TAXONOMIC NOTE

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***Bacillus dysentericus* (sic) 1897 was the first rather than *Bacillus dysenteriae* 1898**

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The basonym of *Shigella dysenteriae* (Shiga 1898) Castellani and Chalmers 1919 was first and officially proposed in 1897 as *Bacillus dysentericus* (sic) in *Saikingaku Zasshi*, published in Japan. In accordance with Section 6 (Citation of Authors and Names) of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision), the year of the first proposal of *Shigella dysenteriae* has to be corrected from *Bacillus dysenteriae* 1898 to *Bacillus dysentericus* (sic) 1897.

Keywords: *Bacillus dysentericus* (sic) 1897, *Bacillus dysenteriae* 1898

Bacillus dysentericus (sic) Shiga was first proposed in *Saikingaku Zasshi* (*Journal of Bacteriology*; in Japanese), published in Japan on 25 December 1897 (Shiga, 1897). In this paper, Shiga described in detail the following:

1. Epidemiology of so-called dysentery in Japan.
2. Research on amoebic dysentery in foreign countries.
3. Introduction of worldwide research works on aetiology of non-amoebic dysentery.
4. Application of Koch's postulates, positive agglutination reaction shown by his isolates against sera of patients' recovering from acute dysentery. On p. 795, line 17, in this publication, he named his organism *Bacillus dysentericus*.
5. Morphology and physiology of the isolates.
6. Animal experiments.
7. Vaccination. He injected a suspension of killed bacteria into his back, and body temperature reached 38.9 °C on the 7th day after injection. On the 8th day, local fluctuation was found, incision was done without finding viable organism in slightly haemorrhagic and pyogenic exudates. From this fact he suggested the infiltration might be caused by toxin.

A second paper was published, in *Zentralblatt für Bakteriologie, Parasitenkunde u. Infektionskrankheiten. Abteilung I. Medicinisch-hygienische Bakteriologie und tierische Parasitenkunde*, on 15 December 1898 (Shiga, 1898). In this publication, he changed the ending of the specific epithet from *-cus* to *-ae*, i.e. from

an adjective to a genitive noun. *The Approved Lists of Bacterial Names* (Skerman *et al.*, 1989) refers to Shiga, K., 1898, as the first author of *Bacillus dysenteriae*, probably because the first publication was written in Japanese, and *Saikingaku-Zasshi* was not an international journal. *Index Bergeyana* (1966) also did not mention the 1897 publication. In accordance with Section 6 (Citation of Authors and Names) of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision), and based on Shiga's above-described first report, the year of Shiga's first proposal has to be corrected from *Bacillus dysenteriae* 1898 to *Bacillus dysentericus* (sic) 1897.

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