International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Listeria*, *Brochothrix*, and *Erysipelothrix*

Minutes of the Closed Meeting, 20 August 1996, Jerusalem, Israel

Minute 1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on 20 August 1996 by J. Rocourt (Chairperson).

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The following members were present: H.-W. Ackermann, Quebec, Canada; P. Gerner-Smidt, Copenhagen, Denmark; B. Ralovich, Budapest, Hungary; J. Smola, Brno, Czech Republic; and F. Suarez-Fernandez, Madrid, Spain. J. Farber, Ottawa, Canada, was invited as an observer.

Minute 3. Apologies for absence. Verbal or written apologies were received from A. Audurier (Tours, France), F. Fiedler (Munich, Germany), J. McLauchlin (London, United Kingdom), A. Schönberg (Berlin, Germany), and W. F. Schlech III (Halifax, Canada).

Minute 4. Agenda. The agenda was adopted as circulated.

Minute 5. Minutes of the meeting held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 4 and 7 September 1994. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as distributed (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 45:616, 1995).

Minute 6. The genera *Brochothrix* and *Erysipelothrix*. No progress was made on clarifying the taxonomy of the genera *Brochothrix* and *Erysipelothrix* as none of the experts in these areas were able to attend the meeting.

Minute 7. Minimal standards. It was agreed that there is an urgent need to prepare and circulate among members a first draft on minimal standards for the description of the genus *Listeria* before the next meeting of the subcommittee.

Minute 8. Motility of the genus *Listeria*. J. Smola gave a comprehensive report on his present work on *Listeria* motility.

Minute 9. CAMP test on the genus *Listeria*. F. Suarez-Fernandez briefly reported on the current controversial interpretation of the CAMP test with *Rhodococcus equi* for distinguishing between *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Listeria ivanovii*. J. Rocourt pointed out that this test is not usually necessary since members of these two species can be distinguished by acid production from D-xylose, L-rhamnose, and alpha-methyl-D-mannoside.

Minute 10. World Health Organization multicenter study on *L. monocytogenes* typing. J. Rocourt gave a short summary of the present state of the World Health Organization multicenter

study on *L. monocytogenes* typing. The goals of the study were (i) to select the most appropriate methods to investigate the epidemiology of listeriosis, (ii) to standardize the methods selected, and (iii) to develop a common nomenclature for varieties. A set of 80 strains has been selected in order to allow the most accurate assessment of the following crucial criteria for different typing methods: (i) intralaboratory reproducibility, (ii) discriminatory power, and (iii) interlaboratory reproducibility. Twenty-six laboratories in 15 countries were participating. Data summarizing the first phase of the study were published in a special issue of the International Journal of Food Microbiology (Int. J. Food Microbiol. 32:251-355, 1996). Given this international study, there is no need to include typing in the future work of the subcommittee except where typing provides taxonomic markers.

Minute 11. Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be held during the XIIIth International Symposium on the Problems of Listeriosis, (ISOPOL), which will be held in Halifax, Canada, in 1998.

Minute 12. Other business. J. Rocourt reminded the members of the original goal of the subcommittee (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 24:396, 1974) and requested that the future work of the subcommittee be confined to the taxonomy of the genera *Listeria*, *Erysipelothrix*, and *Brochothrix*. All participants agreed.

Minute 13. Current membership. The current membership of the subcommittee is as follows: H.-W. Ackermann, Quebec, Canada; A. Audurier, Tours, France; V. M. Cotlyarov, Vladimirsakya, Russia; L. Dominguez, Madrid, Spain; F. Fiedler, Munich, Germany; P. Gerner-Smidt, Copenhagen, Denmark; J. McLauchlin, London, United Kingdom; B. Ralovich, Budapest, Hungary; J. Rocourt, Paris, France; A. Schönberg, Berlin, Germany; H. P. R. Seeliger (Emeritus Chairman), Würzburg, Germany; W. F. Schlech III, Halifax, Canada; J. Smola, Brno, Czech Republic; and F. Suarez-Fernandez, Madrid, Spain.

Minute 14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 a.m. on 20 August 1996.

J. Rocourt, Chairperson
J. McLauchlin, Secretary