MINUTES OF THE VIRUS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

A meeting of the Virus Subcommittee of the International Nomenclature Committee was held at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, on the 2nd August, 1958.

Members present: C. H. Andrewes (Chairman), G. H. Bergold, L. M. Black, F. M. Burnet, W. A. Clark, S. T. Cowan, S. Gard, G. Henneberg, P. Manigault (alternate to P. Limasset), I. W. Prentice, R. H. Thung.

Also present: J. M. Birkeland, G. Dalldorf, A. B. Sabin, K. M. Smith.

Dr. Black and Dr. Bergold said that they were in favour of using Linnaean binomials. Dr. Black proposed that plant virus workers should be encouraged to group viruses together and to produce monographs on those viruses whose characteristics were already fairly fully known. Sir Macfarlane Burnet and Professor Gard thought that, at present, group names served a useful purpose but that species names were of doubtful value and that Linnaean binomials were inappropriate. The Chairman pointed out that the Rome proposal to use non-Linnaean names was a compromise between opposing views. Replies to the questionnaire that he had circulated showed that a majority of virus workers in all fields favoured a common system of nomenclature for all viruses. The Rome decisions should not be reversed without full consideration; and the use of binomials in Linnaean form might give rise to nomenclatural problems of validity and priority in other fields of microbiology. Dr. Sabin suggested that Dr. Black's proposals did not in any way contradict the Rome decisions except as regards the use of Linnaean names. It was not obligatory to use the "virus" suffix system if plant virologists could produce an alternative means of indicating that a binomial system did not purport to be Linnaean. Dr. Manigault thought that many plant viruses were too little known to permit of a complete classification. Names of authorities could be appended to binomials but this was not obligatory.

The Committee agreed that the principles of the Rome proposals should not be abandoned and suggested that the Plant Virus subcommittee should consider alternative systems of non-Linnaean names in binomial form.

The Chairman explained the potential duplication of effort in the plant virus nomenclature field caused by the existence of a committee set up by the Botanical Congress. The Committee agreed that Dr. Andrewes should ask Dr. Ramsbottom to raise the question at the next Botanical Congress with a view to transferring responsibility to this Committee.

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow further discussion in the Subcommittees and to reassemble on August 7 at the Technical High School.

Meeting of Animal Virus Group: August 2

Members present: Andrewes, Burnet, Clark, Cowan, Henneberg.

Also present: Dalldorf, Sabin.

The animal virologists then met separately and concluded as follows:

1. As regards animal viruses, the subcommittee's important function at present was to define "groups," taxa above groups could not now be considered and bestowal of specific (group members) names was not urgent.

2. Herpes virus group. Dr. Sabin's study group should not be pressed to publish a description, pending reinvestigation of relations of pseudorabies to herpes simplex and B viruses.

3. Enterovirus group. "Enterovirus" appeared to be more suitable as a group-name than "poliovirus"; this name should therefore be dropped as one equivalent in status to Myxovirus, etc. The Chairman should write to Dr. J. Melnick, Chairman of an American enterovirus committee, telling him that the international group recognized the status of Enterovirus as an official group name and asking his committee to function as the Enterovirus study group under the International Committee, co-opting for the purpose about 3 members from outside the U.S.A., to be selected by them and approved by the Chairman of the Virus Subcommittee. It was recognized that for operational purposes it was convenient to have this difficult group discussed by members who could readily meet in one country but it seemed important that the non-American members should be consulted as freely as was practicable. The study-group should be asked to define the Enterovirus group more precisely than had yet been done, laying emphasis on such

BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE
AND TAXONOMY

matters as size, nucleic acid composition, resistance to ether and other agents, ability to pack in crystal-like aggregates—rather than on host-range and pathogenic effects produced. They should consider also the appropriateness of bestowing specific names at this stage. Dr. Sabin promised to discuss the matter with Dr. Melnick in Lisbon. The question of designating reference centres for Enteroviruses in the U.S.A. and elsewhere should be reviewed.

4. Adenovirus group. It was agreed to recognize this as a group name. At present it was perhaps best considered as containing but one member, with serotypes. It was, therefore, not urgent to propose a specific name at present. The Chairman was asked to appoint a study-group in consultation with Dr. R. Huebner.

5. Myxovirus group. Several strong candidates for inclusion had appeared since 1953 and it seemed appropriate that the Myxovirus study-group should review them and publish a supplementary list of myxoviruses. For this purpose the Chairman should review the composition of the study-group; the names of Professor Zhdanov and Dr. Chanock were suggested as suitable for inclusion. Again, the question of constituting one or more reference laboratories should be considered.

6. Arborviruses. This name was considered as having wider application than a group-name and therefore should not be authenticated as such. The meeting did not condemn its use as a shortened form of arthropod-borne virus since this was not in their province. The Chairman was to ask the existing study-group to consider proposing group-names for definite separable groups of arthropod-borne viruses, perhaps Casals' A, B, C groups as a beginning: proposal of specific names should not be considered as urgent. The group should be defined taking into account size, resistance to ether and desoxycholate, pathogenicity for vertebrates, relation to arthropod vectors and antigenic characters. Allowance should be made for variant clones which might lack some one important character.

Meetings of Plant Virus Group

(i) On August 2 at the Technical High School, Stockholm.

Members present: Thung (in the chair), Black, Manigault, Prentice.

(ii) On August 6 at Uppsala.

Members present: Thung (in the chair), Bennett, Black, Harrison (alternate for Bawden), Prentice.

Also present: Lihnell, Maramorosch, K.M. Smith.

The group had considered the list of names proposed by a committee set up by the Botanical Congress and had decided not to recommend their use. It was thought that the binomial form of the names might be misinterpreted and taken to imply that the viruses had been classified. Two motions were passed nem. con. at the meeting on the 6th August:

1. That the Plant Virus Subcommittee recommends that plant virologists attempt groupings of plant viruses on the basis of morphology, serology or any other test which there is reason to believe indicates relationships.

2. That if Latinized names are given to such groups of viruses they should be formed on the "Myxovirus" model in accordance with the proposals agreed at the Rome Congress.

- - - - -

The main Subcommittee met at the Technical High School, Stockholm, on August 7, 1958.

Members present: Andrewes (Chairman), Bergold, Burnett, Henneberg, Manigault, Prentice.

Also present: Dalldorf, Sabin, Steinhaus.

The Subcommittee approved the report of the Plant Virus committee and, with minor amendments, that of the Animal Virus group (as circulated).

Dr. Bergold presented his resignation from Chairmanship of the Insect Virus group and Dr. Steinhaus agreed to succeed him in this capacity.

C.H. Andrewes
Chairman