PROPOSAL FOR REJECTION OF THE
GENERIC NAME POLYMONAS LIESKE 1928

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SUMMARY. A proposal for rejection of the bacterial generic name Polymonas Lieske 1928.

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An organism causing galls on many species of higher plants was described and named Bacterium tumefaciens by Smith and Townsend (1907, 672). Lieske later proposed the generic name Polymonas to include the single species (type species by monotypy) Polymonas tumefaciens (Smith and Townsend) Lieske 1928, 143. He states that the species, because of its variable morphology, might appropriately be placed in any one of the genera Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Bacterium, Micrococcus or Streptococcus. However, he proposes the apparently validly published and apparently legitimate new binary combination Polymonas tumefaciens. The proposal was made in the midst of an article and has been generally overlooked.

Conn (1942, 359) proposed the generic name Agrobacterium with the validly published binary combination Agrobacterium tumefaciens (Smith and Townsend) Conn 1942. The generic name Agrobacterium Conn is a later objective synonym of Polymonas Lieske as both are based upon the same type species.

No use of the generic name Polymonas has been found since Lieske's proposal except where listed as a synonym. Krasil'nikov (1949, 400) cites Polymonas tumefaciens as a synonym of Pseudomonas tumefaciens (Smith and Townsend) Stevens 1913, 35. Bergey et al. (1934, 292) lists it as a synonym of Phytomonas tumefaciens Bergey et al. 1923, 292.

A request has been received that the Judicial Commission place the generic name Polymonas Lieske in the list of rejected generic names (nomina generum rejicienda). The commonly accepted name is Agrobacterium Conn and the replacement of Agrobacterium by Polymonas would lead to unnecessary nomenclatural confusion (see Principle 7, Bacteriological Code).

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