

ICTV announcement – ratification of new taxonomic proposals

A number of new taxonomic proposals were approved by the Executive Committee of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) at a mid-term meeting in San Diego in March 1998. A summary of these proposals has been published in the July edition of *Virology Division News* [Arch Virol 143: 1449–1459 (1998)]. Formal ratification of these proposals has now been obtained by ballot of the full membership of the ICTV, as required by the ICTV Statutes [see Arch Virol 143: 1035–1040 (1998)]. These new taxonomic decisions will be included in the Seventh Report of the ICTV, which is scheduled for publication in the summer of 1999.

In addition to the individual taxonomic decisions, a major change in practice has been introduced into virus taxonomy. In future the names of virus species will be given in italics with the initial letter capitalised. The names of viruses accorded tentative species status will remain unitalicised until these viruses achieve full species status.

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