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

Minutes of the Meetings, 4 July 1994, Prague, Czech Republic

Session 1. Open meeting.

Minute 1. Call to order. The open meeting was called to order by the Chairman, W. D. Grant, at 4:00 p.m. on 4 July 1994.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The members of the subcommittee present were W. D. Grant (Chairman), A. Ventosa (Secretary), R. R. Colwell, A. Oren, and H. G. Trüper. Apologies for absence were received from M. Kocur, D. J. Kushner, H. Larsen, F. Rodriguez-Valera, B. J. Tindall, and R. H. Vreeland.

Minute 3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. The Chairman summarized the topics discussed during the previous meeting of the subcommittee, which was held in Osaka, Japan, on 19 September 1990. He reported that the recently proposed new species *Halobacterium distributum* and *Halococcus turkmenicus* were studied in his laboratory and represent new taxa. Otherwise, the list of strains belonging to the family *Halobacteriaceae* deposited in culture collections (minute 10 of the previous meeting) was not prepared. A. Oren added that a list with all type species was included in *The Prokaryotes*, 2nd ed., prepared by B. J. Tindall.

Minute 4. List of validly published taxa. A. Ventosa prepared for distribution in the meeting a list of validly published taxa in the family *Halobacteriaceae* as of 1 June 1994. Since the previous meeting held in Osaka, Japan, the following changes in this list have been made: (i) a new species has been published, *Natronobacterium vacuolatum* (Mwatha and Grant, Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 43:401–404, 1993; epithet corrected in Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 43:867, 1993); (ii) the species name *Halobacterium distributus* was corrected to *Halobacterium distributum* (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 40:106, 1990); (iii) W. D. Grant pointed out that, according to the decisions made by a previous meeting of the subcommittee, the Chairman and Secretary of the subcommittee should submit a proposal to change the species name *Halobacterium salinarum* to *Halobacterium salinarum*. This should be done as soon as possible; and (iv) W. D. Grant stated that the description of a new taxon, *Halococcus salifodinae*, is currently in press in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*. Finally, A. Ventosa proposed that type strains with the designation NCMB should be corrected in the next list to NCIMB.

Minute 5. New halobacterial taxon from the Dead Sea. A. Oren presented current studies on a new halobacterium isolated recently from the Dead Sea and that could represent a new species of the genus *Haloferax*, for which the species name *H. gomorrae* is proposed.

Minute 6. Taxonomic position of the “*Halobacterium saccharovorum*” group. W. D. Grant presented new data (16S rRNA sequence comparison and polar lipids) supporting the inclusion of several species of the genus *Halobacterium* (*H. saccharovorum*, *H. trapanicum*, *H. sodomense*, and *H. lacusprofundi*) in a separate genus. A. Oren presented a request for an opinion of the subcommittee suggesting that such a proposal should be made as soon as possible in order to avoid confusion among scientists. Several genus names were proposed, and W. D. Grant explained that he is currently preparing such a proposal, with the taxon name *Halorubrum*, that will be submitted for publication in *Systematic and Applied Microbiology*.

Minute 7. Nomenclature of halobacteria. F. Rodriguez-Valera requested of the subcommittee a change from the term

halobacteria to haloarchaea, which is currently used by many scientists. H. G. Trüper did not consider this change necessary, and moreover, the rules of nomenclature relate to all prokaryotes and not only to bacteria (eubacteria).

Minute 8. Other business. R. R. Colwell discussed the similarity of halobacteria isolated from very different isolation sources and their distribution all over the world.

Minute 9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. on 4 July 1994.

Session 2. Closed meeting.

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chairman, W. D. Grant, called the closed meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on 4 July 1994.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The subcommittee members present were W. D. Grant, A. Ventosa, R. R. Colwell, A. Oren, and H. G. Trüper.

Minute 3. Changes in officers and membership. W. D. Grant indicated that, since the Chairman and Secretary have served for two terms, they should be replaced, and he suggested A. Ventosa as the new Chairman and A. Oren as the new Secretary. R. R. Colwell formally proposed it. H. G. Trüper seconded it. The appointments were approved unanimously. A letter of resignation was received from H. Larsen; the subcommittee thanked him for his valuable contribution to the knowledge of halobacteria. The following microbiologists were suggested as candidates for membership: C. Litchfield and M. Kamekura. The Chairman should contact them and inquire about their interest in serving as members of the subcommittee. The subcommittee expressed thanks to the retiring Chairman and Secretary for their contribution and valuable collaboration.

Minute 4. Minimal standards for the description of new taxa. A. Ventosa discussed the current status of the minimal standards document that should be prepared by the working group on minimal standards. Since there were some disagreements among members of the working group, a new working group on minimal standards was proposed by W. D. Grant. The elected working group consists of A. Oren (Chairman), A. Ventosa, and W. D. Grant. They should continue the preparation of the document that should be sent to the members of the subcommittee for approval before its publication in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*.

Minute 5. Current membership. The current members of the subcommittee are A. Ventosa (Chairman) (Spain), A. Oren (Secretary) (Israel), R. R. Colwell (U.S.A.), W. D. Grant (United Kingdom), L. I. Hochstein (U.S.A.), M. Kocur (Czech Republic), D. J. Kushner (Canada), A. Ramos-Cormenzana (Spain), F. Rodriguez-Valera (Spain), B. J. Tindall (Germany), H. G. Trüper (Germany), R. H. Vreeland (U.S.A.), and I. S. Zvyagintseva (Russia).

Minute 6. Next meeting. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be in Jerusalem, Israel, in 1996 at the next International Union of Microbiological Societies congress.

Minute 7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. on 4 July 1994.

Aharon Oren, Secretary
Antonio Ventosa, Chairman