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The origin of a new human virus: phylogenetic analysis of the evolution of sars-cov-2 — Source link

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Published on: 21 Jul 2020 - bioRxiv (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory)

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1 **TITLE PAGE**

2 **Title:** PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS OF SARS-COV-2 IN THE FIRST MONTHS SINCE ITS
3 EMERGENCE

4
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24
25 **Running Title:** Phylogenetic analysis and evolution of SARS-CoV-2

26 **ABSTRACT**

27 During the first months of SARS-CoV-2 evolution in a new host, contrasting hypotheses
28 have been proposed about the way the virus has evolved and diversified worldwide. The aim
29 of this study was to perform a comprehensive evolutionary analysis to describe the human
30 outbreak and the evolutionary rate of different genomic regions of SARS-CoV-2.

31 The molecular evolution in nine genomic regions of SARS-CoV-2 was analyzed using three
32 different approaches: phylogenetic signal assessment, emergence of amino acid
33 substitutions, and Bayesian evolutionary rate estimation in eight successive fortnights since
34 the virus emergence.

35 All observed phylogenetic signals were very low and trees topologies were in agreement
36 with those signals. However, after four months of evolution, it was possible to identify
37 regions revealing an incipient viral lineages formation despite the low phylogenetic signal,
38 since fortnight 3. Finally, the SARS-CoV-2 evolutionary rate for regions nsp3 and S, the ones
39 presenting greater variability, was estimated to values of 1.37×10^{-3} and 2.19×10^{-3}
40 substitution/site/year, respectively.

41 In conclusion, results obtained in this work about the variable diversity of crucial viral regions
42 and the determination of the evolutionary rate are consequently decisive to understand
43 essential feature of viral emergence. In turn, findings may allow characterizing for the first
44 time, the evolutionary rate of S protein that is crucial for vaccines development.

45

46 **KEYWORDS:** SARS-CoV-2, Phylogeny, Evolution, Evolutionary Rate

47 **Introduction**

48 Coronaviruses belong to *Coronaviridae* family and have a single strand of positive-sense
49 RNA genome of 26 to 32 kb in length^[1]. They have been identified in different avian hosts as
50 well as in various mammals including bats, mice, dogs, etc.^[2,3]. Periodically, new
51 mammalian coronaviruses are identified. In late December 2019, Chinese health authorities
52 identified groups of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, Hubei Province,
53 China^[4]. The pathogen, a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2^[5], was identified by local
54 hospitals using a surveillance mechanism for "pneumonia of unknown etiology"^[4,6,7]. The
55 pandemic has spread rapidly and, to date, more than 22 million confirmed cases and nearly
56 750,000 deaths have been reported in just over a six months period^[8]. This rapid viral
57 spread raises interesting questions about the way its evolution is driven during the
58 pandemic. From the SARS-CoV-2 genome, 16 non-structural proteins (nsp1-16), 4 structural
59 proteins [spike (S), envelope (E), membrane (M) and nucleoprotein (N)], and other proteins
60 essential to complete the replication cycle are translated^[9,10]. The large amount of
61 information currently available allows knowing, as never before, the real-time evolution
62 history of a virus since its interspecies jump^[11]. Most studies published to date have
63 characterized the viral genome and evolution by analyzing complete genomes sequences
64^[12,13,14,15]. Despite this, until now, the viral genomic region providing the most accurate
65 information to characterize SARS-CoV-2, could not be established. This lack of information
66 prevent from investigating its molecular evolution and monitoring biological features affecting
67 the development of antiviral and vaccines. Therefore, the aim of this study was to perform a
68 comprehensive viral evolutionary analysis in order to describe the human outbreak and the
69 molecular evolution rate of different genomic regions of SARS-CoV-2.

70 **Materials and Methods**

71 *Datasets*

72 In order to generate a dataset representing different geographic regions and time evolution
73 of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic from December 2019 to April 2020, data of all the complete
74 genome sequences available at GISAID (<https://www.gisaid.org/>) on April 18, 2020 were
75 collected. Data inclusion criteria were: a.- complete genomes, b.- high coverage level, and
76 c.- human hosts only (no other animals, cell culture, or environmental samples). Complete
77 genomes were aligned using MAFFT against the Wuhan-Hu-1 reference genome
78 (NC_045512.2, EPI_ISL_402125). The resulting multiple sequence alignment (dataset 1)
79 was split in nine datasets corresponding to nine coding regions: a.- four structural proteins
80 [envelope (E), nucleocapsid (N), spike (S), Orf3a], b.- four nonstructural proteins (nsp1,
81 nsp3, Orf6, and nsp14), and c.- an unknown function protein (Orf8).

82 More than six thousand SARS-CoV-2 publicly available nucleotide sequences were
83 downloaded. After data selection according to the inclusion criteria, 1616 SARS-CoV-2
84 complete genomes were included in dataset 1. Sequences of this dataset 1 came from 55
85 countries belonging to the five continents as follow: Africa: 39 sequences, Americas: 383
86 sequences, Asia: 387 sequences, Europe: 686 sequences and Oceania: 121 sequences.
87 After elimination of sequences with indeterminate or ambiguous positions, the number of
88 analyzed sequences for each region were: nsp1, 1608; nsp3, 1511; nsp14, 1550; S, 1488;
89 Orf3a, 1600; E, 1615; Orf6, 1616; Orf8, 1612; and N, 1610. Finally, nucleotide sequences
90 were grouped by fortnight (FN) according to their collection date. Table 1 summarizes the
91 number of sequences per fortnight since the beginning of the pandemic up to FN 8. On the
92 other hand, Dataset 2 was created using only variable sequences of each region analyzed in
93 Dataset 1. Thus, Dataset 1 was used for the analysis of amino acid substitutions and

94 Dataset 2 was used for the phylogenetic signal analysis and the Bayesian coalescent trees
95 construction.

96

97 *Phylogenetic signal*

98 To determine the phylogenetic signal of each of the nine generated alignments, Likelihood
99 Mapping analyzes were carried out ^[16], using the Tree Puzzle v5.3 program ^[17] and the
100 Quartet puzzling algorithm. This algorithm allowed analyzing the tree topologies that can be
101 completely solved from all possible quartets of the n alignment sequences using maximum
102 likelihood. An alignment with defined tree values greater than 70-80% presents strong
103 support from the statistical point of view ^[17]. Identical sequences were also removed with
104 ElimDupes (Available at
105 <https://www.hiv.lanl.gov/content/sequence/elimdupesv2/elimdupes.html>) as they increase
106 computation time and provide no additional information about data phylogeny. The best-fit
107 evolutionary model to each dataset was selected based on the Bayesian Information
108 Criterion obtained with the JModelTest v2.1.10 software ^[18].

109

110 *Analysis of amino acid substitutions*

111 Entropy-One (Available at
112 https://www.hiv.lanl.gov/content/sequence/ENTROPY/entropy_one.html) was used to
113 determining in dataset 1 the frequency of amino acids at each position for the nine genomic
114 regions analyzed and evaluating their permanence in the eight investigated fortnights.

115

116 *Bayesian coalescence and phylogenetic analysis*

117 To study the relationship between SARS-CoV-2 sequences, nine regions of the virus
118 genome were investigated by Bayesian analyses. Phylogenetic trees were constructed using

119 Bayesian inference with MrBayes v3.2.7a ^[19]. Each gene was analyzed independently with
120 the same dataset used for the phylogenetic signal analysis so that non-identical sequences
121 were included in the analysis. Analyses were run for five million generations and sampled
122 every 5000 generations. Convergence of parameters [effective sample size (ESS) \geq 200,
123 with a 10% burn-in] was verified with Tracer v1.7.1 ^[20]. Phylogenetic trees were visualized
124 with FigTree v1.4.4.

125

126 *Evolutionary rate*

127 The estimation of the nucleotide evolutionary rate was made with the Beast v1.10.4 program
128 package ^[21]. Analyses were run at the CIPRES Science Gateway server ^[22]. Three hundred
129 and twelve sequences without indeterminations corresponding to the nsp3 (5835nt) and S
130 (3822nt) genes were randomly selected from dataset 1. The sequences represent all the
131 fortnights and most of the geographical locations sampled until April 17. Temporal calibration
132 was performed by date of sampling. The appropriate evolutionary model was selected as
133 described above for phylogenetic signal analysis. The TIM model of nucleotide substitution
134 was used for nsp3 and, the HKY model of nucleotide substitution for S. The analysis was
135 carried out under a relaxed (uncorrelated lognormal) molecular clock model suggest by
136 Duchene & col. ^[23] and with an exponential demographic, proper for early viral samples from
137 an outbreak ^[24]. Independent runs were performed for each dataset and a Markov chain
138 Monte Carlo (MCMC) with a length of 1.3×10^9 steps, sampling every 1.3×10^6 steps, was set.
139 The convergence of the "meanRate" parameters [effective sample size (ESS) \geq 200, burn-in
140 10%] was verified with Tracer v1.7.1 ^[20]. Additionally, in order to verify the obtained results,
141 15 independent replicates of the analysis were performed with the time calibration
142 information (date of sampling) randomized as described by Rieux & Khatchikian, 2017 ^[25].
143 Finally, the obtained parameters for real data and the randomized replicates were compared.

144 **Results**

145 *Phylogenetic signal*

146 Using bioinformatics tools, a phylogenetic signal study was carried out in order to identify the
147 most informative SARS-CoV-2 genomic regions. The likelihood mapping analysis showed
148 that most genes has very poor phylogenetic signal with high values in central region which
149 represents the area of unresolved quartets (Figure 1). Accordingly, genes could be
150 separated into three groups. A group with little or no phylogenetic signal (E, Orf6, Orf8, nsp1,
151 and nsp14), a second group with low phylogenetic signal (Orf3a and N), and a last group
152 with relatively more phylogenetic signal (S and nsp3) but still low to be considered a robust
153 one (unresolved quartets >40%).

154

155 *Analysis of amino acid substitutions*

156 The analysis of amino acids substitutions by fortnights was useful to study the viral
157 evolutionary dynamics in the context of the beginning of the pandemic. By analyzing different
158 time periods amino acid sequences, changes were observed in 5 out of 9 genomic regions
159 and only in 14 out of the 4975 (0.28%) evaluated residues. In most of the regions, except
160 nsp1, nsp14, E, and Orf6, 2 to 6 amino acids were selected since FN3 and remain
161 unchanged until the end of the follow up period (Table 2). Particularly, in Orf8 region, early
162 selection of two amino acid substitutions (V62L and L84S) was observed from FN2. On the
163 other hand, in the S region, the D614G substitution started with less than 2% in FN3 and
164 FN4 and reached 88% in the last fortnight. In a similar way, the Q57H (Orf3a) substitution
165 went from 6% to 34% while L84S (Orf8) start to be selected in FN2 and reached 6% by FN8.
166 The R203K and G204R substitutions of the N region was selected in FN4 and increased
167 their population proportion with values greater than 20% towards the end of the follow up
168 period. Moreover, selection of a great number of sporadic substitutions remaining in the

169 population for a short period (1-3 fortnights) was observed in the nine analyzed regions.
170 Indeed, 333 (6.83%) of the analyzed positions presented at least one substitution throughout
171 the eight fortnights. Table 3 summarizes the number of variable positions, number of
172 mutations, and number of sequences with mutations by region.

173

174 *Bayesian coalescence analysis*

175 In this study, trees were performed by Bayesian analysis instead of by distance, likelihood,
176 or parsimony methods. Consistently with the phylogenetic signal analysis, trees for nsp1, E,
177 and Orf6 showed a star-like topology. Nevertheless, different proportions of clades formation
178 could be observed in trees of Orf8, nsp14, Orf3a, N, S, and nsp3 regions (Figure 2). Finally,
179 from mentioned regions, nsp3 and S showed a better clade constitution. This analysis
180 allowed to differentiate regions presenting a diversification process (nsp3, nsp14, Orf3a, S,
181 Orf8, and N) from those that even after four months showed an incipient one (nsp1, E, and
182 Orf6). Furthermore, this nucleotide analysis is complemented by the previous study of amino
183 acid variations in each region. However, it is important to note that due to the low
184 phylogenetic signal observed for each region, results can only be considered as preliminary.

185

186 *Evolutionary rate*

187 Nsp3 and S sequences were selected to perform the evolutionary rate analysis since both
188 regions provided the best phylogenetic information among studied regions. The observed
189 evolutionary rate for nsp3 protein of SARS-CoV-2 was estimated to be 1.37×10^{-3} (ESS 782)
190 nucleotide substitutions per site per year (s/s/y) (95% HPD interval 9.16×10^{-4} to 1.91×10^{-3}).
191 On the other hand, the corresponding figures for S were estimated to be 2.19×10^{-3} (ESS
192 383) nucleotide s/s/y (95% HPD interval 3.19×10^{-3} to 1.29×10^{-3}). In both genomic regions,
193 date-randomization analyses showed no overlapping between the 95% HPD substitution-

194 rate intervals obtained from real data and from date-randomized datasets. This fact suggests
195 that the original dataset has enough temporal signal to perform analyses with temporal
196 calibration based on tip-dates (Figure 3).

197 **Discussion**

198 The phylogenetic characterization of an emerging virus is crucial to understand the way the
199 virus and the pandemic will evolve. Thereby, a detailed study of the SARS CoV-2 genome
200 allows, on the one hand, to contribute to the knowledge of viral diversity in order to detect
201 the most suitable regions to be used as antivirals or vaccines targets. On the other hand, the
202 large amount of information that is continuously generated, is allowing studying the SARS
203 CoV-2 genome and describing a new viral real time evolution like never before.

204 In the present study, the molecular evolution and viral lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in nine
205 genomic regions, during eight successive fortnights, was analyzed using three different
206 approaches: phylogenetic signal assessment, emergence of amino acid substitutions, and
207 Bayesian evolutionary rate estimation. In this context, the observed phylogenetic signals of
208 nine coding regions were very low and the obtained trees were consistent with this finding,
209 showing star-like topologies in some viral regions (nsp1, E, and Orf6). However, after a four
210 months evolution period, it was possible to identify regions (nsp3, S, Orf3a, Orf8, and N)
211 revealing an incipient formation of viral lineages, despite the phylogenetic signal, both at the
212 nucleotide and amino acid levels from FN3. Based on these findings, the SARS-CoV-2
213 evolutionary rate was estimated, for the first time, for the two regions showing higher
214 variability (S and nsp3).

215 As regards the phylogenetic signal, several simulation studies has proven that for a set of
216 sequences to be considered robust, the central and lateral areas representing the
217 unresolved quartets, must not be greater than 40% ^[16]. In this regard, none of the nine
218 analyzed regions met this requirement. Three regions (E, nsp1, and Orf6) presented values
219 of 100% unresolved quartets. Most regions (nsp14, Orf3a, Orf8, and N) reached values
220 higher than 85%. Only in regions nsp3 and S the number of unresolved quartets dropped to
221 ~ 60%. Thus, despite being a virus with an RNA genome, the short time elapsed since its

222 emergence, and possibly genetic restrictions have led to a constrained evolution of SARS-
223 CoV-2 in these months. For this reason, it is expected that trees generated from SARS-CoV-
224 2 partial sequences in the first months of the pandemic are unreliable for defining clades.
225 Therefore, they should be analyzed with great caution.

226 Since Bayesian analysis allows to infer phylogenetic patterns from tree distributions, it
227 represents a more reliable tool to compare different evolutionary behaviors. Bayesian
228 analysis helps to obtain a tree topology that is closer to reality in the current conditions of
229 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic [26]. The phylogenetic analysis for nsp1, E, and Orf6 regions
230 confirmed the star-like topologies in accordance to a lower diversification of these regions
231 using the sequences available up to FN8 (Figure 2). Trees generated from nsp14 and Orf8
232 are at an intermediate point, where the formation of small clusters can be observed. In fact,
233 a mutation at position 28,144 (Orf8: L84S) has been proposed as a possible marker for viral
234 classification [27,28]. Finally, trees obtained from regions Orf3a, N, nsp3, and S showed the
235 best clade formation. Indeed, in the most variable regions nsp3 and S, it can be clearly seen
236 that sequences are separated into two large groups. Despite the aforementioned for the
237 nsp3 and S regions, even clusters with very high support values should be taken with
238 precaution and longer periods should be considered to obtain more accurate phylogeny
239 data. However, even when data are not the most accurate to study the spread or clade
240 formation [29, 30], they provide a good representation of the way the virus is evolving.

241 The analysis of amino acids frequencies allowed identifying different degree of region
242 conservation throughout the viral genome as a consequence of positive and negative
243 pressures. In particular, nsp3, S, Orf8, and N showed some substitutions in high
244 frequencies. This would indicate, as other authors previously report, the frequent circulation
245 of polymorphisms due to significant positive pressure [13,27,31]. Additionally, since S and N are
246 among candidates to be used in the formulation of vaccines and antibody treatment, it will be

247 important to monitor these substitutions in different geographic regions in order to improve
248 treatment and vaccination efficacy [32,33,34]. In particular, the appearance of the D614G variant
249 in the third week and its rapid increase until reaching a prevalence of 88% in the eighth week
250 could reflect an improvement in viral fitness, as several studies reported [35].

251 Contrarily, in regions nsp1, nsp14, E, and Orf6 no substitutions were selected and lasted
252 during the first 4 months of the pandemic. This would suggest that these are regions with
253 constraints to change due to the great negative selection pressure, as it has been recently
254 reported [13].

255 In the present study, the evolutionary rate for SARS-CoV-2 genes was estimated by
256 analyzing a large number of sequences, which were carefully curated and had a good
257 temporal and spatial structure. Additionally, the most phylogenetically informative regions of
258 the genome (nsp3 and S) were used for analysis, reinforcing the results confidence.
259 Previous studies on SARS-CoV-2 have reported similar data ranging from 1.79×10^{-3} to
260 6.58×10^{-3} s/s/y for the complete genome [6,36]. However, in both articles, small datasets of
261 complete genomes were used (N=32 and 54, respectively). As studies were performed early
262 in the outbreak and due to datasets temporal structure, analysis could have led to less
263 precise estimates of the evolutionary rate [23]. On the other hand, another study from van
264 Dorp et al. (2020), analyzing 7,666 sequences has obtained different results with a
265 remarkably low evolutionary rate (6×10^{-4} nucleotide/genome/year) [15]. However, it is
266 important to consider that van Dorp et al. (2020) estimate the evolutionary rate using the
267 complete genome, including several highly conserved genomic regions, while in our work,
268 the estimation was performed with the most variable regions of the genome. Additionally,
269 tests randomizing the dates of nsp3 and S datasets were carried out; they showed that these
270 partial genomic regions have enough temporal signal. In this context, our results (1.37×10^{-3}
271 s/s/y for NSp3 and 2.19×10^{-3} s/s/y for S) are in close agreement with those published for

272 SARS-CoV genome, which have been estimated between 0.80 to 3.01×10^{-3} s/s/y ^[37-39](The
273 Chinese SARS Molecular Epidemiology Consortium, 2004, Vega et al. 2004, Zhao et al.
274 2004). Moreover, our values are in the same order magnitude as other RNA viruses ^[40].
275 Even though we should be cautious with these results interpretation, the date-randomization
276 analysis indicated a robust temporal signal.

277 In addition, the importance of separately studying the evolutionary rate in S region arises
278 from the fact that it represents the main target for antiviral agents and vaccines since it
279 includes the SARS-CoV-2 binding receptor domain (RBD), a crucial structure for the virus to
280 enter host cells and binding site for neutralizing antibodies ^[41].

281 Despite limitations of the evolutionary study of an emerging virus, where the selection
282 pressures are still low and therefore its variability is also low, this work has a great strength:
283 it lies on the extremely careful selection of a big sequence dataset to be analyze. First, it was
284 considered selected sequences to have a good temporal signal and spatial (geographic)
285 structure. Secondly, much attention was paid to the elimination of sequences with low
286 coverage and indeterminacies that could generate a noise for the phylogenetic analysis of a
287 virus that is beginning to evolve in a new host.

288 The appearance of a new virus means an adaptation challenge. The SARS-CoV-2 overcome
289 the spill stage and shows a significantly higher spread than SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV,
290 thus becoming itself the most important pandemic of the century. In this context, the results
291 obtained in this work about the variable diversity of nine crucial viral regions and the
292 determination of the evolutionary rate, are consequently decisive to understanding essential
293 feature of viral emergence. Nevertheless, monitoring SARS-CoV-2 population will be
294 required to determine the evolutionary course of new mutations as well as to understand the
295 way they affect viral fitness in human hosts.

296

297 **Competing interest:** On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is
298 no conflict of interest.

299

300 **Funding:** None

301

302 **Declaration of Author Contributions**

303 MJP: Data curation, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, drafting the
304 article, final approval of the version to be submitted.

305 LM: Data curation, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, revising the article
306 critically for important intellectual content, final approval of the version to be submitted.

307 APM: Data curation, Validation, revising the article critically for important intellectual content,
308 final approval of the version to be submitted.

309 DMF: Data curation, Validation, drafting the article, final approval of the version to be
310 submitted.

311 GG: Data curation, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, drafting the article,
312 final approval of the version to be submitted.

313 FAD: Conception and design of the study, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of
314 data, drafting the article, final approval of the version to be submitted.

315

316 **Acknowledgements**

317 MJP, LM, DMF, and FAD are members of the National Research Council (CONICET). We
318 would like to thank to the researchers who generated and shared the sequencing data from
319 GISAID (<https://www.gisaid.org/>) and Mrs. Silvina Heisecke from CEMIC-CONICET for
320 providing language assistance.

321

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445 **Table 1.** Number of SARS-CoV-2 sequences by fortnight (Temporal structure)

Fortnight	Date	Median of analyzed sequences (Q1-Q3)
FN1	12/24/2019 to 12/31/2019	15
FN2	01/01/2020 to 01/15/2020	19
FN3	01/16/2020 to 01/31/2020	145 (136-145.5)
FN4	02/01/2020 to 02/15/2020	119 (113-120)
FN5	02/16/2020 to 03/02/2020	258 (247-259)
FN6	03/03/2020 to 03/17/2020	403 (390-406)
FN7	03/18/2020 to 04/01/2020	447 (416-450)
FN8	04/02/2020 to 04/17/2020	199 (197-201)
TOTAL		1488 to 1616

446 FN: Fortnight; Q1=quartile 1, Q3=quartile 3. The total number of sequences is variable depending on
447 the analyzed region (nsp1, 1608; nsp3, 1511; nsp14, 1550; S, 1488; Orf3a, 1600; E, 1615; Orf6,
448 1616; Orf8, 1612; and N, 1610)
449

450 **Table 2.** Amino acids selected by region and fortnight. The number indicates the amino
 451 acids location in its protein.

Region	Amino acid substitution	Amino acid percentage by FN							
		FN1	FN2	FN3	FN4	FN5	FN6	FN7	FN8
nsp3	A58T	0	0	0	1.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	2.5
	P135L	0	0	0.8	0	0	1.5	0.5	2.5
S	D614G	0	0	1.5	1.8	37.0	64.0	75.0	88.0
Orf3a	Q75H	0	0	0	0	6.0	22.0	23.0	34.0
	G196V	0	0	0	0	0.8	4.0	0.9	0.5
	G251V	0	0	8.0	24.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	3.0
Orf8	V62L	0	5.0	1.0	3.3	0.0	1.5	1.3	3.0
	L84S	0	42.0	37.0	21.0	21.0	18.0	7.0	6.0
N	P13L	0	0	0	0	1.0	1.0	2.5	0.5
	S197L	0	0	0	0	1.1	5.0	0.9	0.5
	S202N	0	0	3.5	4.2	0	0.5	2.2	2.5
	R203K	0	0	0	0	17.0	19.0	24.0	23.0
	G204R	0	0	0	0	17.0	19.0	24.0	23.0
	I292T	0	0	0	0	2.0	0.2	0.2	0.5

452 Only regions where amino acid change was selected and remained until the last analyzed fortnight
 453 are shown. FN: Fortnight; aa: amino acid

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 455

456 **Table 3.** Number of variable positions, number of mutations, and number of sequences with
457 mutation by region

Region	Nº of variable aa positions (%)	Nº of aa substitutions	Nº of sequences with aa substitutions (%)
nsp1 (180aa)	3 (1.7)	37	37 (2.4)
nsp3 (1945aa)	158 (8.1)	322	294 (19.3)
nsp14 (527aa)	6 (1.4)	83	83 (5.5)
S (1273aa)	76 (5.9)	1013	904 (59.4)
Orf3a (275aa)	11 (4)	491	468 (30.7)
E (75aa)	5 (6.7)	6	6 (0.4)
Orf6 (60aa)	7 (11.6)	9	9 (0.6)
Orf8 (121aa)	14 (11.6)	312	288 (18.9)
N (419aa)	53 (12.6)	760	470 (30.9)
Total (4875aa)	333 (6.8)	3033	-

458 aa: amino acid

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471 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

472

473 **Figure 1**

474 Phylogenetic signal for SARS-CoV-2 datasets. Presence of phylogenetic signal was
475 evaluated by likelihood mapping, unresolved quartets (center) and partly resolved quartets
476 (edges) for genomes available on April 17 for the nine analyzed regions: nsp1 (29
477 sequences), nsp3 (225 sequences), nsp14 (65 sequences), S (183 sequences), Orf3a (74
478 sequences), E (11 sequences), Orf6 (12 sequences), Orf8 (23 sequences), and N (113
479 sequences). Presence of strong phylogenetic signal (<40% unresolved quartets) was not
480 reached for any region.

481

482 **Figure 2**

483 Bayesian trees of 29 sequences of nsp1 (540nt), 225 sequences of nsp3 (5835nt), 65
484 sequences of nsp14 (1581nt), 183 sequences of S (3822nt), 74 sequences of Orf3a (828nt),
485 11 sequences of E (228nt), 12 sequences of Orf6 (186nt), 23 sequences of Orf8 (366nt),
486 and 113 sequences of N (1260nt). Scale bar represents substitutions per site.

487

488 **Figure 3**

489 Comparison of the evolutionary rates estimated using BEAST for the original dataset and the
490 date-randomized datasets (312 sequences). This analysis was performed for regions nsp3
491 (5835nt) and S (3822nt). s.s.y = substitutions/site/year.

492

493

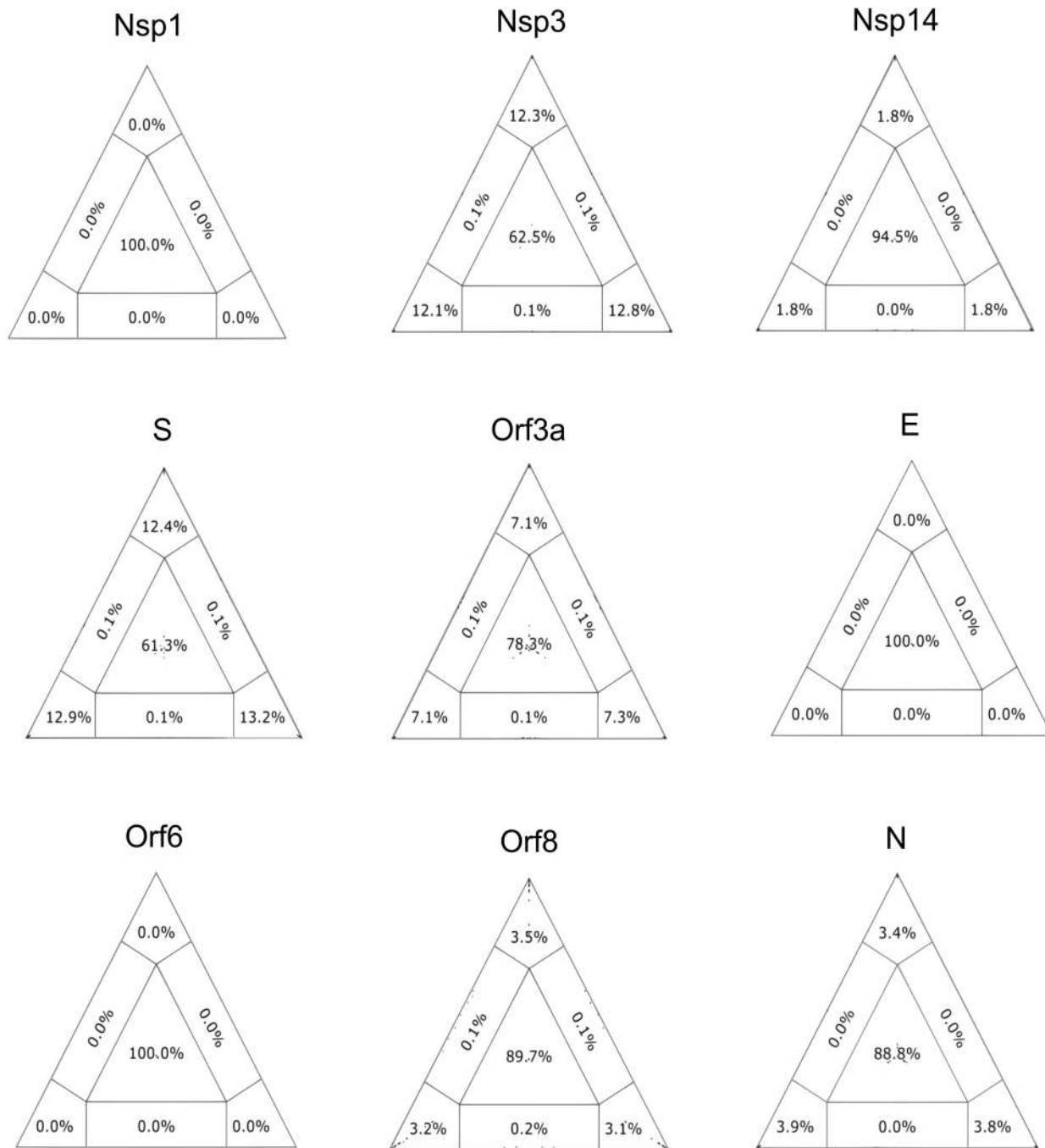


Figure 1

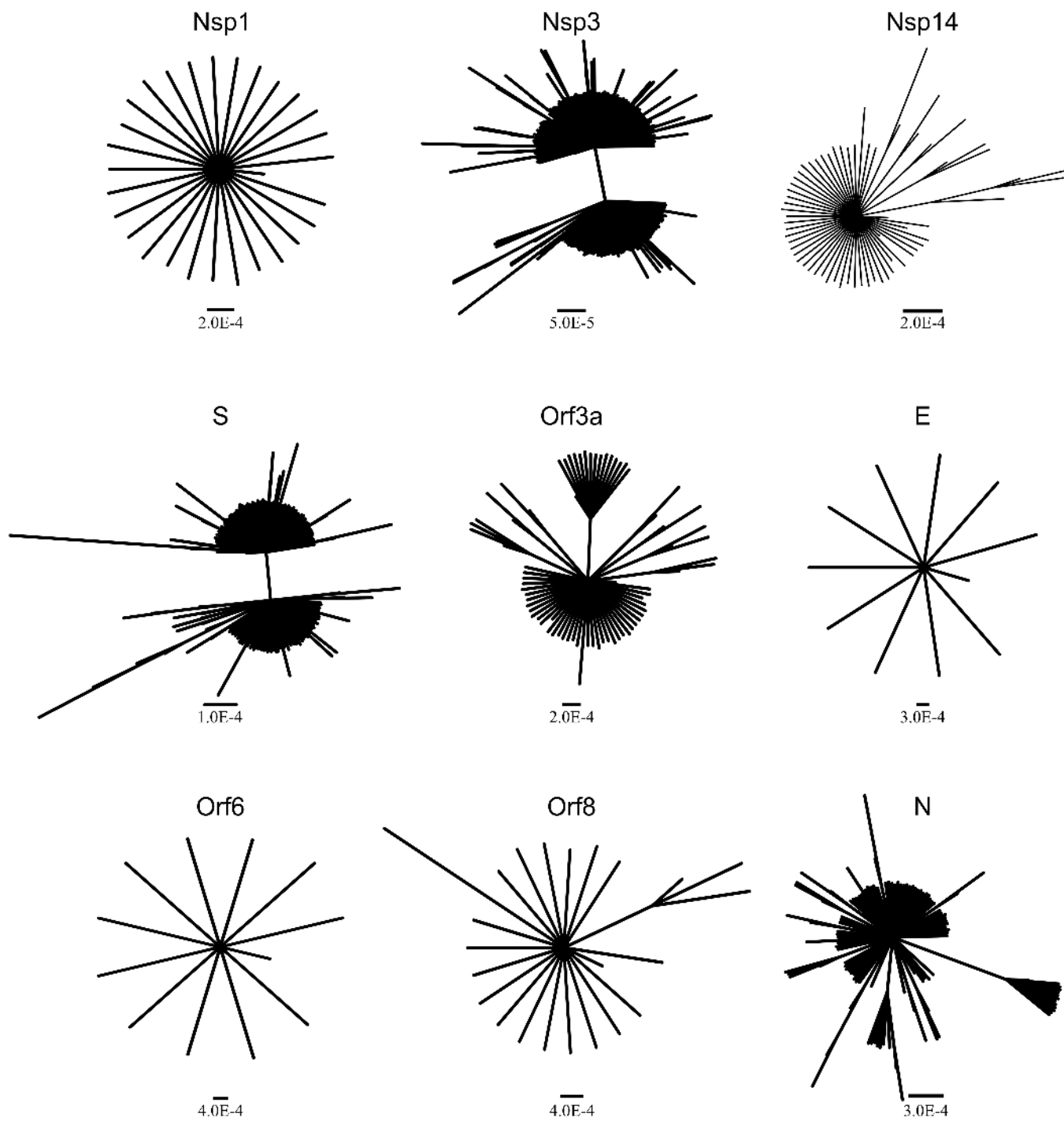
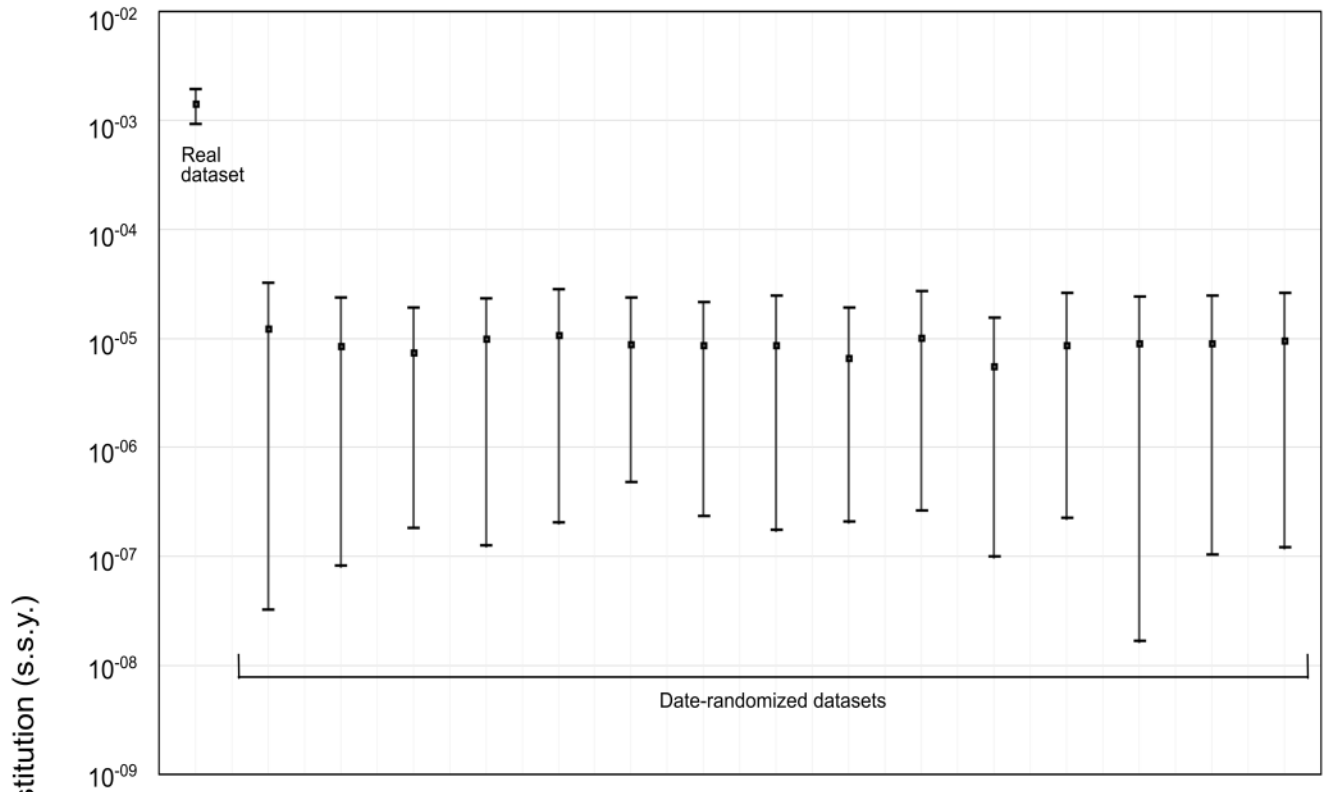


Figure 2

Nsp3



S

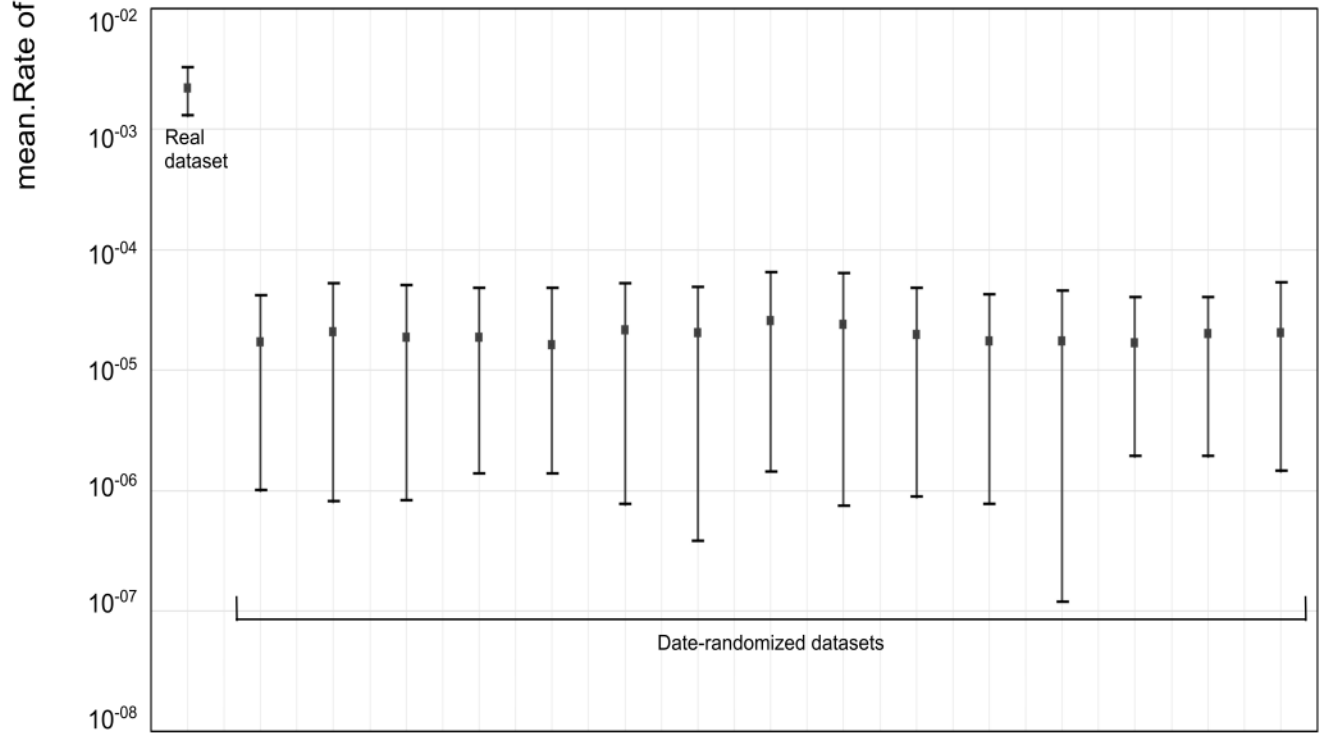


Figure 3