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**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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**Formal taxonomic nomenclature**

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 *Morbillovirus.*" 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*.

**Vernacular Taxonomic Nomenclature**

In formal 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 terms in 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
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taxonomic status of a new putative species is uncertain or its position within an established genus has
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