OPINION 24

Rejection of the Generic Name Arthrobacter Fischer 1895
and Conservation of the Generic Name
Arthrobacter Conn and Dimmick 1947

In 1947 Conn and Dimmick proposed "to revive by emendation" an old generic name, Arthrobacter Fischer (1895). This was a nomen nudum, as no species was named, and it was subsequently abandoned by its author. The genus Arthrobacter, as described by Conn and Dimmick, contained three species of which Arthrobacter globiforme (Conn) Conn and Dimmick was designated as the type.

The question has been raised whether the generic name Arthrobacter Fischer 1895 was validly published and whether or not it has any standing in nomenclature. The generic name Arthrobacter Fischer was proposed to include all rod-shaped, spore-producing nonmotile bacteria without flagella. No species was named, either at this time or later. In a 1903 publication on bacterial taxonomy Fischer did not recognize the name, and it seems that the name had been proposed for a hypothetical genus for which no species was discovered. The name was not accepted by the author and apparently it was proposed "in anticipation of the future acceptance of the taxon concerned." Such a name (Rule 12c) is not validly published, and has no standing in nomenclature.

The generic name Arthrobacter Conn and Dimmick was validly published and is available for use.

The following Opinion 24 was approved unanimously by the Judicial Commission and by the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature at meetings held in August, 1958 in Stockholm, in connection with the meeting of the VII International Microbiological Congress.

Opinion 24

1. The name Arthrobacter proposed in 1895 as the name of a hypothetical genus of bacteria was not validly published and has no standing in nomenclature.

2. The generic name Arthrobacter Conn and Dimmick 1947 was validly published as a nomen novum. It is not an emendation of Arthrobacter Fischer 1895 nor a later homonym.

REFERENCES

- Conn, H.J. and Isabel Dimmick. 1947. Soil bacteria similar in morphology to Mycobacterium and Corynebacterium. Jour. Bact. 54:291-303.
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- Fischer, Alfred. 1895. Untersuchungen über Bakterien. Jahrb. Bot. 27:1-163.
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