Opinion

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The subgenus names *Moraxella* subgen. *Moraxella* and *Moraxella* subgen. *Branhamella* and the species names included within these taxa should have been included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names and a ruling on the proposal to make changes to Rule 34a. Opinion 83

Judicial Commission of the International Committee for Systematics of Prokaryotes

The Judicial Commission of the International Committee for Systematics of Prokaryotes rules that the following names should have been included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979), *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939), *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *catarrhalis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *caviae*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *ovis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *atlantae*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *bovis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *lacunata*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *nonliquefaciens*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *osloensis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *phenylpyruvica*. Proposals to alter Rule 34a were rejected.

At the meeting of the Judicial Commission in 2005, at the IUMS Congress in San Francisco, USA, the Judicial Commission of the International Committee for Systematics of Prokaryotes ruled that the following names should have been included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella*), *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella*), *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *catarrhalis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *caviae*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *ovis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *atlantae*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *bovis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *lacunata*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *nonliquefaciens*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *osloensis*, *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *phenylpyruvica*.

Taking the arguments of Euzéby (2001) into consideration, it was decided that subgenus names within the genus *Moraxella* and the appropriate species names within those subgenera, published by Bøvre in 1979 in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* (IJSB; Bøvre, 1979) qualify for inclusion in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names as defined by Note 1 of Rule 24a of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (the Code; Lapage *et al.*, 1975, 1992). Some confusion has arisen because these names were included in the index of Moore *et al.* (1985), giving the impression that these names were validly published in an original article in the IJSB, pre-dating 1 January 1980, but were not listed on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, and should, therefore

have lost status under the 1975 and subsequent revisions of the Code. Bøvre (1984a) also treated these names as having been validly published in 1979, although a requirement of the 1975 revision of the Code (Lapage *et al.*, 1975) was that valid publication of such names on or after 1 January 1980 would either require inclusion on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980) or subsequent valid publication in the IJSB [now the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* (IJSEM)]. Euzéby's proposal (Euzéby, 2001) to use the date of the index of Moore *et al.* (1985) as the date of valid publication of these subgenus and species names (i.e. revival of these names) is questionable, because there is no evidence that this index can serve as a means for the valid publication of names. The index appears to list only names already considered to have been validly published. Furthermore, the inclusion of the subgenus names alone on Validation List 15 (Bovre, 1984b) did not include the appropriate species names within the subgenera, as listed by Bøvre (1979).

The wording of Note 1, Rule 24a (Lapage *et al.*, 1992) indicates that names validly published between 1 January 1978 and 1 January 1980 were included in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names. If the publication of Bøvre (1979) is to serve as the source of names, then there would appear to be no obstacle to concluding that for some reason they were inadvertently omitted from the Approved Lists, in which, according to Note 1 of Rule 24a, they should have been included. The Judicial Commission therefore concludes that the following names meet the requirements of the 1975 revision of the

Bacteriological Code (Lapage *et al.*, 1975; 1992) and are to be treated as having been included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980, 1989):

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella*) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type species:** *Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *catarrhalis* (Frosch and Kolle 1896) Bøvre 1979 Approved Lists

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella*) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type species:** *Moraxella* (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *lacunata* (Eyre 1900) Bøvre 1979 Approved Lists

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *catarrhalis* (Frosch and Kolle 1896) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain Ne 11=NCTC 11020=ATCC 25238

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *caviae* (Pelczar 1953) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain GP 11=NCTC 10293=ATCC 14659

Moraxella (subgen. *Branhamella* Bøvre 1979) *ovis* (Lindqvist 1960) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain 199/55=NCTC 11227=ATCC 33078

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *atlantae* (Bøvre *et al.* 1976) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain 5118=NCTC 11091=ATCC 29525

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *bovis* (Hauduroy *et al.* 1937) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain NCTC 11013=ATCC 10900

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *lacunata* (Eyre 1900) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain Morax 260=NCTC 11011=ATCC 17967

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *nonliquefaciens* (Scarlett 1916) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain 4663/62=NCTC 10464=ATCC 19975

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *osloensis* (Bøvre and Henriksen 1967) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain A1920=NCTC 10465=ATCC 19976

Moraxella (subgen. *Moraxella* Lwoff 1939) *phenylpyruvica* (Bøvre and Henriksen 1967) Bøvre 1979

Bøvre, K. 1979. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology **29**:403–406. **Type strain:** strain 2863=NCTC 10526=ATCC 23333

In ruling that these names are to be considered to be validly published, the Judicial Commission wishes to emphasize the fact that although this adds two subgenus names to the Approved Lists, it does not imply that the Commission endorses the use of subgenus names at the present time. On the contrary, the Judicial Commission emphasizes the fact that taxonomists should be actively discouraged from using this rank at the present.

In considering the request to make alterations to the wording of Rule 34a, the Judicial Commission decided that there was no need to make reference to the rank of subgenus.

Opinion compiled on behalf of the Judicial Commission by B. J. Tindall.

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