PROPOSAL FOR MOLLICUTES AS NAME OF THE CLASS
ESTABLISHED FOR THE ORDER MYCOPLASMATALES

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The Report from the Subcommittee on Taxonomy of Mycoplasmata (1) proposes, i. a., the establishment of a separate new Class for the Order Mycoplasmatales.

As stated in paragraph '3' of the Report no final agreement was reached by the Subcommittee on an appropriate name for the new Class. However, in a working document produced for the Subcommittee by one of us (E. A. F.) attention was called to the ordinal name Mollicutales, proposed in 1955 by Edward (2) as a possible alternative to Mycoplasmatales. A name for the Class based on the binary stem 'molli-cutis' was submitted for the consideration of the members of the Subcommittee: they expressed general approval and suggested that a euphonious and formally correct name should be devised.

As a result of inquiries among experts in this field it can be stated now that the name Mollicutes (Latin adjective molli- = soft, pliable, and Latin feminine noun cutis = skin) would be formally acceptable. In consequence, this name is hereby proposed as the name of the new Class.

By referring to the absence of a true cell wall and the plasticity of the outer membrane as a recognized fundamental property of the microorganisms included in the Class, the proposed name abides by the second alternative contained in Rule 2 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (3) that reads: 'The name of each taxon above the rank of order is taken preferably from a combination of characters covering the nature of the taxon as closely as possible, or from a single character of outstanding importance.'

REFERENCES

1. Minutes of first meeting of the Subcommittee on Taxonomy of the Mycoplasmata. 1967. Intl. J. Syst. Bact. 17(2):105-109.
2. Edward, D.G. ff. 1955. A suggested classification and nomenclature for organisms of the pleuropneumonia group. Intl. Bull. Bact. Nomen. 5:85-93.
3. Editorial Board. 1966. International code of nomenclature of bacteria. Intl. J. Syst. Bact. 16(4):459-490.

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