Comment on the Specific Epithets in the Names *Moraxella kingii* Henriksen and Bøvre and *Pseudomonas kingii* Jonsson

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The specific epithets in the names *Moraxella kingii* Henriksen and Bøvre and *Pseudomonas kingii* Jonsson were formed contrary to the Recommendations of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria*. Epithets based on the names of women should be formed according to the Recommendations of the Code "to ensure greater uniformity and clearness." In addition, it is suggested that the correct Latin genitive for women's names which end in a consonant is formed by adding *-iae*, not merely *-ae* as recommended by the Code.

Recently two new bacterial species were described and named in honor of the late Elizabeth O. King: *Moraxella kingii* Henriksen and Bøvre (1) and *Pseudomonas kingii* Jonsson (2).

According to Recommendation 27f of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria* (4): "Provisions of Recommendation 27e apply to an epithet formed from the name of a woman. When the epithet has a substantival form, it is given a feminine ending." The pertinent part of Recommendation 27e reads as follows: "When the epithet is a substantive, the modernized Latin genitive is formed in the following manner: . . . (2) When the name ends in a consonant, the letters *-ii* are added . . . except when the name ends in *-er*, when *-i* is added." The previous edition of the Code (3) contained the following annotation to Recommendation 27f: "The genitives of names of women ending in a vowel other than *-a* or that end in a consonant are formed by adding *-ae*." Clearly, the specific epithets *kingii* in the names *Moraxella kingii* and *Pseudomonas kingii* were formed in a manner contrary to that indicated in Recommendation 27f.

The purpose of this paper is to bring

attention to Recommendation 27f so that in the future specific epithets based on the names of women are formed in a suitable and consistent fashion.

At the same time, the correctness of adding merely *-ae* to a woman's name to form the Latin genitive is questioned. Just as the nominative masculine Latin ending applied to a man's name which ends in a consonant is *-ius* (hence the genitive *-ii*), the analogous feminine ending in the nominative would be *-ia*, with the genitive *-iae*.

LITERATURE CITED

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