Host interactions of novel *Crassvirales* species belonging to multiple

families infecting bacterial host, *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus* WH2

Novel *Crassvirales* species infecting *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus WH2*

Bhavya Papudeshi[1], Alejandro A. Vega[2,9], Cole Souza[2], Sarah K. Giles[1], Vijini

Mallawaarachchi[1], Michael J. Roach[1], Michelle An[2], Nicole Jacobson[2], Katelyn McNair

[8], Maria Fernanda Mora[2], Karina Pastrana[2], Lance Boling[2], Christopher Leigh[3], Clarice

Harker[1], Will S. Plewa[1], Susanna R. Grigson[1], George Bouras[6], Przemysław

Decewicz[4,1], Antoni Luque[7,8], Lindsay Droit [5], Scott A. Handley[5], David Wang[5], Anca M.

Segall[2], Elizabeth A. Dinsdale[1], Robert A. Edwards[1]

[1]Flinders Accelerator for Microbiome Exploration, College of Science and Engineering,

Flinders University, Bedford Park, Adelaide, SA, 5042, Australia

[2]Department of Biology, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego,

CA, 92182, USA

[3]Adelaide Microscopy, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA, 5005, Australia

[4]Department of Environmental Microbiology and Biotechnology, Institute of

Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, University of Warsaw, Miecznikowa 1, Warsaw, 02-

096, Poland

[5]Department of Pathology & Immunology, Washington University School of Medicine,

St. Louis, MO, 63110, USA

[6]Adelaide Medical School, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of

Adelaide, Adelaide, SA, 5005, Australia

[7]Department of Mathematics and Statistics, San Diego State University, 5500

Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA, 992182, USA

[8]Computational Science Research Center, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile

Drive, San Diego, CA, 992182, USA

[9]David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles,

CA, USA

*Corresponding author: Bhavya Papudeshi, nala0006@flinders.edu.au

Abstract

Bacteroides, the prominent bacteria in the human gut, play a crucial role in degrading complex polysaccharides. Their abundance is influenced by phages belonging to the *Crassvirales* order. Despite identifying over 600 *Crassvirales* genomes computationally, only few have been successfully isolated. Continued efforts in isolation of more *Crassvirales* genomes can provide insights into phage-host-evolution and infection mechanisms. We focused on wastewater samples, as potential sources of phages infecting various *Bacteroides* hosts. Sequencing, assembly, and characterization of isolated phages revealed 14 complete genomes belonging to three novel *Crassvirales* species infecting *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus* WH2. These species, *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01, *Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc03, and 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11, spanned two families, and three genera, displaying a broad range of virion productions. Upon testing all successfully cultured *Crassvirales* species and their respective bacterial hosts, we discovered that they do not exhibit co-evolutionary patterns with their bacterial hosts. Furthermore, we observed variations in gene similarity, with greater shared similarity observed within genera. However, despite belonging to different genera, the three novel species shared a unique structural gene that encodes the tail spike protein. When investigating the relationship between this gene and host interaction, we discovered evidence of purifying selection, indicating its functional importance. Moreover, our analysis demonstrated that this tail spike protein binds to the TonB-dependent receptors present on the bacterial host surface. Combining these observations, our findings provide insights into phage-host interactions

and present three *Crassvirales* species as an ideal system for controlled infectivity

experiments on one of the most dominant members of the human enteric virome.

Keywords

Crassvirales, wastewater, phage-host-interaction, tail spike protein, TonB-depdenent

receptors, purifying selection

Impact statement

Bacteriophages play a crucial role in shaping microbial communities within the human

gut. Among the most dominant bacteriophages in the human gut microbiome are

Crassvirales phages, which infect Bacteroides. Despite being widely distributed, only a

few *Crassvirales* genomes have been isolated, leading to a limited understanding of

their biology, ecology, and evolution. This study isolated and characterized three novel

Crassvirales genomes belonging to two different families, and three genera, but

infecting one bacterial host, *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus* WH2. Notably, the observation

confirmed the phages are not co-evolving with their bacterial hosts, rather have a

shared ability to exploit similar features in their bacterial host. Additionally, the

identification of a critical viral protein undergoing purifying selection and interacting with

the bacterial receptors opens doors to targeted therapies against bacterial infections.

Given Bacteroides role in polysaccharide degradation in the human gut, our findings

advance our understanding of the phage-host interactions and could have important

implications for the development of phage-based therapies. These discoveries may hold

implications for improving gut health and metabolism to support overall well-being.

Data summary

The genomes used in this research are available on Sequence Read Archive (SRA)

within the project, PRJNA737576. *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus* WH2, *Kehishuvirus* sp.

'tikkala' strain Bc01, *Kolpuevirus sp.* frurule' strain Bc03, and 'Rudgehvirus jaberico'

strain Bc11 are all available on GenBank with accessions NZ_CP072251.1 (*B.*

cellulosilyticus WH2), QQ198717 (Bc01), QQ198718 (Bc03), and QQ198719 (Bc11),

and we are working on making the strains available through ATCC. The 3D protein

structures for the three *Crassvirales* genomes are available to download at

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Introduction

The intricate relationship between gut microbiomes and human health is characterized

by the diverse microbial communities that help with digestion, regulate the immune

system, and alter brain function (1–3). Metagenomics, a culture-independent technique

is used to capture microbial diversity in a sample (4,5), has transformed our

understanding of bacteria and the corresponding bacteriophages in the environment (6–

9). These metagenomic datasets have revealed a correlation between bacterial and

bacteriophage populations, which suggests bacteriophages play a role in modulating

bacterial populations (10,11). In particular, the human gut microbiome exhibits varying

bacterial densities, including a high abundance of Bacteroidota (formerly Bacteroidetes)

(12–14), which are shaped by the phages belonging to the *Crassvirales* order. These

dsDNA bacteriophages have a podovirus-like morphology, genomes ranging between

and 200 kb, and conserved gene order (15–17). They are widespread, constituting

a stable component of an individual's microbiome, and do not appear to be associated

with human health or disease states (16,18).

The first phage within *Crassvirales* order was computationally discovered by cross-

assembly of DNA sequence reads from human gut microbiome samples (19). Since,

nearly 600 *Crassvirales* genomes have been identified computationally, leading to the

International Committee of Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) formally classifying the

Crassvirales order into four families, ten subfamilies, 42 new genera, and 72 new

species (17,20). The classification relied on phylogenetic analysis of conserved

structural genes, including the major capsid protein (MCP), terminase large subunit

(*terL*), and portal protein (portal). Additionally, the average nucleotide identity (ANI)

species cutoff was set to 95 % identity over 85 % genome coverage.

The identification of numerous *Crassvirales* genomes has advanced our understanding

of this viral order. Similar to other phages, these genomes contain three discernible

regions encoding for 1) structural proteins involved in producing the capsid and tail

genes, 2) transcription proteins and 3) replication proteins crucial for successful phage

replication in different infection stages (15). Gene homology analysis showed that

majority of the genes are highly variable when compared with other genomes from this

order. Comparative genomics further displayed unique biological characteristics of

Crassvirales species (21,22), including switching DNA polymerases, alternative coding

strategies (23–26), and the variable intron density across lineages (15,26). Overall,

functional annotation of *Crassvirales* genomes remain challenging, with majority of the

genes annotated as hypothetical proteins lacking known biological function, with little to

no similarity with sequences in reference databases. These challenges can be

addressed through experimental approaches that can help elucidate the functions of

these uncharacterized genes or proteins.

The first step in experimental approaches is phage isolation, which requires the

knowledge of their host species, and the ability to culture them. This has led to only four

successful isolates obtained so far, including *Kehishuvirus primarius* (crAss001)

infecting *Bacteroides intestinalis* APC919/174 (27), *Wulfhauvirus bangladeshii* DAC15

and DAC17 from wastewater effluent infecting *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron* VPI-5482

(28),and *Jahgtovirus secundus* (crAss002) infecting *Bacteroides xylanisolvens*

APCS1/XY(29). All these isolates exhibited host specialist morphotypes that can be

maintained in the continuous host culture, but none possess lysogeny-related genes

(27,30). The proposed mechanism of persistence includes where the bacterial host

cycles between sensitive and resistant states through altering the genes encoding

surface transporters and capsular polysaccharide structures (CPS) on the bacterial

surface (30,31). Further to improve the annotations, cryogenic-electron microscopy of *K.*

primarius provided functional assignments to the virion proteins, and an insight into the

infection mechanism, revealing how the capsid and tail store cargo proteins aid in initial

host infection (32). Continued efforts in isolation of more *Crassvirales* genomes can

provide insights into phage-host-evolution, comprehensive protein annotation and

elucidation of infection mechanisms.

Here we present the successful isolation of 14 *Crassvirales* isolates from wastewater,

that include three novel species, belonging to families *Steigviridae* and *Intestiviridae.*

Remarkably, all these isolates infect the same host, *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus* WH2.

We investigate the genes playing a role in host interaction, providing insights into the

evolution of these dominant phages, and how their interactions shape the gut

microbiome.

Results

Search for *Crassvirales* phages

We obtained a total of 41 phages from wastewater infecting four different *Bacteroides*

species, *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2, *B. fragilis* NCTC 9343, *B. stercoris* CC31F, and *B.*

uniformis ATCC 8492. The phages were sequenced using Oxford Nanopore or Illumina

MiSeq platforms, and the resulting sequences were assembled. We performed BLASTN

searches of the assembled phages against the non-redundant (nr/nt) NCBI database for

taxonomic assignment. As a result, we identified 14 phages infecting *B. cellulosilyticus*

WH2 belong to *Crassvirales* order. Each of these phages were labelled with code

ranging from Bc01 to Bc14.

Isolation and taxonomic classification of *Crassvirales* isolates

Crassvirales isolates formed distinct clear circular plaques with a uniform diameter of 1

mm on soft agar overlays. We performed shotgun sequencing on the 14 isolates

phages, with Bc01 to Bc03, Bc05 to Bc11 sequenced on Oxford Nanopore platform, and

Bc01 to Bc08, Bc12 to Bc14 sequenced on the Illumina platform. The assemblies

produced multiple contigs, and our selection criteria to identify complete phage

genomes was based on presence of viral genes, highest read coverage and unitigs

(high quality contig) size of approximately 100 kb (Table 1). This resulted in complete

genomes for each of the 14 phages, that were polished with Illumina reads correcting

for substitution, insertion, and deletion errors.

Table 1: Taxonomic classification of the 14 *Crassvirales* genomes isolated from

wastewater infecting *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus* WH2

For taxonomic classification of these isolates, we applied the ICTV report guidelines for

defining taxonomy within *Crassvirales* order. Phylogenetic clustering of the conserved

portal gene and average nucleotide identity (ANI) species cutoff (95 % identity over 85

% genome coverage) identified three distinct clusters (Figure 1A). We selected the

highest confidence genomes: Bc01, Bc03, and Bc11 from each cluster. These three

isolates were compared against all known *Crassvirales* genomes through phylogenetic

clustering of conserved genes, major capsid protein (MCP), portal, terminase large

subunits (*terL*) genes to determine that Bc01 and Bc03 clusters belong to the

Steigviridae family, and Bc11 to the *Intestiviridae* family (Figure 1B, Figure S1).

Confirmation of the genus assignment was obtained through ANI and shared protein

information, which identified Bc01 to *Kehishuvirus*, Bc03 to *Kolpuevirus*, and Bc11 to a

novel genus group that we propose to name 'Rudgehvirus*'*.

Figure 1: Phylogenetic tree constructed using the portal protein using JTT model, CAT

approximation with 20 rate categories and outgroup set to *Cellulophaga* phage phi13:2

A) Phylogenetic tree of the 14 *Crassvirales* isolates with the branches color-coded to

represent the three species, *Kehishuvirus* in light green, *Kolpuevirus* in purple, and

'Rudgehvirus' in brown. B) Clustering of all known *Crassvirales* genomes confirming

that isolate *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 and *Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain

Bc03 belong to the family *Steigviridae* (cyan), and 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 to

Intestiviridae (red).

All three isolates represent novel species exhibited less than 95% identity and 85%

coverage to any known *Crassvirales* genomes. Bc01 is most similar to the reference

genome *Kehishuvirus primarius* (Genbank ID: MH675552) with 95.5% identity across

79.1 % genome coverage. Bc03 aligns with *Kolpuevirus hominis* (Genbank ID:

MT774391) with 82.8 % identified across 53.73 % query coverage. Bc11 aligns with the

reference genome *Jahgtovirus intestinalis* (Genbank ID: OGOL01000109) with 74.7 %

identity across only 9.9 % query coverage. We proposed names for these novel species

as *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01, *Kolpuevirus* sp 'frurule' strain Bc03, and

'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11.

Genome characteristics of the novel *Crassvirales* species

Kehishuvirus sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 is 100,841 bp, with 104 proteins, 24 tRNAs and

GC content of 35.09 % (Table 2) which is lower than the bacterial host GC content of

42.8 %. These isolates formed clear, uniform circular spot plaques approximately 1 mm

in diameter, forming $9.3*10^9$ PFU/mL (Figure 2A). Transmission electron microscopy

(TEM) revealed they have podovirus-like morphology, displaying polyhedral capsids

with diameter of 94 ± 3 nm, tails with collar structures that were 34 ± 3 nm with tail

fibers with variable lengths (Figure 2B). From the calculated capsid size and genome

length, we this phage packages its DNA at a density of 0.54 bp/nm^3. This genome lacks

direct terminal repeat sequences, stop-codon reassignment, and lysogeny-related

genes (Table S1).

Table 2: Genome characteristics of the three novel *Crassvirales* species

Kolpuevirus sp. 'frurule' strain Bc03 shares the *Steigviridae* family with 'K. tikkala' strain

Bc01. This genome is 99,523 bp long with GC content of 33 %, 108 genes and four

tRNA genes encoding arginine, asparagine, and tyrosine (Table 2). Similar to 'K. tikkala'

strain Bc01, this phage also formed clear, uniform circular spot plaques but forming

2.3*10^9 PFU/mL (Figure 2A). Displaying a podovirus morphology, the virion was slightly

larger than K. tikkala' strain Bc01 with capsids of diameter 97 ± 3 nm, a tail with collar

structures of 33 ± 3 nm (Figure 2B), packaging its DNA at a lower density of 0.48

bp/nm^3. Annotation of genes confirmed absence of direct terminal repeats, stop-codon

reassignments, and lysogeny-related genes (Table S2). This is the first isolate within its

genus.

'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 belongs to *Intestiviridae* family in a novel genus. This

genome is 90,575 bp long with 29.15% GC content, encoding 84 genes and lacks tRNA

genes (Table 2). Unlike the above two species, this isolate formed plaques with a

circular halo, indicating depolymerase activity, forming 3.75 x10^3 PFU/mL (Figure 2A).

This isolate's virion was relatively smaller in size compared to the other two isolates,

with tails measuring 25 ± 4 nm (Figure 2B). Despite the smaller capsid size and

genome, this phage packages its DNA at a density of 0.56 bp/nm^3, comparable to 'K.

tikkala' strain Bc01. Similar to the other two genomes, direct terminal repeats, stop-

codon reassignments, and lysogeny-related genes (Table S3) were absent.

Figure 2: A) Plaque morphology of three species, 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01, 'K. frurule'

strain Bc03, and 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 B) Transmission electron microscopy images

negatively stained with uranyl acetate of the three isolates C) Gene arrangement and

functional annotation of the three genomes color-coded based on their functional

modules and hypothetical genes represented in white. The direction of the arrows

represents the direction of the gene read from the genome, and the arrows themselves

represent individual genes. The links connecting the genes indicate sequence identity,

ranging from 30% (grey) to 100% (black).

Comparative analysis across the three isolates shows that 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01 and

'K. frurule' strain Bc03, belonging to the same family (Steigviridae) exhibit higher gene

similarity with each other. In contrast, 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 from Intestiviridae family

displays distinct gene arrangements (Figure 2C). Notably, all three genomes share two

structural genes. encoding tail spike proteins with a domain encoding for polysaccharide

degrading enzymes such as glycoside hydrolase. Structural protein 1 encompassing the

'K. tikkala' strain Bc01 protein (WEU69744.1) shared 97 % sequence similarity with the

'K. frurule' strain Bc03 protein (WEY17522.1), while collectively these sequences share

greater than 39 % similarity with 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 protein (WEU69859.1) (Figure

S2). Similarly, structural protein 2 encompassing 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01 protein

(WEU69745.1) shared 59 % sequence similarity with 'K. frurule' strain Bc03 protein

(WEY17523.1), and together share more than 46% similarity with 'R. jaberico' strain

Bc11 protein (WEU69857.1) (Figure S3).

Synteny across all seven *Crassvirales* species successfully isolated

The comparison of the three novel species from this study that infect the same bacterial

host with the four isolate *Crassvirales* genomes that infect other *Bacteroides* hosts,

showed expected gene similarity based on their taxonomic assignment. Among the

Steigviridae genomes, 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01 was most similar to *K. primarius* sharing

76 of 106 genes and the two genomes from *Wulfhauvirus* genus (strains DAC15 and

DAC17) shared 115 of the 121 genes with greater than 30 % similarity. 'K. frurule' strain

Bc03 belonging to a unique genus, *Kolpuevirus* exhibited intermediate similarity, sharing

68 genes with *Kehishuvirus* and 71 genes with *Wulfhauvirus* genus (Figure 3A). Within

the *Intestiviridae* family, 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 was compared to the *J. secundus,* and

they shared 37 genes, including 11 structural genes, three transcription genes, and 23

replication-related genes (Figure 3B).

The exception to the taxa-based similarity was the two structural genes, encoding tail

spike proteins that were shared only among isolates infecting the same host, 'K. tikkala'

strain Bc01, 'K. frurule' strain Bc03*,* 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 despite belonging to

different genera (Figure 2C).

Figure 3. Gene synteny across seven pure culture isolates across two *Crassvirales*

families A) *Steigviridae* family comprising five isolates spanning across three genera B)

Intestiviridae family comprising two isolates from two genera. Genes are represented as

arrows, with their direction indicating the gene direction, and their color indicating cluster

group with the grey-colored arrows representing unique genes that didn't form any

clusters. Finally, the links connecting the genes are color-coded based on sequence

similarity, ranging from grey (30%) to black (100%). The tail proteins that were shared

between the three isolates from this study are highlighted with a red box. A dot is added

next to each of the phage to represent the bacterial host, *B. thetaiotaomicron* in pink, *B.*

xylanisolvens in orange, *B. cellulosilyticus* in purple, and *B. intestinalis* in pink C) Viral

host-tree constructed using the portal gene for *Crassvirales* species and 16S gene for

the bacterial hosts, with unique colors connecting the phage to its bacterial host.

As there were multiple *Crassvirales* species infecting multiple bacterial hosts (Figure

1A), we performed a coevolutionary test using Parafit (33) that supported random

association between *Crassvirales* phages with their bacterial hosts (Parafit Global =

3.33, p values >0.05).

Structural proteins playing a role in host interaction.

To investigate the phage genes playing a role in host interaction, we compared all 1,887

genes across the 18 *Crassvirales* genomes, including 14 from this study that infect

bacterial host, *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2 and the four *Crassvirales* isolates that infect four

different bacterial hosts, *B. intestinalis, B. xylanisolvens,* and *B. thetaiotaomicron*.

Together, from 18 *Crassvirales* isolates 1,766 genes were categorized into 383

orthologous groups (Table S4), while the remaining 121 genes remained singletons. To

reinforce the validity of this analysis, we corroborated the species tree inferred from

orthogroups (Figure S4) to have the same species level clustering as observed in

phylogenetic tree (Figure 1A). There was one exception, *J. secundus* which belongs to

Intestiviridae family was grouped with the *Steigviridae* isolates instead of its relative 'R.

jaberico' strains, due to gene duplication or recombination events in this genomes.

Following the species level clustering, we identified 64 orthogroups (193 genes) that

were specific to *Kehishuvirus,* 55 orthogroups (564 genes) specific to *Kolpuevirus,* 89

orthogroups (187 genes) specific to *Wulfhauvirus,* 73 orthogroups (148 genes) specific

to 'Rudgehvirus'*,* and 5 orthogroups (10 genes) specific to *Jahgtovirus* genera (Table

S4). Within these groups, only two orthogroups–OG000000 (including Bc01:

WEU69745.1, Bc03: WEY17523.1, Bc11: WEU69858.1) and OG000008 (including

Bc01: WEU69744.1, Bc03: WEY17522.1, Bc11: WEU69859.1) included genes only

from the 14 *Crassvirales* isolates that infect the same bacterial host, *B. cellulosilyticus*

WH2. However, in orthogroup OG000000, four gene duplication events occurred with at

least 50% of the descendant species having retained both the gene duplicates,

therefore this orthogroup was not investigated further. Conversely, there were no gene

duplication events within OG000008.

To determine if the genes in OG000008 is undergoing selection pressure, we calculated

the number of synonymous (d_S) and non-synonymous (d_N) mutations occurring (d_N/d_S

<1). Averaging all the sequence pairs, we used the codon-based z-test to identify genes

under selection and found that OG000008 rejected the null hypothesis (z-score=0.56, p-

value<0.001), suggesting that these genes is under purifying selection. As

recombination can impact this analysis, we ran Genetic Algorithm for Recombination

Detection (GARD) to detect recombination, which identified five recombination

breakpoints of which none were significant to be detected by the genetic algorithm. We

therefore investigated the tail spike protein structure and role in host interaction.

Tail spike protein interacts with TonB-dependent receptors

To identify the potential host interactions, we predicted structure of all 103 proteins from

'K. tikkala' strain Bc01, 109 proteins from 'K. frurule' strain Bc03, and 83 proteins 'R.

jaberico' strain Bc11 were generated using Colabfold (34) (Protein structures available

at doi.org/10.25451/flinders.21946034). Specifically, we compared the folded structures

of tail spike proteins belonging to orthogroup OG000008 (Bc01: WEU69744.1, Bc03:

WEY17522.1, Bc11: WEU69859.1) using Flexible structure AlignmenT by Chaining

Aligned fragment pairs allowing Twists (FATCAT-rigid) method to show 'K. tikkala' strain

Bc01 is similar to 'K. frurule' strain Bc03 with root-mean square deviation (RMSD) of

5.86 Å and only 74 % of paired residues in the structural alignment (Figure 4A). On the

other hand, the tail spike protein of 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01 exhibited a RMSD of 6.61 Å

and 60 % identity when compared to 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 (Figure 4B).

Each of the tail spike protein structures was individually docked against all 3,223

predictions from the *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2 proteome available in the AlphaFold

database using hdock-lite (Table S5). 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01 tail spike protein

(WEU69744.1) (Figure 4C) interacted best with TonB-dependent receptors (UniProt ID:

A0A0P0GGA2, hdock-score =-700) (Figure 4D), 'K. frurule' strain Bc03 protein

(WEY17522.1) with another TonB-dependent receptor (UniProt ID: A0A0P0GR14,

hdock-score= -694), and 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 protein (WEU69859.1) with a different

TonB-dependent receptor (UniProt ID: A0A0P0FZA4, hdock-score= -574).

Figure 4: 3D structure of tail spike proteins visualized using Chimera A) Structural

alignment of tail spike protein *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in

green) with *Kolpuevirus* sp, 'frurule' strain Bc03 (WEY17522.1 in purple). B) Structural

alignment of tail spike protein *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in

green) with 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 (WEU69859.1 in brown). C) 3D Structure

of *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in green) D) *Kehishuvirus* sp.

'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in green) docked with *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus*

WH2 TonB-dependent receptor (A0A0P0GGA2 in pink).

Discussion

The role of *Crassvirales* genomes in the human gut is enigmatic, which has been

hindered by the limited number of cultured *Crassvirales* phages. Here, we address this

gap by successfully isolating three novel *Crassvirales* species infecting *Bacteroides*

cellulosilyticus WH2, belonging to different genera and families. This observation

confirmed that the phages are not co-evolving with their bacterial hosts, rather have a

shared ability to exploit similar features in their bacterial host. Notably, we identified a

unique tail spike protein shared among isolates infecting the same bacterial host,

undergoing purifying selection and interacting with the TonB-dependent receptors on

the bacterial surface.

The *Crassvirales* order is currently comprised of vast and diverse collection of

genomes. Despite this, the study of these phages has been limited due to the scarcity of

pure isolates. The challenge associated with successful isolation underscores the

difficulty in identifying and predicting their associated bacterial hosts. In our study, we

addressed this challenge through focusing on wastewater samples, a source for phages

infecting different *Bacteroides* hosts. Employing this approach, we successfully isolated

14 novel *Crassvirales* isolates specifically infecting *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2. These

isolates were sequenced on different sequencing platforms, including Oxford Nanopore,

Illumina Miseq or a combination of both. Nanopore assemblies provided high-quality

and complete assemblies, however required polishing the assembly with Illumina reads

to correct for frameshift errors that can fragment genes (35–37). As a result, the 14

complete genomes were classified at the family and genus levels, denoted as three

novel species (Figure 1A), while the remaining isolates were grouped as strains of the

same species (Table 1). The highest confidence isolate was selected for each species,

Kehishuvirus sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01, *Kolpuevirus* sp, 'frurule' strain Bc03 and

'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 and examined further.

Taxonomic assignment of the three novel species showed they belong to two families.

Kehishuvirus sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 and *Kolpuevirus* sp, 'frurule' strain Bc03 were

assigned to the *Steigviridae* family. This family also comprised of three other

Crassvirales phages, *Kehishuvirus primarius, Wulfhauvirus bangladeshii* DAC15, and

Wulfhauvirus bangladeshii DAC17 infecting other *Bacteroides* hosts. Notably, the two

novel isolates exhibited clear, uniform circular spot morphology distinct from the turbid

plaques observed in *K. primarius*, despite their close relationship within the same family.

The third novel species, 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 belonged to *Intestivirdae*

family, along with other *Crassvirales* species, *Jahgtovirus secundus.* 'R. jaberico' strain

Bc11 presented plaques with a circular halo surrounding the cleared spot, indicating

depolymerase activity to break down the polysaccharides found on the bacterial cell

wall.

Furthermore, comparing the three novel species, we found that their virion production,

estimated from the number of plaques formed, was correlated to the number of tRNA

genes within the genome (38). However, it is possible there are other factors such as

gene regulation, and host immune responses that could also be influencing virion

production. Additionally, we conducted genome density analysis in association with

capsid sizes and genome lengths, revealing an inconsistency with prior isolated *K.*

primarius and *J. secundus* species. The capsid diameters of the new three novel

Crassvirales species of virions (90 to 97 nm) were apparently 20 % larger in size than

those reported for *K. primarius* and *J. secundus* virions (77 nm) (27,29). However,

considering that the reported values for *K. primarius* and *J. secundus* corresponded to

the inscribed rather than the circumscribed diameters, a geometric correction of 22%

that brought the genome density near 0.5 bp/nm^3. This correction aligned with a larger

diameter measured in the recently published cryo-EM reconstruction of *K. primarius*

(32). The finding highlights the importance of accurately assessing virion dimensions

and genome density to ensure consistency in the classification of *Crassvirales* phages.

The addition of the three novel *Crassvirales* species spanning multiple families infecting

one bacterial host *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2 indicated these species may not be co-

evolving with their bacterial hosts. We therefore tested all the successfully cultured

Crassvirales species and their respective bacterial hosts to discover that they do not

exhibit co-evolutionary patterns, rather support random association. These findings

imply that the phage-host association within *Crassvirales* group are shaped by the

environment and host interactions (33,39). Additionally, genome comparison of the

known *Crassvirales* species showed greater shared similarity within genera. However,

the three *Crassvirales* species despite belonging to three different genera shared two

unique structural genes. Evolutionary analysis confirmed one of the two structural

genes, encoding tail spike protein (comprising Bc01: WEU69744.1, Bc03: WEY17522.1,

Bc11: WEU69859.1) formed an orthologous group, and is undergoing purifying

selection pressure. Tail spike proteins have been shown to play crucial for binding to

specific membrane receptors on the bacteria in tailed bacteriophages (40). Therefore,

through preserving this gene function, the phage can successfully infect and replicate

within the host.

We found the tail spike proteins of the three novel *Crassvirales* species to interact with

different TonB-dependent receptors on the bacterial surface, provide significant insights

into the mechanism of phage-host interactions. The bacterial host, *B. cellulosilyticus*

WH2 possesses a substantial repertoire of up to 112 TonB-receptors on its surface.

These receptors are typically used by *Bacteroides* to take up starches (41), and have

been associated with phage sensitivity (30,31). The tail spike protein also encodes for

polysaccharide degrading enzymes such as glycoside hydrolase domain that target the

capsular polysaccharides on the bacterial surface, allowing for phage-host interaction

and lead to infection. This interaction therefore ensures successful propagation,

highlighting the evolutionary adaptation between the *Crassvirales* phage and their

bacterial hosts.

Overall, our study on the three novel *Crassvirales* species infecting *Bacteroides*

cellulosilyticus WH2 revealed critical insights into their evolutionary dynamics and

interactions with the bacterial host. The novel phages belonging to different genera but

infect the same host provide a valuable model system for studying the interactions that

occur within one of the dominant members of the gut microbiome.

Methods

Phage sampling

434   Untreated sewage water (influent) was collected from a waste treatment plant in Cardiff,

435   CA in 1L Nalgene bottles. An aliquot of 30 ml influent was centrifuged at 5,000 RCF for

436   5 min to pellet the debris. The supernatant was decanted and passed through a 0.22

437   μm pore size Sterivex filter. The filtrate was used as a phage source and stored

438   between 2 to 8 ▯.

Host bacteria cultivation

Bacterial species, *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2 (42) received as glycerol stocks from

Washington University, St. Louis, *B. fragilis* NCTC 9343 (ATCC 25285), *B. stercoris*

CC31F (ATCC 43183), and *B. uniformis* ATCC 8492 were received as glycerol stocks

from BEI resources were used as bacterial hosts. All the bacteria were grown in brain-

heart infusion media supplemented with 2 mM $MgSO_4$, and 10 mM $MgCl_2$ we denote as

BHISMg. Culture plates were supplemented with 1.5 % w/v agar and incubated at 37 ▯

for 48 hrs under anaerobic conditions with 5 % H_2, 5 % CO_2, and 90 % N_2. Following

incubation, an isolated colony was transferred into a 12 hrs deoxygenated BHISMg

broth. Following anaerobic incubation at 37 ▢ for 24 hrs the liquid cultures were further

sub-cultured into another BHISMg broth and incubated overnight.

Plaque assays

BHISMg plates were deoxygenated for 12 hrs in the anaerobic chamber and pre-

warmed before use. For top agar plates were prepared by adding cooled molten

BHISMg with 0.7 % w/v agar was inoculated with 500 µl of bacteria, and between 2 µl

and 50 µl of processed phage influent. The plates were cooled for 15 min before

incubating at 37 °C for up to five days. Plates were assessed daily for the development

of plaques.

Lysate preparation

Plaque from each plate was inoculated into 200 µl of SM buffer and homogenized to

diffuse the phage from the agar to the buffer. A 200 µl aliquot of the phage was added

to *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2 bacteria in the log-growth phase and grown at 37 °C

anaerobically, overnight. The tubes containing the bacteria and phage were manually

shaken every 30 min for the first three hours of incubation. Post incubation, tubes were

centrifuged at 4500 x g for 5 min, and the supernatant was collected and concentrated

using a 50,000 kDa MWCO Vivaspin ultrafiltration unit (Sartorius). Phage lysate was

stored at 4 °C.

Phage titering enumeration

467   Phage titer were enumerated using the molten agar overlay method described above. A

468   200 µl aliquot of the lysate was diluted 10-fold in sterile SM buffer, and 10 µl was

469   spotted onto a BHISMg plate. The plates were incubated for 24-48 hrs at 37 °C. After

470   incubation, the plates were analyzed by counting the plaques obtained to determining

471   the titer.

Viral DNA extraction and sequencing

Phage DNA was extracted using a Phage DNA isolation kit (Norgen) as per

manufacturer instructions. In short, 1 ml of phage lysate was DNase I treated, lysed,

and treated with Proteinase K. The sample was added to a spin column and washed

three times. DNA was eluted in 75 µl of the elution buffer. The second elution

recommended by the kit was not performed. The DNA obtained was quantified using a

Qubit 1x dsDNA high-sensitivity assay kit (Invitrogen, Life Technologies) per

manufacturer's instructions. Oxford Nanopore MinION sequencing was undertaken the

manufacturer's instructions. In short, a maximum of 400 ng of sample DNA was used for

the library preparation using Oxford Nanopore Rapid Barcoding Sequencing Kit (SQK-

RBK0004); samples were barcoded, pooled and cleaned. The pooled samples was

loaded and run on a Flowcell R9.4.1 (FLO-MIN106) following the manufactures

instructions. The Illumina sequencing libraries were prepared by extracting the total

nucleic acid (RNA and DNA) using the COBAS AmpliPrep instrument (Roche), with

NEBNext library construction and sequenced on Illumina MiSeq using the paired-end

2x250 bp protocol as described in (43). The sequencing data were deposited to

Sequence Read Archive in Bioproject, PRJNA737576.

For the Nanopore sequenced isolates, basecalling was performed with Guppy v6.0.1

with model dna_r9.4.1_450bps_hac. The reads were then processed with Filtlong

v.0.2.20 (44) to remove reads less than 1,000 bp in length and exclude 5% of the

lowest-quality reads. Similarly, Illumina sequences were processed with prinseq++

v.0.20.4 (45), filtering reads less than 60 bp in length, reads with quality scores less

than 25, and exact duplicates.

Genome assembly

To assemble the genomes, a pipeline based on Snakemake using Snaketool (46) was

employed. Nanopore reads were assembled using Flye v2.9 (47), while Illumina reads

were assembled using MEGAHIT v1.2.9 (48). These assemblers were selected as they

provide assembly graphs, which are useful for completing fragmented genome

assemblies, (49–53).

To evaluate assembly quality, the resulting contigs were processed with ViralVerify v1.1

to detect viral contigs (54), read coverage was calculated using CoverM v0.6.1(55), and

the assembly graph was examined. The assembly graph provides information on

connecting unitigs (high-quality contigs) representing the longest non-branching paths

joined together to form contigs.

From each assembly, unitigs meeting specific criteria were selected as complete phage

genomes. These unitigs had a length greater than 90 kb, were identified as viral,

exhibited the highest read coverage and were classified as complete using CheckV

v1.0.1. To ensure representation, one unitg per sample was selected as the complete

phage assembly. In the end, the assemblies were polished with high-coverage Illumina

reads using Polca to reduce sequencing-related errors (56).

Among the 41 phage genomes, 14 phages infecting *B. cellulosilyticus* were identified as

belonging to *Crassvirales* order*.* These genomes were approximately 90 to 120 kbp in

length and aligned against known *Crassvirales* genomes. Among these phages, eight

samples were sequenced on both Nanopore and Illumina sequencing platforms (Bc01

to Bc03, Bc05 to Bc08), while four were sequenced only on Nanopore platforms (Bc09

to Bc11), and the remaining four were sequenced only on Illumina platforms (Bc04,

Bc12 to Bc14).

Taxonomic and functional annotation

The isolates in this study were processed with CrassUS (57), a specialized tool for

annotating *Crassvirales* genomes, providing taxonomic, functional annotation along with

direct terminal repeats (DTR), and average nucleotide identities (ANI) of similar

reference genomes. Taxonomic annotations from CrassUS followed ICTV (20,22)

criteria for *Crassvirales* order demarcation. Phylogenetic trees were constructed using

conserved genes (MCP, portal, *terL*) with MAFFT v7.49 (58) for alignment, followed by

trimal v1.4.1 for trimming, and FastTree v.2.1.10 (59) for inference. Trees were built

using JTT model, CAT approximation with 20 rate categories, and visualized using iTol

(60).

To compare the predicted genes and their arrangement across species, clinker plots

(61) were used after re-circularizing the genes to start at the *terL.* This allowed for the

examination of synteny across genomes. Additionally, tRNA genes encoded by the

phages, which evade host translation machinery, were predicted with tRNA-scanSE

(62).

Phage-host co-phylogenetic analysis

To determine if the phage co-evolve with bacterial hosts, we performed a cophylogenetic analysis using Parafit (33) via the ape R package. The distance matrix of the trimmed multiple sequence alignment (MSA) using MAFFT v.7.520 (58) and trimal v1.4.1 of the seven *Crassvirales* species ('K. tikkala' Bc01, 'K.frurule' Bc03, 'R.jaberico' Bc11, *K. primarius, J. secundus, W. bangladeshii* DAC15, *W. bangladeshii* DAC17) portal gene, was generated using EMBOSS distmat v6.6.0. These steps were repeated for the associated bacterial hosts, *B. cellulosilyticus, B. intestinalis, B. thetaiotomicron* and *B. xylanisolvens.* The two distance matrices were compared using Parafit (33) with 1000 permutation, and Cailliez eigen value correction. The trimmed MSA was used to generate the two phylogenetic trees using FastTree v.2.1.10 using JTT model, CAT approximation with 20 rate categories, and visualized using iTol (60).

Transmission electron microscopy imaging

Crassvirales phages were grown using the phage overlay method described above. To prepare the phage lysates, they were diluted 1:10, and 5 µL of the diluted phage lysate was applied to a plasma-cleaned grid for two minutes at room temperature. The grids used were formvar and carbon coated 200 mesh grids and they were plasma cleaned using the Gatan (Solarus) Advanced plasma system for 30 sec prior to use. The excess phage lysate sample was wicked off with Whatman filter paper and the grid was washed with 5 µL of water. The sample was negatively stained with 5 µL of the 2 % w/v uranyl acetate for 1 minute. The excess stain was wicked off with filter paper to dry the sample on the grid. The grid was then imaged using a Tecnai G2 Spirit TEM operated at 120kV

at a magnification of 49,000x and the images were recorded on an AMT Nanosprint 15

digital camera using software v7.0.1.

Phage measurements were conducted using the ImageJ software (63). The capsid

diameter was calculated by measuring the diameter of the circle circumscribing the

capsid, such that the more distant vertices of the projected capsid contacted the circle

(Figure S5). The length of the tail was calculated from the base of the capsid to the end

of the visible tail, including the collar section of the phage structure. Tail fibres or

appendages was calculated (Figure S5). Average measurements from 5 phages were

calculated and reported. The TEM image was further edited for publication using the

GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP) (64).

The packing genome density was predicted by correcting the measured radius from the

expected capsid thickness and calculating the internal volume assuming an icosahedral

model inferred from prior tailed phage capsid studies (65,66). The results can be

reproduced using the Colab notebook available at link, https://shorturl.at/enAKS.

Evolutionary analyses

The 14 *Crassvirales* isolated and assembled genomes in this study and the four

reference pure culture isolates, *K. primarius*, *J. secundus, W. bangladeshii* DAC15 and

DAC17 were assessed together for this analysis. Orthologous genes were identified

from genes predicted from the above 18 genomes, using Orthofinder v2.5.4 default

settings to determine signatures for host interactions. The default settings use diamond

for sequence search, MAFFT for alignment, FastTree for tree inference and STAG

species tree method (67). Orthogroups that included genes present only in phages from

the host *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2 were examined further.

These orthogroups were aligned using Muscle (68) codon-based multiple sequence

alignment in MEGA11 (69). To test for codon-based positive selection, we calculated

the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis of strict neutrality ($d_N = d_S$), and in favour

of the alternate hypothesis ($d_N > d_S$). The d_N/d_S values were calculated from the MSA

using MEGA v.11.0 (70), with the Li-Wu-Luo method (71). The variance of the

difference was computed using bootstraps, set to 100 replicates. As this analysis can be

misleading in the presence of recombination breakpoints, orthogroups were run through

Genetic Algorithm for Recombination Detection (GARD) analysis (72), with default

settings. This method utilizes a combination of phylogenetic and statistical approaches

to detect recombination signals.

Predicting proteins 3D structure and docking

The 3D structures of the proteins from 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01, 'K. frurule' strain Bc03,

and 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 were predicted using Colabfold version 1.4.0 (34) on the

Gadi server at the National Computational Infrastructure (NCI). To determine structural

similarity, the protein structures were run through pairwise structure alignment using the

Flexible structure AlignmenT by Chaining Aligned fragment pairs allowing Twists

(FATCAT) that allows for flexible protein structure comparison (73,74).

To predict the phage protein interaction with the bacterial host, the previously predicted

3D protein structures of all the proteins for *B. cellulosilyticus* WH2 were downloaded

from the AlphaFold Protein Structure Database via the Google Cloud Platform (75). All

protein pairs were docked using hdock-lite version 1.1 (76) on the Gadi server. The

results from hdock were sorted based on the binding score (hdock-scores) in the output

file to identify the highest-quality binding predictions for each phage protein. In general,

lower HDock-scores are indicative of more favorable or stronger protein-protein

interactions, suggesting a higher likelihood of a stable complex formation. Higher

HDock-scores, on the other hand, may suggest weaker or less favorable interactions.

The 3D structure of the proteins was visualized using Chimera.

Author Contributions

607   BP performed bioinformatics analysis and wrote the paper. AAV, CS, SKG, MA, NJ, LB,

608   CH and WSP collected samples, isolated and cultured phages. MFM, MA, KP and LD

609   sequenced phages. CL and SKG took TEM images. KM, MJR, PD, SRG, VM, GB and

610   AL performed bioinformatics analysis. SH, DW, AMS, EAD and RAE conceived the

611   project, performed the bioinformatics, and wrote the paper with input from all authors.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Figures

Figure 1: Phylogenetic tree constructed using the portal protein using JTT model, CAT

approximation with 20 rate categories and outgroup set to Cellulophaga phage phi13:2

A) Phylogenetic tree of the 14 *Crassvirales* isolates with the branches color-coded to

represent the three species, *Kehishuvirus* sp.in light green, *Kolpuevirus* sp. in purple,

and 'Rudgehvirus' in brown. B) Clustering of all known *Crassvirales* genomes

confirming that isolate *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 and *Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule'

strain Bc03 belong to the family Steigviridae (cyan), and 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain

Bc11 to Intestiviridae (red).

Figure 2: A) Plaque morphology of three species, 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01, 'K. frurule'

strain Bc03, and 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 B) Transmission electron microscopy images

negatively stained with uranyl acetate of the three isolates C) Gene arrangement and

functional annotation of the three genomes color-coded based on their functional

modules and hypothetical genes represented in white. The direction of the arrows

represents the direction of the gene read from the genome, and the arrows themselves

represent individual genes. The links connecting the genes indicate sequence identity,

ranging from 30% (grey) to 100% (black).

Figure 3. Gene synteny across seven pure culture isolates across two *Crassvirales*

families A) *Steigviridae* family comprising five isolates spanning across three genera B)

Intestiviridae family comprising two isolates from two genera. The arrows represent

genes, with their direction indicating the gene direction, and their color indicating cluster

group with the grey-colored arrows representing unique genes that didn't form any

clusters. Finally, the links connecting the genes are color-coded based on sequence

similarity, ranging from grey (30%) to black (100%). The tail proteins that were shared

between the three isolates from this study are highlighted with a red box. A dot is added

next to each of the phage to represent the bacterial host, *B. thetaiotaomicron* in pink, *B.*

xylanisolvens in orange, *B. cellulosilyticus* in purple, and *B. intestinalis* in pink C) Viral

host-tree constructed using the portal gene for *Crassvirales* species and 16S gene for

the bacterial hosts, with unique colors connecting the phage to its bacterial host.

Figure 4: 3D structure of tail spike proteins visualized using Chimera A) Structural

alignment of tail spike protein *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in

green) with *Kolpuevirus* sp, 'frurule' strain Bc03 (WEY17522.1 in purple). B) Structural

alignment of tail spike protein *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in

green) with 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 (WEU69859.1 in brown). C) 3D Structure

of *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in green) D) *Kehishuvirus* sp.

'tikkala' strain Bc01 (WEU69744.1 in green) docked with *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus*

WH2 TonB-dependent receptor (A0A0P0GGA2 in pink).

Tables

932 Table 1: Taxonomic classification of the 14 *Crassvirales* genomes isolated from

933 wastewater infecting *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus* WH2

Phage isolate	Sequencing platform	Genome length	Taxonomy	Biosample ID
Bc01	MinION, MiSeq	100,722	*Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01	SAMN20326212
Bc02	MinION, MiSeq	98,905	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc02	SAMN20326213
Bc03	MinION, MiSeq	99,379	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc03	SAMN20326214
Bc04	MiSeq	99,033	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc04	SAMN29929441
Bc05	MinION, MiSeq	97,832	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc05	SAMN20326216
Bc06	MinION, MiSeq	99,845	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc06	SAMN20326217
Bc07	MinION, MiSeq	98,518	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc07	SAMN20326218
Bc08	MinION, MiSeq	98,067	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc08	SAMN20326219
Bc09	MinION	98,788	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc09	SAMN20326220
Bc10	MinION	96,329	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc10	SAMN20326221
Bc11	MinION	90,458	'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11	SAMN20326222
Bc12	MiSeq	96,952	*Kolpuevirus* sp. 'frurule' strain Bc12	SAMN29929442
Bc13	MiSeq	90,716	'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc13	SAMN29929443
Bc14	MiSeq	98,803	*Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc14	SAMN29929444

Genome	length (bp)	GC %	Coding density	Number of CDS	Unknown function	tRNA	DTR
Kehishuvirus sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01	100,841	35.09	91.84	104	58	24	False
Kolpuevirus sp. 'frurule' strain Bc03	99,523	33.00	92.06	108	63	5	False
'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11	90,575	29.15	87.45	84	48	0	False

935   Table 2: Genome characteristics of the three novel *Crassvirales* species

Supplementary Figures

Figure S1: Showing the taxa classification of the three novel species remains consistent

across the three conserved proteins A) portal gene, B) Major capsid protein (MCP), and

C) terminase large subunit (terL). The outgroup across all three trees set to

Cellulophaga phage phi13:2. The placement of the three novel species are highlighted

on the tree, Bc01 belonging to *Kehishuvirus* genera (light green), Bc03 belonging to

Kolpuevirus genera (purple), and Bc11 belonging to a novel genus named

'Rudgehvirus' (brown).

Figure S2: Multiple sequence alignment of shared structural protein 1 from Fig 2C

including K. tikkala' strain Bc01 protein, WEU69744.1, 'K. frurule' strain Bc03 protein,

WEY17522.1, and 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 WEU69859.1 (reference sequence),

showcasing the sequence identity with amino acids that were not shared in grey, and

the rest in different color, based on the amino acid group.

Figure S3: Multiple sequence alignment of shared structural protein 2 from Fig 2C

including 'K. tikkala' strain Bc01 protein, WEU69745.1, 'K. frurule' strain Bc03

WEY17523.1, and 'R. jaberico' strain Bc11 WEU69857.1 (reference sequence),

showcasing the sequence identity with amino acids that were not shared in grey, and

the rest in different color, based on the amino acid group.

Figure S4: Species tree inferred from orthogroups using OrthoFinder and rooted to

'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc13 using the STRIDE algorithm. The 14 *Crassvirales*

isolates are color coded based on their species classification, 'Rudgehvirus jaberico'

strains in brown, *Kehishuvirus* sp. 'tikkala' strains in dark blue, and *Kolpuevirus* sp.

'frurule' strains in light blue. The four *Crassvirales* genomes from other studies are color

coded in black. Further, to denote the family level classification, we added red dots next

to *Intestiviridae* family members, and cyan dots next to *Steigviridae* family members.

Figure S5**:** TEM phage measurements were taken for A) Capsid diameter, by drawing a

circle around the polygon with the edges within the circle. The diameter of this circle

was measured and represented as the capsid diameter. B) For tail length, a line was

drawn from the base of the capsid to the visible edge of the tail fibers. This was

repeated over five phages of the same sample and an average with standard deviation

was calculated across all of them.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1: *Kehishuvirus sp.* 'tikkala' strain Bc01 functional annotation from crassUS

Table S2: *Kolpuevirus* 'frurule' strain Bc03 functional annotation from crassUS

Table S3: 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 functional annotation from crassUS

Table S4: Orthologous groups identified across the 18 *Crassvirales* isolates, highlighted

the two orthogroups that are present within the 14 *Crassvirales* isolates from this study,

infecting the same bacterial host.

Table S5: Top 10 *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus WH2* proteins docked to *Kehishuvirus* sp

'tikkala' strain Bc01 WEU69744.1, *Kolpuevirus* sp 'frurule' strain Bc03 WEY17522.1,

and 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11 WEU69859.1 tail spike protein using hdock-lite.

A) Steigviridae

Tail proteins

- *Wulfhauvirus bangladeshii* DAC17
- *Wulfhauvirus bangladeshii* DAC15
- *Kehishuvirus primarius* (crAss001)
- *Kehishuvirus sp.* 'tikkala' (Bc01)
- *Kolpuevirus sp.* 'frurule' (Bc03)

B) Intestiviridae

- 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' (Bc11)
- *Jahgtovirus secundus* (crAss002)

2.5kb

0   Identity (%)   100

C) Viral host tree

Tree scale: 1

Tree scale: 0.1

- Jahgtovirus secundus
- 'Rudgehvirus jaberico' strain Bc11
- *Wulfhauvirus bangladeshii DAC17*
- Wulfhauvirus bangladeshii DAC15
- Kolpuevirus sp. 'frurule' strain Bc03
- Kehishuvirus sp. 'tikkala' strain Bc01
- Kehishuvirus primarius

- *Bacteroides xylanisolvens*
- *Bacteroides intestinalis*
- *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*
- *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus*

Genome	length (kb)	GC (%)	Coding (%)	Number of CDS	Unknown	tRNA	rRNA