Working Group on Phage-Typing of Bovine Staphylococci

Minutes of Meeting, 5 August 1970

Mexico City, Mexico

Present were I. Davidson (Chairman), Phyllis M. Rountree and M. T. Parker (representing the International Subcommittee on Phage Typing of Staphylococci), A. M. Marquez, M. Moreira-Jacob, and H. Rische (deputizing for W. Meyer).

The Working Group considered the report on the collaborative study of phages for typing bovine staphylococci which had been carried out from 1966 to 1970 and decided to recommend the following phages as a basic set for typing bovine staphylococci: Group I—29, 52A; Group II—3A, 883; Group III—6, 42E, 53, 75, 84; Group IV—42D, 102, 107, 1363/14; miscellaneous—78, S1, S6.

The collaborative study showed that, in order to type a sufficiently high proportion of cultures, most laboratories would need to add a number of locally useful phages to this basic set.

It is recommended that the phages should be used at RTD in the first instance. Since some laboratories use phages only at RTD and others use phages at both RTD and higher concentrations, the Working Group considered that it would be premature to make any recommendations concerning the use of higher concentrations of phage, especially since this matter is being reviewed by the International Subcommittee.

We recommend, however, that in all publications authors should make clear what concentrations of phage they have used and whether concentrations higher than RTD have been used for all cultures or only for those untypable with

the basic set at RTD or only for those untypable with the basic set plus additional phages at RTD. It is further recommended that publications should show the results obtained with any additional phages separately from those obtained with the basic set. Only in this way will it be possible to compare results from different laboratories.

The Working Group expressed concern about the confusion which will arise if those bovine phages in the basic set which are not numbered in the international series retain their present numbers. The International Subcommittee is requested, therefore, to allocate international numbers to phages 883, 1363/14, S1, and S6 (see 1966-1970 Report, p. 167.)

It is also recommended that the Working Group be retained to promote and coordinate further studies in this field and that such studies should include (i) the exchange of representative cultures between laboratories to check the significance of the differences found in the collaborative study, (ii) the exchange of additional phages which show promise of being generally useful, and (iii) the definition of a test set of cultures for determining lytic spectra.

It is further recommended that the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, U.K., continue to act as the coordinating laboratory in these studies and as the source of seed material for the bovine phages and their propagating strains.

I. Davidson, Chairman