International Committee on Nomenclature of Bacteria

Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Leptospira*

Minutes of Meeting, 22–28 July 1966

Central Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology, Moscow, USSR

Minute 1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, J. W. Wolff, at 10:30 AM on Friday, 22 July. The first session was held at the Central Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology; further sessions were held at the Institute on 23 July and on the afternoon of 25 July, and the final session was held on the morning of 28 July at the Hotel Minsk.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Members present were: J. W. Wolff (Chairman), L. H. Turner (Secretary), B. Babudieri, C. Borg-Petersen, Mildred M. Galton, J. van der Hoeden, M. Kitaoka (who attended the last two sessions), E. Kmety, and Alexandra A. Varfolomeeva. M. Abdussalam (World Health Organization) was present as an observer.

The following associates and guests (who attended one or more of the meetings) were also present: Meridian Ball, J. W. Czekalowski, H. Mochmann, Camille Lataste-Dorolle, V. V. Ananyin, Joyce Coghlan, Y. Chernukha, F. Kemenes, M. J. Lavrova, L. Mechedov, G. Kovalsky, I. Kokovin, E. Popova, A. Pumarola, O. H. V. Stalheim, D. Schaferstein, T. Tinlieva, V. Topciu, E. Wiesmann, and Irene Silva.

Minute 3. Welcome. T. A. Nikolaeva, Director of the Institute, welcomed the Subcommittee.

Minute 4. In Memoriam. The chairman spoke in appreciation of J. Kathe, recently deceased.

Minute 5. Absent members. Messages from A. D. Alexander and J. van Riel, regretting their inability to attend the meetings, were received with disappointment. D. J. W. Smith had previously indicated that he would be unable to attend.

Minute 6. List of agenda. The items on the list of agenda (which had been distributed earlier by mail) were then considered. Many of the items had been discussed by means of Subcommittee circular letters as well as at informal discussions on research in leptospirosis which were convened by the World Health Organization at Moscow on the 4 preceding days, 18 to 21 July, inclusive [the Report of which has been published: *Wld. Hlth. Org. Tech. Rep. Ser.* 1967, 380].

Minute 7. Revision of Membership. A proposal for reorganizing the Subcommittee was set forth in Circular Letter No. 7/1966 (p. 6–7). This proposal was adopted with alterations in the titles of the two categories other than member, thus: (1) Members, (2) Consultants [The 1966 edition of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria* was approved and published after the meetings took place in Moscow. In this new edition, the term “Collaborators” is used in the sense of “Consultants.” Henceforth, therefore, we shall also use the term “Collaborator” (see *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 16:487, Rule 6 on Organization and Functions of Taxonomic Subcommittees).], and (3) Advisers.

The category “Associate Member” was abolished. Former Associates therefore cease to be part of the Subcommittee unless they are invited to join one of the three categories mentioned above.

It was agreed that the maximum number of members should be 12 (including Chairman and Secretary), but that this number need not be attained.

Consultants will be invited to collaborate with the Subcommittee as members of specially appointed working subgroups or as individuals when this is more appropriate.

The category “Adviser” is a private one within our Subcommittee: it is not recognized by the International Committee nor by the Judicial Commission. The Subcommittee would value the advice of experts who have contributed to the knowledge of *Leptospira* and leptospirosis but who now find themselves retired from active work or unable to collaborate as fully as before. Such experts may be able to have a clearer view of proceedings from the side-lines, so to speak, and their comments should not be disregarded.

Advisers will not have voting rights, but this need not affect the value of their comments and criticisms. Advisers will receive Subcommittee correspondence as though they were full members. The Subcommittee hopes that those who are elected adviser will accept the nomination as a mark of appreciation of past services to the Subcommittee.

The membership was then revised by means of a secret ballot, a procedure favored by all of the eight members who were present. As a result, three members were not reelected: M. Kitaoka, J. van Riel, and D. J. W. Smith (who had signified his willingness to withdraw). Later in the meetings these three colleagues were unanimously elected to be advisers.

Minute 8. Reprint libraries. The Secretary explained the unsatisfactory working of this scheme. It was decided that the present system should cease and that each library should henceforth request its own reprints, except that: (a) Alexandra A. Varfolomeeva would undertake to supply copies of reprints of Russian publications to the Secretary who would then distribute them to members of the Subcommittee; and (b) the Secretary would request the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md., USA, to supply each member with a copy of the bibliographies of references to publications dealing with leptospirosis which are produced from time to time.

Minute 9. Subcommittee Report for 1962–1966. A draft report was distributed in June 1966 (as Circular Letter No. 9/1966) and criticisms were compiled and distributed in a Circular Letter dated 5 July. Those present approved the emended draft.

Minute 10. Election of Chairman for the period 1966–1974. C. Borg-Petersen, the only nominee for the vacancy created by Professor Wolff's wish to retire from the chair, was elected unanimously by a show of hands. Borg-Petersen then took the chair and spoke in appreciation of J. W. Wolff, the initiator and leader of the Subcommittee since 1950.

Minute 11. Future policy. Borg-Petersen reminded those present of the two main functions and the five secondary functions of a subcommittee on taxonomy: these are set out in the emendations of Provision 4 of the Code under "Functions of Taxonomic Subcommittees" (*Int. Bull. Bacteriol. Nomencl.* 13:20). Borg-Petersen also stressed the need for active practical work on selected topics, as was suggested at the Antwerp Colloquium and in the communications of Faine, Ellinghausen, and Russell Johnson (which were distributed as

Circular Letters and follow-up letters during 1966).

Minute 12. Naming of infrasubspecific taxa. Borg-Petersen suggested that, if the Subcommittee decided to recommend the naming of infrasubspecific taxa during its sessions, then the spirit of the Code should be upheld so that the changes in the rank of taxa which might be proposed in the future would thereby not introduce nomenclatural problems. This suggestion was approved unanimously.

Minute 13. Taxonomic Inter-relationships of Spirochaetales. L. H. Turner outlined the present situation in a round of correspondence which was initiated in order to discover the names and addresses of those workers who are studying other genera in the order *Spirochaetales*. In reply to a questionnaire, the majority of correspondents agreed that some form of embodiment of workers studying genera of *Spirochaetales* was now desirable. Unfortunately, very few of these correspondents were present at the Congress and the authorization and appointment of a new taxonomic subcommittee on *Spirochaetales* would therefore not be feasible at this time.

From the correspondence, it was learned that R. G. E. Murray had set up a working-party committee to consider the revision of that part of *Bergey's Manual* which deals with the order *Spirochaetales*. Murray has indicated that the Bergey working-party committee and any other group which is embodied for taxonomic studies should be complementary. He further stated that the working-party would need to be small to be effective.

It was agreed that a subgroup of the taxonomic Subcommittee on *Leptospira* should be appointed (represented by B. Babudieri, A. D. Alexander, Mildred M. Galton, and L. H. Turner) to act in liaison with other workers. Babudieri will deal with the Bergey working-party committee, the work of which is now being coordinated by S. Socransky.

Minute 14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM on July 28.

L. H. Turner,
Secretary