



Landcare Research  
Manaaki Whenua



ministry of  
science + innovation  
TE PŪMUA HIRANGA WHAKAA

# Applying pathogen discovery techniques to wildlife disease issues in New Zealand

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NEW ZEALAND CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION MEDICINE  
TE RŌPU TAIAO RONGOA O AOTEAROA



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



# Acknowledgements

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Ron Moorhouse (DOC)

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Wray Grimaldi (University of Otago)

Amy Whitehead (University of Melbourne)



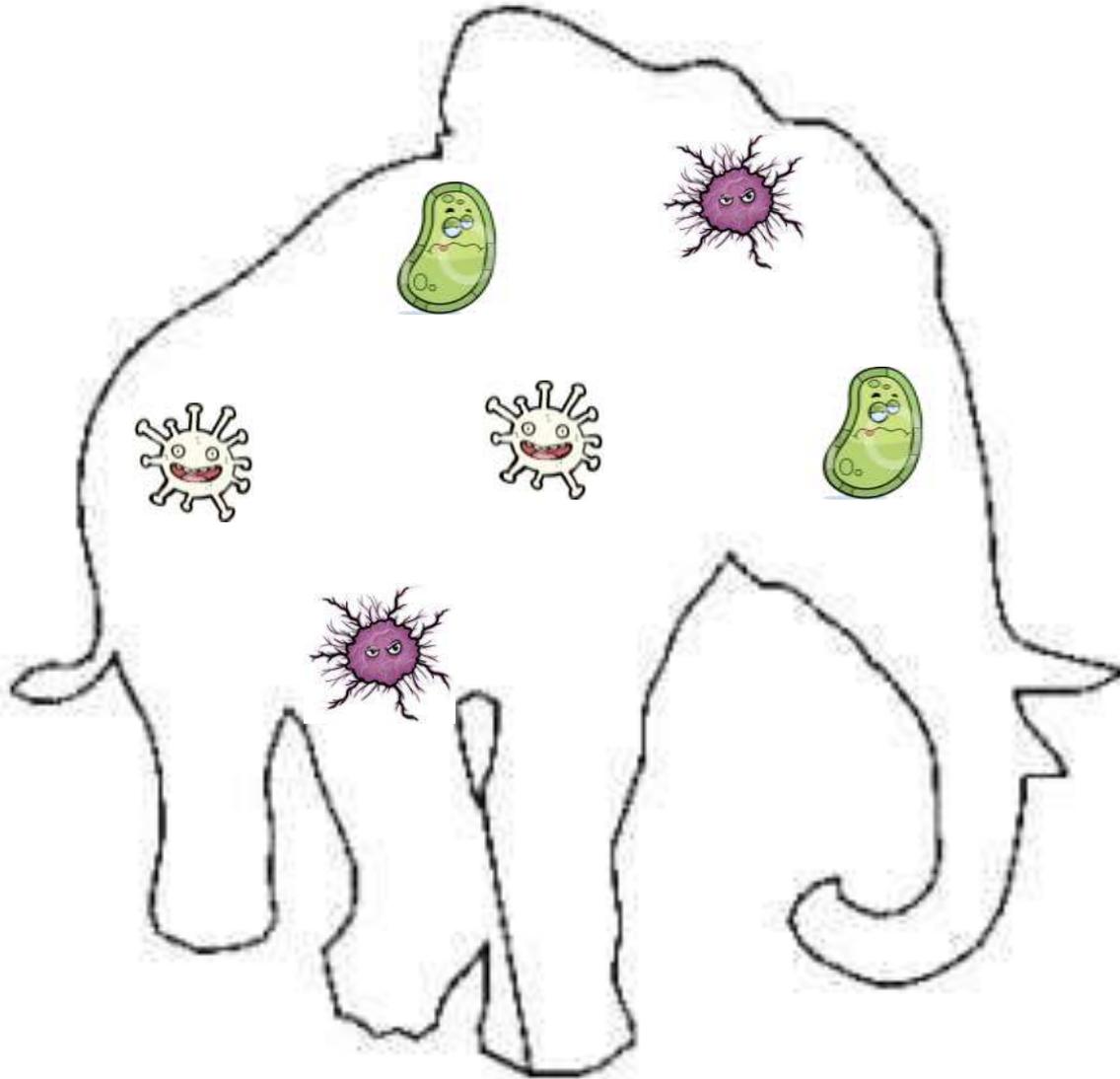
NeSI  
New Zealand eScience  
Infrastructure



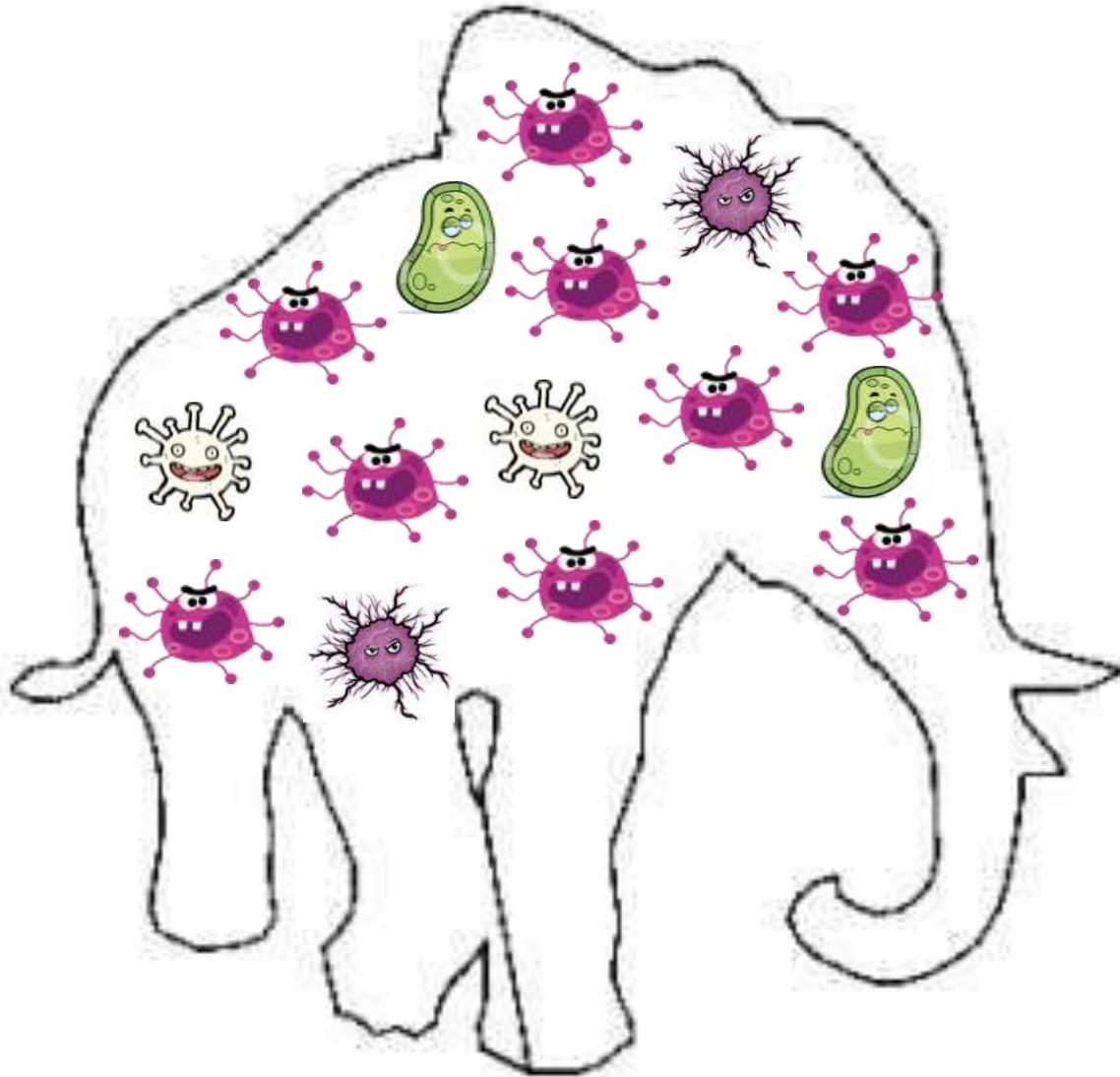




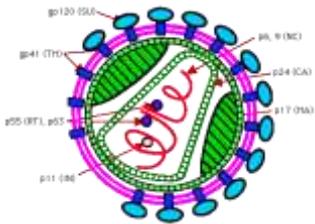
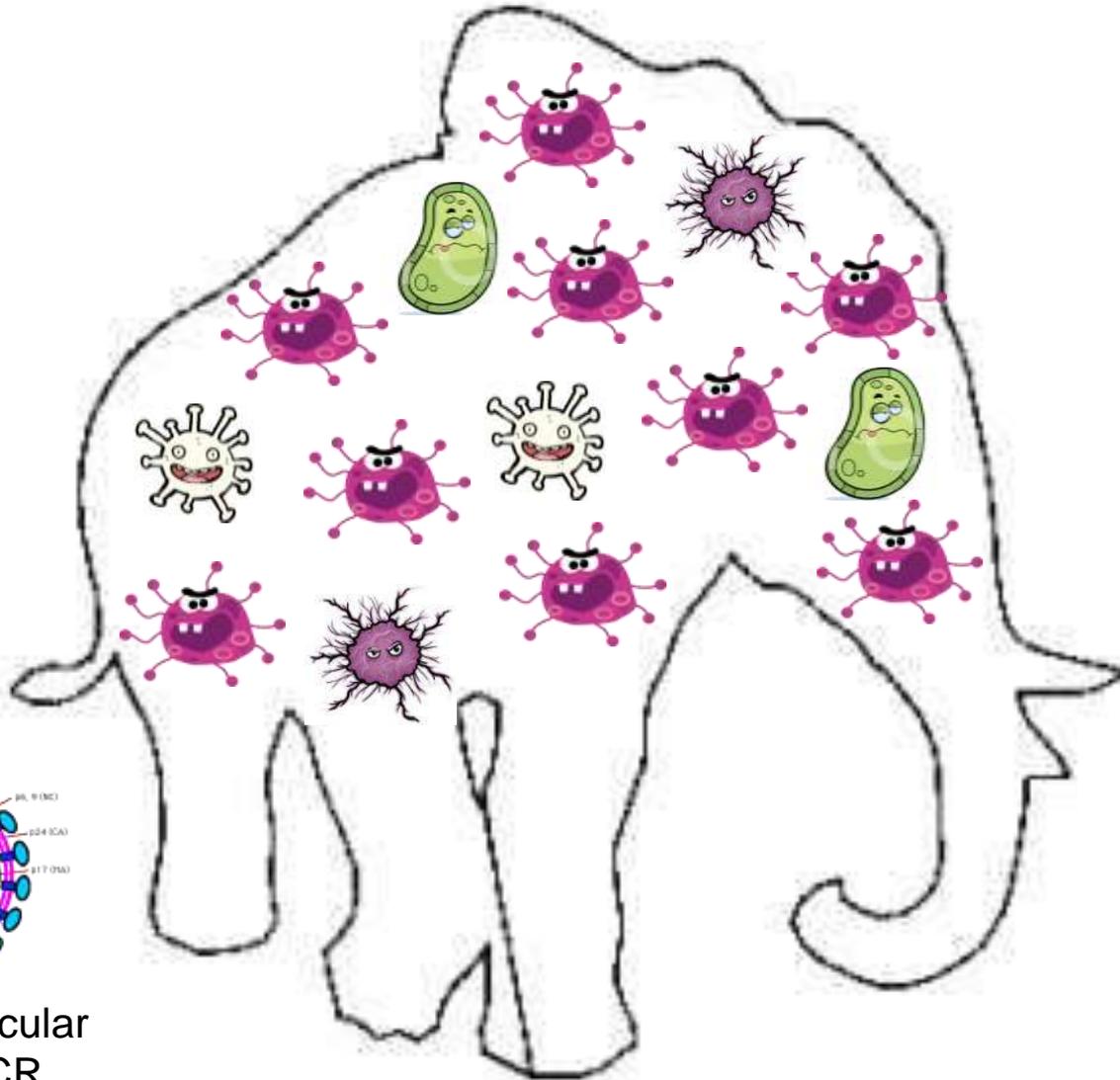
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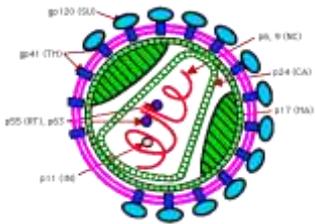
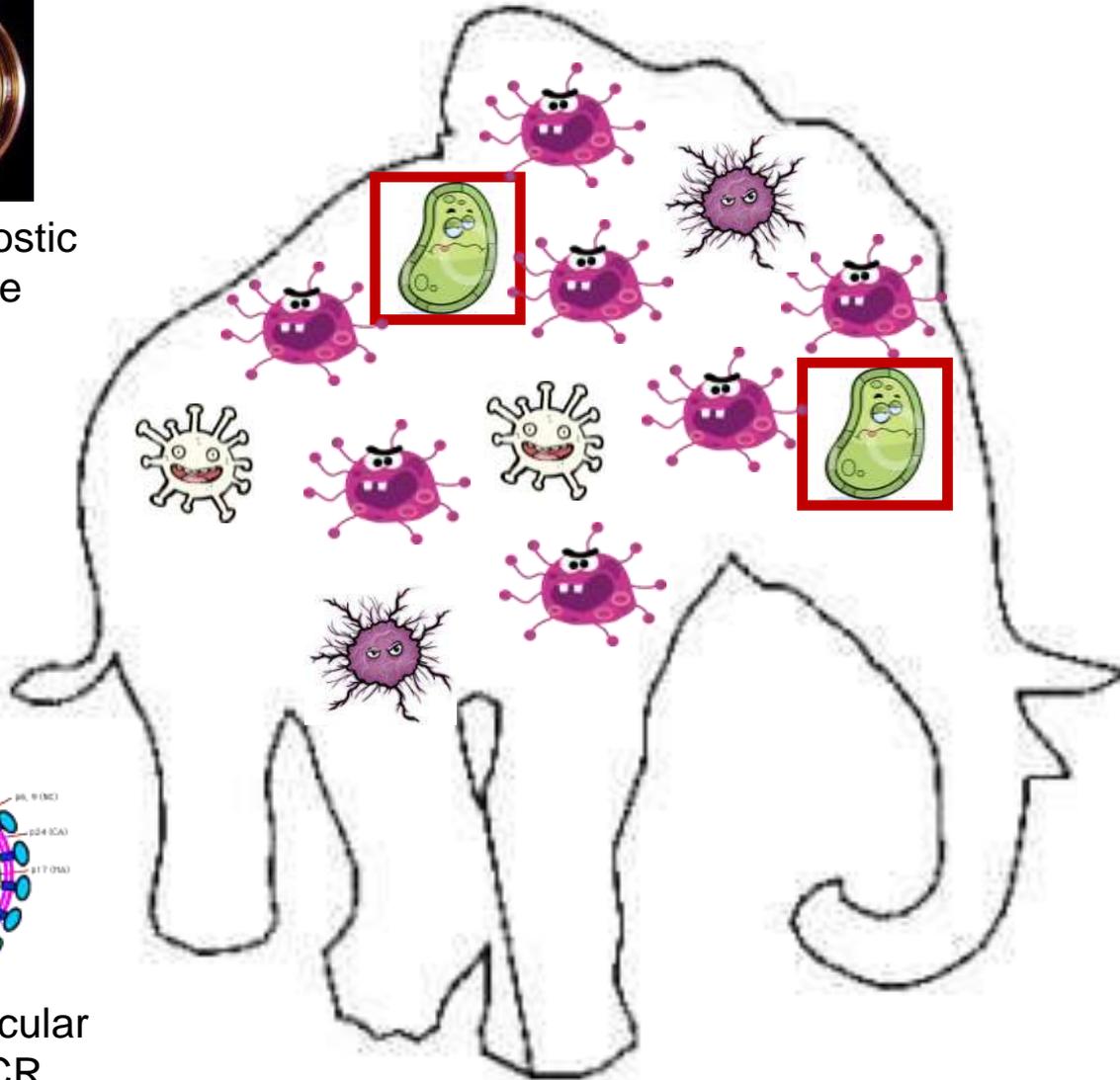


Specific molecular  
test e.g. PCR

# Pathogen discovery



Group diagnostic  
e.g. culture

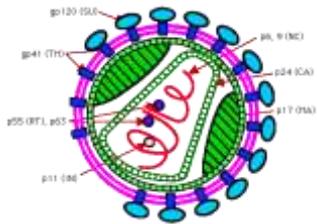
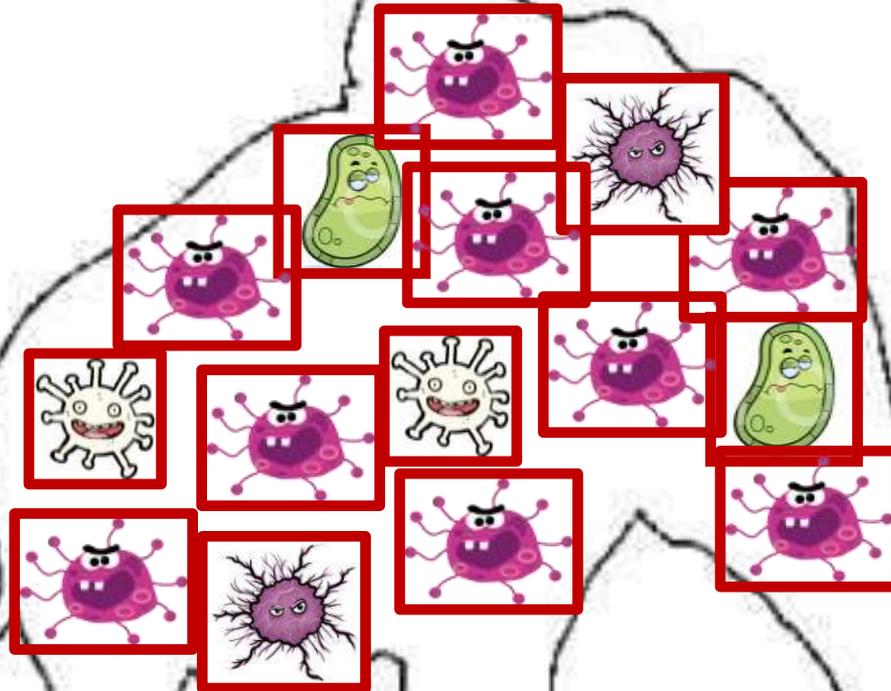


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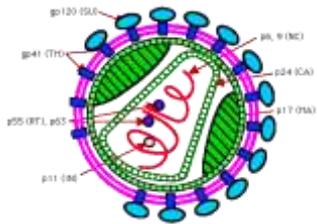
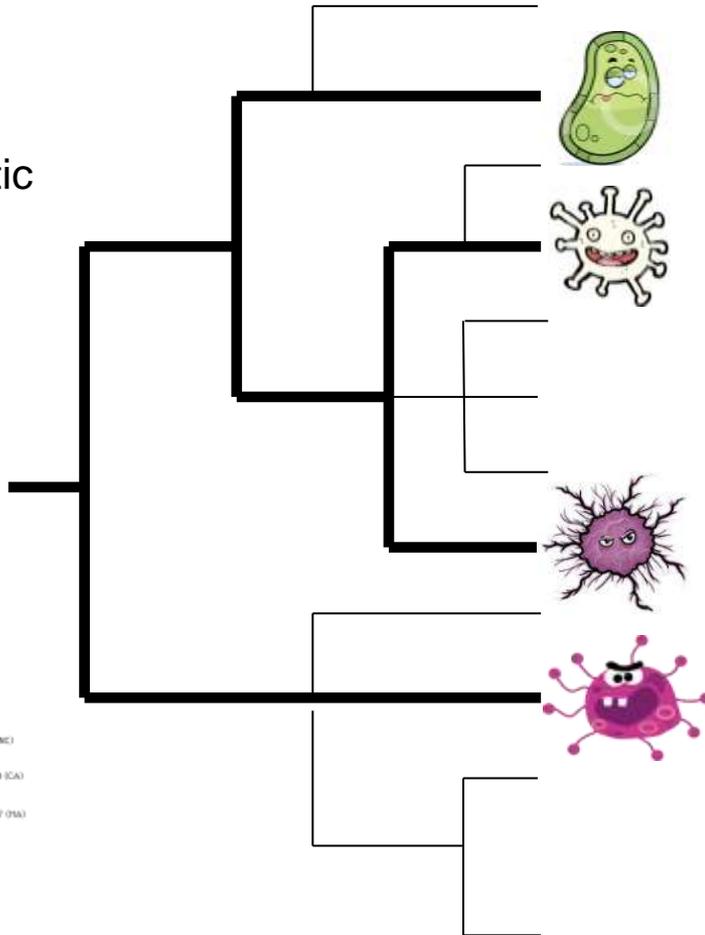
**Pathogen Discovery**  
Procedures to  
detect all  
genetic material

# Pathogen discovery

NCBI GENBANK



Group diagnostic  
e.g. culture



Specific molecular  
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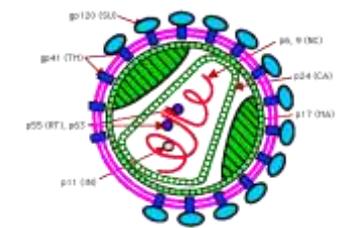
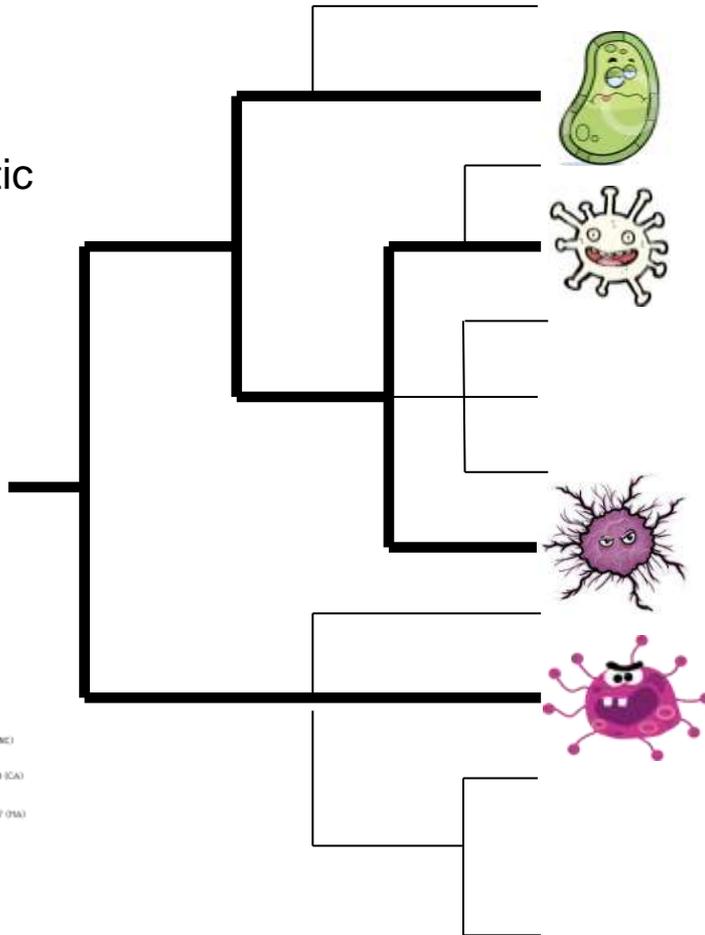
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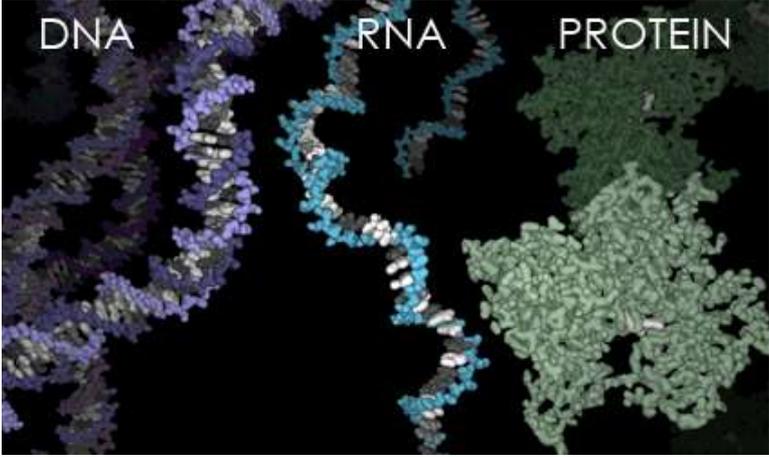
# What does it involve?



**DNase**

**EXTRACTION**

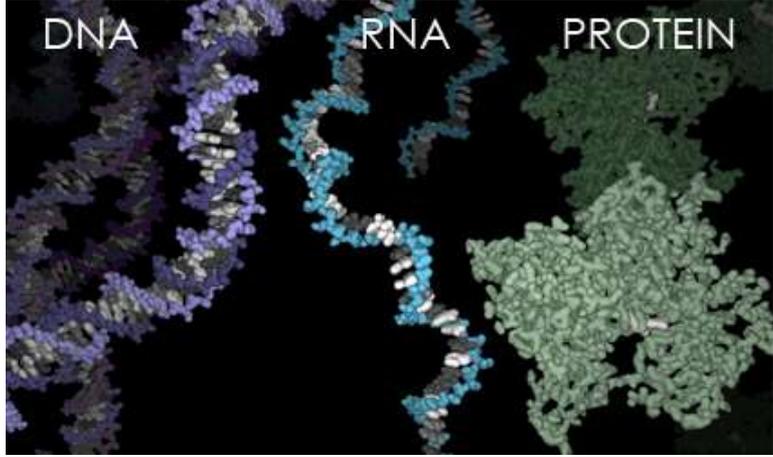
**MULTIPLE  
DISPLACEMENT  
AMPLIFICATION**



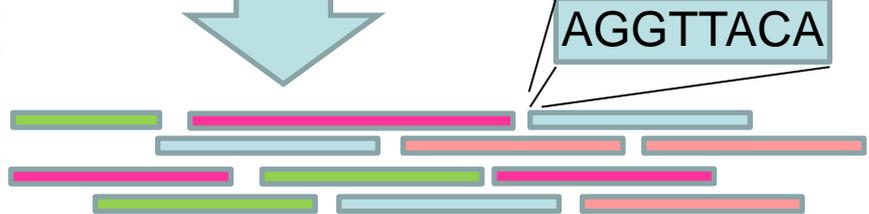
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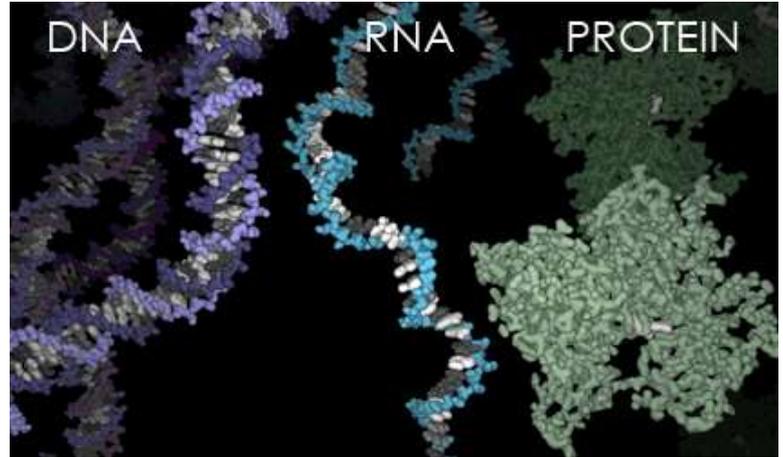
**SEQUENCING**



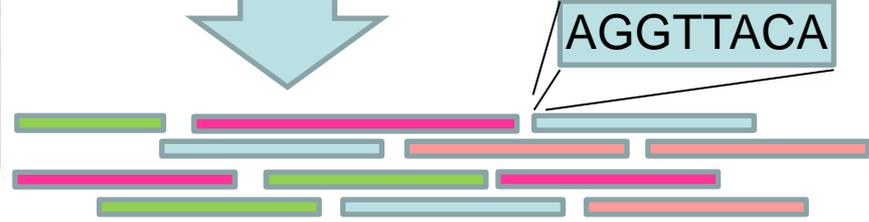
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DNase  
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MULTIPLE  
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SEQUENCING



ASSEMBLY

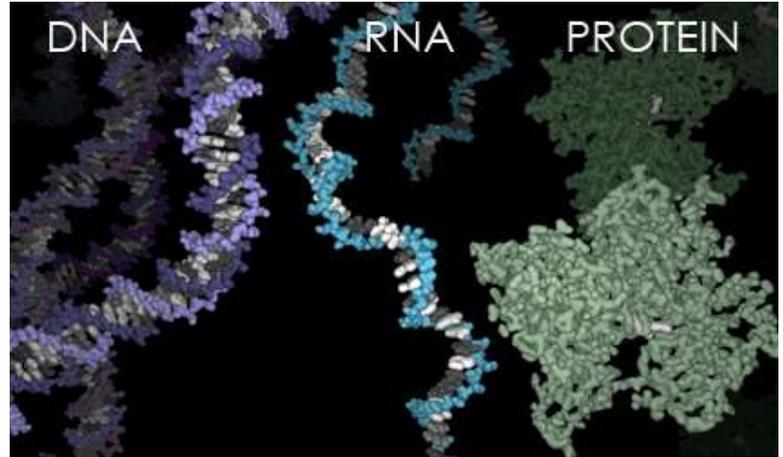


'CONTIGS'

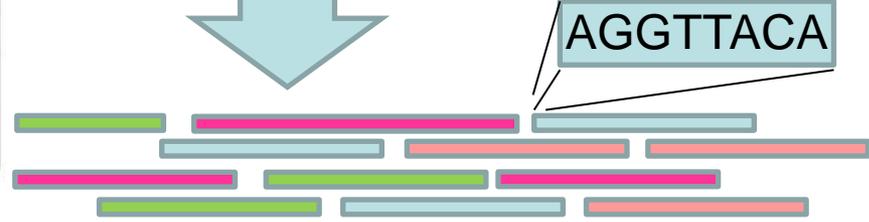
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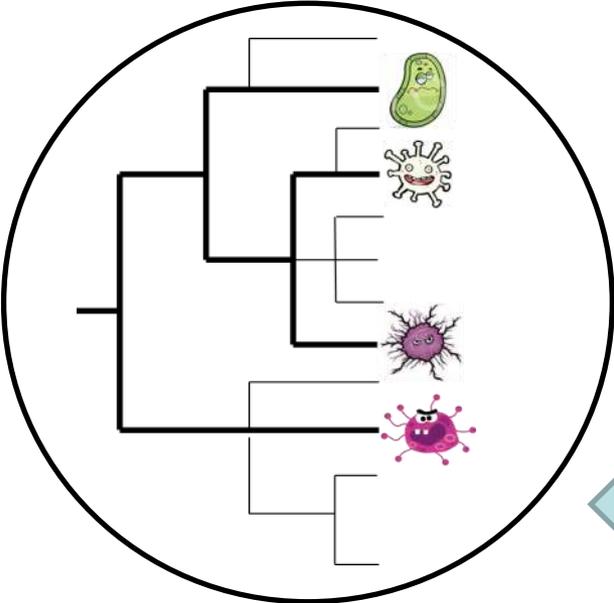
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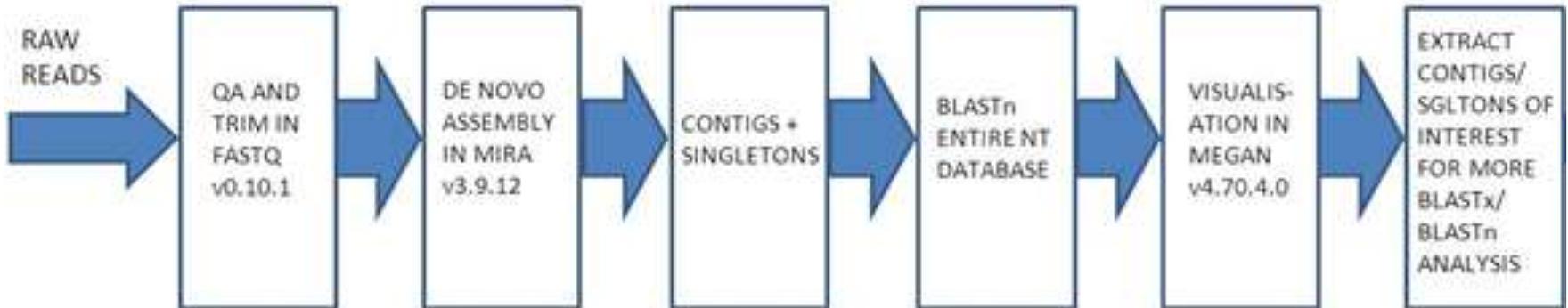
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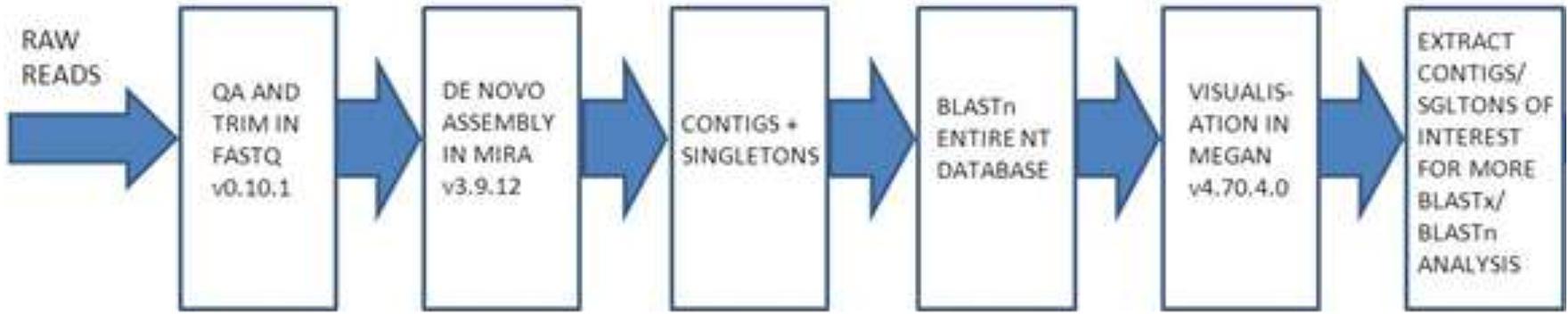
**GENBANK**



# Bioinformatics work flow

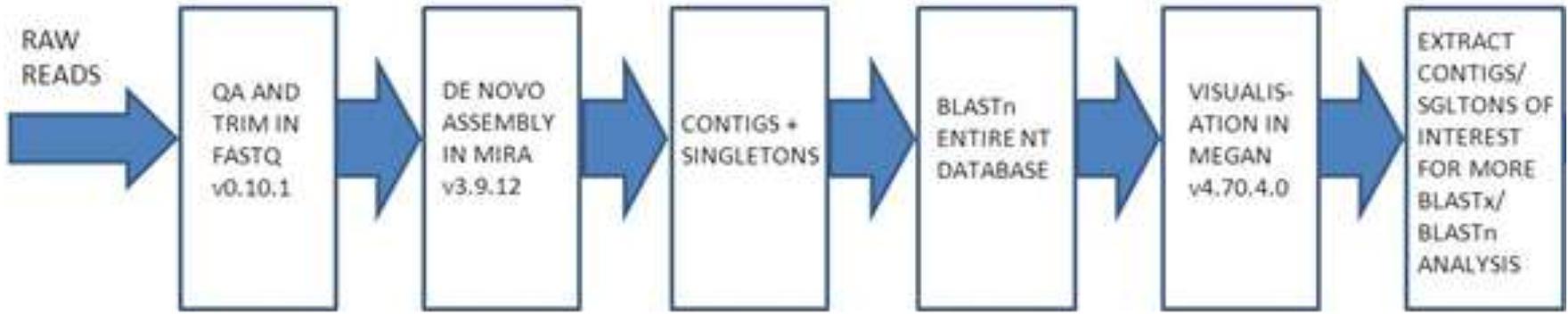


# Bioinformatics work flow



**Cannot prove or disprove the presence or role of causative agents**

# Bioinformatics work flow



**Cannot prove or disprove the presence or role of causative agents**

**Offers guidance on where to focus traditional veterinary approaches; useful when causative agents are cryptic or unknown to science**

# Exudative cloacitis in kakapo



Inflammation of the cloaca observed in nine individuals since 2002

Can become lesioned with associated bacterial growth.

Can cause infertility and potentially death. Population currently 124 birds

# Exudative cloacitis in kakapo



Need to identify cause to guide both treatment and preventive management.

Bacteria present bacteria (principally *Escherichia coli* and *Enterococcus* spp.) are common intestinal inhabitants.

Underlying viral cause?

# Exudative cloacitis in kakapo

Preliminary investigation of faecal material from one diseased individual, compared to a pooled sample of material from eight non-diseased individuals

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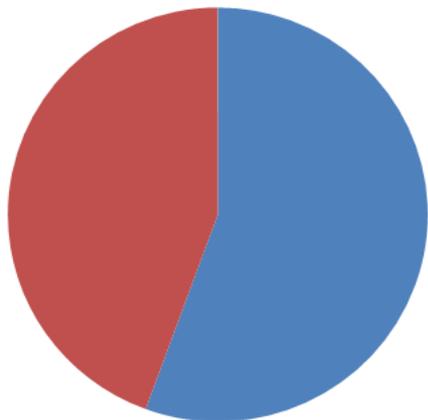
Sample	No. paired-end Illumina reads	No. reads assembled	No. contigs	No. singletons	N50 (bp)	Total consensus (bp)	Ave. coverage
(1) Pre-treatment	22,628,996 (250bp reads)	4,223,536	559,218	841	359	190,599,044	7.47
(2) Post-treatment	15,351,920 (250bp reads)	1,772,703	402,381	486	284	98,713,807	5.97
(3) Non-disease pool	20,266,624 (150bp reads)	3,118,309	329,022	1291	244	74,859,329	20.66

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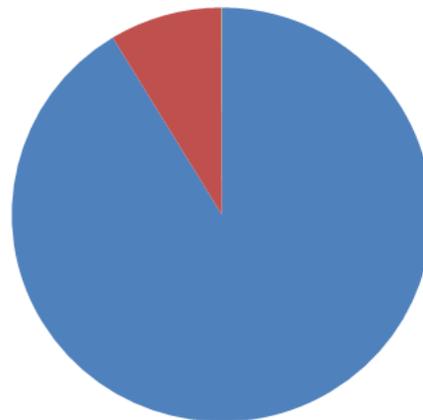
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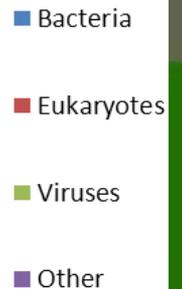
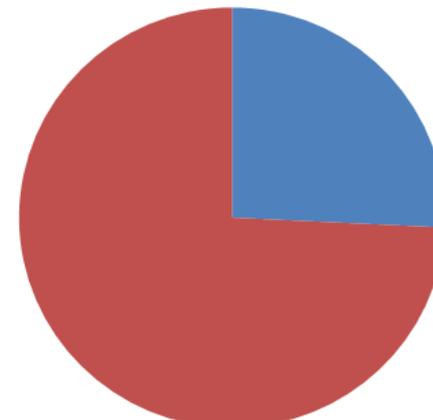
CBDHeaR



CBDPreR



CBDPostR



# Exudative cloacitis in kakapo

Viral agents related to diet detected, but no avian viruses detected.

However, very strong evidence for an *E. coli* phage present in the diseased bird, but not the non-diseased pool:

NCBI phage aligned to	No. contigs			Highest bit score	Identities	E-value	Accession number
	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment	Non-disease pool				
Escherichia phage TL-2011b	86	5	0	1335	744/748	0	JQ011317.1
Enterobacteria phage P1	2	0	11	1763	985/990	0	AF234173.1
Enterobacteria phage P7	8	0	0	333	187/189	<0.001	AF503408.1
Enterobacteria phage D6	8	0	0	374	298/357	<0.001	AY753669.1

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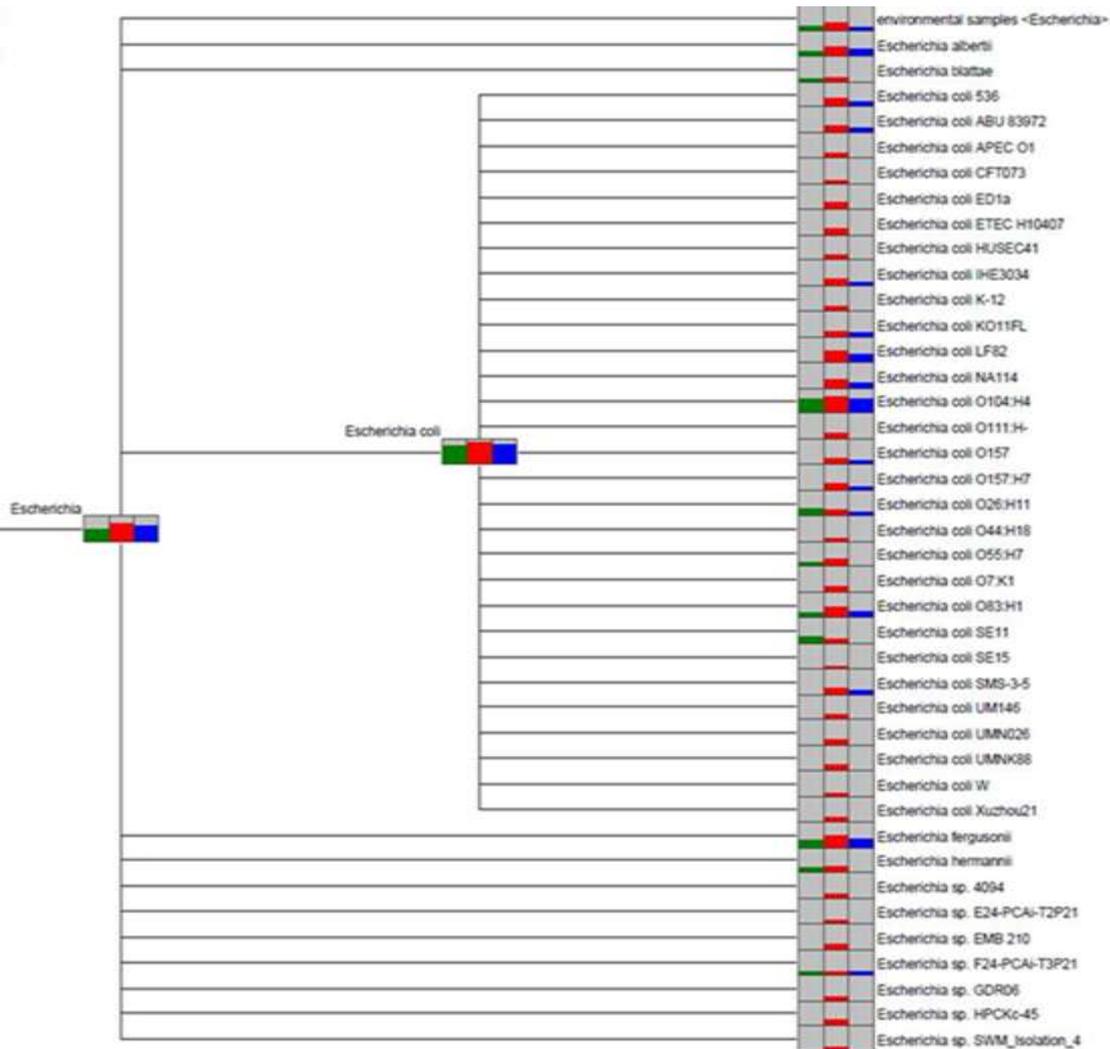
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Escherichia phage TL-2011b is known to occur in *E. coli* causing food-borne disease outbreaks in people.

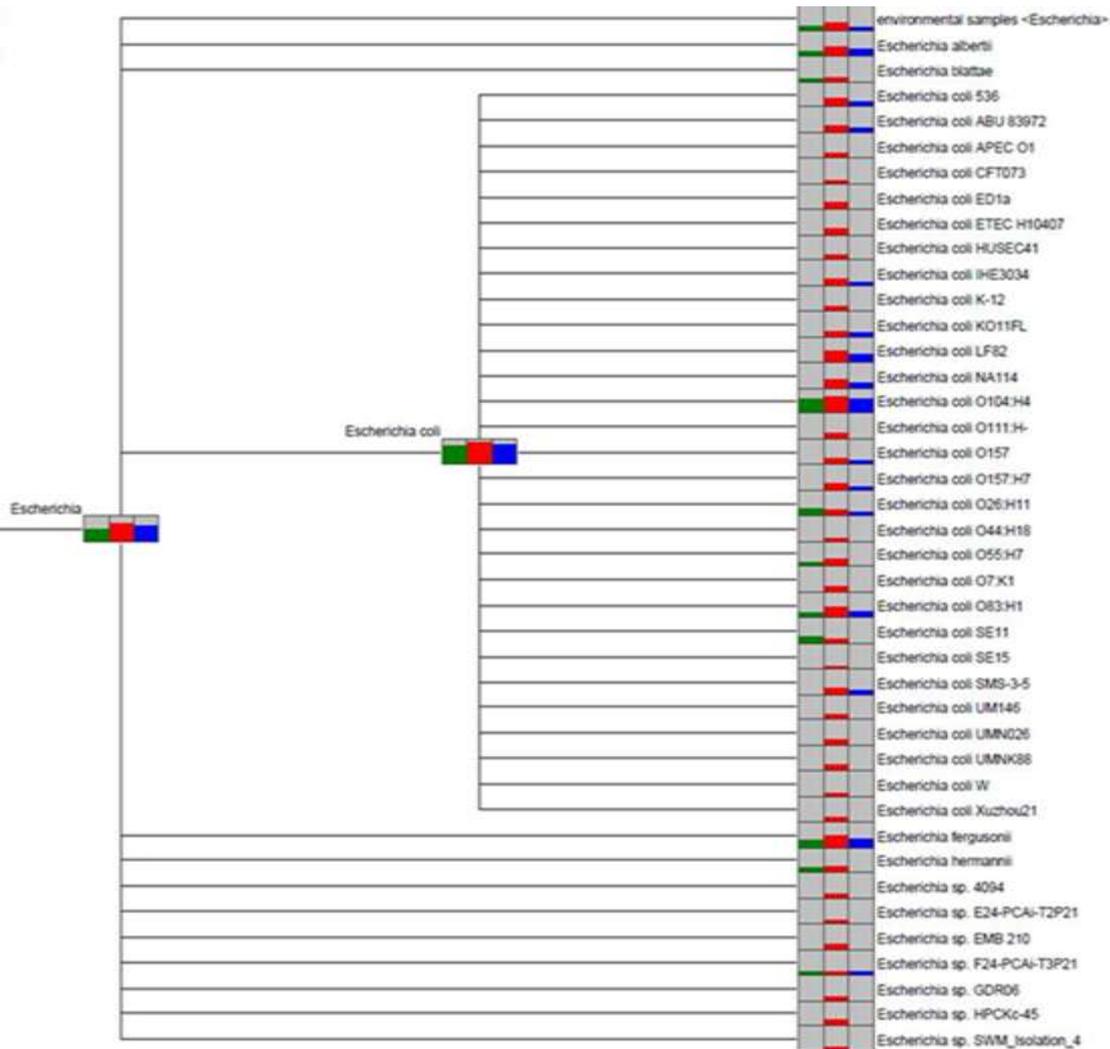
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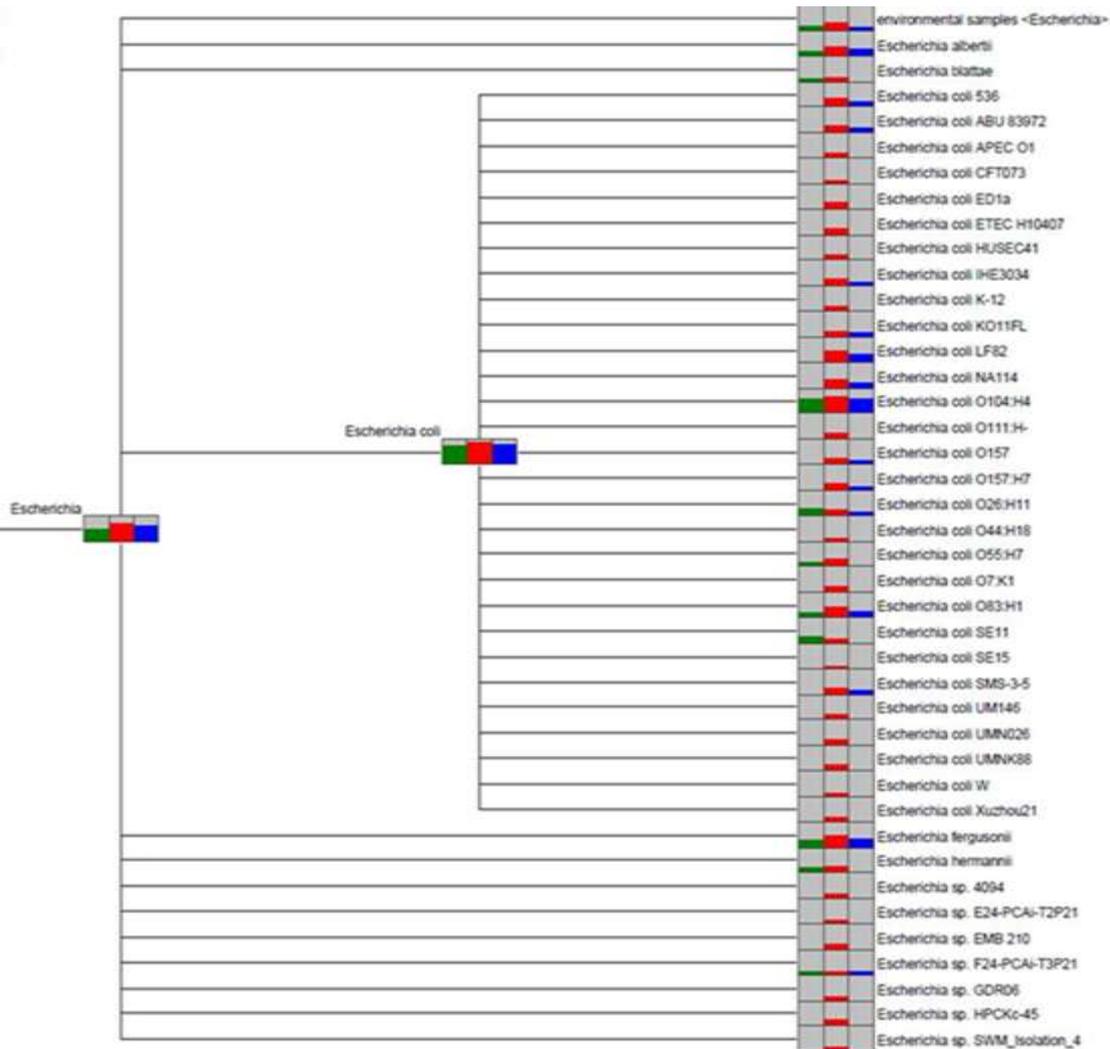
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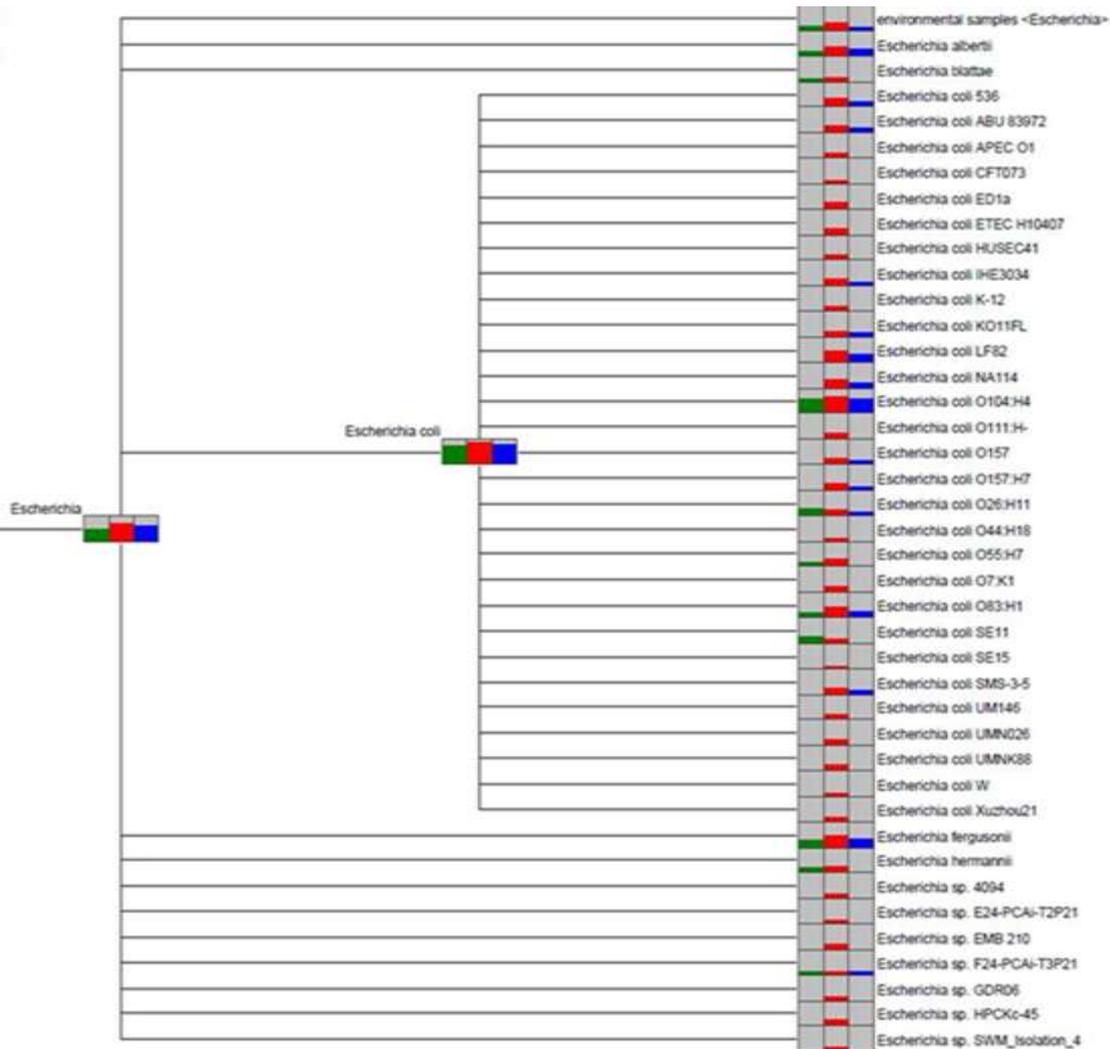


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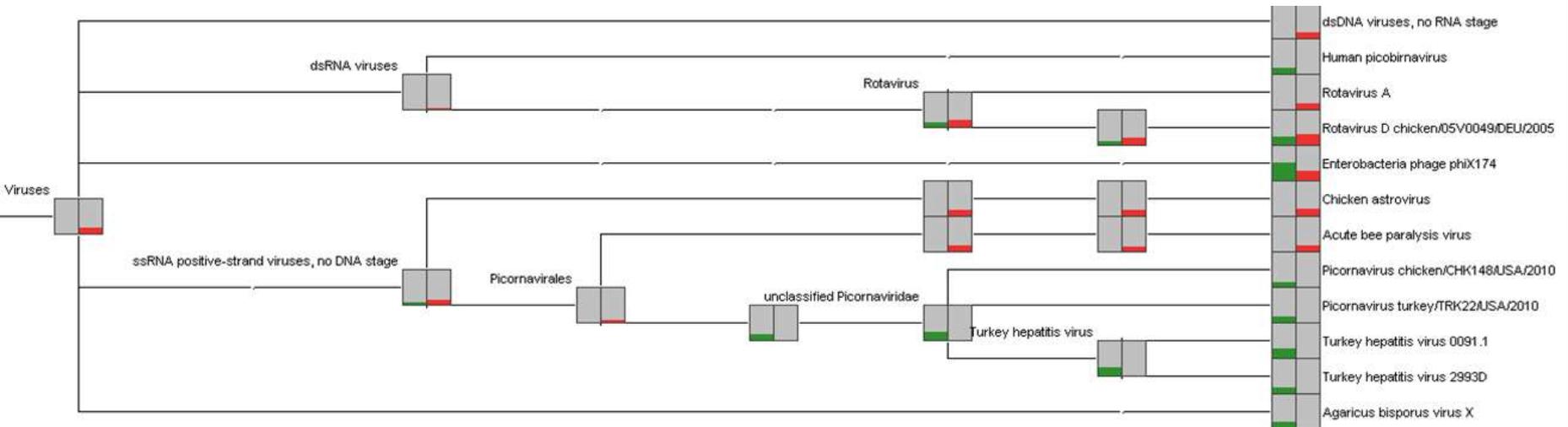
This strain is associated with inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease) in people.

# Adelie penguin feather loss



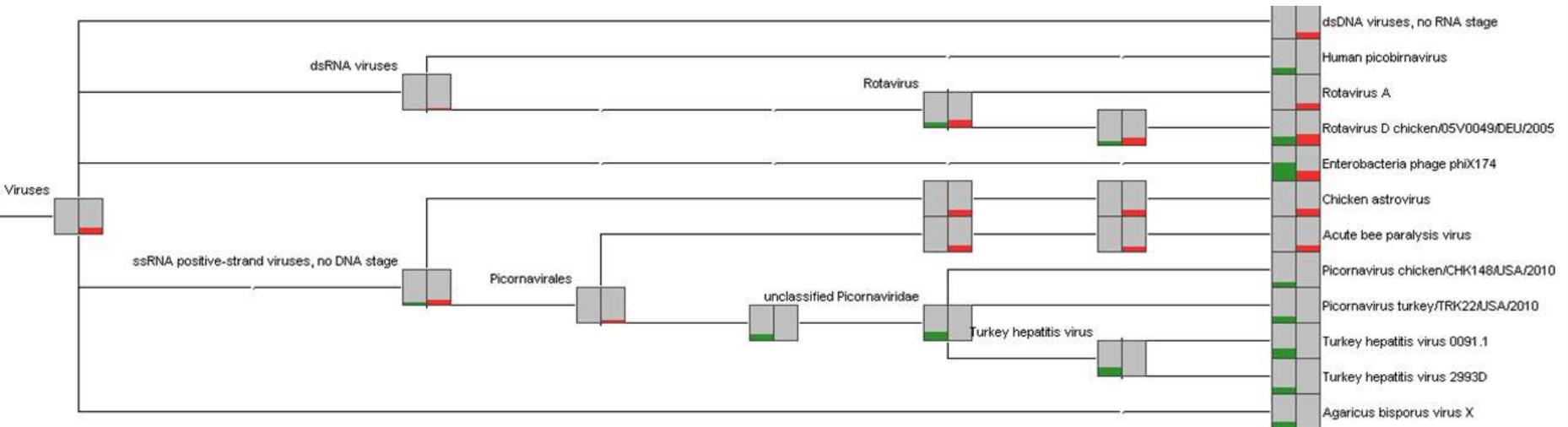
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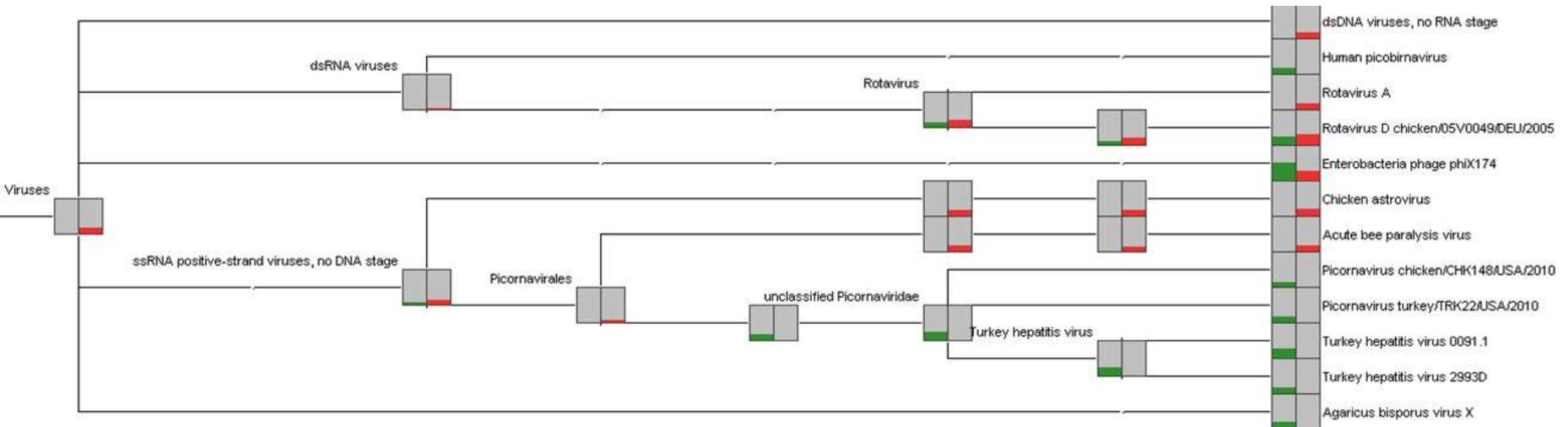
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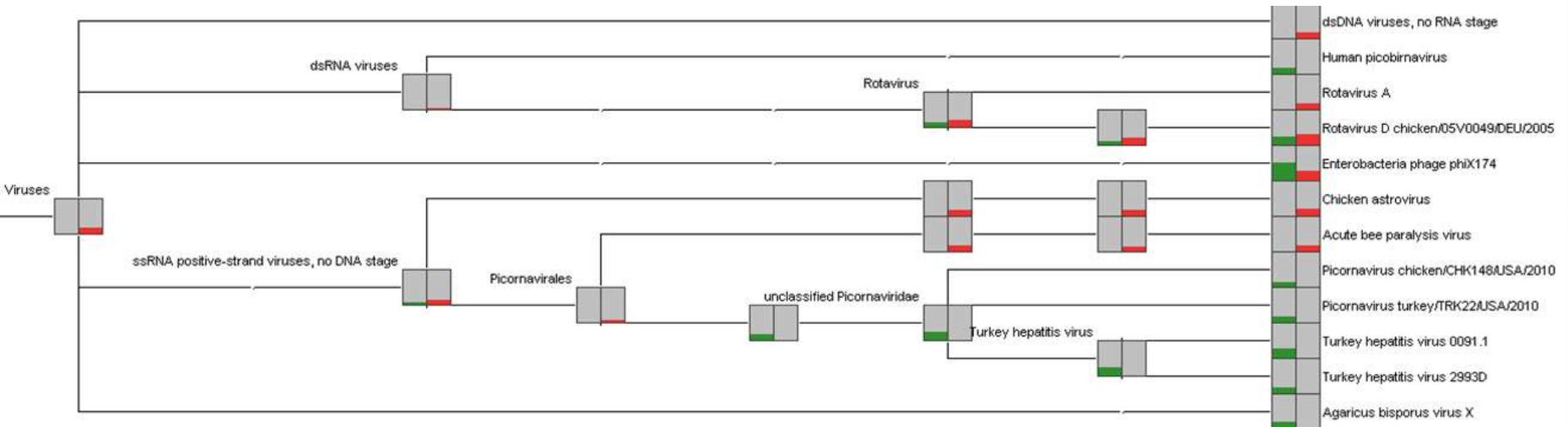


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Mild cases in chickens - diarrhea, stunted growth and skin lesions.

Severe cases in immunosuppressed, under-nourished or stressed chicks – nephrosis, emaciation, and even sudden death.

# Where to from here?



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# Other applications?

- Application of capability to wildlife zoonoses (infections transmitted to people)



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- Viral agents in New Zealand bat species?
- Serological evidence for Ross River Virus exposure to Australasian Gannets at Muriwai; are they also carrying the virus over from Australia?
- Rodent-borne infections – recent increase in human cases of murine typhus; are there other agents we should be concerned about?

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- Application of capability to agricultural disease issues of concern



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- Better understanding of Salmonella dynamics and causes of outbreaks?
- Viral component of Varroa mite impact on honey bees in New Zealand?
- Import contamination – e.g. is palm kernel from Malaysia contaminated with livestock diseases?

SEARCHING PRINTS

STOKES

# CSI:

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

TO BE CONTINUED...

NO MATCH FOUND



<b><i>E. coli</i> strain</b>	<b>No. contigs</b>	<b>Highest bit score</b>	<b>Pathogenic association</b>
536	97	875	community-acquired urinary tract infection (UTI) <sup>1</sup>
ABU 83972	51	681	asymptomatic, bacteriuria <sup>5</sup>
APEC O1	20	962	avian extraintestinal diseases, aerosacculitis, polyserositis, septicemia <sup>7</sup>
CFT073	5	910	uropathogenic, pyelonephritis <sup>9</sup>
ED1a	47	654	non-pathogenic
ETEC H10407	49	1961	enterotoxigenic, diarrhoea <sup>10</sup>
HUSEC41	17	621	haemolytic uraemic syndrome <sup>11</sup>
IHE3034	42	594	neonatal meningitis-associated <sup>12</sup>
K-12	16	641	non-pathogenic
KO11FL	20	410	non-pathogenic
LF82	730	991	Crohn's disease <sup>4</sup>
NA114	100	686	uropathogenic <sup>5</sup>
O111:H-	18	892	shiga-toxin producing, diarrhoea and haemorrhagic colitis <sup>2</sup>
O157	26	1229	diarrhoea, haemorrhagic colitis, and haemolytic uremic syndrome <sup>3</sup>
O157:H7	29	691	diarrhoea, haemorrhagic colitis, and haemolytic uremic syndrome <sup>3</sup>
O44:H18	5	1732	diarrhoea <sup>8</sup>
O7:K1	22	1779	urinary tract infection <sup>13</sup>
SE15	5	627	non-pathogenic
SMS-3-5	37	879	unknown
UM146	11	758	Crohn's disease <sup>14</sup>
UMN026	16	482	urinary tract infection, cystitis <sup>15</sup>
UMNK88	20	401	diarrhoea <sup>16</sup>
W	7	915	non-pathogenic
Xuzhou21	13	450	haemolytic uremic syndrome <sup>17</sup>

Nucleotide Nucleotide Search

Limits Advanced

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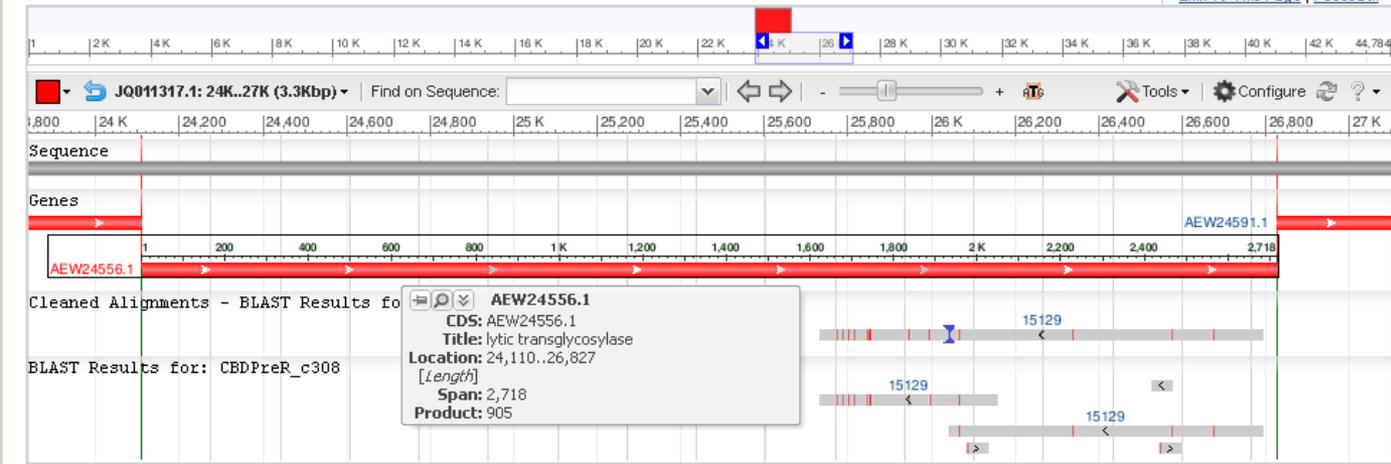
Send:

# Escherichia phage TL-2011b, complete genome

GenBank: JQ011317.1

GenBank FASTA

Link To This Page | Feedback



### Analyze this sequence

- Run BLAST
- Pick Primers
- Highlight Sequence Features

### LinkOut to external resources

REBASE enzyme M.Eph2011ORFAP [REBASE - The Restriction Enzy...]

### Related information

- Related Sequences
- Full text in PMC
- Gene
- Genome
- Protein
- PubMed
- PubMed (Weighted)
- Taxonomy

### Recent activity

- Turn Off Clear db\_logo\_books
- CBDPReR\_c308
- The BLAST Sequence Analysis Tool - The NCBI Handbook

See more...

Nucleotide Nucleotide [input] Search Limits Advanced Help

Display Settings: [x] Graphics Send: [x]

# Escherichia coli LF82 chromosome, complete sequence

GenBank: CU651637.1

[GenBank](#) [FASTA](#)

[Link To This Page](#) [Feedback](#)



Sequence
Genes
Cleaned Alignments - BLAST Results for: CBDPreR_rep_c348685
BLAST Results for: CBDPreR_rep_c348685
51511

- Analyze this sequence**
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- LinkOut to external resources**
- REBASE enzyme M.EcoLF82DcmP [F [cpnDB: A Chaperonin Database]
  - REBASE enzyme EcoLF82McrBP
  - REBASE enzyme M.EcoLF82DamP
  - REBASE enzyme M.EcoLF82ORF738P
  - REBASE enzyme EcoLF82ORF719P
  - REBASE enzyme M.EcoLF82ORF408P
  - REBASE enzyme M.EcoLF82ORF719P
  - REBASE enzyme EcoLF82ORF738P
  - REBASE enzyme V.EcoLF82DcmP
  - REBASE enzyme S.EcoLF82ORF738P
  - REBASE enzyme M.EcoLF82ORF3263P
  - Ribosomal Database Project II
  - SILVA LSU Database
  - SILVA SSU Database
  - cpnDB: A Chaperonin Database