Opinion 43

Conservation of the Specific Epithet "*sphaeroides*" in the Name *Rhodopseudomonas sphaeroides* van Niel

Editorial Secretary (for the Judicial Commission of the
International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology)

The specific epithet "*sphaeroides*" in the name *Rhodopseudomonas sphaeroides* van Niel 1944 is conserved against the specific epithet "*minor*" in the name of the earlier subjective synonym *Rhodococcus minor* and against the specific epithets in the names of all earlier objective synonyms of *Rhodopseudomonas sphaeroides*. The spelling of the specific epithet is corrected from "*spheroides*" to "*sphaeroides*." The neotype strain of *Rhodopseudomonas sphaeroides* van Niel is van Niel's strain ATH 2.4.1 (= ATCC 17023).

Van Niel (5, p. 88), in transferring *Rhodococcus capsulatus* Molisch (2) to the genus *Rhodopseudomonas*, changed the specific epithet from "*capsulatus*" to "*spheroides*" (sic), "*capsulatus*" having been preoccupied in the genus *Rhodopseudomonas* by van Niel's (5, p. 88) earlier transfer of *Rhodonostoc capsulatum* Molisch (2) to this same genus. The name *Rhodopseudomonas spheroides* was, at this point, validly published and legitimate. However, van Niel later (5, p. 95) gave *Rhodococcus minor* Molisch 1907 as a subjective synonym of *Rhodopseudomonas spheroides*. Trüper and Pfennig (4) noted that under these conditions the specific epithet "*spheroides*" is illegitimate, "*minor*" having priority. Trüper and Pfennig therefore requested the conservation of the specific epithet "*spheroides*" against the specific epithet "*minor*." The Judicial Commission (1) subsequently approved the following Opinion (note correction of the spelling of "*spheroides*" to "*sphaeroides*"). [The neotype strain of *Rhodopseudomonas sphaeroides* van Niel is van Niel's strain ATH 2.4.1 (= ATCC 17023) [3].]

Opinion 43. The specific epithet "*sphaeroides*" in the name *Rhodopseudomonas*

sphaeroides van Niel 1944 is conserved against the specific epithet "*minor*" in the name of the earlier subjective synonym *Rhodococcus minor* and against the specific epithets in the names of all earlier objective synonyms of *Rhodopseudomonas sphaeroides*. The neotype strain is van Niel's ATH 2.4.1 (= ATCC 17023).

LITERATURE CITED

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