



# Genetic diversity and recombination between turnip yellows virus strains in Australia

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## Abstract

Disease outbreaks caused by turnip yellows virus (TuYV), a member of the genus *Polerovirus*, family *Luteoviridae*, regularly occur in canola and pulse crops throughout Australia. To understand the genetic diversity of TuYV for resistance breeding and management, genome sequences of 28 TuYV isolates from different hosts and locations were determined using high-throughput sequencing (HTS). We aimed to identify the parts of the genome that were most variable and clarify the taxonomy of viruses related to TuYV. Poleroviruses contain seven open reading frames (ORFs): ORF 0–2, 3a, and 3–5. Phylogenetic analysis based on the genome sequences, including isolates of TuYV and brassica yellows virus (BrYV) from the GenBank database, showed that most genetic variation among isolates occurred in ORF 5, followed by ORF 0 and ORF 3a. Phylogenetic analysis of ORF 5 revealed three TuYV groups; P5 group 1 and group 3 shared 45–49% amino acid sequence identity,

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and group 2 is a recombinant between the other two. Phylogenomic analysis of the concatenated ORFs showed that TuYV is paraphyletic with respect to BrYV, and together these taxa form a well-supported monophyletic group. Our results support the hypothesis that TuYV and BrYV belong to the same species and that the phylogenetic topologies of ORF 0, 3a and 5 are incongruent and may not be informative for species demarcation. A number of beet western yellow virus (BWYV)- and TuYV-associated RNAs (aRNA) were also identified by HTS for the first time in Australia.

## Introduction

Turnip yellows virus (TuYV) was first identified in the United Kingdom as a European strain of beet western yellows virus (BWYV) based on biology and serology [19]. The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) later classified TuYV and BWYV as members of distinct species due to differences in their host range [50].

TuYV belongs to the genus *Polerovirus* (family *Luteoviridae*), whose members have monopartite linear single-stranded RNA genomes encapsidated in an icosahedral shell [5, 11]. The RNA genome of TuYV contains seven open reading frames (ORFs). The 5' ORFs 0, 1 and 2 are expressed by translation of genomic RNA and encode the proteins P0 and P1 and the P1-P2 fusion protein, which are associated with pathogenicity, host range, silencing suppression and replication [6, 31, 49, 58, 74, 75, 82]. The 3' portion of the genome is separated from ORFs 0, 1 and 2 by an intergenic region (IR) and contains ORFs 3, 3a, 4 and 5, which encode the proteins P3, P3a, P4 and P3-P5 via translation of subgenomic RNA [49, 71]. P3 is the coat protein (CP), P3a and P4 are movement proteins (MP), and the P3-P5 readthrough domain (RTD) is required for virus circulation, accumulation and persistence in the aphid vector [7, 9, 49, 60, 65, 71, 82].

Members of each *Polerovirus* species are transmitted by one or more aphid species in a persistent, circulative manner, with varying degrees of efficiency [64, 72]. The most efficient vector for TuYV is the green peach aphid *Myzus persicae*, with reported transmission rates of over 90% [64]. Other aphid species, such as *Brevicoryne brassicae*, *Aphis gossypii* and *Macrosiphum euphorbiae*, vector TuYV with lower rates of transmission (less than 10%) [64, 72].

TuYV infects a number of crops and weeds belonging to a wide range of plant families, including Brassicaceae, Fabaceae, Amaranthaceae and Asteraceae [73]. The broad host range of TuYV, which includes both summer and winter crops as well as opportunistic weeds, increases the potential reservoir of virus inoculum, providing a "green bridge" for both viruses and their aphid vectors [25].

The diversity of hosts and potential vectors of TuYV have contributed to its worldwide distribution. TuYV has been reported throughout Europe [73] and in Iran [67], China [77], South Africa [53], Colombia [62], Saudi Arabia (unpublished; GenBank accession no. LT844559), Egypt [1], Morocco [1] and Australia [14].

New strains and species of viruses related to TuYV and BWYV have recently been identified based on i) genome sequence analysis and ii) the ICTV species demarcation rule stating that viruses of the family *Luteoviridae* are members of distinct species if the amino acid sequence of any gene product differs by more than 10%. For example, brassica yellows virus (BrYV) was separated from TuYV based on differences in ORF 0 and ORF 5 [41, 79, 81]. Fabia bean polerovirus 1 (FBPV-1), identified in winter legume crops (pulses) in Australia, is the result of recombination between an unknown virus and TuYV [24], and beet leaf yellowing virus (BLYV), identified in Japan, differs from BWYV, predominantly in ORF 0 and ORF 1 [80].

Full genome sequencing of poleroviruses infecting *Cap-sicum annuum*, such as pepper vein yellows virus (PeVYV) from Japan, China, Australia, Spain and Greece, and pepper yellow leaf curl virus (PYLCV) from Israel, showed that the sequence variation between these viruses exceeds 10% in ORF 0, 3a and 5 [17, 42, 43, 45]. Fiallo-Olivé et al. [22] showed that the genetic variation in pepper poleroviruses is complex due to recombination events and proposed that these viruses should be described as numbered species (PeVYV 1-6) in order of discovery rather than being given new species names.

TuYV epidemics occur regularly in Australia, for example, in 2012 in chickpeas (*Cicer arietinum*) from northern New South Wales [76], in 2014 and 2018 in canola (*Brassica napus*) from south Western Australia [15] and Esperance in Western Australia [12], in 2014 in canola from Riverton, South Australia and Victoria, and more recently, in 2019 in canola from southern New South Wales (Joop Van Leur, unpublished). In Europe, TuYV is a constant threat to production, with regular epidemics and significant yield losses [3, 54, 66].

To understand the genetic diversity of TuYV, we used high-throughput sequencing (HTS) to determine the full genome sequences of TuYV from pulses, canola, and weeds in Australia. We aimed to i) identify the parts of the genome of TuYV that are most variable, ii) determine whether there is recombination in populations of TuYV from Australia, and iii) better understand the taxonomy of viruses related to TuYV. Knowledge of the genomic diversity of viruses can assist in crop management, diagnostics, and development of disease resistance.

**Table 1** TuYV isolates identified using HTS in this study, as well as other reference isolates

Virus isolate <sup>a</sup>	Host	Region, country <sup>b</sup>	References	Accession number	ORF5 group
TuYV-Br12	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Horsham, VIC	This study	MT586598	1
TuYV-5414	<i>Brassica napus</i>	Deniliquin, NSW	This study	MT586591	1
TuYV-5509	<i>B. napus</i>	Jerramungup, WA	This study	MT586587	2
TuYV-5512a	<i>B. napus</i>	Goulburn, NSW	This study	MT586593	1
TuYV-5512b	<i>B. napus</i>	Goulburn, NSW	This study	MT586580	2
TuYV-5513	<i>B. napus</i>	Ardlethan, NSW	This study	MT586592	1
TuYV-5514a	<i>B. napus</i>	Riverton, SA	This study	MT586594	1
TuYV-5514b	<i>B. napus</i>	Riverton, SA	This study	MT586576	3
TuYV-C2016a	<i>B. napus</i>	Wimmera, VIC	This study	MT586585	2
TuYV-C2016b	<i>B. napus</i>	Wimmera, VIC	This study	MT586588	2
TuYV-C20A	<i>B. napus</i>	Curyo, VIC	This study	MT586597	1
TuYV-C21A	<i>B. napus</i>	Watchupga, VIC	This study	MT586582	2
TuYV-MK102	<i>B. napus</i>	Wittenoom Hills, WA	This study	MT586577	2
TuYV-MK104	<i>B. napus</i>	Gibson, WA	This study	MT586578	2
TuYV-MK105	<i>B. napus</i>	Waddington, WA	This study	MT586595	1
TuYV-MK106	<i>B. napus</i>	Kojonup, WA	This study	MT586584	2
TuYV-MK107	<i>B. napus</i>	Highbury, WA	This study	MT586590	2
TuYV-1740	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	Childers, QLD	This study	MT586571	3
TuYV-5510	<i>C. arietinum</i>	Dalby, QLD	This study	MT586572	3
TuYV-5511	<i>C. arietinum</i>	Boomi, NSW	This study	MT586596	1
TuYV-MK111	<i>C. arietinum</i>	SA	This study	MT586573	3
TuYV-L31-4	<i>Lens culinaris</i>	Minyip, VIC	This study	MT586574	3
TuYV-MK113	<i>L. culinaris</i>	SA	This study	MT586589	2
TuYV-MK103	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Wittenoom Hills, WA	This study	MT586583	2
TuYV-MK109	<i>P. sativum</i>	Esperance, WA	This study	MT586579	2
TuYV-P5-8	<i>P. sativum</i>	Springfield, VIC	This study	MT586586	2
TuYV-P6-2	<i>P. sativum</i>	Beulah, VIC	This study	MT586575	3
TuYV-5248	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Edgeroi, NSW	This study	MT586581	2
TuYV-Anhui	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	Anhui, CN	Wang et al. (2015)	KR706247	1
TuYV-BG12-1	<i>B. napus</i>	Badgingarra, WA	Kehoe et al. (2019)	ERS2791629	2
TuYV-BL13-1	<i>C. arietinum</i>	Bolgart, WA	Kehoe et al. (2019)	ERS2791628	2
TuYV-FL1	<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	Avignon, FR	Veidt et al. (1988)	NC_003743	1
TuYV-MJ11-1	<i>B. oleracea</i>	Manjimup, WA	Kehoe et al. (2019)	ERS2791627	1
TuYV-MJ11-2	<i>Brassica. oleracea</i>	Manjimup, WA	Kehoe et al. (2019)	ERS2791626	2
TuYV-MJ11-3	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Manjimup, WA	Kehoe et al. (2019)	ERS2791625	2
TuYV-WA-1	<i>B. napus</i>	Mount Barker, WA	Kehoe et al. (2019)	ERS2791624	2
TuYV-YK12-1	<i>C. arietinum</i>	York, WA	Kehoe et al. (2019)	ERS2791623	2
BLYV-TB	<i>B. vulgaris</i>	Hokkaido, JP	Yoshida and Tamada (2019)	LC428352	–
Breed-ABJ	<i>Brassica napobrassica</i>	Beijing, CN	Xiang et al. (2011)	HQ388348	3
BrYV-AJS	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Beijing, CN	Xiang et al. (2011)	HQ388350	3
BrYV-BBJ	<i>B. napobrassica</i>	Jiangsu, CN	Xiang et al. (2011)	HQ388349	3
BrYV-BJS	<i>B. rapa</i>	Jiangsu, CN	Xiang et al. (2011)	HQ388351	3
BrYV-CC	<i>B. rapa</i>	Haidian, CN	Zhang et al. (2014)	KF015269	3
BrYV-CC1	<i>B. rapa</i>	Hokkaido, JP	Yoshida and Tamada (2019)	LC428358	3
BrYV-CR	<i>R. raphanistrum</i>	Haidian, CN	Zhang et al. (2014)	JN015068	3
BrYV-CS	<i>B. rapa</i>	Cheongsong, KR	Lim et al. (2015)	KF923236	2
BrYV-R3b	<i>R. raphanistrum</i>	Oxayama, JP	Yoshida and Tamada (2019)	LC428363	3
BrYV-WN1	<i>Sinapis alba</i>	Hooaido, JP	Yoshida and Tamada (2019)	LC428359	3
BWYV-USA	<i>B. vulgaris</i>	California, USA	Beuve et al. (2008)	NC_004756	–
BWYV-BJA	<i>B. vulgaris</i>	Beijing, CN	Zhou et al. (2011)	HM804471	–

**Table 1** (continued)

Virus isolate <sup>a</sup>	Host	Region, country <sup>b</sup>	References	Accession number	ORF5 group
BWYV-BJB	<i>B. vulgaris</i>	Beijing, CN	Zhou et al. (2011)	HM804472	–
BWYV-IM	<i>B. vulgaris</i>	Inner Mongolia, CN	Xiang et al. (2010)	EU636991	–
BWYV-KR	<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	KR	Unpublished	LC198684	–
BWYV-LS	<i>Leonurus sibiricus</i>	Danyang, KR	Kwong et al. (2016)	KM076647	–
BWYV-Rouen1	<i>Nepenthes mirabilis</i>	Mulhouse, FR	Miguel et al. (2016)	KU521325	–
BWYV-S19	<i>Spinacia oleracea</i>	Oxayama, JP	Yoshida and Tamada (2019)	LC428356	–
CABYV	<i>Cucumis melo</i>	Aquitaine, FR	Guilley et al. (1994)	NC_003688	–
FBPV1-5253	<i>V. faba</i>	Breeza, NSW	Filardo et al. (2019)	MH464873	–
PBMV-5511	<i>Macroptilium lathyroides</i>	Boomi, NSW	Unpublished	MK955806	–
SLPV	<i>Macroptilium atropurpureum</i>	Brisbane, QLD	Filardo and Sharman (2019)	MK482114	–

The original host, location, and accession numbers are shown

<sup>a</sup>TuYV, turnip yellows virus; BrYV, brassica yellows virus; FBPV1, faba bean polerovirus 1; BWYV, beet western yellows virus; BLYV, beet leaf yellowing virus; CABYV, cucurbit aphid-borne yellows virus; PBMV, phasey bean mild yellows virus; SLPV, siratro latent polerovirus

<sup>b</sup>VIC, Victoria, Australia; NSW, New South Wales, Australia; SA, South Australia; WA, Western Australia; QLD, Queensland, Australia; FR, France; CN, China; KR, Korea; JP, Japan; USA, United States of America

## Materials and methods

### Collection of plant material

Leaves and stems of plants were collected between 2013 and 2018 during surveys of plant viruses from various locations around Australia (Table 1 and Supplementary Fig. 1). Selected TuYV isolates were freeze-dried and stored in the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) virus collection. Overseas isolates were collected between 2004 and 2014 from Algiers in Algeria, Yunnan Province in China, the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, Marchouch in Morocco, Hudiba in Sudan, Bizerte in Tunisia, and Tashkent and Kashkadarya in Uzbekistan (Table 3).

### Tissue blot immunoassays and ELISA

Virus-positive samples were identified by tissue blot immunoassay (TBIA); cross sectioned stems of each plant were blotted onto nitrocellulose membranes (Amersham™ Proton™ 0.45 µm NC, Merck, New Jersey, USA) as described by Makkouk and Comeau [46]. TBIA was processed as described by Filardo and Sharman [23]. The primary antibody used to detect poleroviruses, including TuYV, was the broad-spectrum luteovirid monoclonal antibody BLRV-5G4 [2, 34].

### RT-PCR and sequencing

Total nucleic acid and total RNA were isolated using either a BioSprint 15 workstation with a BioSprint 15 Plant DNA Kit (QIAGEN, catalogue no. 941517) without the use of RNase

A or with a QIAGEN RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany) with a modified lysis buffer [44], as per manufacturer's instructions.

Initially, TBIA-positive samples were amplified by RT-PCR using the primer pair BWYV3969F/AS5 (Table S1), which detects TuYV and BWYV but does not distinguish between the two viruses [24]. cDNA was synthesised using SuperScript III reverse transcriptase (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA) or an ImProm-II™ Reverse Transcription System (Promega, Wisconsin, USA) as per instructions, using primer AS3 or AS5 (Table S1). PCR conditions were as described by Sharman et al. [68], using the primers BWYV3969F (Table S1) and AS5 under the following cycling conditions: initial denaturation at 95 °C for 1 min, then 35 cycles of 95 °C for 15 s, 62 °C for 20 s, 56 °C for 10 s, and 72 °C for 40 s, followed by a final extension step at 72 °C for 3 min.

RT-PCR assays to distinguish the different TuYV ORF 5 domains used a one-step RT-PCR QIAGEN kit as per manufacturer's instructions and the primer pairs TuYV-4841F/TuYV-5328R for TuYV group 1, TuYV-4841F/BrYV-5476R for group 2, and BrYV-4680F/BrYV-5476R for group 3 (Table S1). The three primer sets were used individually or together in a multiplex RT-PCR format, with a 0.2 µM final concentration of each primer under the following cycling conditions: 50 °C for 30 min and 95 °C for 15 min, followed by 35 cycles of 94 °C 30 s, 56 °C for 30 s, and 72 °C for 50 s, followed by a final extension step at 72 °C for 10 min. The RT-PCR fragments for TuYV groups were distinguished by size on a 1% agarose gel – group 1 was 487 bp, group 2 was 637 bp, and group 3 was 772 bp.

RT-PCR assays to amplify the intergenic region (IR) and ORF 3a had the same reaction conditions described above

with primers AS5 and primer TuYV-3299F (amplifies IR-A) or TuYV-3394F (IR-B) (Table S1), using cycling conditions described by Congdon et al. [13].

The degenerate primers aRNAv-1120F and aRNAv-1510R were used in RT-PCR to amplify virus-associated RNAs, such as BWYV ST9 aRNA and TuYV sat1 aRNA, using the conditions described above with an annealing temperature of 60 °C. The specific primers ST9-1198F and ST9-1818 were used to amplify BWYV ST9 aRNA.

PCR products were sequenced directly (Macrogen Inc. Seoul, Korea) and analysed using Geneious 9.0 (Biomatters).

### High-throughput sequencing

Total RNA was extracted from TuYV isolates (Table 1) using a Spectrum Plant Total RNA Kit (Merck, New Jersey, USA) as described by Filardo et al. [24] or using a QIAGEN RNeasy Plant Mini Kit with a modified lysis buffer [44]. For TuYV isolates from Victoria, libraries were prepared using an NEBNext Ultra RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB, Ipswich, USA), quantified using a 2200 TapeStation system (Agilent Technologies, California, USA) and sequenced using an Illumina MiSeq system as described by Kinoti et al. [36]. For the other TuYV isolates, paired-end libraries (150 bp) were prepared and sequenced using an Illumina MiSeq or HiSeq 2500 system by the Australian Genome Research Facility (AGRF, Melbourne, Australia). Adaptor and primer sequences were removed from the reads in Geneious 9, using the BBDuK plugin (part of the BBTools package) [10].

Trimming for quality, pairing of reads, and contig assembly were done as described by Filardo et al. [24] or trimmed using Trim Galore v 0.4.4 [37] with the minimum sequence length set to 50 bp and the stringency set to 1 bp. *De novo* assembly was performed using the SPAdes Genome Assembler [4] or CLC Genomics Workbench 6.5 (CLCGW) (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany), both with default settings. Contigs were sorted by length and subjected to a BLAST search [32]. Contigs and BLAST results were analysed further in Geneious 9 (Biomatters, New Zealand). Mapping of contigs and reads to a reference genome, TuYV-FL1 (NC\_003743), was performed with the following settings: minimum overlap, 10%; minimum overlap identity, 80%; allow gaps, 10%; fine tuning set to iterate up to 10 times. Reference mapping of reads to final full-length contigs was done in Geneious 9 or using Bowtie 2 v 2.3.4.2 [40] with default settings.

Three representative full genome sequences of TuYV obtained by HTS were confirmed by Sanger sequencing; TuYV-Br12 (ORF 5 group 1), TuYV-5509 (ORF 5 group 2), and TuYV-5510 (ORF 5 group 3). RT-PCR was performed using a SuperScript™ III One-Step RT-PCR Kit (Invitrogen, California, USA) in 25- $\mu$ l reactions according to the manufacturer's instructions, using the following cycling conditions: 48 °C for 45 min and 94 °C for 2 min, followed

by 35 cycles of 94 °C for 30 s, 55 or 58 °C for 30 s, and 72 °C for 50 s, followed by 72 °C for 10 min. The primer sets used were TuYVSeg1F/R, TuYVSeg2F/R, TuYVSeg3F/R, TuYVSeg4F/R, TuYVSeg5\_5F/1R, TuYV3564F/4372R, TuYV4372F/5201R and TuYV5183F/6097R (Table S1). PCR products were purified using a QIAquick PCR Purification Kit (QIAGEN) and sequenced directly by AGRF. Open reading frames (ORFs) were predicted and annotated using Geneious 9.

### Phylogenetic and phylogenomic analysis

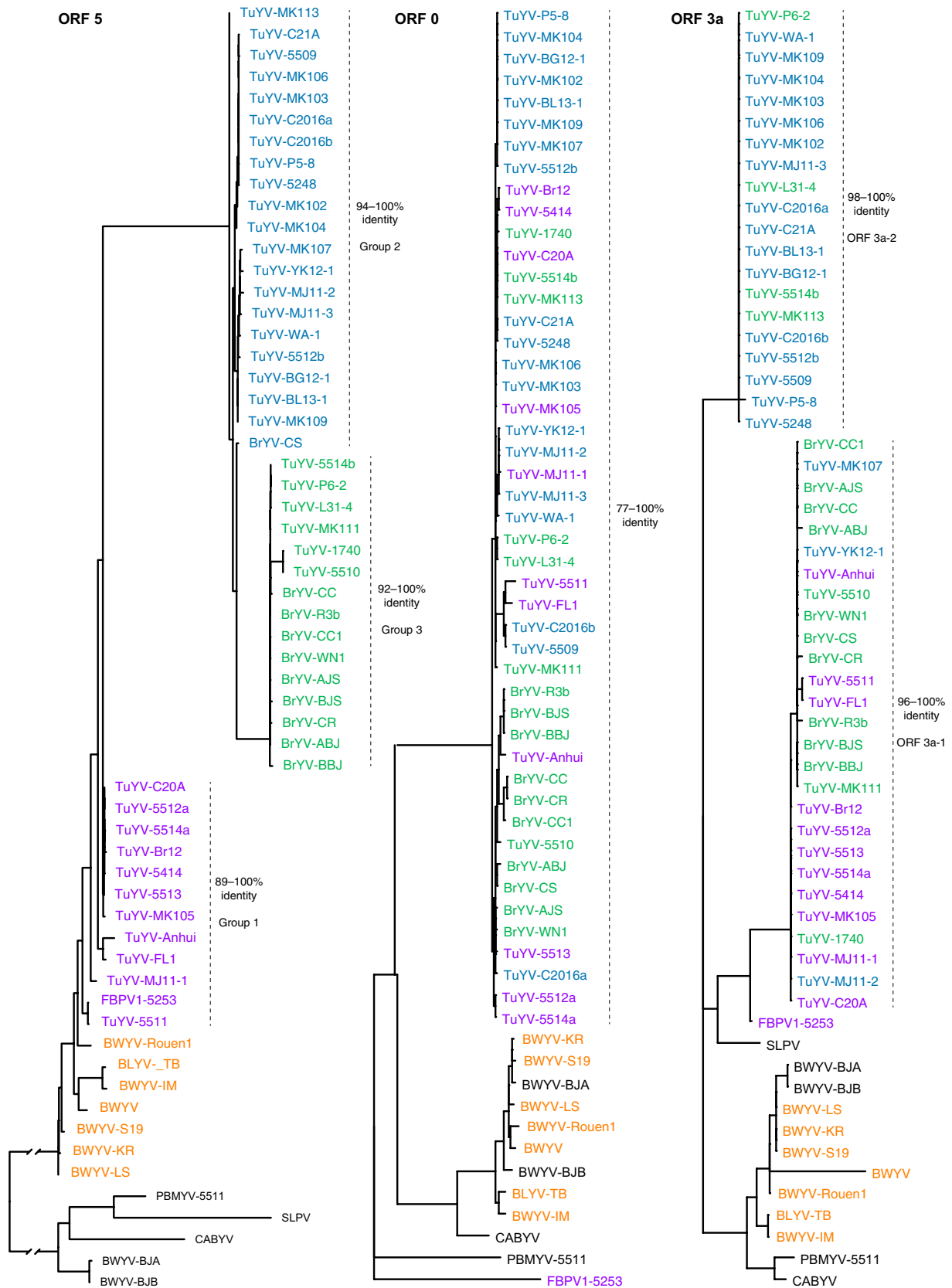
Phylogenetic analysis was done for single genes and the predicted amino acid sequences of the proteins encoded by the six ORFs from 28 TuYV isolates from this study as well as previously sequenced TuYV isolates from Australia and other poleroviruses (Table 1) based on alignments made using ClustalW with a BLOSUM cost matrix in Geneious 10. Phylogenetic analysis for each ORF was conducted in MEGA 7 [39] using the maximum-likelihood method based on the JTT matrix-based model [33] and 500 bootstrap replicates.

Phylogenomic analysis was done using the entire coding region of the genome. The aligned ORFs were concatenated and searched for the most likely tree in IQTree v.1.7 beta [55] with a model test for each partition (command: -spp -m TEST), 10,000 ultrafast bootstrap replicates [29], an approximate likelihood ratio test with 10,000 replicates [27], and genealogical concordance factors calculated from each locus [51].

### Recombination analysis, pairwise identity, and frequency distribution plots

We visualised putative recombination events in the TuYV genome based on genetic distance between genome sequences in SplitsTree4 [30]. We tested for recombination in ORF 5 of TuYV group 2 isolates; aligned sequences of TuYV-FL1, BrYV-CR, and TuYV-5509 were examined using RDP4 [47]. Pairwise identities of 60 aligned whole-genome nucleotide sequences were displayed as a matrix using sequence demarcation tool (SDT) v. 1.2 [52].

Frequency distribution plots were generated by aligning sequences of all TuYV and BrYV isolates, cucurbit aphid borne yellows virus (CABYV), phasey bean mild yellows virus (PBMV), siratro latent polerovirus (SLPV), faba bean polerovirus 1 (FBPV-1), and beet western yellows virus (BWYV). For this purpose, full genome nucleotide sequences or the deduced amino acid sequences of the RdRp or CP were used, and a pairwise distance chart was generated using the P-distance model in MEGA7 [39]. Results were converted to percentage pairwise identity.



**Fig. 1** Phylograms from a maximum likelihood search of amino acid sequence alignments of TuYV, BrYV and other closely related members of the genus *Polerovirus* constructed in MEGA. Phylograms based on P5 (ORF5), P0 (ORF 0) and P3a (ORF 3a). Accession numbers are listed in Table 1. Colouring of the TuYV, BrYV and BWYV isolates relates to different monophyletic groups based on P5. The assigned P5 colour is carried through into the P0 and P3a phylograms, to aid in the visualisation of the diversity found within the TuYV genomes

The frequency of each pairwise value was determined and plotted against percentage pairwise identity.

## Results

### HTS analysis of TuYV in Australia

Between 2016 and 2018, 25 TuYV-positive samples were collected from various hosts and locations across Australia, and their genomes were sequenced and assembled (Table 1, Supplementary Fig. S1). In total, 3,376,590–19,797,660 reads were obtained for each sample, reduced to 3,353,970–19,323,967 after trimming for quality (Supplementary Table S2). The number of contigs produced after *de novo* assembly across the 25 samples was 92–15,212, with the TuYV contigs with lengths of 499–5,701 nt. The final genome sequence lengths after mapping and contig analysis ranged from 5,474 to 5,786 nt, with the average final coverage ranging from 18.2 to 59,630 in depth (Supplementary Table S2). From the 25 samples used in this study, some contained mixed infections so that a total of 28 TuYV genomes were identified. Genomes of three representative TuYV isolates, TuYV-Br12, TuYV-5509 and TuYV-5510, were re-sequenced by the Sanger method, verifying the HTS results with 99.98–100% nt sequence identity.

**Table 2** Percentage identity of 12 representative isolates compared with TuYV (NC\_003743) and BrYV-BBJ (HQ388349) for the whole genome and each open reading frame. Values for the whole genome are % nt sequence identity and those for the ORF are % aa sequence

TuYV group	Virus isolate	Whole genome		ORF 0		ORF 1		ORF 2		ORF 3a		ORF 3		ORF 4		ORF 5	
		TuYV	BrYV	TuYV	BrYV	TuYV	BrYV	TuYV	BrYV	TuYV	BrYV	TuYV	BrYV	TuYV	BrYV	TuYV	BrYV
TuYV	NC_003743	-	80	-	81	-	85	-	94	-	98	-	95	-	89	-	48
Group 1	5414	91	82	86	86	87	85	93	95	96	98	96	94	94	86	94	47
	5511	84	80	84	78	87	83	94	93	100	98	95	92	92	86	91	49
	MK105	89	82	86	88	85	86	93	94	96	98	96	95	94	86	93	46
	5514a	89	82	83	92	85	86	93	95	96	98	96	95	94	86	94	46
Group 2	5509	85	86	89	81	91	84	96	95	71	71	96	95	95	88	64	81
	MK113	85	87	86	86	90	87	96	95	71	71	96	95	91	86	64	82
	P5_8	84	87	86	87	91	87	96	95	69	69	95	94	94	87	64	81
	5512b	85	87	87	87	91	87	96	95	71	71	94	94	93	88	63	80
Group 3	5514b	81	92	87	87	91	87	96	95	71	71	93	96	87	93	48	98
	5510	81	92	83	91	90	88	93	96	98	100	94	95	89	91	48	92
	P6_2	81	92	85	87	92	87	96	94	71	71	93	96	90	92	48	98
	L31-4	81	92	85	87	92	87	96	95	71	71	93	95	88	93	48	98

## Phylogenetic analysis

The aligned open reading frames (ORFs 0-5) of the 28 TuYV isolates from this study and TuYV isolates and related poleroviruses from GenBank (Table 1) showed that the genomes of TuYV were diverse, with most genetic variation in ORF 5 followed by ORF 0 and ORF 3a (Fig. 1).

### ORF 5

Phylogenetic analysis of P5 (ORF 5) separated TuYV into three groups (Fig. 1). Group 1 contained the type member TuYV-FL1 and 14 TuYV isolates with 89–100% aa sequence identity (Fig. 1). Group 2 contained 20 TuYV Australian isolates and BrYV-CS, sharing 94–100% aa sequence identity. Group 3 aligned with the newly described BrYV from China and contained six TuYV Australian isolates that had 92–100% aa sequence identity (Fig. 1).

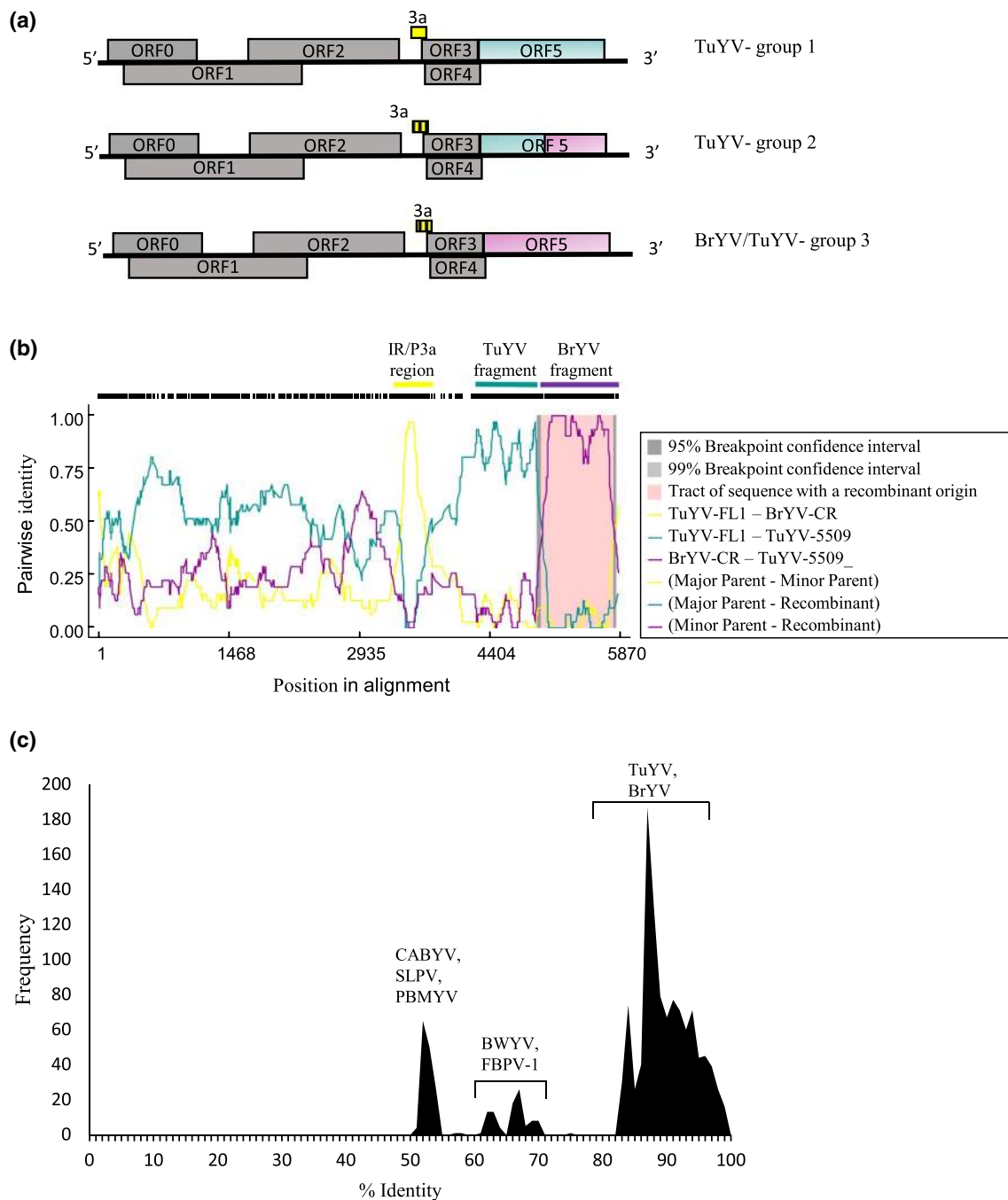
Groups 1 and 3 were the most genetically divergent between groups, sharing 45–49% aa sequence identity in P5 (Fig. 1; Table 2). Group 2 shared 60–64% aa sequence identity with group 1 and 77–84% aa sequence identity with group 3 (Fig. 1; Table 2).

Diversity within the P5 protein was also observed for the BWYV isolates included in the phylogenetic analysis (Table 1). The isolates BWYV-BJA and BWYV-BJB shared 23% aa sequence identity with the BWYV-USA type member in P5 (Fig. 1; Supplementary Table 4).

### ORF 0

The TuYV and BrYV isolates share 77–100% amino acid sequence identity in P0 (Fig. 1; Table 2). Despite the amino acid sequence variation, phylogenetic analysis showed all isolates of TuYV and BrYV being in the same monophyletic group, sharing a common ancestor for this region of the genome.

identity. Shaded figures indicate regions with over 89% nt or aa sequence identity, and boxed figures indicate regions with less than 79% aa sequence identity.



**Fig. 2** **a** Schematic representation of TuYV group genomes with the seven ORFs (ORF 0–5 & 3a). The dark grey ORFs depict the proteins that are monophyletic. The ORF 5 region is coloured purple for group 1 and green for group 3. For group 2 ORF 5, the recombinant region is depicted, with group 1 (purple) and group 3 (green). The small ORF 3a protein is depicted in yellow–yellow with no stripe represents P3a-1 only and yellow with stripe represents the group containing either P3a-1 or P3a-2. **b** Results of the RDP recombination analysis for TuYV-5509 (ORF 5 group 2). Lines indicate the percent-

age of similarity per alignment and the pink area indicates the recombinant part of the sequence. In this analysis TuYV-FL1 and BrYV-CR contained P3a-1 and TuYV-5509 contained P3a-2. **c** Frequency distribution plot based on whole genome nucleotide identities of 47 TuYV and BrYV isolates, BWYV, CABYV, PBMV, SLPV and FBPV-1. Sequence identities between distinct viruses had a mean value of 58.5 % and a standard deviation of 6.7 %, while identities between strains of individual viruses (TuYV/BrYV) showed a mean of 90.5 %  $\pm$  4.0 %



### ORFs 3a, 1, 2, 3 and 4

The small non-AUG-initiated P3a protein of TuYV occurred in two monophyletic groups that shared 69–73% aa sequence identity with each other (Fig. 1). Group 1, based on amino acid sequences of P5, all had a similar copy of P3a (ORF 3a-1) (Fig. 1). P5 groups 2 and 3 contained either P3a-1 or P3a-2 (Fig. 1).

The P3a proteins of the BWYV isolates and BLYV shared 87–91% aa sequence identity with all other BWYV isolates except BWYV-USA. The type member, BWYV-USA, shared 67–73% aa sequence identity with the other BWYV isolates and BLYV (Fig. 1).

Analysis of the amino acid sequences of P1, P2, P3 and P4 showed that these regions were more conserved than ORFs 5, 0, and 3a. The TuYV and BrYV isolates formed monophyletic groups for each of the following open reading frames with the following amino acid sequence identity

values: P1, 83–100%; P2, 90–100%; P3, 90–100%; P4, 86–100% (Table 2; Supplementary Figs. S2 and S3).

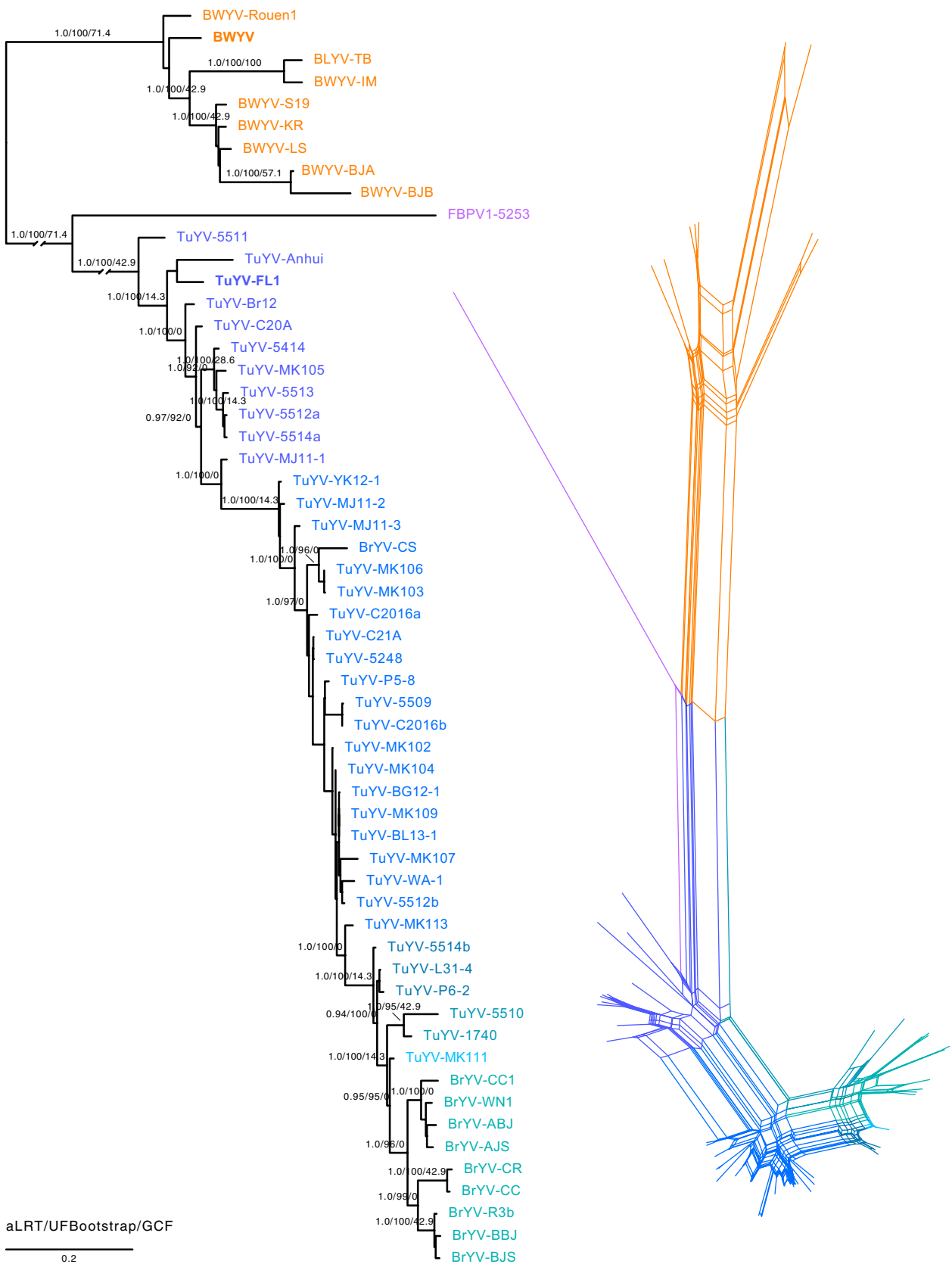
### Recombination in ORF 5

To check for potential recombination events and to identify the breakpoint between TuYV isolates from different assigned ORF 5 groups, a representative sequence from each group (TuYV-FL1, BrYV-CR, and TuYV-5509) was aligned and examined using the recombination program RDP4. A putative recombinant event for TuYV-5509, with TuYV-FL1 and BrYV-CR, was strongly supported using the RDP, GENECONV, Bootscan, Maxchi, Chimaera, and 3Seq methods, all with  $p$ -values less than  $1 \times 10^{-16}$  (Fig. 2b). The predicted breakpoint is located approximately 786 nt downstream of the start of ORF 5 of TuYV-5509. The first 786 nt of TuYV-5509 ORF 5 align closely with TuYV-FL1 (93% aa sequence identity), while TuYV-FL1 and BrYV-CR share

**Table 3** Pulse and weed hosts of TuYV strains/isolates collected from around NSW, QLD and VIC, as well as selected samples from overseas

Country	Host	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Total number of plants tested
Australia	<i>Brassica napus</i>	49	51	34	61
	<i>Brassica rapa subsp. pekinensis</i>	0	0	2	2
	<i>Brassica rapa subsp. rapa</i>	2	2	2	2
	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	2	3	1	4
	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	23	6	18	42
	<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	0	2	0	2
	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	3	1	1	4
	<i>Lens culinaris</i>	3	2	1	5
	<i>Lepidium didymum</i>	0	2	3	3
	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	5	0	0	5
	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	2	1	2	4
	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	11	10	8	18
	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	1	0	0	1
	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	4	1	4	4
	<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	0	3	0	3
	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	1	3	0	3
	<i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i>	1	1	1	1
	<i>Vicia faba</i>	0	0	1	1
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	0	0	1	1
	Algeria	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	2	0	0
China	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	0	6	4	8
Lebanon	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	2	0	0	2
Morocco	<i>Vicia faba</i>	1	0	0	1
Sudan	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	1	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	0	0	1	1

The number of plants that were positive for each TuYV group is shown, as well as the total number of TuYV-positive plants. Some plants contained members of more than one ORF 5 group. The groups were confirmed by TuYV MP RT-PCR, and a select few were sequenced directly

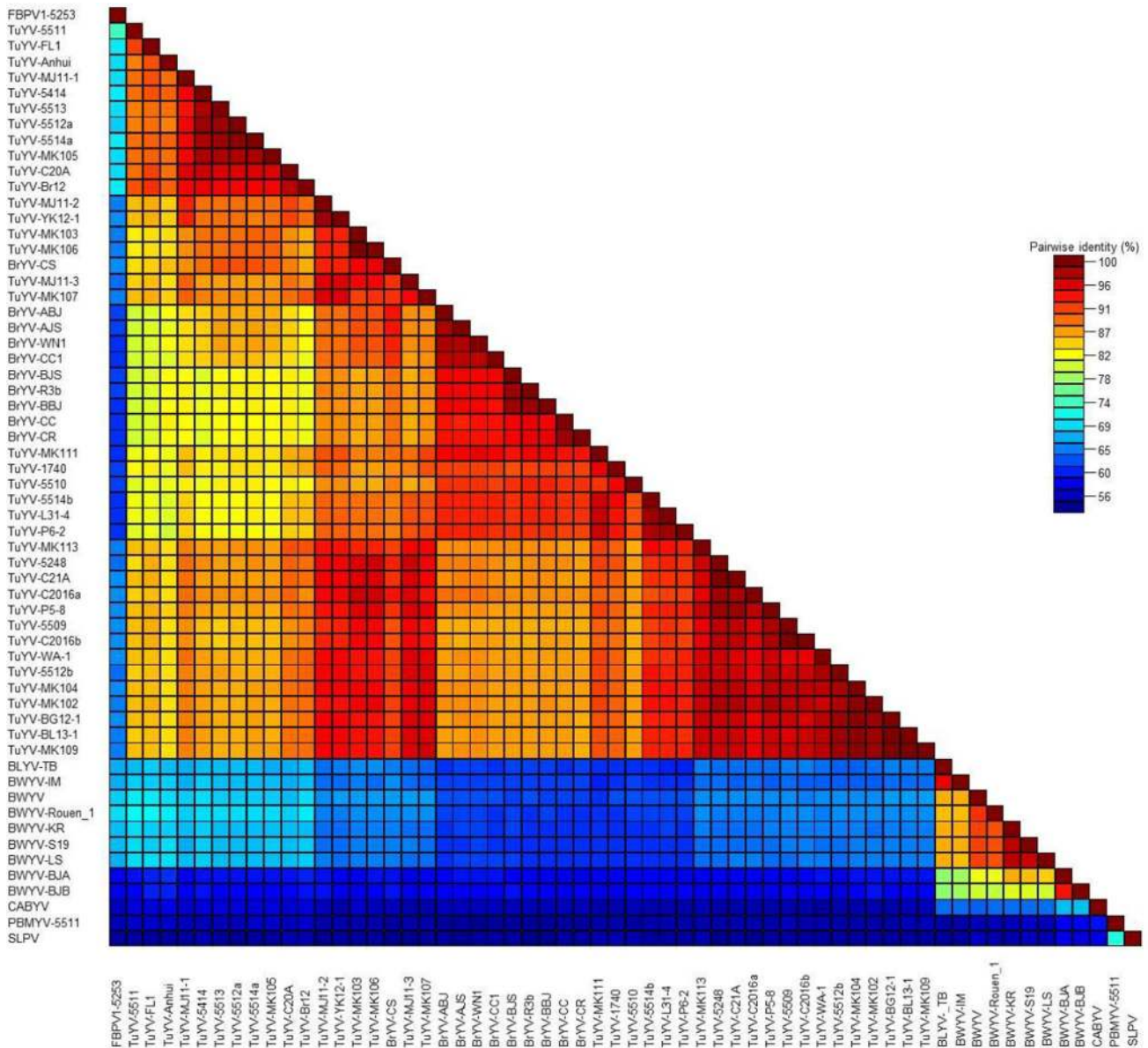


**Fig. 3** Phylogram obtained from a maximum likelihood search in IQTree v1.7, based on aligned genomes with a model test for each ORF. aRLT values ( $\geq 0.9$ ) and ultrafast bootstrap values ( $\geq 95\%$ ) from 10,000 replicates, and genealogical concordance values from each partition above nodes

only 69% aa sequence identity in this region. The 3' half of TuYV-5509 ORF 5 (787 nt into ORF 5 to the end of the reading frame, ~ 898 nt in length), shares 91% aa sequence identity with BrYV-CR and only 43% aa sequence identity with TuYV-FL-1. The same pattern of recombination

in ORF 5 was observed in all TuYV group 2 isolates (data not shown).

Recombination analysis and phylogenetic analysis showed that the genomes of ORF 5 TuYV group 2 isolates contain part of ORF 5 from TuYV group 1 and part of ORF 5 from TuYV group 3 (BrYV) as well as either ORF 3a version 1 or version 2, as shown in the schematic representation in Fig. 2a.



**Fig. 4** Colour matrix of pairwise nucleotide sequence identity inferred from alignments of whole genomes of TuYV, BrYV and other closely related poleroviruses

**Table 4** Details of virus-associated RNAs (aRNA) in hosts and collection locations

Sample ID	Host	Location	Collection year	BWYV ST9 aRNA % nt ID	TuYV sat1 aRNA	CABYV aRNA % nt ID	Accession number
BWYV aRNA-5248	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Edgeroi, NSW	2015	93	78	67	MT642436
BWYV aRNA-5512a	<i>Brassica napus</i>	Goulburn, NSW	2016	93	78	67	MT642438
BWYV aRNA-C20A9	<i>B. napus</i>	Curyo, VIC	2018	93	79	69	MT642437
BWYV aRNA-C21A6	<i>B. napus</i>	Watchupga, VIC	2018	93	79	68	MT642440
BWYV aRNA-C2018-9	<i>B. napus</i>	Horsham, VIC	2018	93	78	68	MT642439
BWYV aRNA-5414-8	<i>B. napus</i>	Deniliquin, NSW	2016	93	78	68	MT642441
TuYV Oz aRNA-C20A8	<i>B. napus</i>	Curyo, VIC	2018	79	93	67	MT642443
TuYV Oz aRNA-C2016-17	<i>B. napus</i>	Wimmera, VIC	2016	80	93	78	MT642445
TuYV Oz aRNA-5512b	<i>B. napus</i>	Goulburn, NSW	2016	79	93	77	MT642442
TuYV Oz aRNA-5514	<i>B. napus</i>	Riverton, SA	2014	79	93	77	MT642444

All aRNAs identified were found in coinfections with TuYV isolates identified using HTS. BWYV ST9 aRNA, NC\_004045; TuYV aRNA sat1, MN164515; CABYV aRNA, KM486094.

### Host range of TuYV groups

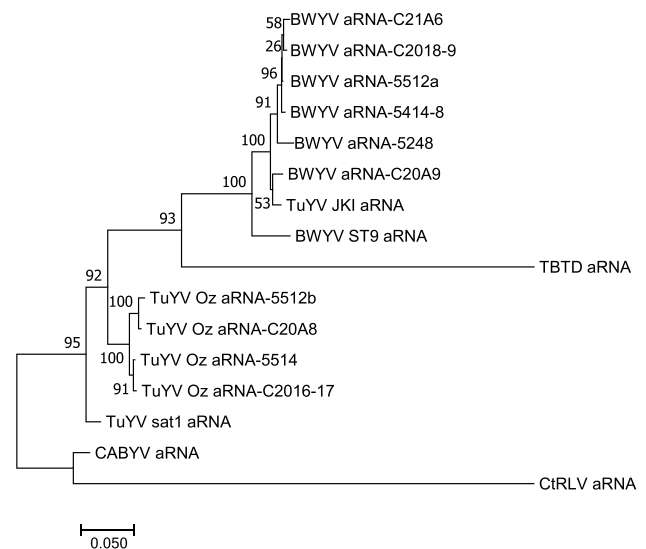
The TuYV isolates from all three groups were found in a range of pulse and canola crops, as well as weeds, throughout Australia (Table 1). During surveys conducted along the east coast of Australia (QLD, NSW, and VIC) between 2015 and 2019, plants that were positive by PCR (BWYV-3969F + AS5) for TuYV were retested in a multiplex RT-PCR that distinguished the different P5 groups. Table 3 shows the range of host species for each TuYV group recorded to date in Australia.

A small range of TuYV-positive samples collected between 2013 and 2014 from various countries were also retested using the P5 multiplex PCR. These results show that the different TuYV groups are not confined to Australia (Table 3).

### Phylogenomic analysis

Despite the amino acid sequence variation observed in P5, P0, and P3a, phylogenomic analysis showed that TuYV and BrYV share a common ancestor, and together, these isolates form a well-supported monophyletic group (Fig. 3). There was phylogenetic support for BrYV (1.0 aLRT, 100% UltraFast Bootstrap), which formed a nested, monophyletic group in the concatenated analyses; however, this clade was not reproduced in the gene trees of the ORFs (genealogic concordance factor = 0).

Our SplitsTree analysis suggested that recombination events had occurred between TuYV and BrYV (ORF 5; Fig. 2a and b) and that these viruses are closely related by genetic distance (Fig. 3). There was more intraspecific diversity across the genomes of BWYV than between the genomes of TuYV and BrYV based on genetic distance (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 5** Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree based on nucleotide sequence alignments of aRNAs identified in Australia.

### Pairwise identity and frequency distribution

The full-genome pairwise identity matrix showed a genetic continuum among the TuYV and BrYV isolates, with nucleotide sequence identity ranging from 82 to 99 % (Fig. 4). There was no distinct division within the genetic continuum in which a species separation could be inferred, supporting a monophyletic hypothesis for TuYV and BrYV (Fig. 3).

Frequency distribution plots can be used to distinguish virus species and aid in species demarcation when paired sequence identity values are plotted against frequency, resulting in a bimodal distribution of sequence identities [52, 69]. A whole-genome frequency distribution plot with all TuYV/BrYV

isolates, BWYV-USA, CABYV, PBMV, SLPV and FBPV-1, showed that sequence identity between distinct polerovirus members (first bimodal curve) ranged from 51 to 71 % (average,  $54.0 \pm 6.7$  %) (Fig. 2c). The TuYV/BrYV isolates formed a second bimodal curve with a continuum range of 83 to 100 % (average,  $90.5 \pm 4.0$  %), showing that all TuYV isolates group together as strains with a wide distribution of identity values.

To determine a region within the TuYV/BrYV genome that can be used for future diagnostics and species demarcation and reflect the phylogenomic, pairwise identity, and full-genome frequency distribution plot results, we plotted the frequency distribution of amino acid sequences of the conserved RdRp (ORF 2) and CP (ORF 3) regions (Supplementary Fig. 4). These regions show a bimodal distribution of sequence identity values with distinct species ranging from 60 to 67% (average,  $64.1 \pm 1.6$  %) for the RdRp region and from 65 to 74% (average,  $68.8 \pm 0.9$  %) for the CP. Identities between strains of TuYV/BrYV ranged from 91 to 100% (average,  $95.8 \pm 1.9$  %) and from 89 to 100% (average,  $94.5 \pm 2.2$  %) for RdRp and CP, respectively (Supplementary Fig. S4). The only exception to the bimodal pattern of species and strains was the BWYV-USA isolate, which grouped with TuYV/BrYV isolates for the CP, due to the high degree of similarity (range, 87–92% identity) in this region.

### Identification of virus-associated RNAs

Analysis of HTS data identified eight virus-associated RNA (aRNA) sequences in TuYV-infected canola and one in wild mustard (*Sinapis arvensis*) (Table 4). Six of the aRNAs (5248, 5512a, C20A, C21A, C2019, 5414) shared 97–100% nt sequence identity and were identified as BWYV aRNA, NC\_004045 (93% nt sequence identity to BWYV ST9 aRNA; [11]) (Table 4). Four aRNAs, 5512b from NSW, 5514 from SA, and C20A8 and C2016-17 from VIC, all from canola, shared 93% nt sequence identity with the newly identified TuYV sat1 aRNA (MN164515; unpublished) and only 79–80% nt sequence identity with BWYV ST9 aRNA (Table 4; Fig. 5). We have tentatively named the new TuYV aRNA isolates “TuYV Oz aRNA”.

### Discussion

In this study, we provide evidence that the P5 readthrough domain, P0, the small movement P3a protein, and, to a lesser extent, P1, are genetically diverse in isolates of TuYV/BrYV and BWYV. Genetic variation in these ORFs has been reported for TuYV isolates from England and continental Europe [3, 54] as well as for PeVYV-like isolates [22]. This suggests that polerovirus genomes are more diverse within these regions than originally thought, and with increased whole-genome sequencing, more diversity is likely to be found.

We showed that ORF 5 is a genetically variable region with evidence of recombination between two related isolates; the ORF 5 of group 2 TuYV isolates is a recombinant of group 1 and group 3 ORF 5. Recombination events in RNA viruses are well documented [28, 70, 78], and poleroviruses show that both intraspecific, homologous (TuYV and BrYV isolates) and interspecific, non-homologous (FBPV-1; [24]) recombination occurs.

We suggest that intraspecific variation in these genes is expected in a population, as these genes may be under selection from their hosts and vectors and accumulate changes faster than other parts of the genome. P5 is required for efficient aphid transmission and phloem retention of the virus and influences symptom development and virus accumulation [8, 9, 59, 60], P0 suppresses host resistance [5, 6, 58], and P3a is a movement protein – all of which would be associated with a compatible interaction [16, 26, 61].

Despite the genetic variation in ORFs 5, 0, and 3a, our phylogenomic analysis suggests that TuYV and BrYV are conspecific (i.e., belong to the same species). This was supported by a concatenated alignment of the entire genome in which TuYV and BrYV formed a monophyletic group.

The current ICTV species demarcation criteria for poleroviruses include differences in host range, failure to cross-protect, differences in serological reactions, and differences in the amino acid sequence of any gene product greater than 10% [35]. However, our analysis shows that the phylogenetic topologies of ORF 0, 3a, and 5 are incongruent, suggesting that comparison of these genes is not informative for species demarcation.

Our results suggest that it would be more feasible to classify TuYV isolates, and possibly other poleroviruses, according to whole-genome analysis. The whole-genome frequency distribution plot (Fig. 2c), which can also be used for determining species demarcation cutoffs [52, 69], suggests that TuYV and BrYV should be considered members of the same species if they share at least 83% nucleotide sequence identity. We therefore suggest that the species demarcation criteria for new poleroviruses would ideally include sharing less than 83% nt sequence identity in the whole coding region of the genome as well as any marked host range, vector, and serological differences.

For diagnostics purposes, whole genome sequences are not always attainable; therefore, species demarcation could also take into consideration conserved regions of the genome. For RNA viruses, the RdRp region, which is the only protein shared by all RNA viruses [38], and the coat protein are highly conserved within poleroviruses, and generally, conservation within these regions is indicative of membership in the same species [22, 48]. All TuYV/BrYV isolates share 91–100% aa sequence identity in the RdRp (P2) and 89–100% aa sequence identity in the CP (P3) (Supplementary Figs. S2, S3 and S4), reflecting

the current species demarcation rules of less than 10% aa sequence difference in these proteins. We therefore suggest that members of the same polerovirus species should share more than 89% aa sequence identity in the RdRp and CP proteins. However, the intergenic region between the RdRp and CP is a known hotspot for recombination events [56]. Characterisation of the region spanning the RdRp and CP genes, for diagnostics and demarcation, would identify potential recombination events in these conserved regions. If a recombination event is suspected, this might indicate that the isolate belongs to a new species, and characterisation of the complete genome would be warranted.

There is preliminary evidence suggesting that genetic variation within TuYV ORF 0 may influence the host range of different TuYV isolates [3, 54]. However, the TuYV sequence data from Newbert [54] are not publicly available or published and therefore could not be included in this study. At this stage, there is no information about the biological significance of the variation in TuYV ORF 5. TuYV has a broad host range, and the complex genetic diversity among TuYV strains may be the reason for its success. RNA viruses typically exploit high mutation rates, with populations consisting of “swarms” of mutants and/or quasispecies to achieve resistance-breaking, changes in host range, persistence in the host, and long-term survival in nature [18, 28].

During HTS analysis, a number of associated RNA (aRNA) sequences were obtained, predominantly from canola. This is the first report of TuYV and BWYV aRNAs in Australia. Polerovirus-associated RNAs are ~2.8 kb in length with two major ORFs. They replicate independently but are dependent on viruses, such as BWYV, for encapsidation and probably for aphid transmission as well as systemic movement within plants [11, 21, 57, 63]. Six aRNAs identified in this study were found to be related to BWYV ST9 aRNAs. Coinfection with BWYV ST9-aRNA has been shown to increase BWYV virion yield and increase pathogenicity [20, 21, 57]. Four other aRNA isolates were found to be related to the newly identified TuYV aRNA sat1 from South Africa (MN164515; unpublished).

Currently, little is known about the role of associated RNAs in TuYV outbreaks. In this study, we identified two different aRNAs, both in hosts infected with TuYV - an associated RNA closely resembling those reported from BWYV (BWYV ST9 aRNA), despite not finding evidence of BWYV in Australia, and a TuYV aRNA. Interestingly, a canola plant collected in South Australia during a severe TuYV outbreak in 2014 - TuYV-5514b (as well as MK111 and MK113) contained an isolate of TuYV aRNA as well as all three TuYV P5 strains (confirmed by HTS and TuYV MP-PCR). Do associated RNAs play a role in TuYV outbreaks? Do TuYV strains form a complex that influences pathogenicity? These are future research questions that could lead to a better

understanding of the epidemiology of TuYV outbreaks for this complex, genetically diverse virus.

Our study of TuYV diversity in Australia has raised questions about the currently used species demarcation criteria for poleroviruses based on aa sequence differences in gene products. As such, we have proposed a new method to better reflect the observed genetic diversity. This study also provides the knowledge and tools to investigate whether the diverse TuYV groupings identified actually have any biological differences, such as host range, vector specificity, or reaction with resistance genes, which may indicate that they are distinct strains or members of different species, which will require targeted control measures in affected crops.

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## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare there are no conflicts of interest.

**Ethical approval** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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