International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Mycobacterium*

Minutes of Interim Meeting, 11 July 1971
Moscow, USSR

The ICSB Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Mycobacterium* held an interim meeting at the L.A. Tarashevich State Control Institute for Medical Biological Preparations in Moscow, USSR, just prior to the International Tuberculosis Conference in that city in July 1971. Members present were: G. P. Kubica, A. Lind, Gertrud Meissner, E. H. Runyon, J. S. Stanford, L. G. Wayne, and M. P. Zykov. The members noted with regret the passing of their dear and valued member, Doctor Charles Gernez-Rieux.

The principal accomplishments of the meeting were attainment of good communication and discovery that, in spite of some divergent approaches to mycobacterial taxonomy, as by Professor N. A. Krasil'nikov, the predominant point of view, at least of the active Russian investigators present, was largely in accord with that of the subcommittee. Our

committeeman, Professor Zykov, served as a very able interpreter and maintained a most congenial spirit. The Russians present entered into the discussions of various mycobacterial properties as they relate to taxonomy. Some steps were taken to obtain better communication.

The subcommittee endorsed a meeting in Sweden of its principal working arm, the International Working Group for Mycobacterial Taxonomy, as reported below.

The subcommittee is indebted to Doctor Tatjana Jobloková of the Tarashevich Institute for the many preparations required for the meeting as well as for two memorable social events on subsequent days.

E. H. Runyon
Chairman

International Working Group for Mycobacterial Taxonomy

Minutes of Meeting, 22-25 July 1971
Göteborg, Sweden

The International Working Group for Mycobacterial Taxonomy (IWGMT) met as planned at Göteborg, Sweden, 22-25 July 1971. Thirty-eight investigators representing 13 countries were present. This was the second conference for dealing with the results of various cooperative studies (see report of Mexico City subcommittee meeting, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 21:149). There have been one or more cooperative studies for each of the so-called Groups I-IV. Another co-operative study in progress concerns strains of the "rhodochrous" complex. Dr. L. G. Wayne has been the informal executive director of these conferences and has promoted and attained computer analysis of many of the contributed data.

The early studies have been without requirement of specified test procedures. Each investigator has been free to make whatever tests he wishes, presumably the tests he has been best qualified to undertake. We have made some effort to secure collaboration from specialists in different fields, and this has indeed occurred.

Clustering of strains by the methods of numerical analysis have in general correlated well with indica-

tions from other studies, as pathogenicity testing, some immunological data, etc. From these studies, some mycobacterial species have emerged as well-defined, distinctive taxa; others are ill-defined and overlapping. Areas of needed information have been exposed, and progress has been made in obtaining indicated pertinent data. Characterizations of mycobacteria in the next edition of *Bergey's Manual* will reflect the findings of the IWGMT as will also published papers (see Wayne et al., *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 66: 255-271). The foundations for another collaborative study were laid at Göteborg: a comparison of strains of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *M. bovis*, *M. microti*, and *M. africanum*. The problem of standardization of serotype nomenclature, especially important for strains of species of Groups II and III, was discussed but not resolved. Dr. Wayne, by examination of data from prior cooperative studies, will attempt to design a new study directed to the formulation of standard methods for use in mycobacterial taxonomy.

E. H. Runyon
Reporter