

Diversity of HEV genotype 3 based on full-length sequences

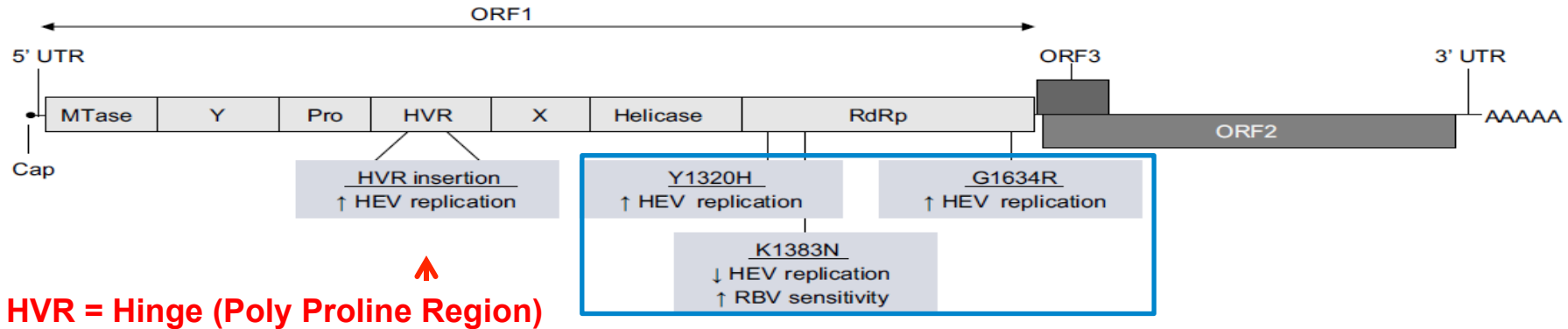
Dr Florence Nicot

Laboratoire de Virologie, Institut Fédératif de Biologie
Hôpital Purpan, CHU Toulouse

« Long reads: Dream or Reality » 28-11-2017

Hepatitis E virus (HEV)

- *Hepeviridae* family, *Hepevirus* genus
- Single-stranded, positive-sense RNA genome



Mutations in RdRp involved in ribavirin virological failure

HEV transmission routes

❖ Water and interhuman for genotypes 1 et 2

➔ Young people

Severe forms:

- Pregnant women
- Chronic liver disease



❖ Zoonotic for genotypes 3 et 4

➔ « Old » people

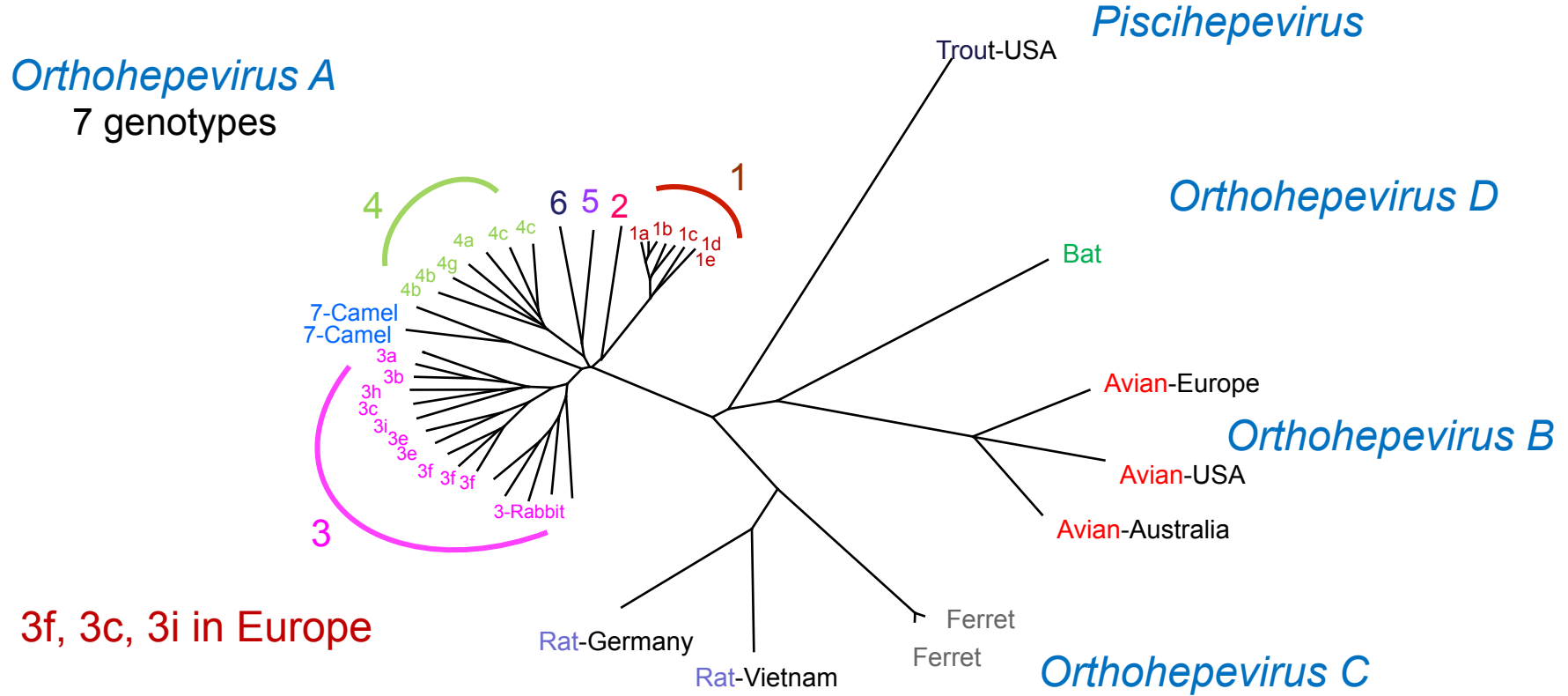
Severe forms :

- Chronic liver disease
- Immunosuppressed : 2/3 of chronic infection, treatment with ribavirin



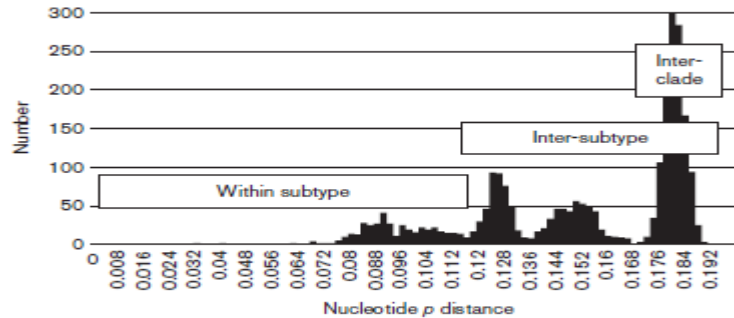
HEV-3 +++ in industrialized countries

HEV diversity



HEV-3 strain classification

- Classification:
 - Clades: abchijk, efg, rabbit
 - Subtypes: 3a, 3b, 3c ...
- Difficulties to discriminate HEV subtypes from HEV clades based on distance analysis



Smith, JGV, 2015

- Set of reference sequences (full length HEV sequences) recently proposed to harmonize classification

Smith, JGV, 2016

Interests of HEV classification

- **Epidemiologic:** characterisation of strains circulating in an area (genotype, clade, subtype)
- **Tracing the origin of infection :**
 - Transfusional investigation
 - Comparing strains circulating in a group of persons
- **Regions of the HEV genome usually sequenced:**
 - ORF2: 350 bp +++
 - ORF1: RdRp

Recombinant HEV strains

27 solid organ transplant patients chronically HEV-infected

11% of recombinant events

A TLS-20 without insertion
 TLS-20-M12
 TLS-20-RdRp
 TLS-20-PPR

50 60 70 80 90 100 110
 SEGSAVVPPPPETSV...SKPANPPSVTTP
 SEGSAVVPPPPETSVSKPANPPSVTTPTPVVRKPPTPPPARTRRLLSLWKSAACTGLFSGKPANPPSVTTP
 SKPANPPSVTTPTPVVRKPPTPPPARTRRL **

B TLS-26-without insertion
 TLS-26-M34
 TLS-26- end of PPR
 TLS-26- beginning of PPR

90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170

SVSKPASPSSSLTKPPVVRKPPTPPPPART

SVSKPASPSSSLTKPSVRRPPTPPPPARTRRLEFIPVSKPANPPALATPGPPVREPPTQPPALISVSKPASPSSSLTKPPVVRKPPTPPPPART

KPEVRRPPTPPPPARTRRLEFIPVSKPANPPALATPGPPVREPPTQPPALISVSKPASPSSSLTK

C TLS-26-without insertion
 TLS-26-M88
 NG-008235-Homo sapiens TAT

90 100 110 120 130 140
 ISVSKPASPS SLTTYKPPVRK
 ISVSKPASPSRPIHDSDEQQRQPLNFGRAQRWWEKLCAGKNERREGQVWCEDKPPVRK
 GPIHDSDEQQRQPLNFGRAQRWWEKLCAGKNERQKQGVVCEA
 * * ** *

D TLS09-without insertion
 TLS09-M48
 NM-002216-ITI12

50 60 70 80 90
 PSEGSATISPPITLVGKPTN-----PPGHT
 PSEGSATISPPITLVGKPTNILPRPSASGSLAKLSSKMKRLACFYPPGHT
 ILPRPSALGSLAKLSSKMKRLTCFF
 * * *

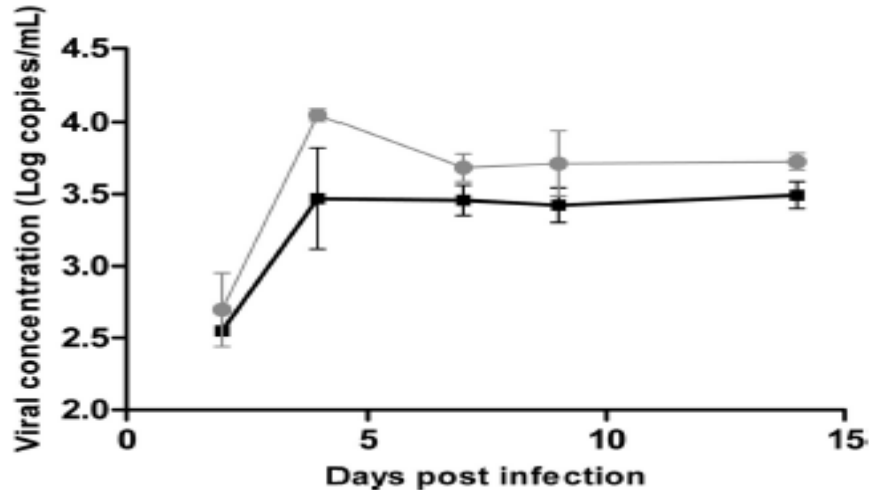
Lhomme, J Virol, 2014

Only 4 strains with an insert of human fragment described.

Sukla, PNAS, 2011; Nguyen, JGV, 2012; Lhomme, J Virol, 2014

Replicative advantage of strains with insertion

Culture cells on HepG2/C3A



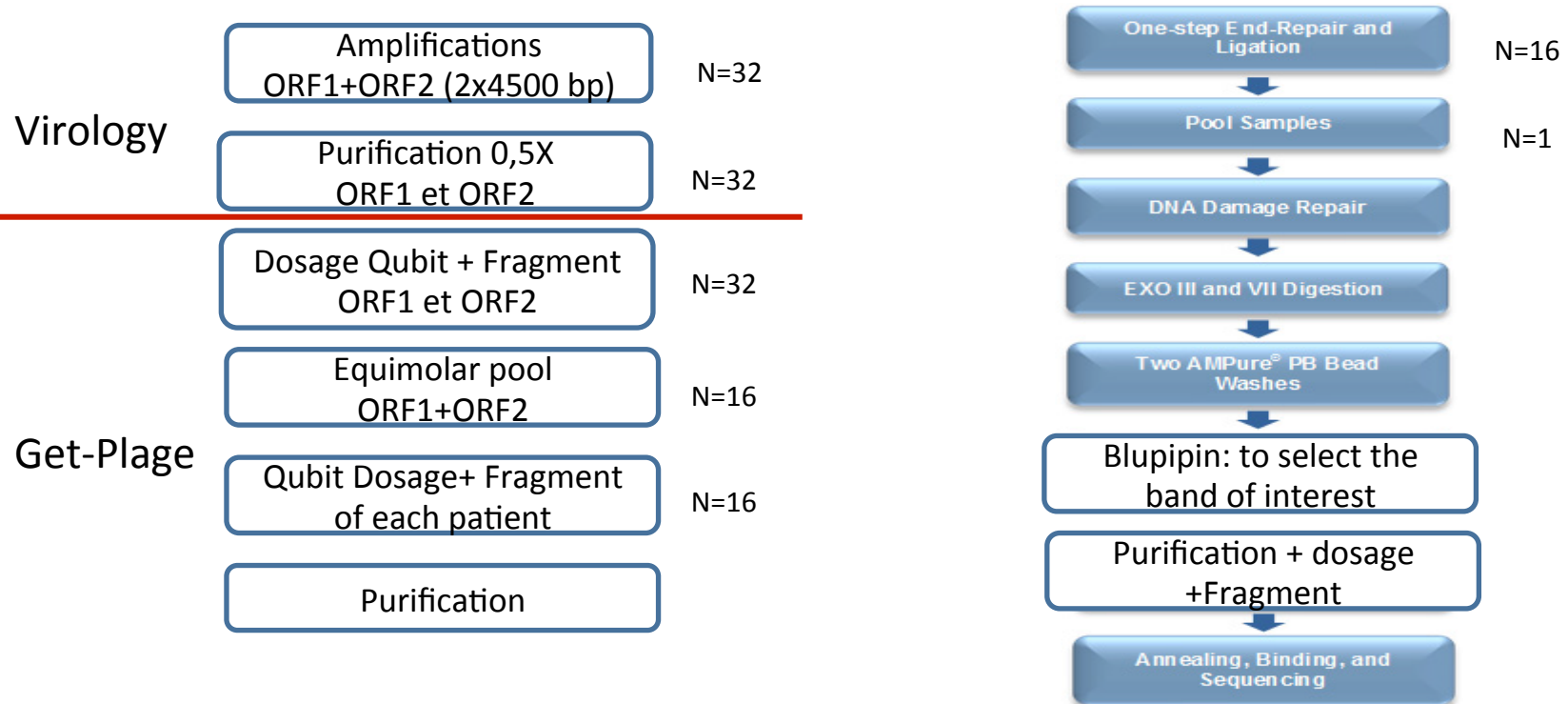
Strain with insertion (ITI2)
Strain without insertion

AIMS

- **Increase the database of full-length HEV genome**
- **Identify and describe insertions in the HEV genome (frequency, nature, localisation, features)**

Library preparation

Amplification of 2 overlapping fragments (2x4,500 bp)
Pool of 16 samples by SMRT cells



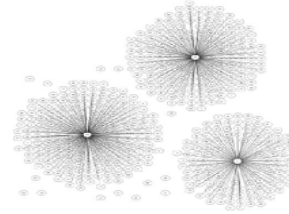
Bioinformatic analysis

Long Amplicon Analysis (SMRT Pipe)

bax.h5 files

Sample
by Barcode

Cluster



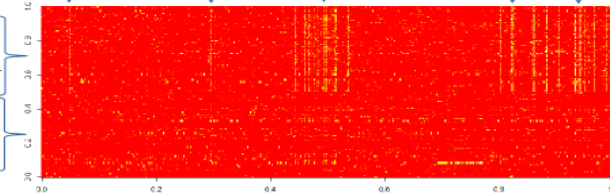
Phasing

Quiver

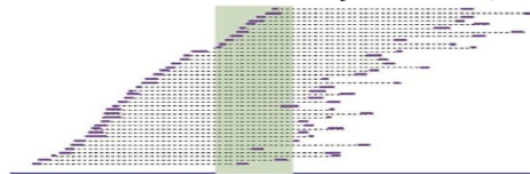
Haplotype 1

Quiver

Haplotype 2



De Novo assembly (MIRA, Sequencher...)



HEV
complete
genomes

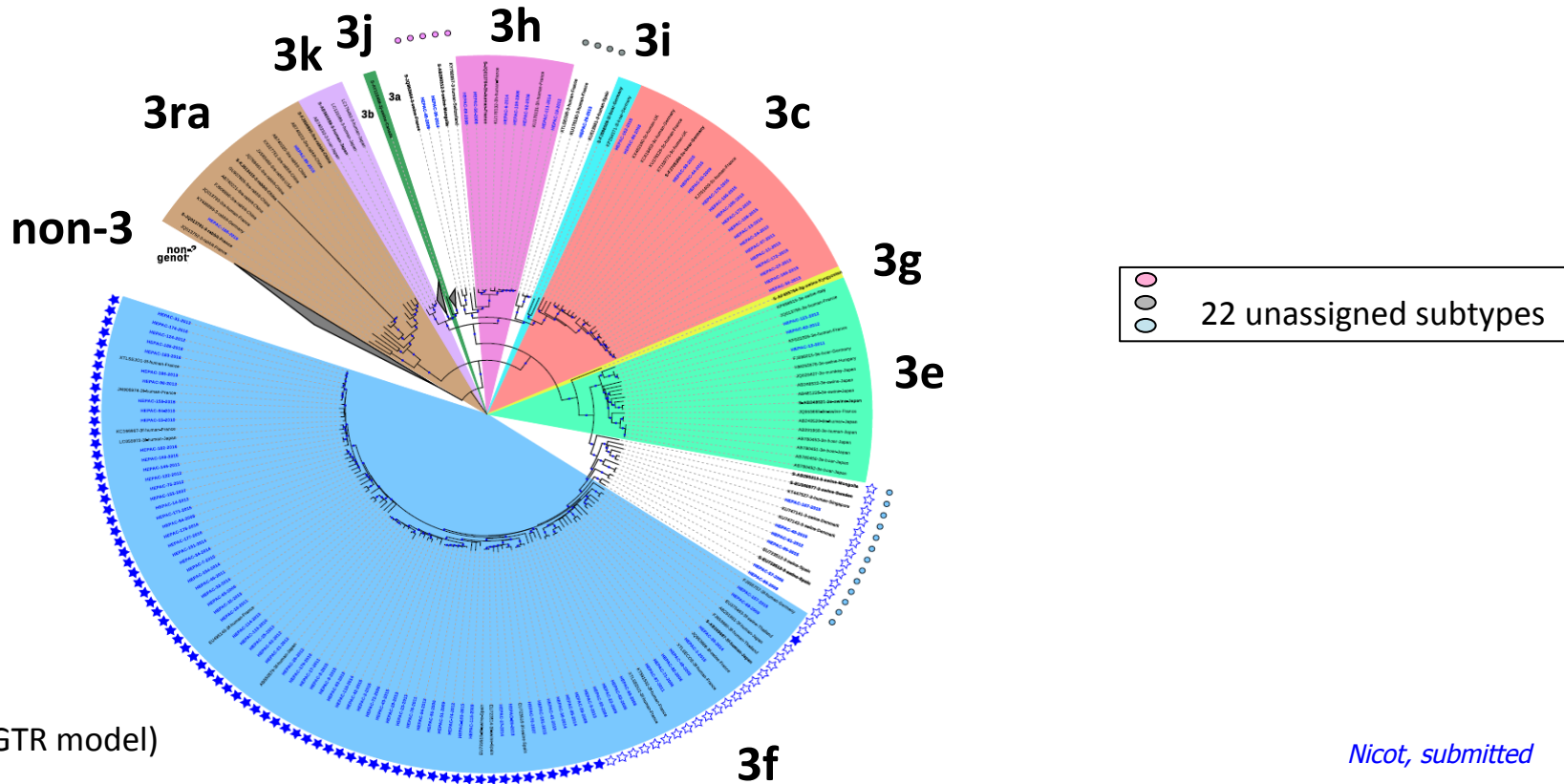


quasi-species {
Fast[aq]:
Barcode
Cluster
Phase
reads

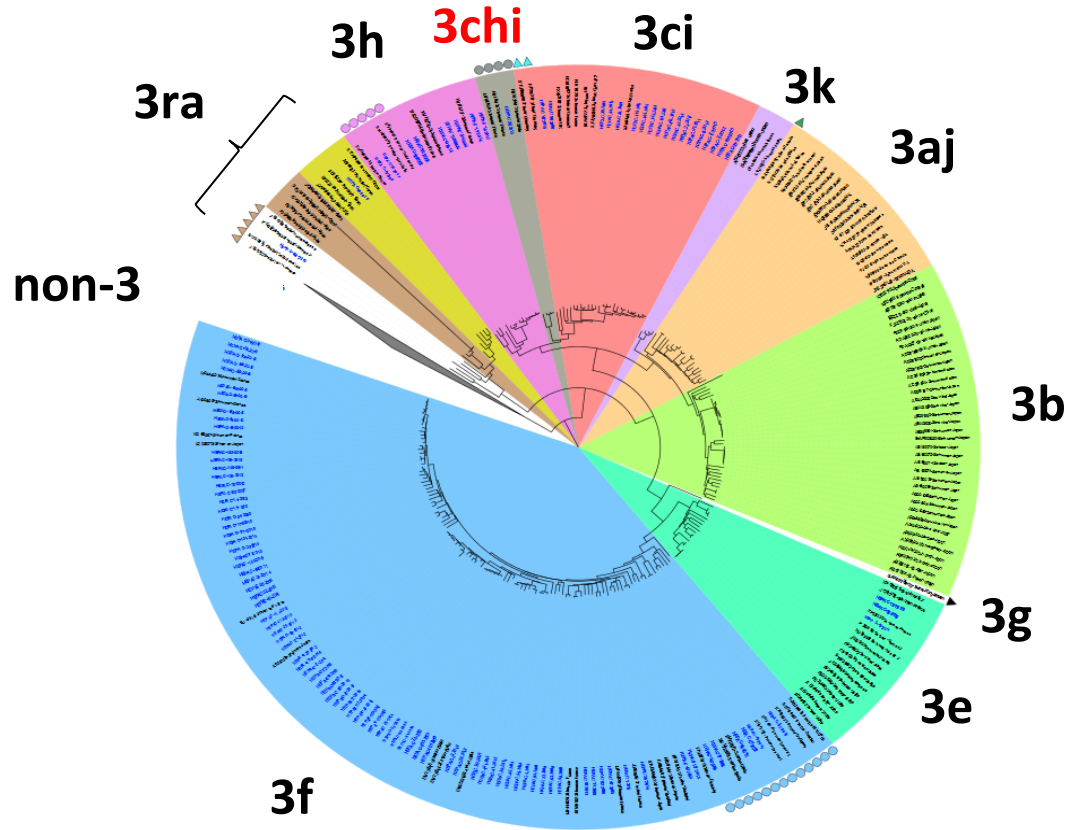
1-10 consensus/patient

HEV-3 complete genome sequences (n=250)

115 new full length HEV-3 genomes (74% efg, 24% abjchik, 2% 3rabbit)



Automated clustering of HEV subtypes



Automated partition of ML tree

Prosperi, Nat Com, 2011

This method minimize the number of unassigned subtypes (only 4 remained unassigned)

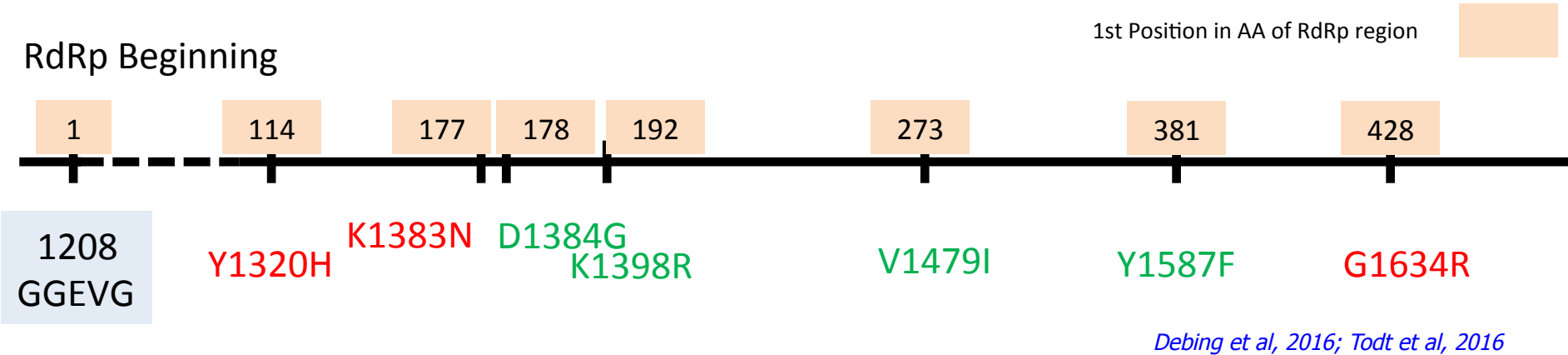
Nicot, submitted

Characterization of Hinge region

Subtype	N	Hinge length
		Nucleotide
3e	3	228
3f	18	228 (short)
	1	288 (intermediate)
	63	315 (long)
3c	18	225
3h	9	225
3 chi	1	225
3 rabbit	2	189

The length of Hinge region is similar for strains classified in the same clade.

Mutations in RdRp associated with RBV resistance



The frequency of strains harboring these mutations before treatment according to HEV-3 subtypes has not been studied on a large data set.

Frequency of mutation in RdRp

Subtype	3chi-UN2	3aj	3b	3ci	3e	3f	3g	3h	3k	3ra	G3 total
(Number)	(4)	(21)	(37)	(24)	(19)	(107)	(1)	(17)	(4)	(16)	(250)
Y1320H	0	0	0	0	0	3 (3%)	0	0	0	0	3 (1%)
K1383N	0	0	0	0	0	5 (5%)	0	0	0	0	5 (2%)
D1384G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H E V R d R p K1398R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mutations V1479I	4 (100%)	3 (14%)	7 (19%)	6 (25%)	19 (100%)	107 (100%)	1 (100%)	5 (29%)	4 (100%)	16 (100%)	172 (69%)
Y1597F	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1%)	0	0	0	0	1 (0.4%)
G1634R	0	1 (5%)	0	0	18 (95%)	15 (14%)	0	0	3 (75%)	0	37 (15%)
G1634K	0	0	0	0	1 (5%)	1 (1%)	0	0	0	9 (56%)	11 (4%)

Subtype-specific polymorphisms in the HEV-3 polymerase have been identified.

Strains with insertion

VHP6 strain was used as a control: insert of fragment of human genome was previously observed by shot-gun 454 GS Junior pyrosequencing.

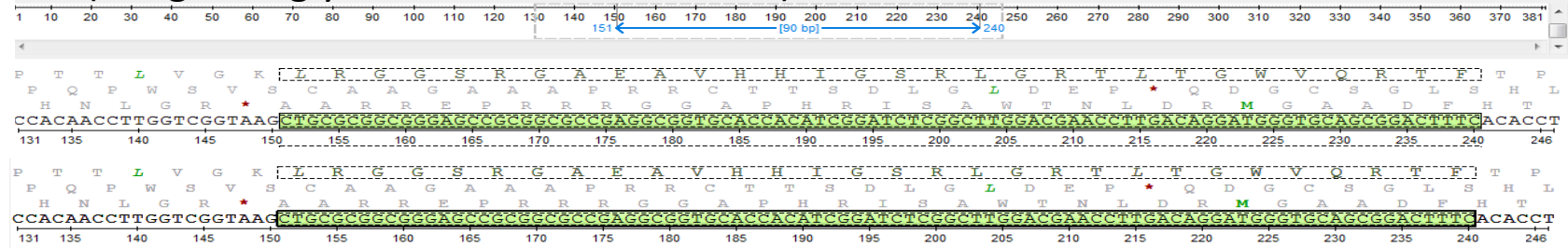
8/115 (7%) strains with a recombination event:

- 6 with insertions of human fragment, 2 with duplications of HEV genome
- located in Hinge region
- identified in HEV-3

Insertions were confirmed by sanger sequencing.

Control strain VHP6

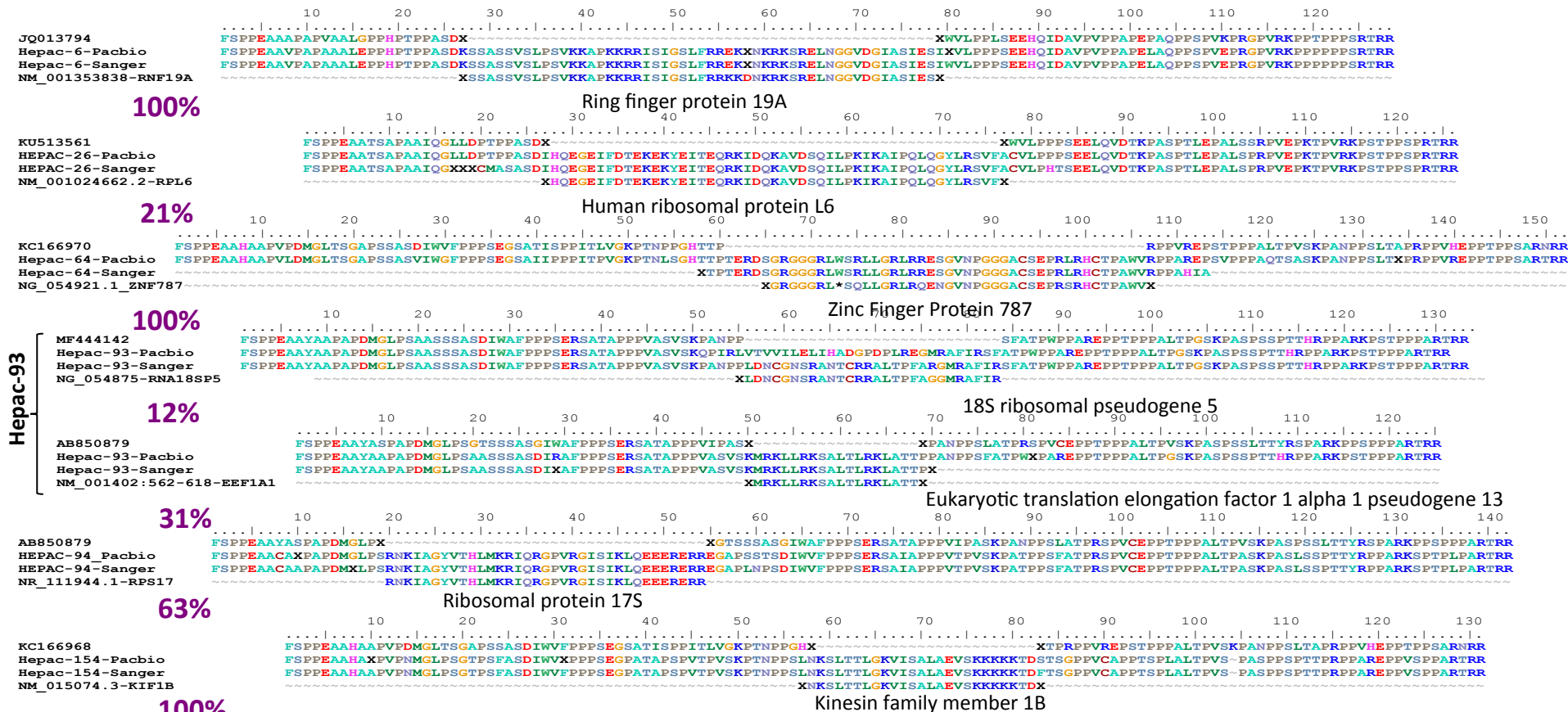
VHP6-GATM (L-arginine glycine amidinotransferase)



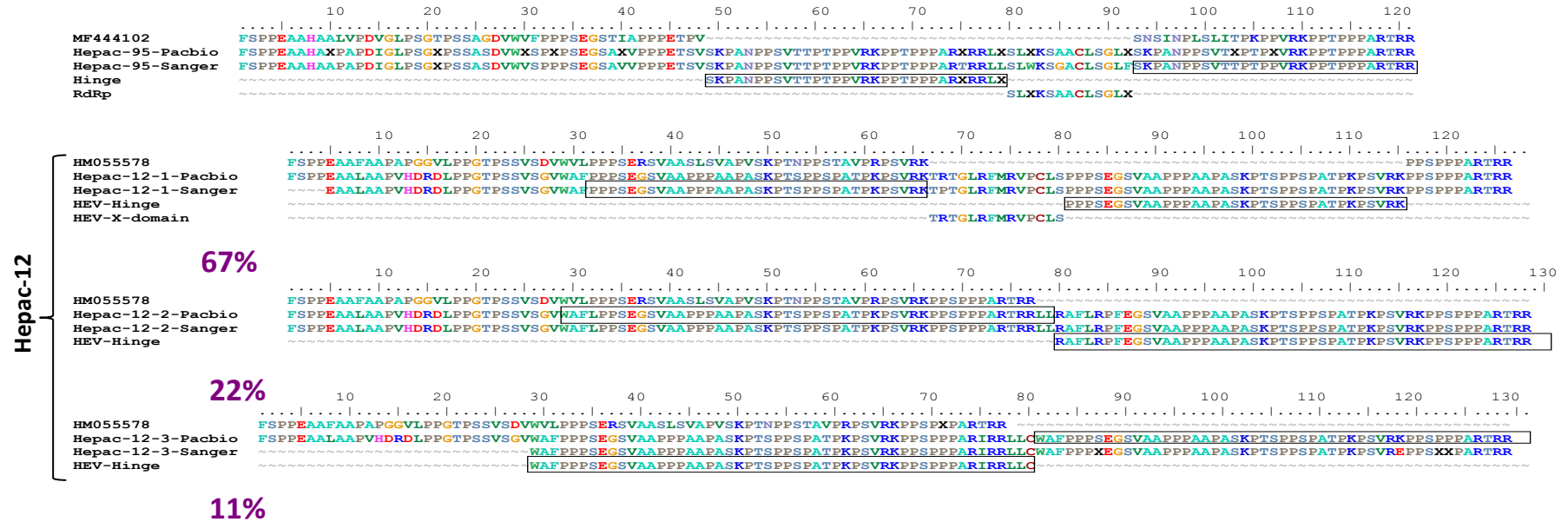
VHP6-PEBP1 (phosphatidylethanolamine binding protein 1)



Insertions of fragment of human gene

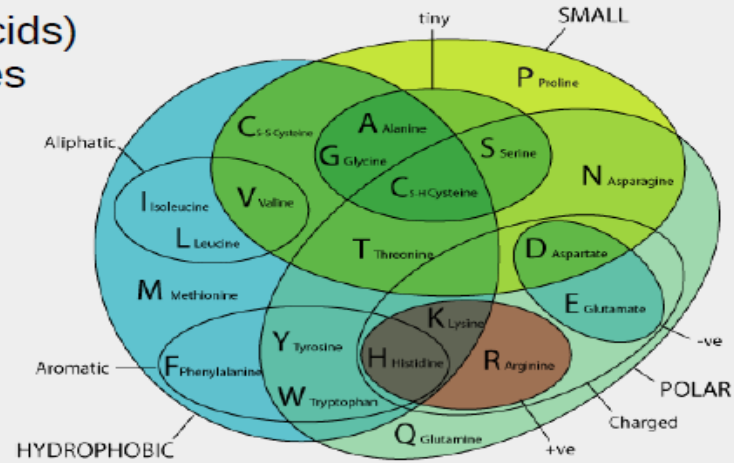


Duplications of HEV genome



Characterization of insertions

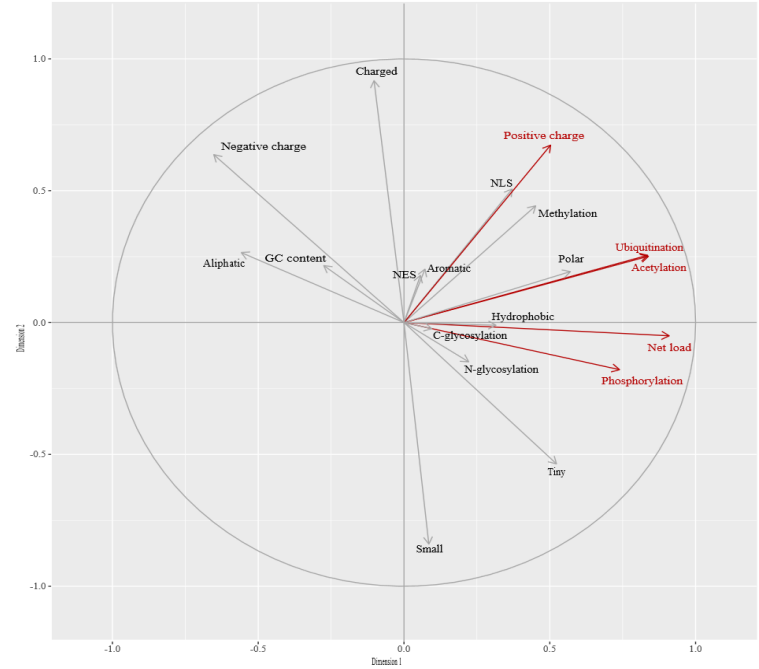
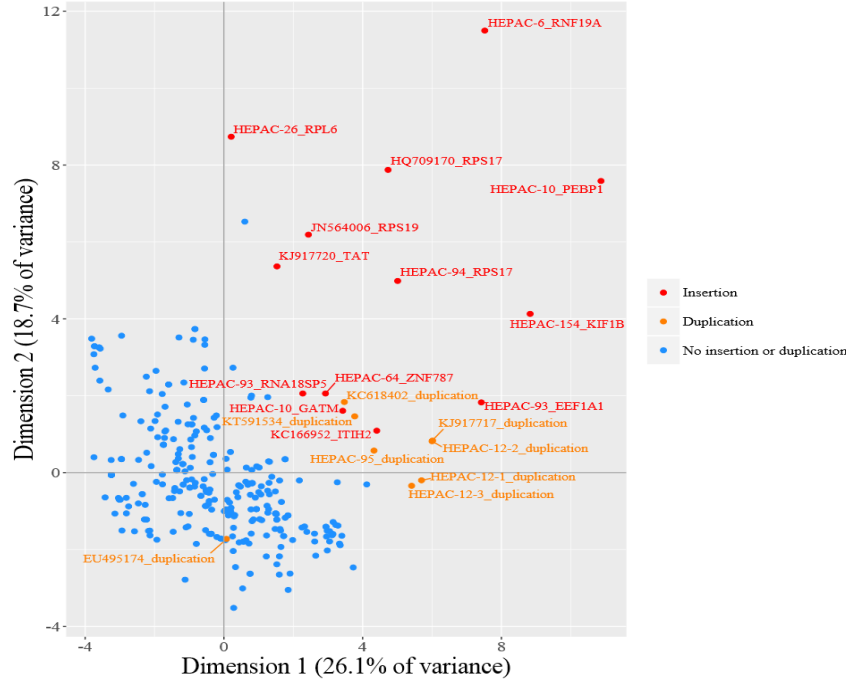
- AA proportions (20 amino-acids)
- AA physico-chemical features



- Net load
- Ubiquitination sites **BDM-PUB**
- Acetylation sites **PAIL**
- Methylation sites **BPB-PPMS**
- Phosphorylation sites **NetPhos**
- N-Glycosylation sites **NetNGlyc**
- C-Glycosylation sites **NetCglyc**
- Nuclear Export Signals (NES) **Wregex**
- Nuclear Localisation Signals (NLS) **SeqNLS**

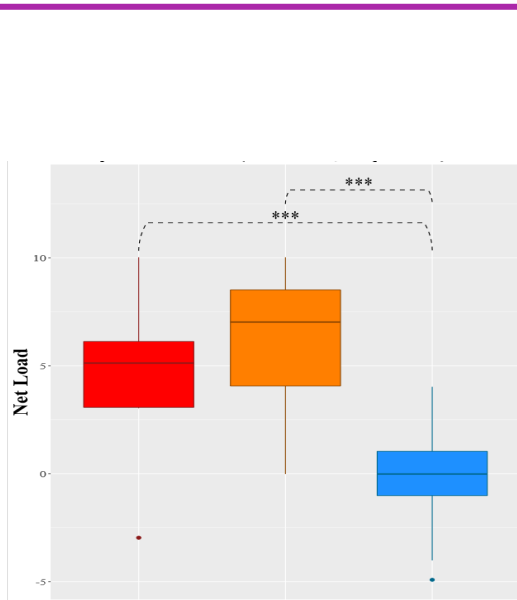
36 features

Principal Component Analysis

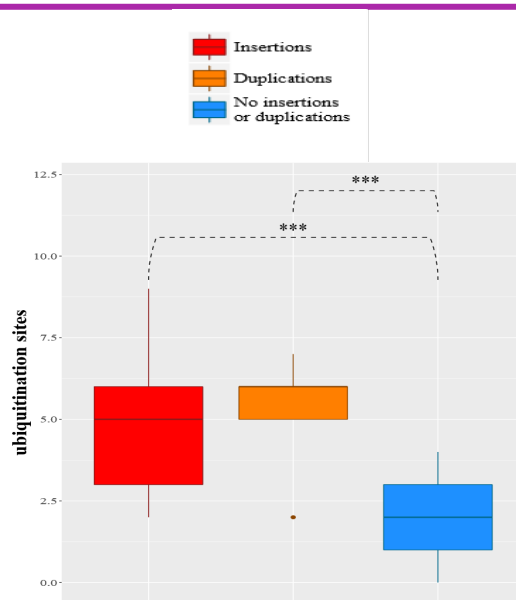


Insertions or duplications confer to strains specific characteristics.

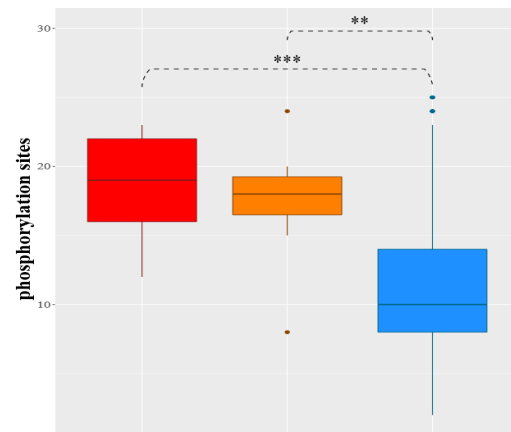
Contribution of insertions in hinge



Net load



Ubiquitination sites
Acetylation sites



Phosphorylation sites



Insertion: more POS charged AA
Duplication: less NEG charged AA

Discussion

- **Dataset of HEV-3 complete genome sequences increased** → useful for comparing strains circulating in humans and the animal reservoir
- **Characteristics of HEV-3 subtypes** regarding the **Hinge length** and **polymerase polymorphisms** identified
- Inserted sequences provided **new ubiquitination, acetylation, phosphorylation sites** → regulation of transcription and translation
- Further studies are needed to understand :
 - the biological and clinical relevance of HEV polymerase mutations
 - the role of HEV insertions in virus adaptation

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Plateforme Get-Plage, INRA

Plateforme Bioinformatique, INRA