International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology
Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of the Genus *Bacillus*

Minutes of the Meeting, 7 May 1980, Liblice, Czechoslovakia

Session 1. Open meeting

Minute 1. Call to order. The open meeting was called to order at 20:05 by the Chairman, D. Claus.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Members present were: R. C. W. Berkeley, D. Claus, M. Goodfellow, and J. R. Norris. Apologies for absence were received from all of the other members of the Subcommittee. Also in attendance were M.-F. Willems-Callinet, F. G. Priest, and J. Wiegel.

Minute 3. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held in Bristol in 1979 were accepted as previously distributed.

Minute 4. Membership and officers. The members and officers of the Subcommittee are as follows: E. Afrikian, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; K. Aizawa, Japan; H. de Barjac, France; R. C. W. Berkeley, United Kingdom; G. J. Bonde, Denmark; D. Claus (Chairman), Federal Republic of Germany; I. Epstein, Israel; M. Goodfellow, United Kingdom; R. E. Gordon, United States; W. G. Murrell, Australia; J. R. Norris (Secretary), United Kingdom; J. Wolf, United Kingdom; and J. E. Young, United States.

Minute 5. Matters arising from the minutes. J. R. Norris reported that the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names had just appeared in the January 1980 issue of the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology. The question of amendment of theApproved Lists was raised, and it was agreed that the Chairman should write to P. H. A. Sneath concerning this matter.

The next edition of *Berkeley's Manual* is being prepared in two volumes. *Bacillus* will appear in the second. The Bergey Trust will approach the Subcommittee when work on the preparation of the second volume commences.

J. R. Norris agreed to continue to circulate to members the results of his current literature survey.

It was agreed that the new specifications for the citrate utilization test should be circulated to members in the next Newsletter and, subject to comment, be incorporated in the standard methods card index.

G. J. Bonde has provided details of additional tests that he considers necessary for the characterization of *Bacillus*. These will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

A note by D. Claus on the standardization of inocula will also appear in the next Newsletter.

Minute 6. Resignation of Secretary. The Chairman announced that because of the pressure of other commitments, J. R. Norris wished to retire as Secretary of the Subcommittee. D. Claus, on behalf of all of the members of the Subcommittee, thanked J. R. Norris for the immense amount of work that he had put into the affairs of the Subcommittee during his tenure as Secretary.

Minute 7. Appointment of new Secretary. R. C. W. Berkeley was appointed as the new Secretary of the Subcommittee.

Minute 8. Lists of Approved Names. Concern was expressed about the reuse of old names which might, in some instances, lead to considerable confusion.

Minute 9. Thermophilic species. It was agreed that work should be initiated to resolve the problems presented by the thermophilic members of the genus *Bacillus*.

Minute 10. Deoxyribonucleic acid base composition. A previously circulated paper by F. J. Priest on deoxyribonucleic acid base composition was discussed. Disquiet was expressed at reports of widely discrepant guanine-plus-cytosine contents for allegedly the same strains. D. Claus stated that he was currently acquiring strains from the American Type Culture Collection in order to ensure that the cultures of the type strains conformed to their descriptions. He then intended to determine guanine-plus-cytosine contents by both melting temperature and buoyant density methods.

It was agreed that F. J. Priest and D. Claus should keep in close touch with each other during the early stages of their separate work on guanine-plus-cytosine content determinations with a view to ensuring that their data are comparable.

F. G. Priest agreed to investigate the usefulness of other techniques for assessing the relatedness of the bacilli based on studies of nucleic acids.

Minute 11. API System. R. C. W. Berkeley reported that API was indeed going to withdraw the 50E system and that samples of the replacement array (50CH) had arrived at his laboratory in April.

Minute 12. Sporosarcina and Sporolactobacillus. D. Claus stated that he hoped to undertake deoxyribonucleic acid-deoxyribonucleic acid hybridization studies of new *Sporosarcina* strains and *Sporosarcina ureae* and to determine the cell wall compositions of the new strains of *Sporosarcina*. Phenotypic characterization of these two genera should result from work by F. G. Priest, M. Goodfellow, and R. C. W. Berkeley. M.-F. Willems-Callinet agreed to approach H. de Barjac to ask her whether she would be willing to undertake work on the serologic relationships of *Sporosarcina* and *Sporolactobacillus* to representative members of the genus *Bacillus*.

Minute 13. The collection of G. J. Bonde and the Bacillus circulans group. In the absence of G. J. Bonde, it was agreed that J. R. Norris should write to Bonde to ask him what points he wishes to have discussed with respect to his collection and the *Bacillus circulans* group and that this information should be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Minute 14. Other business. It was unanimously agreed that although information was currently available to reallocate, after a fashion, most of the current members of the genus *Bacillus* to a number of new genera, such moves would be highly undesirable in the next 2 to 3 years. All members of the Subcommittee present agreed to use their best endeavors to dissuade anybody from any such precipitate action.

M.-F. Willems-Callinet agreed to write a short paper describing her work for circulation to members in the Newsletter.

Minute 15. Next meeting. It was agreed that an attempt should be made to organize a Subcommittee meeting in 1981. It was agreed that the International Meeting at Boston,
Mass., in September 1982 would be an appropriate time for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 22:49 on 7 May.

Session 2. Closed meeting

Minute 16. *Call to order.* The closed meeting was called to order at 20:05 on 8 May by the Chairman, D. Claus.

Minute 17. *Record of attendance.* Members present were: R. C. W. Berkeley, D. Claus, M. Goodfellow, and J. R. Norris.

Minute 18. *Membership.* F. E. Young had resigned from the Subcommittee. F. G. Priest (Edinburgh) and M.-F. Willems-Collinet (Brest) were elected to membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:10 on 8 May.

DIETER CLAUS, Chairman