Designation of *Eubacterium limosum* (Eggerth) Prévot as the Type Species of *Eubacterium*

Request for an Opinion

ELIZABETH P. CATO, LILLIAN V. HOLDEMAN, AND W. E. C. MOORE

Department of Anaerobic Microbiology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

The generic name *Eubacterium* Prévot is included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, and *Eubacterium foedans* is cited as the type species. However, *E. foedans* was not included on the Approved Lists because there are no known cultures of this organism. Consequently, the Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology is requested to issue an Opinion designating *Eubacterium limosum* (Eggerth) Prévot as the type species. The type strain of *E. limosum* is ATCC 8486.

In 1938, Prévot (6) proposed the new genus *Eubacterium* to include gram-positive, non-sporeforming, nonmotile, anaerobic rods occurring singly, in pairs, or in short chains. *Eubacterium foedans*, the first species listed in Prévot's publication, was designated as the type species of the genus by Hauduroy et al. (1). Strains of *E. foedans* isolated from spoiled hams had been described by Klein in 1908 (4). No strains were available for study by Prévot at the time he established the genus. Later, Prévot isolated from African soil strains that he felt would fit the original rather sketchy description of *E. foedans* and emended the description of the species (7). Prévot's strains also are no longer extant. Despite a diligent study of the microbial flora of some badly spoiled hams, the source of Klein's isolates, we have been unable to isolate any organisms like those Klein described, and no other isolations of this species have been reported. Therefore, there are no extant strains of *E. foedans*.

The generic name *Eubacterium* Prévot has been included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (8), with *E. foedans* cited as the type species. However, *E. foedans* does not appear on the list of approved species names. Thus, we have the anomalous situation of an approved generic name without an approved type species name.

Item 5 of the Introduction to the Approved Lists addresses the problem as follows:

5. For some names included in the Lists no strains were available. These names were retained to preserve the status of

... B. a genus which contained well described species for which representative strains were available for all but the Type Species of the genus itself.

Exclusion of the Type Species would have necessitated the exclusion of the genus as a whole under Rule 20c of the Code of Nomenclature. There were several of these. It is hoped that early action will be taken to request the Judicial Commission to conserve these genera with new Type Species in order that each species within these genera will be represented by a Type strain in a recognised culture collection.

In response to that expressed hope, we propose here that *E. limosum* (Eggerth) Prévot be designated the Type Species of the genus *Eubacterium*, which was preserved by inclusion in the 1980 lists.

We therefore propose that *Eubacterium limosum* (Eggerth) Prévot 1938, one of the species originally included in the genus by Prévot (6), be established as the type species of the genus *Eubacterium*. ATCC 8486 is the type strain of *E. limosum* (8). Full descriptions of *E. limosum* have been published (2, 3). *E. limosum* is easily recognized, commonly encountered in nature, and generally representative of many species in the genus.

This request is for the Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology to issue an opinion to designate *Eubacterium limosum* (Eggerth) Prévot as the type species of *Eubacterium*.

REPRINT REQUESTS

Address reprint requests to: Dr. Elizabeth P. Cato, Department of Anaerobic Microbiology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

LITERATURE CITED