Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense sp. nov., an effective symbiotic bacterium isolated from Acacia melanoxylon R. Br. nodules

Jun Kun Lu,1†† Ya Jing Dou,1†† Ya Jie Zhu,1† Sheng Kun Wang,1† Xin Hua Sui2 and Li Hua Kang1†

1Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, Guangzhou 510520, PR China
2State Key Laboratories for Agrobiotechnology, College of Biological Sciences, China Agricultural University, Beijing 100193, PR China

Three slow-growing rhizobial strains, designated RITF806T, RITF807 and RITF211, isolated from root nodules of Acacia melanoxylon grown in Ganzhou city, Jiangxi Province, China, had been previously defined, based on amplified 16S rRNA gene restriction analysis, as a novel group within the genus Bradyrhizobium. To clarify their taxonomic position, these strains were further analysed and compared with reference strains of related bacteria using a polyphasic approach. According to 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis, the isolates formed a group that was closely related to ‘Bradyrhizobium rifense’ CTAW71, with a similarity value of 99.9%. In phylogenetic analyses of the housekeeping and symbiotic gene sequences, the three strains formed a distinct lineage within the genus Bradyrhizobium, which was consistent with the results of DNA–DNA hybridization. In analyses of cellular fatty acids and phenotypic features, some differences were found between the novel group and related species of the genus Bradyrhizobium, indicating that these three strains constituted a novel group distinct from any recognized species of the genus Bradyrhizobium. Based on the data obtained in this study, we conclude that our strains represent a novel species of the genus Bradyrhizobium, for which the name Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense sp. nov. is proposed, with RITF806T (CCBAU 101088T) as the type strain. The DNA G+C content of strain RITF806T is 64.6 mol% (Tm).

Australian blackwood (Acacia melanoxylon R. Br.) has its origin in the temperate forests of eastern Australia but it is a versatile and highly adaptive tree species that occurs naturally across a wide range of Australian forest ecosystems (Searle, 2000). Blackwood is also grown in plantations, including as an exotic in several countries, in particular because of its ornamental value and the quality of its dark wood (see Bradbury et al., 2010). Like most species of the genus Acacia, blackwood forms nodules in symbiosis with rhizobia (Dou et al., 2012). As a result of this nitrogen-fixing symbiosis, it plays an important role in natural ecosystems by improving soil fertility. In China, blackwood was introduced as a premium-grade furniture timber at the end of the nineteenth century. At present in China, blackwood is found in pure stands in Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan Provinces. The rhizobia associated with Acacia melanoxylon collected from soils of seedling nurseries or plantations have not, to our knowledge, previously been studied and no molecular evolutionary characterization of these bacteria has been reported. In China, Acacia melanoxylon forms nodules even when not inoculated, but limited information is available about the rhizobia which form these symbioses. In an earlier study, 174 isolates originating from Acacia melanoxylon growing in China were found to cluster into three genotypic groups according to 16S rRNA analysis; each group included isolates from different sites (Dou et al., 2012). Our objective in this study was to characterize isolates from nodules of plants growing in Chinese soils using a polyphasic approach. This study demonstrated that these three strains represent a novel species phylogenetically, which belongs to the genus Bradyrhizobium. We propose the name Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense sp. nov. for this species.

†These authors contributed equally to this work.
††Present address: No. 682, Guangshan Yi Road, Guangzhou, 510520, PR China.
Abbreviations: ML, maximum-likelihood; MLSA, multilocus sequence analysis; NJ, neighbour joining.
The GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ accession numbers for the 16S rRNA, recA, glnII, atpD, nodC and nifH gene sequences of strain RITF806T are JQ796661, JX277144, JX277110, JX277182, JX292035 and JX292065, respectively.
Three supplementary figures are available with the online version of this paper.
The three test strains and reference strains were obtained from the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry and the State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology. They were maintained on YMA medium (Vincent, 1970) at 4 °C during temporary storage. Genomic DNA was extracted from the strains according to the protocol of Chen & Kuo (1993) and was used as a template for the amplification of different genes and specific DNA fragments. For phylogenetic analyses, the following targets were amplified from the test strains: (i) the 16S rRNA gene (~1450 nt) with primers 27F and 1492R (DeLong, 1992); (ii) partial sequences of housekeeping genes recA (~600 nt), glnII (~680 nt) and atpD (~530 nt), with the amplifying primers and conditions described by Vinuesa et al. (2005); and (iii) nodC (~900 bp) and nifH (~800 bp) using primer pairs nodCF540/nodCR1160 and nifHF/nifHR and the protocol of Laguerre et al. (2001).

All PCR products were sequenced with a BigDye terminator v3.1 kit using an ABI-PRISM 3730 Genetic Analyzer (ABI) with protocols recommended by the manufacturer. Gene sequences of type strains were obtained from the GenBank database. Neighbour joining (NJ) and maximum-likelihood (ML) phylogenies were inferred with MEGA 5.1.

In the nodC phylogenetic tree (Fig. S1 available with the online Supplementary Material), the three test strains had identical sequences, which were most similar to that of Mesorhizobium sp. CCBAU 33477 (79.5 % similarity), which had been isolated from effective nodules of Astragalus sinicus in Southern China (data from GenBank). For the nifH gene, the highest similarity (around 90 %) was to Bradyrhizobium lablabi CCBAU 23086T (Fig. S2), isolated from root nodules of Lablab purpureus and Arachis hypogaea grown in the Anhui and Sichuan provinces of China (Chang et al., 2011).

DNA–DNA hybridization is an important index for the definition of bacterial species (Wayne et al., 1987). In the present study, total DNA was extracted from the three test strains and reference strains using the method of Marmur (1961). DNA–DNA relatedness between RITF806T and other strains was estimated using renaturation-rate technology (Deley et al., 1970). The DNA–DNA relatedness of RITF806T to RITF807 and RITF211 was 85.23 and 78.79 %, respectively, indicating that both strains belong to the same species. The DNA–DNA relatedness between RITF806T and reference strains Bradyrhizobium cytisi CTAW11T, B. huanghuaihaiense CCBAU 23303T, B. diaeoefficiens USDA 110T and ‘B. rifense’ CTAW71T were 58.11, 54.61, 53.45 and 51.89 %, respectively (Table 2), which are much lower than the threshold of 70 % recommended for species definition (Wayne et al., 1987).

The G+C content of DNA was determined by the thermal denaturation method (Mandel & Marmur, 1968). The values for strains RITF806T, RITF807 and RITF211 were 64.6, 65.2 and 62.8 mol % (Tm), respectively, which is within the range for members of the genus Bradyrhizobium.

Cellular fatty acids of strain RITF806T were assayed together with those of B. cytisi CTAW11T, B. diaeoefficiens USDA 110T and ‘B. rifense’ CTAW71T in order to examine differences between the novel strain and closely related species. The strains were cultured aerobically on YMA medium at 28 °C and cells were collected during the late-exponential phase of growth. Fatty acid methyl esters were prepared and separated using the method described by Sasser (1990) and identified with a MIDI Sherlock Microbial Identification System (Sherlock license CD version 6.0), using the TSBA6 database. A total of nine fatty acids or summed features were detected in strain RITF806T (Table 3). All tested strains contained the fatty acids anteiso-C15:0, anteiso-C17:0, C16:0 and summed feature 8 (C18:1ω9c/C18:1ω7c), but the percentages of these fatty acids varied (Table 3). Summed feature 8 and C16:0 were the two most abundant fatty acids in all tested strains, except for the B. cytisi CTAW11T, as reported previously for members of the genus Bradyrhizobium (Tighe et al., 2000).

The polar lipid profiles of cells of strain RITF806T were determined following the protocol described by Minnikin et al. (1984) and Zhang et al. (2012). The phospholipid profile is shown in Fig. S3. Strain RITF806T contained aminolipid, diphosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine, phosphatidylglycerol and an
Table 1. Range of percentage nucleotide identity within *Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense* sp. nov. and between *B. ganzhouense* strains and the type strains of other species of the genus *Bradyrhizobium* in the 16S rRNA gene and three protein-coding genes.

| Species                          | Gene*          | 16S rRNA | recA    | glnII   | atpD    |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Within *B. ganzhouense*†         |                | 99.9–100| 99.7–100| 98.6–100| 97.4–97.9|
| Between *B. ganzhouense* and:    |                |         |         |         |         |
| ’B. arachidis’                   |                | 99.4–99.5| 92.7–93.0| 93.3–93.5| 95.5–96.0|
| *B. betae*                       |                | 99.5–99.6| 92.2–92.7| 94.2–95.2| 96.0–96.3|
| *B. canariense*                  |                | 99.0     | 92.1–92.4| 95.2–95.6| 93.1–94.4|
| *B. cytisi*                      |                | 99.5–99.6| 91.8–92.1| 95.4–96.2| 92.9–94.2|
| *B. diazoefficiens*              |                | 99.6–99.7| 92.7–93.0| 96.0–97.0| 96.0–96.8|
| *B. elkanii*                     |                | 96.9–97.0| 89.9–90.1| 88.1–88.9| 92.1–92.6|
| *B. huanghuaihaiense*            |                | 99.3–99.4| 90.7–91.0| 96.0–96.4| 95.2–96.3|
| *B. japonicum*                   |                | 99.2–99.3| 91.8–92.1| 96.0–97.0| 93.1–93.7|
| *B. jicamae*                     |                | 97.0–97.1| 87.6–87.9| 86.9–87.7| 92.6–93.4|
| *B. lablabi*                     |                | 97.1–97.2| 89.9–90.1| 87.9–88.9| 91.5–92.6|
| *B. liaoningense*                |                | 99.3–99.4| 91.8–92.1| 94.4–95.0| 93.7–94.4|
| *B. oligotrophicum*              |                | 98.7–98.8| 87.6–87.9| 84.5–85.5| 91.0–91.8|
| *B. pachyrhizi*                  |                | 97.0–97.1| 89.0–89.3| 87.7–88.5| 92.3–92.9|
| ’B. rifense’                     |                | 99.9     | 92.1–92.4| 97.4–97.6| 96.0–96.8|
| *B. yuanmingense*                |                | 99.1–99.2| 91.3–91.5| 94.4–94.6| 92.6–93.7|
| E. *fredii*                      |                | 89.1     | 78.6–78.9| 85.9–86.1| 77.5–79.1|

*Length of the aligned regions (bp): 16S rRNA gene (1250), recA (355), glnII (497) and atpD (391).
†Three strains: RITF806T, RITF807 and RITF211.

Fig. 1. 16S rRNA gene neighbour-joining phylogenetic tree (1250 nt) showing the relationships between test strains of *Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense* sp. nov. and other species of the genus *Bradyrhizobium*. *Ensifer fredii* USDA 205T was used as an outgroup. The tree was derived from a distance matrix (Kimura’s two-parameter model). Bootstrap support values higher than 50% (calculated for 1000 subsets) are indicated at nodes. Bar, 0.01 expected changes per site.
unknown polar lipid with phosphatidylcholine and phosphatidylethanolamine as the major components (each representing about 40% of the total phospholipids).

Phenotypic characterization of the three test strains in this study was based on the API 20NE kit (bioMérieux), according to the manufacturer’s instructions, using YM-minus-mannitol as the basal medium. Carbon-source utilization was determined using a Biolog GN2 microplate (Gram-negative bacterial identification test panel), according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Tolerance to dyes, antibiotics and sodium chloride, and other characteristics were assessed as described by Gao et al. (1994). The combination of phenotypic features listed in Table 4 could be used to differentiate the novel strains from species of the genus *Bradyrhizobium* with validly published names.

Fig. 2. Maximum-likelihood tree based on partial concatenated sequences of recA (355 nt), glnII (497 nt) and atpD (391 nt) genes of *Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense* sp. nov. and closely related species within the genus *Bradyrhizobium*. *Ensifer fredii* USDA 205T was used as an outgroup. Bootstrap support values higher than 50% (calculated for 100 subsets) are indicated at nodes. Bar, 2 nt substitutions per 100 nt.

Table 2. DNA–DNA hybridization values within the novel species *Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense* sp. nov. and between these taxa and phylogenetically related species of the genus *Bradyrhizobium*

DNA G+C content data for *B. cytisi* was taken from Chahboune et al. (2011), data for *B. huanghuihaiens* from Zhang et al. (2012), data for *B. diazeofficiens* from Delamuta et al. (2013), data for ‘*B. rifense*’ from Chahboune et al. (2012), *B. canariense* from Vinuesa et al. (2005), *B. japonicum* from Yao et al. (2002) and *B. betae* from Rivas et al. (2004).

| Strain providing fixed DNA | DNA–DNA relatedness (%) with RITF806T | DNA G+C content* (mol%) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| RITF806T                  | 100                                   | 64.6                    |
| RITF807                   | 85.23                                 | 65.2                    |
| RITF211                   | 78.79                                 | 62.8                    |
| *B. cytisi* CTAW11T        | 58.11                                 | 65.1                    |
| *B. huanghuihaiens* CCBAU 23303T | 54.61                                 | 61.5                    |
| *B. diazeofficiens* USDA 110T | 53.45                                 | 63.9                    |
| ‘*B. rifense*’ CTAW71      | 51.89                                 | 62.7                    |
| *B. canariense* LMG 22265T | 38.95                                 | 63.8                    |
| *B. japonicum* USDA 6T     | 35.13                                 | 63.3                    |
| *B. betae* PL7HG1T         | 34.19                                 | 63.7                    |
Table 3. Fatty acid profiles of *Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense* sp. nov. RITF806<sup>T</sup> and related strains of members of the genus *Bradyrhizobium*

| Fatty acid         | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| anteiso-C<sub>11:0</sub> | –  | –  | 0.66 | –  | –  |
| anteiso-C<sub>12:0</sub> | –  | 0.33 | 1.56 | –  | –  |
| anteiso-C<sub>13:0</sub> | –  | 0.30 | 2.24 | –  | –  |
| C<sub>14:0</sub> | –  | 0.16 | –  | –  | 0.49 |
| anteiso-C<sub>14:0</sub> | 1.60 | 0.3 | 2.25 | 1.19 | 0.14 |
| anteiso-C<sub>15:0</sub> | –  | 0.28 | –  | –  | 1.08 |
| C<sub>16:0</sub> | 14.12 | 9.49 | 11.58 | 11.53 | 10.05 |
| anteiso-C<sub>16:0</sub> | 0.79 | –  | 0.94 | 0.50 | –  |
| C<sub>16:1ω5c</sub> | 2.99 | 10.62 | –  | 5.76 | 3.29 |
| C<sub>16:1ω11c</sub> | –  | 0.50 | –  | –  | –  |
| anteiso-C<sub>17:0</sub> | 0.93 | 0.17 | 1.17 | 0.67 | 0.12 |
| C<sub>17:0ω6cylo</sub> | –  | 0.38 | –  | –  | –  |
| C<sub>17:0ω6c</sub> | –  | –  | –  | –  | 1.02 |
| C<sub>17:0ω8c</sub> | –  | –  | –  | –  | 1.45 |
| C<sub>18:0</sub> | –  | 0.37 | 1.45 | –  | 0.85 |
| C<sub>18:1ω7c 11-methyl</sub> | 4.59 | 3.33 | –  | 0.76 | –  |
| C<sub>19:0ω6cylo ω8c</sub> | 3.62 | 7.07 | –  | 3.19 | 0.66 |
| Summed feature<sup>†</sup> | –  | –  | –  | –  | –  |
| 3 | 1.50 | 1.38 | –  | 2.24 | 1.17 |
| 8 | 68.49 | 65.33 | 76.43 | 73.08 | 75.92 |

<sup>†</sup>Data for *B. huanghaiense* was taken from Zhang et al. (2012).
<sup>†</sup>Summed feature 3 comprised C<sub>16:1ω6c/C16:1ω7c; summed feature 8 comprised C<sub>18:1ω6c/C18:1ω7c.</sup>

The newly isolated strains can be differentiated genotypically and phenotypically from previously described species and we therefore propose naming the new group *Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense* sp. nov.

**Description of Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense** sp. nov.

*Bradyrhizobium ganzhouense* (gan.zhou.en’se. N.L. neut. adj. ganzhouense of or belonging to Ganzhou City, Jiangxi Province, China).

Cells are Gram-negative, aerobic, non-spore-forming rods, 1.29–3.32 μm long and 0.50–0.60 μm wide. Colonies are circular, convex and translucent, 1–2 mm in diameter within 7 days of growth at 28 °C on YMA medium. Grows at pH 5–12, with optimum growth at pH 7.0. Growth occurs at 4 °C, 10 °C, 28 °C and 37 °C (optimally at 28 °C). Grows on YMA in the presence of 3 % NaCl. Cannot tolerate 60 °C for 10 min on YMA. No growth in Luria–Bertani broth. Positive for catalase, oxidase and urease production. Nitrate reduction, Nile blue reduction and methylthionine chloride reduction are negative. Uses Tween 80, D-fructose, α-D-glucose, D-mannitol, D-mannose, citric acid, methyl pyruvate, D-galactonic acid lactone, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucuronic acid, D-lactic acid, D-saccharic acid, succinic acid, D-alanine and glycerol as carbon sources. Does not grow on D-glucose, maltose, L-rhamnose, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine, N-acetyl-D-galactosamine, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine, i-erythritol, myo-inositol, α-lactose, lactulose, melibiose, raffinose, sucrose, xylitol, inosine, uridine or thymidine. Resistant to the following antibiotics (μg ml<sup>−1</sup>): erythromycin (100), kanamycin (100), neomycin sulfate (50), streptomycin (5), chloramphenicol (300), gentamicin (5) and tobramycin (100). Summed feature 8 (C<sub>18:1ω6c/C18:1ω7c; and C<sub>16:0</sub>) are the dominant fatty acids. The polar lipid profile contains aminolipid, diphosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine and phosphatidylglycerol. Can form effective nodules on its original host plant *Acacia melanoxylon* and other species including *Acacia aneura, Acacia victoriae* and *Acacia implexa*, but not *Medicago sativa, Pisum sativum, Trifolium albus* or *Vigna unguiculata*.

The type strain, RITF806<sup>T</sup> (≡CCBAU 101088<sup>T</sup>≡JCM 19881<sup>T</sup>), was isolated from effective nodules of *Acacia melanoxylon* R. Br. Its DNA G+C content is 64.6 mol% (T<sub>m</sub>).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We thank Dr Wen Feng Chen and Rui Wang of China Agricultural University for their valuable suggestions and experimental assistance. This study was supported by the Forest Commonwealth Foundation of the Chinese State Forestry Administration (grant no. 201004075).

**REFERENCES**

Bradbury, G. J., Potts, B. M. & Beadle, C. L. (2010). Quantifying phenotypic variation in wood colour in *Acacia melanoxylon* R.Br. *Forestry* 83, 153–162.
Chahboune, R., Carro, L., Peix, A., Barrijal, S., Velázquez, E. & Bedmar, E. J. (2011). *Bradyrhizobium cytisi* sp. nov., isolated from effective nodules of *Cytisus villosus*. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 61, 2922–2927.

Chahboune, R., Carro, L., Peix, A., Ramirez-Bahena, M. H., Barrijal, S., Velázquez, E. & Bedmar, E. J. (2012). *Bradyrhizobium rifense* sp. nov. isolated from effective nodules of *Cytisus villosus* grown in the Moroccan Rif. *Syst Appl Microbiol* 35, 302–305.

Chang, Y. L., Wang, J. Y., Wang, E. T., Liu, H. C., Suí, X. H. & Chen, W. X. (2011). *Bradyrhizobium lablabi* sp. nov., isolated from effective nodules of *Lablab purpureus* and *Arachis hypogaea*. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 61, 2496–2502.

Chen, W. P. & Kuo, T. T. (1993). A simple and rapid method for the preparation of Gram-negative bacterial genomic DNA. *Nucleic Acids Res* 21, 2260.

De Ley, J., Cattoir, H. & Reynaerts, A. (1970). The quantitative measurement of DNA hybridization from renaturation rates. *Eur J Biochem* 12, 133–142.

Delamuta, J. R. M., Ribeiro, R. A., OrmeñO-Orrillo, E., Melo, I. S., Martínez-Romero, E. & Hungria, M. (2013). Polyphasic evidence supporting the reclassification of *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* group Ia strains as *Bradyrhizobium diazoefficiens* sp. nov. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 63, 3342–3351.

DeLong, E. F. (1992). Archaea in coastal marine environments. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 89, 5685–5689.

Dou, Y., Lu, J., Kang, L., Wang, S., Jiang, Y. & Liao, S. (2012). [Biodiversity of Rhizobia associated with *Acacia melanoxylon* grown in South China]. *Wei Sheng Wu Xue Bao* 52, 1439–1448 (in Chinese with English abstract).

Gao, J. L., Sun, J. G., Li, Y., Wang, E. T. & Chen, W. X. (1994). Numerical taxonomy and DNA relatedness of tropical rhizobia isolated from Hainan Province, China. *Int J Syst Bacteriol* 44, 151–158.

Laguerre, G., Nour, S. M., Macheret, V., Sanjuan, J., Drouin, P. & Amarger, N. (2001). Classification of rhizobia based on *nodC* and *nifH* gene analysis reveals a close phylogenetic relationship among *Phaseolus vulgaris* symbionts. *Microbiology* 147, 981–993.

Mandel, M. & Marmur, J. (1968). Use of ultraviolet absorbance–temperature profile for determining the guanine plus cytosine content of DNA. *Methods Enzymol* 12B, 195–206.

Marmur, J. (1961). A procedure for the isolation of DNA from microorganisms. *J Mol Biol* 3, 208–218.

Minnikin, D. E., O’Donnell, A. G., Goodfellow, M., Alderson, G., Athalye, M., Schaal, A. & Parlett, J. H. (1984). An integrated procedure for the extraction of bacterial isoprenoid quinones and polar lipids. *J Microbiol Methods* 2, 233–241.

Rivas, R., Willems, A., Palomo, J. L., Garcia-Benavides, P., Mateos, P. F., Martínez-Molina, E., Gillis, M. & Velázquez, E. (2004). *Bradyrhizobium betae* sp. nov., isolated from roots of *Beta vulgaris* affected by tumour-like deformations. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 54, 1271–1275.

Sasser, M. (1990). *Identification of bacteria by gas chromatography of cellular fatty acids*, MIDI Technical Note 101. Newark, DE: MIDI Inc.

Searle, S. D. (2000). *Acacia melanoxylon*: a review of variation among planted trees. *Aust For* 63, 79–85.

Tighe, S. W., de Lajudie, P., Dipietro, K., Lindström, K., Nick, G. & Jarvis, B. D. W. (2000). Analysis of cellular fatty acids and phenotypic relationships of *Agrobacterium*, *Bradyrhizobium*, *Mesorhizobium*, *Rhizobium* and *Sinorhizobium* species using the Sherlock Microbial Identification System. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 50, 787–801.

Vincent, J. M. (1970). *A Manual for the Practical Study of Root-Nodule Bacteria*. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific.

Vinuesa, P., León-Barrios, M., Silva, C., Willems, A., Jarabo-Lorenzo, A., Pérez-Galdona, R., Werner, D. & Martínez-Romero, E. (2005). *Bradyrhizobium canariense* sp. nov., an acid-tolerant endosymbiont that nodulates endemic genistoid legumes (Papilionoideae: Genisteae) from the Canary Islands, along with *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* bv. *genistearum*, *Bradyrhizobium* genospecies alpha and *Bradyrhizobium* genospecies beta. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 55, 569–575.

Wayne, L. G., Brenner, D. J., Colwell, R. R., Grimont, P. A. D., Kandler, O., Krichevsky, M. I., Moore, L. H., Moore, W. E. C., Murray, R. G. E. & other authors (1987). International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology. Report of the ad hoc committee on reconciliation of approaches to bacterial systematics. *Int J Syst Bacteriol* 37, 463–464.

Yao, Z. Y., Kan, F. L., Wang, E. T., Wei, G. H. & Chen, W. X. (2002). Characterization of rhizobia that nodulate legume species of the genus *Lespedeza* and description of *Bradyrhizobium yuanmingense* sp. nov. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 52, 2219–2230.

Zhang, Y. M., Li, Y., Jr, Chen, W. F., Wang, E. T., Sui, X. H., Li, Q. Q., Zhang, Y. Z., Zhou, Y. G. & Chen, W. X. (2012). *Bradyrhizobium huanghuaihaisiense* sp. nov., an effective symbiotic bacterium isolated from soybean (*Glycine max* L.) nodules. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 62, 1951–1957.

http://ijs.sgmjournals.org

1905