International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Pseudomonas* and related organisms

Minutes of the meeting, 17 August 1999, Sydney, Australia

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chair, Dr E. Yabuuchi, called the meeting to order at 13:00 on 17 August 1999 in Meeting Room 1, Sydney Convention Centre, Sydney, Australia.

Minute 2. Record of attendance and alternates. Present were E. Yabuuchi (Chair), P. De Vos (Secretary), Y. Kosako, G. Saddler and J. Young. The following members were excused: N. Palleroni, T. Bergan, H. Oyaizu and P. A. D. Grimont. G. Saddler and J. Young were proposed as new members for the subcommittee and were invited to follow the meeting. Members that no longer show interest in the meetings of the subcommittee (i.e. no response to the invitation for this meeting) will be considered as having resigned and the Chair thanks these members for their contributions in the past.

Minute 3. Minutes of previous meetings. The minutes of previous meetings were accepted without comment.

Minute 4. Adoption of the agenda. The proposal that Dr Kosako present an overview on 16S sequence analysis of *Pseudomonas* members was accepted.

Minute 5. The taxonomic situation of the genus *Pseudomonas*. It was generally agreed that the taxonomic situation of the genus *Pseudomonas* described by Palleroni in 1984 (*Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology*, vol. 1, pp. 141–199) has been changed so drastically that new definitions of the family *Pseudomonadaceae* and genus *Pseudomonas* are needed. It is the opinion of the subcommittee members present at the meeting (including P. A. D. Grimont by correspondence) that the subcommittee on taxonomy of *Pseudomonas* and related organisms covers too wide a range of taxa. The members of the genus *Pseudomonas* described by Palleroni (1984) are now classified into more than 10 genera. It is therefore proposed to split the present subcommittee into several new ones. The new subcommittees should then cover the genera that have been separated from the genus *Pseudomonas* as mentioned above. It was agreed to forward a letter containing the following proposal for rearrangement of the subcommittee on the

taxonomy of *Pseudomonas* and related organisms to Dr M. Goodfellow (Secretary for Subcommittees). The present name 'Subcommittee on taxonomy of *Pseudomonas* and related organisms' should be retained for organisms now classified in the genera *Pseudomonas*, *Xanthomonas* and *Stenotrophomonas*. The second, new subcommittee should cover the family *Comamonadaceae*. The third subcommittee would cover the genera *Burkholderia* and *Ralstonia* and related organisms. The members of the present *Pseudomonas* subcommittee considered that it is too early to propose two more new subcommittees to cover *Brevundimonas* and *Caulobacter*, and *Sphingomonas* and relatives, respectively. The taxonomic situation in these groups of organisms is still considered to be unstable. Thus, our subcommittee would like to leave the matter pending until further action will be taken by either this or another subcommittee with the agreement of the ICSB Executive Board. Although suggestions for membership for the new subcommittees will be forwarded as the result of this meeting, we invited the scientific community to formulate additional suggestions for membership to Dr Goodfellow.

Minute 6. 16S rDNA tree of *Pseudomonas* spp. Dr Kosako presented an updated view on the present knowledge on the position in the 16S rDNA tree of the members of the genus *Pseudomonas* described by Palleroni *et al.* (1984). It was stressed that the exact positions of many so-called *Pseudomonas* species are still unknown. Thus, it was suggested that members of the subcommittee should take initiatives to fill in the gaps. In a letter to the Secretary of the subcommittee, Dr Oyaizu mentioned that he has submitted a manuscript to IJSB on the subject presented by Dr Kosako.

Minute 7. Minimal standards. Minimal standards need to be proposed for the genus *Pseudomonas* and if possible also for other taxa. Dr J. Young agreed to make the first proposal. The other members of the subcommittee will be contacted via the Secretary.

Minute 7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 15:30.

P. De Vos, *Secretary*
E. Yabuuchi, *Chairperson*