African army ants at the forefront of virome surveillance in a

remote tropical forest

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Abstract

In this study, we used a predator-enabled metagenomics strategy to sample the virome of a

remote and difficult-to-access densely forested African tropical region. Specifically, we

focused our study on the use of army ants of the genus *Dorylus* that are obligate collective

foragers and group predators that attack and overwhelm a broad array of animal prey. Using

209 army ant samples collected from 29 colonies and the virion-associated nucleic acid-based

metagenomics approach, we showed that a broad diversity of bacterial, plant, invertebrate and

vertebrate viral sequences were accumulated by army ants: including sequences from 157

different viral genera in 56 viral families. This suggests that using predators and scavengers

such as army ants to sample broad swathes of tropical forest viromes can shed light on the

48   composition and the structure of viral populations of these complex and inaccessible

49   ecosystems.

Introduction

Viruses are likely the most abundant and diverse biological entities on Earth [1-3] and are arguably

the most successful inhabitants of the biosphere [4]. Despite this, the current inventory of known

virus diversity is likely a vanishingly small and unrepresentative fraction of the total diversity,

abundance, and population structures of all extant viruses [1,5-7]. Hence, while the overall total

number of eukaryotic virus species on Earth is estimated to exceed 87 million [1], only 10,434

virus species (including eukaryotic and prokaryotic viruses) are presently recognized by the

International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses [8]. Our perception of the true extent and

properties of the virosphere is further clouded by the fact that this minuscule sample of global

virus diversity is heavily biased towards virus species that directly impact humans and the

organisms that we farm [6,7].

The best studied components of the virosphere are those that include the plant, animal, fungi

and bacteria-infecting viral agents – called viromes – within or upon human bodies, human food

sources (especially domesticated plants and animals) and human habitats (especially urban

homes, hospitals, schools and farms). Conversely, the least studied components of the

virosphere are those of natural environments, particularly remote ecosystems such as those

found in deep tropical forests. Crucially, even when metagenomic projects have explored the

viromes in such regions, these studies have been geographically and taxonomically biased.

Hence, samples were only accessible via forest roads or tracks, and derived from the subset of

plant or animal species that are likely to host viruses with some medical or agricultural

relevance to humans [9]. Such sampling biases are understandable in that most future viral

diseases of humans and their domesticated plants and animals will likely emerge from host

species living or wandering in their vicinity. In addition, future emerging diseases will often be

related to viruses already known to cause diseases in humans, and domesticated plants and

animals. However, it is important to keep in mind that a less human-centric assessment of viral

diversity at the ecosystem-scale could i) illuminate the natural host-ranges, ecological contexts

and evolutionary processes underlying the diversification of viruses related to those that have

already emerged to cause diseases that impact humans, and ii) identify the yet unknown viruses

with properties such as broad host ranges or high incidences that could potentially pose future

threats to humans [9,10]. More generally, the paucity of information on virus diversity in natural

environments is hampering our understanding of both the roles of viruses within wild

ecosystems, and how natural- or human- mediated disturbances of such ecosystems might

impact these roles [10-12].

Densely forested tropical regions account for 40 % of the world's 4 billion hectares of forests

[13] and represent major interfaces where humans interact with the world's remaining wilderness

areas. Besides accessibility issues, studying viromes in these habitats poses several additional

challenges. The spatial pattern of sampling schemes, the establishment of a list of organisms to

sample, and the developmental stages and/or symptom statuses of these organisms are all

important considerations as they may or may not yield metagenomic data representative of the

diversity of viruses circulating within the targeted area [14]. An interesting "meta-sampling"

strategy that provides an alternative to tentative random/unbiased sampling in inaccessible

sampling sites is to rely on proxy samplers such as highly mobile predator/scavenger animals

that naturally accumulate animal-, fungal- and plant-derived biomass within their digestive

tracts during feeding [15-19]. Rather than aiming for completely random sampling of biological

material within a given environment, the general intention of this approach, -which is variously

referred to as "xenosurveillance" or "vector-enabled metagenomics" (VEM) - is to shift the

causes of unrepresentative sampling from human choice biases to the feeding-choice biases of

the chosen mobile scavenger/predator that is intimately involved with the targeted

environments [15-19]. While feeding-choice biases are unavoidable with such meta-sampling

schemes, they are biologically meaningful in that viral cargos of blood-feeding, sap-feeding

and insectivorous insects are themselves inherently representative of viral mobility within

ecosystems. Insectivorous arthropods, so-called top-end insect predators, are potentially

particularly useful samplers in this regard. Indeed, the diversity of viruses that they ingest via

their prey should be partly representative of the viruses that are ferried within insects throughout

the ecosystem. In addition, sampling top-end insect predators will avoid the capture (and

sometimes sacrifice) of animals that are protected for ethical, legal or cultural reasons. Among

xenosurveillance approaches, Predator Enabled Metagenomics (PEM), using for example

dragonflies[20] or damselflies, [21] has proved more efficient with respect to collecting a wide

diversity of viral sequences than Vector-Enabled Metagenomics (VEM) using exclusively plant

sap-feeding insects (e.g. whiteflies [19]) or blood-feeding insects (e.g. mosquitoes [15-17]).

In this study, we propose a PEM strategy using army ants of the genus *Dorylus* [22,23] as top-end

insect predators. These nomadic insects are obligate collective foragers and group predators

that attack a broad array of animal prey including crickets, cockroaches, earthworms, and even

vertebrates. Although nomadic, they do have temporary nests around which they daily forage

areas of ~1km ^{2} [22-24]. Army ants generally live in colonies containing between 10^4 to 10^7

workers [25] with a daily colony-wide intake of prey/scavenged biomass of up to 2 kg [26]. In

addition to preying on an extremely diverse array of animal species, army ants also scavenge

on the carcasses of large vertebrates and feed directly on plants [24,27,28].

Here we test the overarching hypothesis that army ants hunting live invertebrate and vertebrate

prey in the deep forest ingest and accumulate a diverse array of plant and animal viruses in the

areas around their temporary nests.

Materials and Methods

Army ants sampling

In July 2019, two sampling surveys were conducted in the Ogooué-Ivindo region (Northeast

Gabon). Over 250 individual ants from 29 colonies were collected along roadsides between

Mekambo and Mendemba villages, immediately stored in liquid nitrogen and further

transferred to Montpellier (France) where they were stored at -80°C. Two-hundred and nine

samples, including 145 samples containing only one ant and 64 samples each containing pools

of 2 to 13 individual ants (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1) were further processed using

the virion-associated nucleic acid based (VANA) metagenomics approach [29].

Virion-associated nucleic acid-based viral metagenomics

Each of the 209 collected samples was processed using the VANA viral metagenomics

approach that is comprehensively detailed in François et al. (2018) [30]. It is noteworthy that

the VANA approach is suited to the detection of both DNA and RNA viruses, and includes

several steps that aim at both removing host nucleic acids and maximizing the yield of

virion-associated nucleic acids [29]. Briefly, ants were first ground using tissue homogenizer

and sterile steel beads. Viral particles from individual or pooled ant samples were first

isolated using centrifugation and filtration techniques and they were further

concentrated by ultracentrifugation. Contaminating non-encapsidated nucleic acids were

then digested by DNase and RNase digestion treatments. Following this, encapsidated

DNA and RNA molecules resistant to the DNase and RNase treatments were extracted. A

series of molecular amplification was subsequently carried out, including reverse

transcription, Klenow fragment treatment, and amplification of the viral DNA and RNA

using barcoded PCR primers. Finally, amplification products were pooled into 3 libraries

(each composed of 72 amplification products including army ant samples and positive/negative

controls) and sequenced by Genewiz (Leipzig, Germany) using a single lane on an Illumina

HiSeq 3000/HiSeq 4000 sequencer (2 × 150 bp sequencing). Bioinformatics analyses were

performed as described previously [30]. Briefly, demultiplexing was performed with the agrep

command-line tool to assign reads to the samples from which they originated [31]. Adaptors were

removed and the reads were filtered for quality (q30 quality and read length >45 nt) using

Cutadapt 3.1 [32]. The cleaned reads were assembled *de novo* into contigs using SPAdes 3.6.2 [33].

Putative virus reads obtained using BLASTx [34] with e-values < 0.001 were retained.

Amplification products (amplicons) of four samples (N° 166, 185, P13-3.2 and P17-2.2,

Supplementary Table 1) were also sequenced in parallel using the recently developed Flongle

(flow cell dongle) sequencing system (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, Oxford, UK). These

amplicons were purified using Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA,

USA). Library construction for the Flongle sequencing system was performed using the SQK-

LSK109 Kit, following the manufacturer's instructions. Four Flongle Flow Cell (R9.4.1) were

used for sequencing. The bioinformatics analysis of the Nanopore reads was carried out as

follows: accurate base calling was performed using Guppy (v5.0.16; available online at

https://nanoporetech.com/). Adapter and primer (Dodeca linker) removal was then performed

using Porechop v0.2.4 (available online at https://github.com/rrwick/Porechop). The quality of

reads was investigated using NanoPlot v1.33.0 [35]. Taxonomic assignment was achieved on

cleaned Nanopore reads through searches against the NCBI nr protein database using

DIAMOND 0.9.22 with an e-value threshold of < 0.001 [36].

Dorylus sp. cytochrome oxidase I reads inventory and taxonomic assignment

Illumina reads assigned to *Dorylus* sp. *cytochrome oxidase I* gene using BLASTx searches were

recovered and further assembled using SPAdes [33]. Contigs and representative *cytochrome*

oxidase I gene sequences of *Dorylus* sp. specimens representing all six recognized subgenera

[37] were subsequently aligned using MUSCLE with default settings [38]. A phylogenetic tree was

constructed using the maximum likelihood method implemented in PhyML 3.1 [39]. The HKY85

substitution model was selected assuming an estimated proportion of invariant sites of 0.542

and 4 gamma-distributed rate categories to account for rate heterogeneity across sites. The

gamma shape parameter was estimated directly from the data (gamma=1.219). Support for

internal branches was assessed using the aLRT test (SH-Like).

Inventory of virus contigs and putative taxonomic assignment

One of the critical aspects of using BLAST-based searches to assign contigs to viral families is

the minimum length of the contig being queried. We have recently conducted a simulation

experiment that has revealed that the accuracy of the BLASTx virus family and genus

assignations are high, *i.e.* >97.9% and >90.6%, respectively, when contigs have lengths ≥200

nt [29]. We therefore selected contigs with lengths ≥200 nt and retained viral BLASTx

assignations of these contigs wherever they yielded e-values < 0.001.

Statistical analyses

The taxonomic assignations of ≥200 nt long virus contigs at the genus level (as determined by

best BLASTx hits) were scored for individual ants, including 67 individual workers and 78

individual soldiers. Differences between the number of viral genera associated with workers

and soldiers were compared using Mann-Whitney U-tests. Differences between the number of

viral genera associated with individual ants belonging to the *Dorylus sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade

(n = 76) and to the *Dorylus opacus/kohli* clade (n = 6) were also compared using Mann-Whitney

U-tests. Finally, differences between the number of viral genera associated with individual ants

from 20 *Dorylus* colonies ($4 \leq n \leq 8$) were compared using the Kruskal-Wallis H test.

Phylogenetic analyses of most prevalent virus families

Contigs assigned to the families *Bidnaviridae*, *Dicistroviridae*, *Hepeviridae*, *Iflaviridae*,

Microviridae, *Nodaviridae*, *Picobirnaviridae*, *Polycipiviridae*, *Tombusviridae, Tymoviridae*

and *Solemoviridae*, as well the Picorna-like virus group and the CP-based sequence grouping

of viruses called cruciviruses [40], were translated and conserved protein sequences were

extracted (the even more prevalent parvo- and cycloviruses are analysed separately, see next

sections). These protein sequences together with representative sets of protein sequences

belonging to the virus groups/families to which the sequences were taxonomically assigned,

were aligned using MUSCLE with default settings [38]. Neighbor joining phylogenetic trees were

generated using MEGA version X [41] using alignments of major capsid protein sequences

(*Bidnaviridae* and *Microviridae*), coat protein sequences (CP; cruciviruses), RNA-dependent

RNA polymerase sequences (RdRp; *Dicistroviridae*, *Nodaviridae*, *Picobirnaviridae* and

Solemoviridae), polyprotein sequences (*Hepeviridae*, *Iflaviridae*, Picorna-like viruses,

Tombusviridae and *Tymoviridae*), and ORF5 sequences (*Polycipiviridae*). One thousand

bootstrap replicates were performed to quantify branch support.

Phylogenetic analyses of parvovirus-related sequences

We attempted to evaluate the genetic relationships of the parvovirus-related sequences (PRS)

that were by far the most abundant virus sequences amplified from the army ant samples. To

reconstruct the evolutionary relationships of the various major parvovirus lineages we focused

exclusively on the SF3 (Super Family 3) helicase domain of parvovirus protein, NS1. The SF3

helicase domain is highly conserved in all known parvoviruses and is therefore typically used

for phylogenetic analyses of divergent parvoviruses [42,43]. NS1 BLASTx assignations (with e-

values < 0.001) were initially retained and translated *in silico* using ORF finder (cut off ≥ 500

bp) (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/gorf/). NS1 protein sequences that were ≥200 aa in

length were then selected and processed using the software Interproscan which predicted the

presence of functional domains [44]. Four-hundred and three SF3 protein sequences were further

selected and combined with both 125 representative SF3 protein sequences of viruses from

publicly available transcript, genome and protein databases that were classified as belonging to

the *Parvoviridae* family [43] and 155 SF3 protein sequences collected from available genomes of

viruses classified in the *Parvoviridae* family from the NCBI genome database. The 683 SF3

protein sequences were aligned using MUSCLE with default settings [38]. A Neighbor-Joining

tree was produced using MEGA version X [41] with 1000 bootstrap replicates to quantify branch

support. Specifically, NS1 protein sequences that were ≥200 aa in length and which were

assigned to the genus *Chaphamaparvovirus* were aligned together with 32 representative

protein sequences from this genus using MUSCLE with default settings [38]. A phylogenetic tree

was constructed using the maximum likelihood method implemented in PhyML 3.1 [39]. The

WAG substitution model was selected by PhyML 3.1 assuming an estimated proportion of

invariant sites of 0.075 and four gamma-distributed rate categories to account for rate

heterogeneity across sites. The gamma shape parameter was estimated directly from the data

(gamma=1.337). Support for internal branches was assessed using the aLRT test (SH-Like).

Sequencing and phylogenetic analyses of complete cyclovirus genomes

Four hundred and seventy-two contigs ≥ 200 nt in length that shared similarity with members

of the *Circoviridae* family were identified using BLASTx searches with e-values < 0.001

(Supplementary Table 2). These contigs were initially aligned using MUSCLE and clustered in

22 genetic groups (data not shown). Abutting primer pairs were designed that were specific to

these genetic groups (Supplementary Table 3) to enable the recovery of full viral genomes using

polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with HiFi HotStart DNA polymerase (Kapa Biosystems,

USA) using cycling conditions per the manufacturer's instructions. The amplicons were

resolved on a 0.7% agarose gel using electrophoresis, and amplicons approximately 2–3 kb in

size were excised from the gel and purified using the Quick-spin PCR Product Purification Kit

(iNtRON Biotechnology, Korea). The amplicons were further cloned in pJET1.2 cloning

plasmid (ThermoFisher Scientific, USA), and the recombinant plasmids were then transformed

into XL1 blue *Escherichia coli* competent cells. The resulting plasmids from the transformants

were purified using a DNA-spin Plasmid DNA Purification kit (iNtRON Biotechnology,

Korea), and then sequenced by primer walking at Macrogen Inc. (Korea). Specifically, 45

translated Rep sequences recovered from 45 complete genome sequences and representative

cyclovirus Rep protein sequences were aligned using MUSCLE with default settings [38]. A

phylogenetic tree was constructed using the maximum likelihood method implemented in

PhyML 3.1 [39]. The LG+I+G substitution model was selected assuming an estimated proportion

of invariant sites of 0.075 and 4 gamma-distributed rate categories to account for rate

heterogeneity across sites. The gamma shape parameter was estimated directly from the data

(gamma=1.337). Support for internal branches was assessed using the aLRT test (SH-Like).

Results and discussion

Classification of army ants using mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase I gene

Before examining the diversity of viruses associated with the army ant samples that we

collected from Gabon, we attempted to determine the *Dorylus* species that the ants belonged to

by examining their mitochondrial *cytochrome oxidase I* genes. Ninety-nine reads from 24/209

of the ant samples, representing 17/29 of the ant colonies, that shared identity with the

cytochrome oxidase I gene were recovered from the Illumina sequencing run. Sixty-four of

these 99 reads were further assembled into five contigs with lengths ranging from 123 nt to 225

nt. Two maximum likelihood phylogenetic trees containing these contigs together with partial

sequences of the *cytochrome oxidase I* gene of 38 *Dorylus* sp. specimens (representing all six

recognized *Dorylus* subgenera) indicated that four contigs (contigs #1, #3, #4 and #5) clustered

with *Dorylus sjoestedti*, *Dorylus wilverthi* and *Dorylus rubellus* whereas the last contig (contig

#2) clustered with *Dorylus opacus*, *Dorylus kohli* and *Dorylus helvolus* (Supplementary Figure

1). While contig #2 comprised seven reads obtained from two samples of colony P6, contigs

#1, #3, #4 and #5 were composed of 57 reads obtained from 23 samples from 15 colonies (Table

1 and Supplementary Table 1).

In addition, 266 reads that shared identity with the *cytochrome oxidase I* gene were recovered

from four Nanopore sequencing runs. These Nanopore reads shared high identity with *Dorylus*

sjoestedti and *Dorylus wilverthi* suggesting that ant samples from the FM1 (not assigned by

Illumina reads), FM2 and P17 colonies were also related to these two army ant species. Finally,

no *cytochrome oxidase I* reads were identified from eleven ant colonies that, therefore,

remained taxonomically unassigned (Supplementary Table 1).

Dorylus sjoestedti, *Dorylus wilverthi* and *Dorylus rubellus* are army ant species that are

considered "swarm foragers" (most commonly known as driver ants) on the forest floor and in

the lower vegetation [37]. In contrast, *Dorylus opacus* and *Dorylus kohli* which hunt small

invertebrates and worms in the leaf-litter are more closely related to subterranean species of

Dorylus sp., than to the surface swarm foraging ants [37]. Overall, the mitochondrial *cytochrome*

oxidase I gene analysis confirmed that the army ants collected in our study were mostly of the

genus *Dorylus* and that they were therefore suitable for testing our overarching hypothesis that

army ants hunting live invertebrate and vertebrate prey in the deep forest ingest and accumulate

numerous plant and animal viruses present in an area around their temporary nests.

Genetic and morphological factors influence the army ant virome

The three sequencing libraries each contained an average of 50 million reads following removal

of short (<15 nt) sequences and individual sequence regions with low quality scores.

Overall, 443,645 contigs that were ≥200 nt in length were assembled and 46,377 of these

contigs (10.5%) exhibited sequence similarity to viruses (BLASTx e-values < 0.001). However,

only 22,406 of these 46,377 contigs (48.3%) exhibited sequence similarity to viral genera

recognized or in the process of being recognized by the International Committee on Taxonomy

of Viruses (BLASTx e-values < 0.001). These apparently virus-derived contigs yielded

detectable homology to viruses of 157 different viral genera in 56 viral families (Supplementary

Table 2); overall, a higher diversity than the 29 virus families identified from queens from 49

colonies of North American red fire ant *Solenopsis invicta* [45]. It is noteworthy that the most

frequently amplified viral sequences belonged to families containing viruses that are known to

infect invertebrates, including *Circoviridae*, *Dicistroviridae*, *Iflaviridae*, *Polycipiviridae* and

Parvoviridae (Figure 1, Supplementary Table 2). However, plant-, bacteria- and vertebrate-

associated viruses were also detected (Figure 1, Supplementary Table 2).

The taxonomic assignations of virus contigs ≥200 nt in length at the genus level were scored

for individual ants belonging to 20 *Dorylus* colonies, including 67 individual workers and 78

individual soldiers. No significant difference between the number of virus genera identified

from individual ants of the 20 *Dorylus* colonies were found (p-value = 0.1067), suggesting that

our roadside sampling survey in the Ogooué-Ivindo region of Gabon was reasonably

homogeneous. Remarkably, ants belonging to the *Dorylus opacus/kohli* clade yielded contigs

with homology to viruses in significantly fewer genera (median = 4.5, SD = 2.32) than ants

assigned to the *Dorylus sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade (median = 9, SD = 4.02; p-value = 0.0057).

While ant species in the *Dorylus opacus/kohli* clade hunt in leaf-litter and forage on forest floors

and on vegetation, the driver ant species from the *Dorylus sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade are swarm

raiders [25] that prey on invertebrates and occasionally on vertebrates [37]. These driver ants

therefore potentially hunt a wider diversity of prey that may result in the intake of a larger

diversity of viruses. This result needs to be further confirmed, however, since only eight ants

from the *Dorylus opacus/kohli* clade could be analyzed in this study (Table 1).

Finally, we found that contigs obtained from worker ants that were homologous to known

viruses represented significantly fewer virus genera (median = 7, SD = 3.52) than those

obtained from soldier ants (median = 10, SD = 4.27; p-value = 0.00007). Whereas worker ants

specialize in hunting and collecting food, soldier ants have powerful mandibles and specialize

in colony defence. In addition, the workers have smaller body sizes than soldier ants. At this

stage, we have no clear explanation as to why the diversity of viruses was higher in the soldier

ants than in the worker ants. We can hypothesise that i) soldiers simply eat more than workers,

ii) soldiers ingest a greater diversity of organisms than workers because some of the animals

that are attacked during defence are not necessarily food for the colony, and/or iii) have an

immune system that is more permissive of viral infections. Of relevance is also the fact that

host body size frequently shows a positive correlation with parasite species richness [46,47], large-

bodied soldier ants may provide greater cellular capacity for viral storage/replication than

small-body worker ants. Whatever the explanation, this observation suggests that driver-ant

soldiers may be ideal candidates for the surveillance of viruses circulating in tropical forest

ecosystems.

A broad diversity of bacterial, plant, invertebrate and vertebrate viruses is
accumulated by army ants

• **Bacteriophages**

Overall, 583 contigs ≥200 nt in length were assigned to five bacteriophage families

(*Herelleviridae*, *Microviridae*, *Namaviridae*, *Picobirnaviridae* and *Tectiviridae*) and three

"unclassified Caudoviricetes" subfamilies (recently abolished *Myoviridae*, *Podoviridae* and

Siphoviridae families [8]) with *Microviridae* accounting for 83.7% (488) of these: a result

suggesting that the VANA approach may not efficiently detect bacteriophages with a head and

tail structure (Supplementary Table 2). Phylogenetic analyses of the major capsid protein

sequences of 30 contigs assigned to the *Microviridae* revealed that these could be subdivided

into three groups (Figure 2): (1) one comprising 21 contigs branching with an unclassified

Gokushovirinae isolate (isolate Bog1183 53; accession number: YP_009160331) recovered

from a sphagnum-peat soil [48]; (2) one comprising four contigs clustering with Spiroplasma virus

SpV4; Acc. Nbr: NP_598320); and (3) one comprising five contigs grouping with two

unclassified microviruses (Alces alces faeces associated microvirus MP21 4718 isolated from

moose feces [Acc. Nbr: YP_009551424] and Fen7940 21 [Acc. Nbr: YP_009160412] isolated

from a sphagnum-peat soil).

Additionally, 33 contigs were assigned to the *Picobirnaviridae* family (Supplementary Table

2) that is comprised of viruses putatively infecting prokaryotes [49]. Our phylogenetic analyses

showed that three army ant contigs (for which we obtained RdRp sequences >130 aa) were

unambiguously nested within the picobirnavirus clade (Supplementary Figure 2).

A total of 152 contigs were assigned to the crucivirus group (Supplementary Table 2): a

growing group of viruses that appear to have originated through recombination between circular

Rep-encoding ssDNA (CRESS-DNA) viruses and RNA tombusviruses [40]. Phylogenetic

analyses of the predicted coat protein sequences of three crucivirus-like contigs (for which we

376 obtained CP sequences >440 aa) and representative sequences of cruciviruses showed that the

377 ant-derived sequences clustered with two unclassified cruciviruses (Crucivirus 250 [Acc. Nbr:

378 MT263579] and Crucivirus 268 [Acc. Nbr: MT263584]) isolated from water and sediments in

379 New Zealand (Supplementary Figure 2).

381 - **Plant viruses**

382 Overall, 101 contigs ≥200 nt in length were assigned to 22 genera in 14 plant virus families

383 (Figure 1, Supplementary Table 2). The size of these contigs ranged from 203 nt to 573 nt (mean

384 = 298 nt), suggesting that they originated from degraded plant virus nucleic acids. This

385 degradation could likely be a consequence of digestion processes along the trophic chain that

386 ended in their eventual presence within the sampled army ants. Plant virus contigs were

387 recovered from 30/145 individual ants (20.7%), including 22/78 soldiers (28.2%) and 8/67

388 workers (11.9%), suggesting that, as with other viruses, plant viruses tended to accumulate

389 more in soldiers. Interestingly, possible translations of several contigs shared high amino acid

390 identity (86-98%) with two well studied plant viruses: Peach virus D (PeVD; *Tymoviridae*

391 family; *Marafivirus* genus) and Sowbane mosaic virus (SoMV; *Solemoviridae* family;

392 *Sobemovirus* genus). While PeVD-like and SoMV-like contigs (≥ 200 nt) were respectively

393 recovered from four and five ant colonies, smaller (100 - 200 nt) PeVD-like and SoMV-like

394 contigs were, respectively identified from 11 and 9 colonies. These two plant viruses thus

395 appear highly prevalent in the hunting areas of the sampled army ants. Mapping of Illumina and

396 Nanopore reads and contigs assigned to PeVD and SoMV against reference genomes enabled

397 the assembly of partial genome scaffolds respectively covering 39% (2576/6612 nt) and 79.4%

398 (3163/3983 nt) of the PeVD and SoMV full length genomes. Phylogenetic analyses of the

399 SoMV-like RdRp sequences and the PeVD-like polyprotein sequences confirmed that these

400 army ant-associated viruses respectively clustered with known SoMV and PeVD isolates

(Figure 2). Besides detecting these two viruses, contigs with detectable homology with plant

virus families containing economically relevant crop pathogens (e.g., *Geminiviridae*,

Solemoviridae, and *Alphaflexiviridae* Figure 1) were also identified in this study and in a recent

study focusing on North American red fire ant *Solenopsis invicta* [45]. This confirms that a broad

diversity of plant viruses can potentially be detected within the viromes of top-end predators

like army ants that feed on a wide range of herbivorous insects such as whiteflies, aphids,

leafhoppers and thrips.

• **Invertebrate-infecting viruses**

Besides recovering a diverse array of vertebrate-, plant- and prokaryote-associated virus

sequences, we also identified a large number of highly diverse contigs with detectable

homology to known invertebrate-infecting viruses. These included single-strand positive-sense

RNA viruses of the *Nodaviridae* (82 contigs), *Dicistroviridae* (643 contigs) and *Iflaviridae*

(1067 contigs) families (Supplementary Table 2 and Figures 2 and 3), branching with

previously known viral sequences associated with or infecting invertebrates. We also found

1273 contigs sharing detectable homology with the order *Picornavirales* (Supplementary Table

2), including unclassified Picorna-like viruses (793 contigs) and viruses assigned to the

Sopolycivirus and *Chipolycivirus* genera of the *Polycipiviridae* family (480 contigs; Figure 3),

two genera of non-segmented, linear, positive-sense RNA viruses that have previously been

found associated with ants (family *Formicidae*) [50]. Finally, we recovered 103 contigs that were

assigned to the *Bidnaviridae* family: a new virus family that is composed of bipartite ssDNA

viruses infecting invertebrates. Interestingly, it has been suggested that bidnaviruses may have

arisen by integration of an ancestral parvovirus genome into a large virus-derived DNA

transposon from the polinton family [51]. We here propose that the bidnavirus-like contigs

recovered from army ants in our study are likely derived from diverse bipartite bidnaviruses,

because these contigs are scattered all through the bidnavirus phylogenetic tree (Figure 3).

• **Vertebrate-infecting viruses**

Because *Dorylus* species have been reported to occasionally prey on vertebrates and scavenge

on vertebrate carcasses, we logically investigated the presence of vertebrate viruses. Besides

contigs assigned to cyclovirus and parvovirus taxonomic groups that are known to infect

vertebrates (see below for a detailed analysis of these two taxa), we found 12 contigs that shared

high nucleotide identity with the *Hepeviridae* family, including 4 contigs assigned to the

Orthohepevirus genus (Supplementary Table 2). The family *Hepeviridae* includes five genera

whose members infect salmonid fish, mammals and birds [52]. Specifically, a 2017 nt long contig

shared 72.73% identity (e-value = 1.10^{-70}) with Hepevirus Mystacina/New Zealand/2013/3

(Acc. Nbr: KM204384), a hepevirus that was discovered associated with New Zealand lesser

short-tailed bats (*Mystacina tuberculata*) [53]. This result was further confirmed by phylogenetic

analyses (Figure 3), and supports the hypothesis that the viromes of army ants can include

viruses derived from the vertebrates upon which they prey and /or scavenge.

Foraging army ants are reservoirs of a large diversity of parvoviruses and
cycloviruses

We focused on two viral families that have been extensively studied in recent years in the

context of metagenomics studies: *Parvoviridae* and *Circoviridae*. Both are ssDNA virus

families with member species sharing many biological, epidemiological and ecological

characteristics. During the last decade, parvoviruses (in particular chapparvoviruses) and

circoviruses (in particular cycloviruses) have been characterized from various fluid (e.g. blood)

and excretion samples (e.g. feces) from vertebrates [54-57]. Some of these studies have further

demonstrated that some chapparvoviruses and cycloviruses can actually infect vertebrate hosts

[55-57]. However, due to the wide distribution of both viral families also in invertebrates, their

natural host-ranges and the pathological characteristics of these viruses remain largely

uncertain. For this reason, we were particularly interested in determining the phylogenetic

relationships between parvovirus- and cyclovirus sequences found in army ants and those of

close relatives that have been sampled previously from vertebrates and invertebrates.

• **Parvoviruses**

The family *Parvoviridae* is composed of animal-infecting viruses which can collectively infect

almost all major vertebrate clades and both proto- and deuterostome invertebrates [58].

Parvovirus-related sequences (PRS) were by far the most abundant virus sequences amplified

from the army ant samples and accounted for 17,419 contigs (77.8% of all virus contigs).

Four hundred and three army ant-associated SF3 helicase domain sequences (a subdomain of

the parvovirus NS1 protein) were scattered around the parvovirus SF3 phylogenetic tree and

clustered with SF3 sequences from viruses in almost all parvovirus genera with the notable

exception of those in genera of the *Parvovirinae* subfamily (Figure 4). This suggests that a

range of animals infected by a broad diversity of parvoviruses was likely preyed or scavenged

upon by army ant colonies. These animals were likely predominantly invertebrates including

arthropods, molluscs, annelids, nematodes, and cnidarians (Figure 4). This phylogenetic

analysis also revealed parvoviruses that might infect army ants. Specifically, some clades

contained only army ant-derived SF3 sequences (see for instance the clade located between the

two ambidensovirus groups, Figure 4) and it is plausible that the parvoviruses from which these

sequences were derived may have been directly infecting the army ants.

We further focused on the genetic relationships of the NS1 proteins of chapparvovirus isolates

because, while these parvoviruses have been primarily identified by metagenomic studies of

animal feces, they have also been both isolated from the tissues of vertebrates (including

reptiles, mammals, and birds [54,59]) and found as endogenous parvoviral elements (EPVs) within

invertebrate genomes [60]. Recently, this parvovirus group was split into two distinct sub-groups

corresponding to two newly established genera: *Ichthamaparvovirus* and *Chaphamaparvovirus*

[58]. While ichthamaparvoviruses are known to infect fishes and potentially also invertebrates,

chaphamaparvoviruses have only so far been found in vertebrates [60].

Among the parvovirus-like contigs from army ants were several lineages of highly diverse

chapparvoviruses (Figure 5) that likely reflect the wide range of prey and carrion upon which

these ants feed. These apparently chapparvovirus-derived contigs clustered with invertebrate

EPVs (*Mesobuthus martensii*, *Catajapyx aquilonaris* and *Nephila pilipes*) and sequences

recovered from bird swabs and a human plasma sample (Figure 5). This suggests that the

diversity of chapparvoviruses that infect army ants potentially resulted from the ingestion of

infected invertebrates and that chapparvoviruses isolated from animal feces or human plasma

may have been derived directly from either parasitic or ingested invertebrates

- **Cycloviruses**

Four hundred and seventy-two contigs $\geq$ 200 nt in length with detectable homology to

sequences of viruses in the family *Circoviridae* (that comprises two genera: *Circovirus* and

Cyclovirus) clustered in 22 genetic groups (data not shown). Here, we were able to obtain

potentially complete genomes of 45 isolates representing the 22 genetic groups from 17 army

ant colonies. These genomes, with lengths ranging from 1,723 to 2,024 nt, contained two ORFs

predicted to encode a replication-associated protein (Rep) and a capsid (CP) protein. A

conserved nonanucleotide motif (TAGTATTAC) that is typical of the members of the

Circoviridae family was identified on the *cp*-encoding strand of the 45 genomic sequences.

Similarly, all genomes contained two intergenic regions, one located between the 5′ ends of the

rep and *cp* ORFs, and another between the 3′ ends of the *cp* and *rep* ORFs: again genomic

features common in the *Circoviridae* family. Finally, ten out of the 45 *Circoviridae* genome

sequences have an apparent intron in the *rep* coding region that is possibly spliced to yield a

functional Rep. A phylogenetic analysis showed that the 45 translated Rep sequences are all

nested within the phylogenetic tree that included Rep sequences of representative isolates of

the *Cyclovirus* genus (Figure 6). Thirty-eight out of the 45 army ant-associated cyclovirus Rep

sequences clustered in four groups that respectively contained seven isolates (cluster I in Figure

6), eleven isolates (cluster II in Figure 6), ten isolates (cluster III in Figure 6) and ten isolates

(cluster VI in Figure 6). Given that viruses within the *Circoviridae* family are classified into

species based on genome-wide pairwise identities with an 80% species demarcation threshold

[61], the 45 army ant-associated cycloviruses could reasonably be classified into nine new species

(Army ant associated cyclovirus 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10) and two existing *Cyclovirus* species.

Specifically, the seven isolates of cluster I (Army ant associated cyclovirus 11) shared 90.8-

91.8% identity with Pacific flying fox associated cyclovirus 3 (Acc. Nbr. KT732787,

KT732788 and KT732789) and Army ant associated cyclovirus 7 (Acc. Nbr ON324106) shared

80.6% with Bat cyclovirus isolate CyVLysokaP4_CMR_2014 (Acc. Nbr MG693174) which

was isolated in Cameroon from fecal samples of *Eidolon helvum*, a fruit-eating bat [62].

Interestingly, a Rep sequence recovered from one of the army ant samples (Army ant associated

cyclovirus 10, Acc. Nbr. ON324073) shared 262/278 amino acids (94% identity) with a human

cyclovirus (isolate VS5700009, Acc. Nbr. YP_008130363) isolated from a patient with an

unexplained paraplegia from Malawi [57]. The CP sequence predicted from the same assembled

genome-length contig shared 162/185 aa (88% identity) with an unclassified cyclovirus (isolate

ZM36a, Acc. Nbr. YP_009104365) detected within the intestinal contents of a shrew in Zambia

[63]. Cyclovirus ZM36a was also closely related to cycloviruses initially identified from human

patients with central nervous system manifestations [64]. These results stress the need to better

monitor and understand the circulation of cycloviruses between invertebrates, humans and

rodents, and the potential of army ants as natural samplers: perhaps even of viruses directly

related to human diseases.

Conclusion

This study suggests that predators and scavengers such as army ants can be used to sample

broad swathes of environmental viromes including viruses infecting plants, invertebrates and

vertebrates. Although not completely unbiased (insects will still have feeding preferences that

preclude the sampling of all viruses in an ecosystem), using army ants to sample tropical forest

viromes will likely yield sequence data from a more diverse array of viruses than if plants or

animals with less diverse diets than army ants were sampled. Army ants will be a particularly

good tool for sampling invertebrate viruses in such environments given that they carry what

appears to be an extraordinary diversity and abundance of sequences related to known

invertebrate-infecting viruses. Although how thoroughly army ants sample the complete

invertebrate-associated viromes in the areas surrounding their temporary nests is still unclear,

it is undisputable that these top-end predators are probably sampling a non-negligible fraction

thereof.

Longitudinal metagenomic analyses of army ant-associated viral nucleic acids in agro-

ecological interfaces such as tropical forest areas that bound managed farmlands or human

settlements could be a highly convenient means of gaining insights into the ecosystem-scale

impacts of natural or human-mediated environmental changes on virus population compositions

and structure. Conversely, monitoring of changes in the relative diversity and prevalence of

different viral lineages within the invertebrate-associated virome (and even within plant- and

vertebrate-associated viromes) over time could provide a sensitive "leading" indicator of

changes in tropical forest ecosystem stability that could foreshadow more obvious changes in

these ecosystems due to climate change and other human-mediated disturbances [65].

Data availability

The raw sequence read data from the Illumina HiSeq and Flongle Nanopore runs are available

from the NCBI Sequence Read Archive, under the Bioproject accession number PRJNA900057

(Biosample accession numbers SAMN31677877, SAMN31677878, SAMN31677879,

SAMN31726898, SAMN31726899, SAMN31726900 and SAMN31726901). The 138 army

ant associated contig sequences used in the phylogenetic analyses were deposited in GenBank

under accession numbers OP883949-OP884086. The 45 army ant associated cyclovirus

genome sequences were deposited in GenBank under accession numbers ON324064-

ON324108.

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Author contributions

S.B., E.L. and P.R. designed the experiment; M.F., P.B., T.N.M., L.B.K., L.H.L., L.B., I.M.M,

G.D.M, F.R.N, J.S.K, M.Y, S.B and E.L collected the army ants; M.F., B.R., L.C., E.F., S.K.

and J.M.C. performed the molecular biology experiments; M.F., B.R., D.F., F.M., M.O., A.V.

and P.R. analyzed the data; B.R., A.V. and P.R. produced the figures; D.P.M. and P.R. wrote

the first draft, all authors contributed editorially to the manuscript, and author order was

determined on the basis of these duties.

Ethics declarations

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing financial or non-financial interests.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: Sequence identity distribution analysis of viral sequences from the army ant

virome. Each dot represents an assembled sequence contig with the corresponding protein

identity (best BLASTx e-values < 0.001) to plant (top) and animal virus (bottom) in the

GenBank nonredundant database.

Figure 2: Phylogenies of the sequences of the viruses in the families *Microviridae*,

***Solemoviridae*, *Tymoviridae*, *Nodaviridae* and *Dicistroviridae*.** Sequences in red refer to army

ant-associated contigs. Neighbor joining phylogenetic trees were generated using alignments

of major capsid protein sequences (*Microviridae*), RNA-dependent RNA polymerase

sequences (*Dicistroviridae*, *Nodaviridae*, and *Solemoviridae*) and polyprotein sequences

(*Tymoviridae*). One thousand bootstrap replicates were performed to quantify branch support.

The scale bar depicts the number of amino acid substitutions per site.

Figure 3: Phylogenies of the sequences of the viruses in the families *Iflaviridae*,

***Bidnaviridae*, *Hepeviridae* and *Polycipiviridae*, as well as Picorna-like viruses.** Sequences in

red refer to army ant-associated contigs. Neighbor joining phylogenetic trees were generated

using alignments of polyprotein sequences (*Iflaviridae*, *Hepeviridae* and Picorna-like viruses),

major capsid protein sequences (*Bidnaviridae*) and ORF5 sequences (*Polycipiviridae*). One

thousand bootstrap replicates were performed to quantify branch support. The scale bar depicts

the number of amino acid substitutions per site.

Figure 4: Phylogeny of the sequences of the viruses in the family *Parvoviridae*. The

Neighbor joining phylogenetic tree was generated using alignments of SF3 protein sequences

with 500 bootstrap replicates to quantify branch support. Sequences in red refer to army ant-

associated contigs. Putative hosts of several parvoviruses are depicted at the extremity of the

branches. Genera of the *Parvoviridae* family are also indicated. The scale bar depicts the

number of amino acid substitutions per site.

Figure 5: Phylogeny of the chapparvoviruses. The maximum likelihood tree was generated

using alignments of NS1 protein sequences and the WAG substitution model assuming an

estimated proportion of invariant sites (of 0.075) and 4 gamma-distributed rate categories to

account for rate heterogeneity across sites. The gamma shape parameter was estimated directly

from the data (gamma=1.337). Support for internal branches was assessed using the aLRT test

(SH-Like). Sequences in red refer to army ant-associated contigs. Putative hosts of several

parvoviruses are depicted to the right of the branches. The two genera of the chapparvovirus

group are also indicated. The scale bar depicts the number of amino acid substitutions per site.

Figure 6: Phylogeny of the cycloviruses. The maximum likelihood tree was generated using

alignments of Rep protein sequences and the LG+I+G substitution model. Support for internal

branches was assessed using the aLRT test (SH-Like). Branches in red, grey and blue refer to

army ant-associated, classified and unclassified cyclovirus Rep sequences. The scale bar depicts

the number of amino acid substitutions per site. Branches with <0.8 aLRT support have been

collapsed with TreeGraph 2 [66]. Zoomed-in views of four regions of the phylogenetic tree are

depicted on the right side of the figure to better localize isolates of Cluster I (dark green area),

Cluster II (light blue area), Cluster III (dark orange area) and Cluster IV (dark red area).

Figure 1

Plant viruses

Genome	Family	Genus
ssDNA	*Geminiviridae*	*Begomovirus*
		Mastrevirus
dsDNA	*Caulimoviridae*	*Solendovirus*
dsRNA	*Partitiviridae*	*Betapartitivirus*
	Reoviridae	*Fijivirus*
		Phytoreovirus
ssRNA(+)	*Alphaflexiviridae*	*Potexvirus*
	Closteroviridae	*Closterovirus*
	Deltaflexiviridae	*Deltaflexivirus*
	Endornaviridae	*Alphaendornavirus*
	Luteoviridae	*Luteovirus*
	Solemoviridae	*Polerovirus*
		Sobemovirus
	Tombusviridae	*Alphacarmovirus*
		Maculavirus
	Tymoviridae	*Marafivirus*
		Tymovirus
	Virgaviridae	*Tobamovirus*
	Secoviridae	*Fabavirus*
		Nepovirus
		Torradovirus
		Waikavirus

Percentage identities %

Animal viruses

Genome	Family	Genus
ssDNA	*Bidnaviridae*	*Bidensovirus*
	Circoviridae	*Cyclovirus*
		Ambidensovirus
		Brevidensovirus
	Parvoviridae	*Chapparvovirus*
		Iteradensovirus
		Penstyldensovirus
	Smacoviridae	*Huchismacovirus*
		Porprismacovirus
dsDNA	*Baculoviridae*	*Alphabaculovirus*
		Betabaculovirus
	Caulimoviridae	*Solendovirus*
	Iridoviridae	*Chloriridovirus*
dsRNA	*Reoviridae*	*Cypovirus*
		Seadornavirus
ssRNA(-)	*Chuviridae*	*Mivirus*
	Phasmaviridae	*Orthophasmavirus*
ssRNA(+)	*Alphatetraviridae*	*Betatetravirus*
		Omegatetravirus
	Carmotetraviridae	*Alphacarmotetravirus*
		Aparavirus
		Centovirus
	Dicistroviridae	*Cripavirus*
		Triatovirus
	Hepeviridae	*Unclassified Hepeviridae*
	Iflaviridae	*Iflavirus*
	Metaviridae	*Errantivirus*
	Nodaviridae	*Alphanodavirus*
		Culannivirus
	Permutotetraviridae	*Alphapermutotetravirus*
	Polycipiviridae	*Chipolycivirus*
		Sopolycivirus
	Solinviviridae	*Nyfulvavirus*

Percentage identities %

Figure 2

Tymoviridae

Solemoviridae

Microviridae

Nodaviridae

Dicistroviridae

Figure 3

Iflaviridae

Picorna-like viruses

Bidnaviridae

Polycipiviridae

Hepeviridae

Figure 4

Cnidaria

Insects

Crustacea

Echinodermata

Platyhelminthes

Arachnida

Fish

Reptiles

Mammals

Hepandensovirus

Iteraparvovirus

Ambidensovirus

Ambidensovirus

Penstyldensovirus

Brevidensovirus

Chapparvovirus

Dependoparvovirus

Copiparvovirus

Erythroparvovirus

Tetraparvovirus

Aveparvovirus

Bocaparvovirus

Protoparvovirus

Amdoparvovirus

1.50   1.00   0.50   0.00

Figure 5

Figure 6

Circovirus Reps

Classified
Unclassified
This study

aLRT branch support
- 0.8
- 0.85
- 0.9
- 0.95
- 1

0.5 AA subs/site

cluster I

cluster II

cluster III

cluster IV

Table 1: Characteristics of the army ant samples. P21/P23 means that colonies P21 and P23 were pooled. The species assignation is based on Cytochrome oxidase I reads and contigs analysis. "nd" means non determined.

Ant colony number	Nb. of samples	Genus	Species	Foraging niche	Collection date	Collection location	GPS coordinates
FM1	4	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-07	Mendemba	nd
FM2	4	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-07	Mendemba	nd
FM3	4	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-07	Between Ntolo and Mekouma	nd
FM4	4	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-07	Between Ntolo and Mekouma	nd
FM5	4	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-07	Mekouma	nd
FM6	4	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-07	Between Mekouma and Malassa	nd
FM7	4	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-07	Mekambo	nd
FM8	4	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-07	Mekambo	nd
P1A	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-08	Mekambo	00°57.214' - 013°58.396'
P2A	5	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-08	Komambela	00°49.865' - 013°58.846'
P3A	8	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-09	Mekambo	00°56.681' - 013°59.032'
P4A	8	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-09	Between Ibong and Zoula	01°02.872' - 014°00.951'
P5	8	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-09	Between Ibea and Zoula	01°04.409' - 014°03.100'
P6	8	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. opacus/kohli* clade	leaf-litter	2019-07-09	Between Zoula and Grand Etoumbi	01°08.545' - 014°06.826'
P7	8	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-09	Between Massombo and Egopouma	01°16.394' - 014°06.873'
P8A	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-09	Between Ibea and Zoula	01°04.086' - 014°02.629'
P9	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-09	Between Ibea and Zoula	01°03.571' - 014°02.068'
P10	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-10	Between Mbessa and Malassa	00°54.502' - 014°01.582'
P11	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-12	Between Malassa and Mekouma	00°51.149' - 014°04.198'
P12	9	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-12	Between Ntolo and Mekouma	00°49.975' - 014°04.212'
P13	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-10	Between Mekouma and Ntolo	00°48.731' - 014°04.110'
P14	9	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-10	Between Mekouma and Ntolo	00°44.720' - 014°05.251'
P15	9	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-11	Mekambo	00°59.282' - 013°57.916'
P16	9	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-11	Mekambo	00°58.182' - 013°58.277'
P17	9	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-11	Mekambo	00°57.042' - 013°58.532'
P18	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-11	Mbeza	00°55.154' - 013°59.798'
P19	9	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-12	Between Mekambo and Mbeza	00°56.939' - 013°58.605'
P21/P23	5	*Dorylus* sp.	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	surface swarms	2019-07-12	Mbeza	00°55.167' - 013°59.793' / 00°52.804' - 014°03.581'
P24	10	*Dorylus* sp.	nd	nd	2019-07-12	Between Malassa and Mekouma	00°52.253' - 014°03.609'

Supplementary Figure 1: Phylogeny of the Illumina reads assigned to Dorylus sp. cytochrome oxidase I gene using BLASTx searches. A phylogenetic tree was constructed using the maximum likelihood method using the HKY85 substitution model assuming an estimated proportion of invariant sites of 0.542 and 4 gamma-distributed rate categories to account for rate heterogeneity across sites. The gamma shape parameter was estimated directly from the data (gamma=1.219). Support for internal branches was assessed using the aLRT test (SH-Like).

Supplementary Figure 2: Phylogenies of the sequences of the viruses in the Picobirnaviridae family, as well as cruciviruses. Sequences in red refer to army ant-associated contigs. Neighbor joining phylogenetic trees were generated using alignments of coat protein sequences (CP; cruciviruses) and RNA-dependent RNA polymerase sequences (RdRp; Picobirnaviridae). One thousand bootstrap replicates were performed to quantify branch support. The scale bar depicts the number of amino acid substitutions per site.

Supplementary Table 1: Additional characteristics of army ant samples. "nd" means not determined.

Ant colony number	Sample number	Sequencing number	Sample taxonomy	Number of processed ants
FM1	185	MGN-3_B02	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM1	186	MGN-3_C02	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM1	183	MGN-3_G03	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM1	184	MGN-3_H03	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM2	165	MGN-3_A04	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM2	166	MGN-3_B04	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM2	163	MGN-3_G05	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM2	164	MGN-3_H05	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM3	188	MGN-3_D02	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM3	189	MGN-3_E02	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM3	190	MGN-3_F02	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM3	191	MGN-3_G02	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM4	194	MGN-3_B01	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM4	195	MGN-3_C01	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM4	196	MGN-3_D01	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM4	193	MGN-3_H02	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM5	175	MGN-3_A03	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM5	176	MGN-3_B03	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM5	173	MGN-3_G04	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM5	174	MGN-3_H04	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM6	178	MGN-3_C03	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM6	179	MGN-3_D03	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM6	180	MGN-3_E03	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM6	181	MGN-3_F03	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM7	168	MGN-3_C04	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM7	169	MGN-3_D04	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM7	170	MGN-3_E04	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM7	171	MGN-3_F04	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM8	198	MGN-3_E01	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM8	199	MGN-3_F01	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM8	200	MGN-3_G01	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
FM8	201	MGN-3_H01	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P10	P10-reste	MGN-1_A05	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P10	P10-1.1	MGN-1_A06	nd	1 worker
P10	P10-1.2	MGN-1_B06	nd	1 soldier
P10	P10-2.1	MGN-1_C06	nd	1 worker
P10	P10-2.2	MGN-1_D06	nd	1 soldier
P10	P10-3.1	MGN-1_E06	nd	1 worker
P10	P10-3.2	MGN-1_F06	nd	1 soldier
P10	P10-4.1	MGN-1_G06	nd	1 worker
P10	P10-4.2	MGN-1_H06	nd	1 soldier
P11	P11-4.2	MGN-1_A04	nd	1 soldier
P11	P11-reste	MGN-1_B04	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P11	P11-1.1	MGN-1_B05	nd	1 worker
P11	P11-1.2	MGN-1_C05	nd	1 soldier
P11	P11-2.1	MGN-1_D05	nd	1 worker
P11	P11-2.2	MGN-1_E05	nd	1 soldier
P11	P11-3.1	MGN-1_F05	nd	1 worker

P11	P11-3.2	MGN-1_G05	nd	1 soldier
P11	P11-4.1	MGN-1_H05	nd	1 worker
P12	P12-1.1	MGN-1_C04	nd	1 worker
P12	P12-1.2	MGN-1_D04	nd	1 soldier
P12	P12-2.1	MGN-1_E04	nd	1 worker
P12	P12-2.2	MGN-1_F04	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P12	P12-3.1	MGN-2_A07	nd	1 worker
P12	P12-3.2	MGN-2_B07	nd	1 soldier
P12	P12-4.1	MGN-2_C07	nd	1 worker
P12	P12-4.2	MGN-2_D07	nd	1 soldier
P12	P12-reste	MGN-2_E07	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P13	P13-2.2	MGN-2_A06	nd	1 soldier
P13	P13-3.1	MGN-2_B06	nd	1 worker
P13	P13-3.2	MGN-2_C06	nd	1 soldier
P13	P13-4.1	MGN-2_E06	nd	1 worker
P13	P13-4.2	MGN-2_F06	nd	1 soldier
P13	P13-1.1	MGN-2_F07	nd	1 worker
P13	P13-reste	MGN-2_G06	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P13	P13-1.2	MGN-2_G07	nd	1 soldier
P13	P13-2.1	MGN-2_H07	nd	1 worker
P14	P14-1.2	MGN-2_A05	nd	1 soldier
P14	P14-2.1	MGN-2_B05	nd	1 worker
P14	P14-2.2	MGN-2_C05	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P14	P14-3.1	MGN-2_D05	nd	1 worker
P14	P14-3.2	MGN-2_E05	nd	1 soldier
P14	P14-4.1	MGN-2_F05	nd	1 worker
P14	P14-4.2	MGN-2_G05	nd	1 soldier
P14	P14-reste	MGN-2_H05	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P14	P14-1.1	MGN-2_H06	nd	1 worker
P15	P15-reste	MGN-2_A03	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P15	P15-1.1	MGN-2_A04	nd	1 worker
P15	P15-1.2	MGN-2_B04	nd	1 soldier
P15	P15-2.1	MGN-2_C04	nd	1 worker
P15	P15-2.2	MGN-2_D04	nd	1 soldier
P15	P15-3.1	MGN-2_E04	nd	1 worker
P15	P15-3.2	MGN-2_F04	nd	1 soldier
P15	P15-4.1	MGN-2_G04	nd	1 worker
P15	P15-4.2	MGN-2_H04	nd	1 soldier
P16	P16-4.1	MGN-2_A02	nd	1 worker
P16	P16-4.2	MGN-2_B02	nd	1 soldier
P16	P16-1.1	MGN-2_B03	nd	1 worker
P16	P16-reste	MGN-2_C02	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P16	P16-1.2	MGN-2_C03	nd	1 soldier
P16	P16-2.1	MGN-2_E03	nd	1 worker
P16	P16-2.2	MGN-2_F03	nd	1 soldier
P16	P16-3.1	MGN-2_G03	nd	1 worker
P16	P16-3.2	MGN-2_H03	nd	1 soldier
P17	P17-1.1	MGN-2_D02	nd	1 worker
P17	P17-1.2	MGN-2_E02	nd	1 soldier
P17	P17-2.1	MGN-2_F02	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker
P17	P17-2.2	MGN-2_G02	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P17	P17-3.1	MGN-2_H02	nd	1 worker

P17	P17-3.2	MGN-3_A09	nd	1 soldier
P17	P17-4.1	MGN-3_B09	nd	1 worker
P17	P17-4.2	MGN-3_C09	nd	1 soldier
P17	P17-reste	MGN-3_D09	nd	5 workers, 5 soldiers
P18	P18-3.1	MGN-3_A08	nd	1 worker
P18	P18-3.2	MGN-3_B08	nd	1 soldier
P18	P18-4.1	MGN-3_C08	nd	1 worker
P18	P18-4.2	MGN-3_D08	nd	1 soldier
P18	P18-reste	MGN-3_E08	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P18	P18-1.1	MGN-3_E09	nd	1 worker
P18	P18-1.2	MGN-3_F09	nd	1 soldier
P18	P18-2.1	MGN-3_G09	nd	1 worker
P18	P18-2.2	MGN-3_H09	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-2.1	MGN-3_A07	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-2.2	MGN-3_B07	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-3.1	MGN-3_C07	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-3.2	MGN-3_D07	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-4.1	MGN-3_E07	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-4.2	MGN-3_F07	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-reste	MGN-3_G07	nd	1 worker, 7 soldiers
P19	P19-1.1	MGN-3_G08	nd	1 soldier
P19	P19-1.2	MGN-3_H08	nd	1 soldier
P1A	P1A-reste	MGN-1_A11	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P1A	P1A-1.1	MGN-1_A12	nd	1 worker
P1A	P1A-1.2	MGN-1_B12	nd	1 soldier
P1A	P1A-2.1	MGN-1_C12	nd	1 worker
P1A	P1A-2.2	MGN-1_D12	nd	1 soldier
P1A	P1A-3.1	MGN-1_E12	nd	1 worker
P1A	P1A-3.2	MGN-1_F12	nd	1 soldier
P1A	P1A-4.1	MGN-1_G12	nd	1 soldier
P1A	P1A-4.2	MGN-1_H12	nd	1 worker
P21/23	P21/23-1.2	MGN-3_A06	nd	1 soldier
P21/23	P21/23-2.1	MGN-3_B06	nd	1 worker
P21/23	P21/23-2.2	MGN-3_C06	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P21/23	P21/23-reste	MGN-3_D06	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	5 workers, 5 soldiers
P21/23	P21/23-1.1	MGN-3_H07	nd	1 worker
P24	P24-larves	MGN-3_A05	nd	several larvae
P24	P24-3.1	MGN-3_B05	nd	1 worker
P24	P24-3.2	MGN-3_C05	nd	1 soldier
P24	P24-4.1	MGN-3_D05	nd	1 soldier
P24	P24-4.2	MGN-3_E05	nd	1 soldier
P24	P24-1.1	MGN-3_E06	nd	1 worker
P24	P24-reste	MGN-3_F05	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P24	P24-1.2	MGN-3_F06	nd	1 soldier
P24	P24-2.1	MGN-3_G06	nd	1 soldier
P24	P24-2.2	MGN-3_H06	nd	1 worker
P2A	P2A-1	MGN-1_B11	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P2A	P2A-2	MGN-1_C11	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 worker, 1 soldier
P2A	P2A-3	MGN-1_D11	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P2A	P2A-4	MGN-1_E11	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P2A	P2A-reste	MGN-1_F11	nd	13 workers
P3A	P3A-1	MGN-1_A10	nd	1 worker, 2 soldier

P3A	P3A-3.1	MGN-1_B10	nd	2 workers
P3A	P3A-3.2	MGN-1_C10	nd	1 soldier
P3A	P3A-4.1	MGN-1_D10	nd	1 worker
P3A	P3A-4.2	MGN-1_E10	nd	1 soldier
P3A	P3A-reste	MGN-1_F10	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P3A	P3A-2.1	MGN-1_G11	nd	1 worker
P3A	P3A-2.2	MGN-1_H11	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P4A	P4A-2.1	MGN-1_A09	nd	1 worker
P4A	P4A-2.2	MGN-1_B09	nd	1 soldier
P4A	P4A-3.1	MGN-1_C09	nd	1 worker
P4A	P4A-3.2	MGN-1_D09	nd	1 soldier
P4A	P4A-4	MGN-1_E09	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P4A	P4A-reste	MGN-1_F09	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P4A	P4A-1.1	MGN-1_G10	nd	1 worker
P4A	P4A-1.2	MGN-1_H10	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P5	P5-2	MGN-1_A08	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P5	P5-3.1	MGN-1_B08	nd	1 worker
P5	P5-3.2	MGN-1_C08	nd	1 soldier
P5	P5-4.1	MGN-1_D08	nd	1 worker
P5	P5-4.2	MGN-1_E08	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P5	P5-reste	MGN-1_F08	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P5	P5-1.1	MGN-1_G09	nd	1 worker
P5	P5-1.2	MGN-1_H09	nd	1 soldier
P6	P6-2.1	MGN-1_A07	nd	1 worker
P6	P6-2.2	MGN-1_B07	nd	1 soldier
P6	P6-3.1	MGN-1_C07	nd	1 worker
P6	P6-3.2	MGN-1_D07	*D. opacus/kohli* clade	1 soldier
P6	P6-4	MGN-1_E07	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P6	P6-reste	MGN-1_F07	*D. opacus/kohli* clade	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P6	P6-1.1	MGN-1_G08	nd	1 worker
P6	P6-1.2	MGN-1_H08	nd	1 soldier
P7	P7-1.1	MGN-1_G07	nd	1 worker
P7	P7-1.2	MGN-1_H07	nd	1 soldier
P7	P7-2	MGN-2_A10	nd	1 worker, 1 soldier
P7	P7-3	MGN-2_B10	*D. sjoestedti/wilverthi* clade	1 soldier
P7	P7-4.1	MGN-2_C10	nd	1 worker
P7	P7-4.2	MGN-2_D10	nd	1 worker
P7	P7-4.3	MGN-2_E10	nd	1 worker
P7	P7-reste	MGN-2_F10	nd	2 workers, 3 soldiers
P8A	P8A-3.1	MGN-2_A09	nd	1 worker
P8A	P8A-3.2	MGN-2_B09	nd	1 soldier
P8A	P8A-4.1	MGN-2_C09	nd	1 worker
P8A	P8A-4.2	MGN-2_D09	nd	1 soldier
P8A	P8A-5.1	MGN-2_E09	nd	1 worker
P8A	P8A-5.2	MGN-2_F09	nd	1 soldier
P8A	P8A-reste	MGN-2_G09	nd	4 workers, 5 soldiers
P8A	P8A-2.1	MGN-2_G10	nd	1 worker
P8A	P8A-2.2	MGN-2_H10	nd	1 soldier
P9	P9-1.2	MGN-2_A08	nd	1 soldier
P9	P9-2.1	MGN-2_B08	nd	1 soldier
P9	P9-2.2	MGN-2_C08	nd	1 soldier
P9	P9-3.1	MGN-2_D08	nd	1 worker

P9	P9-3.2	MGN-2_E08	nd	1 soldier
P9	P9-4.1	MGN-2_F08	nd	1 worker
P9	P9-4.2	MGN-2_G08	nd	1 soldier
P9	P9-reste	MGN-2_H08	nd	4 workers, 4 soldiers
P9	P9-1.1	MGN-2_H09	nd	1 worker

Supplementary Table 2: Number of virus-derived contigs yielding detectable homology to viruses using BLASTx (e-values < 0.001). Note that the Myoviridae, Podoviridae and Siphoviridae families were recently abolished

Family	Genus	Nucleic acid	Plant	Fungi	Bacteria	Vertebrate	Invertebrate	Archae	Amoeba	Alga	Virus	stramenopiles / alveolates / rhizaria	Number contigs > 200nt
Adenoviridae	*Mastadenovirus*	dsDNA				X							4
Alphaflexiviridae	*Potexvirus*	ssRNA (+)	X										1
Alphatetraviridae	*Betatetravirus*	ssRNA (+)					X						3
Alphatetraviridae	*Omegatetravirus*	ssRNA (+)					X						2
Asfarviridae	*Asfivirus*	dsDNA				X							2
Baculoviridae	*Alphabaculovirus*	dsDNA					X						9
Baculoviridae	*Betabaculovirus*	dsDNA					X						2
Bidnaviridae	*Bidensovirus*	ssDNA					X						103
Carmotetraviridae	*Alphacarmotetravirus*	ssRNA (+)					X						8
Caulimoviridae	*Solendovirus*	dsDNA	X				X						1
Chuviridae	*Mivirus*	ssRNA (-)					X						4
Circoviridae	*Cyclovirus*	ssDNA				X	X						303
Circoviridae	*Circovirus*	ssDNA				X							169
Closteroviridae	*Closterovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X										1
Deltaflexiviridae	*Deltaflexivirus*	ssRNA (+)	X	X									1
Dicistroviridae	*Aparavirus*	ssRNA (+)					X						287
Dicistroviridae	*Triatovirus*	ssRNA (+)					X						217
Dicistroviridae	*Cripavirus*	ssRNA (+)					X						138
Dicistroviridae	*Centovirus*	ssRNA (+)					X						1
Endornaviridae	*Alphaendornavirus*	dsRNA	X	X									2
Geminiviridae	*Begomovirus*	ssDNA	X										1
Geminiviridae	*Mastrevirus*	ssDNA	X										1
Genomoviridae	*Gemycircularvirus*	ssDNA		X		X							27
Genomoviridae	*Gemykibivirus*	ssDNA				X							17
Genomoviridae	*Gemygorvirus*	ssDNA				X							4
Genomoviridae	*Gemykolovirus*	ssDNA				X							4
Hepeviridae	*Orthohepevirus*	ssRNA (+)				X							4
Herelleviridae	*Tsarbombavirus*	dsDNA			X								3

Family	Genus	Genome							Count
Herelleviridae	*Sepunavirus*	dsDNA		X					2
Herelleviridae	*Agatevirus*	dsDNA		X					1
Herelleviridae	*Wphvirus*	dsDNA		X					1
Herpesviridae	*Muromegalovirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Herpesviridae	*Roseolovirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Iflaviridae	*Iflavirus*	ssRNA (+)				X			1067
Iridoviridae	*Chloriridovirus*	dsDNA				X			10
Iridoviridae	*Lymphocystivirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Lavidaviridae	*Sputnikvirus*	dsDNA						X	1
Luteoviridae	*Luteovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						1
Marseilleviridae	*Marseillevirus*	dsDNA					X		3
Marseilleviridae	*Tunisvirus*	dsDNA					X		1
Mesoniviridae	*Alphamesonivirus*	ssRNA (+)				X			1
Metaviridae	*Errantivirus*	ssRNA (+)				X			1
Microviridae	*Microvirus*	ssDNA		X					462
Microviridae	*Spiromicrovirus*	ssDNA		X					23
Microviridae	*Chlamydiamicrovirus*	ssDNA		X					2
Microviridae	*Bdellomicrovirus*	ssDNA		X					1
Mimiviridae	*Klosneuvirus*	dsDNA					X		11
Mimiviridae	*Mimivirus*	dsDNA					X		8
Mimiviridae	*Tupanvirus*	dsDNA					X		4
Mimiviridae	*Hokovirus*	dsDNA					X		3
Mimiviridae	*Indivirus*	dsDNA					X		3
Mimiviridae	*Moumouvirus*	dsDNA					X		3
Mimiviridae	*Catovirus*	dsDNA					X		1
Myoviridae	*Polybotosvirus*	dsDNA		X					4
Myoviridae	*Ficleduovirus*	dsDNA		X					2
Myoviridae	*Obolenskvirus*	dsDNA		X					2
Myoviridae	*Seunavirus*	dsDNA		X					2
Myoviridae	*Vequintavirus*	dsDNA		X					2
Myoviridae	*Vidavervirus*	dsDNA		X					2
Myoviridae	*Asteriusvirus*	dsDNA		X					1

Family	Genus	Genome							Count
Myoviridae	*Certrevirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Myoviridae	*Emdodecavirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Myoviridae	*Eneladusvirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Myoviridae	*Gelderlandvirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Myoviridae	*Schizotequatrovirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Myoviridae	*Tegunavirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Narnaviridae	*Narnavirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Nodaviridae	*Alphanodavirus*	ssRNA (+)				X	X		74
Nodaviridae	*Betanodavirus*	ssRNA (+)				X			7
Nodaviridae	*Culannivirus*	ssRNA (+)					X		1
Papillomaviridae	*Gammapapillomavirus*	dsDNA				X			3
Papillomaviridae	*Deltapapillomavirus*	dsDNA				X			2
Papillomaviridae	*Alefpapillomavirus*	dsDNA				X			1
Papillomaviridae	*Alphapapillomavirus*	dsDNA				X			1
Papillomaviridae	*Betapapillomavirus*	dsDNA				X			1
Papillomaviridae	*Dyorhopapillomavirus*	dsDNA				X			1
Partitiviridae	*Betapartitivirus*	dsRNA	X	X					8
Parvoviridae	*Ambidensovirus*	ssDNA					X		15040
Parvoviridae	*Iteradensovirus*	ssDNA					X		1389
Parvoviridae	*Chapparvovirus*	ssDNA				X	X		472
Parvoviridae	*Brevidensovirus*	ssDNA					X		377
Parvoviridae	*Protoparvovirus*	ssDNA				X			76
Parvoviridae	*Bocaparvovirus*	ssDNA				X			21
Parvoviridae	*Aveparvovirus*	ssDNA				X			19
Parvoviridae	*Dependoparvovirus*	ssDNA				X			9
Parvoviridae	*Penstyldensovirus*	ssDNA					X		6
Parvoviridae	*Copiparvovirus*	ssDNA				X			5
Parvoviridae	*Erythroparvovirus*	ssDNA				X			5
Permutotetraviridae	*Alphapermutotetravirus*	ssRNA (+)					X		9
Phasmaviridae	*Orthophasmavirus*	ssRNA (-)					X		1
Phycodnaviridae	*Chlorovirus*	dsDNA						X	28
Phycodnaviridae	*Prasinovirus*	dsDNA						X	14

Family	Genus	Genome							Count
Phycodnaviridae	*Prymnesiovirus*	dsDNA						X	8
Phycodnaviridae	*Coccolithovirus*	dsDNA						X	1
Phycodnaviridae	*Phaeovirus*	dsDNA						X	1
Picobirnaviridae	*Picobirnavirus*	dsRNA		X	X				33
Picornaviridae	*Livupivirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				3
Picornaviridae	*Enterovirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				2
Picornaviridae	*Megrivirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				2
Picornaviridae	*Hepatovirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				1
Picornaviridae	*Limnipivirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				1
Picornaviridae	*Rabovirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				1
Picornaviridae	*Rosavirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				1
Picornaviridae	*Tremovirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				1
Pithoviridae	*Pithovirus*	dsDNA					X		1
Podoviridae	*Drulisvirus*	dsDNA		X					1
Podoviridae	*Fipvunavirus*	dsDNA		X					1
Podoviridae	*Jwalphavirus*	dsDNA		X					1
Podoviridae	*Kuravirus*	dsDNA		X					1
Polycipiviridae	*Sopolycivirus*	ssRNA (+)				X			477
Polycipiviridae	*Chipolycivirus*	ssRNA (+)				X			3
Polyomaviridae	*Gammapolyomavirus*	dsDNA			X				2
Poxviridae	*Orthopoxvirus*	dsDNA			X				25
Poxviridae	*Parapoxvirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Reoviridae	*Cypovirus*	dsRNA				X			5
Reoviridae	*Fijivirus*	dsRNA	X						4
Reoviridae	*Coltivirus*	dsRNA			X				3
Reoviridae	*Phytoreovirus*	dsRNA	X						3
Reoviridae	*Orbivirus*	dsRNA			X				2
Reoviridae	*Orthoreovirus*	dsRNA			X				2
Reoviridae	*Seadornavirus*	dsRNA			X	X			2
Retroviridae	*Gammaretrovirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				232
Retroviridae	*Betaretrovirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				1
Retroviridae	*Lentivirus*	ssRNA (+)			X				1

Family	Genus	Genome							Count
Secoviridae	*Waikavirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						10
Secoviridae	*Fabavirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						2
Secoviridae	*Nepovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						2
Secoviridae	*Torradovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						2
Siphoviridae	*Skunavirus*	dsDNA			X				7
Siphoviridae	*Cheoctovirus*	dsDNA			X			X	2
Siphoviridae	*Detrevirus*	dsDNA			X				2
Siphoviridae	*Incheonvirus*	dsDNA			X				2
Siphoviridae	*Jerseyvirus*	dsDNA			X				2
Siphoviridae	*Nipunavirus*	dsDNA			X				2
Siphoviridae	*Efquatrovirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Jesfedecavirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Klementvirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Moineauvirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Pahexavirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Pamexvirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Samistivirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Saphexavirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Tunavirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Siphoviridae	*Wilnyevirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Smacoviridae	*Huchismacovirus*	ssDNA				X	X		1
Smacoviridae	*Porprismacovirus*	ssDNA				X	X		1
Solemoviridae	*Sobemovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						22
Solemoviridae	*Polerovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						2
Solinviviridae	*Nyfulvavirus*	ssRNA (+)					X		1
Tectiviridae	*Alphatectivirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Tectiviridae	*Gammatectivirus*	dsDNA			X				1
Tombusviridae	*Alphacarmovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						12
Totiviridae	*Totivirus*	dsRNA		X					5
Tymoviridae	*Marafivirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						13
Tymoviridae	*Maculavirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						8
Tymoviridae	*Tymovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X						3

Virgaviridae	*Tobamovirus*	ssRNA (+)	X			1
Not determined	Unclassified cruciviruses	ssDNA			X	152
Not determined	Unclassified Picorna-like viruses	ssRNA (+)		X		793

Supplementary Table 3: list of abutting primers used for amplifying the whole genomes of army ant associated cycloviruses

Primer name	Primer sequence
AntvOTU2_F	CGCTGACTCGAATATATACCTAGAGCCCC
AntvOTU2_R	TAGTCTCAGGTTCCTAAGTTGACTCGATGG
AntvOTU3_F	TCCCTGCAGATGTTTTGTTCCAGTAGTAGG
AntvOTU3_R	TTTTGGTAAGTACATGCTTGGACAGTCTGG
AntvOTU4_F	AGAATCTTTTGCGAATTCTTCTGCTTCTGC
AntvOTU4_R	ATCTACTACAAACCAAGAGGACTTTGGTGG
AntvOTU5_F	GAAGATGTCCGAAAGAGTATTATGGAGCCC
AntvOTU5_R	GTTGGGTCGGTGCTGTCATAATTCATTCC
AntvOTU6_F	ACGTTATTTTCAACAGTAACAGAGGCAACC
AntvOTU6_R	TAACAGTTTTTGGGGTGCTAGCTTCTTACC
AntvOTU11_F	AGAGCATTAGAGTCAACATTCTCAATACGCG
AntvOTU11_R	TAATCTCCCGCATTATTGTGCTCTTATCGC
AntvOTU16_F	TTTTGGTAAGTACACGCTTGGATAGTCTGG
AntvOTU16_R	TCCCTGCAGATGTTTTGTTCCAGTAGTAGG
AntvOTU17_F	CCATCAAGAAGCATCTGCATCACTCAATCC
AntvOTU17_R	CGTTAAATCGCATGGGTTTTGTAAGATTGC
AntvOTU19_F	GACAACTGGTACCATTTCACCAACTACACC
AntvOTU19_R	CACTCTGGTGTTGGAGGTGATAATGATTCG
AntvOTU20_F	CCATACAAGGTACAAGTGAAAGGAGGATTCG
AntvOTU20_R	GTAGCGATCCATTATTTTGAGCATTTCGTCG
AntvOTU22_F	ACAAAATCAAACATACTGTCGAAAAGGCGG
AntvOTU22_R	TCGTCTGTCCCGTTTGCCTTTTCAATATGG