

## NOTE

### *Pseudomonas maltophilia* sp. nov., nom. rev.

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The name *Pseudomonas maltophilia* Hugh and Ryschenkow 1961 is not on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names. The taxon to which this name was applied is a distinct entity, and it can be differentiated from the other named species of *Pseudomonas*. Consequently, the name *Pseudomonas maltophilia* is revived for the same organism to which the name originally referred. The type strain of *P. maltophilia* is ATCC 13637 (= 810-2 = RH 1168).

The name *Pseudomonas maltophilia* Hugh and Ryschenkow 1961, 123, also documented as Hugh and Ryschenkow 1960 (Bacteriol. Proc., p. 78, 1960), does not appear on the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (8), has had no standing in bacterial nomenclature since 1 January 1980 and, according to the Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (rule 24a), will not be added to the lists.

*Pseudomonas maltophilia*, the second most frequently isolated *Pseudomonas* species in clinical specimens, often causes infections in compromised human hosts and commonly occurs in soil and water. There is no uncertainty of the validity of the species to which the name has been applied, and there is a need for the name in the delivery of health care. The name appears, vide p. 585, in the first draft of the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (1) and does not appear in the lists of nomina rejicenda. The purpose of this report is to revive the name *P. maltophilia* in accordance with rules 24a and 28a.

The morphological and biochemical reaction patterns of strains of *P. maltophilia* are remarkably uniform (2, 4-6). *P. maltophilia* is a gram-negative, straight or slightly curved, asporogenous, motile rod. Some cells in all strains have a polar tuft of three or more flagella. Catalase and extracellular deoxyribonuclease are produced. Acid is produced from glucose and maltose oxidatively in OF media (catalog no. 0688, Difco Laboratories). Acid is not produced from glucose or maltose in OF media sealed with petrolatum. Some strains slowly produce a faint yellow pigment which does not diffuse out of the colony into the surrounding agar medium. Some strains do not require methionine (5). These characters distinguish *P. maltophilia* from other named *Pseudomonas* species (2, 4). The history of the species has been described (3, 4). Strains of *P.*

*maltophilia* have been identified erroneously as strains of "*Alcaligenes bookeri*," *Alcaligenes faecalis*, *Flavobacterium ferrugineum*, "*Flavobacterium rhenanus*," "*Flavobacterium rigense*," *Pseudomonas alcaligenes*, and "*Pseudomonas melanogena*" (3, 5, 6). (Names in quotation marks are not on the Approved Lists [8].)

The type strain of *P. maltophilia* is ATCC 13637 (corresponding strain numbers are 810-2 and RH 1168), and it has been described previously (3, 4-7).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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