

Template for Taxonomic Proposal to the ICTV Executive Committee To rename an existing Genus

Code[†]

2006.0331.04

The existing genus *Granulovirus* in the family *Baculoviridae* to be renamed *Betabaculovirus*.

[†] Assigned by ICTV officers

[°] leave blank if inappropriate

* repeat these lines and the corresponding arguments for each genus created in the family

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Old Taxonomic Order

Order

Family

Baculoviridae

Genus

Granulovirus

Type Species

Cydia pomonella granulovirus

Species in the Genus

Adoxophyes orana granulovirus

Artogeia rapae granulovirus

Choristoneura fumiferana granulovirus

Cryptophlebia leucotreta granulovirus

Harrisina brillans granulovirus

Helicoverpa armigera granulovirus

Lacanonobia oleracea granulovirus

Phthorimaea operculella granulovirus

Plodia interpunctella granulovirus

Plutella xylostella granulovirus

Pseudalitia unipuncta granulovirus

Trichoplusia ni granulovirus

Xestia c-nigrum granulovirus

New Taxonomic Order

Order

Family

Baculoviridae

Genus

Betabaculovirus

Type Species

Cydia pomonella granulovirus

Species in the Genus

Ditto above.

Argumentation to rename the genus

The existing genus *Nucleopolyhedrovirus* comprises a paraphyletic group of viruses with respect to the genus *Granulovirus*. For that reason the genus *Nucleopolyhedrovirus* needs to be split into three different genera and the generation and renaming of at least three genera becomes necessary. We propose to use the greek prefix *Alpha-*, *Beta-*, *Gamma-*, etc in order to indicate different baculoviruse genera. This system has the advantage that additional genera can be added in a logical progression if necessary in future. For that reason it appears appropriate also to rename the genus *Granulovirus*. Renaming of this genus will allow a consistent naming of all baculovirus genera in the future.

The proposed name *Betabaculovirus* was chosen, since it constitutes the second largest genus within the family of baculoviridae, and it is more closely related to the proposed genus *Alphabaculovirus* than other genera.

The proposed change of the genus name „Granulovirus“ to „Betabaculovirus“ was communicated to the scientific community by a review paper of the baculovirus study group (Jehle et al., 2006). It was further intensively discussed during the Annual Meeting of the Society of Invertebrate Pathology in 2006, which is the most important international conference for baculovirologists. The presentation was well attended by 50-60 baculovirologists from all over the world. Taken together, the response from the baculovirus community to the proposed re-classification and re- naming was unanimously positive and supportive.

Origin of the proposed genus name

Beta: Greek letter β , b

Baculo: from `baculum', meaning *stick*, which refers to the morphology of the nucleocapsid

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