

LETTER TO THE EDITOR***Legionella taurinensis*, a new species of *Legionella* isolated in Turin, Italy**

Lo Presti *et al.* (1999) reported in their article the description of a new *Legionella* species, *Legionella taurinensis*. We think it useful to provide some information about the origin of the type strain of this new species. The type strain reported as Turin I no. 1^T (ATCC 700508^T) and the strains Turin I no. 2, Turin II no. 180 and Turin II no. 195 of the 'Turin cluster' have been isolated in our laboratory, the Infectious Diseases Institute of Turin, University of Turin (Legionella Reference Center for Piedmont Region) in March 1988 (Director Professor Paolo Gioannini) from a water sample of an oxygen bubble humidifier. The specimens were collected in a big university hospital (1850 beds) in Turin, where nosocomial *Legionella* infection occurred.

The strains were brought by Dr L. Franzin (who isolated the strains) to Centre National de Référence des *Legionella*, Lyon, France (Director Professor J. Fleurette), where she attended a stage in March 1988. The strains were identified as *Legionella spiritensis* by Dr N. Bornstein. Two papers reported the results of the studies about these strains (Franzin *et al.*, 1990, 1993).

Lo Presti *et al.* (1999) found that these strains reacting with antisera raised against *L. spiritensis* serogroup 1 displayed red autofluorescence under longwave UV light and showed some differences from *L. spiritensis*. Phenotypic and genotypic characteristics have led to

the conclusion that these strains were a new species of *Legionella*, for which the name *Legionella taurinensis* was proposed. Lo Presti *et al.* said that the type strain is Turin I no. 1^T (ATCC 700508^T), which was isolated from a humidifier in the city of Turin (Italy). Lo Presti *et al.* did not cite the origin of these strains, probably because they were not completely informed about the source of the strain *L. taurinensis*.

References

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