Yokenella regensburgei was effectively published in June 1984 in the Japanese Journal of Medical Science and Biology (4), and Koserella trabulsii was also effectively published, in January 1985, in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology (1). Both names gained standing in nomenclature in April 1985 when they appeared in Validation List No. 17 (2). Y. regensburgei and K. trabulsii are closely related on the basis of both phenotype and DNA-DNA hybridization. The authors of the original papers describing these species agree that they should be classified in the same species (5). Because the two species have different type strains, Koserella trabulsii should now be considered as a later subjective synonym.

The two names (Koserella trabulsii and Yokenella regensburgei) appeared in alphabetical order in Validation List No. 17 (2) in April 1985; this simultaneous publication was interpreted by Moore and Moore (7) as conferring seniority, i.e., approximately three months before Yokenella regensburgei was submitted to the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology on 10 September 1984, i.e., three months before Koserella trabulsii was even proposed in a different journal. Furthermore, no Validation List was published in the January 1985 issue of the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology. We have demonstrated that the genus Yokenella and the species Yokenella regensburgei would have been entitled to the lower sequence number in Validation List No. 17 under the amendment to Rule 24b cited above and therefore have priority over the genus Koserella and the species Koserella trabulsii.

Yokenella regensburgei and Koserella trabulsii have competed for priority since 1985. The Bacteriological Code was amended in 1986 to include an addition to Rule 24b of the Bacteriological Code by the Judicial Commission. According to the 24b of the Bacteriological Code, the rules are retroactive. We propose that Yokenella regensburgei has priority over the genus Koserella and the species Koserella trabulsii.

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REFERENCES

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