

The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses

Taxonomy Proposal Form, 2025

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

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| **Title:**  | Create one new species in the genus *Benyvirus* (*Hepelivirales*: *Benyviridae*) |
| **Code assigned:**  | 2025.005P.Benyviridae\_Benyvirus\_1nsp |

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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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**Part 1b: Taxonomy Proposal Submission**

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

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| **List the ICTV Study Group(s) that have seen or have been involved in creating this proposal:**  |
| *Virgaviridae* and *Benyviridae* |

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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** |
| *Virgaviridae* and *Benyviridae* | 5 |  | 3 |
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| **Submission date:** |  03/06/2025 |

**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 |  |
| 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| W - Withdrawn |  |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:** |
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**Part 1d: Revised Taxonomy Proposal Submission**

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| **Response of proposer:**  |
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| **Revision date:** |  |

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

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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** |
| *Benyvirus tritici* | Epithet derived from the host genus name *Triticum* |
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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, species*Description of current taxonomy*: *Riboviria ›* *Orthornavirae ›* *Kitrinoviricota ›* *Alsuviricetes ›* *Hepelivirales › Benyviridae › Benyvirus**Proposed* *taxonomic change(s):* Create one species in thegenus *Benyvirus*: “*Benyvirus tritici”**Justification*:Based on the genomic organization of *P. graminis*-associated WhSMV-infected plant samples, as well as the nucleotide and amino acid sequences of the viral isolates characterized in this study, we propose that wheat stripe mosaic virus (WHSMV) is classified into a novel putative species within the family *Benyviridae*, for which the name “*Benyvirus tritici”* is suggested*.* |

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| **Text of Taxonomy proposal**  |
| *Taxonomic rank(s) affected*: Genus, species*Description of current taxonomy*: *Riboviria › Orthornavirae › Kitrinoviricota › Alsuviricetes › Hepelivirales › Benyviridae › Benyvirus*Four species are currently assigned to the *Benyvirus* genus in the *Benyviridae* family:* *Benyvirus arctii*
* *Benyvirus necrobetae*
* *Benyvirus oryzae*
* *Benyvirus solibetae*

*Proposed* *taxonomic change(s)*: We propose to create one new species in the genus *Benyviridae*, “*Benyvirus tritici”**Demarcation criteria:*The current taxonomic criterion used for species demarcation in the genus *Benyvirus* is amino acid sequence identity of the coat protein (CP) <90% [1].According to the current taxonomic criterion for species demarcation within the genus *Benyvirus,* a virus is considered as a member of a distinct species if theamino acid sequence identity of its coat protein (CP) is <90%*Justification*: After next-generation sequencing (NGS) analysis,, the complete genome sequence of a virus isolated from wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) collected from Brazil in a fileld infested with the plasmodiophorid *Polymyxa graminis* was determined [2]. The virus was identified as as a putative new member of the family *Benyviridae*, for which the name wheat stripe mosaic virus (WhSMV) was proposed [2]. WhSMV was also detected in wheat samples showing mosaic symptoms in South Africa and Paraguay [3, 4]. WhSMV has a bipartite genome comprising RNA 1 and RNA 2 with an organization consistent with members of the *Benyviridae* family, which typically contain two to five segments of positive-sense single-stranded RNA (ssRNA).The 5′ untranslated region (UTR) of WhSMV RNA 1 (115 nt), is comparable in length to that of viruses within the genus *Benyvirus* which range from124 to 153 nucleotides (nt). In contrast, the 3′-UTR of WhSMV RNA1, (336–353 nt) is notably longer than that observed *Benyvirus* members, which typically range from 181 to 233 nucleotides. WhSMV RNA 1encodes a polyprotein of approximately 231.7kDa, putatively functioning as a viral replicase, with a molecular size similar to those reported for *Benyvirus* species. Proteolytic cleavage of the replicase has been described for members of the family *Benyviridae* and distinguishes this group from all other viruses with rod-shaped particles. Furthermore, a conserved GDD motif (Gly-Asp-Asp) is present in all WhSMV isolates and is also present in the same position as in other members of the *Benyviridae* family. The length of WhSMV RNA-2 (4879–4901 nt) was similar to that of members of the genus *Benyvirus* (4314–4635 nt). The 5′-UTR of WhSMV RNA-2 (145 nt) was also similar in length to that of members of the genus *Benyvirus* (144–179 nt). However, the 3′-UTR of WhSMV (96–116 nt) was shorter. Six putative ORFs were identified in WhSMV RNA-2, similar to what is observed for the RNA-2 of beet necrotic yellow vein virus(BNYVV), beet soil-borne mosaic virus (BSBMV) and rice stripe necrosis virus (RSNV).. ORF 2 encodes the viral coat protein (CP). A conserved KTER (Lys-Thr-Glu-Arg) motif found in the RT protein of BNYVV and BSBMV members of the genus *Benyvirus*) is required for virus-mediated transmission by *P. betae*. A similar motif (VTER) was found in the amino acid sequences of the WhSMV. ORFs 3, 4 and 5 encode the putative triple gene block (TGB) proteins which are associated with viral movement within host plants. ORF3 encodes the putative TGB 1 proteinhas which contains a helicase domain, also found in BdMV, BNYVV and MILV. TORF4 encodes the putative TGB 2 protein which includes a conserved domain implicated with viral movement, as described for BdMV. ORF 5 encodes the putative TGB 3 protein, functionally analogous to those in tother members of the family *Benyviridae*. These TGB proteins are important for both cell-to-cell and long-distance movement of the virus, as demonstrated in BNYVV-infected plants.Given the similarities found and the conserved domains, it is suggested that the TGB discovered in isolates of the new virus is involved in cell-to-cell movement. The size of ORF 6 was the most divergent among the characterized isolates and species of the *Benyviridae*. The current taxonomic criterion for species demarcation within the genus *Benyvirus* is amino acid sequence identity of the CP <90% [1]. Based on the genomic organization, *P. graminis*associated WhSMV-infected plants, and the nucleotide and amino acid sequences obtained ifrom the viral isolates described in thisstudy, it is proposed that wheat stripe mosaic virus represents a member of a novel species within the family *Benyviridae*, for which the name “*Benyvirus tritici*” is proposed.Phylogenetic analyses further support this classification, as WhSMV isolates formed a distinct clade in trees constructed using the complete RNA segments and all coding regions,. This clustering indicatesa close relationship among the Brazilian isolates and corroborates the sequence identity data reinforcing the conclusion that the viral isolates described herein belong to the same species and are genetically distinct from the rother ecognized species within the genus *Benyvirus*. |

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| **References:**  |
| [1] GILMER D, RATTI C, ICTV REPORT CONSORTIUM (2017). ICTV Virus Taxonomy Profile: *Benyviridae.* Journal of General Virology, 98: 1571–1572. (<https://ictv.global/report/chapter/benyviridae/benyviridae>). [2] VALENTE JB, PEREIRA FS, STEMPKOWSKI LA, FARIAS M, KUHNEM P, LAU D, FAJARDO TVM, NHANI JUNIOR A, CASA RT, BOGO A, SILVA FN (2019). A novel putative member of the family *Benyviridae* is associated with soilborne wheat mosaic disease in Brazil. Plant Pathology 68:588–600. (<https://doi.org/10.1111/ppa.12970>). [3] ESQUIVEL-FARIÑA A, CAMELO-GARCÍA VM, KITAJIMA EW, REZENDE JAM, GONZÁLEZ-SEGNANA LR (2019). First report of wheat stripe mosaic virus in Paraguay. Australasian Plant Disease Notes 14:24. (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13314-019-0355-4>). [4] TEREFE TG, VISSER B, BOTHA W, KOZANA A, ROBERTS R, THOMPSON GD, PRINSLOO G, READ DA (2020). Detection and molecular characterization of wheat stripe mosaic virus on wheat in South Africa. Crop Protection 143:105464. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cropro.2020.105464>).  |

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| **Accompanying files:**  |
| **Filename** | **Description of contents** |
| 2025.005P.N.v2.Benyviridae\_Benyvirus\_1nsp | spreadsheet |
| 2025.005P\_Plant Pathology 2018 | article |

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| **Tables, Figures:**  |

Genome organization and putative translation strategies of wheat stripe mosaic virus (WhSMV). Putative self-cleavage of the replicase protein (black arrow RNA-1), a read-through stop codon UAG (black star RNA-2), putative m7Gppp (black circle) and the 3′ poly (A)-tails (An). WhSMV has seven predicted open reading frames (ORFs): ORF 1 encodes the putative viral replicase, ORF 2 encodes the putative coat protein, ORF 2A encodes a putative read-through CP, ORF 3 encodes the putative triple gene block 1 (TGB 1), probably coded from subgenomic RNA a, ORF 4 encodes the putative TGB 2, probably from subgenomic RNA b, ORF 5 encodes the putative TGB 3, probably from subgenomic RNA b, and ORF 6 encodes a hypothetical protein, probably from subgenomic RNA c. Predicted molecular weights of proteins are indicated in kilodaltons (kDa). Dotted lines are used for all putative aspects (reproduced from [2])



Figure 2. Percent sequence identity matrices among isolates of wheat stripe mosaic virus (WhSMV) and species of the family *Benyviridae* for RNA 1, RNA 2, and all open reading frames (ORFs), except ORF 6. Percent nucleotide and amino acid sequence identities are shown below and above the diagonal, respectively. ORF 1 encodes the viral replicase, ORF 2 encodes the coat protein, ORF 2A encodes a read-through CP, ORF 3 encodes the triple gene block 1 (TGB 1), ORF 4 encodes TGB 2, and ORF 5 encodes TGB 3. Members of the family *Benyviridae* are beet necrotic yellow vein virus (BNYVV), beet soil-borne mosaic virus (BSBMV), burdock mottle virus (BdMV), rice stripe necrosis virus (RSNV). Mangifera indica latent virus (MILV) is a related unclassified virus. (reproduced from [2])



Figure 3. Phylogenetic relationships, based on the codon-aligned nucleotide sequences of coat protein (a), replicase (b), and first triple gene block (c) of viruses of the family *Benyviridae* and other related viruses. Numbers on branches indicate bootstrap values. Alignments were performed with muscle. Scale bars indicate substitutions per site. Members of the family *Benyviridae* are wheat stripe mosaic virus (WhSMV), beet necrotic yellow vein virus (BNYVV), beet soil-borne mosaic virus (BSBMV), burdock mottle virus (BdMV), rice stripe necrosis virus (RSNV), and Mangifera indica latent virus (MILV). Other viruses are: AOPRV, African oil palm ringspot virus; ASPV, apple stem pitting virus; BanMMV, banana mild mosaic virus; BSMV, barley stripe mosaic virus; BVE, blackberry virus E; CAFV, cassava alphaflexivirus; CNRMV, cherry necrotic rusty mottle virus; GORV, gentian ovary ringspot virus; HBBLV, Hubei beny-like virus 1; HEV, human hepatitis E virus; ICRSV, Indian citrus ringspot virus; LoLV, Lolium latent virus; MPTLV, Macrophomina phaseolina tobamo-like virus; PCV, peanut clump virus; PMTV, potato mop top virus; PVM, potato virus M; PVX, potato virus X; RUBV, rubella virus; SBWMV, soil-borne wheat mosaic virus; SCSMaV, sugarcane striate mosaic-associated virus; ShVX, shallot virus X; TMV, tobacco mosaic virus; and TRV, tobacco rattle virus. Bars displayed on the right side of the trees correspond to families and genera of viruses.