Minutes

B. Ollivier, *Secretary*

E. Conway de Macario, *Chair*

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Subcommittee on the taxonomy of methanoarchaea

Minutes of the closed meeting, 19 May 2003, Washington, DC, USA

Minute 1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, E. Conway de Macario, at the occasion of the 103rd General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology at 12:00 on 19 May 2003 in the Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington Boardroom, Washington, DC, USA.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The members present were J. Chun, E. Conway de Macario (Chair), M.-C. Lai, J. Maupin-Furlow and B. Ollivier (Secretary).

Minute 3. Approval of agenda. The written agenda was presented and approved.

Minute 4. Nomenclature. It was agreed that the name 'methanoarchaea' was preferred to 'methanogenic bacteria' or 'methanogens' when referring to micro-organisms that produce methane.

Minute 5. Minimal standards. It was agreed that the description of a novel species or genus of methanoarchaea should be made in accordance with minimal standards as proposed by D. Boone & W. B. Whitman [*Int J Syst Bacteriol* 38 (1988), 212–219]. The importance of the development of new genomic tools for taxonomic purposes was discussed.

Minute 5. Web site. It was agreed that the web page for our subcommittee should now be online (<http://www.the-icsp.org/subcoms/methanogens.htm>). The current

membership and recent developments on the taxonomy of methanoarchaea should be recorded on this web page. Members of the subcommittee were very grateful to R. Dunford for his help in establishing a web site for the subcommittee. This web site includes, at present, the name and addresses of all members and the reference to the paper on minimal standards to describe novel methanoarchaea. The updated classification of methanoarchaea will be added in the future.

Minute 6. Current membership. The current membership of the subcommittee is S. Asakawa (Nagoya, Japan), B. Biavati (Bologna, Italy), D. Boone (Portland, OR, USA), E. Conway de Macario (Chair; Albany, NY, USA), J. G. Ferry (University Park, PA, USA), W. J. Jones (Athens, GA, USA), J. Keltjens (Nijmegen, The Netherlands), Y. Koga (Kitakyushu, Japan), M.-C. Lai (Taichung, Taiwan), J. A. Maupin-Furlow (Gainesville, FL, USA), T. L. Miller (Slingerlands, NY, USA), B. Ollivier (Secretary; Marseilles, France), G. B. Patel (Ottawa, Canada), K. Sandman (Columbus, OH, USA) and W. B. Whitman (Athens, GA, USA).

Minute 7. Proposed date for the next meeting. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be held at the 104th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, LA, USA, 23–27 May 2004.

Minute 8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 14:00 on 19 May 2003.