BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE
AND TAXONOMY

STATUS OF PROPOSED DRAFT OF OPINION 18

Legitimacy of the Specific Epithets typhosa and typhi
as used in the Species Names Salmonella typhosa
and Salmonella typhi

Editorial Board

The Judicial Commission at its recent Stockholm meeting considered a proposal to issue an Opinion relative to the specific epithet to be used for the organism originally described by Eberth from "typhus abdominalis." The species names Salmonella typhosa and Salmonella typhi are both in current use. The following statement was considered by the Judicial Commission

Draft for Opinion 18

Dr. R.S. Breed (1955) requested an Opinion as to the legitimacy of the specific epithets typhosa and typhi as used in species names Salmonella typhosa and S. typhi. Eberth (1880), who first described the organisms from a case of typhoid fever, did not propose a name. The following names were proposed for this organism during the next several years.

Bacillus typhosus Klebs 1880. The name was validly published, but the organism described was later found not to be the cause of typhoid fever, and not the organism described by Eberth.

Bacterium typhosum Zopf 1884. Proposed as the name for the organism described by Eberth. Validly published.

Bacillus typhosus Zopf 1885. A transference of Bacterium typhosum Zopf to the genus Bacillus. Validly published. The name Bacillus typhosus Zopf 1885 is a later homonym of Bacillus typhosus Klebs 1880, and hence illegitimate.

Bacillus typhi Schroeter 1886. Validly published, but a later synonym of Bacterium typhosum Zopf 1884. Date of publication 16th August 1886.

Bacillus typhi-abdominalis Flügge 1886. Validly published. A later synonym of Bacterium typhosum Zopf 1884.

Presumably a later synonym of Bacillus typhi Schroeter 1886, as the publication has its Preface dated 24th August 1886; the preface must have been written before the distribution of the publication.

Salmonella typhi (Schroeter) Warren and Scott 1930. A transference of Bacillus typhi Schroeter 1886 to the genus Salmonella.

Salmonella typhosa (Zopf) White 1930. A transference of Bacterium typhosum Zopf to the genus Salmonella.

Draft Request for Opinion 18

Draft Proposal No. 1. The specific epithet typhosa in the name of the species Salmonella typhosa (Zopf) White has priority over the specific epithet typhi in the species name Salmonella typhi (Schroeter) Warren and Scott, its basonym being Bacterium typhosum Zopf 1884.

Draft Proposal No. 2. The specific epithet typhi in the name of the species Salmonella typhi (Schroeter) Warren and Scott is conserved over the specific epithet typhosa in the name Salmonella typhosa (Zopf) White 1930, by the recognition of Bacillus typhi Schroeter 1886 as the basonym.

REFERENCES

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Zopf, W. 1884. Die Spaltpilze. 2 Aufl., Breslau, Anhang, p. 90.
_____. 1885. Die Spaltpilze, Aufl. 3. Breslau. p. 125.

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After consideration it was agreed that from the standpoint of priority the Draft Proposal No. 1 was to be preferred, and this draft was approved. However, there were some differences of opinion expressed as to which specific epithet (typhosa or typhi) is the more commonly to be found in the current literature.

The Opinion was referred to the International Committee for review. The International Committee requested the Judicial Commission to reconsider the matter, and to endeavor to determine which specific epithet is the more commonly used, and what action should be taken to avoid confusion in nomenclature. Further, the Subcommittee on Taxonomy of the Enterobacteriaceae at its Stockholm meeting expressed the opinion that acceptance of typhi rather than typhosa would minimize confusion in the literature.

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The above statement has been sent to each member of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature with the following request:

Please assist the Judicial Commission to reach a satisfactory decision by answering the following questions:

1. From your observations which of the following specific epithets is the more commonly used in scientific and technical literature?

- a. typhosa (in Salmonella typhosa) ____
b. typhi (in Salmonella typhi) ____ Check one.

2. From the standpoint of stable bacteriological nomenclature, which of the following specific epithets do you prefer?

- a. typhosa (in Salmonella typhosa) ____
b. typhi (in Salmonella typhi) ____ Check one.