Amended Nomenclature for Strains Related to *Mycoplasma laidlawii*

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SUMMARY

In an earlier paper it was proposed that a second family be re-established within the Mycoplasmatales for those strains not requiring sterol, and the nomenclature of Sabin, who first made this proposal, was followed in the belief that although unsuitable it was valid. It has now been learnt that the generic name *Sapromyces* is illegitimate, as it is the name of a genus of fungi. It is therefore proposed that the genus be named *Acholeplasma* in the family Acholeplasmataceae.

Sabin (1941*a*) proposed a classification of the organisms of the pleuropneumonia group in which those organisms, believed to be saprophytes and represented by the sewage isolates of Laidlaw & Elford (1936), were classified into a separate genus and family from the parasitic species. The genus was named *Sapromyces* and the family Sapromycetaceae (Sabin, 1941*b*). The later classification of Edward & Freundt (1956) recognized only a number of species of one genus *Mycoplasma* belonging to the order Mycoplasmatales, the sewage and similar strains being named *Mycoplasma laidlawii*. Recently Edward & Freundt (1969) proposed the re-establishment of a second genus and family for those strains like *M. laidlawii* which differ from other members of the Mycoplasmatales in not requiring sterol for growth. The proposal was made to facilitate further classification and in the belief that dependence on sterol was a fundamental property. It has received further support from the finding that two species of the new genus have a larger genome size than several species of *Mycoplasma* (Bak, Black, Christiansen & Freundt, 1970).

The names given to the second genus and family were those proposed by Sabin, in the belief that although inappropriate they were valid. Following the publication of the paper it has been brought to our attention that *Sapromyces* is illegitimate, as it is the valid name of a genus of fungi of the order Leptomitales (Fritsch, 1893).

It is therefore proposed that the genus to contain those species of the Mycoplasmatales which do not require sterol for growth be named *Acholeplasma* gen. nov. (*a* Gr. = not; *chole* Gr.n. = bile; *plasma* Gr.n. = anything moulded or formed), type species *Acholeplasma laidlawii* (Sabin) comb. nov., and that the genus should be the type of a new family Acholeplasmataceae. The name suggests lack of a requirement for an important constituent of bile, namely cholesterol. The ending -plasma has

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been chosen in the hope that it will set a precedent for future naming of new genera of Mycoplasmatales, which are now recognized to belong to a distinct biological class of micro-organism, the Mollicutes (Edward & Freundt, 1967; Edward *et al.* 1967). Since the species at present classified as *Mycoplasma granularum* belongs to the new family, it must be renamed *Acholeplasma granularum*.

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