International Committee on Nomenclature of Bacteria

Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of the Actinomycetes

Minutes of the Meeting, 10 and 11 August 1970

Hotel Maria Isabel, Mexico City, Mexico

Minute 1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, D. Gottlieb.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Members present were G. A. DeVries, D. Gottlieb, E. Küster, R. Locci, T. P. Preobrashenskaja, T. G. Pridham, A. Sanchez Marroquin, J. M. Slack, and S. A. Waksman. Non-members present were T. Arai, S. G. Bradley, Alma Dietz, E. B. Shirling, Z. Tešić, M. J. Thirumalachar, M. Welsch, and M. Whitehead.

Minute 3. Report of the Subgroup on Microaerophilic Actinomycetes (by J. M. Slack). Studies on the characterization of type strains of *Actinomyces* and related genera were continued. Cell and colony morphology, physiology, cell-wall composition, serology, and pathogenicity in particular were examined. Most of these studies were already completed on *Actinomyces bovis*, *A. odontolyticus*, *A. israelii*, *A. naeslundii*, *A. viscosus*, *Arachnia propionica*, *Bacterionema matruchotii*, and *Rothia dentocariosa*. The respective strains were deposited at the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Md., USA. The taxonomic position of the genus *Bifidobacterium* (family *Lactobacillaceae* or *Actinomycetaceae*?) was discussed at length.

Several members of the subgroup supported the work for the new edition of *Bergey's Manual* by submitting manuscripts and completing the descriptions of the family *Actinomycetaceae* and of its genera.

Minute 4. Report of the Subgroup on Nocardia (by S. G. Bradley for J. Adams). A cooperative study has been started with the aim of testing the reproducibility and reliability of characteristics used to describe nocardiae. After preliminary experiments, it was obvious that the first set of tests examined was not sufficient for an adequate description of all the organisms currently included in the genus *Nocardia*. A list of all the species names applied to organisms placed in the genus *Nocardia* is in preparation, including the relevant citations and references.

It was strongly recommended to intensify the already existing liaison between the various

subcommittees and working groups on *Nocardia*, such as the Subcommittee on Actinomycetes of the American Society for Microbiology and the International Working Group on Mycobacterial Taxonomy.

Minute 5. Report of the subgroup on Oligosporic Actinomycetes (by E. Küster for H. Lechevalier). Since the Jena meeting in 1968, not much could be reported on the activities. A number of new projects are in preparation, e.g., a particular study of the genera *Promicromonospora* and *Actinobifida*. Another problem is the examination of the recently proposed genus *Actinomadura*, which includes strains of *Nocardia madurae*. A reorganization of the subgroup and of its member composition will activate the work of the Subgroup.

Minute 6. Report on the International Streptomyces Project (by E. B. Shirling). As a result of this cooperative work, the descriptions of 300 *Streptomyces* species and their type strains have been published in three consecutive papers (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 18:69, 18:279; and 19:391). Examination of a further 150 type strains has been completed. The evaluation of the results is progressing and will probably be published in April 1971. A further 150 species have been named but strains are not available (industrial restriction) or a valid description does not exist. In the discussion, a minimum set of characters and methods which were recommended and used by the ISP workers was postulated to be applied in describing new species.

The ISP type strains have been deposited at: CBS Baarn, the Netherlands; USSR Res. Inst. Antibiotics, Moscow; Inst. Fermentation, Osaka, Japan; and the ATCC, Rockville, Md., USA.

Minute 7. Report of the Chairman. The manuscripts for the new (8th) edition of *Bergey's Manual* concerning the families and genera of the order *Actinomycetales* were completed and submitted except for those of the family *Actinoplanaceae*. These contribu-

tions were prepared in close cooperation with the Subcommittee.

The proposed statutes of ICNB were discussed, particularly with respect to the functions and composition of the subcommittees. The members present expressed their opinion that the Executive Board of ICNB should minimize its control as long as a subcommittee works actively and successfully with full agreement among all its members.

The requirements for the valid publication of newly described taxa were discussed. It was suggested that a short description of the newly named taxon should be published in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* in addition to a previous publication elsewhere, as long as the meaning of a "scientific journal" is still doubtful. The editors of IJSB should be informed of this recommendation and should be asked to accept such short papers.

Scientists who propose new species of Actinomycetes will be asked to send a description of the species in question together with the relevant reference to the subcommittee's secretary. The secretary will collect the information, list the valid names, and distribute them among actinomycetologists once or twice a year. This procedure will not exclude the value of the *Index Bergeyana* but will improve and speed up circulation of information.

Minute 8. Adjournment of Meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Minute 9. Second session. The second session of the meeting of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of the Actinomycetes was held on 11 August.

Minute 10. Record of attendance. Members present were G. A. DeVries, D. Gottlieb, E. Küster, R. Locci, Y. Okami, T. P. Preobrashenskaja, T. G. Pridham, and J. M. Slack. Non-members present were T. Arai, S. G. Bradley, Alma Dietz, C. Hengeller, D. W. Kurylowicz, E. B. Shirling, J. A. Stevens, Z. Tešić, M. V. Thirumalachar, H. D. Tresner, K. H. Wallhäusser, and M. Whitehead.

Minute 11. Report of the Secretary. The secretary presented his report and discussed in

particular the proceedings of the Jena (1968) meeting.

The request by P. H. A. Sneath, Chairman of the Judicial Commission, for a recommendation on the use of taxonomic categories such as sections and series was discussed. It was agreed that, although these categories may be useful in ordering a great number of strains into groups at first instance, these categories should not be included with the taxa whose nomenclature is governed by the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria*.

The proposal by T. Cross to accept a standard set of abbreviations of generic names using more than one letter was discussed. It was recommended by the Subcommittee that such abbreviations be used when necessary but that no standard set of abbreviations should be adopted.

Minute 12. Election of Officers and Appointment of New Members. Gottlieb was unanimously reelected as chairman and Locci was elected as secretary. A non-official post of associate chairman was created to aid in the subcommittee's work. Küster was proposed by Preobrashenskaja and DeVries and was unanimously elected to this post.

Arai, Bradley, Kurylowicz, Shirling, and Tešić were elected to membership. Cross and Williams were elected as co-opted members. Hütter, Lechevalier, and Sanchez Marroquin were not reelected.

Minute 13. Chairmen of Subgroups. Slack was reappointed as chairman of the Subgroup on Microaerophilic Actinomycetes; Bradley and Cross were elected as chairmen of the Subgroups on Nocardiae and on Oligosporic Actinomycetes, respectively.

Minute 14. Membership of Subgroups. The chairmen of the subgroups are to select the members of their subgroups and submit the lists of members to the Subcommittee as soon as possible.

Minute 15. Adjournment of meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

E. Küster, Retiring Secretary
R. Locci, Secretary