The subgenus names *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* (in the genus *Moraxella*) are not in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria and are therefore not validly published: Supplementary information to Opinion 83.

Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

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The publication of Opinion 83, which dealt with the valid publication of the subgenus names *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* (in the genus *Moraxella*), has highlighted a problem relating to the absence of descriptions associated with these names at the time they were effectively published. This calls into question whether the ruling outlined in Opinion 83, that these names should have qualified for inclusion on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, and their inclusion on Validation List 15 are not in accordance with Rule 27 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria governing the valid publication of a name. The subgenus names *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* (in the genus *Moraxella*) are not to be considered to be included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names, nor are they to be considered to be validly published by inclusion on Validation List 15.

Tindall (2008b) challenged the conclusions drawn by the Judicial Commission and issued as Opinion 83 (Judicial Commission, 2008), based on the fact that attention had not been given to the absence of descriptions of the subgenera *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* (in the genus *Moraxella*).

At its meetings in 2008, at the IUMS Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology Congress in Istanbul, the Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes ruled that based on information presented to it and also on a previous Request for an Opinion (Euzeby, 2001) some of the issues raised had not been fully covered in Opinion 83 (Judicial Commission, 2008) and that additional evaluation was needed. In particular, the subgenus names *Moraxella* subgen. *Moraxella* and *Moraxella* subgen. *Branhamella* do not appear to have been accompanied by descriptions. Rule 27 (2) of both the 1975 and 1992 revisions of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (Lapage *et al.*, 1975, 1992) requires that a description be given as a prerequisite for a name to be validly published. This does not appear to have been the case in the effective publication by Bovre (1979) and the requirements of valid publication have not been met. The subgenus names *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* (in the genus *Moraxella*) are not to be considered to have been placed on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980, 1989) as ruled in Opinion 83 (Judicial Commission, 2008) and they are not to be considered to have been validly published by inclusion on Validation List 15 (Bovre, 1984b). The inclusion of these subgenus names and the corresponding species combinations in Bergey’s *Manual of Systematic Bacteriology* (Bovre, 1984a) and on the list compiled by Moore *et al.* (1985) also appears to be in error. A direct consequence is that if the subgenus names *Moraxella* and *Branhamella* (in the genus *Moraxella*) are not validly published then the species combinations within these subgenera are also not considered to be included on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980, 1989) and are also not validly published since the subgenus names are not validly published. This affects the following nine combinations listed by Bovre (1979), Euzeby (2001) and in Opinion 83 (Judicial Commission, 2008):

*Moraxella* (subgen. *Branhamella*) catarrhalis (Frosch and Kolle 1896) Bovre 1979

For the purpose of clarity technical terms that are used in the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria are designated in bold type.
Moraxella (subgen. Branhamella) caviae (Pelczar 1953) Bøvre 1979

Moraxella (subgen. Branhamella) ovis (Lindqvist 1960) Bøvre 1979

Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) atlantae (Bøvre et al. 1976) Bøvre 1979

Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) bovis (Hauduroy et al. 1937) Bøvre 1979

Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) lacunata (Eyre 1900) Bøvre 1979

Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) nonliquefaciens (Scarlett 1916) Bøvre 1979

Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) osloensis (Bøvre and Henriksen 1967) Bøvre 1979

Moraxella (subgen. Moraxella) phenylpyruvica (Bøvre and Henriksen 1967) Bøvre 1979

Opinion compiled on behalf of the Judicial Commission by B. J. Tindall.

Declaration of a potential conflict of interest
The author is employed by an organization that commercially offers both taxonomic services and biological material to the scientific community. This may be perceived as a potential conflict of interest.

References


