 117, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **57** (2007), 1933–1934].

Halotalea alkalilenta gen. nov., sp. nov. Ntougias *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **57** (2007), 1975–1983], with type strain CECT 7134^T, DSM 17697^T.

Halomonas kribbensis sp. nov. Jeon *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **57** (2007), 2194–2198], with type strain DSM 17892^T, KCTC 12584^T.

Chromohalobacter japonicus sp. nov. Sánchez-Porro *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **57** (2007), 2262–2266], with type strain CCM 7416^T, CECT 7219^T.

Modicisalibacter tunisiensis gen. nov., sp. nov. Ben Ali Gam *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **57** (2007), 2307–2313], with type strain CCUG 52917^T, CIP 109206^T.

Halomonas sabkhae sp. nov. Kharroub *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58** (2008), 40–44], with type strain CECT 7246^T, DSM 19122^T, LMG 24084^T.

Halomonas mongoliensis sp. nov. Boltyanskaya *et al.* [effective publication in *Microbiology* (English translation of *Mikrobiologiya*) **76** (2007), 739–747; valid publication in Validation List no. 120, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58** (2008), 529–530], with type strain DSM 17332^T, VKM B-2353^T.

Halomonas kenyensis sp. nov. Boltyanskaya *et al.* [effective publication in *Microbiology* (English translation of *Mikrobiologiya*) **76** (2007), 739–747; valid publication in Validation List no. 120, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58** (2008), 529–530], with type strain DSM 17331^T, VKM B-2354^T.

Halomonas cerina sp. nov. González-Domenech *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58** (2008), 803–809], with type strain CECT 7282^T, LMG 24145^T.

Halomonas nitroreducens sp. nov. González-Domenech *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58** (2008), 872–876], with type strain CECT 7281^T, LMG 24185^T.

Halomonas caseinilytica sp. nov. Wu *et al.* [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58** (2008), 1259–1262], with type strain CGMCC 1.6773^T, JCM 14802^T.

Minute 5. Short description of new taxa. It was stated that papers describing the following new taxa are in press awaiting publication in the IJSEM: *Halomonas lutea* sp. nov., *Halomonas korlensis* sp. nov., *Halomonas salifodinae*

sp. nov., *Halomonas daqingensis* sp. nov., *Kushneria auran-tia* gen. nov., sp. nov., *Kushneria marisflavi* comb. nov., *Kushneria indalinina* comb. nov., *Kushneria avicenniae* comb. nov. and *Halomonas ilicicola* sp. nov.

One concern of the subcommittee is that differentiation of species based on phenotypic traits is gaining continuously in complexity.

Minute 6. Sequences in databases. The Secretary brought to the attention of the subcommittee two examples of 16S rRNA gene reference sequences with misleading annotation. They represent a source of confusion not only to people accessing the GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ databases but also to the end-users of automatically generated specialized databases. The first of these examples was sequence X87217, apparently from the type strain of *Halomonas salina* but latter shown to correspond to a different strain [Baumgart *et al.*, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **51** (2001), 51–53; Arahall *et al.*, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **51** (2001), 1443–1448]. The second example was AJ295146, from strain DSM 3043, which was originally assigned to *Halomonas elongata* but latter proposed as the type strain of *Chromohalobacter salexigens* [Arahall *et al.*, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **51** (2001), 1457–1462]. In both cases, better annotation would solve the problem, and David R. Arahall was appointed to undertake that task. Since other reference sequences may also require updates, all members of the subcommittee are invited to bring further examples to the attention of the Secretary. Other people interested in the taxonomy of the *Halomonadaceae* are also invited to do so.

Minute 7. Webpage. The Chairman presented the current contents of the webpage of the subcommittee (<http://www.the-icsp.org/subcoms/halomonadaceae.htm>) and announced some forthcoming additions. Initiatives to include further material of interest for the taxonomy of the *Halomonadaceae* are welcome. One possibility suggested was to include an updated list of reference sequences (16S rRNA and others).

Minute 8. Any other business. The secretary observed that minute 18 of the meeting held in Colchester, UK, 3 September 2005 [Oren, Vreeland & Ventosa, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **57** (2007), 2975–2978] reflected a pending issue relating to the creation of a database of private collections of strains of the *Halomonadaceae*. In this sense, the meeting was reminded that consultation of the WFCC website (<http://www.wfcc.info/wfcc.html>) and the guidelines and resources therein available is strongly advised.

A molecular phylogeny based on several housekeeping genes is currently being developed by Rafael R. de la Haba, a colleague of Antonio Ventosa in Seville (Spain).

Minute 9. Adjournment. The open meeting was adjourned at 13:40 on 7 August 2008.