

1 **Genomic characterization of four novel bacteriophages infecting the clinical pathogen**  
2 ***Klebsiella pneumoniae***

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18 **Running title:** Four novel phages infecting *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

19

20 **Abstract**

21 Bacteriophages are an invaluable source of novel genetic diversity. Sequencing of phage genomes can reveal  
22 new proteins with potential uses as biotechnological and medical tools, and help unravel the diversity of  
23 biological mechanisms employed by phages to take over the host during viral infection. Aiming to expand  
24 the available collection of phage genomes, we have isolated, sequenced, and assembled the genome  
25 sequences of four phages that infect the clinical pathogen *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: vB\_KpnP\_FBKp16,  
26 vB\_KpnP\_FBKp27, vB\_KpnM\_FBKp34, and Jumbo phage vB\_KpnM\_FBKp24. The four phages show  
27 very low (0-13%) identity to genomic phage sequences deposited in the Genbank database. Three of the four  
28 phages encode tRNAs and have a GC content very dissimilar to that of the host. Importantly, the genome  
29 sequences of the phages reveal potentially novel DNA packaging mechanisms as well as distinct clades of  
30 tubulin spindle and nucleus shell proteins that some phages use to compartmentalize viral replication.  
31 Overall, this study contributes to uncovering previously unknown virus diversity, and provides novel  
32 candidates for phage therapy applications against antibiotic-resistant *K. pneumoniae* infections.

33 **Keywords:** Bacteriophage, Jumbo phage, comparative genomics, phage therapy.

34

## 35 **1. Introduction**

36 Bacteriophages or phages are ubiquitous viruses of prokaryotes that exert an enormous influence over the  
37 microbial biosphere, playing a critical role in the nutrient and energy cycles,<sup>1-3</sup> in the evolution of bacterial  
38 pathogens,<sup>4</sup> and in shaping gut microbial communities.<sup>5</sup> Phages have also contributed immensely to the field  
39 of molecular biology, having been at the core of the discovery of central features such as DNA as the genetic  
40 material,<sup>6</sup> the triplet genetic code,<sup>7</sup> messenger RNA,<sup>8</sup> restriction enzymes,<sup>9</sup> and recombinant DNA.<sup>10</sup> Phages  
41 and their interactions with prokaryotic hosts led also to the evolution of CRISPR-Cas and development of  
42 programmable genome editing tools, one of the most revolutionary tools in biology that enables tailored  
43 engineering of genomic sequences in a range of species including humans.<sup>11</sup> There is also a rekindled interest  
44 in the therapeutic use of phages – phage therapy – to control bacterial pathogens, as a consequence of the  
45 alarming rise of antibiotic resistant infections observed in recent years.<sup>12-14</sup> The study of phages and their  
46 genomes is therefore inherently valuable to advance our understanding in a diversity of fields including  
47 molecular biology, ecology, evolution, bacterial pathogenesis, biotechnology and health. Understanding  
48 phage genomes will certainly create opportunities to translate novel phage proteins and phages themselves  
49 into potent biotechnological<sup>15</sup> and medical tools.<sup>16</sup> Here we isolated and sequenced the genomes of four novel  
50 phages infecting *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, an increasingly relevant pathogen identified by the World Health  
51 Organization as priority for the development of new antibiotics.<sup>17</sup> These phages have little to no sequence  
52 similarity to known phages, but a series of genomics and phylogenetic analysis revealed interesting features  
53 that could aid the expansion of our understanding of the hidden genetic treasures in phage biology.

54

## 55 **2. Materials and methods**

### 56 **2.1. Bacteriophage isolation**

57 Four clinical isolates of *K. pneumoniae* isolated at the University Medical Centre Utrecht (UMCU) were used  
58 for phage isolation: K6310 (blood culture from a 77 year-old patient with obstructive cholangitis due to  
59 disseminated pancreatic carcinoma), K6592 (infected total hip prosthesis from a 74 year-old patient), L923  
60 (blood culture from 67 year-old kidney transplant patient with an urinary tract infection and sepsis) and  
61 K6453 (cerebrospinal fluid taken post-mortem from a healthy 57 year-old woman with unexplained sudden  
62 out of hospital cardiac arrest). As phage source, approximately 5 L of sewage water were sequentially filtered  
63 with coffee filters, membrane filters (0.45 and 0.2 µm PES), and 10x concentrated using a tangential flow  
64 cassette (100 kDa PES Vivaflow 200, Sartorius, Germany). Approximately 5 mL of the concentrated virome  
65 were added to 20 mL of Lysogeny Broth (LB), inoculated with 100 µL of each of the overnight grown *K.*  
66 *pneumoniae* strains, and incubated overnight at 37 °C, 180 rpm. Samples were centrifuged at 16,000 × *g* for  
67 5 min and filter-sterilized (0.2 µm PES). The phage-containing supernatant was serially diluted in SM buffer  
68 (100 mM NaCl, 8 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5) and spotted on double layer agar (DLA) plates of  
69 the isolation strains for the detection of phages. Single plaques with distinct morphologies were picked with  
70 sterile toothpicks and spread with sterile paper strips into fresh bacterial lawns. The procedure was repeated  
71 as needed to obtain a consistent plaque morphology. Phages from purified plaques were then produced in

72 liquid media with their respective host, centrifuged, filter-sterilized and stored as phage lysates ( $>10^8$  pfu/ml)  
73 at 4°C, and at -80°C with 50 % (v/v) glycerol.

## 74 **2.2. Transmission electron microscopy**

75 One mL of each phage lysate at  $>10^9$  pfu/mL was sedimented at  $21,000 \times g$  for 1 h, washed and re-suspended  
76 in 1 mL of MilliQ water. Phages (3.5  $\mu$ L) were deposited and incubated for 1 min on TEM grids (Carbon  
77 Type-B 400 mesh, TED PELLA). Grids were washed thrice with 40  $\mu$ L of MilliQ water and stained with 3.5  
78  $\mu$ L of 2% (w/v) uranyl acetate (pH 4.0) for 30 seconds. Grids were examined using a JEM-1400 plus (JEOL)  
79 TEM. The capsid diameter and the tail length and width of 10 phage particles were measured using  
80 EMMENU v4.0.9.8.7 (Tietz Video & Image Processing Systems GmbH, Gauting, Germany) and used to  
81 calculate the average dimensions of each phage.

## 82 **2.3. Bacteriophage genome sequencing**

83 Phage DNA was extracted using phenol-chloroform as previously described.<sup>18</sup> DNA was sequenced by the  
84 BGI Group (Shenzhen, China) using the BGI MGISEQ-2000 platform. Quality control of the raw data was  
85 performed using FastP<sup>19</sup> and Soapnuke,<sup>20</sup> and the reads were trimmed and processed using Seqtk.<sup>21</sup> The  
86 filtered reads were assembled into the final genomes with SPAdes.<sup>22</sup>

## 87 **2.4. Bacteriophage genome annotation and comparative genomics**

88 Phage genomes were automatically annotated using the RAST server v2.0.<sup>23</sup> Additional putative functions  
89 were assigned to coding sequences (CDS) by BlastP v.2.10.0<sup>24</sup> and Hmmer v3.3.1.<sup>25</sup> tRNAs were predicted  
90 with tRNAscan-SE v2.0<sup>26</sup>. Rho-independent terminators and promoters were identified with ARNold<sup>27</sup> and  
91 PhagePromoter v0.1.0<sup>28</sup>, respectively. Genomic comparisons were performed using BlastN v.2.10.0<sup>24</sup>.  
92 Schematics of phage genomes were built with CGView Server<sup>29</sup>.

## 93 **2.4. Evolutionary analysis of phage proteins**

94 The genome packaging strategy of the phages was predicted by phylogenetic analysis of the large terminase  
95 subunit as previously described.<sup>30</sup> Evolutionary relationships of phage tubulin spindle and nucleus shell  
96 proteins were investigated by building phylogenetic trees with proteins found by psi-Blast (with five  
97 iterations) and Hmmer to be homologous to the tubulin spindle (**Supplementary Table S1**) and nucleus shell  
98 (**Supplementary Table S2**) proteins of *Pseudomonas* phage 201phi2-1, with an e-value equal or less than  
99  $1e-5$ . For all trees, proteins were aligned using MAFFT v7.308 with default settings, and the trees built using  
100 RAxML 7.2.8 with bootstrapping set to 100. A consensus tree was obtained using Consensus Tree Builder  
101 in Geneious v9.1.8.

## 102 **2.5. Codon usage analysis**

103 Codon usage of the bacteriophages and the *K. pneumoniae* HS11286 reference genome (GenBank RefSeq:  
104 NC\_016845.1) was analyzed with Cusp from EMBOSS.<sup>31</sup>

105

### 106 3. Results and discussion

#### 107 3.1. General morphological and genomic features

108 We have isolated four phages infecting *K. pneumoniae* from sewage samples: vB\_KpP\_FBKp16 ( $\phi$ Kp16),  
109 vB\_KpP\_FBKp27 ( $\phi$ Kp27), vB\_KpM\_FBKp34 ( $\phi$ Kp34) and vB\_KpM\_FBKp24 ( $\phi$ Kp24). The four phages  
110 have a tail and therefore belong to the *Caudovirales* order of phages with double stranded DNA. Phages  
111  $\phi$ Kp16 (**Fig. 1A**) and  $\phi$ Kp27 (**Fig. 1B**) have short tails and encode an RNA polymerase (**Supplementary**  
112 **Tables S3 and S4**), features that classify these phages in the *Autographiviridae* family.<sup>32</sup> Phage  $\phi$ Kp34 (**Fig.**  
113 **1C**) has a long contractile tail and a small baseplate with tail spikes and no tail fibers, a distinctive feature of  
114 *Ackermannviridae*.<sup>33</sup> Phage  $\phi$ Kp24 (**Fig. 1D**) also has a long contractile tail, but with a complex tail fiber  
115 structure at the baseplate, and a capsid that is 1.5 times larger than that of  $\phi$ Kp34. These morphological  
116 features and the large  $\approx$ 307 kb genome (**Table 1**) indicate that  $\phi$ Kp24 is a Jumbo *Myoviridae*.

117 The four phages share a very low sequence similarity to each other and to phage genome sequences deposited  
118 in Genbank (**Table 1**). The genome of phage  $\phi$ Kp24 is of particular highlight since no similarity was found  
119 to any genome sequence in Genbank, underlining its novelty. The genomes of phages are often organized in  
120 clusters of functionally related genes. While this analysis is made difficult due to the high number of  
121 hypothetical proteins with unassigned function (69-79%, **Table 1**), it is still possible to observe functional  
122 gene clustering. All genes but one in phage  $\phi$ Kp16 are oriented in the same direction and organized in  
123 functional groups, especially evidenced by DNA replication and repair, and structural component genes (**Fig.**  
124 **2A, Supplementary Table S3**). Genes in phage  $\phi$ Kp27 are organized in clusters of different orientation that  
125 group genes of related functions (**Fig. 2B, Supplementary Table S4**). Cluster A groups genes involved in  
126 DNA metabolism, while Cluster B groups genes for transcription (an RNA polymerase) and a first set of  
127 genes for structural components related to capsid and tail tape measure proteins. Cluster C contains genes  
128 involved in regulation and six tRNAs, while Cluster D has only one gene with function identified for DNA  
129 packaging. Cluster E groups a second set of genes for transcription (a second RNA polymerase) as well as  
130 genes involved in DNA metabolism and DNA replication and repair. Finally, cluster F groups genes for a  
131 second set of structural components related to tail and host binding proteins, as well as genes for cell lysis.  
132 Genes in phage  $\phi$ Kp34 are also organized in clusters of opposing orientation grouping genes of related  
133 functions, although genes for similar functions appear in more than one cluster (**Fig. 2C, Supplementary**  
134 **Table S5**). Cluster A groups genes related to DNA methylation, DNA metabolism and DNA replication and  
135 repair. Cluster B also groups genes for DNA metabolism and DNA replication and repair, as well as multiple  
136 genes seemingly related to bacterial metabolism (**Supplementary Table S5**). Cluster C groups all genes  
137 identified as structural components, as well as genes involved in DNA packaging, DNA integration, DNA  
138 metabolism and tRNAs, and Cluster D groups most genes related to DNA replication and repair, as well as  
139 genes for DNA metabolism, DNA methylation, DNA recombination, and cell lysis. Genes in phage  $\phi$ Kp24  
140 are mostly oriented in the same direction and in some cases the predominant gene orientation is reversed by  
141 individual or small groups of genes in the opposite orientation (**Fig. 2D, Supplementary Table S6**). The  
142 large genome size and the high percentage (79%) of proteins with unassigned functions in phage  $\phi$ Kp24

143 make it difficult to define functional gene groups. Still, it is possible to identify three major groups of genes  
144 coding for structural components, as well as small groups of genes involved in DNA metabolism,  
145 transcription and DNA replication and repair, evidencing the functional clustering of genes commonly  
146 observed in phages.

147 Phages  $\phi$ Kp27,  $\phi$ Kp34, and  $\phi$ Kp24 encode 6, 18 and 9 tRNA genes, respectively (**Table 1**). As of yet, there  
148 is no clear explanation for the presence of tRNA genes in phage genomes.<sup>34–36</sup> A number of studies have  
149 proposed that tRNA-containing phages have a codon bias that diverges from that of the bacterial host,  
150 therefore using the tRNAs to compensate for a metabolic difference.<sup>37,38</sup> However, other studies have shown  
151 that this is not an universal observation. Here, we observe that less than half of the tRNAs encoded in phages  
152  $\phi$ Kp27 (3 of 6),  $\phi$ Kp34 (7 of 18), and  $\phi$ Kp24 (4 of 9) associate with codons that are more used in the phage  
153 than in the bacterial host (**Fig. 3, Supplementary Table S7**), suggesting that codon bias is not the (only)  
154 explanation for the presence of tRNAs in phages. It has also been suggested that tRNAs in phages may be  
155 beneficial to overcome the codon bias of different hosts,<sup>39</sup> but this is difficult to assess since it is virtually  
156 impossible to determine the full range of species and strains that a phage can infect. Interestingly, 67% (18  
157 of 27) of the codons more highly expressed by the phages are shared by at least two phages, with 44% (12 of  
158 27) being shared by the three. It will be interesting to explore common features of codon usage among phages  
159 of a certain species, rather than the similarity of codon usage between phage and host, as a feature to help  
160 predict the host in the future. Of note is also the presence of a suppressor tRNA (tRNA-Sup-TTA,  
161 **Supplementary Table S6**) in  $\phi$ Kp24. Suppressor tRNAs arise when a mutation changes the tRNA anticodon,  
162 allowing it to recognize a stop codon and, instead of terminating, insert an amino acid at that position in the  
163 polypeptide chain.<sup>40</sup> By doing so, suppressor tRNAs can give rise to abnormally long proteins and produce  
164 metabolic changes.<sup>41</sup> In phages, suppressor tRNAs have been shown to alleviate nonsense mutations  
165 (formation of a non-functional protein due to the premature appearance of a terminator codon in mRNA) that  
166 sometimes appear due to the rapid mutation rate of phages.<sup>42</sup> Whether the suppressor tRNA of phage  $\phi$ Kp24  
167 serves a similar or different (e.g. interfere with host protein expression for host takeover) purpose, requires  
168 further investigation.

169 The GC content of the phages (36.0–51.9%) is lower than the median GC content of *K. pneumoniae* (57.2%),  
170 a feature that is particularly prominent for phage  $\phi$ Kp34 (36.0%) (**Table 1**). These results corroborate  
171 previous studies that show the GC content of phage genomes to accurately (>95%) predict the host associated  
172 with a phage at the phyla level but not at lower taxonomic levels.<sup>43</sup> In fact, the divergence in GC content  
173 between phages and their bacterial hosts has been previously observed for phages infecting different  
174 species.<sup>44–47</sup> Curiously, phage  $\phi$ Kp34 has the lowest GC content and encodes for the largest number of tRNA  
175 genes, while phage  $\phi$ Kp16 has the GC content closest to its host and encodes no tRNA genes, suggesting a  
176 connection worth exploring in future work.

### 177 **3.2. Bacteriophage $\phi$ Kp16 has internal virion proteins**

178 Phage  $\phi$ Kp16 encodes two proteins annotated as putative internal virion proteins (gp042 and gp044), i.e.  
179 proteins that are encapsidated with the phage genome in the phage capsid during phage assembly inside the



180 cell. In particular, gp044 holds similarity to gp37 of Enterobacteria phage SP6 (99% query cover, 75.71%  
181 identity). This protein is a homologue of protein gp16 of Enterobacteria phage T7, which forms part of the  
182 ejectosome complex that degrades the bacterial cell wall prior to DNA ejection, by forming an inner pore in  
183 the inner membrane to allow entry of the phage DNA into the cell.<sup>48</sup> Phage  $\phi$ Kp16 most likely uses a similar  
184 mechanism in which proteins encapsidated with the genome are ejected to form a transmembrane channel  
185 through which the phage genome can cross to enter the cell cytoplasm. The proteins in  $\phi$ Kp16 are however  
186 distantly related to those of phage T7 and even SP6, suggesting a possible variant mode of channel formation.

### 187 **3.3. Bacteriophage $\phi$ Kp27 has a potentially novel genome packaging mechanism**

188 Genome packaging is a critical step in the assembly of *Caudovirales* phages and is carried out by a protein  
189 known as the large terminase.<sup>49</sup> Using a phylogenetics approach<sup>30</sup> with the large terminase subunits of our  
190 phages and phages with well-characterized packaging mechanisms, we could infer the packaging  
191 mechanisms used by our phages (**Fig. 4A, Table 1**). The terminases of phages  $\phi$ Kp16 and  $\phi$ Kp24 clustered  
192 within groups of known packaging mechanisms, T7-like short direct terminal repeats and phiKZ-like headful  
193 packaging, respectively (**Fig. 4A**). However, the terminases of phages  $\phi$ Kp27 and  $\phi$ Kp34 formed their own  
194 clades, suggesting packaging mechanisms distinct from those currently known. Of these, the terminase of  
195  $\phi$ Kp27 seems to be the most distinctive, considering its distancing to all clades. A Blastp analysis revealed  
196 that the large terminase of  $\phi$ Kp27 is highly similar (99% query cover, >70% identity) to the large terminase  
197 of N4-like phages.<sup>50,51</sup> The crystal structure of both the large and small terminase subunits of N4 have been  
198 resolved,<sup>49</sup> but the mechanism of genome packaging is yet to be described and may reveal a mechanism  
199 different from those known so far, and which seems to be common to a number of phages.

### 200 **3.4. Bacteriophage $\phi$ Kp34 encodes genes with possible anti-viral functions**

201 Phage  $\phi$ Kp34 encodes an insertion sequence of the IS200/IS605 family (gp188) that is commonly found in  
202 bacterial and prophage genomes,<sup>22,52</sup> suggesting that  $\phi$ Kp34 can adopt a lysogenic lifestyle as well. IS  
203 sequences contribute majorly to bacterial genome diversification, and have also been suggested to play a role  
204 in the inactivation and immobilization of other invading phages.<sup>53</sup> Interestingly, phage  $\phi$ Kp34 also contains  
205 a cluster of genes similar to *terC* (gp124), *terF* C-terminal vWA domain (gp131), and *terD* (gp132, gp133)  
206 from the *terZABCDEF* system, and one gene similar to *telA* (gp135) from the *telAB* system. The  
207 *terZABCDEF* and *telAB* operons seem to constitute a membrane-linked chemical stress response and anti-  
208 viral defense system in bacteria.<sup>54-56</sup> The subset of genes from the original operons present in  $\phi$ Kp34 seems  
209 to constitute a functional hub found in most major bacterial lineages<sup>56</sup>, has also been reported in virulent  
210 phages,<sup>57</sup> and may confer valuable traits to the bacteria harboring  $\phi$ Kp34 as a prophage.

### 211 **3.5. Bacteriophage $\phi$ Kp24 has multiple depolymerases and tubulin and nuclear shell proteins**

212 Phage  $\phi$ Kp24 has a distinctive complex structure at its baseplate (**Fig. 1D**) possibly composed of 10 host  
213 binding proteins (**Table 1**), in comparison with one host binding protein in phages  $\phi$ Kp16 and  $\phi$ Kp34, and  
214 three in phage  $\phi$ Kp27. Three of the 10 possible host binding proteins of  $\phi$ Kp24 have putative depolymerase  
215 domains (**Table 1**) of GTPase, peptidase and transglycosylase activity, while only one host binding protein

216 of  $\phi$ Kp27 has a predicted depolymerase domain. Depolymerases are used by phages to degrade the capsule  
217 of bacteria and to gain access to their secondary receptor (e.g. outer membrane protein, lipopolysaccharide)  
218 on the host's surface. Depolymerases tend to be specific to a capsular type, and the presence of depolymerases  
219 with different activities suggests that phage  $\phi$ Kp24 can interact and degrade different capsular types<sup>46</sup>, likely  
220 expanding the phage's host range.

221 Interestingly, and akin to other jumbo phages, phage  $\phi$ Kp24 codes for tubulin spindle (gp094) and nucleus  
222 shell (gp083) proteins that function to enhance phage reproduction.<sup>58,59</sup> The nucleus shell protein forms a  
223 proteinaceous barrier that encloses viral DNA, separating phage DNA replication and transcription from  
224 other cellular functions and providing a protective physical barrier against DNA-targeting CRISPR-Cas  
225 systems;<sup>60,61</sup> while the tubulin spindle positions the phage nucleus structure at the cell center.<sup>62</sup> A  
226 phylogenetic analysis of the tubulin spindle and nucleus shell proteins of  $\phi$ Kp24 and all protein homologues  
227 to those of phage 201phi2-1 (where these proteins were first reported) found by psi-Blast and Hmmer search  
228 (**Fig. 4B** and **4C**) reveals that the proteins of  $\phi$ Kp24 cluster with those of Serratia phage 2050HW, Serratia  
229 phage PCH45, and Erwinia phage PhiEaH1. Interestingly, clusters formed by tubulin spindle and nucleus  
230 shell proteins are identical, suggesting that these proteins have co-evolved, and seem to group according to  
231 the bacterial species infected. It is also curious that only three of the phages encoding tubulin spindle and  
232 nucleus shell proteins have genomes smaller than 200 kb (167-197 kb), further underpinning the exclusive  
233 use of these proteins by Jumbo phages.

234

#### 235 **4. Conclusion**

236 The genome sequences of the four *K. pneumoniae* phages reported here reveal potential novel packaging  
237 mechanisms ( $\phi$ Kp27 and  $\phi$ Kp34), the presence of possible anti-viral strategies in phage genomes ( $\phi$ Kp34)  
238 that can help elucidate symbiotic relationships between temperate phages and their hosts, and distinctive and  
239 novel clades of tubulin spindle and nucleus shell proteins ( $\phi$ Kp24) that will help shed light into the evolution  
240 of compartmentalization in prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Phages  $\phi$ Kp16,  $\phi$ Kp27 and  $\phi$ Kp24, but not the  
241 potentially temperate phage  $\phi$ Kp34, are also strong candidates for phage therapy against antibiotic resistant  
242 *K. pneumoniae* infections. Further exploration of phage genomes will help elucidate the origins, genetic  
243 diversity and evolutionary mechanisms of phages, and contribute to a better understanding of the broader  
244 biology of microbial populations and how their genomic characteristics contribute to observable features.  
245 This knowledge and the study of individual genes and proteins will certainly also be translated into innovative  
246 tools with biotechnological and medical applications.

247

#### 248 **Supplementary data**

249 Supplementary data are available at DNARES online.

250



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258

## 259 **Author contributions**

260 SJJB, FN, ARC and TvR conceived and designed the project. MX and WS sequenced and assembled the  
261 genomes. BEB, ARC, SH and HW annotated the genomes. PJH provided the strains. BEB and ARC  
262 generated the data, performed the analysis and wrote the manuscript. SJJB, FN, TvR reviewed and edited the  
263 manuscript with input from all authors. All authors approved the manuscript.

264

## 265 **Accession numbers**

266 The assembled and annotated phage genome sequences have been deposited in Genbank  
267 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/>) under accession numbers MW394389 ( $\phi$ Kp16), MW394388  
268 ( $\phi$ Kp27), MW394391 ( $\phi$ Kp24) and MW394390 ( $\phi$ Kp34). The data are also available at the China National  
269 GeneBank (CNGB, <https://db.cngb.org/>) under accession number CNP0000861.

270

## 271 **Conflict of interest**

272 None declared.

273

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403 **Tables**

404 **Table 1.** Morphological and genomic features of the bacteriophages isolated in this work.

	<b>vB_KpnP_FBKp16</b>	<b>vB_KpnP_FBKp27</b>	<b>vB_KpnM_FBKp34</b>	<b>vB_KpnM_FBKp24</b>
<b>Short name</b>	φKp16	φKp27	φKp34	φKp24
<b><i>K. pneumoniae</i> host<sup>a</sup></b>	K6310	L923	K6453	K6592
<b>Family</b>	<i>Autographiviridae</i>	<i>Autographiviridae</i>	<i>Ackermannviridae</i>	<i>Myoviridae</i>
<b>Genome size (bp)</b>	44,010	76,339	141,376	307,210
<b>Best Blast hit (query coverage, identity)</b>	Salmonella phage BP12B (13%, 77.2%) <sup>b</sup>	Pectobacterium phage Nepra (2%, 75.4%)	Proteus phage Mydo (3%, 87.5%)	No hit
<b>GC content (%)</b>	51.9	44.2	36.0	45.1
<b>Number of CDS</b>	51	93	248	372
<b>Number of hypothetical proteins</b>	35 (69%)	68 (73%)	194 (78%)	292 (79%)
<b>Possible host receptor binding proteins</b>	1 gp045	3 gp086, gp091, gp093	1 gp164	10 gp196, gp300, gp303, gp304, gp306, gp309, gp310, gp312, gp330, gp357
<b>Possible depolymerases</b>	0	1 gp093	0	3
Pectate lyase	-	gp093	-	-
GTPase	-	-	-	gp308
Peptidase	-	-	-	gp310
Transglycosylase	-	-	-	gp330
<b>DNA packaging</b>	T7-like short direct terminal repeats	Undetermined	Undetermined	phiKZ-like headful
<b>tRNA genes</b>	0	6	18	9

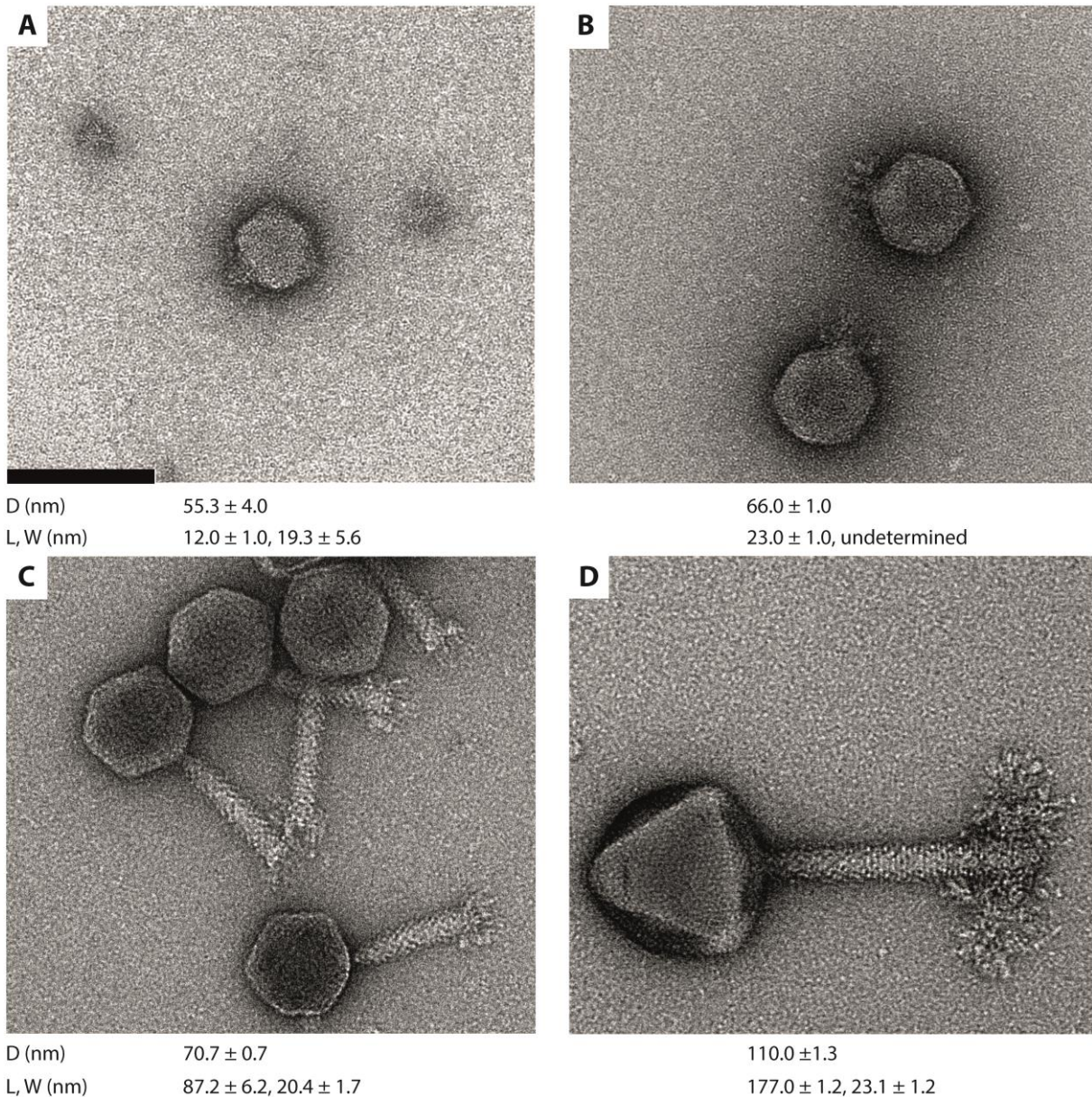
405 <sup>a</sup> All four phages cannot infect the other three bacterial hosts.

406 <sup>b</sup> During the writing of this report, the sequence of *Proteus* phage PmP19 has been deposited on Genbank, which has  
407 88% query cover and 91.68% identity to phage φKp16.

408



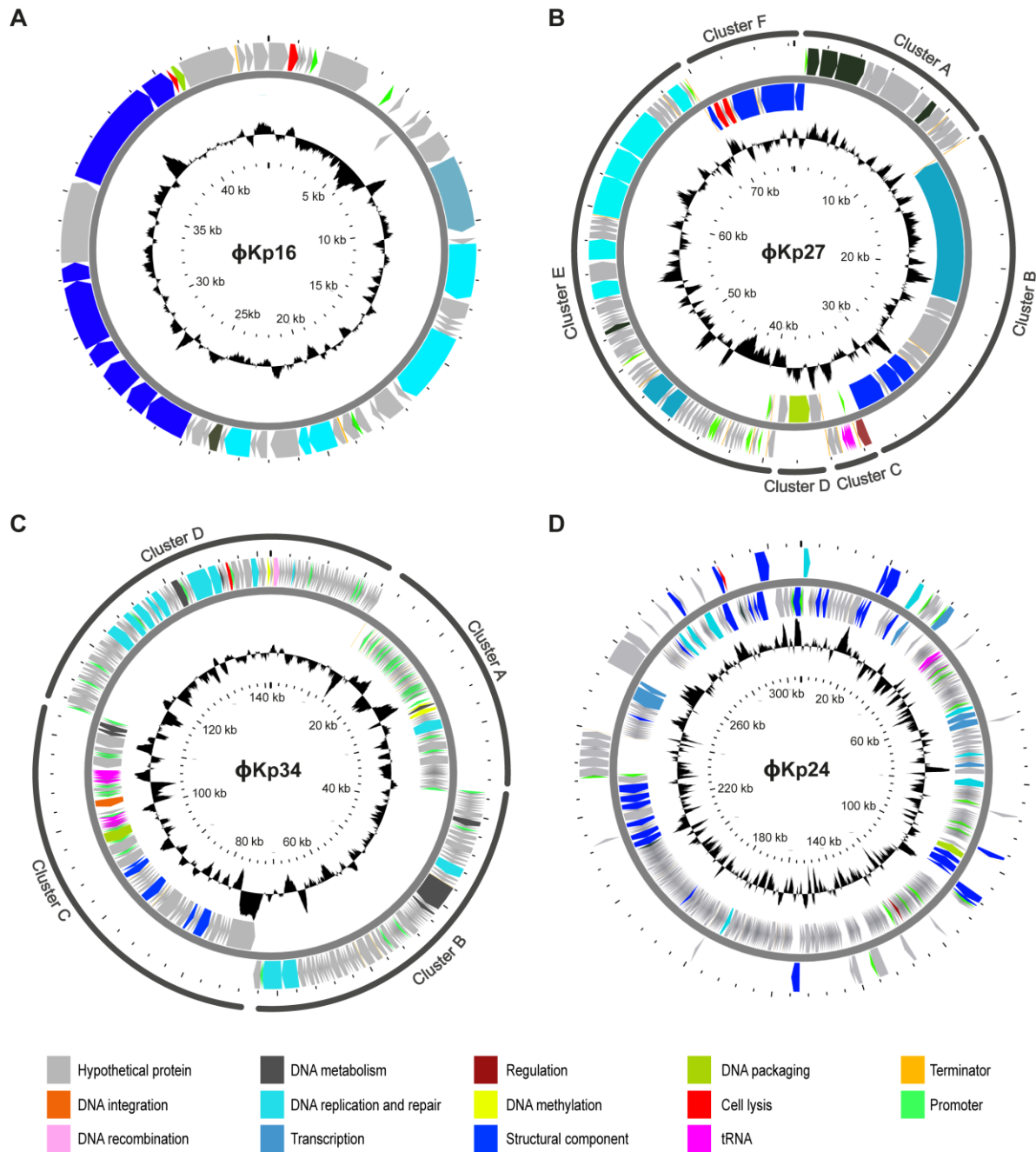
409 **Figures**



410

411 **Figure 1.** Transmission electron microscopy images of four newly isolated *Klebsiella pneumoniae*  
412 bacteriophages. (A) *Autographiviridae* φKp16, (B) *Autographiviridae* φKp27, (C) *Ackermannviridae* φKp34,  
413 and (D) *Myoviridae* φKp24. Bacteriophages were negatively stained with 2% uracyl acetate. The diameter  
414 (D) of the capsid, and the length (L) and width (W) of the tail are given in nm below each phage as the  
415 average dimensions of 10 phage particles. Bar: 100 nm. All micrographs are taken at 200,000x magnification.

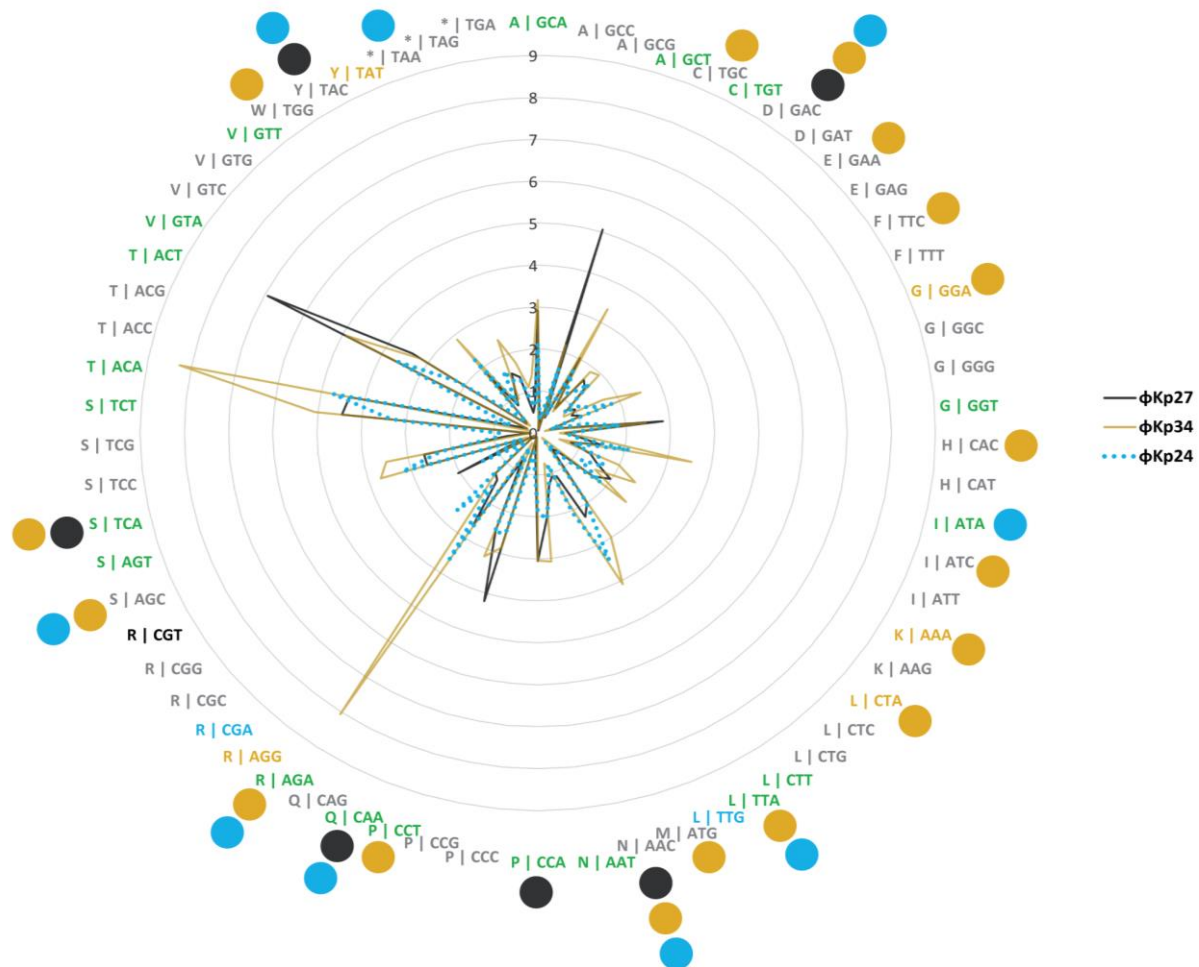
416



417

418 **Figure 2.** Circular genome maps of the four newly isolated *Klebsiella pneumoniae* bacteriophages. (A) Phage  
 419  $\phi$ Kp16, (B) Phage  $\phi$ Kp27, (C) Phage  $\phi$ Kp34, and (D) Phage  $\phi$ Kp24. ORFs are colored according to predicted  
 420 function as shown in the key. Clusters depict clear gene operons located in the same strand. Clusters are not  
 421 shown for (A) and (D) since most genes are located in the same strand. GC content is shown in black  
 422 landscape with GC content higher or lower than 50% pointing to outer and inner circles, respectively. Maps  
 423 were generated using CGView Server.<sup>29</sup>

424

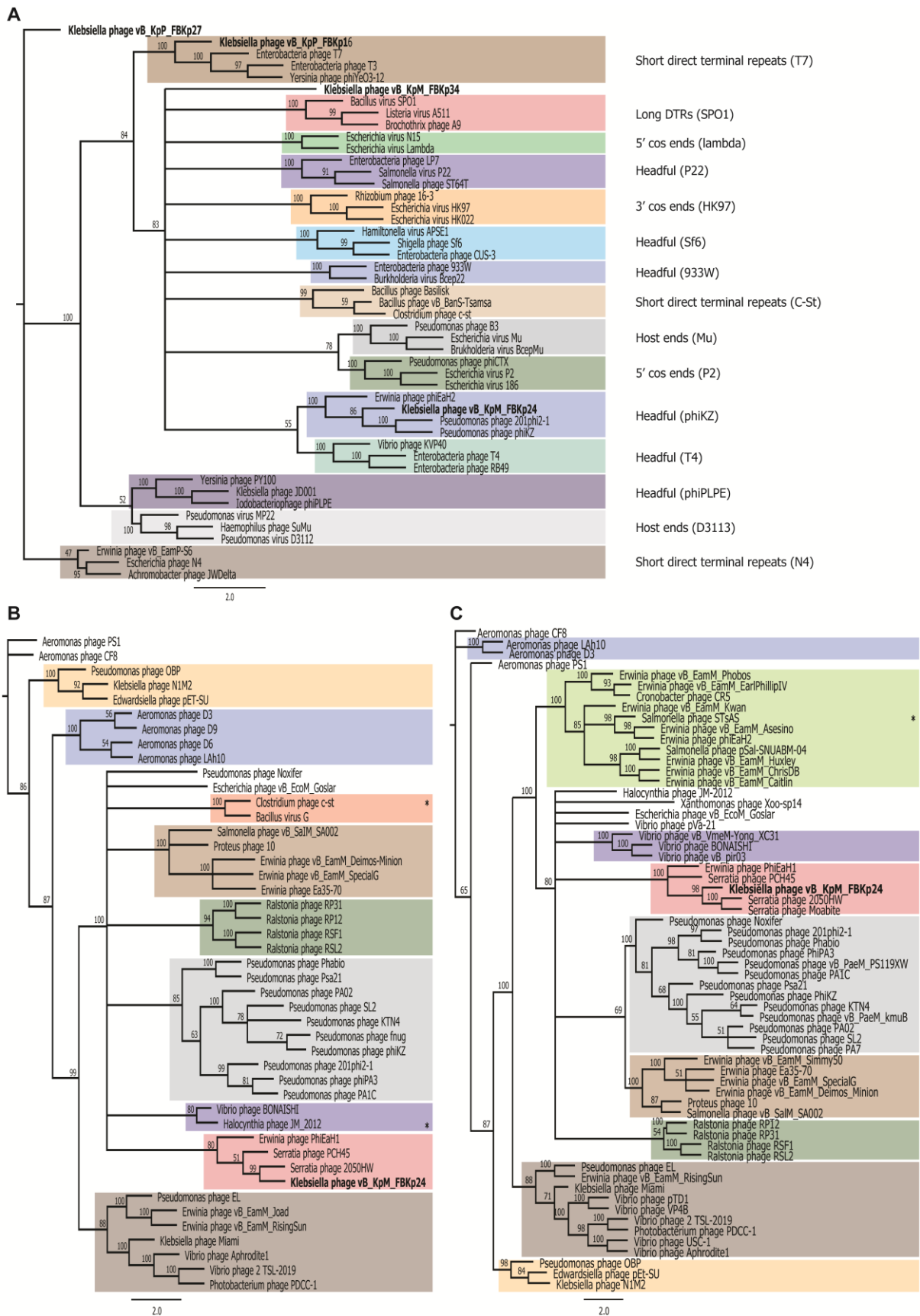


425

426 **Figure 3.** Codon usage by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* phages  $\phi$ Kp27,  $\phi$ Kp24 and  $\phi$ Kp34 as compared to the  
 427 codon usage of *K. pneumoniae* HS11286. Codon usage is represented as the fraction between the frequency  
 428 of codon usage in the phage divided by that of the bacteria. Codons are represented as X | YYY, in which X  
 429 is the amino acid codified by codon YYY. Codons expressed at least 2-fold higher in phages are colored  
 430 black if overexpressed only in  $\phi$ Kp27, mustard if only in  $\phi$ Kp34, blue if only in  $\phi$ Kp24, and green if  
 431 overexpressed in at least two of the three phages. Colored circles indicate codons for which the phages encode  
 432 a tRNA.

433





434

435 **Figure 4.** Phylogenetic trees of selected phage proteins. (A) Analysis of large terminase subunits using  
 436 proteins from phages of well-known packaging mechanisms. (B) Analysis of the tubulin spindle protein of

437 phage  $\phi$ Kp24 and all protein homologues to the tubulin spindle of phage 201phi2-1 found by psi-Blast and  
438 Hmmer. (C) Analysis of the nucleus shell protein of phage  $\phi$ Kp24 and all protein homologues to the nucleus  
439 shell protein of phage 201phi2-1 found by psi-Blast and Hmmer. Trees were built from MAFFT alignments  
440 using RAxML with bootstrapping of 100. Identical colors were used in panels (B) and (C) to identify similar  
441 phage clusters. All phages in panels (B) and (C) have genomes above 200 kb (Jumbo phages) with the  
442 exception of those marked with \*, which have a genome size of 167-197 kb.

443