

Nomenclature of *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* Labeda 1987 and *Streptomyces erythraeus* (Waksman 1923) Waksman and Henrici 1948, and Proposals for the Alternative Epithet *Streptomyces labedae* sp. nov.

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The correct citation for the taxon represented by the type strain ATCC 11635 is *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* (Waksman 1923) Labeda 1987. The name *Streptomyces erythraeus* used with the type strain NRRL B-5616 is illegitimate, and the name *Streptomyces labedae* sp. nov. is proposed for this taxon.

Labeda (2) proposed the transfer of the type strain, ATCC 11635, of *Streptomyces erythraeus* (Waksman 1923) Waksman and Henrici 1948 to the genus *Saccharopolyspora* Lacey and Goodfellow 1975 as a new species, *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* Labeda 1987, because the cell walls contained meso-diaminopimelic acid, arabinose, and galactose (wall chemotype IV), but not mycolic acids (1, 2). He then proposed a neotype for *Streptomyces erythraeus*, NRRL B-5616. Such a move is illegitimate according to the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria* (3).

Streptomyces erythraeus was listed in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (4) with the type strain ATCC 11635. Rule 24a of the Code states that all names included in the Approved Lists shall be treated for nomenclatural purposes as having been validly published for the first time on that date, with the existing types being retained. Rule 17 states that the type determines the application of the name of a taxon if the taxon is subsequently united or divided and Rule 40b that the specific epithet must be retained for the species which includes the type strain. Since *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* contains the type strain of *Streptomyces erythraeus* specified in the Approved Lists, the new taxon must be regarded as a new combination. Its correct citation is, therefore, *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* (Waksman 1923) Labeda 1987.

The same specific epithet cannot be used within the same genus if it is based on different types (Rule 12b), while the removal of the type strain from *Streptomyces erythraeus* requires that the taxon is given a new name (Rule 37a). The type strain of *Streptomyces erythraeus* is specified as ATCC 11635 (4). The epithet *erythraeus* cannot then also be applied to NRRL B-5616 as it duplicates a validly published epithet for a different bacterium based on another type (Rule 53), even though NRRL B-5616 fits Waksman's description of *Streptomyces erythraeus* (5). Use of *Streptomyces erythraeus* is therefore illegitimate (Rule 51a), and a new name must be provided for this taxon. The name *Streptomyces labedae* sp. nov. is proposed. Labeda (personal communication) has indicated his acceptance of these proposals and is

abandoning his original proposal to conserve *Streptomyces erythraeus*.

Description of *Streptomyces labedae* sp. nov. *Streptomyces labedae* (la'bed'ae.; L. gen. n. *labedae*, named after D. P. Labeda, who first recorded the difference between the type strain and second reference strain of *Streptomyces erythraeus* designated by Waksman). The description given by Labeda (2) is as follows. Substrate mycelium olive gray to dark reddish brown. Aerial mycelium white to pinkish, especially on glycerol-asparagine or Czapek agars. Spores are moderate gray on most media and reddish gray on glycerol-asparagine or Czapek agars. Spore chains are in long, open spirals (*Spirales*). The spore surface is spiny. Melanin pigments are not produced on Czapek agar. Glucose, xylose, rhamnose, fructose, galactose, mannitol, and inositol are assimilated as sole carbon sources; arabinose, salicin, and sucrose are assimilated moderately well; raffinose is poorly assimilated. Wall chemotype I, with LL-diaminopimelic acid and glycine. Isolated from soil.

Type strain is NRRL B-5616 (ISP 5059, IMRU 3737, Sanchez-Marroquin A-24).

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