

Special Issue

Viral Life Styles: From Molecules to Biomes

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear colleagues, Viruses infecting microbes display various life styles, i.e., lytic, lysogenic/latent, pseudolysogenic, or chronic infections.

Pseudolysogenic and chronic infections are less studied and there is hardly any information at the ecosystem level, i.e., we lack information on the ecological mechanisms which control these life styles. Current and potentially contradictory models dealing with lytic vs. lysogenic life styles are the “Kill-the-Winner” and the “Piggyback-the-Winner” hypotheses. The predominance of life styles in ecosystems vary likely on temporal, spatial, or nutritional (trophic gradient) scales. Here, we consider not only large scale terrestrial, freshwater, or marine ecosystems/biomes as environment but also (in)organic particles and the surface or interior of plant and animal biota. We welcome all types of research, i.e., observational, experimental, and modelling studies which help to elucidate how and under which conditions different viral life styles become established or dominant. We anticipate a better understanding of how viruses shape the diversity of their hosts and how they interact with ecosystem functions.

Guest Editors

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Viruses (ISSN 1999-4915) is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for studies of viruses. It publishes reviews, regular research papers, communications, conference reports and short notes. Our aim is to encourage scientists to publish their experimental and theoretical results in as much detail as possible. There is no restriction on the length of the papers. The full experimental details must be provided so that the results can be reproduced. We also encourage the publication of timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the virology community and feature highlights from the virology literature in the 'News and Views' section.

Electronic files or software regarding the full details of the calculation and experimental procedure, if unable to be published in a normal way, can be deposited as supplementary material.

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