VIRUS RESEARCH
An International Journal of Molecular and Cellular Virology

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Audience p.1
- Impact Factor p.1
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.5

DESCRIPTION

Virus Research provides a means of fast publication for original papers on fundamental research in virology. Contributions on new developments concerning virus structure, replication, pathogenesis and evolution are encouraged. These include reports describing virus morphology, the function and antigenic analysis of virus structural components, virus genome structure and expression, analysis on virus replication processes, virus evolution in connection with antiviral interventions, effects of viruses on their host cells, particularly on the immune system, and the pathogenesis of virus infections, including oncogene activation and transduction. The journal also publishes review articles on topics of current interest, special issues focused on a defined subject, and occasional book reviews and meeting reports.

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INTRODUCTION

*Virus Research* provides a means of fast publication for original papers on fundamental research in virology. Contributions on new developments concerning virus structure, replication, pathogenesis and evolution are encouraged. These include reports describing virus morphology, the function and antigenic analysis of virus structural components, virus genome structure and expression, analysis on virus replication processes, virus evolution in connection with antiviral interventions, effects of viruses on their host cells, particularly on the immune system, and the pathogenesis of virus infections, including oncogene activation and transduction. The journal also publishes review articles on topics of current interest, special issues focused on a defined subject, and occasional book reviews and meeting reports.

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In formal taxonomic usage, the first letters of virus order, family, subfamily, genus and species names are capitalized and the terms are printed in italics. Other words in the species names are not capitalized unless they are proper nouns or parts of nouns, for example West Nile virus. In formal usage, the name of the taxon should precede the term for the taxonomic unit; for example; "the family Paramyxoviridae," "the genus Morbillivirus." The following represent examples of full formal taxonomic terminology:

2. Family Poxviridae, subfamily Chordopoxvirinae, genus Orthopoxvirus, species Vaccinia virus.
3. Family Picornaviridae, genus Enterovirus, species Poliovirus.
4. Family Bunyaviridae, genus Tospovirus, species Tomato spotted wilt virus.

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In informal vernacular usage, virus order, family, subfamily, genus and species names are written in lower case Roman script: they are not capitalized, nor are they printed in italics or underlined. In informal usage, the name of the taxon should not include the formal suffix, and the name of the taxon should follow the term for the taxonomic unit; for example "the picornavirus family, the enterovirus genus." One particular source of ambiguity in vernacular nomenclature lies in the common use of the same root terms in formal family, genus or species names. Imprecision stems from not being able to easily identify in vernacular usage which hierarchical level is being cited. For example, the vernacular name "paramyxovirus" might refer to the family Paramyxoviridae, or one species in the genus Respirovirus, such as Human parainfluenza virus 1. The solution in vernacular usage is to avoid "jumping" hierarchical levels and to add taxon identification wherever needed. For example, when citing the taxonomic placement of Human parainfluenza virus 1, taxon identification should always be added: Human Parainfluenza virus 1 is a species in the genus Respirovirus, family Paramyxoviridae. In this example, as is usually the case, adding the information that this virus is also a member of the subfamily Paramyxovirinae and the order Mononegavirales is unnecessary.

It should be stressed that italics and capital initial letters need be used only if the species name refers to the taxonomic category. When the name refers to viral objects such as virions present in a preparation or seen in an electron micrograph, italics and capital initial letters are not needed and the names are written in lower case Roman script. This also applies when the names are used in adjectival form, for instance tobacco mosaic virus polymerase. The use of italics when referring to the name of a species as a taxonomic entity signals that it has the status of an officially recognized species. Please consult: Viral Taxonomy. Ninth Report of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) by Andrew M. Q. King, Elliot J. Lefkowitz, Michael J. Adams and Eric. B. Carstens (October 2011) to ascertain which names have been approved as official species names. When the taxonomic status of a new putative species is uncertain or its position within an established genus has not been clarified, it is considered a tentative species and its name is not written in italics although its initial letter is capitalized.
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