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1 **Factors affecting virus prevalence in honey bees in the Pacific-Northwest, USA**

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7 **Highlights (3-5, max 85 characters including spaces)**

8 Three viruses were widespread in honey bee populations across the Pacific Northwest, USA

9 Black queen cell and Sacbrood viruses were most common in high density hives

10 Deformed wing virus was most common in hives that had high mite loads

11 The presence of many viruses in bees suggests parallel or synergistic transmission

## 12 **Abstract**

13 Global efforts to assess honey bee health show viruses are major stressors that undermine colony  
14 performance. Identifying factors that affect virus incidence, such as management practices and  
15 landscape context, could aid in slowing virus transmission. Here we surveyed viruses in honey  
16 bees from 86 sites in the Pacific Northwest, USA, and tested effects of regional bee density,  
17 movement associated with commercial pollination, julian date, and hive management on virus  
18 prevalence. We also explored patterns of virus co-occurrence and spatial autocorrelation to  
19 identify whether local transmission was a primary driver of pathogen distribution. Our surveys  
20 found widespread prevalence of Deformed wing virus (DWV), Sacbrood virus (SBV), and Black  
21 queen cell virus (BQCV). BQCV and SBV were most prolific in commercial apiaries, while  
22 Chronic bee paralysis virus (CPBV) was more common in hobbyist apiaries than commercial  
23 apiaries. DWV was most common in urban landscapes and was best predicted by mite  
24 prevalence and julian date, while the incidence of both SBV and BQCV were best predicted by  
25 regional apiary density. We did not find evidence of additional spatial autocorrelation for any  
26 viruses, although high co-occurrence suggests parallel transmission patterns. Our results support  
27 the importance of mite management in slowing virus spread and suggest that greater bee density  
28 increases transmission. Our study provides support that viruses are widespread in honey bees and  
29 connects known mechanisms of virus transmission to the distribution of pathogens observed  
30 across the Pacific Northwest.

31

32 **Keywords:** Honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, viruses, apiary management, bee health

### 33 **Introduction**

34 The health of honey bees is a global economic and ecological concern, as worldwide movement  
35 of biotic materials promotes the spread of pathogens and pests which adversely affect bee health.  
36 Indeed, at least 24 viruses are known to cause disease in honey bees (Brutscher et al., 2016; Chen  
37 and Siede, 2007). Movement of honey bee apiaries to meet pollination demands of fruit and nut  
38 crops is also cited as a major concern for virus spread, as virus transmission occurs through close  
39 contact among nestmates, and when infected bees drift into other colonies (Dynes et al., 2019).  
40 Such conditions that promote virus spread may be most prevalent in areas where honey bee  
41 apiaries are stocked at high densities to meet pollination needs. However, while multiple factors  
42 can increase bee exposure and susceptibility to viruses, the most consequential factors  
43 determining virus transmission and susceptibility across variable landscapes are often unclear.

44 While apiculture and domesticated honey bee populations continue to grow worldwide,  
45 honey bee stocks are increasing at a rate slower than the demand for agricultural pollination  
46 (Aizen and Harder, 2009). Several studies show higher virus incidence in landscapes with crops  
47 that rely on commercial pollination compared to those without commercial pollination (Alger et  
48 al., 2019; Olgun et al., 2020). While much of the focus on honey bee health has assessed rural  
49 ecosystems where commercial apiaries are managed for agricultural pollination, urban  
50 ecosystems have also seen rapid growth in the number of hobbyist beekeepers that maintain  
51 hives for personal gardens. Improved knowledge of virus prevalence in both rural and urban  
52 ecosystems can support activities to prevent virus introduction into non-infected regions or  
53 apiaries, or spread between colonies within apiaries. Virus mitigation can also be attempted by  
54 controlling other pathogens that may act in synergy, although it is often unclear if different  
55 viruses are transmitted concurrently or independently from one another (Aubert et al. 2011).

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56           Recent surveys suggest that not only are viruses more prevalent than previously known, but  
57 co-occurrence of viruses in single colonies is common, and that honey bees are more susceptible  
58 to secondary infection once infected (D'Alvise et al., 2019). Viruses may be pathogenic alone,  
59 but pathogenicity may be induced by other factors including hunger, cold, toxicants, or other  
60 pathogens (Doublet et al., 2015, Di Prisco et al., 2013, Dolezal et al., 2019). Relative occurrence  
61 rates of pathogens often differ by region and pathogen type, and weak and declining colonies  
62 may become susceptible to an array of pathogens. Moreover, the synergistic effects of multiple  
63 pathogens deplete workers and lead to more frequent colony demise (Cornman et al., 2012;  
64 Burnham et al., 2019). However, few studies have conducted virus sampling across broad  
65 enough regions, and at enough sites, to determine the spatial autocorrelation among pathogens  
66 that may provide evidence of parallel transmission patterns.

67           In this study, we aimed to investigate how known factors related to virus transmission and  
68 virulence explained the distribution of honey bee viruses at a broad landscape scale, and what  
69 geographical patterns may result from the manifestation of these relationships. We predicted that  
70 co-infection of multiple viruses is more common than expected based on virus prevalence due to  
71 synergistic effects between viruses (D'Alvise et al., 2019). We also hypothesized that increasing  
72 regional bee density, greater apiary movement associated with commercial pollination, and lack  
73 of mite treatments may drive increased prevalence of bee viruses due to increased transmission  
74 or greater bee susceptibility. Consequently, we expect to notice more virus prevalence in regions  
75 with high density of apiaries and high use of commercial pollination. Our study was conducted  
76 on over 80 sites across a broad region encapsulating both urban, agricultural, and rural  
77 ecosystems, giving us sufficient power to tease apart these relationships.

78

## 79 **Materials and Methods**

### 80 ***Bee Sampling***

81 We collected 30 honey bees from each of 86 sites (n = 2,580 bees) across Washington state  
82 and adjacent parts of Oregon and Idaho (Fig. 1). These sites reflected various landscape types  
83 including urban, agricultural, mixed-use residential, forested, and steppe. Sampling occurred  
84 between July 10th and August 28th, 2020. Sixty-eight sites had active apiaries; the other 18 sites  
85 had honey bees foraging but no visible apiary. For the sites with apiaries, foraging honey bees  
86 entering and leaving apiaries were netted until 30 were collected. At sites without apiaries (e.g.  
87 urban community gardens), 30 honey bees were sampled by hand net. Apiary management  
88 surveys (Table S1) were collected from 54 participating beekeepers, including 5 sites with  
89 commercial apiaries and 49 hobbyist beekeepers with less than 20 hives. We were not able to  
90 obtain completed surveys from the other 14 sites with apiaries. Netted bees were deposited in  
91 5ml centrifuge tubes and euthanized in dry ice in the field, then stored at -20°C until cataloged,  
92 and then stored at -80°C until RNA extraction. Nets were sanitized between sites.

93

### 94 ***Viruses Assessed***

95 Honey bee management for bee products and agricultural pollination is a global occupation, and  
96 most common bee viruses are observed around the world (Goulson and Hughes, 2015). While  
97 several viruses manifest with unique observable symptoms, most are also found as asymptomatic  
98 infections (Grozinger and Flenniken, 2019). However, increased efficiency of molecular  
99 diagnostic methods has improved the capacity for rapid and widespread virus detection. In this  
100 study we used molecular methods to test for several viruses described here.

101 Sacbrood virus (SBV) was the first honey bee virus identified as the pathogen responsible  
102 for liquifying larvae, and has recently been considered the most widely distributed honey bee  
103 virus (Chen and Siede, 2007; White et al., 1913). While larvae are most susceptible to SBV,  
104 infected adults may have a decreased life span (Bailey, 1969). SBV is spread within the colony  
105 when nurse bees become infected while removing infected larvae and then they transmit the  
106 virus while feeding larvae and exchanging food with other bees (Chen and Siede, 2007). SBV  
107 infection thus arises seasonally in the summer with the proliferation of susceptible brood.

108 Deformed wing virus (DWV) was first isolated in Japan, and subsequently has been found  
109 around the world. Deformed wing virus can be asymptomatic but also can cause shrunken and  
110 crumpled wings, reduced activity, decreased body size, and increased mortality. Adverse impacts  
111 have been recorded in bumble bee species as well as *Apis mellifera*. DWV is known to be  
112 transmitted by trophallaxis and shared food resources, as well as *Varroa destructor* mites, whose  
113 abundance is strongly correlated with winter losses (Chen and Siede, 2007; Grozinger and  
114 Flenniken, 2019; Yang and Cox-Foster, 2007).

115 Black queen cell virus (BQCV) was first isolated from dead queen larvae and prepupae  
116 sealed into dark brown cells (Bailey and Woods, 1977), and is frequently the most common  
117 honey bee virus reported from North America and Europe. Larvae may exhibit pale yellow  
118 coloration and saclike skin similar to SBV infected larvae. Infected workers do not exhibit  
119 symptoms, and the virus does not tend to multiply in bees after ingestion. BQCV infection is  
120 associated with *Nosema apis* infection, where BQCV multiplies rapidly in the bee's body when  
121 infected with the *Nosema apis*, fungal pathogen (Bailey et al., 1981; Bailey and Perry, 1982).  
122 Infection may also be associated with *Varroa destructor* (Tentcheva et al., 2006, 2004).

123 Three less common viruses assessed were chronic bee paralysis virus (CBPV), acute bee  
124 paralysis virus (ABPV), and Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV). CBPV was identified as a cause  
125 of adult bee paralysis in 1963 (Bailey et al., 1963), and field surveys of mites show they do not  
126 transmit the virus. ABPV was discovered during lab infectivity tests of CBPV, and replicates  
127 faster than CBPV (Chen and Siede, 2007). ABPV was originally considered an economically  
128 irrelevant virus in honey bees, however, both brood and adult bee mortality were later observed  
129 in colonies infested with *Varroa destructor* (Grozinger and Flenniken, 2019). ABPV may also be  
130 triggered by other causal factors (Chen and Siede, 2007). IAPV is a more recently described  
131 virus, that has been associated with shivering wings, progressing to paralysis, and death of  
132 workers outside the hive, as well as colony collapse disorder symptoms, and may also be spread  
133 by *Varroa destructor* mites (Cox-Foster et al., 2007, Di Prisco et al., 2011; Maori et al., 2007).

134

### 135 ***Bee virus assessment***

136 To assess viruses, the 30 honey bees from each site were divided into 3 groups of 10. With this  
137 scheme we had 258 total samples (86 sites × 3 groups of 10 honey bees per site = 258), although  
138 one sample was destroyed during processing, resulting in 257 samples analyzed in total. Honey  
139 bee thoraxes were isolated from each bee; heads and abdomens that contain inhibitory enzymes  
140 and compound eyes were separated and removed (Boncristiani et al., 2011). RNA was extracted  
141 from bee thoraxes from each site and pooled for each group of 10 bees. The ten thoraxes that  
142 made up each sample were placed in a nuclease-free centrifuge tube (2ml), then glass beads and  
143 Trizol (1ml per tube) were added before homogenization in the BeadRupter for two 30 second  
144 intervals at 4m/s and 6m/s. Following homogenization, 200ul of chloroform were added and  
145 tubes were vigorously vortexed for 15 sec, then allowed to sit on ice for 15 min. After settling,



146 samples were centrifuged at 14,000 g for 20 min. The aqueous phase was then  
147 transferred into a fresh tube, and isopropanol (0.5ml per ml of TRIzol) was added and mixed by  
148 inverting the tube. Samples were left on ice for 40 min, then centrifuged at 14,000 g for 10 min  
149 to precipitate and separate the RNA in a small pellet. RNA pellets were washed with 1 ml 75%  
150 ethanol twice, and centrifuged at 7,500 g for 5 min. The ethanol was poured off and pellets  
151 were allowed to air dry before resuspending in 1 ml nuclease-free water and stored at -80 °C.  
152 The concentration of the extracted RNA was measured on a Nanodrop 2000c (Thermo Fisher  
153 Scientific, Waltham, MA).

154 Complementary DNA (cDNA) was synthesized through reverse transcriptase PCR. 1µg of  
155 RNA diluted in 16 µl of water and 4ul cDNA iScript master mix (Promega, Madison WI) were  
156 combined in a 20 ul reaction. The cDNA was synthesized in a thermocycler program: one cycle  
157 at 94 °C for 5 min followed by 56 °C for 30 s, and 72 °C for 45 s. cDNA products were stored at  
158 -20 °C. We then used multiplex RT-PCR to detect the six bee viruses in a 25 µl reaction with 0.5  
159 ul of each of the 10 mM oligonucleotide primers, 12.5 Taq mastermix (supplied with enzyme)  
160 and 1.5 µl of cDNA. Multiplex RT-PCR is an efficient and sensitive technique for simultaneous  
161 detection of different viruses in a sample; while the method does not characterize individual  
162 sequences it allows for detection of variants of individual viruses as long as there is no mutation  
163 in the primer annealing site. Multiplex-PCR was conducted using the following parameters: one  
164 cycle at 94 °C for 5 min followed by 35 cycles at 94 °C for 30 s, 56 °C for 30 s, and 72 °C for 45  
165 s and a final extension cycle at 72 °C for 10 min. PCR products were analyzed by electrophoresis  
166 on a 1.5% agarose gel (100 V for 60 min). After completing the analyses, we spiked eight PCR  
167 reactions with cDNA from four known positive viruses and observed positive amplification in  
168 each reaction, implying the multi-plex was capable of detecting individual viruses effectively.

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170 ***Measuring factors that may affect virus spread***

171 Participation in the study was requested via several associations: the Washington Beekeepers, the  
172 Portland Beekeepers, the Puget Sound Beekeepers, and the Mid-Columbia Beekeepers, as well  
173 as Backyard Beekeepers of Spokane, WA. Bees were sampled from all respondents who  
174 maintained contact following our initial request. Volunteer beekeeper participants who provided  
175 hives for testing also provided data on factors used in the statistical analysis. First, regional bee  
176 density was coded as a ranked value of 1 to 4, 1 indicated 0 or 1 known apiary in the surrounding  
177 10km, 2 indicated 2-5 known apiaries in the surrounding 10km, 3 indicated 5-10 known apiaries  
178 in the surrounding 10km, and 4 indicated > 10 known apiaries or any large commercial  
179 pollination use within the surrounding 10 km. We also collected data on whether hives were  
180 moved during the year (yes or no), whether any disease treatments were used (yes or no), and  
181 whether mites were present in hives (yes or no). We recorded the julian date (ordinal date) of  
182 sampling to represent the hypothesis that viruses prevalence increases during the summer with  
183 increased population size and activity.

184

185 **Statistical analysis**

186 To test our hypotheses that bee density, bee movement associated with commercial pollination,  
187 mite presence, julian date, and mite treatments predicted virus incidence, we used generalized  
188 linear mixed models fit by maximum likelihood (Adaptive Gauss-Hermite Quadrature to  
189 approximate the log-likelihood) using the 54 sites from which we obtained management surveys.  
190 Fixed effects represented explanatory variables, and a random effect was included to represent  
191 the apiary site. We assessed whether common bee viruses are more prevalent in commercial

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192 apiaries, and certain apiary rich landscapes and ecotypes using contingency tables depicted with  
193 mosaic plots. We used Chi square tests and Fisher's exact tests to identify significant differences  
194 in virus prevalence across categories. Subsequently, we investigated the role of additional spatial  
195 autocorrelation in our virus dataset using spatial regression. We averaged the three quantified  
196 band brightness virus estimates from each site across the full dataset of 86 sites, created a list of  
197 neighbors using the Queen criteria, generated the spatial weights matrix, and applied the Moran's  
198 test on regression residuals in preparation to fit a spatially lagged regression model, which was  
199 finally not justified based on the lack of significance of the Moran's test.

200

## 201 **Results**

202 We collected thirty honey bees from each of the 86 sites that included 18 commercial apiaries,  
203 50 hobbyist apiaries, and 18 other sites (Fig. 1). Of the surveyed apiarists, 76% of beekeepers  
204 reported mites. Each apiary with over 20 hives used chemical and cultural mite control. Fourteen  
205 percent ( $n = 7$ ) of small apiary beekeepers had not used chemical treatment for mites by the time  
206 bees were sampled in July or August, and 12% ( $n = 6$ ) opted for no disease treatments.

207

### 208 ***Virus prevalence across the study extent***

209 Of the 257 samples processed, 178 tested positive for at least one virus (69%) (Table 1). Three  
210 viruses were broadly distributed, BQCV observed in 97 positive tests from 52 of 86 sites (60%),  
211 DWV observed in 92 positive tests from 47 of 86 sites (55%), and SBV observed in 65 positive  
212 test results from 36 sites (42%). The sparsely observed viruses, ABPV, CBPV, and IAPV were  
213 only observed at 1, 12, and 6 sites, respectively.

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214 An average of 1.09 viruses were detected in each sample (SE = 0.058), thus the probability  
215 of fitting a Poisson distribution was 0.009. An average of 1.79 viruses were detected at each site  
216 (SE = 0.11), thus the probability of fitting a Poisson distribution was 0.006. This provides  
217 evidence against independent infection by the viruses assessed at both levels (D'Alvise et al.,  
218 2019). While DWV and SBV incidence was positively associated with BQCV, none of these  
219 were significantly correlated at the 95% confidence level. The only positive significant pairwise  
220 correlation was between IAPV and BQCV ( $P = 0.04$ ).

221

### 222 ***Effects of apiary management and landscape context on virus prevalence***

223 We observed a positive relationship between regional bee density and BQCV as well as SBV;  
224 regional bee density was the only variable included in the best-fit models for these two viruses  
225 (Table 2). In contrast, we found that mite levels and julian date were the terms included in the  
226 best-fit model for DWV. For each virus, the full model included a positive influence of mites and  
227 regional density on disease prevalence, and a more variable, much less predictive negative  
228 influence of hive movement and a positive influence of no management on disease incidence.  
229 Each of the most prevalent viruses was found in both commercial and hobbyist apiaries, and in  
230 agricultural, mixed-use residential, and urban landscapes. Bee virus incidence differed by apiary  
231 management style for DWV ( $\chi^2 = 28.90$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), SBV ( $\chi^2 = 11.45$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $P = 0.003$ ),  
232 BQCV ( $\chi^2 = 4.65$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $P = 0.10$ ), CBPV ( $\chi^2 = 6.01$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $P = 0.049$ ) (Fig. 3). There was  
233 significantly higher incidence of DWV at sites without apiaries, many of which were located in  
234 urban community gardens, and a few in semi-natural roadside environments. There was higher  
235 incidence of SBV and BQCV at commercial apiaries (Fig. 3)

236 DWV and SBV incidence varied based on surrounding land use ( $\chi^2 = 17.47$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $P =$   
237  $0.001$ ) and ( $\chi^2 = 15.06$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $P = 0.002$ ), respectively, while BQCV and CPBV did not (Fig. 4).  
238 DWV incidence was higher in urban and forested locations, compared to agricultural and mixed-  
239 use residential areas. SBV was highest in agricultural locations, followed by urban areas, and  
240 lowest in forested and mixed use residential areas (Figs. 1, 4).

241

### 242 **Spatial autocorrelation among viruses**

243 We assessed the role of additional spatial autocorrelation in our virus dataset using spatial  
244 regression, and did not find evidence of local spatial processes significantly influencing the  
245 distribution of the viruses. We applied the Moran's test on regression residuals in preparation to  
246 fit a spatially lagged regression model, but did not observe sufficient spatial autocorrelation to  
247 proceed. The DWV moran's I statistic standard deviate was 1.31 ( $P = 0.19$ ), BQCV standard  
248 deviate was 1.42 ( $P = 0.15$ ), and SBV standard deviate was 0.03 ( $P = 0.98$ ).

249

### 250 **Discussion**

251 Our study shows that regional apiary density and mites increased the incidence of common bee  
252 viruses, and disease-specific aspects of virus transmission ecology determined the best predictors  
253 to explain the prevalence of the three common viruses. DWV was observed more frequently in  
254 urban landscapes, and best predicted by mite levels, while SBV and BQCV were best predicted  
255 by regional bee density. While SBV was observed more frequently in agricultural landscapes and  
256 commercial apiaries, BQCV was common in cities with high bee density and in agricultural  
257 landscapes. DWV can be transmitted by mites, and mite treatment practices are somewhat more  
258 variable amongst hobbyists than commercial apiaries (Chen and Siede, 2007; Grozinger and

259 Flenniken, 2019; Yang and Cox-Foster, 2007). SBV is not often associated with mites, but rather  
260 nurse bees spread the virus as they tend and remove infected larvae (Chen and Siede, 2007).  
261 SBV transmission is especially likely during the warm season, when commercial pollination of  
262 crops is underway, and while colonies are rearing susceptible brood. The high density of bees in  
263 large apiaries increases the chances of transmitting pathogens (Goulson and Hughes, 2015).  
264 Additional virus specific factors relating to virus transmissibility, such as reproduction number,  
265 may also mediate spread. For example, a less transmissible virus with a lower reproduction  
266 number may require a higher density of hosts to spread through a region.

267 BQCV, DWV, and SBV incidence exhibited similar patterns as other studies generally,  
268 although local sampling of commercial apiaries in high density bee regions have exhibited higher  
269 rates of virus incidence. Several studies of virus occurrence in commercial agricultural regions of  
270 Argentina, Germany, Turkey, and the United States (BQCV and DWV) have observed 90-100%  
271 incidence of common viruses (Alger et al., 2019; Cagirgan et al., 2020; D'Alvise et al., 2019;  
272 Murray et al., 2019). However, each of the three sporadically observed viruses from this study  
273 were also only observed occasionally in other North American studies, but in some other world  
274 regions, these three viruses are much more common. A Turkish study recently observed ABPV  
275 in 13 out of 15 colonies sampled, for example (Cagirgan et al., 2020).

276 We also observed evidence of synergistic effects between viruses, or shared influence of  
277 disease risk factors, leading to non-independent infection rates between viruses at the sample and  
278 colony level. While this pattern was observed overall, based on a higher than expected mean  
279 number of viruses per colony, significant correlation between viruses was only observed for  
280 IAPV and BQCV; correlations between SBV, DWV, and BQCV were not significant at the  
281 colony level. This analysis was used to investigate virus co-occurrence between individual bees,

282 and while distributions did not depart from Poisson distribution overall, spearman correlations in  
283 virus intensity were observed, indicating potential synergistic effects (D'Alvise et al., 2019).

284 Mites can transmit DWV, IAPV, and other pathogens to honey bees, and mite treatment  
285 can slow the spread of viruses. For example, experimental application of acaricide treatments in  
286 an experimental study was followed by a decrease in DWV titer as mites were brought under  
287 control (Locke, 2012). Our study did not observe an influence of mite treatment on the incidence  
288 of any of viruses, however; most apiaries use chemical treatment to control mites, however, so  
289 there was little variability in this factor. Yet, mite presence observed by beekeepers in the survey  
290 was the strongest predictor of DWV incidence, supporting the idea that mite treatment is a  
291 powerful tool to combat DWV spread in honey bees. Disease treatment styles varied more  
292 between hobbyist than commercial beekeepers, and study participants may be less variable than  
293 hobbyist beekeepers at large given their participation in beekeepers associations.

294 Virus incidence differed based on surrounding land use. When we split various land use  
295 categories by ecosystem type, based largely on the East-West precipitation gradient combined  
296 with surrounding land use in our study extent, the common viruses seemed much more common  
297 in eastern dryland agriculture and eastern mixed-use residential compared to western agriculture  
298 and mixed-use residential. Mixed-use residential was comprised by more exurban agriculture or  
299 rangeland on the eastern side of the Cascades Mountains, and more coniferous forest on the  
300 western side of the Cascades Mountains. Precipitation may have some direct influence on  
301 environmental contamination and transmission rates, but factors associated with commercial  
302 pollination and agriculture likely also contribute to the perceived differences.

303 While differences in virus incidence between land use types were observed, past studies  
304 suggest these patterns may not be consistent. For example, samples of 26 honey bee hives from

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305 near Lincoln, Nebraska, USA found no difference in the prevalence of DWV, BQCV, IAPV, and  
306 SBV between urban and agricultural landscapes (Olgun et al., 2020). Landscapes included in our  
307 surveys included regions with flowering crops (e.g. canola, apples, pears, and vegetable seed  
308 crops) that rely heavily on pollination from mobile apiaries. The contrast between extensive,  
309 commercially pollinated agricultural land use, cities with strong apiary communities, and  
310 coniferous forest rich natural and suburban landscapes likely generated the patterns we observed.

311 Our study shows mite monitoring and treatment may be help combat virus transmission  
312 between honey bees, especially in landscapes with a high density of apiaries. The spread and  
313 intensification of bee viruses is thought to be a major factor in increasing honey bee losses, and  
314 more attention and awareness of infectious diseases in apiculture could reduce virus spread. As  
315 colony losses remain high, but beekeeping continues to increase in popularity, understanding  
316 regional patterns of disease incidence and the mechanisms that underlie them are critical.

317

318 **Conflicts of interest:** There are no conflicts of interest to be declared.

319

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21

323 **Table 1.** (A) Incidence and prevalence of viruses by samples (n = 257) and study sites (n = 86).  
 324 The ‘sample incidence’ indicates the number of samples where viruses were observed out of the  
 325 total 257 samples tested (86 sites × 3 samples per site, with one sample destroyed). This variable  
 326 differs from ‘site incidence’, which indicates the number of sites (out of 86) that had a least one  
 327 sample testing positive (with 3 pools of honey bees tested per site). (B) Pearson correlations  
 328 between viruses based on site level incidence (n = 87). Statistical significance of  $P < 0.05$  is  
 329 marked in bold with a \*.

330

A. Virus incidence and prevalence					B. Pearson Correlations						
Virus	Sample incidence	% sample incidence	site incidence	% site incidence	Virus	IAPV	DWV	SBV	ABPV	BQCV	CBPV
IAPV	6	2%	6	7%	IAPV	1.00					
DWV	92	36%	47	55%	DWV	-0.03	1.00				
SBV	65	25%	36	42%	SBV	0.14	0.02	1.00			
ABPV	1	>1%	1	1%	ABPV	-0.03	-0.12	-0.09	1.00		
BQCV	97	38%	52	60%	BQCV	<b>0.22*</b>	0.17	0.16	0.09	1.00	
CBPV	20	8%	12	14%	CBPV	-0.11	0.03	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	1.00

331

332 Abbreviations: Acute bee paralysis virus (ABPV), Black queen cell virus (BQCV), Chronic bee  
 333 paralysis virus (CBPV), Deformed wing virus (DWV), Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV), and  
 334 Sacbrood virus (SBV).

22

335 **Table 2.** Best logistic regression mixed models for BQCV, DWV, SBV incidence. Top models  
 336 were selected by AIC.

337

Black Queen Cell Virus –  
 best model

Variable	Estimate	Std Error	z-value	P	Log-odds ratio	Log-odds 95% CI
Intercept	-4.47	0.002	-2859.9	<0.01	0.01	0.01 to 0.01
RegionalDensity	1.13	0.002	726.2	0.01	3.10	3.10 to 3.12

SiteCode  
 Deformed Wing Virus –  
 best model

Variable	Estimate	Std Error	z-value	P	Log-odds ratio	Log-odds 95% CI
Intercept	-2.84	0.85	-3.34	>0.01	0.06	-0.01 to -0.31
Mites	1.73	0.92	1.87	0.06	5.62	0.92 to 34.33
JulianDate	1.25	0.48	2.63	0.01	3.49	1.37-8.87

SiteCode  
 Sacbrood Virus – best  
 model

Variable	Estimate	Std Error		P	Log-odds ratio	Log-odds 95% CI
Intercept	-5.49	1.65	-3.33	<0.01	>0.01	0.00-0.11
RegionalDensity	0.93	0.43	2.17	0.03	2.53	1.09 to 5.88

SiteCode  
 Var: 6.74 Std Dev: 2.60

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### Figure Legends

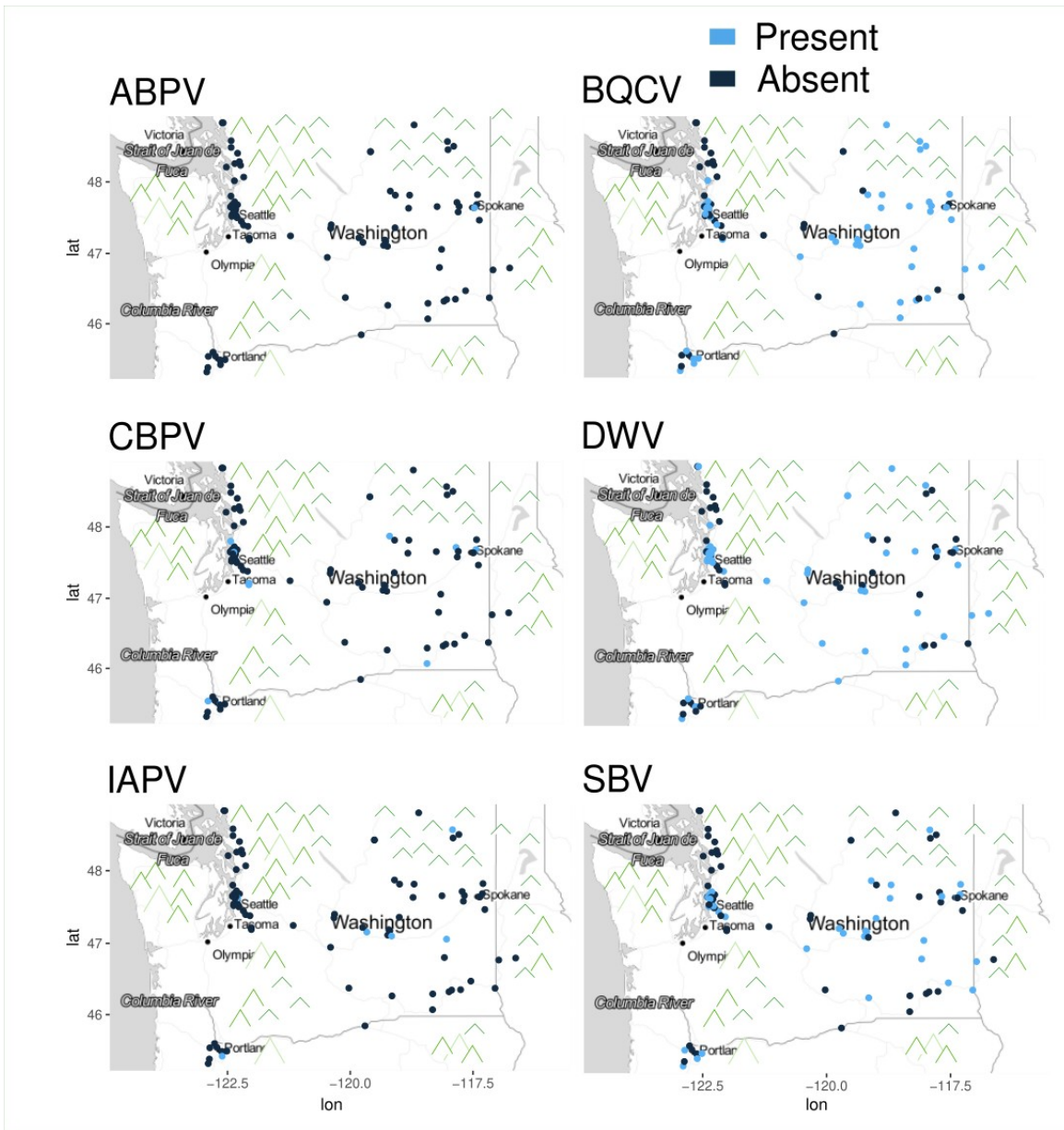
341 **Figure 1.** Maps of Acute bee paralysis virus (ABPV), Black queen cell virus (BQCV), Chronic  
342 bee paralysis virus (CBPV), Deformed wing virus (DWV), Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV),  
343 and Sacbrood virus (SBV) incidence at 86 sampling locations spanning between three cities in  
344 the northwestern USA – Seattle, WA, Spokane, Washington, and Portland, Oregon.

345 **Figure 2.** Number of viruses detected in (A) samples (n = 257) and (B) sites (n = 86)

346 **Figure 3.** Mosaic plots show the number of positive (1) versus negative (0) tests for each virus  
347 across A. apiary management, i.e. commercial (n=54 tests), hobbyist (n=147), and non-apiary  
348 locations (n=56 tests) and B. land use, i.e. agriculture (n=69), forested (n=3 tests), mixed-use  
349 residential (n=78 tests), and urban (n=107 tests) and ecosystem type, (i.e. steppe, dryland  
350 agricultural, east-side urban, east-side mixed residential, cascades forest, west-side agricultural,  
351 west-side urban, and west-side mixed residential.

352

353 **Figure 1**

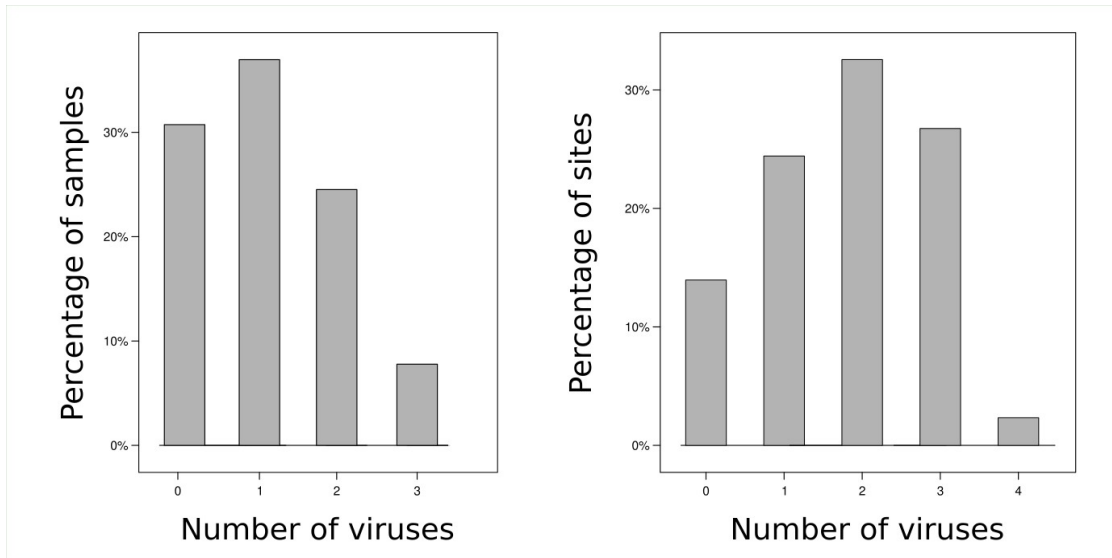




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356 **Figure 2**  
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365 **Figure 3**

