MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TAXONOMIC
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LACTOBACILLUS AND CLOSELY
RELATED ORGANISMS, MONTREAL, CANADA,
AUGUST 19, 1962

Minute 1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Dr. Clark and a roll call was taken. Present were the members: T. Gibson, P. Arne Hansen, C.W. Langston, G. Mocquot, M. Rogosa, M. Elisabeth Sharpe, P.H.A. Sneath, Ned B. Williams, and H.P.R. Seeliger (ex officio, International Committee on Nomenclature).

Dr. W.A. Clark acted as alternate for Dr. J. Dehnert; Dr. H.K. Frank for Dr. O. Kandler; Dr. E.F. Lessel for Dr. C. S. Pederson; Dr. Veronica Sundman as alternate for both Dr. H.G. Gyllenberg and Dr. F. Petuely.

Authorization for Dr. Frank was received from Dr. Kandler, and in case of Dr. Sundman, from both Dr. Gyllenberg and Dr. Petuely.

Minute 2. After introductory remarks from Dr. Hansen, the officers of the Subcommittee were elected. Dr. M. Elisabeth Sharpe was elected Chairman; Dr. P. Arne Hansen, Secretary. Dr. Sharpe then took the chair. The membership was approved, with the addition of Dr. G. Reuter, Institut für Lebensmittelhygiene, Berlin-Dahlem.

Minute 3. Dr. Seeliger reviewed the functions of taxonomic subcommittees as set forth in the Code, Chapter 4, Provision 4.

Minute 4. Dr. Hansen stated that two items are in urgent need of study by the subcommittee. First, available cultures of the several species should be studied to determine whether under the rules of the Code any might be true type cultures and should be so recognized. Second, for species for which no true type cultures exist, the set of cultures sent to each member of the subcommittee should be studied with a view to recommendation for appropriate recognition as neotype cultures (strains).

Dr. Clark explained how strains were to be distributed and offered the assistance of the American Type Culture Collection in the lyophilizing of cultures produced by Dr. Hansen. A list of cultures was distributed and the members were urged to furnish further strains for the study.

Mr. Rogosa emphasized the importance of using an inoculum which had been carefully prepared. A suffi-

ciently large amount of an active culture is essential for uniform characterization by fermentation tests.

Dr. Gibson stated that further strains ought to be included, and Dr. Hansen explained that the present list did not in any sense pretend to be complete but merely contained a set of cultures already available at the University of Maryland and the National Institute of Dental Research, and that additional strains from other workers ought to be added. Dr. Seeliger warned against starting with too many strains. Some discussion ensued about the size of the collection to be studied, and it was finally agreed that 12-18 cultures distributed might not be too large a selection to be dispatched at one time, especially since all strains were to be furnished in the lyophilized state.

Dr. Sneath pointed out that the availability of type cultures would be important for workers not concerned with taxonomy but investigating certain properties of a single strain—for example, the cell-wall composition. Too often in the past extensive work has been published on one strain, and generalization drawn about the behavior of the entire species, although the investigated specimens could not even be considered correctly named. If such workers could use type cultures, confusion could be eliminated and the literature would not be filled with faulty claims about properties of species improperly named, a kind of error which is almost impossible to eradicate.

Dr. Lessel recommended that photostats of the original description of each of the species should be furnished to each member.

Minute 5. Mr. Rogosa discussed the use of various media and recommended milk with CaCO_3 for storage and MRS medium for general use.

Dr. Hansen pointed out that the full spectrum of fermentation characters was not expressed unless the basic medium was optimal. No one medium would serve for all strains. The best medium found so far was one used by Mr. Rogosa (NIH). The formula was distributed.

The members voted that the use of this medium should be mandatory but that it should be used without Mn in case of the thermobacteria. Other media might be used parallel at the discretion of the individual worker.

Minute 6. Some discussion followed about characters to be investigated. In addition to the ones most widely used:

BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE
AND TAXONOMY

type of lactic acid, final acidity, gas from glucose, fermentation of carbohydrates, etc., temperature range, tolerance to NaCl and NH_3 from arginine were proposed. Others might be included depending on the individual worker and the species to be studied: nutritional factors, fermentation products, serology, phage typing, cell-wall composition and possibly still others.

Minute 7. Dr. Gyllenberg and Dr. Petuely had suggested by letters that a subgroup for the study of Lactobacillus bifidus should be established. The following persons were chosen from the Subcommittee to form this subgroup:

Dr. J. Dehnert	Dr. F. Petuely
Dr. H.G. Gyllenberg	Mr. M. Rogosa
Dr. O. Kandler	Dr. N. Williams

supplemented with the following associate members:

Dr. H. Beerens, Institut Pasteur, 20 Boul. Louis XIV,
Lille, France,
Dr. R.F. Norris, University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA,
Dr. H. Werner, Hygiene-Institut der Universität,
53 Bonn-Venusberg, Germany.

Dr. Hansen was elected Chairman of the subgroup.

Minute 8. Dr. Williams emphasized the importance of studying the range of variation of characters for each species with particular reference to antigenic properties.

Dr. Hansen recommended that approved serotypes might be circulated. Some of the type cultures happen also to be serotypes.

Minute 9. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

P. Arne Hansen
Secretary