

1 **Unraveling the viral dark matter of the rumen microbiome with a new global**  
2 **virome database**

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18

## 19 Abstract

20 Like in the human gut and other environments, viruses are probably also diverse and modulate the  
21 microbiome (both population and function) in the rumen of ruminants, but it remains largely  
22 unknown. Here we mined 975 published rumen metagenomes for viral sequences, created the first  
23 rumen virome database (RVD), and perform ecogenomic meta-analyses of these data. This  
24 identified 397,180 species-level viral operational taxonomic units (vOTUs) and allowed for a 10-  
25 fold increase in classification rate of rumen viral sequences compared with other databases. Most  
26 of the classified vOTUs belong to the order *Caudovirales*, but distinct from those in the human  
27 gut. Rumen viruses likely have ecosystem impacts as they were predicted to infect dominant fiber  
28 degraders and methane producers, and they carry diverse auxiliary metabolic genes and antibiotic  
29 resistance genes. Together, the RVD database and these findings provide a baseline framework for  
30 future research on how viruses may impact the rumen ecosystem.

31

## 32 Introduction

33 Recent virus-focused metagenomic studies of different habitats (ocean<sup>1-3</sup>, human gut<sup>4-6</sup>,  
34 soil<sup>7</sup>, and others<sup>8,9,10</sup>) have generated growing catalogs of virus genomes<sup>4,5,11</sup>, identified numerous  
35 auxiliary metabolic genes (AMGs)<sup>12</sup>, and revealed the vast diversity, community structure, and  
36 ecological impact of viruses<sup>13</sup>. Further, model system-focused efforts are beginning to map out the  
37 specifics of how viruses can metabolically reprogram their prokaryotic hosts in ways that lead to  
38 distinct ‘virocell’ states that alter the ecological fitness and outputs of their hosts<sup>14</sup>. At the  
39 ecosystem level, viruses are thought to have drastic impacts on ocean biogeochemistry<sup>2,15,16</sup>,  
40 human physiology<sup>6</sup> and disease states<sup>11</sup>.

41 The rumen harbors a diverse multi-kingdom microbiome consisting of bacteria, archaea,  
42 fungi, protozoa, and viruses. Digesting and fermenting otherwise indigestible feedstuffs, the rumen  
43 microbiome provides ~70% of the energy (as volatile fatty acids)<sup>17</sup> and ~80% of metabolizable  
44 nitrogen (as microbial protein) needed by ruminants to grow and produce meat and milk<sup>18</sup>. Recent  
45 metagenomic studies reveal strong associations of the rumen bacteria, archaea, and protozoa with  
46 feed efficiency, methane emissions, nitrogen excretion, milk and meat quality, and animal health<sup>19</sup>.  
47 However, rumen viruses, despite being abundant ( $5 \times 10^7 - 1.4 \times 10^{10}$  virions/ml of rumen fluid<sup>20</sup>),  
48 were largely ignored. As obligate intracellular predators, rumen viruses can lyse their host cells  
49 and thus directly contribute to intra-ruminal recycling of microbial protein<sup>21</sup>, which decreases  
50 microbial protein (the major protein source for ruminants) outflow to the intestines and thus  
51 nitrogen utilization efficiency<sup>22</sup>. By altering the metabolism, ecological fitness, population  
52 dynamics, and evolution of their hosts, rumen viruses could conceivably affect the key functions  
53 and processes in the rumen.

54 While it has been challenging to study viruses in any complex system since most viruses  
55 cannot be cultured and they lack universal marker genes for detection and analyses<sup>23</sup>, virus-focused  
56 metagenomic approaches have powered several studies of rumen viruses. Using DNA from virion-  
57 enriched rumen samples, three studies identified viruses based on sequence similarity against

58 reference databases<sup>24-26</sup>. They illuminated a diverse but small portion of the rumen virome because  
59 of the reference database limitations. Recent bioinformatics tools specific for viruses  
60 implementing machine learning algorithms (e.g., VirSorter2<sup>27</sup> and VIBRANT<sup>28</sup>) and growing  
61 genomic resources (e.g., efam<sup>29</sup>) facilitate the identification of viruses from metagenomic  
62 sequences, and sequence-space organizational strategies provide scalable viral classification<sup>30</sup> and  
63 taxonomy<sup>31</sup>. With these newly available bioinformatics tools and databases, two recent studies  
64 explored the diversity and ecogenomic implications of rumen viruses in 5 beef steers<sup>32</sup> and one  
65 moose<sup>33</sup>. Although in both studies rumen viruses appeared tantalizingly important to the rumen  
66 ecosystem, only a few animals were involved. Here we seek to characterize the global rumen  
67 virome by (i) screening 20 TB of data from nearly 1,000 metagenomic datasets from diverse  
68 domesticated and wild ruminants across 5 continents, (ii) curating these data to establish a  
69 systematically cataloged rumen virome database (RVD), and (iii) examining the rumen virome in  
70 an ecogenomic context.

## 71 **Results**

### 72 **The rumen viruses are highly diverse and represent unique lineages.**

73 Using state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools, we characterized the global diversity of the  
74 rumen virome by analyzing 975 published rumen metagenomes (Table S1) from 13 ruminant  
75 species (both wild and domesticated) under different husbandry regimes, across 8 countries and 5  
76 continents (Fig. 1a and 1b). Following the recommendations of a recent viromics benchmarking  
77 paper<sup>34</sup> and stringent criteria, we identified 705,380 putative viral contigs > 5 kb each and clustered  
78 them into 411,125 species-level viral operational units (vOTU) at > 95% of average nucleotide  
79 identity (ANI) and > 85% of coverage as recommended previously<sup>30</sup>. We obtained a rumen virome  
80 database (RVD, download available at <https://zenodo.org/record/7258071#.Y1ryEnbMK5c>)  
81 representing 397,180 bona fide vOTUs (Fig. 1c), with 193,327 vOTUs being >10 kb. Checking  
82 with CheckV<sup>35</sup> revealed 4,400 vOTUs being complete, 8,796 vOTUs > 90% complete, and 41,738  
83 vOTUs > 50% complete. We assessed if RVD could improve identification of viral sequences  
84 across 240 rumen metagenomes<sup>36</sup> over current virome databases. In total, RVD allowed for  
85 identifying around 3% of the metagenomic reads as viral sequences, which is >10 times higher  
86 than the mapping rate using IMG/VR<sup>37</sup> (with the host-associated viruses only) while none of the  
87 reads could map to RefSeq Viral (Fig S1), demonstrating that RVD could greatly improve future  
88 rumen virome studies. Moreover, we noticed that subacute rumen acidosis (SARA), which is  
89 common among feedlot cattle and dairy cows fed a starch-rich diet, could significantly increase  
90 viral sequences in rumen metagenomes, consistent with profound SARA-associated variations of  
91 the rumen microbiome<sup>38</sup>.

92 We classified 1,857 (0.47 %) of the vOTU to existing genera using vConTACT2<sup>31</sup> and  
93 another 32,801 vOTUs (8.3% of the total) only to an existing family. Most of the family-level  
94 vOTUs (98.4%) were assigned to the families *Siphoviridae*, *Myoviridae*, *Podoviridae* in the order  
95 *Caudovirales* (Fig. 2a, 2b.). These three families were also identified as the most abundant  
96 classifiable viruses in the human gut viromes<sup>4,39</sup>. The order *Caudovirales* had most of the vOTUs

97 (99.7%) taxonomically classifiable at the genus and family levels, as in the case of the human gut  
98 virome<sup>4</sup>. We compared all the genus-level vOTUs of *Caudovirales* between the human and the  
99 rumen viromes using a phylogenetic tree (Fig. 2c). Only 14% of the *Caudovirales* genera were  
100 shared between the two types of viromes (Fig. 2d), demonstrating their divergence. The remaining  
101 vOTUs (91.7% of the total) could not be assigned to any existing taxa, indicating that most of the  
102 rumen viruses represent new lineages and are colossally underrepresented in the current virome  
103 databases. Additionally, 121 vOTUs (0.03%) were identified as crAss-like viruses.

104 We also identified eukaryotic viruses, some of which were assigned to the families  
105 *Phycodnaviridae*, *Mimiviridae*, and *Retroviridae*. In contrast to the human gut microbiome, which  
106 has few eukaryotes, the rumen microbiome has diverse fungi and protozoa making up to 50% of  
107 the microbial biomass thereof and they play important roles in fiber digestion and nitrogen  
108 recycling, respectively<sup>40</sup>. The revelation of rumen eukaryotic viruses is thus not unexpected. Based  
109 on host prediction, viruses infecting archaea were also identified. Although we focused on dsDNA  
110 viruses, we identified 109 vOTUs as ssDNA rumen viruses, all assigned to the family *Microviridae*.  
111 Add more info on the type(s) of microbes they infect. Given the genome size cutoff (5 kb) we used,  
112 ssDNA viruses, which have a relatively smaller genome, might be underrepresented in RVD.  
113 Indeed, ssDNA viruses are enriched in viral metagenome<sup>4</sup>, and hence future research focusing on  
114 ssDNA viruses should use virion-enriched metagenomes.

115 Rarefaction analysis (Fig. 2e) revealed a diverse global rumen virome, and its full diversity  
116 remains to be revealed. Additionally, this study only analyzed DNA viruses. Because RNA viruses  
117 are also likely diverse, abundant, and of great ecological importance, as demonstrated in the  
118 ocean<sup>1,15</sup>, future studies should include rumen RNA viruses once more metatranscriptomic datasets  
119 are available.

120

### 121 **Rumen viruses have a broad range of hosts compared with human gut viruses.**

122 We predicted the hosts of the rumen prokaryotic viruses by matching the spacer sequences  
123 and prophage sequences, with conservative thresholds, with 251,167 reference genomes of  
124 prokaryotes in NCBI RefSeq (Release 211) plus 25,234 metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs)  
125 of rumen prokaryotes (see Methods). Ciliate hosts were inferred using 52 single-cell amplified  
126 genomes (SAGs) of rumen ciliates<sup>41</sup>. We did not predict the hosts of fungal viruses due to the lack  
127 of genomes of rumen fungi. In total, species of 25 genera of archaea and 1,051 genera of bacteria  
128 were predicted to be likely infected by the identified phages. We generated a genome-based genus-  
129 level phylogenetic tree of the bacterial hosts (Fig. 3a) and the archaeal hosts (Fig. S2) with their  
130 predicted phages to examine the lysogeny rate, number of phages per genus of hosts, and number  
131 of phages per genome. Similarly, we also generated a genome-based phylogenetic tree of the 52  
132 SAGs and their phages and estimated the number of phages carried by individual SAGs (Fig. S3).  
133 Out of the 52 ciliate SAGs representing 19 species across 13 genera, 38 (including all the species)  
134 had predicted prophage sequences, suggesting a high prevalence of ruminal phages potentially  
135 infecting ciliates.

136 More vOTUs were predicted to be bacteriophages than archaeophages (40,881 vs. 2,403).  
137 Phages can infect multiple host species<sup>5,11,42</sup>, and 9,214 (22.5%) bacteriophages and 396 (16.5%)  
138 archaeophages of the rumen virome could infect multiple host species. The proportion of rumen  
139 bacteriophages with a broad-host range is lower than that of human gut bacteriophages (about a  
140 third<sup>5,42</sup>). The differential may be explained by the higher coverage of phages in the human gut  
141 metagenome databases. However, we found that 3.8% (1,544) of the broad-host-range rumen  
142 phages could potentially infect species across multiple bacterial phyla (Fig. 3a). Even excluding  
143 the host species inferred from the RefSeq genomes of prokaryotes, which contain genomes  
144 generated from various ecosystems (including the rumen), we still found that 3.5% of the broad-  
145 host-range phages potentially infect multiple phyla of rumen bacteria. This rate is much higher  
146 than that (merely 0.13%) observed in the human gut microbiome<sup>5</sup>. This differential may be  
147 attributable to a more diverse microbiome in the rumen than in the human gut. Indeed, we found  
148 that all 32 phyla of the reference rumen bacterial genomes could be infected by phages, while only  
149 8 phyla were likely the host of human gut phages. In addition, rumen digesta is more homologous,  
150 due to high fluidity and continuous mixing, than the human gut digesta. The rumen microbiome  
151 may have more gene flows among microbes due to mixing and physical proximity than the human  
152 gut microbiome. The broad host range of rumen phages reveals their potential in mediating gene  
153 flow across phylogenetic boundaries of bacteria, which can facilitate microbial evolution and  
154 adaptation<sup>5,42</sup>.

155 The theory of “local adaptation” was proposed based on the finding that sympatric phages  
156 are more infective than allopatric phages in soil<sup>43</sup>. Similarly, sequence identity analysis of the  
157 human gut microbiome revealed that homologous phages usually infect homologous MAGs<sup>42</sup>.  
158 However, analysis of sequence identity failed to classify viruses with variable evolutionary mode  
159 and tempo<sup>31</sup>. To better examine the relationship between phages and their hosts and the gene flow,  
160 we generated a gene-sharing network of all the phages with their taxonomy (Fig. 3b) and their host  
161 phyla (Fig. 3c). From the 43,284 vOTUs with a host match, we found 2,764 genus-level clusters,  
162 of which only 218 clusters included one or more RefSeq viral genomes. Therefore, RVD greatly  
163 expanded the RefSeq viral genomes (by > 12-fold) at the genus level.

164 The gene-sharing network grouped most of the rumen vOTUs with their predicted hosts  
165 into four groups (Fig. 3b). Groups I (the largest) and IV (the smallest) had more classified vOTUs  
166 than groups II and III. Groups II and III mainly infected *Bacteroidota* and *Methanobacteriota*,  
167 respectively, while groups I and IV had a broader range of phyla (Fig. 3c). *Bacteroidota* species  
168 can degrade and utilize major feed ingredients (hemicellulose, starch, and protein), and it is the  
169 most abundant phylum of the rumen microbiome<sup>44</sup>. As the most predominant genus in the rumen,  
170 *Prevotella* accounts for 40-60% of the total copies of bacterial 16S rRNA gene<sup>45</sup>, while  
171 *Methanobacteriota* is dominated by the genus *Methanobrevibacter*, which can reach >63% of the  
172 total methanogens<sup>46</sup>. The narrow host range (a single phylum) of groups II and IV corroborates  
173 that phages with a high degree of gene-sharing generally have a homologous host range. Most of  
174 the vOTUs inferred to infect *Bacteroidota* and *Methanobacteriota* could not be classified with the  
175 current virome databases, suggesting that they represent new viral lineages. Groups I and IV were



176 predicted to infect multiple phyla of bacteria, including both Gram-positive and Gram-negative  
177 bacteria that have different niches and capacities, but none of their genera or families are  
178 predominant in the rumen. Some small clusters were evident within groups I and IV. They might  
179 represent individual phyla or lower taxa (e.g., genera) of phage hosts. Thus, the theory of “local  
180 adaptation” may explain the host range of the phages in these two groups. It remains to be  
181 determined if the greater extent of metabolic interactions and functional redundancy in the rumen  
182 than in the human gut explain the different extents of local adaptation of viruses.

183  
184 **Some rumen viruses may ameliorate the fitness and ecological impact of their hosts by**  
185 **providing auxiliary metabolic genes (AMGs).** Phages can alter host metabolism and physiology  
186 by forming virocells upon infection<sup>47</sup>. One underpinning mechanism is to provide hosts with  
187 AMGs, which can potentially impact ecological processes, including global carbon recycling<sup>48</sup> and  
188 nitrogen metabolism in the ocean<sup>49</sup>, sulfur metabolism in the environment<sup>12</sup>, and organosulfur  
189 metabolism in the environment and the human gut<sup>50</sup>. In compassion, AMGs carried by rumen  
190 viruses have only been reported in one study that involved 5 beef steers<sup>32</sup>. We thus sought to  
191 identify the AMGs encoded by the rumen virome. To be conservative, we only searched the  
192 complete viral MAGs (vMAGs) for AMGs after a series of cautious annotations and manual  
193 curation (see Methods). In total 504 complete vMAGs were found to carry one or more AMGs  
194 (see Table S4 for the annotation and the curation results), which represent 62 different AMGs (Fig.  
195 4b), including 22 that were identified in at least two vMAGs of RVD and 49 that have been  
196 identified in previous studies. These AMGs were involved in different types of metabolism (Fig.  
197 4a), including carbohydrate utilization, nitrogen metabolism, nucleotide metabolism, signaling,  
198 transport, and others. Given our stringent curations, the large number of incomplete vMAGs, and  
199 viruses that remain to be identified, the rumen virome likely carries more AMGs.

200 The AMGs were annotated to many categories of metabolism (Fig. 4b). More AMGs were  
201 involved in nucleotide metabolism than other metabolism, corroborating their important role in  
202 shifting host nucleotide metabolism to benefit viruses, which has been verified experimentally  
203 with two AMGs: thymidylate synthase gene (*thyA*) in marine viruses<sup>14</sup> and dCTP deaminase gene  
204 (*dcd*) in *Bacillus subtilis* viruses<sup>51</sup>. We found DNMT1 as the second most prevalent AMG in nearly  
205 100 rumen vMAGs. This is in line with the high prevalence of this AMG in ocean virome<sup>52</sup>.  
206 DNMT1 encodes DNA (cytosine-5)-methyltransferase that can help viruses evade the antiviral  
207 restriction-modification systems of their host<sup>53,54</sup>. Carrying an AMG that encodes an orphan DNA  
208 methyltransferase might be one defense mechanism among rumen viruses. Several identified  
209 AMGs encode carbohydrate-active enzymes (CAZymes), including glycoside hydrolases (GHs)  
210 and glycosyl transferases. Conceivably, the GH type of AMGs can enhance the ability of bacterial  
211 hosts to utilize polysaccharides. Asparagine synthase, a key enzyme in ammonia assimilation by  
212 rumen bacteria<sup>55</sup>, was also encoded by one of the identified AMGs. The AMGs carried by some  
213 ruminal viruses may not only enhance their survival but also greatly impact feed digestion,  
214 nitrogen metabolism, and other activities and hence ruminant production.

215 **Rumen viruses carry a few types of antibiotic resistance genes (ARG)s but may facilitate**  
216 **ARG transmission across phylogenetic boundaries.** We searched ARGs among the 705,380  
217 viral contigs using stringent criteria against two expert-curated databases: CARD<sup>56</sup> and the NCBI's  
218 Bacterial Antimicrobial Resistance Reference Gene Database<sup>57</sup>, and we found 24 contigs carrying  
219 ARGs. The dearth of ARG-carrying rumen viruses corroborates the previous finding that phage  
220 genomes rarely carry ARGs<sup>58</sup>. The rumen virome may not be a significant reservoir of ARGs, but  
221 it could still transmit ARGs among rumen microbes as several major ARG classes were found,  
222 including tet(W) and tet(O) (Fig. 5a and Fig. S4), both of which are prevalent and highly expressed  
223 in the rumen microbiome<sup>59-62</sup>. Three vMAGs were recovered from three different rumen  
224 metagenomes of the same herd, but they carried the same ARGs (Van(G) and Van(W-G)) and  
225 nearly identical genomic architecture (Fig. 5c), pointing to a potential of rumen viruses as a route  
226 of ARG transmission between different animals. Even with the strictest criteria requiring ARG  
227 flanking by two viral hallmark genes, we still found several vMAGs (Fig. 5c and Table. S5). A  
228 comparison of the prevalence of ARG-carrying viruses among different animal husbandry regimes  
229 revealed a higher prevalence of ARG-carrying viruses in beef cattle than in dairy cattle and in non-  
230 grazing animals than in grazing animals (Fig. 5b). These findings are not totally surprising because  
231 more antimicrobials are fed to beef cattle than dairy cows and non-grazing animals than grazing  
232 animals. Another possible explanation for the above differentials may be diets: beef cattle and non-  
233 grazing animals are fed a higher portion of concentrate (starch) than dairy cows and grazing  
234 animals, respectively; and a higher ARG prevalence correlates with high-concentrate diets<sup>63</sup>.

235 **Rumen virome is highly individualized but a core virome exists within each species or type**  
236 **of ruminants.**

237 Motivated by the finding that crAss-like viruses are highly prevalent in the human gut<sup>64</sup>  
238 and the axiom that a “core” virome may exist in the human gut microbiome<sup>65</sup>, we searched RVD  
239 for “core” rumen virome based on prevalence in different species or types of ruminants. We  
240 identified a “core” rumen virome (present in > 50% of the samples) in each species or type of  
241 animals (Fig. 6a). The “core” rumen virome only accounts for <0.01% of the total viral diversity,  
242 signifying highly individualized rumen virome (Fig. 6a). The majority of the “core” virome were  
243 taxonomically unassigned, but they were predicted to infect the “core” rumen bacteriome (Table  
244 S6). Unlike in the human gut virome, none of the rumen crAss-like viruses were included in the  
245 rumen “core” virome. The “core” rumen virome in each species or type of animals was estimated  
246 to account for around 10% of the total rumen virome (Fig. 6b), suggesting that it may have a great  
247 impact on regulating the population and functions of the rumen microbiome. Different species or  
248 types of ruminants might also have a different “core” rumen virome (Fig. 6c), likely reflecting the  
249 difference in the rumen microbiome among the species or types of ruminants.

250

## 251 **Discussion**

252 Recent studies have documented the vast diversity and potential ecological impact of  
253 viruses in the environments (ocean, soil, anaerobic digester, etc.) and the human gut. However, the

254 viruses residing in the rumen are poorly characterized and understood<sup>66</sup>. As the first  
255 comprehensive study on the rumen virome, we mined most of the published rumen metagenomes  
256 (nearly 1,000), recovered 397,180 species-level vOTUs, and created the first rumen virome  
257 database, RVD. This database greatly expanded the databases of rumen viruses and shined new  
258 lights on their diversity across major ruminant species, both domesticated and wild. Because nearly  
259 92% of the identified vOTUs could not be classified to any existing taxa, most rumen viruses  
260 represent new lineages.

261 Using an integrated approach and conserved thresholds, we predicted that rumen viruses  
262 could infect diverse rumen microbes including those with great functional and environmental  
263 importance. Of the rumen vOTUs with a predicted host match, 99.5% of them were inferred to  
264 infect ruminal prokaryotes even though most of the reference genomes were from non-ruminal  
265 prokaryotes, demonstrating the rigorousness and low false positive rate of our host prediction  
266 pipeline. Surprisingly, rumen viruses seem to have a broader host range than those in other  
267 ecosystems as evidenced by the high proportion of rumen vOTUs predicted to infect multiple hosts  
268 across phylogenetical boundaries, even phylum boundaries. This is unlikely due to false prediction  
269 as isolated rumen viruses can indeed infect species of both *Bacteroidota* and *Firmicutes*<sup>67</sup>. The  
270 broad host ranges of ruminal viruses signify their important roles in facilitating host evolution.

271 We found diverse categories of AMGs, including those encoding enzymes modifying host  
272 nucleotide metabolism and providing antiviral defense, both of which can buttress viral fitness and  
273 have been demonstrated experimentally in other ecosystems<sup>51,54</sup>. Glycoside hydrolases are the  
274 most important enzymes of the rumen microbiome as they enable the digestion of plant-based feed  
275 therein. Thus, the revelation of AMGs encoding GHs, which was also reported in the rumen  
276 previously<sup>32</sup>, suggests that some rumen viruses may potentially enhance feed digestion by  
277 ruminants. It should be noted that we only predicted AMGs from a small portion (504 out of  
278 397,180) of the rumen viruses identified. The rumen virome could carry orders of magnitude more  
279 AMGs. The other side of the coin is that lytic rumen viruses can aggravate intra-ruminal nitrogen  
280 recycling by lysing their host cells. Therefore, the rumen virome likely has a great impact on feed  
281 digestion and microbial protein yield through phage-host interactions, potentially affecting  
282 ruminant production.

283 We identified ARGs, including a few major classes of ARGs, carried by rumen viruses.  
284 One of the most prevalent ARGs, tet(W), identified in this study had been found in an integrative  
285 and conjugative element (ICE) recently<sup>68</sup>. Three vMAGs from three different rumen microbiomes  
286 from the same herd carried the same ARG and had nearly identical genomic architecture. These  
287 findings and the broad host range of ruminal phages highlight the potential of rumen viruses to  
288 transmit ARGs, especially in beef and non-grazing animals. It should be noted that although ARGs  
289 appeared to be sparse in the rumen virome, much of the viral diversity remains to be uncovered.  
290 More ARGs can be expected in future rumen virome studies.

291 Collectively, this study provides the largest rumen virus database (RVD) hitherto and new  
292 insights into the diversity and potential role of the rumen virome in regulating the metabolism,  
293 feed digestion, microbial protein synthesis and degradation by their cellular hosts. The RVD



294 database will greatly facilitate future studies on the rumen virome. Furthermore, the finding of the  
295 current study can help inform future ecological studies to investigate how rumen viruses may  
296 regulate the rumen microbiome and its function, and thus ruminant production.

## 297 **Methods**

### 298 **Assembly and identification of viral genomes from rumen metagenomes**

299 Published rumen metagenomes (n=975, Table S1) were downloaded from NCBI SRA,  
300 quality controlled with fastp (v0.23.1)<sup>69</sup>, and then assembled individually using Megahit (v1.2.1)  
301 with the default parameters. The 975 metagenomes were published in 80 studies covering 13  
302 species/breeds of ruminants from 8 countries (Table S1) across 5 continents (Fig. 1). The countries  
303 where the metagenomes were sampled and the number of metagenomes were visualized on a world  
304 map using the R package ‘rworldmap’.

305 After assembly, tentative viral contigs were first identified following the viral sequence  
306 identification SOP ([dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bwm5pc86](https://doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bwm5pc86)). Briefly, tentative viral contigs >  
307 5kb were further verified using VirSorter2<sup>27</sup> (option: --min-score 0.5), and the resultant contigs  
308 were piped to CheckV<sup>35</sup> to trim off host sequences flanking proviruses. We only chose viral  
309 contigs >5 kb because the currently available bioinformatics tools have a relatively high false  
310 positive rate when identifying viral contigs <5 kb<sup>34</sup>. Only the contigs falling into categories Keep1  
311 and Keep2 were retained as putative viral contigs (708,580 in total) for further analyses.

312 The viral contigs were clustered into vOTU at 95% ANI over 85% of the shortest contigs  
313 as suggested<sup>30</sup> using a custom script from the CheckV repository<sup>35</sup>. The resultant 411,125 vOTUs  
314 were then further verified with VIBRANT<sup>28</sup> (option: --virome). We obtained 397,180 bona fide  
315 vOTUs (96.6%), which were identified to be of viral origin. To be conservative, only the vOTUs  
316 identified by both VIBRANT and VirSorter2 were used to build RVD and retained for taxonomy  
317 classification and host prediction. We chose to use both VIBRANT and VirSorter2 for viral  
318 identification because they are among the latest tools with the best performance according to a  
319 recent benchmarking paper<sup>34</sup>. We were interested in determining how viral reads could be  
320 annotated with the existing databases, but no rumen viral database was available. Thus, we  
321 annotated the clean reads using complete genomes from RefSeq viral (release 211; downloaded in  
322 March 2022) and the host-associated fraction of the latest IMG/VR database<sup>37</sup>. The completeness  
323 of the vOTUs was estimated using CheckV<sup>35</sup>. A rarefaction curve was generated to assess the  
324 coverage of rumen viruses using the package RTK<sup>70</sup> in R.

### 325 **Taxonomic classification of all vOTUs and tree construction of those assigned to the order** 326 ***Caudovirales*.**

327 We assigned vOTUs >10 kb to genus-level taxa based on a gene-sharing network using  
328 vConTACT2<sup>31</sup>, which uses RefSeq Viral (release 88) as reference genomes. The vOTUs that could  
329 be clustered with the reference genomes of a genus were assigned to that genus according to the  
330 vConTACT2 workflow. We assigned the vOTUs that failed to be assigned to a genus and those  
331 <10 kb to family-level taxa using the majority rule as done previously<sup>6</sup>. Briefly, we predicted the  
332 ORFs of each vOTU using Prodigal<sup>71</sup> and then aligned the ORF sequences with those of RefSeq

333 Viral using BLASTp with a bit score of  $\geq 50$ . The vOTUs that aligned with the RefSeq genomes  
334 of a family with over  $>50\%$  of their protein sequence were assigned to that family. We identified  
335 crAss-like phages using BLASTn against 2,478 crAss-like phage genomes identified from  
336 previous studies<sup>64,72,73</sup> with the threshold of  $\geq 80\%$  sequence identity over  $\geq 50\%$  of the length of  
337 previously identified crAss-like vMAGs.

338 Most of the taxonomically assignable vOTUs of the rumen virome, as in the case of the  
339 human gut virome, were assigned to the order *Caudovirales*, and thus we compared the phylogenic  
340 distribution of the *Caudovirales* viruses between the rumen and the human gut viromes based on  
341 concatenated protein phylogeny<sup>74</sup>. Specifically, we downloaded the HMM profiles of the 77  
342 marker genes of *Caudovirales* viruses from VOGDB (<http://vogdb.org>) and searched RVD of the  
343 current study and the two largest human gut virome databases (MGV<sup>4</sup> and GPD<sup>5</sup>, which  
344 phylogenetically complement each other) for the marker genes using search HMMER v3.1b2<sup>75</sup>.  
345 To ensure a fair comparison across the databases, only the vMAGs with a completeness  $>50\%$   
346 were included in the search. We then aligned each of the marker genes from the three databases  
347 using MAFFT<sup>76</sup>, sliced out the positions where more than 50% were gaps using trimAl<sup>77</sup>,  
348 concatenated each aligned marker gene, and filled the gap where a marker gene was absent. Only  
349 the concatenated marker gene each with  $>3$  marker genes and found in  $> 5\%$  of all the aligned  
350 concatemers were retained, resulting in 10,203 *Caudovirales* marker gene concatemers each with  
351 13,573 alignment columns. These marker gene concatemers were clustered into genus-level  
352 vOTUs as described previously<sup>4</sup>, which has been benchmarked to achieve high taxonomic  
353 homogeneity using viral RefSeq genomes. We built a phylogenetic tree of *Caudovirales* viruses  
354 using FastTree v.2.1.9 (option: -mlacc 2 -slownni -wag)<sup>78</sup> and the alignment of the concatenated  
355 marker genes of the representative vMAG sequences of all the genus-level vOTUs with the highest  
356 genome completeness ( $> 50\%$ , based on CheckV analysis). The *Caudovirales* tree was visualized  
357 using iTOL<sup>79</sup>. The vMAGs identified as prophages or encoding an integrase were considered  
358 lysogenic, and lysogenic rate was calculated based on the VIBRANT results.

359

### 360 **Host prediction and host phylogenetic tree construction**

361 We predicted the probable hosts of the rumen viruses using an alignment-dependent  
362 method (aligning prophage sequences and CRISPR spacer sequences with host genomes), which  
363 has a high prediction accuracy<sup>80</sup>. For prophage sequence alignment, we manually curated three  
364 databases: the databases of ruminant gut prokaryotes (including 22,095 bacterial MAGs and 410  
365 archaeal MAGs from the same metagenomes collected for viral analysis in the current study),  
366 2,729 rumen prokaryotic MAGs of the Cow Rumen genome database V1.0  
367 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/metagenomics/genome-catalogues/cow-rumen-v1-0>), and 251,167  
368 reference genomes of prokaryotes of NCBI RefSeq (release 211; downloaded in March 2022). The  
369 above prokaryotic MAGs and genomes were classified according to the GTDB taxonomy using  
370 GTDB-tk (option: -classify\_wf)<sup>81</sup>. We aligned the representative vMAG sequence of each vOTU  
371 with the above prokaryotic genome/MAG sequences using BLASTn (option: -task metablast) to  
372 identify integrated prophage regions. A host match was called when  $>2,500$  bp of a host genome

373 or MAG matched a vOTU sequence at >90% sequence identity over 75% of the vOTU sequence  
374 length<sup>6</sup>. We predicted the probable protozoal hosts of the rumen viruses by searching the 52 high-  
375 quality SAGs<sup>41</sup> for prophage regions using BLASTn and the above criteria.

376 We also predicted the probable hosts of the identified viruses by aligning the CRISPR  
377 spacer sequences of the vMAGs against the reference genomes and MAGs of prokaryotes. Briefly,  
378 we identified the CRISPR spacer sequences of the reference genomes and MAGs using MinCED  
379 (option: -minNR 2)<sup>82</sup>. The identified CRISPR spacer sequences were then aligned with the  
380 sequences of RVD using BLASTn (option: -dust no). A probable host was called when the  
381 CRISPR spacer sequence of a reference genome or MAG of prokaryotes matched exactly with a  
382 vMAG sequence (100% coverage and 100% identity). In total, we identified 43,166 vOTUs that  
383 had a CRISPR spacer match with their probable hosts or integrated into the host genomes. The  
384 sequences of these vOTUs were used to build a gene-sharing network using vConTACT2. After  
385 removing duplicated edges and clusters with <3 nodes, the network was imported into Cytoscape  
386 3.7.2<sup>83</sup> and annotated based on the taxonomy of the viruses and their hosts.

387 To display the infection patterns of rumen viruses, we constructed genus-level  
388 phylogenetic trees for the identified hosts of archaea, bacteria, and rumen ciliates. For the  
389 phylogenetic trees of bacterial and archaeal hosts, one genome was randomly chosen within each  
390 identified host genus. Then the 120 marker genes of bacteria and 122 marker genes of archaea of  
391 the genomes of the selected bacteria and archaea were aligned using GTDB-tk<sup>81</sup>. Then  
392 phylogenetic trees were constructed using the aligned marker genes and IQ-TREE (option: -redo  
393 -bb 1000 -m MFP -mset WAG,LG,JTT,Dayhoff -mrate E,I,G,I+G -mfreq FU -wbt1)<sup>84</sup> and  
394 visualized using iTOL<sup>79</sup>. Lysogenic rates were calculated using VIBRANT. A ciliate tree was  
395 acquired from Li, et al.<sup>41</sup> and visualized also using iTOL<sup>79</sup>.

### 396 **Identification of auxiliary metabolism genes carried by vMAGs**

397 We used stringent criteria to extract viral sequences, but during the initial manual curation  
398 of the rumen viral contigs, we found some contigs that were likely host genomic islands. Such  
399 contigs can be misidentified as viral sequences by virus identification tools<sup>5</sup>. Additionally, because  
400 it is still challenging to delineate the exact boundaries between host genomes and prophage  
401 genomes<sup>35</sup> and any remaining host genes, which, if not removed, can be misidentified as AMGs,  
402 we performed a series of curations to select the vMAGs for AMG identification to minimize  
403 misidentification of host genes as AMGs. First, we only searched the complete vMAGs >10 kb  
404 (5,912 in total) for AMG identification using the criteria suggested in the benchmarking paper<sup>34</sup>.  
405 Then the vMAGs were further prepared for DRAMv<sup>85</sup> annotation using VirSorter2 with the  
406 options ‘—prep-for-dramv’ applied. The complete vMAGs were then subjected to AMG  
407 identification and genome annotation using DRAMv. Second, the verified AMG-containing  
408 vMAGs in which an AMG was not flanked by both one of the viral hallmark genes and one viral-  
409 like gene or by two viral hallmark genes (category 1 and category 2 as determined by DRAMv)  
410 were removed. The AMG-containing vMAGs with AMGs at the end of vMAGs were also removed.  
411 Third, the remaining vMAGs were further manually curated based on the criteria specified in the  
412 VirSorter2 SOP ([dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bwm5pc86](https://doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bwm5pc86)). We eventually obtained 1,880

413 vMAGs after the four steps of filtering. We manually checked the genomic context for these  
414 vMAGs and found that some of them were likely genomic islands. Therefore, we filtered the 1,880  
415 vMAGs based on criteria established by Sun et al. (manuscript in preparation). Briefly, the vMAGs  
416 with only integrases/transposases, tail fiber genes, or any non-viral genes were removed. The  
417 remaining vMAGs were filtered again to remove those that did not have at least one of the viral  
418 structural genes (i.e., capsid protein, portal protein, phage coat protein, baseplate, head protein, tail  
419 protein, virion structural protein, and terminase) and the vMAGs containing genes encoding an  
420 endonuclease, plasmid stability protein, lipopolysaccharide biosynthesis enzyme,  
421 glycosyltransferase/glycosyl transferase families 11 and 25, nucleotidytransferase/nucleotidy  
422 transferase, carbohydrate kinase, nucleotide sugar epimerase. To benchmark our curation pipeline,  
423 100 vMAGs were randomly selected from the 504 remaining vOTUs for detailed manual curation  
424 based on their genomic context. According to the benchmarking results, we were confident that  
425 we only retained vMAGs for AMG prediction. Detailed results of each curation step and full  
426 annotation of the final vMAGs and the annotation of the identified AMGs are in Table S4.  
427 Previously identified AMGs were identified from an expert-curated AMG database  
428 ([https://github.com/WrightonLabCSU/DRAM/blob/master/data/amg\\_database.tsv](https://github.com/WrightonLabCSU/DRAM/blob/master/data/amg_database.tsv)).

#### 429 **Identification of antimicrobial resistance genes carried by the rumen vMAGs**

430 The vMAGs or contigs were searched for ARGs using the conservative criteria  
431 recommended previously<sup>58</sup>. Briefly, we downloaded the CARD database (v3.0.7)<sup>56</sup> and searched  
432 it for ARGs carried by the vMAGs/contigs of RVD using BLASTp with a threshold of 40%  
433 alignment coverage and 80% sequence identity. We also searched for ARGs in RVD using the  
434 NCBI AMRfinder tools v.3.8.4<sup>57</sup>, which is a highly accurate tool and uses an expert-curated built-  
435 in database. The identified probable ARG-carrying vMAGs were curated to retain bona fide  
436 vMAGs using the pipeline to identify AMGs-containing vMAGs. To be conservative, the vMAGs  
437 with ARG at the end of the contig were removed unless it was adjacent to virus-related genes. A  
438 total of 22 ARG-carrying vMAGs were found, and they were manually checked individually to be  
439 viral origin based on genome context annotation. The detailed annotation and manual curation of  
440 individual ARG-carrying vMAGs are shown in Table S5. The representative vMAGs carrying  
441 each type of ARGs were picked based on CheckV completeness, and the number of cellular genes.  
442 The vMAGs with the highest completeness and least cellular genes were chosen as representative  
443 vMAGs and their genomic organizations were depicted individually using easyfig<sup>86</sup> and annotated  
444 manually.

#### 445 **Metagenomic read mapping and distribution of different viral populations.**

446 We estimated the abundance of ARG-carrying rumen viruses. Briefly, CoverM (option: --  
447 min-read-percent-identity 0.95, --min-read-aligned-percent 0.75, --min-covered-fraction 0.7;  
448 <https://github.com/wwood/CoverM>) was used with the trimmed mean method, which calculates  
449 the average coverage after removing the regions with the top 5% highest and lowest coverage, to  
450 calculate the coverage of individual ARG-carrying vMAGs and the mapping rates of the

451 metagenomic sequencing reads of 240 rumen metagenomes reported previously<sup>36</sup> using RVD,  
452 RefSeq Viral, and IMG/VR. As high variability was seen in the read mapping rate results, we  
453 explored the results based on the metadata and compared the read mapping rate between healthy  
454 ruminants and those under SARA, and between RVD and IMG/VR with T-test using SciPy<sup>87</sup>. The  
455 obtained coverage was considered raw abundance, which was further normalized by library size  
456 to “coverage per gigabase of metagenome” as done previously<sup>10</sup>. We compared the normalized  
457 abundance of ARG-carrying vMAGs among different countries and different animal husbandry  
458 regimes using non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test using SciPy<sup>87</sup> with 100 bootstraps.

459 The core rumen virome was revealed based on the prevalence of vOTUs. First, the raw  
460 abundance table was transformed into a binary matrix (presence or absence) with a custom Python  
461 script. Then the prevalence of each vOTU in each sample was calculated. The vOTUs were  
462 categorized based on their prevalence in each species or type of ruminants as “individualized”  
463 (observed in only one sample), “rare” (observed in >1 but <20% of a specie or type), “common”  
464 (observed in 20 to 50% of a specie or type), and “core” (observed in >50% of a specie or type)  
465 vOTUs. The relative abundance of the “core” virome was calculated as the proportion of the “core”  
466 vMAGs to the combined abundance of vMAGs of a species or type. The presence of each “core”  
467 vOTU in each specie or type was plotted using the package ComplexHeatmap in R<sup>88</sup>.



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- 685



- 1 **Fig. 1: Rumen viral genomes recovered from 13 ruminant species across 5 continents**
- 2 **a**, A global heatmap showing the geographic distribution of the 975 metagenomes and the
- 3 proportion of the animals based on production system. **b**, Number of metagenomes from
- 4 different ruminant species or production husbandries. **c**, Workflow of the rumen virome analysis
- 5 pipeline. See also Table S1 for detailed information about the metadata.
- 6

7 **Fig. 2: Taxonomic classifications of the rumen viruses**

8 **a**, Family level taxonomy and its proportion of the rumen viruses in the rumen virome database  
9 RVD). Most of the vOTUs (99.7%) classified to existing genera or families were under the order  
10 of *Caudovirales*, including 121 identified crAss-like phages. Detailed taxonomy assignment for  
11 individual vOTUs could be found in Table S2. **b**, Genus-level taxonomy and proportion of the  
12 1,858 vOTU assigned using vConTACT2. **c**, A phylogenetic tree of *Caudovirales* viruses built  
13 with 77 concatenated marker genes identified in 10,203 viral metagenome-assembled genomes  
14 (vMAGs) with a > 50% completeness of the current study and the two largest human gut virome  
15 databases (MGV<sup>1</sup> and GPD<sup>2</sup>). For better visualization, only one representative vMAG (the longest  
16 and most complete) per genus-level vOTU was included (in total 714 genomes). The branches  
17 were color coded: green, the *Caudovirales* lineages exclusively from the human virome; red, the  
18 lineages exclusively found in the rumen virome of the current study; blue, the lineages found in  
19 both the rumen and the human viromes. Lysogeny rates were calculated with VIBRANT and  
20 shown as the inner ring. The number of vMAGs representing each lineage was shown as barplot  
21 (red for human viruses, and black for human viruses). **d**, Proportion of lineages *Caudovirales*  
22 viruses between the rumen and the human viromes. **e**, A rarefaction curve of the vOTUs  
23 identified in the rumen virome. The upward trend of the rarefaction curve indicates that more  
24 rumen viruses remain to be identified at the specie level.

25

26 **Fig. 3: Bacterial host range of the rumen viruses**

27 **a**, A genome-based phylogenetic tree of 1,051 bacterial genera that contained the predicted hosts  
28 of 40,881 vOTUs. The hosts were inferred by (i) aligning the sequences of the representative  
29 vMAGs (the longest with the highest completeness) of each vOTUs with 22,087 metagenome-  
30 assembled genomes (MAGs) of rumen bacteria and 242,387 bacteria reference genomes of  
31 NCBI RefSeq and (ii) aligning the CRISPR spacer sequences of the representative vMAGs and  
32 those of the prokaryotic genomes and MAGs. The prokaryotic genomes and MAGs were  
33 classified using GTDB-Tk. The phylogenetic tree was constructed with the genomes or MAGs of  
34 the inferred hosts (clustered into genera) and their predicted phages to examine the lysogeny rate,  
35 number of phages per genus, and number of phages per genome/MAG. In total, 4,394 vOTUs  
36 likely had a host range across multiple genera. These genera are connected with orange arcs. The  
37 rings correspond to lysogeny rates (ring 1, calculated based on VIBRANT results), number of  
38 phages per genus of hosts (ring 2), number of phages per genome/MAG (ring 3), and bacterial  
39 phyla to which the bacterial host genera belong (ring 4). **b**, Gene-sharing network of the vOTU  
40 with predicted host obtained from vConTACT2 and visualized using Cytoscape. The virus  
41 genomes were colored according to the family assignment (left) and predicted host phylum  
42 (right) respectively. See also Figure S1 and Figure S2 for the host assignment of archaea and  
43 protozoa and Table S3 for the detailed host assignments for individual vOTU.

44

45 **Fig 4: Auxiliary metabolic genes carried by rumen viruses (a) and a conceptual model**  
46 **illustrating how AMGs might enable rumen viruses to modulate host metabolism (b).**  
47 AMGs were predicted only from complete vMAGs (504 in total) that passed a series of curation,  
48 and only the AMGs that had been identified in previous studies (labeled in red) and/or identified  
49 in more than two vMAGs of the current study were shown. See Table S4 for the detailed AMGs  
50 curation process, full annotation of the final AMG-carrying vMAGs, and AMG functional  
51 category annotation.

52

53 **Fig 5: ARG carried by rumen viruses exhibiting distinctive abundance in different**  
54 **countries and in different animal husbandry paradigms.**

55 **a**, The number of ARG-carrying viruses and their ARG classes identified in the selected vial  
56 contigs (24 out of 705,380). **b**, The abundance of ARG-carrying viruses (number of ARG-carry  
57 viral contigs per Gb of metagenomic DNA sequences) in different countries and different animal  
58 husbandries (beef vs. dairy and non-grazing vs. grazing). Box plots showing the median and  
59 quartiles of the prevalence of ARG-carrying viruses. Statistical significance was tested using the  
60 non-parametric Wilcoxon signed-rank test. **c**, The genomic organization of three representative  
61 ARG-carrying viral contigs. These three viral contigs shared the same two *Van* genes with highly  
62 similar sequences and had nearly identical genomic organization but were found in three  
63 different samples. The lines connecting the gene among contigs indicating blastn identity. The  
64 contig on the bottom represents the viral contig with ARG flanked by viral hallmark gene. The  
65 representative viral contigs carrying other ARG genes were chosen based on CheckV  
66 completeness and the number of cellular genes, and their genome organizations are displayed in  
67 Fig S4. The manual curations of each ARG-carrying contigs and their detailed annotation could  
68 be found in Table S4.

69



70 **Fig 6: Rumen virome is individualized but a core virome population exists.**

71 **a**, The number ( $\log_{10}$  transformed) of vOTUs observed in only one sample (Individualized),  $\geq 2$   
72 samples but less than 20% of the animal group (Rare), 20 - 50% of the animal group (Common),  
73 and  $>50\%$  of the animal group (Core). **b**, Heatmap of the occurrence of core virome in each  
74 animal group. Only the groups with  $>38$  metagenome datasets were included. Detailed  
75 information of the core vOTU (family-level taxonomy and predicted hosts) could be found in  
76 Table S6. **c**, The relative abundance (%) of the core virome in each animal group. The number of  
77 samples in each group are 92 for sheep, 729 for cattle, 72 for goats, 38 for wild ruminants  
78 (including *Alces alces*, *Bison bison*, *Capreolus pygargus*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Hydropotes inermis*,  
79 *Odocoileus virginianus*, *Rangifer tarandus*), 912 for non-grazing ruminants, 50 for grazing  
80 ruminants, 251 for dairy cows, and 455 for beef cattle.

81

82 **Table S1: Mapping rates (%) of metagenomics sequence reads as viral sequences in**  
83 **metagenomes.**

84 **a**, Mapping rates of metagenomic sequencing reads across 240 rumen metagenomes reported by  
85 Stewart, et al. <sup>3</sup> with the IMG/VR and RVD. **b**, Mapping rates of metagenomic sequencing reads  
86 from *Bos taurus* (n=729), *Capra hircus* (n=82), *Ovis aries* (n=82), *Bos indicus* (n=23) and *Bos*  
87 *grunniens* (n=16). Ruminant species with less than 10 metagenomes were not included. **c**,  
88 Mapping rates of metagenomic sequencing reads from healthy goats (n=8) and goats under  
89 subacute rumen acidosis (SARA; n=8) reported by Tun, et al. <sup>4</sup>. **d**, Mapping rates of  
90 metagenomic sequencing reads in healthy dairy cows (n=48) and dairy under SARA (n=203).

91

92 **Figure S2: Predicted archaeal host of the rumen viruses**

93 For vOTU with host across multiple genera, the predicted host genera were connected with  
94 orange arcs. The dendrogram represents the genome-based phylogenetic tree of 25 archaeal  
95 genera that contained the predicted hosts of 2,403 vOTUs. The hosts were inferred by (i)  
96 aligning the sequences of the representative vMAGs (the longest with the highest completeness)  
97 of each vOTUs with 410 metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs) of rumen archaea and 8,367  
98 bacteria reference genomes of NCBI RefSeq and (ii) aligning the CRISPR spacer sequences of  
99 the representative vMAGs and those of the RefSeq archaea genomes and MAGs. The RefSeq  
100 archaeal genomes and MAGs were classified using GTDB-Tk. The phylogenetic tree was  
101 constructed with the genomes or MAGs of the inferred hosts (clustered into genera) and their  
102 predicted phages to examine the lysogeny rate (calculated based on VIBRANT results), number  
103 of phages per genus, and number of phages per genome/MAG. In total, 6 vOTUs likely had a  
104 host range across multiple genera. These genera are connected with orange arcs.

105

106 **Figure S3: Predicted protozoal host of the rumen viruses**

107 The host genomes were from the 52 high-quality ciliate genomes acquired from single amplified  
108 genome (SAG) and the dendrogram represents the phylogenetic tree of the 52 SAGs generated in  
109 the same study<sup>5</sup>. In total, 500 vOTUs were predicted to affect rumen ciliates. For vOTUs with  
110 host across multiple genomes, the host genome were connected with orange arcs. The  
111 phylogenetic tree was annotated according to the number of predicted prophages per SAG.

112

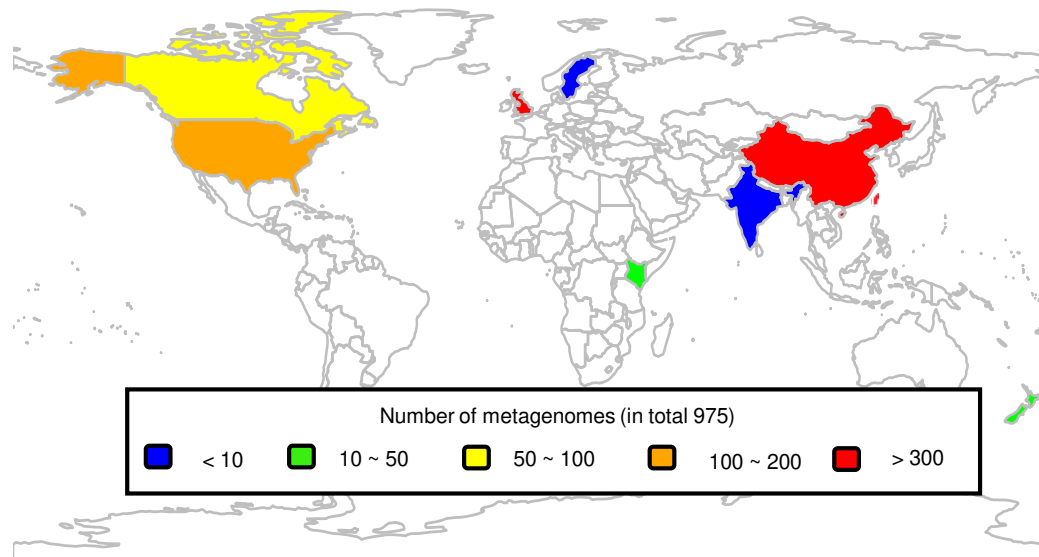
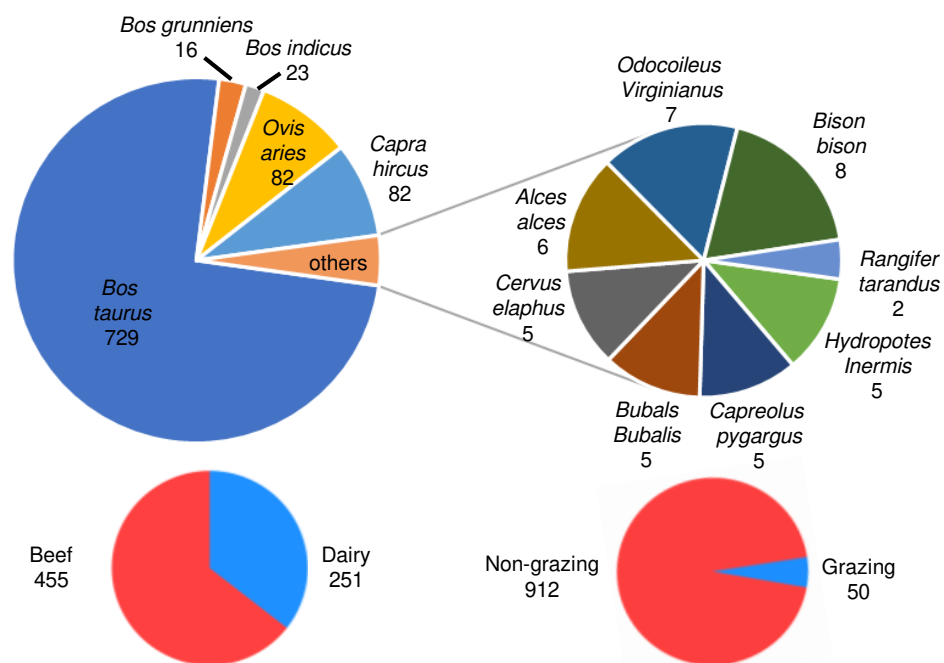
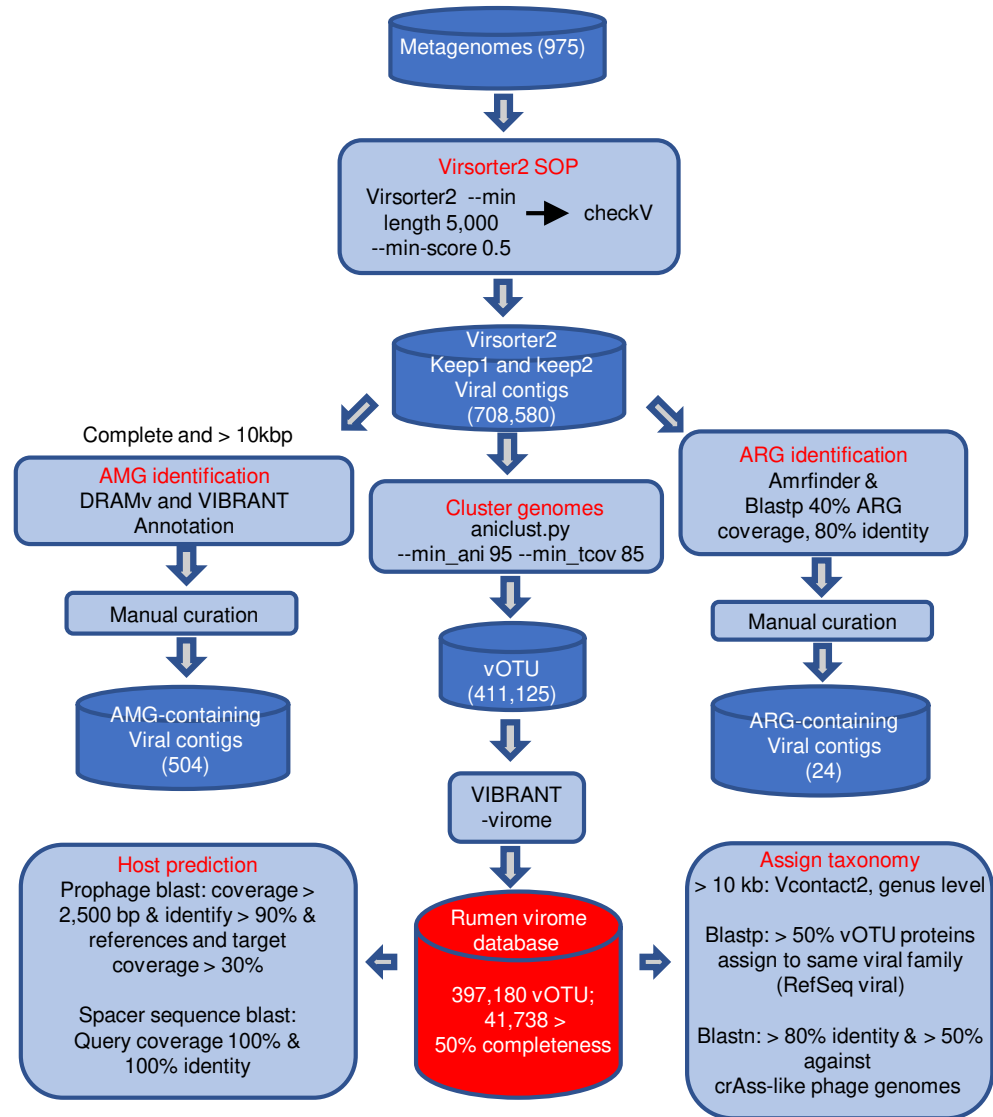
113 **Table S4: Genomic organization of representative viral contigs carrying each type of**  
114 **ARGs.** Representative viral contigs were chosen from each vOTU that had the highest  
115 completeness and least host genes.

116

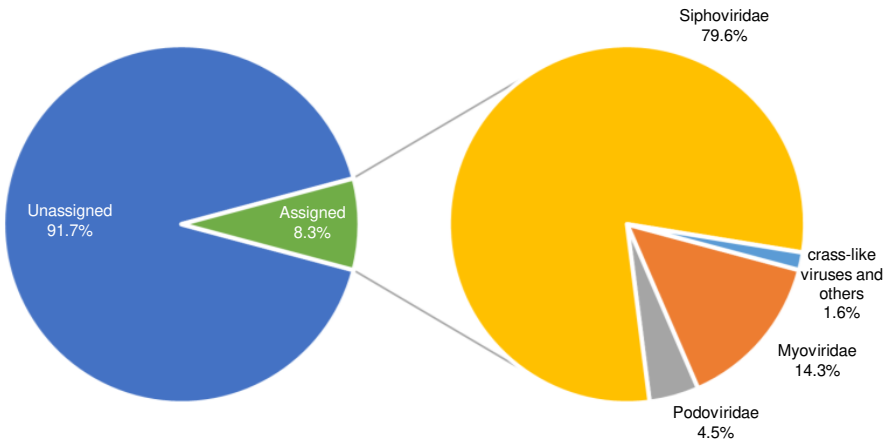
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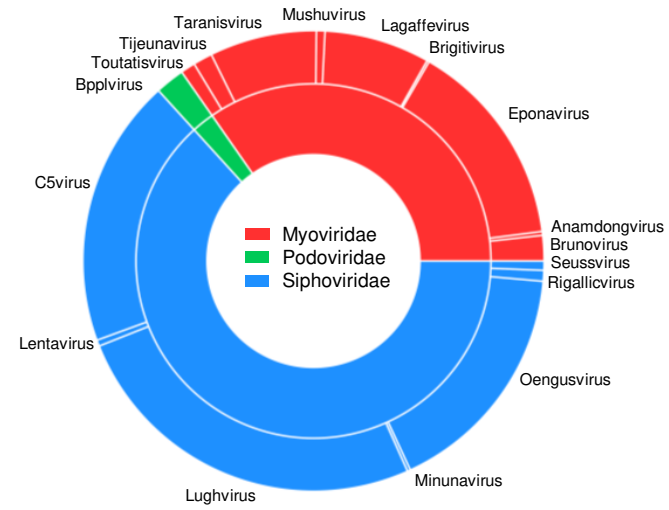


**a****b****c**

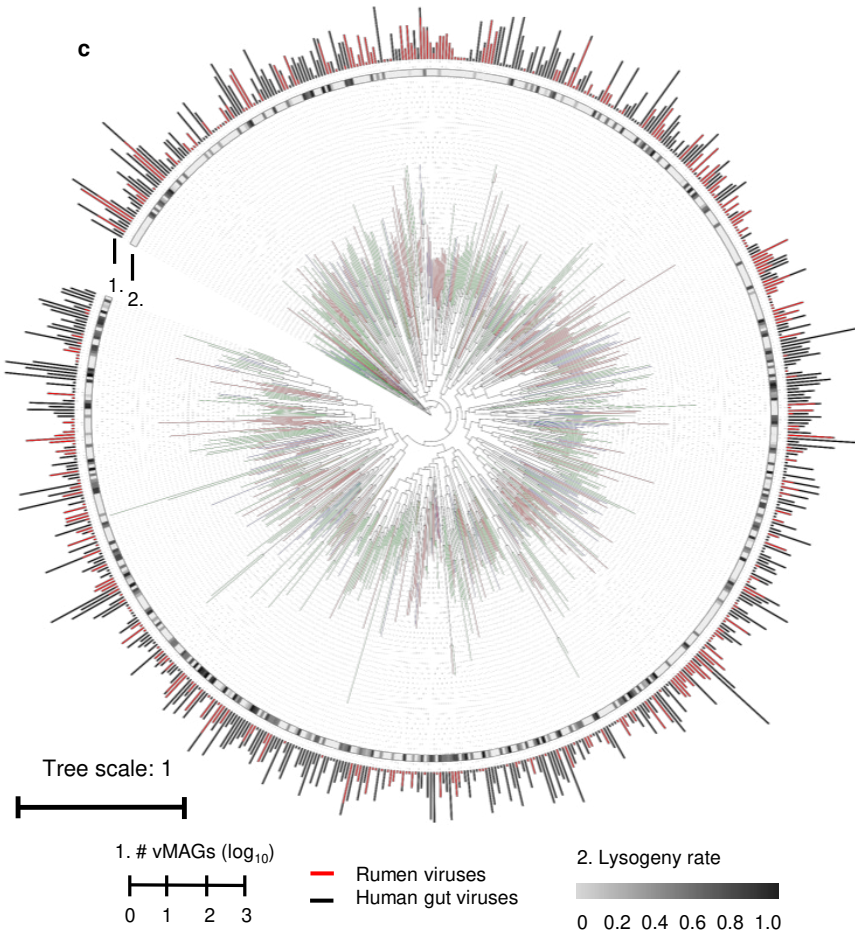
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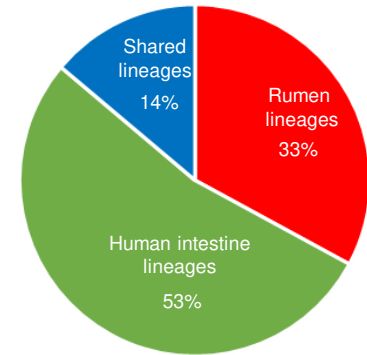
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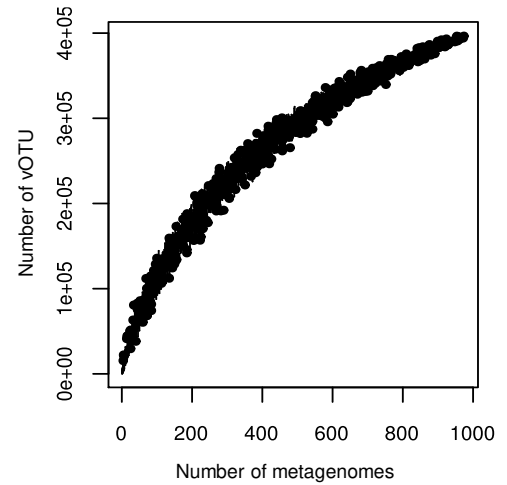
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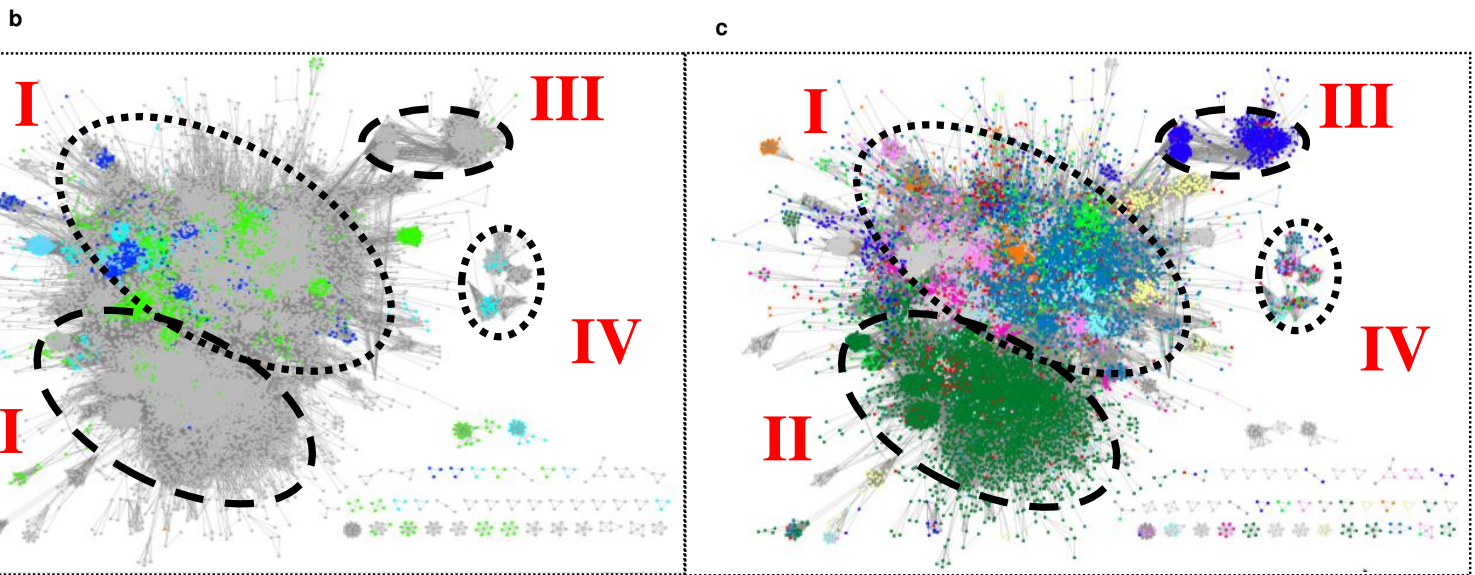
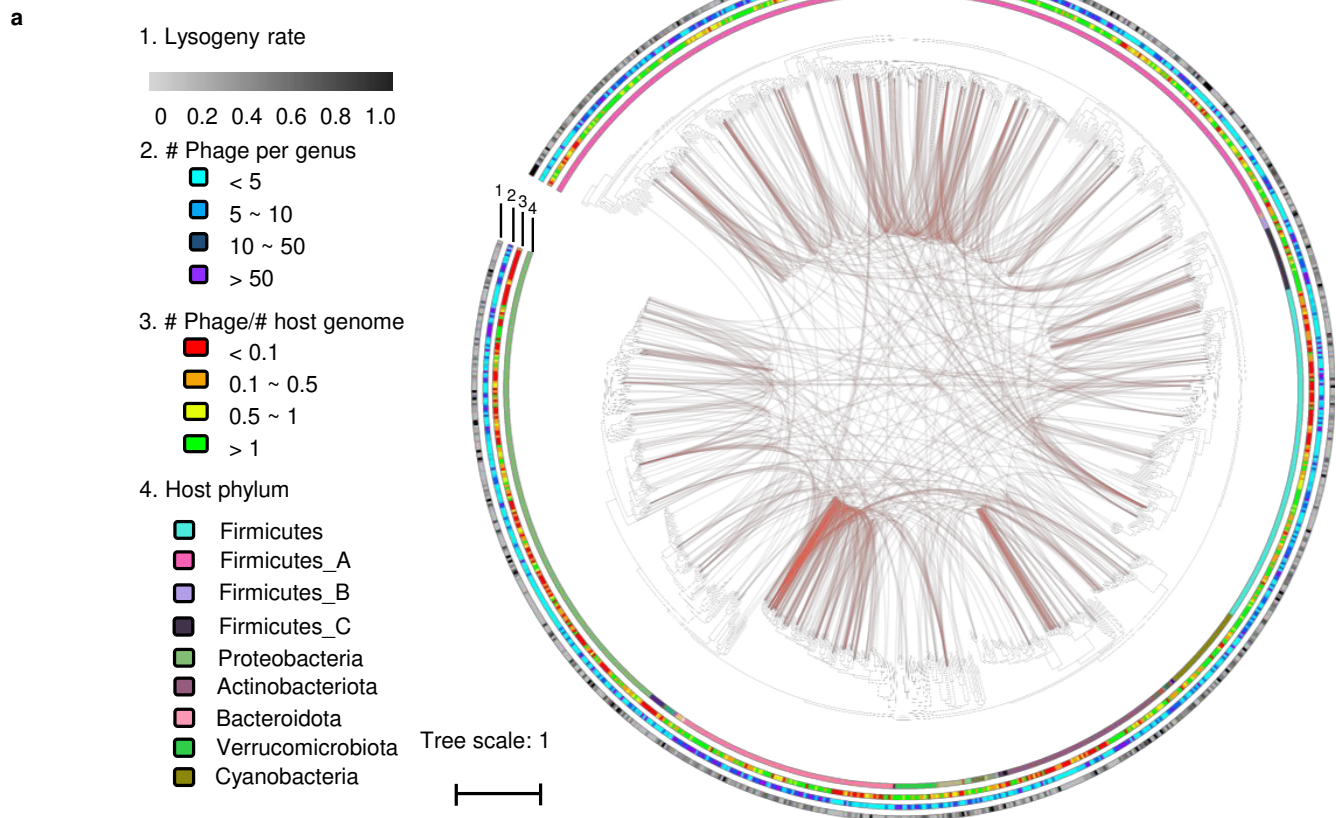


**d**



**e**



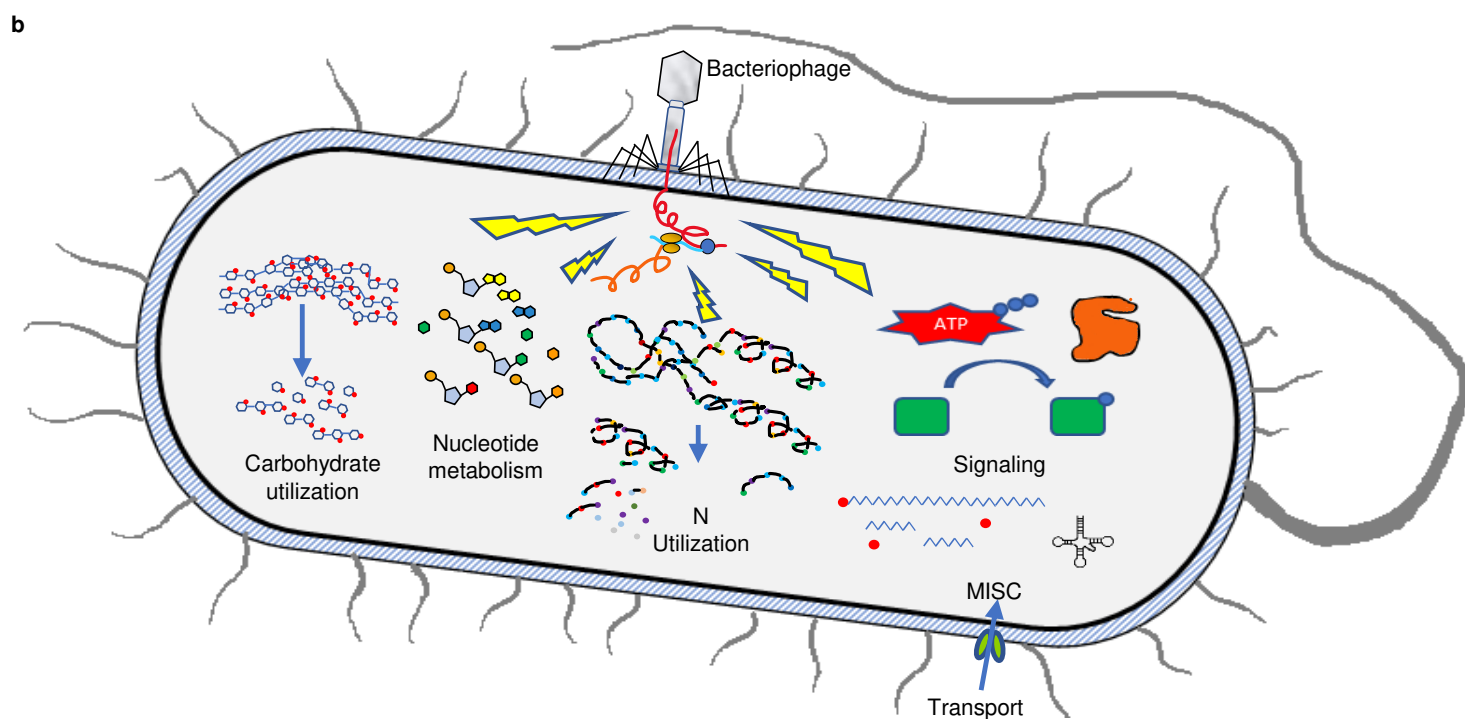
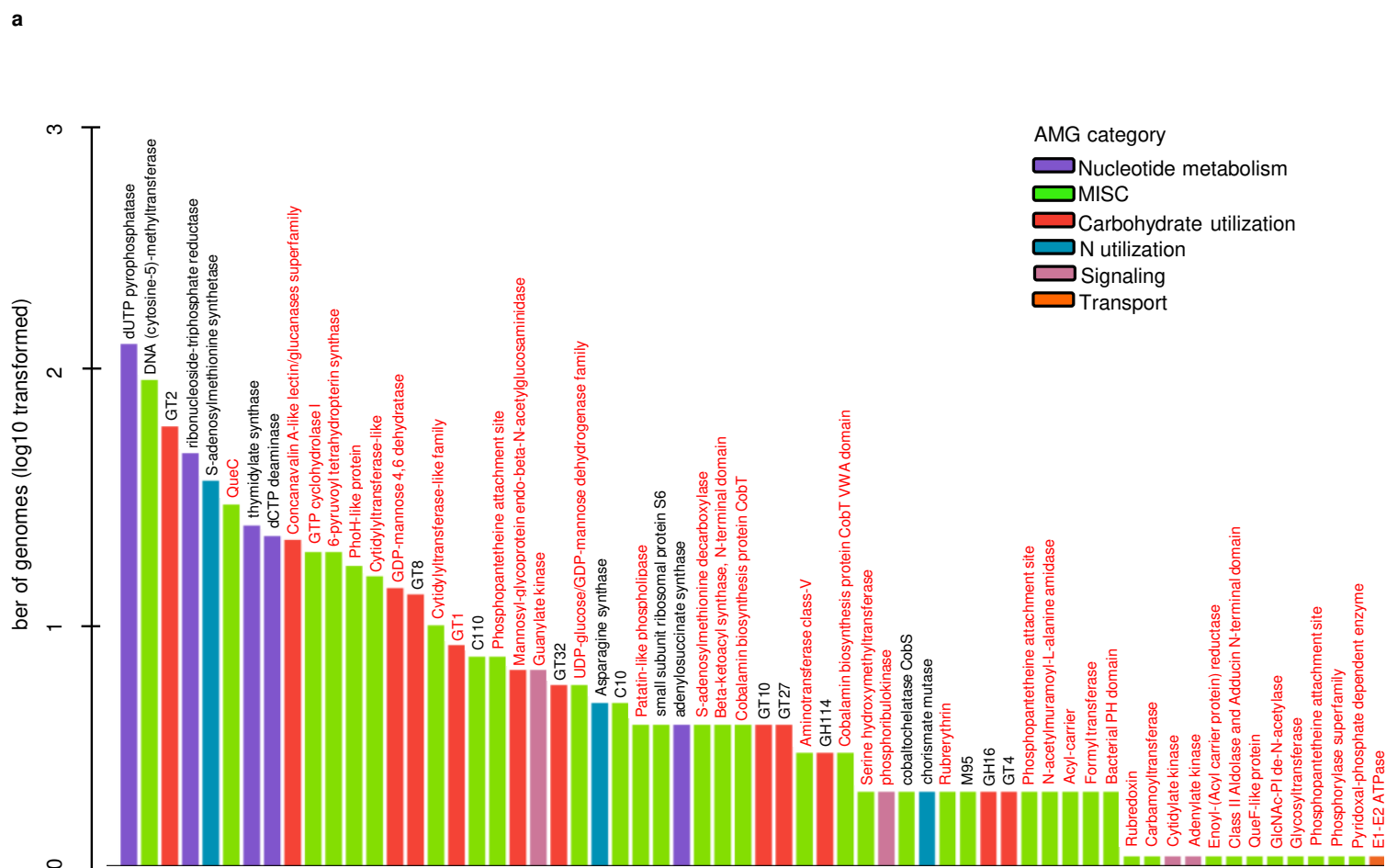


Phage family

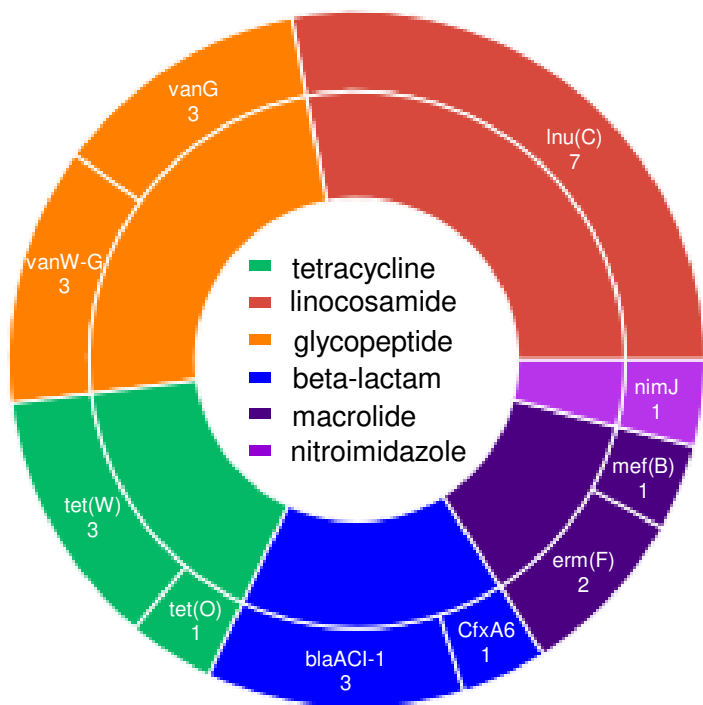
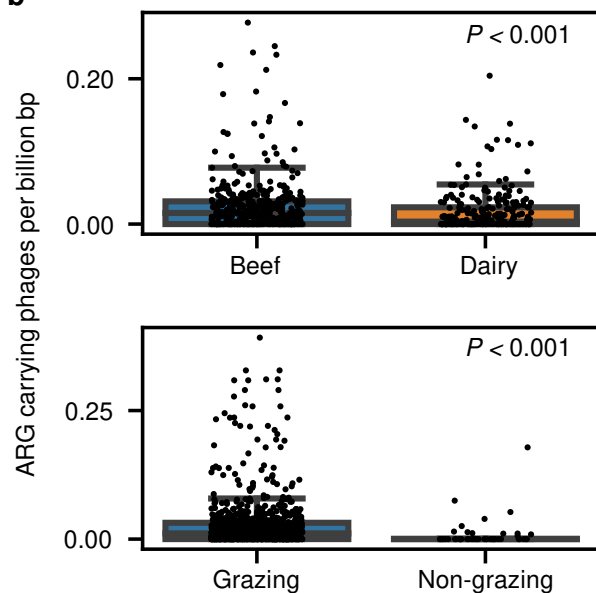
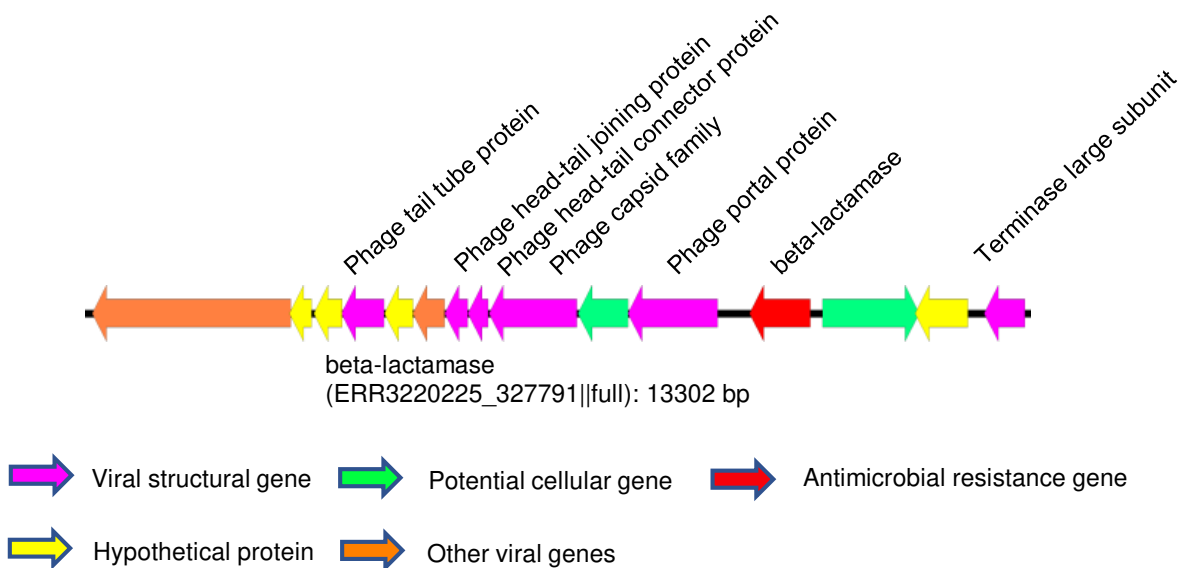
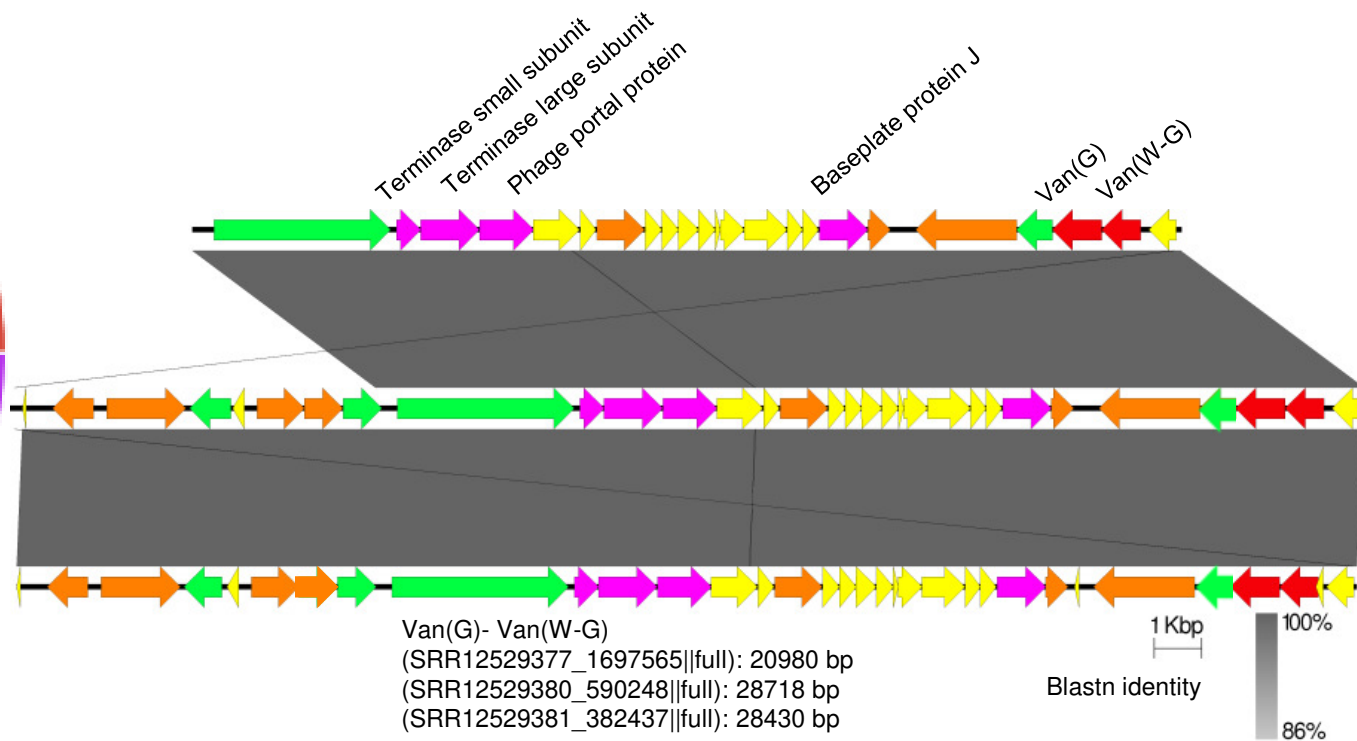
- Unassigned
- Siphoviridae
- Podoviridae
- Myoviridae

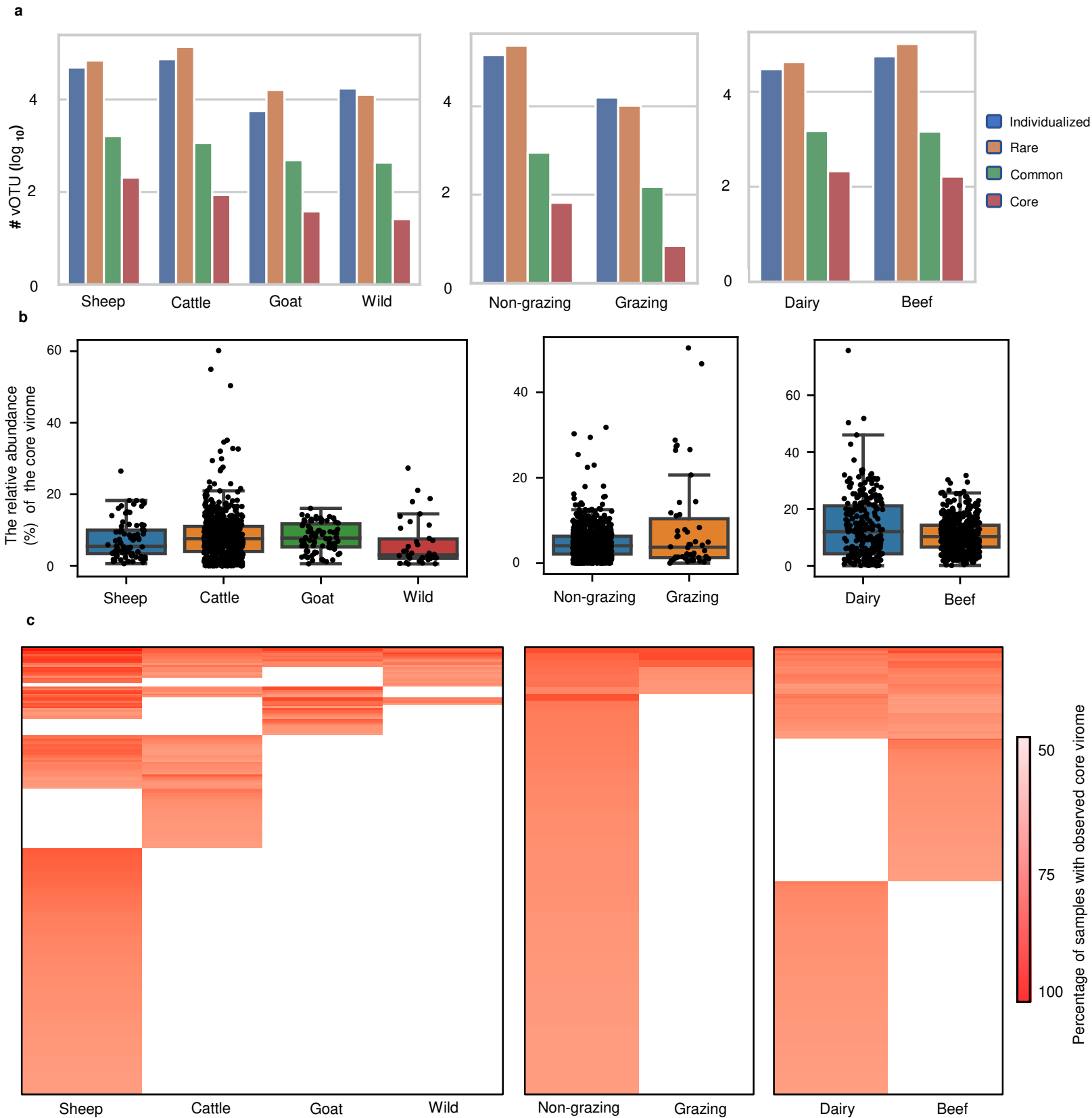
host phylum

- Mixed
- Actinobacteriota
- Bacteroidota
- Firmicutes
- Firmicutes\_A
- Firmicutes\_C
- Methanobacteriota
- Verrucomicrobiota
- RefSeq reference genomes
- Proteobacteria
- Fibrobacterota

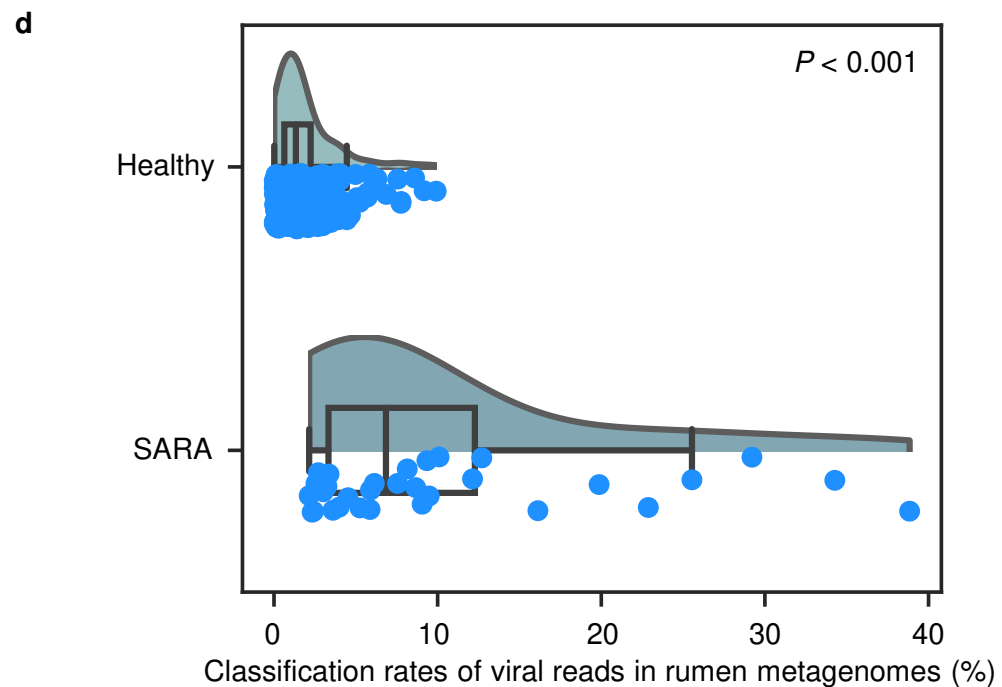
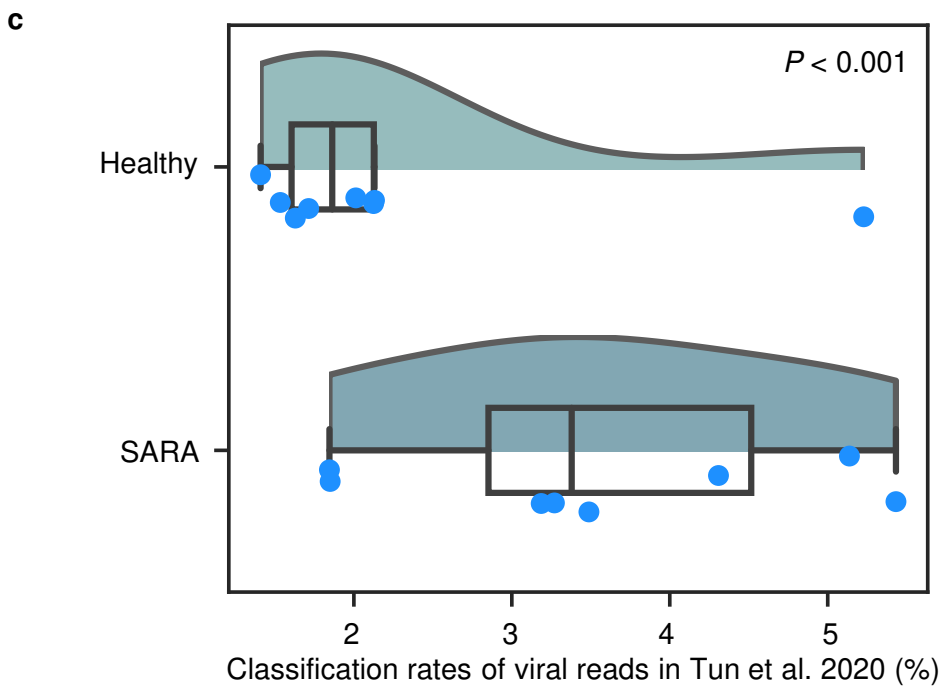
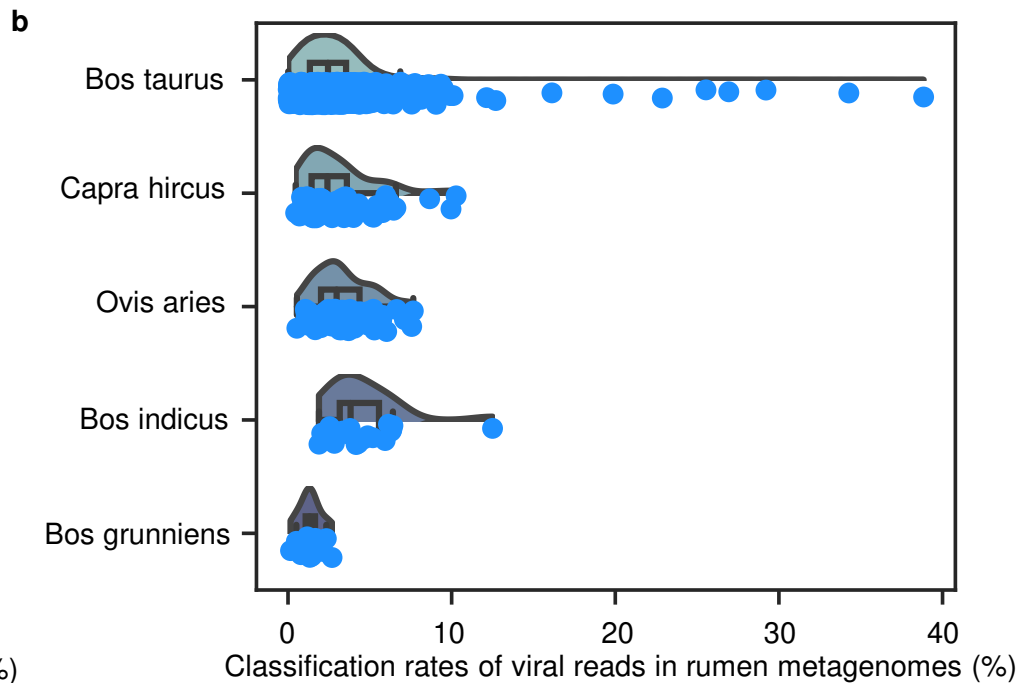
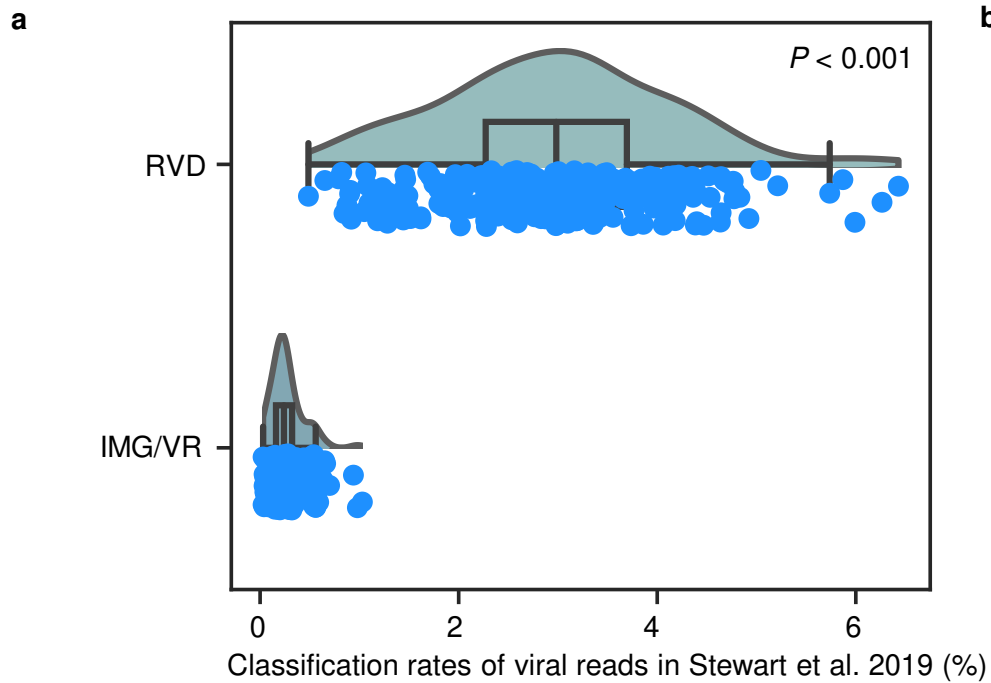


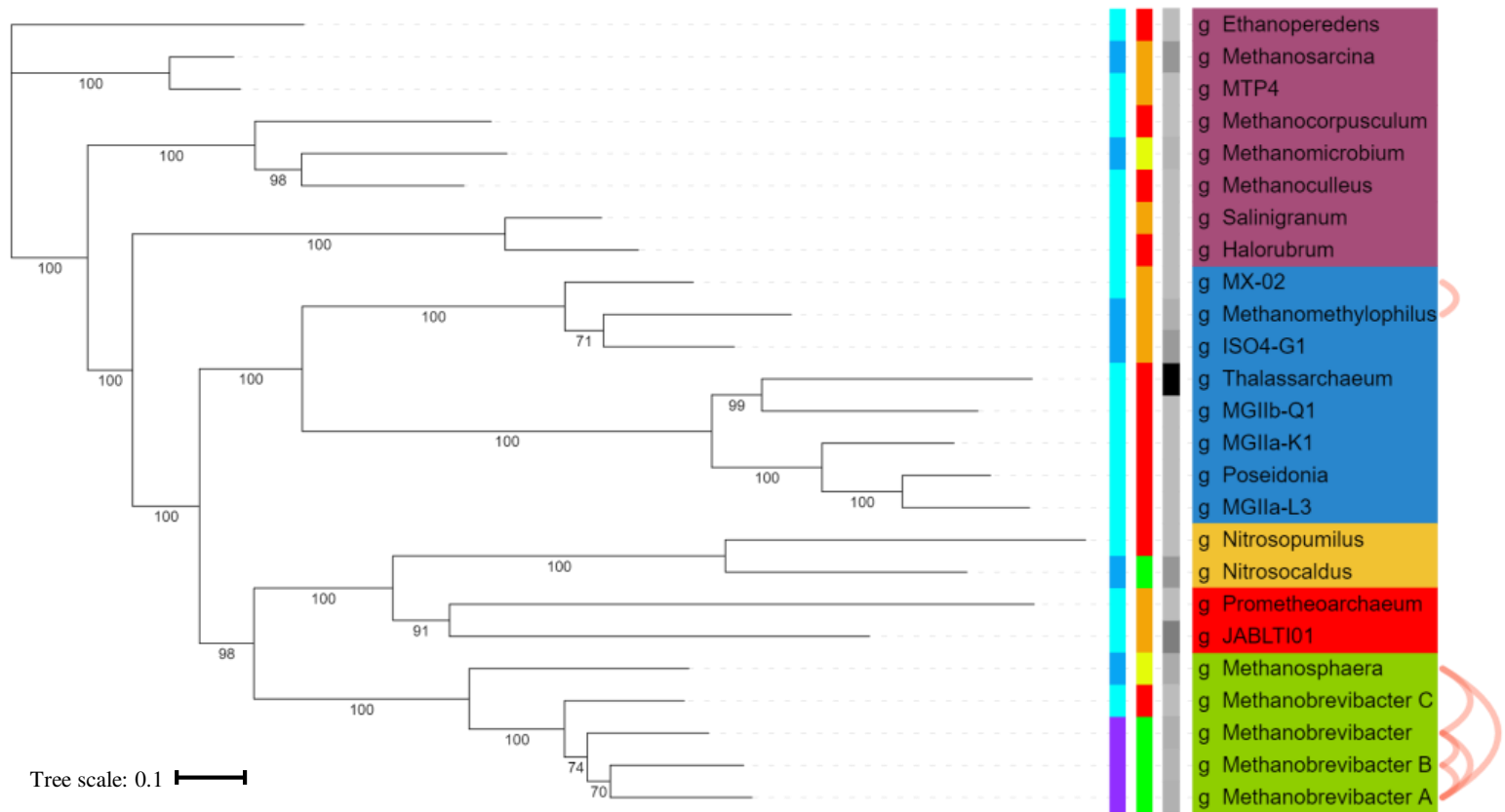


**a****b****c**









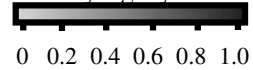
1. # Phage/genus



2. # Phage/host genome



3. Lysogeny rate



4. Host phylum

