

Proposal to change the name *Rhodoligotrophos* Fukuda *et al.* 2012, 1947 to *Rhodoligotrophus*. Request for an Opinion

Aharon Oren,¹ George M. Garrity² and Bernhard Schink³

¹The Institute of Life Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 91904 Jerusalem, Israel

²Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, Biomedical Physical Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-4320, USA

³Fachbereich Biologie, Universität Konstanz, D-78457 Konstanz, Germany

In the opinion of the authors, the genus name *Rhodoligotrophos* was formed in violation of Principle 3 and Rule 10a of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes which requires that genus names are to be treated as Latin substantives. We therefore propose renaming the genus *Rhodoligotrophos* as *Rhodoligotrophus*. A Request for an Opinion is submitted to the Judicial Commission of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes regarding this proposed name change.

The genus name *Rhodoligotrophos* Fukuda *et al.* 2012, 1947 was published in 2012 with the following etymology: Gr. n. *rhodon* the rose; Gr. adj. *oligos* little, few; Gr. masc. or fem. n. *trophos* feeder, rearer, that which nourishes; N.L. masc. n. *Rhodoligotrophos*, red utilizer of few substrates (Fukuda *et al.*, 2012). In our opinion this name was formed in violation of Principle 3 and Rule 10a of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes – The Bacteriological Code (Lapage *et al.*, 1992), which respectively state: ‘The scientific names of all taxa are Latin or Latinized words treated as Latin regardless of their origin. They are usually taken from Latin or Greek’, and ‘The name of a genus ... may be taken from any source and may even be composed in an arbitrary manner. It is treated as a Latin substantive’. A few Greek substantives, including some that end with -os, have indeed been adopted in classical Latin without changing the ending to fit into one of the declensions of Latin nouns. This, however, does not make the genus name *Rhodoligotrophos* a name treated as Latin as intended by the Code. We therefore propose correcting the genus name to *Rhodoligotrophus* (Rhod.o.li.go.tro'phus. Gr. n.

rhodon the rose; Gr. adj. *oligos* little, few; Gr. masc. or fem. n. *trophos* feeder, rearer, that which nourishes; N.L. masc. n. *Rhodoligotrophus* red utilizer of few substrates) in accordance with Principle 3 and Rule 10a of the Code.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Hans G. Trüper for his valuable comments.

REFERENCES

- Fukuda, W., Yamada, K., Miyoshi, Y., Okuno, H., Atomi, H. & Imanaka, T. (2012). *Rhodoligotrophos appendicifer* gen. nov., sp. nov., an appendaged bacterium isolated from a freshwater Antarctic lake. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **62**, 1945–1950.
- Lapage, S. P., Sneath, P. H. A., Lessel, E. F., Skerman, V. B. D., Seeliger, H. P. R. & Clark, W. A. (editors) (1992). *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (1990 Revision)*. *Bacteriological Code*. Washington, DC: American Society for Microbiology.