publish this letter to reach other persons and organizations. I am aware of the difficulties of the problem and of the defects of our new terminology, and willing to accept any better suggestions. But I hope that I am not forced, by international disapproval or lack of cooperation, to fall back into the "leprous" nightmare and have to deal again with stigmas and superstitions.

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Elongation in vitro of M. lepraemurium

To the Editor:

Recently (The Journal 36 (1968) 83-86), under the title "Elongation in vitro of Mycobacterium lepraemurium as a distinction from Mycobacterium leprae," we reported results indicating that elongation in vitro may prove useful in easily distinguishing the two mycobacteria. In five out of seven authentic strains of M. lepraemurium, and in 10 other M. lepraemurium-like strains, elongation was observed, while, in contrast, in 30 strains of M. leprae (fresh tissue homogenates) elongation was not observed.

In the interval since our report, using the same cultural method, we have observed elongation with the two remaining authentic strains (Fukuoka and Keishiko) of M. lepraemurium from mouse preparations kindly sent to us by Dr. T. Mori. Thus all authenticated strains of M. lepraemurium have elongated in our hands.

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