

Renaming of *Agrobacterium larrymoorei* Bouzar and Jones 2001 as *Rhizobium larrymoorei* (Bouzar and Jones 2001) comb. nov.

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In conformity with the nomenclature of the genus *Rhizobium* published by Young *et al.* (*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **51**, 89–103, 2001), it is proposed that *Agrobacterium larrymoorei* be named as *Rhizobium larrymoorei* comb. nov.

A gall-forming pathogen from *Ficus benjamina* (Bouzar *et al.*, 1995) was subsequently characterized and named *Agrobacterium larrymoorei* (Bouzar & Jones, 2001). Comparative analysis of 16S rDNA sequences gives an inferred phylogeny of this species as being closely related to other agrobacteria on a larger clade comprising known *Rhizobium* species (Bouzar & Jones, 2001) and other *Agrobacterium* species (Young *et al.*, 2001). Following their analysis of available data, Young *et al.* (2001) proposed that species in *Agrobacterium* were members of an artificial genus established only on pathogenicity characters that were carried on transferable plasmid-borne genes. Because there are no other data to support the differentiation of *Agrobacterium* as a distinct genus, Young *et al.* (2001) proposed that all *Agrobacterium* species were more properly considered to be members of *Rhizobium*. This is also true for *Agrobacterium larrymoorei*. Following Rule 34a of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria* (Prokaryotes) (Lapage *et al.*, 1992), it is proposed that the epithet *larrymoorei* be applied to this species as a new combination in *Rhizobium*. Those who wish to use a nomenclature that reflects natural and polyphasic relationships as presently understood may prefer this nomenclature to the special-purpose use of *Agrobacterium*. The alternative name *Rhizobium larrymoorei* is proposed for this species.

Description of *Rhizobium larrymoorei* comb. nov.

The description is that given by Bouzar & Jones (2001). The type strain is ATCC 51759^T = CFBP 5473^T = ICMP 14256^T = NCPPB 4096^T.

References

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