

## *Paenibacillus durus* (Collins *et al.* 1994, formerly *Clostridium durum* Smith and Cato 1974) has priority over *Paenibacillus azotofixans* (Seldin *et al.* 1984). Opinion 73

Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

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The Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes decided that the name *Paenibacillus durus* has priority over *Paenibacillus azotofixans*, and that the latter is a later synonym of the former. The type strain is therefore strain ATCC 27763 (= DSM 1735).

*Clostridium durum* was described by Smith & Cato (1974) and the name was validly published by inclusion in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Skerman *et al.*, 1980). Seldin *et al.* (1984) described a nitrogen-fixing spore-forming bacterium and named it *Bacillus azotofixans*. Ten years later, Ash *et al.* (1994) proposed that *Bacillus azotofixans* be transferred to the newly established genus *Paenibacillus*, and Collins *et al.* (1994) proposed that *Clostridium durum* be transferred to the same new genus as *Paenibacillus durum* [sic]. A thorough comparison of two strains of *Paenibacillus durum* [sic] and five strains of *Paenibacillus azotofixans* by Rosado *et al.* (1997) showed convincingly that all strains belonged to the same species. Rosado *et al.* (1997) then united the two species under the name *Paenibacillus azotofixans*, a step that clearly violated Rule 23a of the *Bacteriological Code* (1990 Revision) (Lapage *et al.*, 1992).

This irregularity was detected by Logan *et al.* (1998), who – emphasizing that *Paenibacillus durum* [sic] deserves priority over *Paenibacillus azotofixans* – submitted a respective Request for an Opinion.

The Judicial Commission adjusted the gender of the specific epithet to *durus* (masculine) and decided that the name *Paenibacillus durus* has priority over *Paenibacillus azotofixans*; furthermore, it was decided that the type strain of *Paenibacillus durus* is VPI 6563 (= ATCC 27763 = DSM 1735), not P3L5 (= ATCC 35681). The name *Paenibacillus azotofixans* is a later synonym of *Paenibacillus durus*. The argument that the specific epithet *azotofixans* would be

more informative than the specific epithet *durus* cannot be taken into consideration when the priority is clear.

### References

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