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

Minutes of the Meeting, 8 and 10 August 1982, Boston, Massachusetts

Session 1. Closed meeting

Minute 1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 13:00 on 8 August 1982 by the Chairman, N. A. Vedros.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Members present were: B. W. Catlin, E. Holten, J. S. Knapp, J.-Y. Riou, and N. A. Vedros.

Minute 3. Minimal standards for description of new taxa in the genera *Neisseria* and *Branhamella*. The classification of *Neisseria* spp. and *Branhamella catarrhalis* is based on a limited number of characteristics, and additional tests for differentiating between species are being evaluated. It is obvious, however, that minimal standards for description of new taxa in these genera are required urgently for both descriptive and determinative purposes by both systematic and clinical bacteriologists. It was agreed that minimal standards for description of new taxa be drafted now. These standards will include a description of tests essential for the identification of species (determinative) and additional tests for description of new species (taxonomic). Strains giving positive and negative reactions in each test will be designated.

Minute 4. Ad hoc Committee for the Laboratory Study of *Neisseria*. The ad hoc Committee, composed of five members, B. W. Catlin (Chairman), U. Berger, E. Holten, J.-Y. Riou, and N. A. Vedros, studied 54 strains of *Neisseria* spp. and *B. catarrhalis* by proposed standard methods. Results from this study indicated tests to be included in the minimal standards. It was agreed that the ad hoc Committee should remain active to evaluate additional methods which might prove to be useful for the classification of *Neisseria* spp. and *B. catarrhalis* in the future. J.-Y. Riou, J. S. Knapp, and N. A. Vedros will serve on this Committee.

Minute 5. Status of the strain *Neisseria sicca* ATCC 9913. This strain was studied by members of the ad hoc Committee for the laboratory study of *Neisseria* spp. It was agreed that this strain was not representative of *N. sicca* and that the American Type Culture Collection be informed of this finding, with a request that either the strain be withdrawn from the collection or that the listing for this strain in the American Type Culture Collection catalog clearly state that this strain is atypical.

Minute 6. Status of the Subcommittee on *Moraxella* and Allied Bacteria. A request was received from J. S. S. Snell (Secretary, Subcommittee on *Moraxella* and Allied Bacteria) that because this Subcommittee was not active, the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of the *Neisseriaceae* consider acting in a caretaker capacity for the former committee until such time as the Subcommittee on *Moraxella* and Allied Bacteria should need to become active again. It was agreed that the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Neisseriaceae* would be willing to act in this capacity.

Minute 7. Serologic Groups of *Neisseria meningitidis*. A report of the ad hoc Committee on Serologic Groups of

Neisseria meningitidis was recorded in the minutes (Minute 6) of the meeting of the Subcommittee in Munich, 1978 (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 32:249–251, 1982). Members of the ad hoc Committee are amenable to publishing a report of their studies. No action to publish this report has been taken by the World Health Organization. Members of the ad hoc Committee will negotiate with the World Health Organization to publish this report.

Minute 8. Current membership. The eight active members serving on the subcommittee are N. A. Vedros (Chairman), Berkeley, Calif.; J. S. Knapp (Secretary), Seattle, Wash.; U. Berger, Heidelberg, Federal Republic of Germany; K. Bøvre, Oslo, Norway; B. W. Catlin, Milwaukee, Wis.; E. Holten, Nordbyhagen, Norway; S. A. Morse, Portland, Ore.; J.-Y. Riou, Paris, France; M. Rogosa, Bethesda, Md. In addition, M. J. Pelczar Jr., Washington, D.C., and A. Reyn, Copenhagen, Denmark, are corresponding members.

An invitation was issued for nominations of the names of microbiologists actively studying *Neisseria* spp. and *B. catarrhalis* to serve as members of this subcommittee.

Minute 9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 16:30.

Session 2. Open meeting

Minute 10. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 13:00 on 10 August 1982 by the Chairman, N. A. Vedros.

Minute 11. Record of attendance. Members present were B. W. Catlin, E. Holten, J. S. Knapp, S. A. Morse, and J.-Y. Riou. Several guests attended the open meeting.

Minute 12. Reports of research. The meeting was devoted to presentations of ongoing research relevant to the goals of the Subcommittee.

J.-Y. Riou discussed the use of tributyrin by *Neisseria* spp. and *B. catarrhalis* and the detection of gluconate aminopeptidase for differentiating between *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *N. meningitidis* with anomalous acid production reactions.

B. W. Catlin described a genetic transformation technique which did not require isolation of DNA and discussed the use of transformation as a taxonomic tool for studying relatedness between *Neisseria* spp. and *B. catarrhalis*.

E. Holten discussed the epidemiology of *N. meningitidis* meningitis outbreaks in Norway.

J. S. Knapp described a serologic classification system for *N. gonorrhoeae* based on the reaction of strains in a coagglutination test with antiprotein I monoclonal antibodies.

N. A. Vedros described studies involving fusion of protoplasts of *Neisseria* spp. as a means of interspecific transfer of large segments of deoxyribonucleic acid and discussed the taxonomic implications of such studies.

Minute 13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 17:00.

J. S. KNAPP, Secretary