International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Listeria* and Related Bacteria

Minutes of the Meeting, 23 September 1977

Frederic Joliot-Curie International House of Scientists, Drouzhba, Varna, Bulgaria

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chairman, H. J. Welshimer, called the meeting to order at 9.30 a.m.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Those present were: A. L. Courtieu (observer), R. G. Dijkstra (alternate for J. Donker-Voet), I. Ivanov, D. Jones, S. Ortel, B. S. Ralovich, H. P. R. Seeliger, H. J. Welshimer, and M. Woodbine.

Minute 3. Apologies. Apologies were received from Dr. J. Donker-Voet, who has now retired from active laboratory work. Dr. Donker-Voet indicated her wish to retire from the Subcommittee.

Minute 4. Election of Members. The following were elected to membership on the Subcommittee: I. A. Bakoulov, A. L. Courtieu (full member), and R. G. Dijkstra (to replace J. Donker-Voet). The following were elected to work on *Erysipelothrix*: F. W. Ewald, G. Kucsera, and M. Truszczyński.

Minute 5. Results of preliminary study of minimal standards for examination and identification of *Listeria*. The results of investigations of five strains of *Listeria* species carried out in eight laboratories were discussed. It was agreed that the information provided a useful basis for the next stage of the study which will begin later this year. The next project will include strains of nonhemolytic, apathogenic *Listeria* strains and representatives of Ivanov's serovar 5. F. W. Ewald, G. Kucsera, and M. Truszczyński propose to conduct a similar study with *Erysipelothrix*.

The Meeting adjourned at 12 noon and recommenced at 2:25 p.m.

Minute 6. Consideration of lists of characteristics to constitute minimal standards for description of *Listeria* and related taxa as requested by ICSB. It was decided to postpone drawing up such a list until the next stage of the working party report (see Minute 5) has been conducted.

Minute 7. Taxonomic status of bacteria presently included in the genus *Listeria*. Much discussion took place on the designation of "*Listeria denitrificans*"

which, although it appears in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, is not closely related to the genus *Listeria*. Various suggestions were made: the name is a nomen perplexum, but since it is the genus name and not the specific epithet which is incorrect, it could be considered to be a nomen generum perplexum.

The designation of the apathogenic strains of serological type 6 (now divided into 6a and 6b) were also considered. The name *L. innocua* was proposed by H. P. R. Seeliger, but valid publication of this name must await further study.

It was also agreed that the strains currently referred to as Ivanov type 5 should remain as Ivanov strains serovar 5 until more information is available on their relationships to *L. monocytogenes*.

Minute 8. ICSB Approved Lists of Bacterial Names. It was agreed that the *Listeria* species names listed in the first draft of the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names were acceptable to the Subcommittee at the present time.

Minute 9. Liaison with other Subcommittees. D. Jones reported she had established contact with the *Lactobacillaceae* Subcommittee. It was hoped that I. Ivanov would soon establish contact with the *Corynebacterium* Subcommittee. A. L. Courtieu agreed to send the proceedings of a meeting on *Listeria* held in France to the Secretary, and all members were asked to inform the Secretary of meetings on listeriosis held in their own countries.

Minute 10. Next meeting of the Subcommittee. An invitation from Dr. F. Baquero, President of the Spanish Society of Microbiology, to hold the VIII Symposium on the Problems of Listeriosis in Spain in 1980 or 1981 was gratefully accepted. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place at the same time.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m. H. J. Welshimer, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated H. P. R. Seeliger on his election as President-Elect of IAMS.

D. Jones, Secretary
H. J. Welshimer, Chairman