



This form should be used for all taxonomic proposals. Please complete all those modules that are applicable (and then delete the unwanted sections). For guidance, see the notes written in blue and the separate document "Help with completing a taxonomic proposal"

Please try to keep related proposals within a single document; you can copy the modules to create more than one genus within a new family, for example.

MODULE 1: **TITLE, AUTHORS, etc**

<b>Code assigned:</b>	<b>2016.018aM</b>	(to be completed by ICTV officers)
<b>Short title:</b> Rename two (2) species in the genus <i>Novirhabdovirus</i> (e.g. 6 new species in the genus <i>Zetavirus</i> )		
<b>Modules attached</b> (modules 1 and 11 are required)	6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/>	

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**List the ICTV study group(s) that have seen this proposal:**

A list of study groups and contacts is provided at <http://www.ictvonline.org/subcommittees.asp> . If in doubt, contact the appropriate subcommittee chair (fungal, invertebrate, plant, prokaryote or vertebrate viruses)

***Rhabdoviridae* Study Group**

**ICTV Study Group comments (if any) and response of the proposer:**

The proposal is supported by 11 of the Study Group members. ! member did not respond.

Date first submitted to ICTV:

July 18, 2016

Date of this revision (if different to above):

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

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MODULE 9: **RENAME**

Use this module to change the name of one or more existing taxa (but note that stability of nomenclature is encouraged wherever possible). Insert extra lines in the table if needed.

Renaming one or more taxa

Code	<b>2016.018aM</b>	(assigned by ICTV officers)
<b>To rename the following taxon (or taxa):</b>		
<b>Current species name</b>	<b>Proposed species name</b>	
<i>Oncorhynchus 1 novirhabdovirus</i>	<i>Salmonid novirhabdovirus</i>	
<i>Oncorhynchus 2 novirhabdovirus</i>	<i>Piscine novirhabdovirus</i>	

**Reasons to justify the renaming:**

Explain why the taxon (or taxa) should be renamed

The fish virus species names *Oncorhynchus 1 novirhabdovirus* and *Oncorhynchus 2 novirhabdovirus* were new names first introduced by the ICTV in 2016. They replaced the previous species names *Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus* and *Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus*, respectively, in a move to introduce non-Latinized binomial species names by the ICTV *Rhabdoviridae* Study Group. Upon consideration of fish rhabdovirus experts, these two new names were found not to be ideal because the common species epithet "*Oncorhynchus*" indicates salmon and trout of similar or the same fish species as hosts for viruses of both virus species. That assumption may be misleading. As extensive marine and freshwater surveys have shown that viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV, species *Oncorhynchus 2 novirhabdovirus*) naturally infects marine and freshwater fish of over 60 species of very diverse fish families. In actuality, controlled laboratory challenge studies have repeatedly shown that fish of the *Oncorhynchus* genus are among the most refractory to the great majority of VHSV isolates, which are from the marine environment. The association of VHSV with oncorhynchid fish is true for only one lineage of the global VHSV phylogeny that is due to a host jump of the virus from marine fish into cultured rainbow trout in the 1950s. . Thus, the need for a new virus species name was a lost opportunity to correct the outdated idea that VHSV is a bona fide trout virus. With our more global state of knowledge there is no fish host family that is reflective of the VHSV host range because it is unique among known fish novirhabdoviruses in having an exceptionally wide host range. The new name suggested here reflects that feature in that "*Piscine novirhabdovirus*". In contrast, viruses belonging to the species *Oncorhynchus 1 novirhabdovirus* (former *Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus*) have a well-documented specificity for salmonids (trout and salmon), including those assigned to the fish genera *Oncorhynchus*, *Salmo*, and *Salvelinus*. Thus the proposed virus species name "*Salmonid novirhabdovirus*" reflects this more narrow host range of species members, and accurately contrasts with the wider host range indicated by the other proposed new species name, *Piscine novirhabdovirus*.