

Topical Collection

Bromoviridae

Message from the Collection Editor

The *Bromoviridae* are a family of viruses of significant research and agricultural importance. They are positive-sense, single-stranded RNA plant viruses characterised by a tripartite genome, with RNA1 and RNA2 encoding replication functions and RNA3 encoding movement and coat proteins. Members of the family (genera *Alfavirus*, *Anulavirus*, *Bromovirus*, *Cucumovirus*, *Ilarvirus*, and *Oleavirus*) produce icosahedral or bacilliform virions that encapsidate a single RNA molecule. They are transmitted by insects in a non-persistent manner as well as mechanically. Efficient seed or pollen transmission has been demonstrated for some genera. They typically infect a wide range of crops and ornamentals, causing mosaic, stunting, and deformation symptoms. In research, bromovirids remain a leading model system for studying 1) how segmented RNA genomes coordinate replication, 2) how viruses move and colonise their host, and 3) RNA silencing suppression and viral pathogenicity factors. Their properties are also being harnessed for biotechnological applications in the areas of nanoparticle engineering and virus-induced gene silencing.

Collection Editor

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