

## 1 Evolutionary dynamics of *Begomoviruses* causing Papaya leaf curl disease in India

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3 Aarshi Srivasatava<sup>1§</sup>, Vineeta Pandey<sup>1§</sup>, Anurag Kumar Sahu<sup>2</sup>, Dinesh Yadav<sup>1</sup> and  
4 R.K. Gaur<sup>1\*</sup>

- 5  
6 1. Department of Biotechnology, D.D.U. Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur-273009,  
7 Uttar Pradesh, India  
8 2. International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology,  
9 Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi, Delhi - 110067, India  
10

11 **§Equal contribution**

12  
13 **\*Corresponding author: [gaurrajashi@hotmail.com](mailto:gaurrajashi@hotmail.com)**  
14

### 15 Abstract

16 The genus *begomovirus* represents a group of multipartite viruses that significantly damages  
17 many agricultural crops, including papaya and drastically influence the overall production.  
18 Understanding the genetic variations, mutations and recombination of the *begomovirus*  
19 population infecting papaya has several important implications in alleviating substantial  
20 losses, mainly in developing countries, including India. In an attempt for a bioinformatics  
21 driven study of diversity and variability of papaya leaf curl disease in India, a total of thirty-  
22 two (32) DNA-A and sixteen (16) betasatellite sequences were retrieved from GenBank. An  
23 uneven distribution of evolutionary divergence has been observed across the branch length,  
24 which triggered the estimated recombinational event. Interestingly, a maximum of the  
25 *begomoviruses* were found to be intra-species recombinants. Further genetic variability,  
26 selection pressure, and substitution rate acting on the population were estimated and found to  
27 be high enough to support the evolution of geminiviruses. Genetic divergence composition in  
28 all *begomovirus* datasets revealed predominance of nucleotide diversity driven by mutation.  
29 The analysis indicates that even though a significant fraction of the genetic variations might  
30 be due to recombination but, it was constantly lower than the mutation rate. Thus, the  
31 diversification of the *begomovirus* population is principally impelled by mutational  
32 dynamics.

33 **Keywords:** *Begomovirus*, Papaya leaf curl disease, Genetic variability, Phylogenetic  
34 analysis, Recombination

## 36 Introduction

37 The genus *Begomovirus* belongs to the family *Geminiviridae* consisting of 424 species, 2020  
38 release Virus Taxonomy by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV)  
39 (Zerbini et al. 2017). A closed circular single stranded DNA encapsidated in a quasi-  
40 isometric non-enveloped twinned particle of ~ 2.8 kb size constitutes a virus genome (Stanley  
41 et al. 2005). The native New World *begomoviruses* have only bipartite genomes (DNA-A and  
42 DNA-B components) whereas, *begomoviruses* of the Old World constitute both monopartite  
43 and bipartite genomes (lack DNA-B and have DNA-A homolog) (Brown et al. 2012).  
44 Although in bipartite *begomovirus* DNA-A can replicate independently but they require  
45 DNA-B for nuclear localization. The uniqueness of monopartite is the presence of small  
46 ssDNA satellite molecules which greatly enhance the virus virulence. These molecules are  
47 alphasatellite (~1.4 kb), betasatellite (~1.3 kb) and a newly reported deltasatellite of  
48 approximately size of 0.7 kb (Brown et al. 2012; Lozano et al. 2016; Fiallo-Olivé et al. 2016).  
49 These *begomoviruses* are transmitted by whiteflies of the *Bemisia tabaci* cryptic species  
50 which has been adapted and co-evolved with the *begomovirus* genome (Brown et al. 2012;  
51 Marwal et al. 2021). The *B. tabaci* is considered as the second most important vector because  
52 of its semi-persistent mode and behavioural manipulation for transmitting plant viruses  
53 (Moreno-Delafuente et al. 2013). The genomic DNA of the monopartite genome and DNA-  
54 A of the bipartite genome have corresponding genome organization consisting of six open  
55 reading frames (AV2, AV1, AC3, AC2, AC1, AC4), whereas DNA-B consists of two open  
56 reading frames (BV1, BC1) which also contribute to intra as well as inter-cellular movement  
57 of viral particles within the host. Thus, together they cause systemic infection and develop  
58 typical symptoms (Nawaz-ul-Rehman et al. 2009; Hanley – Bowdoin et al. 2013).  
59 *Begomoviruses* commonly induce severe symptoms in their hosts, including golden mosaic,  
60 yellow mosaic and leaf curl. Devastating pathogens include members of species such as  
61 *Cotton leaf curl Multan virus*, *African cassava mosaic virus*, *Chilli leaf curl virus*, *Bean*  
62 *golden mosaic virus* and *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus*. A vast range of initial symptoms,  
63 such as green– yellow mottle/mosaic, leaf curling, interveinal yellowing, vein swelling, and  
64 yellow spots are found associated with dicotyledonous plants infected with *begomoviruses*. In  
65 India, papaya leaf curl disease was first identified by Thomas and Krishnaswamy in 1939,  
66 which was confirmed by Saxena and colleagues that the disease is caused by geminivirus,  
67 i.e., *Papaya leaf curl virus* (Saxena et al. 1998). The infection rate of disease depends on the  
68 severity of symptoms, type of *begomovirus*, vector and associated helper viruses, and their

69 severity rate increases with the rise in the whitefly population. The symptoms like reduction  
70 in leaf size, leaf curling, vein thickening, yellow mosaic, interveinal chlorosis, and stunted  
71 growth of plants with small distorted fruits or no fruits can be found consociated with papaya  
72 (Shahid et al. 2013; Varun et al. 2017). However, stunting may be seen at a severe stage of  
73 infection, which may eventually cause the death of infected plants.

74 Diseases associated with *begomoviruses* are found to be a threat to global papaya production.  
75 *Carica Papaya*, a major tropical, sweet, large and herbaceous food crop, belongs to the order  
76 Brassicales and the family *Caricaceae* is cultivated throughout India, and valued for its  
77 medicinal and nutritional benefits (Yadav et al. 2016). The market demand for tropical fruits  
78 is rapidly increasing for papaya, and now ranking third due to its benefits and importance in  
79 agribusiness (Evans 2012). Despite being an important wide-ranging topical fruit grown  
80 throughout the year in many portions of the country, papaya yields are degraded due to  
81 infection by a number of viral diseases which are particularly important (Usha 1980; Nehra et  
82 al. 2019). Fruit is significantly important due to early bearing and space conserving variety  
83 and is considered as a rich source of fibres, minerals, and antioxidant nutrients. In addition, it  
84 is a source of the digestive enzyme Papain, which is found as an important industrial  
85 ingredient in meat tenderizing, cosmetics, beauty products, brewing and pharmaceuticals (Vij  
86 and Prashar 2015; Urgessa et al. 2019). Above all, papaya acts as a metabolic activator,  
87 detoxifier, homeostasis maintainer, and cell rejuvenator. The medicinal and nutritional value  
88 of Papaya aids human health (Adiaha and Adiaha 2017). Furthermore, its local and  
89 commercial cultivation is difficult to achieve its full potential (FAOSTAT 2019) due to the  
90 incidence and emergence of a large number of plant-infecting viruses resulting in significant  
91 crop loss (Nascimento et al. 2010). Majorly, leaf curl symptoms caused by *papaya leaf curl*  
92 *virus* are found associated with infected papaya plants from different regions, which initiates  
93 serious production losses and can act as potential inducer for transmission of viruses *via*  
94 vector whitefly (Guo et al. 2015). The substantial diversity of *begomoviruses* affecting  
95 papaya in India includes several reports such as *papaya leaf curl virus* (PaLCuV) found  
96 infecting papaya for the first time described in 1939 in India. Since then, *papaya leaf curl*  
97 *virus* has been found as an important repressor for papaya cultivation. In spite of being  
98 economically important tropical fruit, little attention has been paid to assess the genetic  
99 diversity at the molecular level for *papaya leaf curl virus* causing leaf curl disease in papaya  
100 (Fougat et al. 2015).

101 This article provides an insight into genomic components with its satellite molecules  
102 associated with the *begomovirus* causing leaf curl disease, its diversity and evolution patterns  
103 using bioinformatics approach.

## 104 **Materials and methods**

### 105 **Sequence retrieval and Sequence alignment**

106 Genome sequences of *begomoviruses* infecting papaya reported till June 2021 were retrieved  
107 from GenBank ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)) and their distributions along with its sub-viral  
108 satellite across India were depicted. (Table 1; Fig1). Three sequence datasets for whole  
109 genome sequences of 32 DNA-A segment, its six ORFs and 16 associated betasatellite were  
110 prepared for further analysis. Only the sequences containing distinct nanomer “TAATATT”  
111 were considered for the present studies. Each specific datasets were aligned through multiple  
112 sequence alignments algorithm with Clustal W, using MEGA X software (Kumar et al.  
113 2018).

### 114 **Phylogenetic analysis**

115 Evolutionary divergence helps to observe sequence diversity among the virus isolates. The  
116 wide range of distribution helps in understanding the viruses' origin, dispersion, development  
117 and etiology of diseases. Based on lowest BIC value, the best nucleotide substitution model  
118 were chosen using model test ultimately constructed a phylogenetic tree utilizing 1,000  
119 bootstrap replicates for maximum likelihood (ML) algorithm embed in MEGA X software  
120 (Kumar et al. 2018). Different transversion and transitional substitutions rate together with  
121 transition/transversion bias (R) were also calculated using MEGA X program. (Kumar et al.  
122 2018).

### 123 **Detection of Recombination**

124 The aligned nucleotide sequences of reference *begomovirus* were used to analyse the  
125 evidence of recombination by utilizing recombination detection program (v.4.2). Different  
126 algorithms of RDP 4.2 software such as RDP, BOOTSCAN, CHIMAERA, GENECONV,  
127 MAXCHI, 3SEQ and SISCAN (Martin et al. 2015) were used to detect a potential  
128 recombination event by predicting foremost and rearmost breakpoints, parental isolates and  
129 origin of viruses. For analysis, towards 0.05 highest acceptable Bonferroni corrected p-value

130 and default detection thresholds datasets were subjected. To escape false-positive results, out  
131 of seven at least three algorithms were regarded appropriate to detect recombination events.

## 132 **Population structure and Coalescent analysis**

133 To investigate the genetic variability and diversity in the virus population several parameters  
134 embed in DnaSP (v. 6.12) software used (Rozas et al. 2017). The aligned sequence datasets  
135 were analysed for, total number of segregating sites ( $s$ ), the average number of nucleotide  
136 differences between sequences ( $k$ ), total number of mutations ( $\eta$ ), nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ),  
137 additionally, Watterson's estimate of the population mutation rate based on the total number  
138 of segregation sites ( $\theta - w$ ) and the total number of mutations ( $\theta - \eta$ ) were also calculated  
139 along with a number of haplotypes ( $h$ ), and haplotype diversity ( $H_d$ ) (Lima et al. 2017).

140 Furthermore, an implemented method in DnaSP (v.6.12.) software i.e., Neutrality test, are  
141 executed to calculate the hypothesis of selection pressure occurring in population. Therefore,  
142 sequence datasets separated by different geographical location are tested by employing tests  
143 such as Tajima's  $D$ , Fu and Li's  $D^*$  for identifying the difference between the total number of  
144 mutations and the number of singletons, and Fu and Li's  $F^*$  for identifying the difference  
145 between the average number of nucleotide differences between paired sequences and the  
146 number of singletons (Rozas et al. 2017).

147 Consequently, the mean substitution rate and mutational bias in the sequence datasets of  
148 *begomoviruses* were determined by using the Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)  
149 parameter of BEAST (v.1.10) (Suchard et al. 2018). Coalescent constant demographic  
150 models and Best-fit molecular clock were detected employing BEAST and resultant were  
151 operated under Tracer program (v 1.5) to achieve effective sample size (Rambaut et al. 2018).  
152 MCMC chain used 10% burn-in value with  $10^7$  run lengths to provide 95% highest posterior  
153 density (HPD) interval for determining statistical uncertainty.

## 154 **Results**

155 Since 1990s, humans adapting to modernisation and India's changing climatic condition have  
156 been found promoting factors in the emergence and evolution of many *begomovirus* diseases.  
157 Frequent recombination and mutation such as nucleotide substitution are apparent as  
158 topological incongruence in evolutionary events which depend upon type of virus and host  
159 plant (Varun and Saxena 2018). The occurrence of leaf curl disease in papaya was observed

160 which allowed to device a molecular perceptive for understanding the DNA polymorphism of  
161 *begomoviruses*.

162

### 163 **Phylogenetic analysis and Detection of Substitution bias**

164 Using MEGA X program, the evolutionary history for sequence datasets DNA-A and  
165 associated betasatellite were calculated using the ML Tree based on the best fit nucleotide  
166 substitution model i.e., (TN93+G) for DNA-A, its ORFs and (TN93+G+I) for betasatellite  
167 computing with CLUSTAL W pairwise alignment. The four distant lineages were observed  
168 with 1000 bootstrap support and grouped as (ChiLCV I a & b), (PaLCuV II), (PaYLCuV III),  
169 (PaLCrV IV) (Fig2 a). The lineages comprise the isolates collected from different smaller and  
170 larger geographic locations (Fig1). The branch length among population suggests the level of  
171 differentiation within them. In addition, well-defined clusters are observed in case of  
172 betasatellite depicting four clades distinct grouped as (ToLCB I), (ChiLCB II), (ToLCB III),  
173 (CroYVMB IV) (Fig2 b). Since, longer branches are reported to be associated with well  
174 supported recombination events though short branches also support the recombination (Lima  
175 et al. 2017). Accordingly, the mean branch lengths found in the present study might be  
176 contributing to recombinational events. Nevertheless, the results also indicate that  
177 *begomoviruses* infecting *Carica papaya* were not restricted to any solitary geographical  
178 region of India.

179 Moreover, different rate of transitional, transversion substitutions and transition/transversion  
180 bias (R) were estimated for the *begomoviruses* causing papaya leaf curl disease (Table 2). The  
181 rate of transitional substitutions ranged from 9.77 to 15.6, and transversional substitutions  
182 ranged from 5.41 to 7.71 while transition/transversion bias (R) of 0.97 was observed for  
183 DNA-A. Further, its six ORF's showed variable values based on gene nature for different  
184 substitution rate. The transitional rate was maximum for C4 gene while Rep gene showed  
185 minimum value. Similarly, maximum transversional substitutions rate was observed for REn  
186 gene while pre-CP gene showed minimum value. The highest and lowest  
187 transition/transversion bias (R) was observed for TrAP and C4 gene respectively. Similarly,  
188 for betasatellite the range obtained for transitional and transversional substitutions was 8.49  
189 to 14.62 and 5.64 to 9.26 respectively while, the transition/transversion bias (R) was 0.82.  
190 However, the estimation might support the contribution of mutation for nucleotide  
191 polymorphisms in a population.

## 192 **Detection of Recombination**

193 Further, the tree- like phylogenetic divergence obtained for sequence datasets directed us to  
194 detect the occurrence of non-tree-like evolution within populations to explain the potential of  
195 recombination events in aligned sequences. For analysis, different parameters were used for  
196 determining the shared overlapping intra- and inter-specific recombination events distributed  
197 throughout the genome with different parental combinations. Thirty-two putative  
198 recombination events were observed for (DNA-A) datasets and sixteen putative  
199 recombination breakpoints were identified for betasatellites (Table 3a). However, intra-  
200 specific recombination among different reference sequences were predominately observed in  
201 AC1, AV1 and AC2 rich genome region while AV2, AC3, C4 genome region showed  
202 minimum effect. This substantiate the possibility of putative recombination breakpoints  
203 among ORF's of these DNAs (Table 3b). Moreover, recombination events distributed  
204 predominantly in the  $\beta$ C1 genome region of betasatellites supports the prevalence of  
205 recombination that is involved in virus movement by suppressing host antiviral silencing  
206 gene (Kumar et al. 2015). Further, relevant recombination events were obtained by selecting  
207 at least three or more methods which minimize incompetent outcomes. Thus, significant  
208 amounts of genetic variation were supported by maximum putative recombinational events  
209 among sequence datasets.

## 210 **Population Structure and Coalescent analysis**

211 An evolutionary scenario signifies the role of nucleotide substitution along with  
212 recombination in gaining genetic variation and evolution among *begomoviruses* (Mishra et al.  
213 2020). The mean substitution rate among sequences datasets of DNA-A were  $2.80 \times 10^{-4}$  sub  
214 site<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> (DNA-A, 95% highest posterior density (HPD) interval ranging from  $3.541 \times 10^{-5}$   
215 to  $9.747 \times 10^{-4}$ ), which is comparatively higher when compared with the range of nucleotide  
216 substitution rate of RNA viruses thus, suggesting that though geminivirus evolve at  
217 analogous rate as many RNA viruses reported so far (Jenkins et al. 2002; Duffy and Holmes  
218 2009; Kumar et al. 2015) but importantly the high substitution frequency detected here shows  
219 short term mutational phenomenon acting on population rather than long term substitution  
220 rate. To justify above, high rate of nucleotide substitutions was also detected superficial in the  
221 three gene datasets i.e., pre-CP, REn, Rep (Table 4). In addition,  $5.14 \times 10^{-5}$  sub site<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>  
222 ( $\beta$ , 95% HPD interval ranging from  $7.157 \times 10^{-7}$  to  $1.56 \times 10^{-4}$ ) substitution rate was detected  
223 for betasatellites. Conversely, relaxed molecular clock is used as prior to get the suitable

224 value of mean substitution rate and the detected high substitution value are questionable to be  
225 caused by strong positive selection (Duffy and Holmes 2008, 2009).

226

227 Since, selection pressure acting for genetic variation was also effectuated by codon  
228 degeneracy, therefore mutational selection pressure within three nucleotide codon positions  
229 i.e., CP1, CP2, CP3 respectively, were appraised and found higher at codon position C3 for  
230 DNA-A and among ORFs highest codon degeneracy were found in CP gene at codon  
231 position C3 as compared to other genes. Similarly, for betasatellites chief mutation rate were  
232 found at codon position C3 (Table 4).

233 Moreover, to determine the degree of genetic variability, demography structure analysis was  
234 estimated (Table 5). However, the analysis revealed for DNA-A, number of polymorphic sites  
235 (s) were 1737 with 2720 number of mutation ( $\eta$ ) having nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) of ( $\pi=0.2$ )  
236 which were found greater on comparison with CLCuMulV (RV-1) having a low degree of  
237 genetic variability ( $\pi > 0.08$ ) (Mishra et al. 2020). Similarly, variability was seen in the ORFs  
238 of the DNA- A, the significant contributor of high degree of genetic divergence was verified  
239 by the non-randomness of nucleotide variability throughout genome region which were  
240 performed effectively by C4, Rep and REn gene depicting highest nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ )  
241 value (Table 5). Simultaneously, for betasatellite a number of polymorphic sites (s) were 834  
242 with 1482 number of mutation( $\eta$ ) having nucleotide diversity( $\pi$ ) of ( $\pi=0.3$ ) were largely high  
243 on comparison with ChiLCB (MM-2) ( $\pi > 0.06$ ) (Mishra et al. 2020). Therefore, the  
244 estimation suggests diverseness among populations. Furthermore, the number of haplotype  
245 (h) and haplotype diversity (Hd) was also estimated for the sequence datasets, which decipher  
246 the total number of haplotype (h) distribution for DNA-A was 32 and its haplotype diversity  
247 was detected equal to 1(1.000). Similarly, among its ORFs the haplotype diversity (Hd) were  
248 found close to 1 for gene pre-CP, REn, Rep, C4 and equal to 1 for gene CP and TrAP which  
249 support the relative contribution of genes in DNA polymorphism. Simultaneously, for  
250 betasatellite the total number of haplotype (h) and its diversity were detected 17 and equal to  
251 1(1.000) respectively. Therefore, the estimation suggests the uniqueness within population  
252 and subpopulation (Table 5).

253

254 Neutrality tests were used to assess and understand the demographic selection acting on  
255 genetic population of *begomoviruses* and associated satellite molecules. Tajima's D was  
256 chosen for evaluation criteria which statistically reflect the negative Tajima's D value for  
257 DNA-A, its ORFs and associated betasatellites. Predominately, the statistically significant



258 values were negative, which indicates the large proportion of genetic segregation might be  
259 there within sequence datasets which were unique to individual sequences. Simultaneously,  
260 the other parameters such as Fu & Li's  $D$  and Fu & Li's  $F$  tests of population statistics were  
261 also evaluated resulting in negative values for DNA-A, its ORFs and betasatellites, indicating  
262 reiterating of purifying selection and population expansion which might be due to the  
263 inherent diversity. Nevertheless, the combination of Tajima's  $D$ , Fu & Li's  $D$ , and Fu & Li's  
264  $F$  negative values for DNA-A, its ORFs and associated satellite population revealed the  
265 conserved nature of the gene. Such evidences of nucleotide diversity might be expected when  
266 a selective sweep succeed the expansion of population and when most observable segregation  
267 functioning at the nucleotide level in a population are momentary and are eventually  
268 withdrawn by purifying selection (Table 6).

## 269 **Discussion**

270 India shares a large portion of the population which depends on small-area agricultural  
271 farming for their subsistence and income. A wide variety of diseases and their infection rate  
272 has been seen causing devastating effects both on crop yield and human persistence.  
273 Undoubtedly, the cultivation practices and presence of tropical climate conditions in the  
274 Indian subcontinent aids to the prevalence of a large number of plant viruses here, *Papaya*  
275 *leaf curl virus* (PaLCuV) found causing papaya leaf curl disease (PaLCuD), which affects  
276 plant growth, fruit size, quality and quantity, slowing its yield (Shahid et al. 2013; Varun et  
277 al. 2017) thus accelerating the spread of viral diseases. Additionally, climate change,  
278 adaptability and fast distribution of vectors and viruses is of major concern for the agriculture  
279 sector as they are greatly contributing to the Indian economy.

280 Across India, a full-length sequence of reported *begomoviruses* infecting *Carica papaya* were  
281 collected from NCBI and arranged into three specific datasets containing sequence of DNA-  
282 A, its ORFs and associated betasatellites. The recurrent occurrence of recombination and  
283 nucleotide substitution alike to RNA viruses are mostly attributed factors to contribute high  
284 genetic variability among *begomovirus* populations which may significantly step up their  
285 evolution by expanding the combinations of pre-existing nucleotide segregation created by  
286 mutation (Duffy and Holmes 2008, 2009). Accordingly, recombination and mutation are  
287 often stated as the chief contributors to genetic variability which is the subject matter of  
288 investigation in the present study by the aid of molecular and computational efficacy.

289 The results revealed partitioning-based diversification, recombination together with mean  
290 substitution and purifying selection, as major contributor of observed levels of genetic  
291 variability across *begomovirus* genomes. The phylogeny-based partitioning method  
292 qualitatively estimated from the aligned whole-genome sequences and satellite molecules  
293 showing mean branch length were found useful in quantifying the effect of recombination  
294 event. To exclude any others biases that strengthen the significant differences between the  
295 degrees of intra and inter-specific variability, we checked for different rate of transition and  
296 transversion substitution rate and transition /transversion bis(R) which supports the  
297 contribution of mutation for nucleotide polymorphisms in a population (Mishra et al. 2020).  
298 Previous studies have revealed that recombination happens at high frequencies in  
299 *begomovirus* populations, which uses a conserved feature i.e., rolling circle mechanism for  
300 replicating their genomes and make it mechanistically recombination-prone thus, generating  
301 recombination breakpoints in a non-random location (Martin et al. 2011). Recombination  
302 rates are threatened for plant viruses. Our experimental analysis detected a recombination  
303 event in genomic region of datasets, showing variable parents which results in uneven  
304 distribution of recombination breakpoints supporting genetic diversity. However, the  
305 statistically measurable recombination rate seems to be lower than the mutation rate in  
306 sequence datasets. Even in such case recombinational event act actively but consequently, the  
307 mutational dynamics were still the leading forces in shaping the standing genetic variability.  
308 In other words, the relative contribution is potentially better than that estimated from our  
309 studies.

310 The substantial aspects towards the population genetics are possibly accommodated by  
311 mutation along with recombination, neutral selection, genetic drift and gene flow, which acts  
312 significantly to shape the genetic structure of populations. Further, we used coalescent  
313 Bayesian skyline model, strict and relaxed clock log normal and found relaxed clock as a  
314 prior to explore genetic diversity. Additionally, it is important to address the key issue that  
315 refers to the uneven distribution of the genetic variation across *begomovirus* genomes. In this  
316 context, the combination and pattern of various factors are responsible for affecting genetic  
317 variability through distribution of polymorphisms in non-random manner in the genomic  
318 regions of *begomoviruses* of datasets (Mishra et al. 2020).

319 Nevertheless, the standing genetic variability in all *begomovirus* populations was dominated  
320 by mutation, since for all datasets nucleotide diversity( $\pi$ ) were found high, suggesting the  
321 diverseness. Neutrality methods are used for finding positive selection to validate the  
322 significance of positive or diversifying selection in shaping the uneven levels of genetic

323 variability across genome (Lima et al. 2017). Based on analysis negative values for given  
324 datasets indicates the reiterating of purifying selection and population expansion. Moreover,  
325 not any sporadic cases of positively selected sites were spotted. Therefore, our results clearly  
326 eliminate positive selection as a major contributor for the neutral selection in population. By  
327 some mean purifying selections are found responsible in accelerating the genetic variability  
328 in specific regions of genes.

329 Although the number of sequence data for DNA-A and betasatellites are small, and for  
330 alphasatellite the database is insufficient, the results of the present study possibly provide  
331 meaningful basic information that contributed greatly to diversification of *begomoviruses*  
332 particularly causing papaya leaf curl diseases and acknowledged the evolutionary potential,  
333 principally in the context of recombination, adaptation, genetic diversity, emergence and  
334 evolution to novel *begomovirus* and host type.

### 335 **Contributions**

336 AS and VP performed experiments and wrote the manuscript, AKS helped in data collection.  
337 RKG and DY guided the design of the whole test scheme. All authors have read and  
338 approved the final manuscript.

339

### 340 **Ethical Declaration**

341 **Competing Interest:** Author's proclaims no conflict of interest.

342 **Funding:** This study established no external funding.

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473 **Legend for Figures and Tables**

474 **Fig1.** Distribution of distinct *begomoviruses* isolates and associated satellites in India causing leaf  
475 curl disease of *Carica papaya* (Follow Table 1).

476 **Fig 2** . Maximum-likelihood phylogeny-based partitioning tree associated with papaya leaf curl  
477 disease in India aligned using CLUSTAL W within MEGA v.10. (a) DNA-A; (b) Betasatellites.  
478

479 **Table 1.** Features of *begomoviruses* causing leaf curl disease in papaya are identified in India.

480 **Table 2.** Substitution rate for *begomoviruses* and betasatellites associated with PaLCuD in  
481 India.  
482

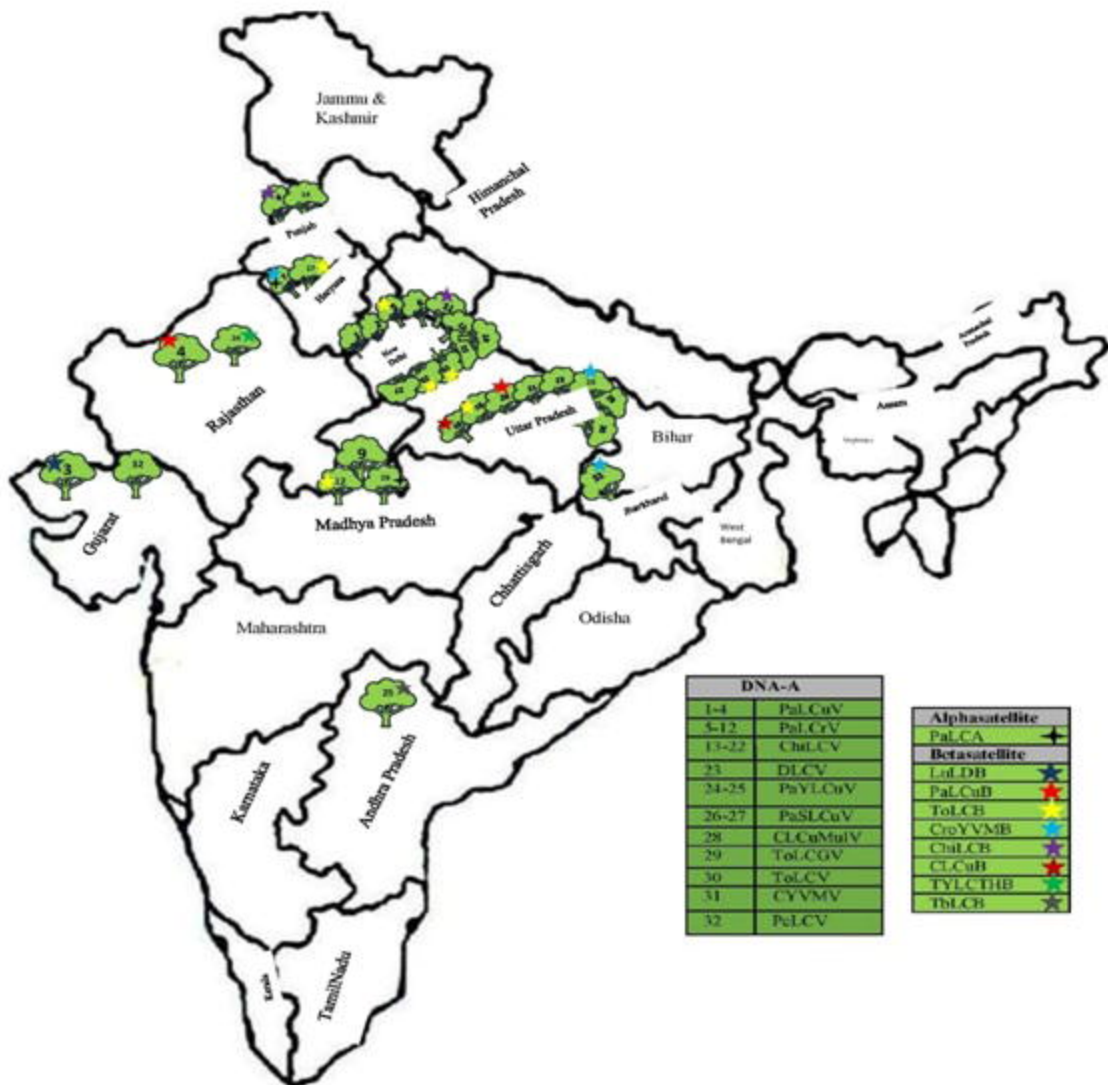
483 **Table 3 (a)** Putative recombination events detected among *begomoviruses* associated with  
484 papaya leaf curl disease, based on provided datasets from India; DNA-A and associated  
485 betasatellite.

486 **Table 3 (b)** Putative recombination events detected among *begomoviruses* associated with  
487 papaya leaf curl disease, based on provided datasets from India; six genes/ORF's of DNA-A.

488 b Mean substitution and codon degeneracy rates for PaLCuD associated *begomoviruses*.

489 **Table 5.** Genetic diversity of *begomoviruses* and betasatellites associated with PaLCuD in  
490 India.

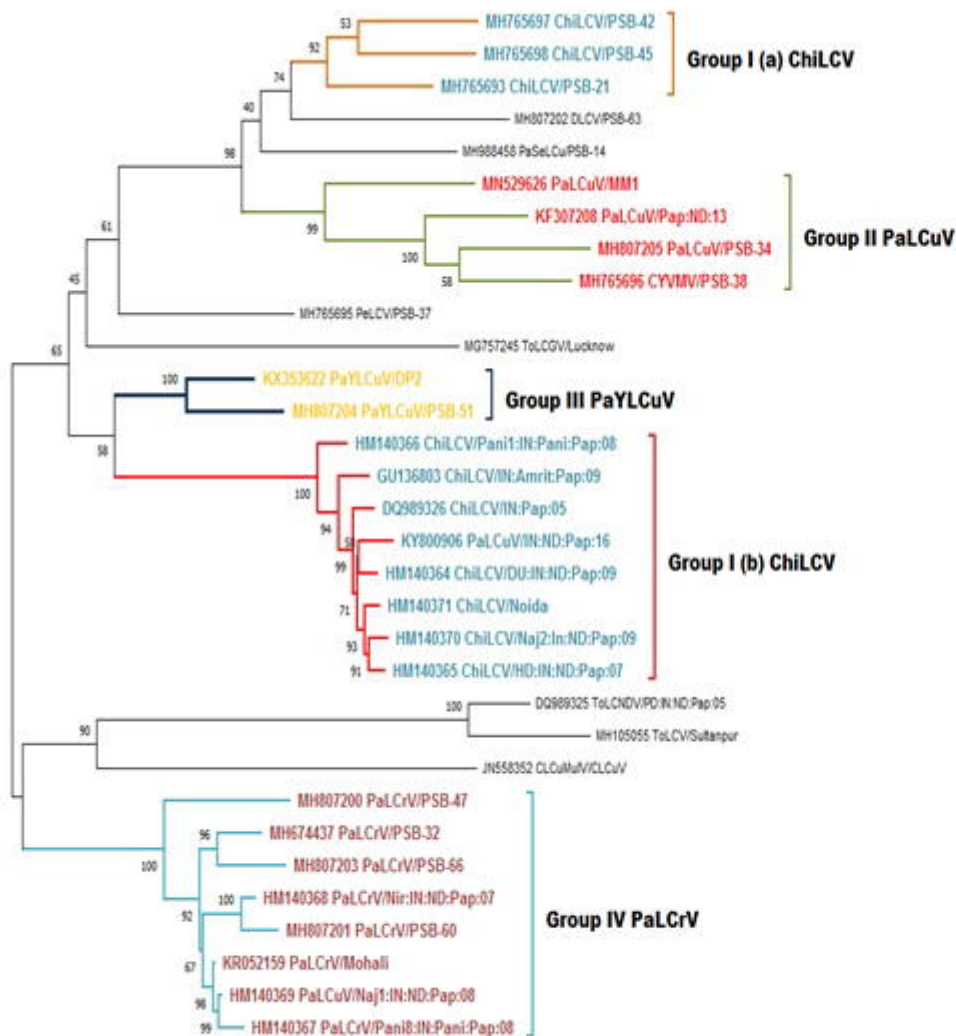
491 **Table 6.** Different neutrality tests for the datasets obtained from identified *begomoviruses*  
492 causing PaLCuD in India.

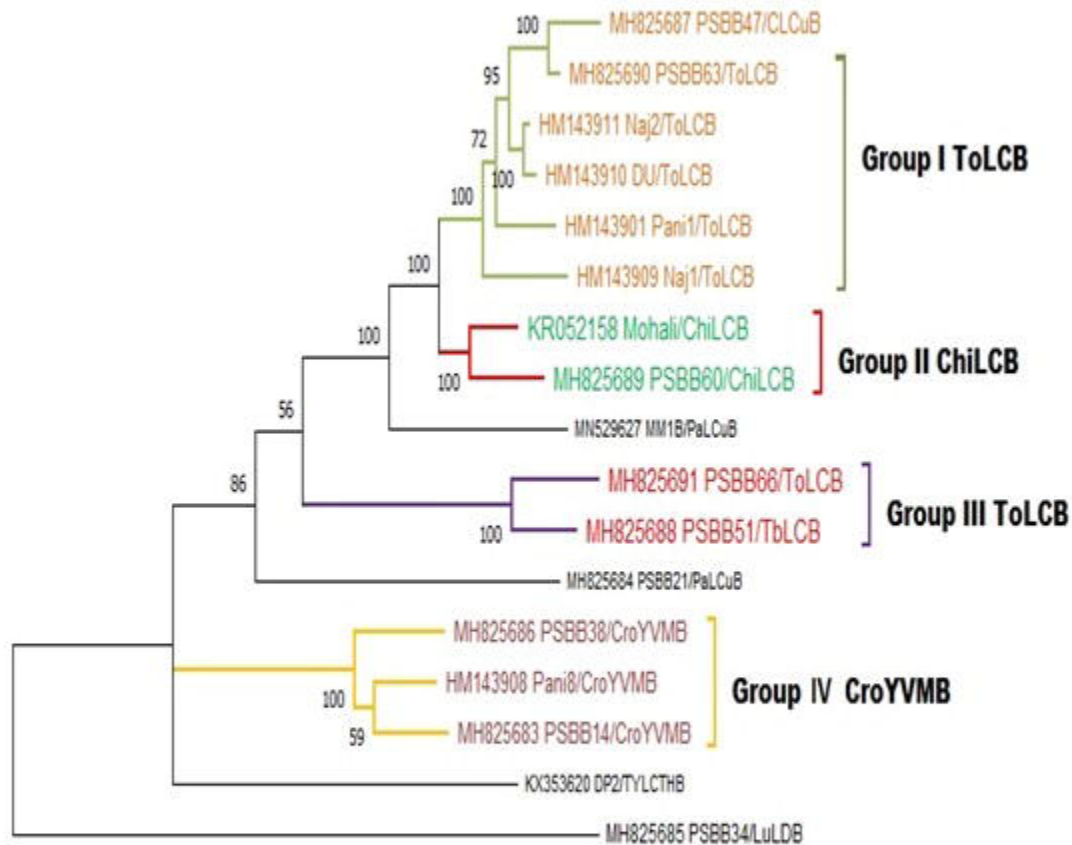


DNA-A	
1-4	PaL CuV
5-12	PaL CrV
13-22	ChL CV
23	DLCV
24-25	PaVL CuV
26-27	PaSL CuV
28	CLCuMfV
29	ToL CGV
30	ToL CV
31	CYVMV
32	PaL CV

Alphasatellite	
PaLCA	+
Betasatellite	
LdL DB	★
PaL CuB	★
ToL CB	★
CroYVMB	★
ChL CB	★
CL CuB	★
TYL C THB	★
TbL CH	★







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