International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Vibrionaceae*

Minutes of the closed meeting, 21 August 1996, Jerusalem, Israel

Minute 1. Call to order. The meeting was held at 14:00 on 21 August 1996 at the International Convention Center, Jerusalem, Israel. The meeting was called to order by the newly elected Chairman, B. Holmes.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The members present were B. Holmes (Chairman) and G. B. Nair (newly elected Secretary).

Minute 3. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from D. J. Brenner, A. Carnahan, R. R. Colwell, J. J. Farmer, III, J. M. Janda, Y. Kosako, R. Sakazaki and S. Shinoda for being unable to attend.

Minute 4. Approval of agenda. A written agenda was presented and approved. Draft minutes of the previous open and closed meetings, which were held respectively on 4 and 7 July 1994 in Prague, Czech Republic, were circulated; subsequently these were approved by mail and have since been forwarded for publication [*Int J Syst Bacteriol* 48 (1998), 1467–1469].

Minute 5. Matters arising from the minutes. As the working group on *Aeromonas* taxonomy had been established for some time it was expected that a report of the group's activities would be available for presentation at the subcommittee meeting. As no report had been received, the Chairman said he would write to the Chairman of the working group, Y. Kosako, to determine the current state of affairs.

As no report had been received on any progress of the working group for serotyping of *Vibrio cholerae*, motile *Aeromonas* and *Plesiomonas shigelloides*, B. Holmes said he would write to the Chairman of the working group, R. Sakazaki, to determine the current state of affairs.

Minute 6. Changes in membership and officers. B. Holmes had organized a postal ballot to give all subcommittee members an opportunity to vote for a new Chairman and a new Secretary. B. Holmes had been elected as Chairman and G. B. Nair as Secretary. Some further candidates for membership of the Subcommittee were discussed and it was decided to seek approval from the Secretary for Subcommittees for election to full membership of M. Altwegg (Zürich, Switzerland) and S. W. Joseph (College Park, MD, USA).

Minute 7. Current membership. The current voting membership and officers of the subcommittee is as follows: D. J. Brenner, Atlanta, GA, USA; A. Carnahan, Baltimore, MD, USA; R. R. Colwell, College Park, MD, USA; P. Desmarchelier, St Lucia, Australia; J. J. Farmer, III, Atlanta, GA, USA; B. Holmes (Chairman), London, UK; A.

Huq, College Park, MD, USA; J. M. Janda, Berkeley, CA, USA; M. T. Kelly, Vancouver, Canada; Y. Kosako, Saitama, Japan; J. V. Lee, Nottingham, UK; G. B. Nair (Secretary), Calcutta, India; R. Sakazaki, Tokyo, Japan; R. Schubert, Frankfurt/Main, Germany; and S. Shinoda, Okayama, Japan. In addition, R. Hugh, Washington, DC, USA, is an honorary member.

Minute 8. *Vibrio cholerae* O139. G. B. Nair reported that there had been an overall decline in the incidence of *Vibrio cholerae* O139 Bengal during 1995. No further spread of O139 was reported during that year and there had been a decline in the rate of isolation of this serogroup in areas where it had predominated in 1994. Nevertheless, continued monitoring for the O139 serogroup was clearly desirable.

Based on the clinical features of *V. cholerae* O139 infection from India [Bhattacharya, S. K., Bhattacharya, M. K., Nair, G. B., Dutta, D., Deb, A., Ramamurthy, T., Garg, S., Saha, P. K., Dutta, P., Moitra, A., Mandal, B. K., Shimada, J., Takeda, Y. & Deb, B. C. (1993). *J Infect* 27, 11–15] and Bangladesh [Cholera Working Group (1993). *Lancet* 342, 387–390; Mahalanabis, D., Faruque, A. S. G., Albert, M. J., Salam, M. A. & Hoque, S. S. (1994). *Epidemiol Infect* 112, 463–471] and because the O139 strains possess an epidemic potential similar to that of the O1 serogroup, the World Health Organization has requested all nations to report promptly the disease caused by O139 strains as cholera [World Health Organization (1993). *Wkly Epidemiol Rec* 68, 141–142].

Minute 9. Further taxonomic problems in *Aeromonas*. The recent challenge of the taxonomic status of *Aeromonas encheleia* and *Aeromonas allosaccarophila* [*Int J Syst Bacteriol* 46 (1996), 572–580] and the challenges of the validity of *Aeromonas enteropelogenes* and *Aeromonas ichthiosmia* in several publications [*Int J Syst Bacteriol* 43 (1993), 855–856; *Int J Syst Bacteriol* 46 (1996), 572–580] was discussed. These issues would have to be considered by the working group on *Aeromonas* taxonomy.

Minute 10. Date of next meeting. Given that few members managed to attend the present meeting and that several are located in North America, the Chairman agreed to contact all members to see if it might be possible to hold a Subcommittee meeting during the American Society for Microbiology Annual Scientific Meeting in either 1997 or 1998. Failing that, the next Subcommittee meeting will be held at the next IUMS Congress, in Sydney, Australia, in 1999.

Minute 10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 15:35 on 21 August 1996.

Barry Holmes, Chairman