

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

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| **Code assigned:** | **2021.036M** |  |
| **Short title:** Rename all 249 existing rhabdovirus species (*Mononegavirales*: *Rhabdoviridae*) | | |
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**Author(s) and email address(es)**

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| Walker PJ, Freitas-Astúa J, Bejerman N, Blasdell KR, Dietzgen RG, Fooks A, Kondo H, Kurath G, Kuzmin IV, Ramos-González PL, Shi M, Tesh RB, Tordo N, Vasilakis N, Whitfield AE | [peter.walker@uq.edu.au](mailto:peter.walker@uq.edu.au); [juliana.astua@embrapa.br](mailto:juliana.astua@embrapa.br); [nicobejerman@gmail.com](mailto:nicobejerman@gmail.com); [kim.blasdell@csiro.au](mailto:kim.blasdell@csiro.au); [r.dietzgen@uq.edu.au](mailto:r.dietzgen@uq.edu.au); [tony.fooks@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tony.fooks@apha.gsi.gov.uk); [hkondo@rib.okayama-u.ac.jp](mailto:hkondo@rib.okayama-u.ac.jp); [gkurath@usgs.gov](mailto:gkurath@usgs.gov); [ivkuzmin@yandex.ru](mailto:ivkuzmin@yandex.ru); [plrg1970@gmail.com](mailto:plrg1970@gmail.com); [shim23@mail.sysu.edu.cn](mailto:shim23@mail.sysu.edu.cn); [rtesh@utmb.edu](mailto:rtesh@utmb.edu); [ntordo@pasteur.fr](mailto:ntordo@pasteur.fr); [nivasila@utmb.edu](mailto:nivasila@utmb.edu); [awhitfi@ncsu.edu](mailto:awhitfi@ncsu.edu) |

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

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**Corresponding author**

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| Peter Walker, Juliana Freitas Astúa (co-chairs) |

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

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| *Rhabdoviridae* SG |

**ICTV study group comments and response of proposer**

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| The proposal has been prepared in consultation with and the support from all members of the *Rhabdoviridae* SG. For plant rhabdoviruses, we adopt Latinisation as the best option for converting multi-word species names often with references to both hoist and disease. For animal rhabdoviruses, we adopt freeform as it provides simple and easily recognizable conversion from most current species names.  One issue was debated in some detail. Some animal rhabdovirus names include the name of the host species (e.g., Drosophila melanogaster sigmavirus) and in these cases we “adopt” the host species epithet for the virus species name (e.g., *Sigmavirus melanogaster*). This raises the issue of whether there is a need for gender adjustment to comply with the neuter noun (e.g., *Sigmavirus melanogastrum*). On the one hand, this is argued to be a correct expression of Latinisation. On the other hand, it is argued this is not intended to be Latinisation but a freeform adoption of a component of the host species name, and so consistent with the default option of freeform for animal rhabdoviruses. The importance of this is to ensure the species name maintains a direct connection with both the host species name and the previous species name. It is also a concern that most authors/reviewers/editors will not recognize or adhere to the gender adjustment causing unnecessary confusion in the literature.  A poll taken on this issue by the SG resulted in a split vote (8/5), clearly in favor of no gender adjustment. Significantly, the votes reflected ethnic/cultural background of SG members - Latin/Euro vs British/American/Asia-Pacific. It was also significant that most plant virologists voted for correct grammar and most animal virologists voted for the direct transposition of the epithet as an expression of freeform.  As the issue related only to some animal rhabdovirus species, we have adopted this as an expression of the freeform option with no gender adjustment. |

**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 | 28 May 2021 |
| 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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| 2021.036M.Ac.v1.Rhabdoviridae\_sprename |

**Abstract**

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| We propose to rename all 249 existing rhabdovirus species to conform with the approved binomial format. |

**Text of proposal**

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| |  | | --- | | We have selected binomial species names to conform with the approved binomial format, with the genus name followed by either freeform or Latinised species epithets, as considered most appropriate in each specific case.  For animal rhabdoviruses, freeform species epithets have been used primarily as they provide a simple and easily identifiable conversion from the current species names, many of which are already binomials (e.g., *Rabies lyssavirus* → *Lyssavirus rabies*, *Indiana vesiculovirus* → *Vesiculovirus indiana*, etc). In some other cases, the geographic location of first the virus isolation has provided the most suitable solution (e.g., *European bat 1 lyssavirus* → *Lyssavirus hamburg*). A Latinised species epithet has been used when the virus species name has adopted a component of the source host species name (e.g., *Drosophila melanogaster sigmavirus* → *Sigmavirus melanogaster*).  For plant rhabdoviruses, Latinised species epithets have been used as they appear to be the best solution for the many plant viruses with multi-word virus names that include both the source host and the disease (e.g., *Potato yellow dwarf alphanucleorhabdovirus* → *Alphanucleorhabdovirus tuberosum*). | |

**Supporting evidence**

**References**