

The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses

Taxonomy Proposal Form, 2025

**Part 1a: Details of taxonomy proposals**

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| **Title:**  | Create a new genus (*Motookavirus*) with two species in the Class *Caudoviricetes* |
| **Code assigned:**  | 2025.046B.Ac.v3.Motookavirus\_1ng\_2ns |

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| **Author(s), affiliation and email address(es):**  |
| **Given name (+middle initial(s))** | **Surname** | **Affiliation**  | **Email address**  | **Corr. author(s)**  |
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| Hany | Anany | Guelph Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Guelph, Ontario, Canada | hany.anany@agr.gc.ca | X |

**Part 1b: Taxonomy Proposal Submission**

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| **ICTV Subcommittee:**  |
| Animal DNA Viruses and Retroviruses |  | Bacterial viruses | **x** |
| xAnimal minus-strand and dsRNA viruses |  | Fungal and protist viruses |  |
| Animal positive-strand RNA viruses |  | Plant viruses |  |
| Archaeal viruses |  | General - |  |

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| **List the ICTV Study Group(s) that have seen or have been involved in creating this proposal:** <https://ictv.global/sc> |
| Caudoviricetes Study Group |

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| **Optional – complete only if formally voted on by an ICTV Study Group:**  |
| **Study Group** | **Number of members** |
| **Votes in support** | **Votes against** | **No vote** |
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| **Submission date:** |  15/06/2025 |

**Part 1c: Feedback from ICTV Executive Committee (EC) meeting**

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| **Executive Committee Meeting Decision code:** | **X** |
| A – Accept |  |
| Ac – Accept subject to revision by relevant subcommittee chair. No further vote required | **x** |
| U – Accept without revision but with re-evaluation and email vote by the EC |  |
| Uc – Accept subject to revision and re-evaluation and email vote by the EC |  |
| Ud – Deferred to the next EC meeting, with an invitation to revise based on EC comments |  |
| J - Reject |  |
| W - Withdrawn |  |

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| **Comments from the Executive Committee:** |
| The genbank record should be publicly available to move to Accept. Please also improve the quality of the abstract. |

**Part 1d: Revised Taxonomy Proposal Submission**

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| **Response of proposer:**  |
| Requested changes have been made to the text. GenBank numbers are now released |

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| **Revision date:** | 2025-08-27 |

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

<https://ictv.global/taxonomy/templates>

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| **Taxonomic changes proposed:**  |
| Establish new taxon | **x** | Split taxon |  |
| Abolish taxon |  | Merge taxon |  |
| Move taxon |  | Promote taxon |  |
| Rename taxon |  | Demote taxon |  |
| Move and rename |  |

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| **Etymology (origin) of proposed taxonomic names:**  |
| **Taxon name**  | **Etymology of the term** |
| **Motookavirus** | **Named after the municipality in Itoshima district, Fukuoka prefecture, Japan where at Katsumi Doi Kyushu University the first virus of its type was isolated** |

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| **Permission for use of names derived from a living person:**  |
| **Taxon name** | **Full name of person from whom the name is derived** | **Attached**  |
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| **Abstract of Taxonomy Proposal:**  |
| *Taxonomic rank(s) affected*: Genus and species*Description of current taxonomy*: None for these phages*Proposed* *taxonomic change(s):* To create a new genus (*Motookavirus*) containing two species*Justification*: In accordance with the demarcation criteria of what constitutes a new genus and species these two *Bacillus cereus* phages are classified into a new genus (Motookavirus) of jumbo phages |

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| * **Text of Taxonomy proposal:**
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| *Taxonomic rank(s) affected*: Genus, species*Description of current taxonomy*: None exists for these phages*Proposed* *taxonomic change(s)*: To create a new genus (*Motookavirus*) containing two species*Demarcation criteria:* **Species demarcation criteria**: Two phages are assigned to the same species if their genomes are more than 95% identical over their genome length for isolates. These values can be calculated by a number of tools, such as BLASTn [1] – usually calculated using intergenomic distance calculator VIRIDIC [2].**Genus demarcation criteria:** In search for criteria that create cohesive and distinct genera that are reproducible and monophyletic, the Bacterial Viruses Subcommittee has established 70% nucleotide identity of the genome length as the cut-off for genera. Genus-level groupings should always be monophyletic in the signature genes, as tested with a phylogenetic tree [8]. *Justification*: In accordance with ICTV criteria for defining new genera and species [3], these two *Bacillus cereus* jumbo phages are sufficiently distinct from other phages to justify classification into a new genus (Motookavirus) of jumbo phages  |

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| **References:**  |
| 1. Sayers EW, Beck J, Bolton EE, Bourexis D, Brister JR, Canese K, Comeau DC, Funk K, Kim S, Klimke W, Marchler-Bauer A, Landrum M, Lathrop S, Lu Z, Madden TL, O'Leary N, Phan L, Rangwala SH, Schneider VA, Skripchenko Y, Wang J, Ye J, Trawick BW, Pruitt KD, Sherry ST. Database resources of the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Nucleic Acids Res. 2021 Jan 8;49(D1):D10-D17. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkaa892. PMID: 330958702. Moraru C, Varsani A, Kropinski AM. VIRIDIC-A Novel Tool to Calculate the Intergenomic Similarities of Prokaryote-Infecting Viruses. Viruses. 2020 Nov 6;12(11):1268. doi: 10.3390/v12111268. PMID: 33172115; PMCID: PMC7694805. http://kronos.icbm.uni-oldenburg.de/viridic/ 3. Turner D, Kropinski AM, Adriaenssens EM. A Roadmap for Genome-Based Phage Taxonomy. Viruses. 2021 Mar 18;13(3):506. doi: 10.3390/v13030506. PMID: 33803862; PMCID: PMC8003253.4. Nishimura Y, Yoshida T, Kuronishi M, Uehara H, Ogata H, Goto S. ViPTree: the viral proteomic tree server. Bioinformatics. 2017; 33(15):2379-2380. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btx157. PubMed PMID: 28379287. https://www.genome.jp/viptree/ 5. Rohwer F, Edwards R. The Phage Proteomic Tree: a genome-based taxonomy for phage. J Bacteriol. 2002 Aug;184(16):4529-35. PubMed PMID: 121424236. Lemoine F, Correia D, Lefort V, Doppelt-Azeroual O, Mareuil F, Cohen-Boulakia S, Gascuel O. NGPhylogeny.fr: new generation phylogenetic services for non-specialists. Nucleic Acids Res. 2019 Jul 2;47(W1):W260-W265. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkz303. PMID: 31028399; PMCID: PMC6602494.7. Letunic I, Bork P. Interactive Tree Of Life (iTOL) v5: an online tool for phylogenetic tree display and annotation. Nucleic Acids Res. 2021 Jul 2;49(W1):W293-W296. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab301. PMID: 33885785; PMCID: PMC8265157.8. Turner D, Kropinski AM, Adriaenssens EM. A Roadmap for Genome-Based Phage Taxonomy. Viruses. 2021 Mar 18;13(3):506. doi: 10.3390/v13030506. PMID: 33803862; PMCID: PMC8003253   |

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| **Accompanying files:**  |
| **Filename** | **Description of contents** |
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| **Tables, Figures:**  |

**Table 1.** Characteristics of the phages described in the proposal

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| **Phage name** | **Host** | **Morphotype** | **Lifestyle** | **Accession No.** | **Genome size** | **No. proteins** | **No. tRNA** |
| Bacillus phage Edson | *Bacillus cereus* | Myovirus | Lytic | PV796108 | 233813 bp | 308 | 0 |
| Bacillus phage vB\_BceM\_WH1 | *Bacillus cereus* | Myovirus | Lytic | LC597490.1 | 229829 bp | 300 | 0 |

**Figure 1:** ViPTree analysis (https://www.genome.jp/viptree/; [4]) is based upon Rohwer and Edwards (2002) famous Phage Proteomic Tree [5]. The phages of interest are indicated with **red arrowhead**.



**Figure 2.** The phylogenetic tree was constructed using the major capsid proteins from these and related phages with NGPhylogeny.fr in “one click” mode [6]. "The "One Click mode" targets users that do not wish to deal with program and parameter selection. The alignment was exported to iTOL v7 [7]. The red arrowhead indicates the two phages of interest.