SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAXONOMY OF STAPHYLOCOCCI
AND MICROCOCCI - MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING
(5th-6th October, 1964)

The first meeting of the subcommittee was held on 5th and 6th October, 1964, at J.E. Purkyně University, Brno, Czechoslovakia. Members present were:

Dr. J. B. Evans (Chairman)
Professor L. Grün
Dr. M. Kocur
Professor Per Oeding
Dr. A. Torres Pereira
Dr. A. C. Baird-Parker (Secretary)

Papers were read by subcommittee members and each of these was followed by a discussion session; summaries of some of the papers presented follow the minutes of this meeting. Main points arising from discussions were:

1. Standardization of methods.

Dr. Evans expressed the need to standardise methods used for taxonomic studies of staphylococci and micrococci. It was agreed that a start should be made to achieve this by standardising the method used for determining the anaerobic production of acid from glucose and mannitol by staphylococci and by standardisation of the method used for performing the coagulase test; details of these are given in the Recommendations of the subcommittee.

2. Separation of staphylococci from micrococci.

It was agreed that separation of staphylococci from micrococci is best achieved by use of the ability of staphylococci to grow and produce acid from glucose when incubated under anaerobic conditions. The best test for this purpose was discussed at some length and it was agreed that a complex medium containing glucose should be used in a modified Hugh and Leifson test. Bromocresol purple was considered to be a better indicator of anaerobic acid production than bromothymol blue as generally clearer cut results are obtained and only organisms with an active glycolysis cycle will be detected. Professor Grün presented evidence that some micrococci and coagulase-negative staphylococci may

weakly or slowly produce acid from mannitol when grown anaerobically.

3. Species of staphylococci and micrococci.

It was agreed that at least two species of staphylococci can be recognised. These species are S. aureus Rosenbach and S. epidermidis (Winslow and Winslow) Evans. They are best distinguished by use of the coagulase test and anaerobic acid production from mannitol. In the genus Micrococcus it was accepted that the only two well-defined species are M. roseus Flügge and M. luteus (Schroeter) Cohn. It was also agreed that the genus Sarcina was invalid for aerobic packet-forming organisms and that this genus should only include anaerobic species.

4. Antigenic classification of staphylococci and micrococci.

Professor Oeding has been examining the antigens of coagulase-negative staphylococci and of micrococci and from the preliminary results so far obtained it appears that antigenic studies will aid the classification of these organisms. Dr. Torres Pereira outlined his results on the correlation between antigens of S. aureus and other characters, and proposed two different varieties of the organism. Professor Grün hopes to examine the stability of antigens used in the antigenic typing of Staphylococcus aureus.

5. Culture collection of staphylococci and micrococci.

Dr. Kocur proposed that a reference collection of species should be set up at Brno and asks that any proposed neotypes or new species should be maintained in his collection. The address of the collection is: Československá Sbírka Mikroorganismů, J. E. Purkyně University, Tř. Obránců Míru 10, Brno, Czechoslovakia. Dr. Evans warned of possible loss of characters after the freeze-drying of cultures and suggested that other methods may better preserve their characters.

A. C. Baird-Parker
Secretary