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STATUS OF THE NAME Nocardia otitidis-caviarum
SNIJDERS 1924

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SUMMARY: The name Nocardia otitidis caviarum (sic) Snijders 1924 was proposed for an organism from the infected middle ears of guinea pigs in Sumatra. This name (the "Nocardia of otitis of guinea pigs ") is a correctly formed binary combination, is validly published and legitimate. Nomenclaturally junior synonyms have been employed in the four papers relative to this species, viz. Actinomyces caviae Erikson 1935, Nocardia caviae Erikson 1935 and Nocardia caviae Waksman and Henrici 1948. Nocardia otitidis-caviarum Snijders 1924 is the correct name.

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Snijders (1924, LXXXVII) proposed the name Nocardia otitidis caviarum (sic) for an organism he isolated and described from the infected middle ears of guinea pigs in Sumatra. The name given by Snijders is a binary combination, and the single specific epithet, otitidis-caviarum, is in accord with Rule 6 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria and Viruses (1958, 33).

The organism described by Snijders apparently was not mentioned in the literature again until Erikson (1935, 10, 32) published a description of it under the name Actinomyces caviae. Erikson cited the reference to Snijders' paper, but made no mention of the name Nocardia otitidis-caviarum. Actinomyces caviae Erikson is validly published but illegitimate because she did not use the earliest available specific epithet, otitidis-caviarum (Bact. Code, Rule 24b). In subsequent names for this organism employing the specific epithet "caviae," Erikson should not be cited in parentheses as the author of the specific epithet because the name she used, Actinomyces caviae, is an illegitimate combination and cannot serve as a basionym (Bact. Code, Rule 26, Note).

Erikson (1935, 10) merely listed Nocardia caviae as a synonym of Actinomyces caviae; the name Nocardia caviae Erikson was not validly published (Bact. Code, Rule 12d) and has no nomenclatural standing.

Waksman and Henrici (1948, 912), and later Waksman (1957, 733), used the name Nocardia caviae and incorrectly attributed it to Snijders. The name Nocardia caviae Waksman and Henrici was validly published but is illegitimate.

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