Long title: Host evolutionary history predicts virus prevalence across bumblebee

species

Short title: Evolutionary signals in bumblebee-virus interaction networks

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Author's Summary

Despite the importance of disease in the regulation of animal populations, our

understanding of the distribution of pathogen burden across wild communities

remains in its infancy. In this study, we investigated the distribution of viruses across

natural populations of 13 different bumblebee species in Scotland. We first searched

for viruses using a metatranscriptomic approach, finding at least 30 new viruses of

bumblebees, and assayed a subset of them for their presence and absence in different

host species. Then, in the first application of these methods to an animal-virus system,

we used co-phylogenetic mixed models to investigate the factors that lead to species

being having different prevalences for a subset of these viruses. While much of the

variation in the prevalence of the viruses can be explained by the idiosyncrasies of

individual bumblebee-virus pairings, there is a phylogenetic signal with related

bumblebee species being infected at similar frequencies by the same sets of viruses.

Consistent with previous work, our study indicates that, while in general the

interaction between a host and a virus may be unpredictable, closely related species

are more likely to exhibit similar patterns of infection.

Abstract

Why a pathogen associates with one host but not another is one of the most important

questions in disease ecology. Here we use transcriptome sequencing of wild-caught

bumblebees from 13 species to describe their natural viruses, and to quantify the

impact of evolutionary history on the realised associations between viruses and their

pollinator hosts. We present 37 novel virus sequences representing at least 30

different viruses associated with bumblebees. We verified 17 of them by PCR and

estimate their prevalence across species in the wild. Through small RNA sequencing,

we demonstrate that at least 10 of these viruses form active infections in wild

individuals. Using a phylogenetic mixed model approach, we show that the

evolutionary history of the host shapes the current distribution of virus/bumblebee

associations. Specifically, we find that related hosts share viral assemblages, viruses

differ in their prevalence averaged across hosts and the prevalence of infection in

individual virus-host pairings depends on precise characteristics of that pairing.

Introduction

Pathogens that naturally infect more than one host species have a particularly high

risk of disease emergence [1]. One especially important group of pathogens are the

viruses, whose ubiquity leads them to have a disproportionate role in the regulation of

natural populations [2]. Viruses are relevant in populations that humans manage for

economic and conservation reasons, such as bumblebees, which are both in decline

[3] and important providers of ecosystem services [4].

Bumblebees, genus *Bombus*, are a primitively eusocial group of important wild

pollinators. Many bumblebee species have experienced population declines, linked to

biotic and abiotic stressors such as habitat degradation, pesticide use and shared

infectious diseases for example caused by viral pathogens [5]. In contrast to honeybee

viruses, which have been intensively studied, and have in many cases been found to

represent multihost pathogens (see Manley et al (2015) [6] and the references within),

bumblebee-specific viruses are comparatively poorly studied, and it is unknown how

widely they are shared between host species.

For a species to be a multihost pathogen, some degree of opportunity for cross-species

transmission must exist. Our definition of multihost pathogens follows that of Fenton

et al. [7]. As such, multihost pathogens are defined to include two conceptually

distinct groups: 'facultative multihost pathogens' that are able to maintain

transmission chains in multiple host species (i.e. $R_0>=1$ in multiple host species) and

'obligate multihost pathogens', which rely on sufficiently high rates of cross-species

transmission to offset unsustainable transmission within individual host species (i.e.

$0<R_0<1$ within host species, $R_0>=1$ overall). In addition, pathogens that maintain

transmission in a single host ($R_0>=1$) but experience regular spillover (with or without

the expectation of onward transmission: $0<= R_0<1$) are included as being effectively

multihost pathogens within our definition. R_0 is defined as the expected number of

secondary infections caused by a single typical infected individual in an entirely naïve

host population [8]. We define cross-species transmission as the movement of a

multihost pathogen between host species within its host range. This contrasts with

host shifting, which we define as a transmission event to a new host species, leading

to a change in host range. However there is necessarily some unavoidable ambiguity

between cross-species transmission and host shifting in the case of pathogens that

exhibit rare spillover events.

The opportunity for cross-species transmission, which explains the large number of

viruses originally detected in honeybees that are present in bumblebees, may be

created by niche overlap in foraging [9]. Bumblebee nests are provisioned by foraging

workers who gather pollen and nectar from flowers in the surrounding area.

Considerable interspecific differences in plant species utilization by foragers of

different species are commonly observed [10-13], but this is not a universal

phenomenon [14], and the degree of overlap may depend on the diversity of flowers

currently in bloom. In bumblebees, flower choice of foragers is correlated with

species tongue length [12,13], which implicitly incorporates shared behavioural

characteristics between closely related bumblebee species as there is phylogenetic

correlation between tongue length and relatedness [15]. Different species of

bumblebee also exhibit incomplete temporal separation throughout the year, causing

some degree of partitioning in niche space even when they are spatially sympatric

[16]. This ecology leads to a complex interaction network between bumblebee

species, as well as sympatric honeybees, which may structure cross-species

transmission.

The prevalence of pathogens, including viruses, across host species, such as

bumblebees, is structured on two levels. First, a virus may be present or entirely

absent in a potential host species. Second, other factors may then influence how

prevalent a pathogen is within that species. At the presence/absence level, a complete

lack of infection in nature can occur in three ways: 1) a host and virus may exist in

allopatry or in completely non-interacting ecological niches, preventing transmission

irrespective of the host's susceptibility; 2) a physiological or molecular mismatch

(including immunity) between a host and virus can prevent infection; and 3)

environmental conditions may be such that transmission cannot occur between two

sympatric species. None of these mechanisms represent an immutable barrier, and all

represent ends of a continuum, where lesser forms simply reduce transmission.

Spatially or ecologically separated hosts and parasites may come into contact through

migrations or human facilitated invasions, allowing new associations to emerge. For

example, the arrival of *Plasmodium relictum* to the Hawaiian islands led to avian

population declines and contributed to extinctions in the naturally susceptible but

naïve populations [17]. Incompatibility can break down if evolution in the pathogen

or host removes the physiological or molecular barriers to infection, as shown when

Canine parvovirus type 2 emerged from Feline panleukopenia virus after gaining the

ability to bind to canine transferrin receptors [18].

For virus-host associations where infection can and does occur, quantitative

differences in infection risk between species can be driven by ecological variation in

transmission rates. These differences can be driven by, for example, the propensity for

group living [19], population densities [20], the biodiversity of the community [21]

and host avoidance behaviours [22]. Variation in infection risk among host species

can also be driven by physiological and molecular factors, with hosts having varying

suitability for the replication of a given parasite. In the extreme case, a host species

may exhibit condition-dependent susceptibility; where infection can only occur when

the immune system is suppressed, either directly, through an immunosuppressant

disease or chemical agent, or indirectly, through trade-offs in resource allocation

brought about by malnutrition [23]. Both behavioural and ecological factors, leading

to differences in contact rate, and physiological factors, leading to differences in

infection probability on contact, may be phylogenetically correlated [15,24].

Box 1 – Definition of Terms

Co-phylogenetic generalized linear mixed models that incorporate phylogenetic

variance from multiple clades [25,26] have been used relatively rarely, and a

biological interpretation of the model terms may not be immediately familiar. In the

host-parasite context, this approach can be used to model how the probability of

infection is predicted by both host and parasite species, allowing for covariance

induced by the relationships within each group, and the interactions between these

model terms. This can be considered either at the species-wide level (i.e. the

probability that infection will occur at all in a given host/parasite pairing), or at the

level of individuals within species (i.e. infection prevalence). Here we provide verbal

descriptions of how the terms can be interpreted, as well as references to a figure in

Hadfield et al. (2014) [25] where each of these effects is illustrated graphically:

Phylogenetic Effect: Variation in the mean value of a trait among species that is

explained by phylogenetic divergence. For example, more closely-related hosts might

be more similar in susceptibility to viral infection (display higher viral prevalence),

irrespective of virus species. Equivalently, more closely-related viruses might be

more similar in infectivity, irrespective of host species (Figs 1a and b in Hadfield et

al. (2014) [25]).

Species Effect: Variation in the mean value of a trait among species that is

not explained by a *Phylogenetic Effect*. For example, much of the variation in

prevalence among viral species (irrespective of host), may not be explained by the

virus phylogeny but instead depend on lineage-specific viral traits (Figs 1g and f in

Hadfield et al. (2014) [25]).

Non-phylogenetic Interaction: The interaction term between host and parasite *Species*

Effects, such that variation in the mean value of a trait within particular host/parasite

pairings depends the specifics of the host and parasite involved in a way not affected

by their evolutionary divergence. For example, variation in prevalence between

particular pairings that is caused by the interaction between lineage-specific host and

viral traits (Fig 1h in Hadfield et al. (2014) [25]).

Coevolutionary Interaction: The interaction term between host and parasite

Phylogenetic Effects, such that variation in the mean value of a trait within particular

host/parasite pairings depends on the evolutionary divergence among species in both

host and parasite clades. For example, if the prevalence of infection is more similar

among pairings of closely-related hosts and closely-related parasites than would be

expected from the host and parasite phylogenies and species-means alone. (Fig 1e in

Hadfield et al. (2014) [25]).

Evolutionary Interaction: The interaction term between the host (or parasite)

Phylogenetic Effect and the partners' *Species Effect*, such that the variation in the

mean value of a trait within particular host/parasite pairings depends on the

evolutionary divergence among hosts (or parasites) and on the identity of particular

partner species, but is not predicted by the evolutionary divergence between partners'

species. For example, if the similarity in viral prevalence for one virus species is

strongly predicted by the evolutionary divergence among hosts, but a completely

different relationship (unrelated to the evolutionary divergence among viruses) is seen

for other virus species. (Fig 1c and d in Hadfield et al. (2014) [25]).

A new multihost virus can arise in two ways, either through a virus species gaining a

new host [27] (Fig 1a), or through a speciation event in a multihost virus (i.e. giving

rise to two sibling multihost virus species; Fig 1b). When novel multihost viruses are

generated through host shifting (Fig 1a), a 'host evolutionary interaction' effect (see

Box 1) can result, as the consistent switching of viruses (V) to hosts (H) closely

related to their ancestral host will lead to related hosts having correlated viral

assemblages. When novel multihost viruses arise through speciation, i.e. if the ability

to infect multiple hosts is an ancestral trait (Fig 1b), a 'virus evolutionary interaction'

effect can result (see Box 1) through the inheritance of the ancestral host range,

leading to the daughter virus species having correlated host assemblages. These

effects can also be generated in ecological time through mechanisms that lead to

biased cross-species transmission.

Fig 1 Mechanisms for the generation of novel multihost viruses. The generation of novel multihost

viruses through host shifting (1a) leads to a 'host evolutionary interaction' effect (Box1), as the

consistent switching of viruses (V) to hosts (H) closely related to their ancestral host will lead to

related hosts having correlated viral assemblages. The generation of novel multihost viruses through

speciation (1b) can lead to a 'virus evolutionary interaction' effect (Box 1) through the inheritance of

the ancestral host range, leading to the daughter virus species having correlated host assemblages.

Here we test for a role of evolutionary history in shaping the current host/virus

assemblage using species from an ecologically and economically important group, the

bumblebees. We cataloged the virome of wild-caught bumblebees from across

Scotland by RNAseq, finding at least 30 new viruses. We then tested multiple

bumblebee species for a subset of these novel viruses and three previously reported

honeybee viruses: Slow bee paralysis virus [28], Acute bee paralysis virus [29] and

Hubei partiti-like virus 34 [30,31]. We analysed virus prevalence using co-

phylogenetic models to determine the presence or absence and relative strengths of

the phylogenetic signals that are expected to shape the host/virus assemblage in this

system, and performed tests to attempt to determine the mechanisms driving this.

Methods

Sampling strategy

A total of 926 individual bumblebees of 13 species were collected on the wing from nine sites across Scotland in July and August of 2009 and 2011, and frozen in liquid nitrogen or at -80°C. In 2009, we sampled the Ochil Hills, Glenmore, Dalwhinnie, Stirling, Iona, Staffa, and the Pentlands, and in 2011 we sampled Edinburgh and Gorebridge (Supp Table 1). The cryptic species complex of *Bombus terrestris*, *Bombus lucorum, Bombus cryptarum* and *Bombus magnus* was resolved using RFLP analysis following Murray et al. (2008) [32]. All individuals were bisected longitudinally prior to RNA extraction. One half of each bumblebee was used in pooled RNA extractions of 2-11 individuals per species (median 10; Supp Table 2). Two of these pools ('DIV' and 'P11') were included in the RNAseq, but excluded from prevalence testing. The groups of bumblebees were ground in liquid nitrogen and added to TRIzol reagent (Life Technologies) for RNA extractions, following the manufacturer's standard protocol. The RNA concentrations in the pooled samples were equalized to approximately 200 ng/ul/individual based on Nanodrop measurements.

RNA Sequencing and Bioinformatics

The RNA was combined by species for *B. terrestris* (239 individuals), *Bombus pascuorum* (212 individuals)*, B. lucorum* (182 individuals) and other *Bombus* (293 individuals) into four large RNA pools. These large pools were sequenced using the Illumina HiSeq platform with 100bp paired end reads (Beijing Genomics Institute) after poly-A selection. This excludes ribosomal and bacterial RNA, and will enrich

for mRNAs and those RNA viruses that have polyadenylated genomes or products.

The single-species bumblebee pools were subsequently re-sequenced following

duplex specific nuclease normalization, to reduce rRNA representation, and enrich for

rare transcripts while retaining non-polyadenylated viruses and products. The small

RNAs of the same RNA pools of *B. terrestris*, *B. lucorum* and *B. pascuorum* were

also sequenced to test for the replication of viruses identified via the transcriptome

sequencing.

For each pool, paired end RNAseq data were initially mapped to the published

Bombus terrestris and *B. impatiens* genomes using bowtie2 [33] to reduce the

representation of conserved bumblebee sequences. Read pairs that did not map

concordantly, including divergent bumblebee sequences and other associated

microbiota, were assembled *de novo* using Trinity 2.2.0 [34] as paired end libraries,

following automated trimming ('--trimmomatic') and digital read normalisation ('--

normalize_reads'). Where two RNAseq libraries (Poly-A and DSN) had been

sequenced, these were combined for assembly.

To identify putative viruses, all long open reading frames from each contig were

identified and concatenated to provide a 'bait' sequence for similarity searches using

Diamond [35] and BLASTp [36]. Contigs shorter than 500 base pairs were discarded.

These contig translations were used to search against a Diamond database comprising

all of the virus protein sequences available in NCBI database 'nr', and all of the

Dipteran, Hymenopteran, Nematode, Fungal, Protist, and prokaryotic proteins

available in NCBI database 'refseq_protein' (mode 'blastp'; e-value 0.001; maximum

of one match). Matches to phage and short matches to large DNA viruses were

excluded. Remaining contigs were manually curated to identify and annotate high-

confidence virus-like sequences. To quantify approximate fold-coverage, and to

assess viRNA properties, the raw RNAseq and trimmed small RNA reads were

mapped against the putative viral contigs using bowtie2's '--very-sensitive' setting

and retaining only the top map [33], from this we recorded the number of mapped

reads per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads. We considered viruses to

show strong evidence of replication in the host if they had at least 50 mapping siRNA

reads with a size distribution sharply peaked at 22nt (viRNAs are generated from

replicating viruses by Dcr2). Following Fauquet and Stanley (2005) [37], we

designated contigs exhibiting less than 90% nucleotide identity as separate viruses

and those exhibiting greater than or equal to 90% identity as strains of known viruses.

PCR Validation and Testing

A subset of contigs were chosen for manual validation. All chosen contigs met both of

the following conditions: the presence of mapping reads in the bumblebee small

RNAs (for the *B. terrestris*, *B. pascuorum* and *B. lucorum* pools; not a condition for

the mixed *Bombus* pool) or the transcriptomic RNAs (for the other *Bombus* pool

where small RNAs were not generated), and the closest blast match being viral RNA-

dependent RNA-polymerase. Internal primers for these contigs were generated using

primer3 [38] and amplification of the target was verified via Sanger sequencing. See

Supp Table 3 for PCR conditions and primer sequences. Mayfield virus 1 and 2 were

Sanger sequence validated over the entirety of the contig. The Loch Morlich and

River Liunaeg virus sequences were generated by the connection of several disjoint

contigs by Sanger sequencing. Black Hill virus was excluded from further analysis as

it was found that that the PCR reaction amplified a host sequence that could not be

visually differentiated from the virus product.

Phylogenetic Inference

Following Cameron et al. (2007) [39], we inferred the bumblebee phylogeny using

cytochrome oxidase I, elongation factor 1-alpha, opsin, phosphoenolpyruvate

carboxykinase, 16S and arginine kinase genes. To break up long branches and allow

dating, additional species not sampled in the field were added from public databases

(see Supp Table 4 for genbank accession numbers and species included). The DNA

sequences were aligned with MAFFT using the L-INS-i setting [40,41]. The 6 gene

alignments were then used to generate the phylogeny in BEAST v2.4.5 [42], treating

each file as a separate partition, using bModelTest [43] with the

'transitionTransversion split' setting and a calibrated Yule tree prior [44]. An

uncorrelated lognormal relaxed clock was fitted to each partition, with exponential

(λ=1) priors placed over the mean rate and the default gamma (α=0.5396, β=0.3819)

priors being placed over the standard deviation [45]. The bumblebees were

constrained to be monophyletic, with the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, as an outgroup. A

gamma (α=74.85889, β=0.4366812) distributed divergence time prior was placed

over the tMRCA of the *Bombus* clade, with parameters optimised to match the 2.5[th]

and 97.5[th] percentiles of the posterior distribution of ages previously estimated by

Hines (2008) [46]. Four separate runs of the MCMC were performed for 100,000,000

steps from random starting trees, with the first 50,000,000 steps being discarded as

burn in. Convergence of the posterior among runs was assessed in Tracer v1.7 [47].

The posterior sample was thinned to 1000 trees.

For the virus phylogeny, amino acid sequences were inferred based on the translated

ORFs for regions predicted to contain RdRp motifs using the GenomeNet MOTIF

search function [48] against the Pfam database [49], with an expectation cut-off of

0.00001. If a virus had no annotated motifs, the canonical GDD RdRp amino acid

motif [50] was identified manually. Additional virus species (Supp Table 5) were

added to the phylogeny to anchor species with short generated contigs, and to break

up long branches. Given the long evolutionary distance between the viruses,

PROMALS3D [51] was used to align viral sequences. The alignments were trimmed

to the first conserved secondary structural element at both ends as predicted by

PROMALS3D with the 0.95 conservation metric. Two of the novel viruses (Agassiz

Rock virus and Cnoc Mor virus) were not included in this phylogeny because the

section of the RdRp gene required fell outside the available contig. Given that it is

unclear whether there was a universal common ancestor of all RNA viruses [52], we

aligned the sequences and generated the phylogeny twice, with and without the

negative sense RNA viruses (Supp Table 5). The trees serve purely to quantify

expected variance (under a Brownian motion model of evolution) between closely

related viruses. The deep splits in the phylogeny are poorly resolved with RdRp data

[53], due to the fast evolutionary rates of RNA viruses, the considerable time since

divergence and permutations in the RdRp sequence [54]. However, this should not

overly bias the conclusions as beyond a certain evolutionary distance, the viruses

would be expected to become essentially uncorrelated when averaged across the

posterior (Supp Table 6 for realised correlations).

Phylogenetic models used the BLOSUM62 rate matrix [55] with gamma distributed

rate variation using 4 gamma categories, an uncorrelated lognormal relaxed clock [45]

and a Yule tree prior. A CTMC rate reference prior [56] was placed over the clock

mean and an exponential (λ=1) prior was placed over the standard deviation. The

alpha parameter of the gamma distributed rate variation was given an exponential

(λ=1) prior. Absolute dating of viral trees is difficult due to the inconsistency in

estimated ages provided by estimated clock rates and known orthologous insertions

between sister host species [57], but is not essential for our analysis, which depends

only on relative branch lengths. Nevertheless, we chose to use orthologous insertions

(related historical viruses stably integrated into the genomes of species with better

known divergence dates) to provide approximate dates for our tree. To account for the

estimated ages of RNA viral families [58], we set a uniform lognormal prior with an

offset of 97 Mya, a mean of 500 Mya and a logged standard deviation of 0.5 on the

age of the root of the tree including the negative sense RNA viruses and a lognormal

prior with an offset of 76 Mya, a mean of 500 Mya and a logged standard deviation of

0.5 on the age of the tree excluding them. Two partitiviruses (Rosellinia necatrix

partitivirus 2 and Raphanus sativus cryptic virus 1) known to have a common ancestor

older than 10 Mya [59] were included for dating purposes. We placed a diffuse

lognormal prior with an offset of 10 Mya, a mean of 30 Mya and a logged standard

deviation of 0.5, on the age of the MRCA of these species. Both models were run over

10 separate chains for 50,000,000 generations on a cluster in BEAST v1.8.4 [60],

with 25,000,000 generations being discarded as burn-in. Convergence of the posterior

was assessed in Tracer v1.7 [47]. The posterior distributions were combined and

thinned to 1000 trees.

Prevalence Estimation

Maximum likelihood prevalence and 2-log-likelihood confidence intervals were

estimated for each host/virus combination with more than one pool using the code

from Webster et al. (2015) [61]. As the samples were small pooled groups of

individuals, such that a PCR 'positive' represents one or more infections, we

modelled the prevalence using a "pooled binomial" likelihood [62–64]. This approach

requires that the underlying prevalence of a virus is the same in all pools, which is

unlikely for bumblebees sampled from different locations. Estimates should therefore

be treated with caution.

Co-phylogenetic Mixed Model Analysis

To test for the evolutionary effects on association, the presence/absence data and the

phylogenetic trees were analysed using a co-phylogenetic mixed model [25]

implemented in Stan [65]. Our model is explicitly focused at the individual-level, and

the model's predictions represent the predicted probability of infection within an

individual of the species. This is in contrast with Hadfield et al.'s original

implementation where the focus was at the species- or population- level and the

model was estimating the probability that the parasite would be found in the species

or population at all. In all cases, the presented models showed no divergences,

acceptable Rhat and E-BFMI values and effective sample sizes of over 200.

We fitted host and virus phylogenetic effects, which measure the extent to which

variation in prevalence is clustered on the host and viral phylogenies respectively. We

also fitted host and viral evolutionary interaction effects, which measure the extent to

which related species have similar probabilities of infection in the sets of their

interaction partners. The final phylogenetic term fitted was a coevolutionary

interaction, which measures the extent to which related hosts are infected to similar

degrees by related viruses (see Box 1).

In addition to the phylogenetic terms, non-phylogenetic host and virus terms, an

interaction between these terms and a pool ID term were fitted. The non-phylogenetic

host and virus terms measure variation that can be partitioned between host species

and virus species in average infection risk that is not consistent with trait evolution by

Brownian motion. The interaction term measures variation that can be partitioned

between pairwise interactions between individual hosts and viruses that is not

consistent with the linear sum of their individual means from the non-phylogenetic

host and virus terms. The pool ID effect measures variation between pools in

infection risk averaged over all the viruses tested. As the pools combined hosts by

species rather than by location, so that some had individuals from multiple locations,

we treated each location and each realised combination of locations as levels of a

random effect, terming this the "spatial composition effect". This describes the

variation in average infection level between realised combinations of locations

averaged across viruses. Model 1 included all the viruses, Model 2 excluded the

negative sense RNA viruses and Model 3 fitted a pseudo-taxonomic model. In Model

3, the relationship among the viruses was represented by a polytomic viral tree with

arbitrary branch lengths (with a root-to tip distance of 1 unit, and equal length

between each taxonomic level) with the viruses being split first by their genomic type

(+ve sense RNA, -ve sense RNA and dsRNA) implying a covariance of 0 between

genome structures, followed by splitting by the putative viral clades identified by Shi

et al. (2016) [31]. This was done to test for potential bias caused the by the possibility

of systematic misidentification of the correct relationship between families in the

estimated viral trees.

The form of the models is shown below, where i indexes the data points, $group_i$

represents the level of a categorical variable that the ith pool belongs to, y_i represents

the 1/0 indicator for the presence or absence of infection in the ith pool, k_i represents

the number of individuals in the ith pool, p_i is the unmeasured probability of infection

of a single individual in the ith pool, y'_i is the estimated value of $\log_e(p_i/(1 - p_i))$, μ is

the global mean of the latent variable, ε is a normally distributed error term. All terms

were fitted as random effects (i.e. estimated by partial pooling). As above, a "pooled

binomial" likelihood was used [62–64].

$$y_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1 - (1 - p_i)^{k_i})$$

$p_i = \exp(y'_i)/\exp(1 + y'_i)$

$y'_i = \mu + host_i + virus_i + interaction_i + \text{host phylogenetic effect}_i + \text{virus}$

$\text{phylogenetic effect}_i + \text{host evolutionary interaction}_i + \text{virus evolutionary}$

$\text{interaction}_i + \text{coevolutionary interaction}_i + \text{pool ID}_i + \text{species composition}_i + \varepsilon$

All variance-covariance matrices were generated as described in Hadfield et al.

(2014) [25], with the variance-covariance matrices scaled to correlation matrices. A

standard logistic prior was placed over the global intercept on the latent scale, μ,

representing a flat prior on the probability scale. An exponential (λ=1) prior was

placed on each variance term in the model. In the full model with all variances being

estimated, this is equivalent to a gamma (α=11, β=1) prior over the total variance,

which gives a prior mean variance of 11, and an appropriate prior on the standard

deviation of a variable on the logit scale. Intraclass correlations, which represent the

proportion of the variance explained by each effect, were calculated on the link scale

(with an addition of $\pi^2/3$ to the denominator to account for the variance of the logistic

distribution of the latent variable) from the model outputs and reported. Highest

posterior density intervals were calculated by the SPIn method [66] and 90% credible

intervals are reported as these are more robust to sampling in the tails of the posterior

distribution [67].

The total phylogenetic variance was calculated as:

$(\sigma^2_{\text{host phylogenetic}} + \sigma^2_{\text{host interaction}} + \sigma^2_{\text{virus phylogenetic}} + \sigma^2_{\text{virus interaction}} + \sigma^2_{\text{coevolutionary}}$

$_{\text{interaction}})/(\sigma^2_{\text{total}} + \pi^2/3)$

The total non-phylogenetic variance was calculated as:

$(\sigma^2_{\text{host}} + \sigma^2_{\text{virus}} + \sigma^2_{\text{interaction}} + \sigma^2_{\text{poolID}} + \sigma^2_{\text{spatial composition}})/(\sigma_{\text{total}} + \pi^2/3)$

Uncertainty in the inferred phylogenies was accounted for by direct marginalisation.

This dramatically increased the runtime of the model, as, given the input of H host

phylogenies and V viral phylogenies from their posterior distributions, the likelihood

of each datapoint has to be calculated HV times. As such, we included only 10 trees

from each posterior, as a trade-off between runtime and accounting for uncertainty in

the tree hypotheses. The marginalisation is shown below, with **y** being the total vector

of presences and absences, H being the number of host phylogenies used, V being the

number viral phylogenies used, θ being all the non-variance-covariance parameters in

the model, Ω_j being the set of variance-covariance matrices generated by the jth

combination of host and virus phylogenies, Ω_{HV} representing the set of all variance-

covariance matrices being marginalised over and $\mathfrak{L}$ representing a likelihood.

$\mathfrak{L}(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \theta, \Omega_{HV}) = \sum_{j=1}^{HV} \frac{1}{HV} \, \mathfrak{L}(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \theta, \Omega_j)$

Tongue Length Analysis

After finding that the posterior for the host evolutionary interaction was well resolved

from zero, we designed a post-hoc test to attempt to detect signal for one of the

obvious mechanistic explanations for this; structured transmission networks driven by

evolutionarily conserved anatomical factors. We tested for an association between the

tongue length differences between bumblebee species and the differences in their viral

community structures, as a proxy for signal of differential transmission at flowers

driven by evolutionarily conserved flower choice. Average tongue lengths for each

bumblebee species except *Bombus bohemicus* and *Bombus cryptarum* were taken

from Goulson et al (2005) [68]. No published tongue length could be found for

Bombus cryptarum, so we assumed that it was identical to that of *Bombus lucorum*, a

species of which it is near indistinguishable in the field. *Bombus bohemicus* was

excluded from this analysis, because it is an inquiline parasite, and therefore its

ecology differs from the other species in such a way that tongue length would not be

expected to be correlated with the viral community distance.

In order to test for a correlation between tongue length and viral assemblage

similarity, estimates of the distance in viral communities between host species are

required. These were generated as follows: For each host-virus combination, the

package 'prevalence' was used to generate posterior draws of the underlying

prevalences under a Beta (1,1) prior. Then 1000 draws per species were taken from

these sets of MCMC draws to generate 1000 matrices of host-virus prevalences

consistent with the raw data. For each of these matrices, the distance between each

species' viral community was calculated by taking the vector of estimated prevalences

for the 16 viruses of a given species as a coordinate in a 16-dimensional space then

calculating the Euclidean distance between these points. The rank correlation

(Kendall's τ-b) between each pair of species' viral community distances and their

tongue length distances was then calculated, using the mantel function in the R

package vegan. The point estimate presented is the median of the 1000 initial

correlations accounting for the uncertainty in the underlying prevalences. The 95%

confidence interval is the 2.5[th] and 97.5[th] percentiles distribution of estimated

correlations.

Results

RNA was extracted from 13 species of bumblebee from nine sites, to identify new

viruses, assay their prevalence and their pattern of distribution across host species and

to test whether the evolutionary histories of the viruses and hosts have impacted the

current distribution.

Read and Assembly Statistics

A total of 134,026,056 sequencing read pairs were generated for *Bombus lucorum*,

135,590,922 for *Bombus terrestris*, 128,670,194 for *Bombus pascuorum* and

26,838,390 for the other *Bombus* species with 0.37, 0.38, 3.36 and 15.12 percent of

reads mapping to the known viruses or the novel bee viruses found in the study. The

poly-A and DSN normalized datasets were unexpectedly highly correlated, given their

expected biases (1.000 for *Bombus terrestris*, 0.999 for *Bombus pascuorum* and 0.998

for *Bombus lucorum*) implying that the sequencing results were highly consistent

irrespective of the selection method used.

Previously Described Viruses Present in the Metagenomic Pools

RNAseq reads mapped to three previously described bee viruses. The majority of

these reads mapped either to the Acute bee paralysis virus/Kashmir bee virus complex

(henceforth ABPV) [29] or to Slow bee paralysis virus (SBPV) [28]. Additionally, in

the mixed *Bombus* pool, reads were found mapping to Hubei partiti-like virus 34

(HPLV34) a virus initially detected, though not named, in honeybees by Cornman et

al (2012) [30], then subsequently also reported in a sample from Chinese landsnails

by Shi et al (2016) [31].

No RNAseq reads were mapped to Deformed wing virus – type A [69], Chronic bee

paralysis virus [29], Bee macula-like virus [70], Ganda bee virus [71], Scaldis River

bee virus [71], Black queen cell virus [72], Apis rhabdovirus 1 [73], Apis rhabdovirus

2 [73], Apis bunyavirus 1 [73], Apis bunyavirus 2 [73], Apis flavivirus [73], Apis

dicistrovirus [73], Apis Nora virus [73] and members of the Lake Sinai virus complex

[74]. A small number of small RNA reads did map to these viruses, however, this

likely represents cross-mapping, given the lower stringency of 22nt reads. Two of the

viral contigs generated by the *de novo* assembly had high similarity to previously

described plant viruses; both RNAs of White clover cryptic virus 2 [75] (96%

identity), both RNAs of strain of Arabis mosaic virus (MH614320/MH614321) [76]

distant to previously sequenced strains (91% identity) and a strain of Red Clover

nepovirus A (MH614312) [77] distant to previously sequenced strains (90% identity).

Putative Novel Viral-like Sequences

We identified 37 putative novel viral contigs, four mapping to DNA viruses (4

densovirus-like contigs) and 33 to RNA viruses (4 Reo group contigs, 2 Toti-Chryso

group contigs, 4 Bunya-Arena group contigs, 1 Orthomyxoviridae-like contig, 8

Hepe-Virga group contigs, 12 Picorna-Calici group contigs and 2 Tombus-Noda

group contigs). Based on the supposition that a contig represents a separate virus if it

maps to a different viral grouping than the other contigs, or if it can be aligned to all

other contigs within its assigned viral grouping, this represents 30 new viruses with

seven remaining contigs that may represent other genomic regions of these 30 viruses

or separate viruses that cannot be confirmed as such. See Table 1 for information on

the viruses tested for prevalence using PCR and Supplementary Table 7 for detailed

information on all of the identified contigs. The numbers of reads mapping these

contigs were variable and are shown in Table 2.

Table 1 The names, genome structures and groupings (following Shi et al. (2016) [31]) of the newly

discovered viruses for which prevalence was assessed.

Putative viral contig	Abbreviations	Clade	Genome structure
Agassiz Rock virus	ARV	Reo	dsRNA
Elf Loch virus	ELV	Reo	dsRNA
Dumyat virus	DV	Toti-Chryso	dsRNA
Sheriffmuir virus	SV	Toti-Chryso	dsRNA
Clamshell Cave virus	CCV	Bunya-Arena	- ssRNA
Allermuir Hill virus 1	AHV1	Hepe-Virga	+ssRNA
Allermuir Hill virus 2	AHV2	Hepe-Virga	+ssRNA
Allermuir Hill virus 3	AHV3	Hepe-Virga	+ssRNA
Mill Lade virus	MLV	Hepe-Virga	+ssRNA

Boghill Burn virus	BBV	Picorna-Calici	+ssRNA
Gorebridge virus	GV	Picorna-Calici	+ssRNA
Loch Morlich virus	LMV	Picorna-Calici	+ssRNA
Mayfield virus 1	MV1	Picorna-Calici	+ssRNA
Mayfield virus 2	MV2	Picorna-Calici	+ssRNA
River Liunaeg virus	RLV	Picorna-Calici	+ssRNA
Castleton Burn virus	CBV	Tombus-Noda	+ssRNA

581   **Table 2** The RNAseq reads per kilobase per mapped million reads in the *Bombus terrestris*, *Bombus*

582   *lucorum, Bombus* pascuorum and mixed *Bombus* pools. Structural zeros are indicated by dashes, zeros

583   in the table indicate below 0.005. Contigs with names in bold meet the criterion of having at least 50

584   mapping small RNA reads with a sharp peak in the size distribution at 22nt in *Bombus terrestris,*

585   *Bombus lucorum* and *Bombus pascuorum* providing evidence of replication (see main text).

Putative viral contig	Accession number	*Bombus terrestris*	*Bombus lucorum*	*Bombus pascuorum*	mixed *Bombus*
Bombus-associated Densovirus-like Contig 1	MH614322	0.09	-	-	12.34
Bombus-associated Densovirus-like Contig 2	MH614323	0.39	2.66	-	14.23
Agassiz Rock virus	MH614287	3.77	0.49	-	-
Cnoc Mor virus	MH614297	0.97	-	-	20.38
Bombus-associated Reoviridae-like Contig 1	MH614298	0.42	0.03	-	1.63
Elf Loch virus	MH614300	-	0.00	1.00	0.05
Dumyat virus	MH614299	-	-	-	10.30
Sheriffmuir virus	MH614317	-	-	-	2.55
Clamshell Cave virus	MH614294	0.07	-	-	2.10
Bombus-associated Bunyaviridae-like Contig 1	MH614295	0.70	-	-	5.61
Bombus-associated Bunyaviridae-like Contig 2	MH614296	-	-	-	12.13
Bombus-associated Phlebovirus-like Contig 1	MH614315	3.07	2.77	0.95	1.63
Bombus-associated Orthomyxovirus-like Contig 1	MH614314	-	-	0.44	-
Allermuir Hill virus 1	MH614288	15.27	0.64	0.02	1.50
Allermuir Hill virus 2	MH614289	0.01	0.03	12.71	0.13
Allermuir Hill virus 3	MH614290	0.40	2.62	0.50	3.35
Mill Lade virus	MH614306	0.40	0.48	0.03	7.28
Bombus-associated Virga-like Contig 1	MH614308	-	0.65	-	-
Bombus-associated Virga-like Contig 2	MH614309	-	0.33	-	-
Bombus-associated Virga-like Contig 3	MH614318	16.03	4.83	0.52	90.37
Bombus-associated Virga-like Contig 4	MH614319	1.66	0.11	-	0.54
Black Hill virus	MH614291	-	-	-	2.96
Boghill Burn virus	MH614292	0.00	10.92	0.00	0.11

Gorebridge virus	MH614301	2.97	0.02	-	0.15
Bombus-associated Picornavirus-like Contig 1	MH614302	6.27	0.02	-	0.29
Loch Morlich virus	MH614303	0.00	-	-	7.83
Mayfield virus 1	MH614304	391.31	232.93	0.59	7.67
Mayfield virus 2	MH614305	4.87	0.79	336.97	558.82
Bombus-associated Nepovirus-like Contig 1	MH614310	1.72	1.02	0.09	1.70
Bombus-associated Nepovirus-like Contig 2	MH614311	0.33	0.39	0.11	0.21
Bombus-associated Picornavirus-like Contig 2	MH614316	0.11	0.29	1.02	0.04
River Liunaeg virus	MH614307	0.24	0.47	0.01	9.58
Castleton Burn virus	MH614293	2.39	12.30	8.10	122.99
Bombus-associated Nodavirus-like Contig 1	MH614313	-	-	-	1.50

siRNA-based Evidence for Infection

RNA interference is an important component of antiviral defence in arthropods [78].

As part of this defence mechanism, homologs of *Drosophila* Dicer-2 cleave dsRNA,

usually in the form of replication intermediates, giving rise to a characteristically

narrow and sharply peaked distribution of virus-derived small RNAs. Thus the

presence of such small RNAs from both strands of an ssRNA virus provide

compelling evidence that the virus was replicating. In bumblebees the characteristic

Dicer-mediated viral siRNAs peak sharply at 22nt [73], and the viruses that displayed

at least 50 characteristic viral siRNAs are marked in Table 2. The distribution of the

mapped small RNA reads is shown in Fig 3 for all viruses where the siRNAs are

described in the main text, with full data in Supp Fig 1.

In the three bumblebee species with siRNA data, a sequence similar to a phlebovirus

glycoprotein (AEL29653.1) displayed >50 siRNA reads. However, the size spectra of

these reads is centered on 24nt with a strong bias for a 5' terminal uracil, with the

antisense mapping orientation being more prevalent. This 5' U-bias is consistent with

insect piRNAs [79], and the predominant antisense orientation is consistent with the

piRNA mapping pattern to endogenous viral elements (EVE) in mosquitoes [80].

However, the size of piRNAs in bumblebees is generally larger than this [81]. This

sequence is therefore potentially an EVE that has either been gained multiple times or

has been maintained in the bumblebee genome since at least the *B. pascuorum-B.*

terrestris/*B. lucorum* split.

It is notable that the size distribution of viral siRNAs is less sharply peaked in

Mayfield virus 1, Mayfield virus 2 and Slow bee paralysis virus (excepting Mayfield

virus 1 in *B. lucorum*, which is sharply peaked), with broad 'shoulders'. This is

reminiscent of the pattern seen for Drosophila C virus and Drosophila Nora virus in

wild-collected D. *melanogaster* [61], both of which contain a viral suppressor of

RNAi [82,83].

B. pascuorum also had siRNA reads mapping to a sequence with 90% identity to Red

clover nepovirus A (MG253829.1) [77]. However, the read length spectra were

sharply peaked at 21nt, rather than the 22nt of bumblebee viRNAs. This is consistent

with siRNA's produced from DLC4, the key antiviral dicer in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

[84] implying acquisition of the small RNAs through nectar or pollen contamination.

623
Fig 2 The mapping of small RNA reads to Mayfield virus 1, Mayfield virus 2, a contig similar to

Tomato black ring virus, a contig similar to a phlebovirus glycoprotein and Slow bee paralysis virus.

Blue lines represent reads mapping to the positive-sense strand at that genomic position, red lines

represent reads mapping to the negative sense strand. The histogram of read size spectra shows the

count of reads of each length mapping in the positive (above) and negative (below) directions. The

colouring of each bar shows the counts of the reads beginning with each 5' base (red-U, blue-C, green-

A, yellow-G).

Prevalence

Species level prevalences differed dramatically among the different viruses (Fig 3).

Prevalences were generally low to intermediate, with modal viral prevalences for

most host-virus combinations being below 15%. Slow bee paralysis virus was by far

the most common virus in the sample, with estimated prevalences of greater than 25%

in multiple species. Our ability to estimate the prevalence of common viruses is

limited by the pooling, leading us to only be able to assign lower bounds to

prevalences in these cases, but in 7 of 11 species, all pools were positive for SBPV.

Acute bee paralysis virus, Hubei partiti-like virus 34, Castleton Burn virus,

Gorebridge virus, Mayfield virus 1 and Mayfield virus 2 all reached 15-25%

prevalences in multiple species. Several viruses showed strong signals of species

specificity, having very low to zero prevalences in multiple host species but high

prevalences in others. Examples of this pattern include Allermuir Hill virus 1 in *B.*

terrestris, Allermuir Hill virus 2 in *B. pascuorum*, Allermuir Hill virus 3 in *B. magnus*

and *B. monticola*, as well as Loch Morlich virus and River Luinaeg virus in *B.*

jonellus.

Fig 3 A heatmap of maximum likelihood estimates for prevalence. Hosts and viruses are ordered by

phylogenetic relatedness, the trees represent the maximum clade credibility topology. Squares in red

with maximum likelihood estimates of the prevalence of 1 correspond to cases where all pools were

positive. The maximum likelihood estimate is likely extremely upwardly biased in this case.

Host-Pathogen Co-phylogenetic Models

All models that included a virus phylogeny term gave qualitatively similar results (Fig

4, Table 3). This suggests that the results are robust to both phylogenetic uncertainty

and the assumption of a common ancestor of all RNA viruses. For this reason, for the

rest of this section, estimates will be given from the model containing the estimated

phylogeny with all the RNA viruses included. All estimates represent the percentage

of the total variance in the model (the sum of all estimated variance components

adjusted for the variance of the link function by the addition of $\pi^2/3$) explained by a

term. In all cases, the presented point estimate is the posterior mean, and 90% shortest

posterior density intervals [66] are presented following in square brackets. Shortest

posterior density intervals are a variant of highest posterior density intervals and

describe the shortest possible interval containing (in this case) 90% of the probability

density for the parameter. We present 90% intervals rather than the standard 95%

intervals, as 95% intervals calculated from simulation draws are less computationally

stable [67]. In all cases but the virus phylogenetic effect, the posterior estimates for

the proportion of variance explained by each effect differed strongly from their

induced priors (Supp Fig 2).

Summary of Model Results

We find evidence that which viral species infects a host, the specific interaction

between individual hosts and individual viruses and related hosts having similar

prevalences with the same sets of viruses all explain variation in infection prevalence.

Total Evolutionarily-associated Variation

In the models containing the virus phylogeny, approximately a quarter (25.9% [11.6-

40.4]) of the total variation in prevalence was explained by terms accounting for the

evolutionary histories of hosts and viruses (host phylogenetic effect, virus

phylogenetic effect, host evolutionary interaction effect, virus evolutionary interaction

effect and coevolutionary interaction).

Host and Virus Level Effects

The host and virus phylogenetic effects measure the extent to which related hosts

have similar average prevalences of virus infection and related viruses have similar

average prevalences across hosts. The host and virus non-phylogenetic terms measure

the extent to which hosts and viruses differ in their average infection levels in manner

not consistent with evolution by Brownian motion along a phylogeny. The host

species and phylogenetic effects explained a small proportion of the total variance in

infection probability (species: 1.9%, [0.0-4.6]; phylogenetic: 2.9%, [0.0-6.5]). The

shape of the posterior distributions for the two parameters visualised in Fig 4, makes

it clear that the most credible values for both of these parameters are 0. While it is

unlikely that there is no variation in average prevalence between host species, it is

clear that the amount of prevalence explained by hosts differing in their infection

levels averaged across viruses is small relative to the other effects.

The virus species and phylogenetic effects explained a larger proportion of the total

variance in infection probability, with non-phylogenetic variation dominating, but

were imprecisely estimated (species: 13.8%, [3.8-23.7]; phylogenetic: 8.5%, [0.0-

17.8]). The posterior density for the phylogenetic effect is concentrated at 0. So, while

it is clear there is a virus species effect, the data does not appear informative for the

presence or absence of a viral phylogenetic effect in this system. The posterior draws

for the viral species and phylogenetic effect were negatively correlated within

iterations, indicating that the model had difficulty partitioning the two. This partial

non-identifiablility explains the broad posteriors on both.

Interaction Effects

A host evolutionary interaction effect measures the extent to which more closely

related hosts have more similar prevalences with the same sets of viruses, and a virus

evolutionary interaction effect measures the extent to which more closely related

viruses infect the same sets of hosts to more similar degrees. A coevolutionary

interaction term measures the extent to which more related hosts are infected to

similar degrees with viruses that are themselves related. The non-phylogenetic

interaction term measures the extent to which there is variance in the mean prevalence

of specific host-virus pairings, that are is not consistent with the other interaction

effects (see Box 1).

There was little evidence for a virus evolutionary interaction effect or coevolutionary

interaction having a large effect on the observed prevalences (virus: 2.9% [0.0-6.1];

coevolutionary: 2.0% [0.0-4.6]). In both cases, the marginal posterior distributions

peaked at 0.

There was evidence for a host evolutionary interaction explaining some of the total

variance in prevalence (9.5% [0.0-18.3]). This is the only parameter in the model for

which the estimated size of the effect depended strongly on the specific treatment of

the virus phylogeny (see Fig 4). Whether the lower 90% bound of the credible interval

for the variation explained rounded to 0.0 or 0.1 depended on the phylogenetic matrix

(or set of phylogenetic matrices) inputted. The marginal posterior distribution of the

parameter was concentrated at lower values when the estimated phylogeny including

the negative-sense RNA viruses was used, and at higher values in the other two cases.

However, irrespective of the choice of virus phylogeny, the mode of the distribution

and majority of the density was distant from zero, implying that the effect is likely to

be biologically relevant. As the virus phylogenies themselves are not actually directly

involved in this term, this must be due to the partitioning of variance across other

terms being cryptically different depending on the assumptions about the virus

phylogeny.

There was also a clear non-phylogenetic interaction (15.8% [5.8-25.4]), implying that

much of the variation in prevalence is due to the idiosyncrasies of individual host-

virus combinations.

As with the virus species effect and the virus phylogenetic effect, the MCMC draws

for the proportion of variance explained by the host evolutionary interaction and non-

phylogenetic interaction were negatively correlated within an iteration, implying that

separating these parameters was proving difficult. While this led to a diffuse posterior

with wide credible intervals for both, they remain individually interpretable, and both

effects appear present simultaneously.

750
Fig 4 Comparison of estimated proportion of variance in prevalence explained by different parameters

between models. As each factor explains a proportion of the attributed variance in the model, total

variance over all factors must sum to 1. For each parameter, the circle represents the modal estimate,

the thick bars represent the 50% shortest posterior density interval and the thin bars represent the 90%

shortest posterior density interval. "Pool ID" is the proportion of the total variation in prevalence

explained by pools within species differing in the degree to which they were infected by viruses.

"Spatial Composition" is the proportion of the total variation in prevalence explained by the

combination of locations from which the bees in the pool originate. "Host Species Effect" is the

759 proportion of variation in prevalence explained by hosts having different average viral prevalences.

760 "Virus Species Effect" is the proportion of variation in prevalence explained by viruses differing in

761 their average prevalences. "Non-phylogenetic Interaction" is the proportion of variation in prevalence

762 explained by host-virus combinations differing in the their average prevalences beyond that which

763 would be expected by their host and virus species effects alone. "Host Phylogenetic Effect" is the

764 proportion of variation in prevalence explained by hosts having average viral prevalences correlated

765 across the host phylogeny. "Virus Phylogenetic Effect" is the proportion of variation in prevalence

766 explained by viruses having average prevalences correlated across the viral phylogeny. "Host

767 Evolutionary Interaction" is the proportion of variation in prevalence explained by related hosts having

768 correlated viral assemblages. "Virus Evolutionary Interaction" is the proportion of the variation

769 explained by related viruses having correlated host assemblages. "Coevolutionary Interaction" is the

770 proportion of the variation explained by related hosts having similar prevalences of related viruses.

771 "Total Non-phylogenetic" is the proportion of the variation that can be explained by terms not

772 involving the host and virus phylogeny and excluding the residual ("Host Species Effect", "Virus

773 Species Effect", "Pool ID", "Spatial Composition Effect", "Non-phylogenetic Interaction"). "Total

774 phylogenetic" is the proportion of the variation that can be explained by terms involving a host or virus

775 phylogeny ("Host Phylogenetic Effect", "Virus Phylogenetic Effect", "Host Evolutionary Interaction",

776 "Virus Evolutionary Interaction", "Coevolutionary Interaction"). "Residual + Link" is the proportion of

777 the total variance that is explained by the residual variance and variance of the logistic distribution

778 $(\pi^2/3)$.

781   **Table 3** Mean estimates for the intra-class correlations of each variance component. The point estimate

782   is the posterior mean, the numbers in brackets represent the 90% shortest posterior density interval.

	All Viruses	No Negative Sense Viruses	Pseudo-taxonomic
Virus Species Effect	13.8 (3.8, 23.7)	13.6 (2.1, 23.2)	14.4 (4.1, 24.2)
Virus Phylogenetic Effect	8.5 (0, 17.8)	8.9 (0, 19.4)	7.9 (0, 17.1)
Host Species Effect	1.9 (0, 4.6)	2.1 (0, 4.8)	1.9 (0, 4.6)
Host Phylogenetic Effect	2.9 (0, 6.5)	3.0 (0, 6.9)	2.9 (0, 6.6)
Virus Evolutionary Interaction	2.9 (0, 6.1)	2.3 (0, 5.1)	2.9 (0, 6.6)
Host Evolutionary Interaction	9.5 (0, 18.3)	10.4 (0.2, 18.8)	10.5 (0, 19.0)
Non-phylogenetic Interaction	15.8 (5.8, 25.4)	15.8 (6.5, 25.2)	14.9 (4.6, 24.0)
Coevolutionary Interaction	2.0 (0, 4.6)	2.2 (0, 5.0)	2.0 (0, 4.5)
Pool ID	3.0 (1.1, 4.8)	3.3 (1.4, 5.3)	3.0 (1.2, 4.8)
Pool Spatial Composition	1.4 (0, 2.9)	1.3 (0, 2.8)	1.3 (0, 2.9)
Residual + Link	38.3 (31.5, 45.1)	37.2 (30.3, 43.9)	38 (31, 44.7)
Total Non-phylogenetic	35.9 (22.4, 50.3)	36 (21.2, 49.8)	35.7 (22.7, 50.1)
Total Phylogenetic	25.9 (11.6, 40.4)	26.8 (11.6, 41.5)	26.3 (11.7, 40.4)

Tongue Length-Viral Community Correlation

Given that the co-phylogenetic model found that related hosts share viral

communities, one potential mechanism for this is phylogenetically-biased exposure,

driven by phylogenetically correlated floral preferences. If bumblebee species with

similar flower preferences had similar viral communities, it would be expected that

there would be a positive correlation between tongue length similarity (as this is an

important factor in floral preference) and viral community similarity between pairs of

species. The point estimate of the correlation between the two distances was small

and negative (-0.06), but the 95% confidence intervals for that point estimate

overlapped zero (-0.13, 0.00), so given the uncertainty in the data, a correlation of

zero cannot be rejected. Nonetheless, given this data, a strong positive relationship

between tongue length and viral community similarity seems unlikely, a result

inconsistent with phylogenetically-biased exposure driven by tongue length-mediated

floral choice.

Discussion

Using wild bumblebee species that share transmission opportunities, we have shown

that variation in the prevalence of infection in the wild is explained by related hosts

being infected with the same viruses to similar degrees, viruses differing in their

average prevalence and individual virus-host pairings having greater or lesser

prevalence than would be expected by the host and virus species effects alone.

Virus Discovery

There is now an extensive diversity of viruses known in bees, with most new studies

finding novel viruses [30,71,73,74,85-87]. We have found 37 novel putative viral

contigs in the transcriptomes of wild-caught bumblebees from across Scotland,

suggesting that virus discovery in this taxonomic group is far from saturation. As with

any metagenomic study, it is hard to be confident that the virus-like contigs represent

real infections of the sampled host, rather than surface or gut contaminants. However,

the presence of 22nt virus siRNAs, generated from double-stranded viruses by Dicer

as part of an antiviral response in the host, provides compelling evidence that at least

10 of these contigs (Densovirus 2 and 3, Elf Loch virus, Allermuir Hill virus 1, 2 and

3, Mill Lade virus, Mayfield virus 1 and 2, and Castleton Burn virus) represent active

viral infections in bumblebees.

Mites and nematodes both parasitise bumblebees and therefore could potentially be an

alternative source of the small RNAs. Mite viRNAs are reported to be centered at

24nt [73], and could therefore not produce the small RNA patterns observed.

Nematode viRNAs are centered at 22nt, like bumblebee viRNAs, [88] and thus could

potentially produce this pattern. While, outside of queens infected with *Sphaerularia*

bombi, nematode infection of wild bumblebees appears to be very rare [89],

nematodes cannot be categorically ruled out as a source of the observed small RNAs.

One contig's (MH614312) mapped small RNAs were centered at 21nt, and the closest

known virus was a nepovirus of plants. As DCL4, a major plant Dicer, produces

viRNAs of this size [90], this is consistent with that particular virus being a plant

virus, which was transferred in collected nectar or pollen.

Phylogenetic Effects

We found no evidence for a large host phylogenetic effect, where related hosts have

correlated average viral prevalences. To the best of our knowledge no studies have

previously applied these methods to viruses sampled from wild animals. However,

other traits relating to viral disease in a series of studies in *Drosophila* species under

experimental conditions have consistently detected host phylogenetic effects in

factors that would be expected to be correlated with prevalence in the wild, such as

infection probability [24], virulence and viral load [91] and viral load alone [92].

However, two of these studies focused on a single isolate of Drosophila C virus.

Therefore, the variation that they attribute to a phylogenetic effect may be partitioned

into the host evolutionary interaction in our study, as a host evolutionary interaction is

equivalent to separate inconsistent host phylogenetic effects for each virus. Our data

were not particularly informative for the presence or absence of a virus phylogenetic

effect, with the posterior being very diffuse with a majority of the density near zero.

This appears partly due to difficulties partitioning the variation between the virus

species effect and virus phylogenetic effect. Irrespective of the cause, we can make no

strong statements about whether related viruses exhibit similar prevalences across

hosts from this dataset.

Host Species Effect

There was little evidence for an important effect of host species independent of the

phylogeny, implying that hosts do not strongly vary in the average degree to which

they are infected with viruses. The previous studies using these methods have

universally found host species effects [25,93]. However, as both of these studies have

used mammal-eukaryotic parasite datasets, the degree of relevance for them as a

comparison in unclear. Experimental evidence from virus studies across drosophilid

flies have found weak to zero host species effects on the titre of sigma viruses [24]

and Drosophila C virus virulence [91] but considerably larger host species effects on

Drosophila C virus load [91]. This between-study variation potentially indicates a

reason we did not detect a host species effect. With a single pathogen, the average and

particular degrees of variation in infection between hosts are identical. As soon as

multiple pathogens are involved, they diverge, such that it is possible for there to be

no variation in the average prevalence between hosts, but still considerable variation

in the prevalence of particular viruses between hosts, which is consistent with the

presence of a host species effect in correlates of prevalence in some viruses but not

others, as noted above.

Virus Species Effect

A clear effect of virus species independent of the virus phylogeny was detected in the

dataset, despite the uncertainty added by the difficulty partitioning the virus species

and phylogenetic effects. Therefore, viruses differed in their prevalences averaged

across hosts. This is an intuitive result as viruses differ in host range [94], virulence

[95,96] and infectious period [96] at both the species and the strain level. Variation in

host range changes the size of the host pool available for infection, and variation in

virulence and infectious period both change the length of time any infected host is

available for sampling. All these factors would be expected to drive consistent

differences in long-run prevalences between viruses. Additionally, as our sites were

only sampled once, short-term effects will also drive between virus variation. Any

virus that was experiencing an epizootic at the time of sampling will be

overrepresented relative to its long-run prevalence, further increasing the between

virus variation.

Host Evolutionary Interaction Effect

A host assemblage effect was found, where phylogenetically related hosts share viral

assemblages, showing that more closely related hosts are more similar in virus

prevalence for groups of viruses. The statistical machinery required for estimating this

effect is quite new and, in the disease ecology field, has predominantly been applied

to mammal-parasite and plant-parasite systems where there are good datasets already.

Nonetheless, host evolutionary interactions have always been found when searched

for using these methods [25,93] and analogous effects are commonly found using

different methods [97–99]. In a system where these viruses were host limited, this

pattern could be explained by preferential host shifting, where parasites more

frequently gain the ability to infect hosts closely related to ones that they are already

capable of infecting. Preferential host shifting is known to be a general phenomenon,

and has been observed in macroparasites, viruses and protozoans (see Longdon et al

(2014) [27] and the references within).

While some of the viruses in this study were not detected in a subset of host species,

most of the viruses found here appear to genuinely be multihost viruses, with the

majority being detected in over half the sampled species. Given this, a combination of

biased cross-species transmission and preferential host shifting appears a better

explanation in this system. Biased cross-species transmission occurs when

transmission occurs more frequently between some species that a pathogen is already

capable of infecting than others. This biased cross-species transmission could be

driven by two non-exclusive mechanisms: phylogenetically-biased transmission

probabilities and phylogenetically-biased exposure.

Phylogenetically-biased transmission probabilities occur when cross-species

transmission is more frequent among close relatives, due to the probability of

infection after contact with the virus being similar between related species. Related

hosts present correlated environments from the perspective of the virus at the

molecular and anatomical level, therefore adaptation to one should provide

corresponding fitness increases on the other. Experimental results have shown that

correlated mutations occur on viral entry to related hosts [100], implying that this

cross-adaptation does occur. However, this is probabilistic, and the mutations fixed on

entry can differ between replicate entries [100,101]. Therefore, if there is antagonistic

pleiotropy between mutations that are adaptive in two different groups of hosts and

cross-adaptation predicts the probability of successful infection on contact, then a

phylogenetically-biased transmission network will result.

Phylogenetically-biased exposure represents an evolutionarily-driven ecological

phenomenon that biases cross-species transmission rates, mediated by niche overlap.

Contaminated flowers are likely to be an important source of intra- and inter- specific

pathogen transmission in bumblebees and pollinators more generally [102–104]. The

flower visitation network has been shown to be associated with the partitioning of

genetic diversity of *Crithidia bombi* between bumblebee hosts [9], and the network

itself is highly structured, though temporally variable [105]. Different bumblebee

species show tongue length differences, which are phylogenetically associated [15],

and the differences in tongue length correlate with differential flower usage between

bumblebee species [12,106]. If infection occurs at contaminated flowers, the

structuring of the flower usage network could cause different flowers to build up

different surface viral communities. This could drive consistent phylogenetically-

correlated differences in viral infection rates through differential exposure.

Post-hoc testing did not find a positive relationship between tongue length

dissimilarity (a rough proxy for species-level flower choice dissimilarity) and viral

community composition dissimilarity, which provides some evidence against

phylogenetically-biased exposure as the causative mechanism. However, the study

design in this case is not optimal for disentangling biased transmission probabilities

and biased exposure, as species were sampled from different locations at a single

timepoint and prevalence of the viruses varied spatially. Given this, drawing strong

conclusions as to the relative impact of the two mechanisms outlined above based on

this data would be premature. Similarly, the subgenus *Psithyrus* contains socially

parasitic species that are coevolved to parasitise particular social bumblebee species,

which could also lead to phylogenetically-correlated differences in viral infection

rates. We were unable to test whether socially parasitic cuckoo bumblebee species

have similar viral communities to their hosts, as our study included only a single

parasitic bumblebee species, *B. bohemicus*, but the possibility of brood parasitism

being an important driver of between-colony disease transmission is worth further

study.

Virus Evolutionary Interaction Effect and Coevolutionary Interaction

We found no evidence of a large virus evolutionary interaction or coevolutionary

interaction. This is largely unsurprising as it would appear implausible that the host

assemblages have been conserved over evolutionary time, as the deep splits in the

viral families predate the most recent common ancestor of bumblebees by many

millions of years [107].

Non-phylogenetic Interaction

A non-phylogenetic interaction was detected. This interaction represents variation in

prevalence caused by specific host-virus pairings having prevalences beyond that

which would be expected by the simple addition of the individual host and virus

means. A non-phylogenetic interaction could be caused by a large range of factors,

some biological and some due to the specifics of the model, many of which would be

likely to be acting simultaneously to generate this signal. One possibility is

coevolution between the host and virus that occurred after both diverged from their

common ancestor with the closest related species in the study. Another is the

complete absence of coevolution, where spillover from a primary or group of primary

hosts causes either a constant very low prevalence of dead-end infections, which are

none-the-less detectable by PCR. Related to this is a statistical issue involving cases

where not every species in the study is within a virus' host range, and the species that

are within the host range are not closely related. In this case, the variation is not

absorbed by the host evolutionary interaction and almost no host has a prevalence

close to the mean across hosts, as in many species the prevalence is zero, which

causes the mean to be considerably lower than the average prevalence in the species

the virus does infect. This effect would be magnified if the sampling occurs during an

epizootic. More broadly, anything that changes the epidemiological parameters of a

virus in a specific host will lead to a non-phylogenetic interaction. Considering the

variation in the natural history of viruses and the lesser, but still significant, variation

in the natural history of bumblebees, a large non-phylogenetic interaction is to be

expected.

Conclusion

While it is clear that viruses are abundant in pollinators, the factors that determine the

distribution of pollinator viruses have remained uncertain, outside of a few well-

studied cases [108,109]. With the novel viruses discovered in this study, we have

investigated predictors of these virus/host associations and found that both the host

evolutionary history and the identity of the virus contributes to this distribution. This

supports both theory and prior empirical evidence that related species are more at risk

of infection from each other's diseases than the diseases of distantly related species.

However, the importance of the viral identity and unique interactions between host-

virus pairs suggests that the introduction of a novel virus into a community is likely to

have unpredictable effects even when no close relatives of currently known hosts are

present. This highlights the risk posed by disease spillover for the conservation not

only of wild pollinator communities, but also to communities consisting of related

animal or plant species in general.

Data Availability

The data and code for running the analyses is available on github under a GPLv3

licence, as code uses code taken from other GPLv3 licenced works

(https://github.com/dpascall/bumblebee-virus-cophylo).

1003

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