Proposal for Modification of Rule 33b

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The correct citation of names includes the author(s) of the taxon and the date of publication as given in the 1980 Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (2) or of the description or validation in the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology. This information provides important identification of the names of taxa and of priority dates and is in keeping with a principle of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (1)—the avoidance of confusion. As new techniques and procedures are developed, the numbers of taxa are increasing rapidly. Thus, correct citation becomes increasingly important. However, as a practical matter, correct citation is becoming more burdensome for taxonomists and authors alike, especially for many individual taxa that are ascribed to many authors. To simplify citations and accuracy of publication and to encourage more frequent use of complete citations, the following modification (as shown in italics) of rule 33b is proposed.

Rule 33b

The citation of the name of a taxon that has been previously proposed should include both the name of the author(s) who first published the name and the year of publication. If there are more than three authors of the name, the citation includes only the first author followed by " et al." and the year.

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