SUMMARY. Type strains are designated for Microbispora rosea, Waksmania rosea and Thermopolyspora bispora; these are IMRU 3757 (ATCC 12950), IMRU 3748 (ATCC 15334), and IMRU 3759 (ATCC 15737), respectively. A comparison of the type strains has shown these organisms to belong to the same genus, Microbispora, which name has priority. The first two types listed above are nearly identical and belong to the same species, M. rosea. The last type differs sufficiently from the others so that it represents another species in the genus Microbispora, for which the name M. bispora (Henssen) comb. nov. is proposed. Waksmania Lechevalier and Lechevalier 1957 and Thermopolyspora Henssen 1957 are regarded as later subjective synonyms of Microbispora Nonomura and Ohara 1957.

Confusion has followed the concomitant description of Microbispora rosea Nonomura and Ohara, 1957 and Waksmania rosea Lechevalier and Lechevalier, 1957. Exchange of cultures between Dr. Hideo Nonomura and the author has shown that the American and the Japanese strains were almost identical and certainly belong to the same species. The two cultures compared are hereby declared the type strains and were for M. rosea, IMRU 3757 (ATCC 12950) and for W. rosea, IMRU 3748 (ATCC 15334). The exact date of publication of the August 1957 issue of the Journal of General Microbiology was easy to establish, but the Japanese publishers never answered numerous requests for a statement of the exact publication date of the August issue of the Journal of Fermentation Technology. Exchange of
letters between Dr. H. Nonomura and Dr. S. A. Waksman and between Dr. Nonomura and the author revealed that the first printed description of Microbispora rosea was published in Japanese in the Abstracts of Papers to be Presented at the 1957 Annual Meeting of the Agricultural Chemical Society of Japan. These abstracts were distributed to the members of the Japanese Society before the meeting which was held at the Faculty of Agriculture of Tokyo University from April 9 to April 11, 1957. The description by Nonomura and Ohara (1957a) fulfills the requirements for effective publication as set up in Rule 11 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria and Viruses since it was 1) printed (a fact that the author was able to verify by examination of the original) and 2) distributed to bacteriological institutions, as it was distributed to the members of a Japanese National Society.

The description of Microbispora rosea given in the abstract was sufficient to differentiate this organism from other actinomycetes that had been described up to that time. A translation of the abstract from the Japanese follows:

"1. Object. The point of the report in above meeting.

From the soil which chiefly consists of volcanic ashes and which has remained uncultivated, about 90 strains of actinomycetes were isolated. They have provisionally been divided into a certain number of groups and their distribution will be studied. Among the strains, a new species was found. Its mycological characteristics are reported here.


The test on cultural and physiological natures of this strain were made using those described by Baldacci et al. (1953) and Hesseltine et al. (1954). For the observation on the spore formation the most suitable media (oatmeal agar etc.) were used. The spores were plated and cultivated on the media in Petri dishes and observed microscopically with a magnification from 600 to 1500 times directly or through a cover-glass. Most of these tests and observations were made in parallel and in comparison with those of other actinomycetes."
3. Results.

According to Bergey's Manual and Burkholder et al. (1954) this strain under examination belongs to Streptomycetaceae, the third family of Actinomycetales and seems to be most closely related to Micromonospora, its second genus. However, it has the following remarkable characteristics: it lacks the usual sporophore; the spores are attached almost directly to the hyphae, in pairs when mature; moreover the characteristics of hydrolysis of starch and proteolysis are distinctly different from those of Micromonospora. Therefore, it may be proposed that in the family Streptomycetaceae the new genus, Microbispora gen. nov., should be set up and the strain under description should be named Microbispora rosea sp. nov., because it forms initially a pink colony (vegetative mycelia) on potato agar, Bennett's agar carrot agar etc...."

A thermophilic actinomycete morphologically similar to Microbispora rosea and described by Henssen (1957) as Thermopolyspora bispora has also been examined by the author. This strain (IMRU 3759), received from Dr. Aino Henssen, has been deposited in the American Type Culture Collection (15737). Henssen has stated (personal communication) that she wishes to consider this strain as the type strain. It was not the intention of Henssen to separate at the generic level organisms forming pairs of spores from other actinomycetes. As a matter of fact, in the paper previously quoted, she described Thermopolyspora polyspora sp. nov., an organism forming short chains of spores on the aerial mycelium when grown in mixed cultures of undetermined nature. All Henssen's strains of T. polyspora are now dead and the legitimacy of that specific name has been challenged in another publication (Becker, Lechevalier and Lechevalier, 1965). Since it is felt that thermophily should not be used as a criterion to differentiate between genera of actinomycetes, and since the description of Thermopolyspora bispora was published after that of Microbispora rosea (June 1, 1957, according to a letter received by the author from Henssen), it is felt that her organism should be called Microbispora bispora (Henssen) comb. nov.
REFERENCES


