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**

Code assigned:	***2015.043a-dB***	(to be completed by ICTV officers)

Short title: To create one (1) new genus, *Ap22virus*, including four (4) species within the family *Myoviridae*.
(e.g. 6 new species in the genus *Zetavirus*)

Modules attached (modules 1 and 10 are required)	**1** ☒	**2** ☒	**3** ☒	**4** ☐	**5** ☐
	6 ☐	**7** ☐	**8** ☐	**9** ☐	**10** ☒

Author(s):

Andrew M. Kropinski – University of Guelph (Canada)
Evelien M. Adriaenssens – University of Pretoria (South Africa)

Corresponding author with e-mail address:

Andrew M. Kropinski Phage.Canada@gmail.com

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)	

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

Please note that we have chosen to refer to this new genus as *Ap22virus* rather than *Ap22likevirus* since the Bacterial and Archaeal Virus Subcommittee of ICTV has voted overwhelmingly in favour of eliminating "*like*" and "*Phi*" from phage genus names.

Date first submitted to ICTV: June 2015
Date of this revision (if different to above):

ICTV-EC comments and response of the proposer:

MODULE 2: **NEW SPECIES**

creating and naming one or more new species.

If more than one, they should be a group of related species belonging to the same genus. All new species must be placed in a higher taxon. This is usually a genus although it is also permissible for species to be "unassigned" within a subfamily or family. Wherever possible, provide sequence accession number(s) for **one** isolate of each new species proposed.

Code	***2015.043aB***	(assigned by ICTV officers)

To create 4 new species within:

Genus:	***Ap22virus (new)***
Subfamily:	
Family:	***Myoviridae***
Order:	***Caudovirales***

Fill in all that apply.

- If the higher taxon has yet to be created (in a later module, below) write "**(new)**" after its proposed name.
- If no genus is specified, enter "**unassigned**" in the genus box.

Name of new species:	**Representative isolate: (only 1 per species please)**	**GenBank sequence accession number(s)**
Acinetobacter virus AbC62	Acinetobacter phage YMC-13-01-C62	KJ817802
Acinetobacter virus AB2	Acinetobacter phage vB_AbaM-IME-AB2	JX976549
Acinetobacter virus AB1	Acinetobacter phage AB1	HM368260
Acinetobacter virus AP22	Acinetobacter phage AP22	HE806280

Reasons to justify the creation and assignment of the new species:

- Explain how the proposed species differ(s) from all existing species.
  - If species demarcation criteria (see module 3) have previously been defined for the genus, **explain how the new species meet these criteria**.
  - If criteria for demarcating species need to be defined (because there will now be more than one species in the genus), please state the proposed criteria.
- Further material in support of this proposal may be presented in the Appendix, Module 9

These four lytic myoviruses infect the important nosocomial pathogen, *Acinetobacter baumannii* and were isolated in China, Korea and Russia. The only virus which has been characterized microscopically is phage vB_AbaM-IME-AB2 (4). "IME-AB2 consisted of an icosahedral head and a contractile tail. The total length of the phage from the top of the head to the bottom of the tail was about 160 nm, with the head measuring approximately 61.2 nm, and the tail about 90 nm." (4). (Fig. 1)

The phages of this genus possess genome of approx. 45 kb (37.6 mol%G+C), and encode 85 proteins and 0 tRNAs (Table 1). Relative to each other these share an average of 53% overall DNA sequence identity; and, 64% homologous proteins. Compared to other proposed phage genera these values are low, but are confirmed by the phylogenetic relationship shown in Fig. 3A and Fig. 3B.

We have chosen 95% DNA sequence identity as the criterion for demarcation of species in this new genus. Each of the proposed species differs from the others with more than 5% at the DNA

level as confirmed with the BLASTN algorithm.

Please note that we have chosen to refer to this new genus as *Ap22virus* rather than *Ap22likevirus* since the Bacterial and Archaeal Virus Subcommittee of ICTV has voted overwhelmingly in favour of eliminating "*like*" and "*Phi*" from phage genus names.

MODULE 3: **NEW GENUS**

creating a new genus

Ideally, a genus should be placed within a higher taxon.

Code	***2015.043bB***	(assigned by ICTV officers)

To create a new genus within:

Subfamily:	
Family:	***Myoviridae***
Order:	***Caudovirales***

Fill in all that apply.

- If the higher taxon has yet to be created (in a later module, below) write "**(new)**" after its proposed name.
- If no family is specified, enter "**unassigned**" in the family box

naming a new genus

Code	***2015.043cB***	(assigned by ICTV officers)

To name the new genus: *Ap22virus*

Assigning the type species and other species to a new genus

Code	***2015.043dB***	(assigned by ICTV officers)

To designate the following as the type species of the new genus

Acinetobacter virus AP22

Every genus must have a type species. This should be a well characterized species although not necessarily the first to be discovered

The new genus will also contain any other new species created and assigned to it (Module 2) and any that are being moved from elsewhere (Module 7b). **Please enter here the TOTAL number of species (including the type species) that the genus will contain:**

4

Reasons to justify the creation of a new genus:

Additional material in support of this proposal may be presented in the Appendix, Module 9

BLASTN and phylogenetic analyses (Fig. 3; 3) all indicate that the proposed genus, *Ap22virus*, is cohesive and distinct from the other genera of viruses.

Origin of the new genus name:

Named after the first phage of its type to be deposited in GenBank: *Acinetobacter* phage AP22

Reasons to justify the choice of type species:

First phage of its type to be deposited in GenBank

Species demarcation criteria in the new genus:

If there will be more than one species in the new genus, list the criteria being used for species demarcation and explain how the proposed members meet these criteria.

We have chosen 95% DNA sequence identity as the criterion for demarcation of species in this new genus. Each of the proposed species differs from the others with more than 5% at the DNA level as confirmed with the BLASTN algorithm.

MODULE 10: **APPENDIX**: supporting material

additional material in support of this proposal

References:

1. Darling AE, Mau B, Perna NT. progressiveMauve: multiple genome alignment with gene gain, loss and rearrangement. PLoS One. 2010; 5(6):e11147.

2. Turner D, Reynolds D, Seto D, Mahadevan P. CoreGenes3.5: a webserver for the determination of core genes from sets of viral and small bacterial genomes. BMC Res Notes. 2013; 6:140.

3. Dereeper A, Guignon V, Blanc G, Audic S, Buffet S, Chevenet F, Dufayard JF, Guindon S, Lefort V, Lescot M, Claverie JM, Gascuel O. Phylogeny.fr: robust phylogenetic analysis for the non-specialist. Nucleic Acids Res. 2008; 36(Web Server issue):W465-9. 4.

4. Peng F, Mi Z, Huang Y, Yuan X, Niu W, Wang Y, Hua Y, Fan H, Bai C, Tong Y. Characterization, sequencing and comparative genomic analysis of vB_AbaM-IME-AB2, a novel lytic bacteriophage that infects multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* clinical isolates. BMC Microbiol. 2014;14:181.

5. Li P, Chen B, Song Z, Song Y, Yang Y, Ma P, Wang H, Ying J, Ren P, Yang L, Gao G, Jin S, Bao Q, Yang H. Bioinformatic analysis of the *Acinetobacter baumannii* phage AB1 genome. Gene. 2012 Oct 10;507(2):125-34.

Annex:

Include as much information as necessary to support the proposal, including diagrams comparing the old and new taxonomic orders. The use of Figures and Tables is strongly recommended but direct pasting of content from publications will require permission from the copyright holder together with appropriate acknowledgement as this proposal will be placed on a public web site. For phylogenetic analysis, try to provide a tree where branch length is related to genetic distance.

Table 1. Properties of the two phage belonging to the genus *Ap22virus*.

Phage	GenBank accession No.	Genome length (kb)	Genome (mol%G+C)	No. CDS	No. tRNAs	% DNA Sequence Identity*	% homologous proteins**
AP22	HE806280	46.39	37.7	89	0	100	100
IME-AB2	JX976549	43.67	37.5	82	0	49	64.0
AB1	HM368260	45.16	37.7	85	0***	56	61.8
YMC-13-01-C62	KJ817802	44.84	37.6	84	0	53	65.4

* Determined using BLASTN; ** Determined using CoreGenes (2); *** contrary to what is stated in the manuscript.

Table 2. Similar phages to YMC-13-01-C62, which should be considered strains.

Phage	GenBank Accession No.
YMC11/12/R1215	KP861231
YMC11/12/R2315	KP861229

Fig. 1. Electron micrograph of *Acinetobacter* phage IME-AB2 negatively stained with phosphotungstic acid (2).

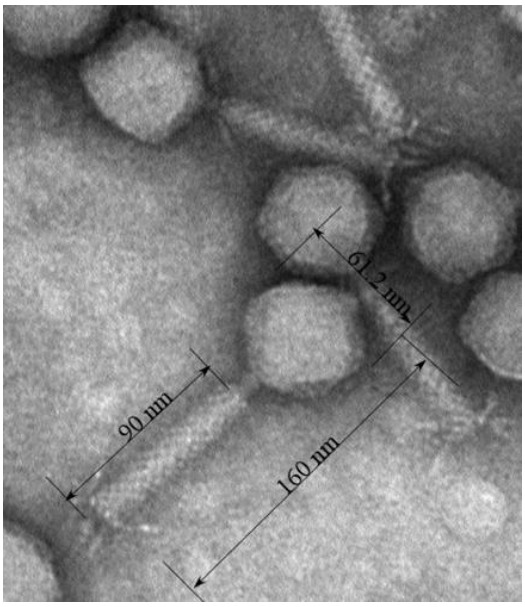

Fig. 2. progressiveMauve alignment of the annotated genomes of *Acinetobacter* phages top to bottom: AB1, AP22, IME-AB2 and YMC-13-01-C62 (1). Colored blocks indicate the regions of 1 to 1 best alignment with rearrangement breakpoints in a different random color. The degree of sequence similarity between regions is given by a similarity plot within the colored blocks with the height of the plot proportional to the average nucleotide identity (Aaron Darling, personal communication). Please note that these genomes are not collinear.

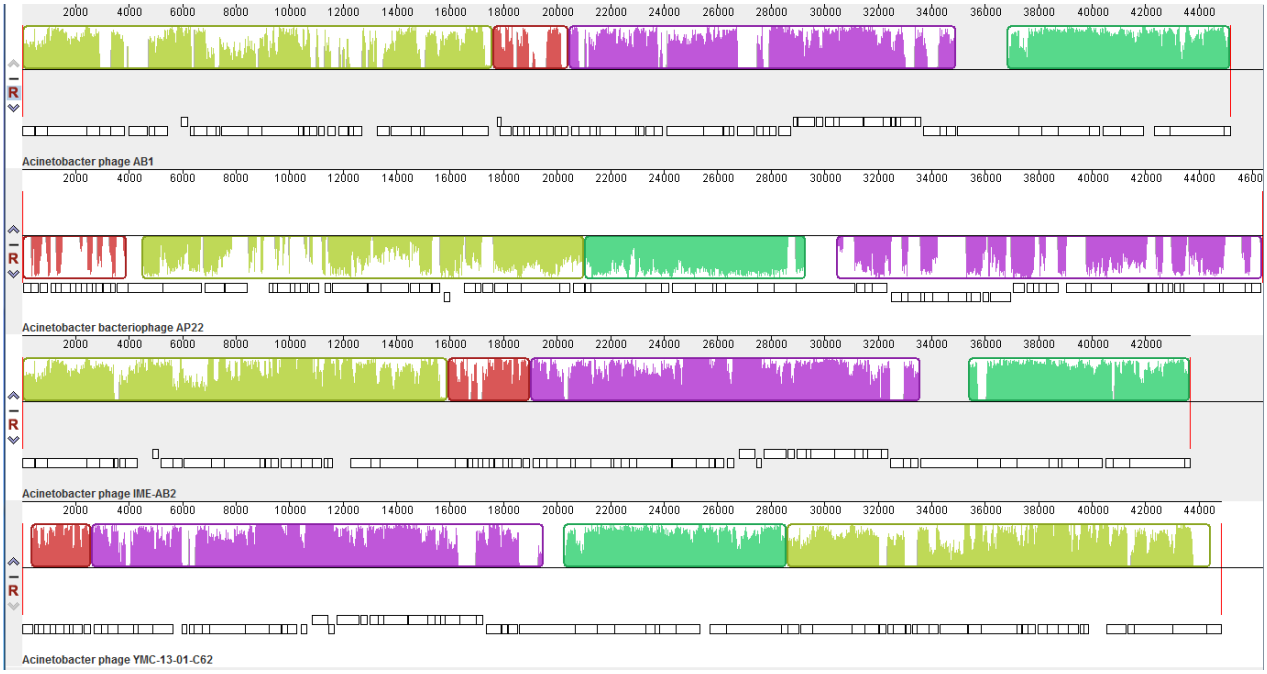

Fig. 3. Phylogenetic analysis of (A).the major capsid protein; and, (B) baseplate J protein of xxx-like viruses and some related phages constructed using "one click" at phylogeny.fr (1). "The "One Click mode" targets users that do not wish to deal with program and parameter selection. By default, the pipeline is already set up to run and connect programs recognized for their accuracy and speed (MUSCLE for multiple alignment and PhyML for phylogeny) to reconstruct a robust phylogenetic tree from a set of sequences." It also includes the use of Gblocks to eliminate poorly aligned positions and divergent regions. "The usual bootstrapping procedure is replaced by a new confidence index that is much faster to compute. See: Anisimova M., Gascuel O. Approximate likelihood ratio test for branches: A fast, accurate and powerful alternative (Syst Biol. 2006;55(4):539-52.) for details."

A. Major capsid protein

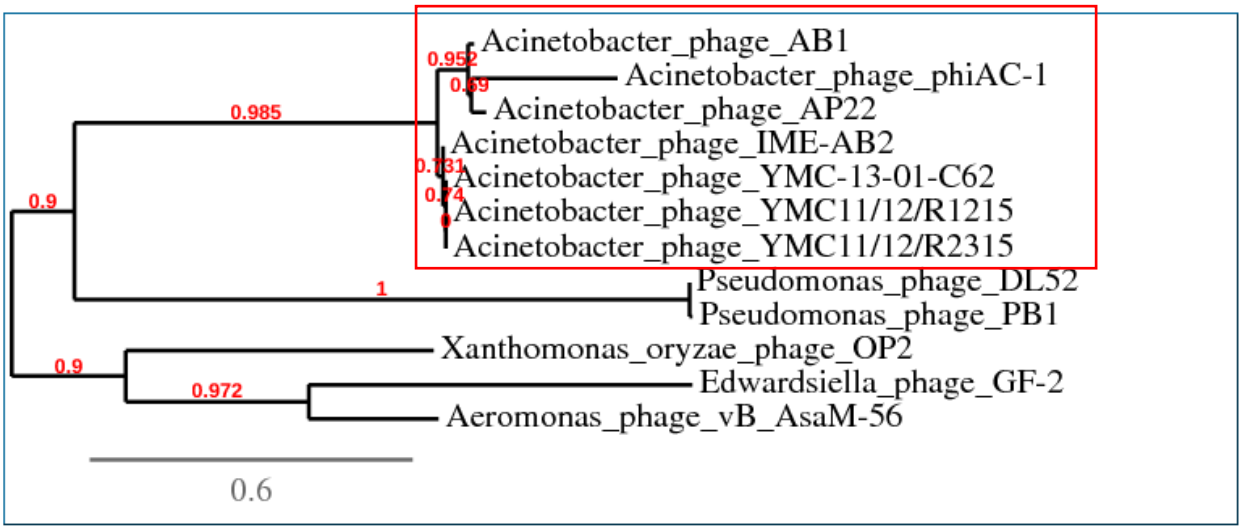

Figure 1: *Phylogenetic tree (the branch length is proportional to the number of substitutions per site).*

B. Baseplate J protein

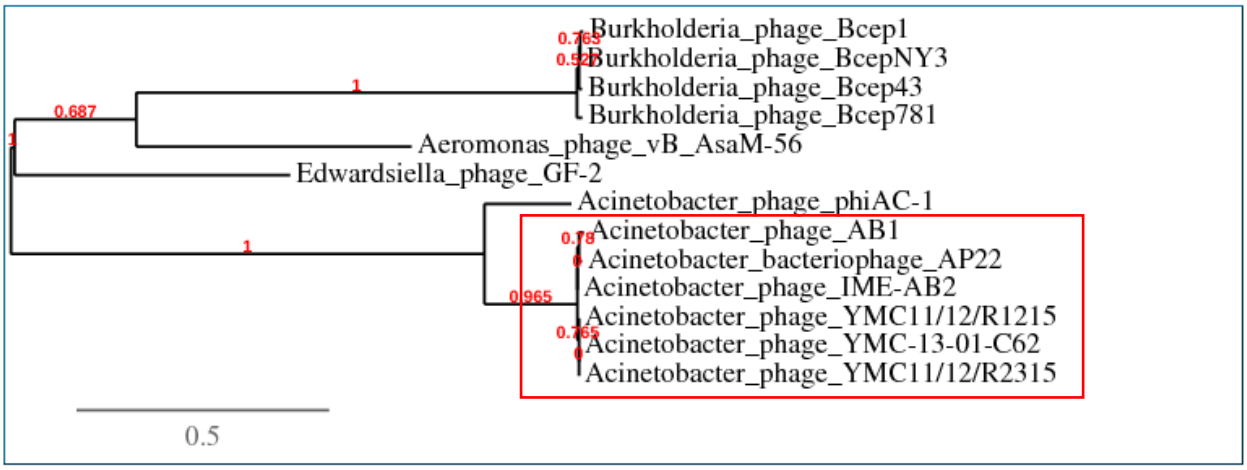

Figure 1: *Phylogenetic tree (the branch length is proportional to the number of substitutions per site).*