

**Part 1:** **TITLE, AUTHORS, APPROVALS, etc**

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| **Code assigned:** | ***2023.017D*** |  |
| **Short title:** Renaming of poxvirus species to the binomial format | | |
|  | | |

**Author(s) and email address(es)**

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**Author(s) institutional address(es) (optional)**

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**Corresponding author**

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| Colin J McInnes |

**List the ICTV Study Group(s) that have seen this proposal**

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| Poxviridae Study Group |

**ICTV Study Group comments and response of proposer**

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| The Study Group discussed the mandate of the ICTV to rename all virus species to a binomial format and the principles they wished to follow in arriving at the new species names. The process was iterative with approvals being sought from the study group for each of the new species names. This proposal represents the consensus view of the Poxviridae Study Group. |

**ICTV Study Group votes on proposal**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study Group** | **Number of members** | | |
| **Votes support** | **Votes against** | **No vote** |
| Poxviridae | 12 | 0 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |

**Authority to use the name of a living person**

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| --- | --- |
| **Is any taxon name used here derived from that of a living person (Y/N)** | N |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Taxon name** | **Person from whom the name is derived** | **Permission attached (Y/N)** |
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**Submission dates**

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| --- | --- |
| Date first submitted to SC Chair | June 2023 |
| Date of this revision (if different to above) |  |

**ICTV-EC comments and response of the proposer**

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**Part 2:** **NON-TAXONOMIC PROPOSAL**

**Text of proposal**

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**Part 3:** **TAXONOMIC PROPOSAL**

**Name of accompanying Excel module**

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| --- |
| 2023.017D.N.v1. Poxviridae\_55renam.xlsx |

**Abstract**

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| Here we propose new names for all species of family *Poxviridae* following the ICTV request to change all established species names to a standardized binomial format |

**Text of proposal**

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| |  | | --- | | In March 2021, the ICTV ratified TaxoProp 2018.001G.R.binomial\_species, which requires all virus species names to follow a new codified rule:    "A species name shall consist of only two distinct word components separated by a space. The first word component shall begin with a capital letter and be identical in spelling to the name of the genus to which the species belongs. The second word component shall not contain any suffixes specific for taxa of higher ranks. The entire species name (both word components) shall be italicized."    This rule requires most established species names to be changed. Here, we propose to change the names of species from the family *Poxviridae* in accordance with this rule. Following meetings among its members, the *Poxviridae* study group chose to use a freeform epithet using the following guiding principles:    ⦁ a link with the previous species name should be maintained where possible  ⦁ where appropriate the suffix “pox” should be added to the second of the words in the binomial to indicate the disease manifestation which led to the discovery of the virus  ⦁ where the common name of the host species in which the virus was first discovered is not sufficient to delineate from a closely related virus species the scientific name of the host species should be used to construct the second word in the binomial | |

**Supporting evidence**

**References**