Genome-wide data inferring the evolution and population demography of the novel pneumonia coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2)

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Abstract

As the highly risk and infectious diseases, the outbreak of coronavirus disease

2019 (COVID-19) poses unprecedent challenges to global health. Up to March 3,

2020, SARS-CoV-2 has infected more than 89,000 people in China and other 66

countries across six continents. In this study, we used 10 new sequenced genomes of

SARS-CoV-2 and combined 136 genomes from GISAID database to investigate the

genetic variation and population demography through different analysis approaches

(e.g. Network, EBSP, Mismatch, and neutrality tests). The results showed that 80

haplotypes had 183 substitution sites, including 27 parsimony-informative and 156

singletons. Sliding window analyses of genetic diversity suggested a certain mutations

abundance in the genomes of SARS-CoV-2, which may be explaining the existing

widespread. Phylogenetic analysis showed that, compared with the coronavirus

carried by pangolins (Pangolin-CoV), the virus carried by bats (bat-RaTG13-CoV)

has a closer relationship with SARS-CoV-2. The network results showed that

SARS-CoV-2 had diverse haplotypes around the world by February 11. Additionally,

16 genomes, collected from Huanan seafood market assigned to 10 haplotypes,

indicated a circulating infection within the market in a short term .The EBSP results

showed that the first estimated expansion date of SARS-CoV-2 began from 7

December 2019.

Key words SARS-CoV-2; metagenomic next-generation sequencing; virus

evolution; population demography; phylogenetic relationship

Introduction

As the largest non-segmented genomes among all the RNA viruses (about 30 kb

in length), Coronaviruses (CoVs) own the plasticity due to the mutation and

recombination, which increased the potential risks of spread across species (Cui and

Shi, 2019; Gorbalenya et al., 2020). The COVID-19 (original named 2019-nCOV) is

the seventh member of enveloped RNA coronavirus (subgenus, Sarbecovirus;

subfamily, Orthocoronavirinae) (Zhu et al., 2020). In early December, 2019, an

unexplained pneumonia associated with the severe acute respiratory syndrome

coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) emerged in Wuhan, China (Huang et al., 2020; Lu et al.,

2020). The rapid emergence and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 between infected and

healthy people became so devastating as a large population within Wuhan was getting

infected (Guan et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020). There's evidence that SARS-CoV-2

may have originated from bats, but there is no clear information about the

intermediate host that transferred it to humans (Wassenaar et al., 2020; Zhou et al.,

2020; Wu et al., 2020). On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO)

declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International

Concern. Up to March 3, 2020, SARS-CoV-2 has infected more than 89,000 people in

China and other 66 countries across the six continents (source: World Health

Organization report, accessed March 3th, 2020).

Despite the worldwide rapid spread, the genomic variation dynamics,

evolutionary rate, and virus transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 are not yet well

understood. In several recent studies, phylogenetic relationships, variations,

evolutionary rates, and propagation dynamics were analyzed using limited genomic

data from the SARS-CoV-2 (Lu et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2020;

Benvenuto et al., 2020; Ceraolo et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2020; Paraskevi et al., 2020;

Chan et al., 2020a, 2020b; Li et al., 2020a) . As the epidemic progresses, many

research institutes around the world have obtained and submitted SARS-CoV-2

genome sequences, increasing the number of SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences in the

Data Centers (i.e, GISAID). Given the extremely rapid spread of SARS-CoV-2, an

updated analysis with significantly larger sample sizes by incorporating cases

throughout the world is urgently needed. This would allow for more accurate

identification of SARS-CoV-2 variant dynamics, evolutionary rates, virus

transmission dynamics, and epidemic history in order to effectively implement public

health measures, promote drugs and vaccines development and to efficiently prevent

similar epidemics in the future.

Recent research findings have suggested bat and other non-bat intermediate

mammals (such as pangolin) as potential intermediate host for the SARS-CoV-2 that

have so far been widely transmitted to humans (Lu et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2020;

Lam et al., 2020). According to the medical information of the first patients to be

infected in Wuhan, 27 out of 41 patients were found to be traders of wild mammals in

the Huanan seafood market, which directly suggests that the Huanan seafood market

as the possible source of origin of the SARS-CoV-2, and later got transmitted it to

other areas by the infected people (Huang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020b). However, due

to some infected persons having no relation or access to the Huanan food market,

some researchers are skeptical of the market as the only actual origin or the source of

SARS-CoV-2 transmission to humans (Cohen, 2020). Therefore, up to date, in the

absence of key potential intermediary host, the transmission pattern of SARS-CoV-2

still need to be thoroughly probed for a more reliable and accurate information on the

transmission mechanisms of the virus.

In this study, 56 full genome sequences of outgroups and 136 genomes of

SARS-CoV-2 from GISAID EpiFluTM database (access date 22 February 2020) were

collected. Ten new sequenced genomes of SARS-CoV-2 were obtained by

macrogenomic sequencing. The genetic diversity, transmission dynamics and

evolutionary history of SARS-CoV-2 were analyzed based on the genomic data to

provide understanding on the transmission pathway, and evolutionary characteristics

of SARS-CoV-2 outbreak.

Materials and methods

Patients and samples

In this study, ten patients with unexplained viral pneumonia from five hospitals

in Hubei Province were included. Four samples were collected in December, four in

January as well as two samples in February. The December samples were examined

by Light Cycle 480II fluorescent PCR instrument (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) for

investigating 26 respiratory pathogens and detection of the virus using Severe Acute

Respiratory Syndrome Cov (SARS-Cov) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

Cov (MERS-Cov) primer probes. All the ten samples were detected by the

SARS-CoV-2 primer probes. Two samples were used in the virus isolation. The 10

samples were also subjected to metagenomic next-generation sequencing. Specific

sample information is presented in Table 1.

Library preparation and sequencing

Total RNA extracted from 10 samples were subjected to metagenomic next

generation sequencing testing by EZ1 virus mini kit v.2.0 (955134; Qiage, Heiden,

Germany). TruSeq Stranded Total RNA Library Prep Kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA,

USA) was used to remove rRNA, reverse transcription and synthesize the

double-stranded DNA. The fragmenting, modifying the ends, connecting the joints

and enriching of DNA were done by NexteraXT library prepkit (Illumina, San Diego,

CA, USA), then the DNA library was obtained. Iseq^{TM} 100 i1 Cartridge, Miseq v2

reagent kit, and High output Reagent Cartridge (illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) were

used for deep sequencing in Iseq100, Miseq, and Miniseq platforms (illumina, San

Diego, CA, USA), respectively. About 1.5 GB data were obtained for each sample.

Using CLC Genomics Workbench 12 and Geneious 12.0.1 software (QIAGEN

Bioinformatics, Redwood City, CA, USA) and using reference sequence

BetaCoV/Wuhan-Hu-2019 (EPI ISL 402125), the raw sequencing data of Illumina

were analyzed.

Phylogenetic reconstructions

In this study, for probing the evolutionary history of SARS-CoV-2 (Table S1),

136 complete genomes from GISAID (Table S1, access on 22 February, 2020) and

our new sequenced 10 genomes of this virus (GISAID, Table S1) were included. In

total, 56 outgroups were collected following the previous study (Lu et al., 2020).

Mafft v.7.450 was used to align the sequence of SARS-CoV-2 with reference

sequences (Katoh et al., 2013) . Phylogenetic analyses of the genomes were done with

RAxML v.8.2.9 (Stamatakis et al., 2014) in 1000 bootstrap replicates, employing the

general time reversible nucleotide substitution model. The tree was visualized with

FigTree v.1.4.3 (Rambaut et al., 2016).

Population structure

On this analysis technique, to precisely decode the evolutionary history of

SARS-CoV-2, the genome EPI ISL 402131 (bat-RaTG13-CoV) from GISAID was

also included as the outgroup following the previous study (Yu, et al., 2020), because

it is the closest sister betacoronavirus to SARS-CoV-2. The 136 complete genome

sequences of SARS-CoV-2 and an outgroup (bat-RaTG13-CoV) were aligned using

MAFFT then the alignment was manually checked using Geneious. For probing the

haplotypes relationships among localities, the Network v.4.6.1 (Fluxus Technology,

Suffolk, UK) was used to construct the minimum-spanning network based on the full

median-joining algorithm (Bandelt et al., 1999) . During the alignment, 10 genomes

containing ambiguous sites or "N" bases or more degenerated bases were excluded in

this study (Table S1). In addition, 4 genome sequences (EPI ISL 409067, EPI ISL

412981, EPI ISL 407071 and EPI ISL 408489) with one degenerated base were

included, which were divided into two sequences without degenerated base. For

ensuring the accuracy of this analysis, the 5'UTR and 3'UTR contain missing and

ambiguous sites of both regions were excluded in the following alignment analyses.

DnaSP v.5.10 (Librado et al., 2009) was used to convert the relevant format.

Population genetic indices in was estimated in DnaSP, including nucleotide diversity

(π) and haplotype diversity (Hd). F_{ST} between haplotypes was calculated in Mega 6.0

based on haplotype frequency differences with 10,000 permutations (Tamura et al.,

2013). Additionally, a sliding window of 500 bp and steps of 50 bp were used to show

nucleotide diversity (π) for the entire alignment this data. Nucleotide diversity for the

entire alignment was plotted against midpoint positions of each window. To indicate

the relative position of the mutations in the genome, we selected the EPI ISL 402124

sequence as the reference genome.

Population demography

The alignment was then imported into DnaSP for haplotype analyses. Population

size changes were estimated based on a constant population size hypothesis using

DnaSP, in combination with neutrality tests (Tajima's *D* and *Fu*'s Fs). The mismatch

distribution was estimated based on the genomes of SARS-CoV-2 in Arlequin to test

the hypothesis of recent population growth. The Harpending's raggedness index (Rag)

and the sum of squares deviation (SSD) were used to determine the smoothness of

observed mismatch distribution and the degree of fit between observed and simulated

data (Harpending, 1994). Because of the sensitivity to demographic changes of

neutral tests, Tajima's *D* (Tajima, 1989) and Fu's Fs (Fu, 1997) were estimated using

10,000 coalescent simulations to assess the significance in Arlequin. In addition, the

Extended Bayesian skyline plot (EBSP) analysis was conducted to examine past

population dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 based on 146 genomes by BEAST v.1.8

(Drummond et al., 2012)**.** The divergence times were estimated in BEAST using a

Bayesian Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method with a strict clock. In this

study, the substitution rate was set as 0.92×10^{-3} (95% CI, 0.33×10^{-3}-1.46×10^{-3})

substitution/site/year based on the most recent estimation for SARS-CoV-2 (Yu et al.,

2020). The other parameters were set as follows: extended Bayesian skyline process,

10 million MCMC generations, sampling every $1,000^{th}$ iteration, the initial 25%

burn-in. Tracer was used to check the convergence of the MCMC analyses (effective

sample size [ESS] values >200).

Results and discussion

Genomic variations of SARS-CoV-2

According to the database, the genome size of SARS-CoV-2 varied from 29,409

bp to 29,911 bp. In the network dataset, the aligned matrix was 29,130 bp in length

including 183 variable sites, of which 27 were parsimony-informative and 156 were

singletons, which were classified as 80 haplotypes (Table S2). Nucleotide diversity (π)

was $0.16\times10^{-3} \pm 0.02\times10^{-3}$ (Standard Deviation, SD) and haplotype diversity (*Hd*) was

0.954 ± 0.013 (SD) and variance of *Hd* was 0.16×10^{-3} (Table S3). In this study, our

new sequenced 10 genomes of SARS-CoV-2 represented 10 haplotypes (H3, H8, H10,

H14, H16, H28, H29, H30, H76 and H78; Table S1). Among these 10 genomes, four

samples were collected from those patients who had been exposed to the Huanan

seafood market in Wuhan. Additionally, the HBCDC-HB-03/2019 belonged to the

core H3 haplotype and most of them represented new haplotype. Sliding window

analysis of SARS-CoV-2 revealed significant regional variation across the alignment

(Fig. 1). The plot readily showed a relative high degree of nucleotide variation

amongst the aligned SARS-CoV-2 genomes for any given window of 500 bp and

steps of 50 bp, with the π ranging from 0.00005 to 0.0014. Additionally, based on the

curve, there were several relative high variation area, compared with other fragments

(Fig. 1). The F_{ST} analyses among 80 haplotypes ranged from 0.00003 (e.g, H3 and H9;

H14 and H15; H3 and H20) to 0.00134 (H19 and H80), which indicated genetic

differentiation among these haplotypes (Fig. 2, Table S4). Overall, the H19 showed

relatively large genetic distance with other haplotypes, while the H3 showed opposite

pattern, and was also confirmed by the network figure (Fig. 2, Table S4). Overall,

SARS-CoV-2 maintain the relatively rich mutations that has occurred across the

world.

Phylogenetic relationship of SARS-CoV-2

The virus's popularity and its intermediate host has been a topic of great concern.

Some researchers have suggested that the SARS-CoV-2 originated from the bats (Lu

et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2020). However, some other researchers have proposed that

the non-bat intermediate mammals (e.g. pangolins) may be the transmission path of

this genus (Lam et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2020; Xiao et al., 2020). Other studies have

also failed to confirm the pangolins as the intermediate host to this viral genus ((Liu et

al., 2020). In this study, based on the phylogenetic tree, bat-RaTG13-CoV was the

sister group to the SARS-CoV-2 and the two pangolin samples collected from

Guangdong which showed a relatively large genetic distance from the SARS-CoV-2

(Fig. 3 and S1). Based on this finding, the study suggested that pangolin may not be

the transmission path of the SARS-CoV-2, as had been reiterated by other previous

study (Liu et al., 2020). Notably, previous studies have shown that Malayan pangolins

could act as potential intermediate host of SARS-CoV-2 (Lam et al., 2020; Xiao et al.,

2020). Therefore, more sampling and analysis of the sample across the world may

suggest clearer results for more concrete conclusions in future studies.

Evolutionary relationships of SARS-CoV-2 haplotypes

The evolutionary network of 80 haplotypes of SARS-CoV-2, with bat-RaTG13-CoV

as the outgroup, is shown in Figure 4. The network analysis showed typical star

network, with several core haplotype node (H3, H14, H15) and edge haplotype nodes.

(Fig. 4 and Table S1). In the network, fifty-five satellite haplotypes and H14

connected to the H3 haplotype; eighteen satellite haplotypes and H15+H3 connected

to the H14 haplotype; and five satellite haplotypes and H14 connected to H15. Most

of these haplogroups were separated by one to six mutations, except two haplotypes

(H19 and H80, Fig. 4). The evolutionary network showed that bat-RaTG13-CoV to be

connected through a hypothesized haplotype (mv6) to the H15 and H31 haplotypes by

single   mutations   (Fig.   4).   However,   the   mutations   between   mv6   and

bat-RaTG13-CoV was more than 1,200, which indicated that SARS-CoV-2 still has a

relative distant kinship with the outgroup (bat-RaTG13-CoV).

In this study, 16 sequences of Huanan seafood market (4 new sequenced and 12

GISAID data) were collected. Fifteen of the sixteen samples were collected before 1st

Januray, 2020 and one samples was collected on 8th Januray, 2020. These samples

were represented ten haplotypes (H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H10, H11, H16),

which indicated the high proportion of haplotype diversity in Huanan seafood market.

Among those haplotypes, the H3 haplotype, the most abundant, was present in 6

samples from Huanan seafood market, while the other haplotypes were directly

derived from the H3 haplotype. All the samples from the Huanan seafood market had

the H3 haplotype and other 9 derived haplotypes (Fig. 4), indicating that there were

circulated infections within the market in a short term. Additionally, in the network, a

total of 65 virus samples from 15 other countries were assigned to 43 haplotypes.

Among them, 27 haplotypes were satellite haplotypes of H3 haplotype, 11 haplotypes

were satellite haplotypes of H14 haplotype, and 3 haplotypes were satellite haplotype

of H15 haplotype. The results showed that SARS-CoV-2 had diverse haplotypes

around the world .

Based on the outgroup (bat-RaTG13-CoV) having a possible direct connection

with outgroup H15 and H31, it indicates that both the H15 and H31 were the

suggested ancestral haplotypes (Fig. 4), as had also been suggested by other previous

study (Yu et al., 2020) . The H15 was only recovered from five Shenzhen (Guangdong)

samples, while H31 included 3 United States samples and 1 Fujian sample from China

(Fig. 4). Based on the epidemiological statistics, all the patients from the H15 were

ever traveled to Wuhan (Chan et al., 2020b). As to the H31, three genomes from the

same patient in Unite State (Holshue et al., 2020) and 1 genome from Fujian of China

(Table S1) were included. For the patient in Unite State, he may have infected during

the period of visiting his family in China, or was infected in some other place (Yu et

al., 2020). Based on the theory in the previous study (Yu et al., 2020), this current

study also supported two main evolutionary paths, that the available haplotypes could

be from H15 through H14 to H3, or from H31 through H14 to H3 (Fig. 4). Both these

two path demonstrate that H14 was the key connection from an ancestral haplotype to

H3. However, in H14, only two individuals (EPI ISL 406801 and EPI ISL 412979)

were collected from Wuhan and the others were not related to Wuhan. The two

individuals (EPI ISL 406801 and EPI ISL 412979) were not directly link with the

Huanan seafood market.

Cohen (2020) had argued that Wuhan seafood market may not be source of novel

virus spreading globally, or at least not be a single source of SARS-CoV-2 (Cohen et

al., 2020). In addition, other studies have shown similar results (Yu et al., 2020;

Forster et al., 2020). Due to lacking of early samples and important epidemiological

clues across the world, in this study, we only can infer similar conclusions based on

the outgroup genome (bat-RaTG13-CoV). On the other hand, some studies had

proved that Median-joining network analysis of SARS-CoV-2 genomes is neither

phylogenetic nor evolutionary, which indicated that misleads more than illuminates an

understanding of the evolutionary history of SARS-CoV-2 in humans

(Sánchez-Pacheco et al., 2020). Meantime, sampling bias and incorrect rooting make

phylogenetic network may led to the unreliable tracing of SARS-COV-2 infections

(Mavian et al., 2020). The outgroup is very distant from current SARS-COV-2

sequences, although approximately 1200 substitutions were observed, there could be

more than 1200 mutations actually occurred, thus ancestral inferences using this

outgroup could be misleading. Hence, in view of many factors that impact on the

accurate   origin and evolution of SARS-COV-2, it still requires more reliable data

and more powerful analysis methods, indicating the later work direction.

Population size expansion of SARS-CoV-2

As to population demography of SARS-CoV-2, the EBSP results revealed that it

experienced an expansion of effective population size for the last 66 days prior to 11th

of February, 2020 (Fig. 5). With the latest one being sampled on 11th February 2020,

the first expansion date is estimated to had begun from 7th December 2019. The

mismatch in the distribution of the total populations was also clearly shown through

unimodal (Fig. 6) and the neutral tests (Tajima's D and Fu's Fs) revealed statistically

significant population expansion of SARS-CoV-2 (Table S3), which also supported

the EBSP results. In addition, with the change of time, multiple evidence (i.e.

haplotype number, Tajima's D, Fu's FS) indicated a relatively highest population

growth at around 21st - 27th of January (Table S3). In early December 2019, the first

pneumonia cases of unknown origins (Huang et al., 2020) . The previously suggested

most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) dates for SARS-CoV-2 at 6th December,

2019) (Li et al., 2020a). Additionally, considering that the virus has longest reported

incubation period of up to 24 days (Guan et al., 2020), the virus may had first infected

humans in mid to late November, which is basically consistent with the results of

previous studies (Yu et al., 2020). Therefore, in this study, EBSP revealed that

SARS-CoV-2 experienced an effective population size expansion since 7th December

2019, which was also supported by a star-like network, EBSP, the neutral tests (Fu's

and Tajima's D test) and mismatch analysis.

Conclusion

Coronavirus is a large viruses family, known to cause more serious diseases such as

SARS, MERS, etc. SARS-CoV-2 is a new strain of coronavirus which has never been

found in human before, which is extremely infectious and harmful to people.   In this

study, we used 10 new sequenced genomes of SARS-CoV-2 and combined 136

genomes from GISAID database to investigate the genetic variation and population

demography. The relative high genetic diversity were disclosed by the mutations

abundance, which indicated diverse haplotypes around the world. Compared with the

coronavirus carried by pangolins (Pangolin-CoV), the virus carried by bats

(bat-RaTG13-CoV) has a closer relationship with SARS-CoV-2. A circulating

infection within Huanan seafood market in a short term was disclosed based on

multiple haplotypes. Additionally, the first estimated expansion date of SARS-CoV-2

began from 7 December 2019. This study provided data support for understanding

the early prevalence of SARS-CoV-2.

Contributors

Yilin Shu, Tao Pan, and Yongzhong Jiang conceived the research, analyzed the data,

interpreted the results, and wrote the draft manuscript; Bin Fang, Linlin Liu, Xiao Yu

and Xiang Li performed macrogenome sequencing experiments. Xiao Yu and Xiang

Li performed virus isolation experiments. Guojun Ye, Bin Fang, Juan Xu, Ling,

Zhang, Yilin Shu and Faxian Zhan collected data. All authors reviewed and approved

the final version of the manuscript.

Declaration of interests

We declare no competing interests.

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Table 1. Sample information for 10 SARS-Cov-2 infected patients.

Sample name	Sample type	Collection date	Collection site	Exposure to huanan seafood marke
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-02/2019	Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid	30th Dec,2019	Wuhan, Hubei Province	Yes
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-01/2019	Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid	30th Dec,2019	Wuhan, Hubei Province	Yes
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-03/2019	Bronchial scraping	30th Dec,2019	Wuhan, Hubei Province	Yes
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-04/2019	Sputum	30th Dec,2019	Wuhan, Hubei Province	No
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-04/2020	Throat swab	18th Jan,2020	Wuhan, Hubei Province	No
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-03/2020	Throat swab	18th Jan,2020	Wuhan, Hubei Province	No
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-02/2020	Throat swab	17th Jan,2020	Wuhan, Hubei Province	No
BetaCoV/Jingzhou/HBCDC-HB-01/2020	Throat swab and cultured virus	8th Jan,2020	Jingzhou,Hubei Province	Yes
BetaCoV/Wuhan/HBCDC-HB-06/2020	Faeces	7th Feb,2020	Wuhan, Hubei Province	No
BetaCoV/Tianmen/HBCDC-HB-07/2020	Throat swab	8th Feb,2020	Tianmen, Hubei Province	No

Figure Legend

Fig. 1. Sliding window analyses showing the nucleotide diversity based on

alignment of genomes of SARS-CoV-2. The red line shows the value of nucleotide

diversity (π) in a sliding window analysis of window size 500 bp with step size 50, the

value is inserted at its mid-point. EPI ISL 402124 sequence was selected as the

reference genome to indicate the mutation position.

Fig. 2. Pairwise F_{ST} among 80 haplotypes of SARS-CoV-2. Consistent with the

Table S4.

499   **Fig. 3. Simplify phylogenetic tree of SARS-CoV-2 form Fig. S1.** The nodal

500   numbers are ML bootstrap values.

 Fig. 4. Median-joining network with node sizes proportional to the frequencies of

haplotypes in SARS-CoV-2. All the individuals collected before 11th February in

2019. The numbers of mutations separating the haplotypes are shown on the branches,

except for the lower than seven-step mutations. The little red diamond nodes indicate

undetected haplotypes. The sampling areas are indicated by different colors.

510 **Fig. 5. Population fluctuation infered by Extended bayesian skyline plot (EBSP)**

511 **of SARS-CoV-2.** The x-axis indicates time in days BP, and the y-axis indicates the

512 effective population size divided by generation time in units of $N_{e\tau}$ (the product of

513 effective population size and generation time in days). The blue areas represent 95 %

514 highest posterior density. Time is expressed in days.

Fig. 6: Mismatch distributions analyses for SARS-CoV-2 in different period (A, B, C, D, E, F, G). (A) All the individuals collected during 24th December to 30th December, 2019; (B) 24th December in 2019 to 6th January in 2020; (C) 24th December in 2019 to 13th January in 2020; (D) 24th December in 2019 to 20th January in 2020; (E) 24th December in 2019 to 27th January in 2020; (F) 24th December in 2019 to 3th February in 2020; (G) 24th December in 2019 to 11th February in 2020. The x coordinate represents the number of differences in each pair of sequence comparisons; the y coordinate represents the frequencies of pairwise differences. The blue histogram are the observed frequencies of pairwise divergences among sequences and the red line refers to the expectation under the model of population expansion.

532 **Fig. S1. Phylogenetic tree of** SARS-CoV-2**.** The nodal numbers are ML bootstrap

533 values.

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