

 **Dean Bengston** <deanbengston@gmail.com>

to yangj ▾

Fri, May 15, 12:37 PM (2 days ago)



Hello,

I find your database extremely well done. I have a question though that I hope you can answer. Your March database revision update lists accession MN996532 as strain RaTG13 (BtCoV/4991).

In the GenBank accession and nature article linked in your database to this strain it just lists the virus as RaTG13 without the BtCoV/4991.

<http://www.mgc.ac.cn/cgi-bin/DBatVir/main.cgi?func=accession&acc=MN996532>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MN996532>

Do you know where the BtCoV/4991 part of the name came from? Is there an accession list in China that I should also be aware of?

I am fascinated by bat viruses and I would appreciate any help.

Thank you,
Dr. Dean Bengston.

 **Jian YANG** <yangj@ipbcams.ac.cn>

to Yang, me ▾

Fri, May 15, 7:59 PM (2 days ago)



Dear Dean,

Thanks for your interests in our database.

Yes, you are right. The recent Nature paper never mentioned the synonym BtCoV/4991 of RaTG13. However, during the database update we noticed that the previous record KP876546 (i.e. BtCoV/4991) had the same meta information as well as identical RdRp sequence as the new record MN996532 (i.e. RaTG13). In addition, they are submitted by the same group from China. After personal communication with the author we confirmed that the new sequence is indeed from the same virus reported by the Shi's group a few years ago (Virology 2016. 31,31-40). But in previous work they sequenced only RdRp region and used their internal name (i.e. BtCoV/4991) since the previous work reported dozens of RdRp sequences of different coronaviruses. Instead, in recent Nature paper they renamed it to make it more meaningful to include host name abbreviation (i.e. Ra for Rhinolophus affinis), sample collection location (i.e. TG for TongGuan) and year (i.e. 13 for 2013). Therefore, in order to provide full information to our database users we present both names for clarity.

Hope that's helpful.

Sincerely,

Jian

Jian YANG, PhD
Professor of Bioinformatics