

Minutes

Paul N. Levett, *Secretary*
Lee Smythe, *Chairman*

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Subcommittee on the taxonomy of Leptospiraceae

Minutes of the closed meeting, 9 October 2013, Fukuoka, Japan

Minute 1. Call to order. The closed meeting was held at 1.10 p.m. on Wednesday 9 October 2013, Centennial Hall, Kyushu University School of Medicine, Fukuoka, Japan, in conjunction with the 8th meeting of the International Leptospirosis Society. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Lee Smythe.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The members present were Ben Adler, Roderick Chappel, Marga Goris, Rudy Hartskeerl, Paul Levett (Secretary), Mathieu Picardeau and Lee Smythe (Chairman). David Haake, Toshiyuki Masuzawa and Sharon Villanueva were in attendance as observers.

Minute 3. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Renee Galloway and Richard Zuerner.

Minute 4. Mark of respect. The subcommittee recorded with deepest regret the death of a former member, Philippe Pérolat.

Minute 5. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held in Mérida, México, in 2011 had been published [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **62** (2012), 2810–2811].

Minute 6. Membership and Office Holders. The Chairman and the Secretary indicated their willingness to continue in office, but the Chairman indicated a desire to step down at the next meeting. The subcommittee accepted the resignation of Richard Zuerner.

Minute 7. Revision of the book ‘Classification of the species *Leptospira interrogans* and history of its serovars’ by Kmety & Dikken. Rudy Hartskeerl reported that the scanned text of the book was available on the website of the Royal Tropical Institute (www.kit.nl) and had also been revised and incorporated into the Leptospira Library (www.kit.nl/net/leptospirosis), which will be updated regularly.

Minute 8. Update on naming of *Leptospira* genomospecies 1, 3, 4 and 5. The paper ‘Classification of *Leptospira* genomospecies 1, 3, 4 and 5 as *Leptospira alstonii* sp. nov., *Leptospira vanthielii* sp. nov., *Leptospira terpstrae* sp. nov. and *Leptospira yanagawae* sp. nov., respectively’ had been published [*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **63** (2013), 1859–1862].

Minute 9. Minimum criteria for species definition. A paper entitled ‘*Leptospira* taxonomy: time for a genome-based classification’ was prepared by Mathieu Picardeau and Rudy Hartskeerl, proposing that genome sequence comparison should replace DNA–DNA hybridization for definition of species. The subcommittee accepted the proposal in principle. After further discussion of the use of genome sequences for serovar definition, the subcommittee decided that this was not currently possible, but anticipated the prospect of doing so within the near future.

Minute 10. Preparation of leptospire for rabbit immunization. Rudy Hartskeerl reported that it had become necessary to prepare leptospire in EMJH basal medium, because it was no longer permissible to inject BSA into rabbits. The subcommittee noted this constraint.

Minute 11. Recognition of new species and serovars. The subcommittee recognized the description of three new serovars: Altodouro (serogroup Pomona; *Leptospira kirschneri*), Corredores (serogroup Tarassovi; *Leptospira santarosai*) and Costa Rica (serogroup Pyrogenes; *L. santarosai*). Descriptions of these serovars had been published [Paiva-Cardoso *et al.*, *Infect Genet Evol* **13** (2012), 211–217; Valverde *et al.*, *J Med Microbiol* **62** (2013), 1263–1271]. In addition to the four species noted in minute 7 above, the subcommittee recognized the description of *Leptospira idonii*, a saprophyte isolated from a puddle of water on the Kyushu University School of Medicine campus. The description of this species had been published [Saito *et al.*, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **63** (2013), 2457–2462].

Minute 12. Status of strain Ictero No. 1 as the type strain of *L. interrogans*. The subcommittee was reminded by Toshiyuki Masuzawa that a decision to replace strain RGA with strain Ictero No. 1 as the type strain of *L. interrogans* was taken at the meeting of the subcommittee in Osaka in 1990 [International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Leptospira*, *Int J Syst Bacteriol* **42** (1992), 330–334]. The subcommittee agreed that the Secretary should take the necessary actions to have this decision recognized by the American Type Culture Collection and by Bergey’s Manual of Systematic Bacteriology.

Minute 13. Current membership. The current membership of the subcommittee is as follows: Lee Smythe (Chairman), Brisbane, Australia; Paul Levett (Secretary), Regina, Canada; Ben Adler, Melbourne, Australia; Roderick Chappel, Melbourne, Australia; Renee Galloway, Atlanta, USA; Marga Goris, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Rudy Hartskeerl, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; and Mathieu Picardeau, Paris, France.

Minute 14. Date and venue of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held at the 9th meeting of the International Leptospirosis Society, to be held in 2015.

Minute 15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm on 9 October 2013.

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