Nomenclature of the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* and of the nine species included in these subgenera and proposal to modify Rule 34a of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision). Request for an Opinion

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The subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* and the nine species included in these subgenera were inadvertently omitted from the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names and have never been revived according to Rule 28a of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision). The author requests that these names be revived and considered to be validly published in the ‘Index of the bacterial and yeast nomenclatural changes published in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* since the 1980 Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (1 January 1980 to 1 January 1985),’ which appears in the July 1985 issue of the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*. Another problem is the status of the species included in the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* because the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision) does not envisage the status of a species transferred into a subgenus. The same is true for a species transferred into a subspecies. The author requests that such species be considered as new combinations and, according to this, proposes to modify Rule 34a of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision).

Keywords: *Moraxella*, *Branhamella*, revived name, *Bacteriological Code*, Request for an Opinion

There are several problem areas in the nomenclature of the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* and of species included into these two subgenera. The proposal to divide the genus *Moraxella* into two subgenera was effectively published by Bøvre (1979). This author proposed:


These proposals were published in the October 1979 issue of the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* (Bøvre, 1979), which would qualify them for inclusion in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980, 1989) since Rule 24, Note 1 of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision) (Lapage *et al.*, 1992) states ‘Names validly published between 1 January 1978 and 1 January 1980 were included in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names.’ However, neither the two subgenera nor the nine species proposed by Bøvre (1979) were cited in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980, 1989) and these omissions are clearly not in accordance with Rule 24a, Note 1.

Rule 24a, Note 1 also states that ‘No further names will be added to the Approved Lists.’ However, cases of omission from the Approved Lists of well-established names should be remedied by reviving the names under Rule 28a. For example, the species *Spirochaeta litoralis*, *Spirochaeta zuelzerae* and *Spirochaeta aurantia* inexplicably were not included in the Approved Lists and they have been revived by Canale-Parola (1980).
The names proposed by Bøvre (1979) were never revived but the subgenera Branhamella and Moraxella were included in Validation List no. 15 (publication date, 16 July 1984) (Bøvre, 1984) as new subgenera with Moraxella (subgen. Branhamella) cattarhalis and Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) lacunata as nomenclatural types, respectively. However, neither Moraxella (subgen. Branhamella) cattarhalis nor Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) lacunata nor any of the other species proposed by Bøvre (1979) were included in this list.

In addition, Validation Lists are lists that validate bacterial names effectively published outside the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology or outside the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology, not lists that validate names published in the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology but inadvertently omitted from the Approved Lists.

Thereafter, all names proposed by Bøvre (1979) were included in the Index of the bacterial and yeast nomenclatural changes published in the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology since the 1980 Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (1 January 1980 to 1 January 1985)” (Moore et al., 1985). In this Index, the valid publication date of these names is that of the paper published by Bøvre in 1979 except for the subgenus Moraxella for which the valid publication date is that of the Validation List no. 15. According to Rule 24a, “Priority of publication dates from 1 January 1980.” so it is not possible for a name to have a date of valid publication prior to 1 January 1980.

To avoid further confusion, I request that the subgenera Moraxella and Branhamella and the nine species proposed by Bøvre be revived and considered to be validly published in the Index published by Moore et al. (1985) and that the dates of valid publications be that of this Index (15 October 1985).

Another problem is the status of the species included in the subgenera Moraxella and Branhamella because the Bacteriological Code (1990 Revision) (Lapage et al., 1992) does not envisage the status of a species transferred into a subgenus. It is interesting to note that the same is true for a species transferred into a subspecies. I request that such species should be considered as new combinations and that the first sentence of Rule 34a be changed as follows:

“When an author transfers a species to another genus (Rule 41), or a species to another subgenus, or a subspecies to another species, or a species to another subspecies, then the author who makes the transfer should indicate the formation of the new combination by the addition to the citation of the abbreviation ‘comb. nov.’ (combinatio nova).”

If the Judicial Commission agrees with the above proposals, then the two subgenera and the nine species proposed by Bøvre should be cited as follows:


ella osloensis Bøvre and Henriksen 1967 (Approved Lists 1980).


References


