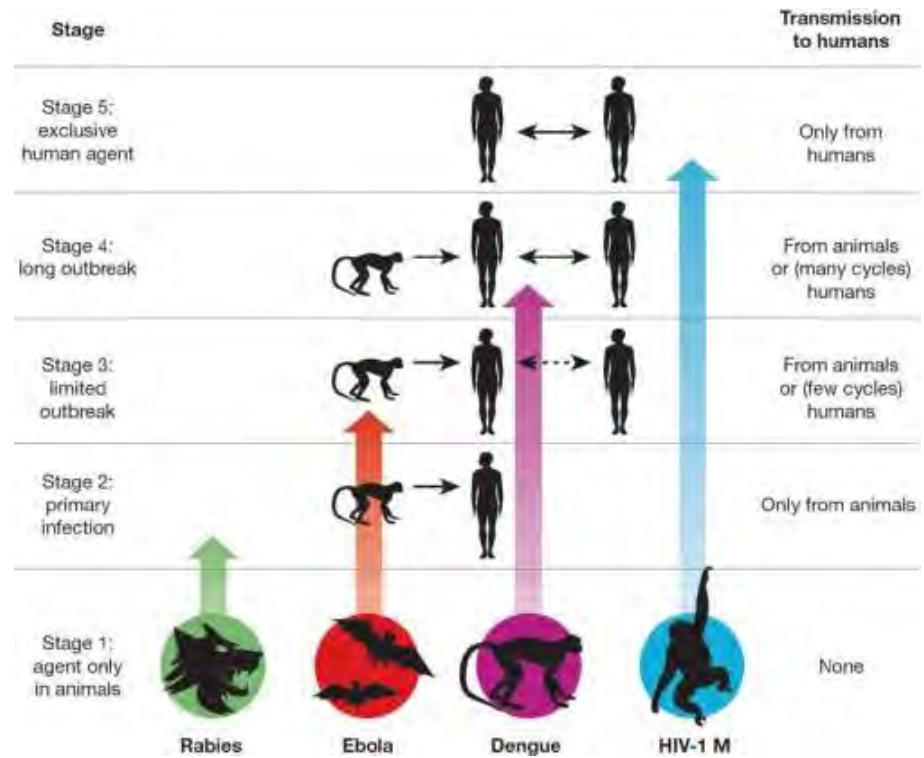


# **Evolutionary biology of hepatitis viruses**

Jan Felix Drexler  
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin

# Origin of new viruses?



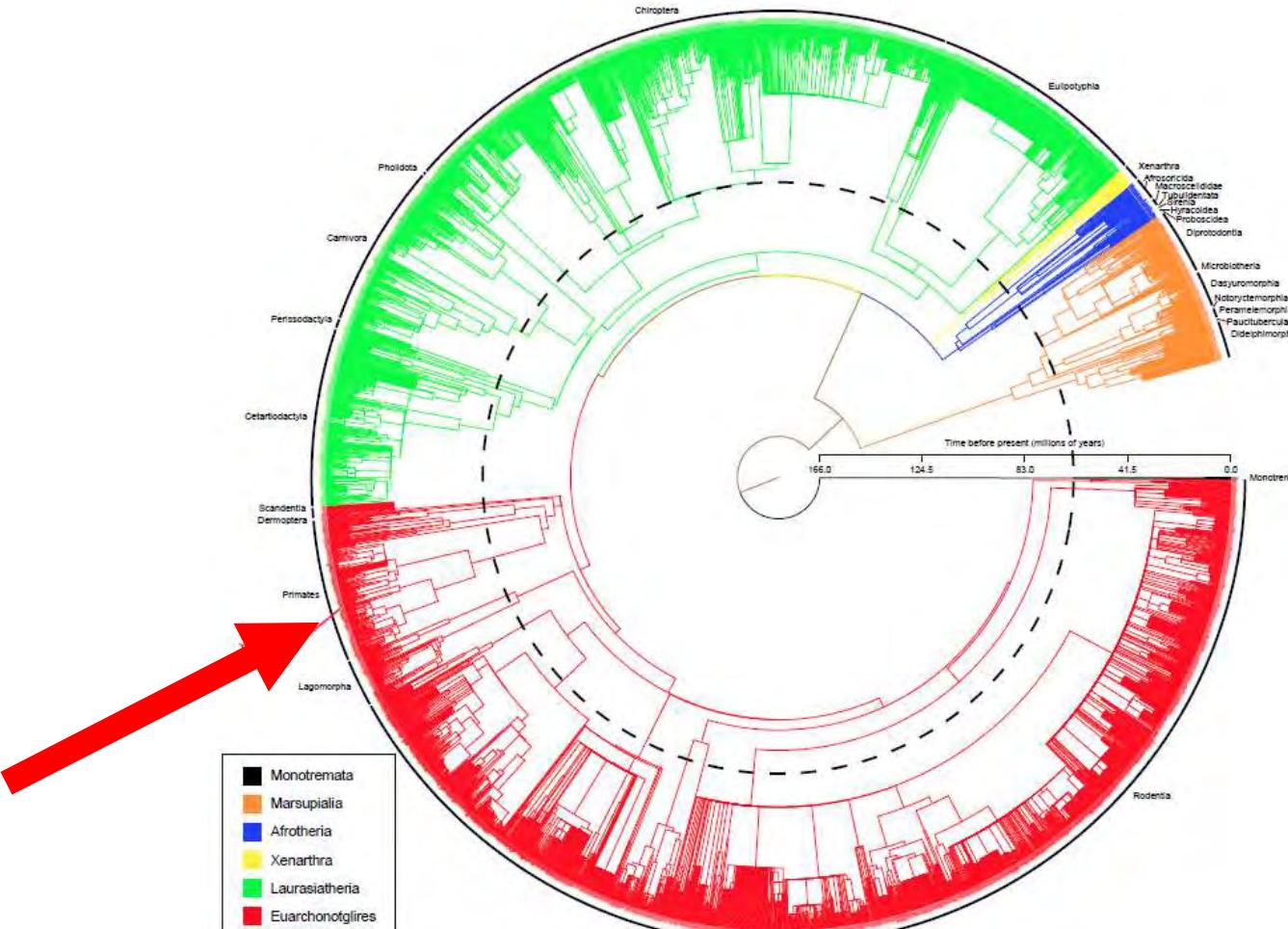
1.400 human pathogens:



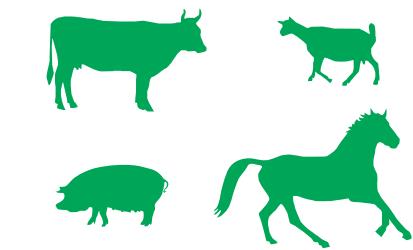
ca. 60% zoonotic

# Relevant reservoirs?

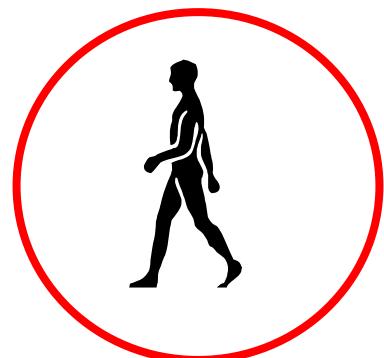
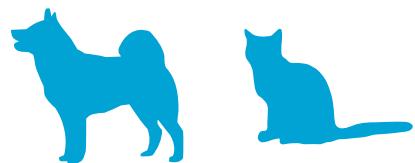
*Homo sapiens:*  
1 of 5500  
mammal  
species



# Reservoirs: relevant for different reasons

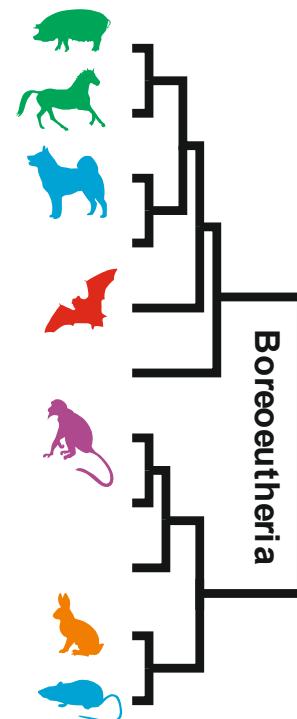
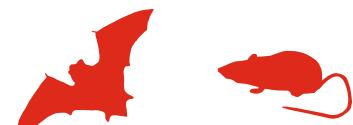


**Exposure**

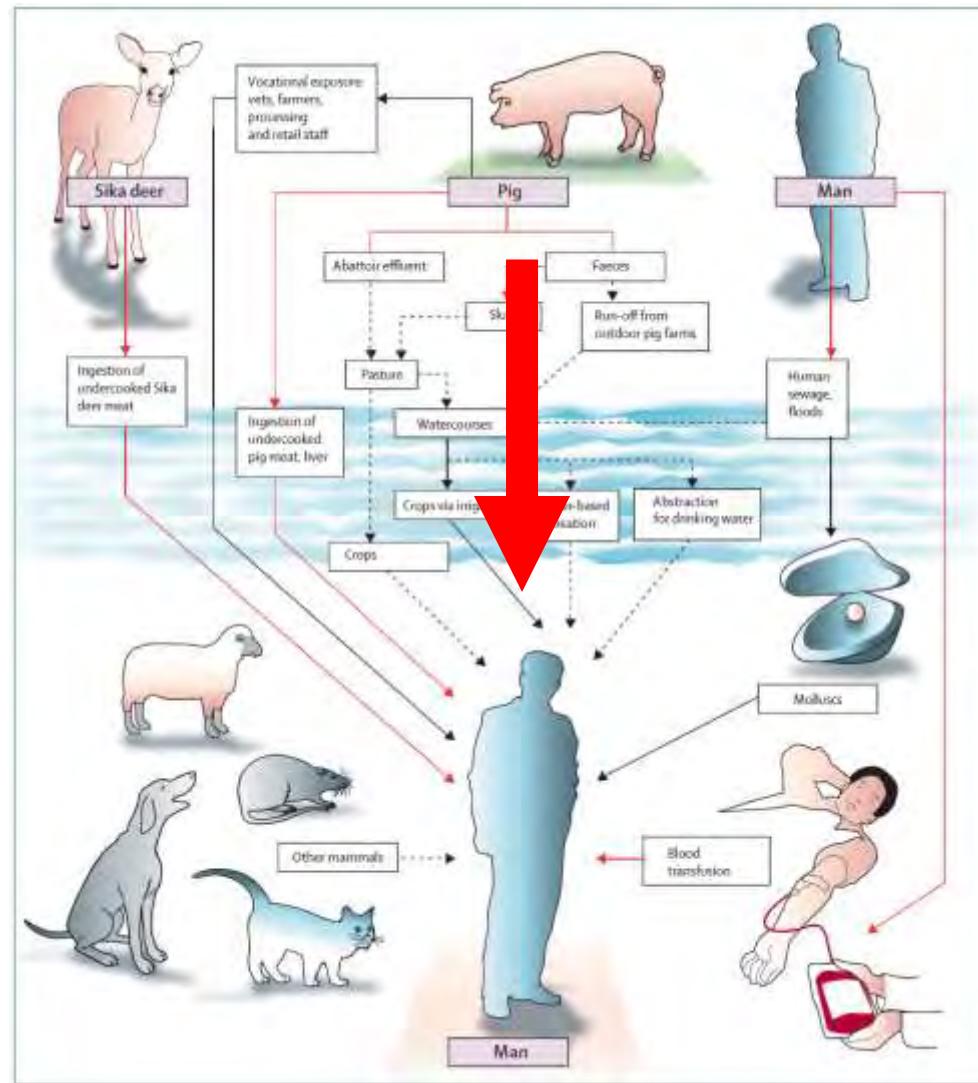


**Evolution**

**Ecology**

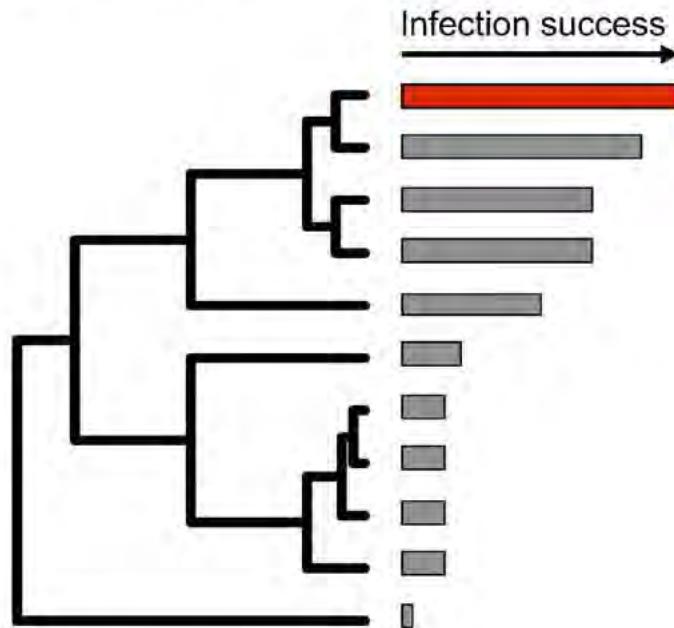


# Example exposure: hepatitis E virus

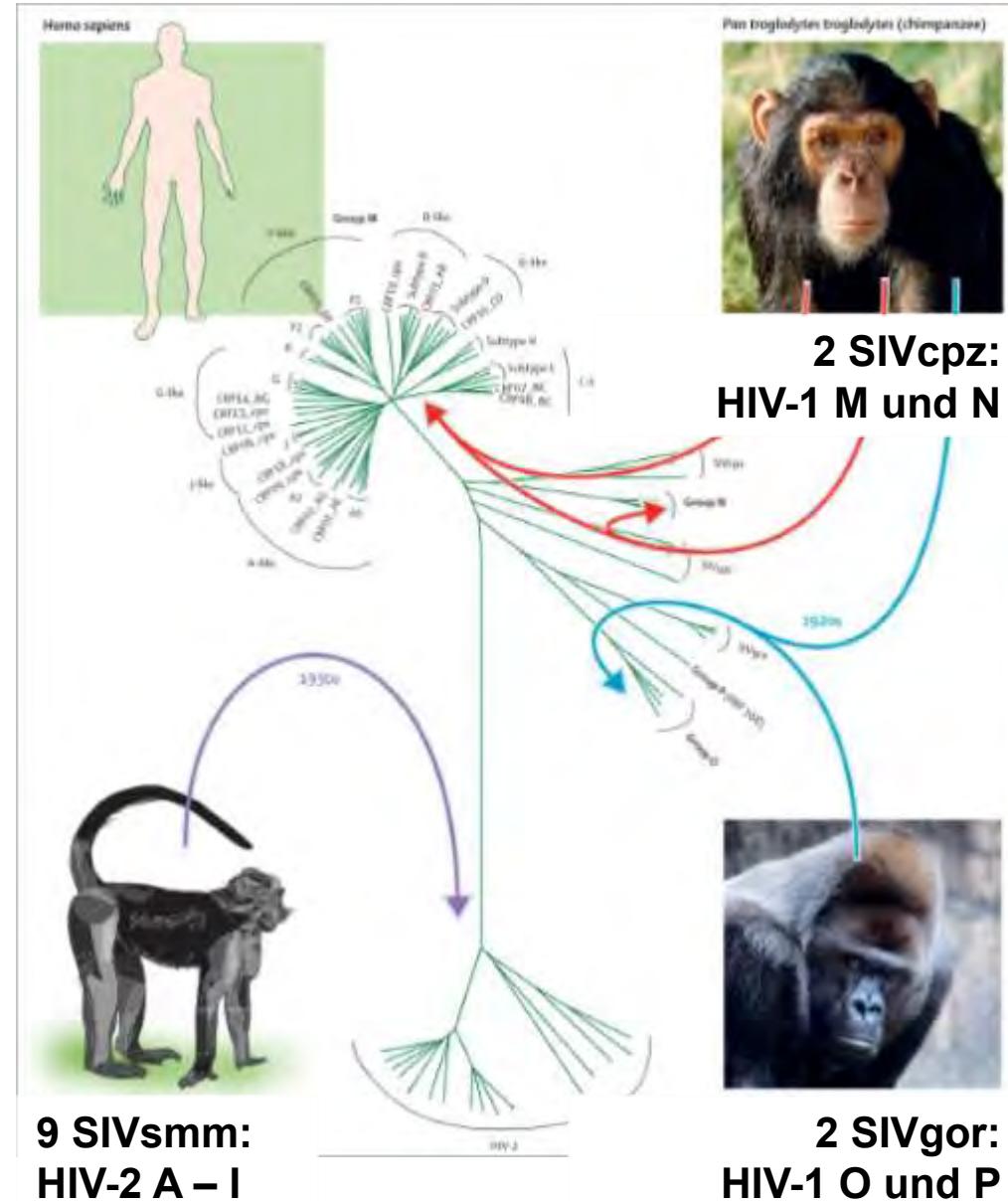


# Example evolution: HIV

Parasite infection success declines with genetic distance from the natural host



Longdon et al., PPAT, 2014



Tebit, Lancet ID 2011



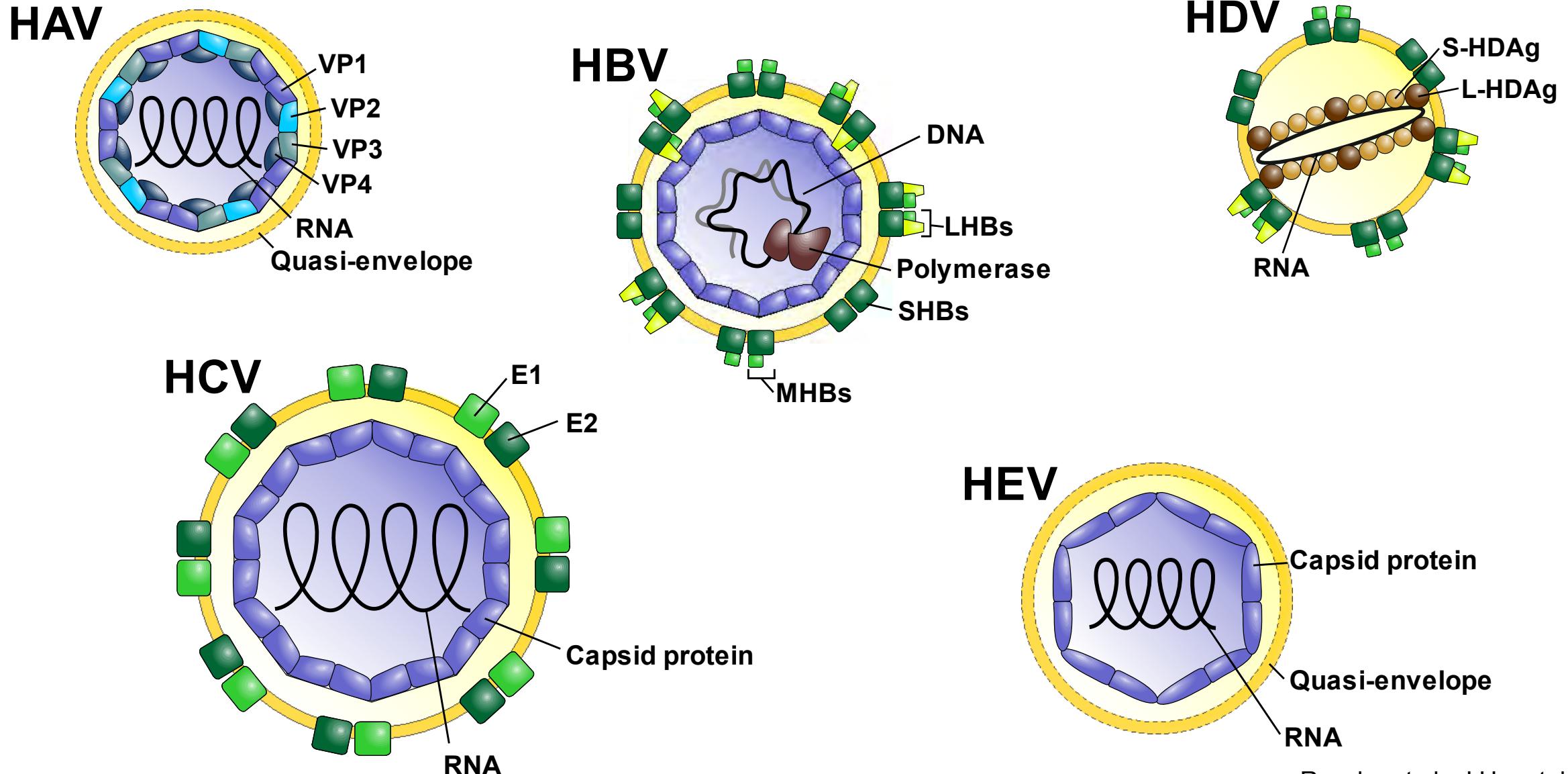
**Marburg virus**  
**Example ecology: Dense bat populations**

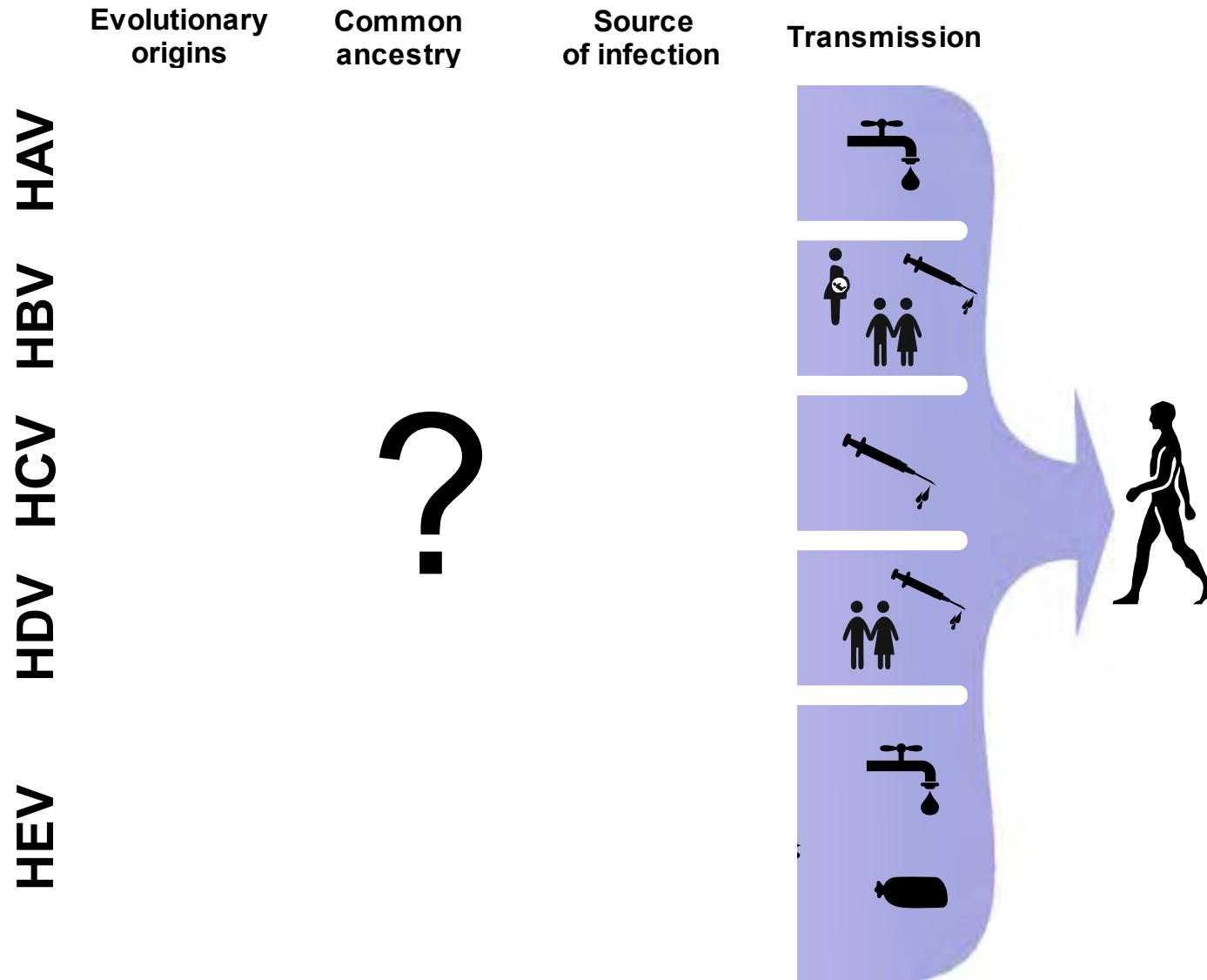
# Example Ecology: Big rodent litters, Invasive behaviour



**Hanta viruses**

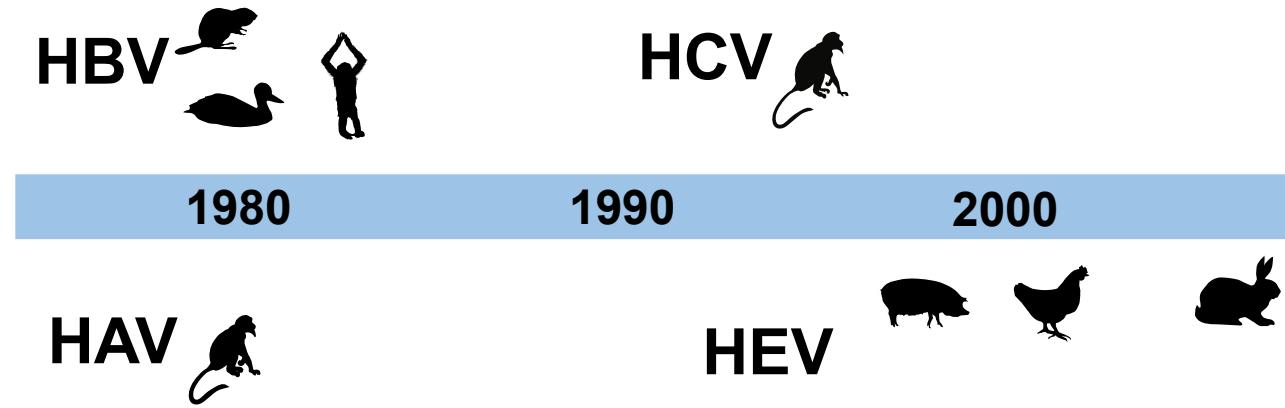
# 5 different hepatitis viruses



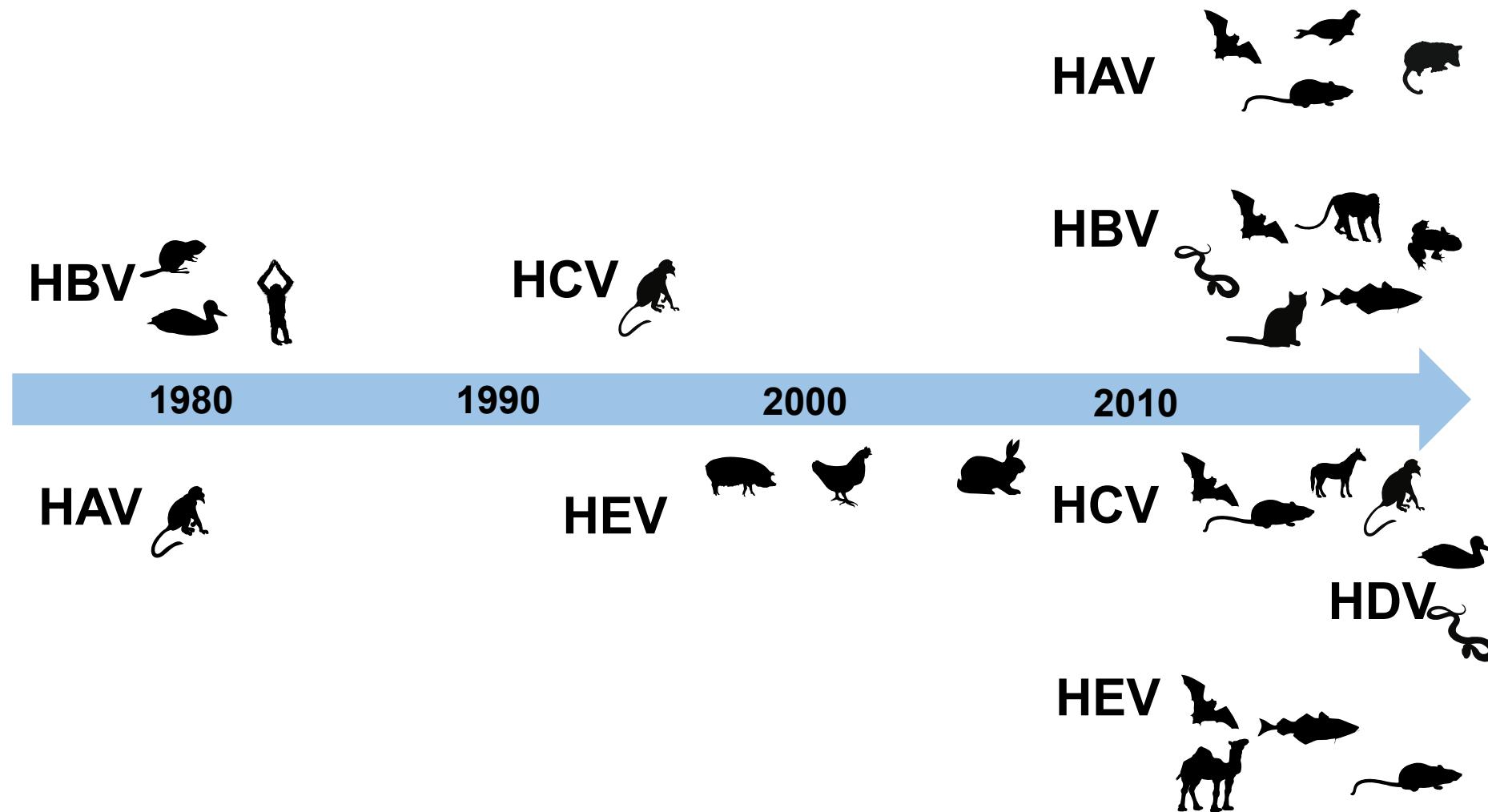


**What can we learn from animal viruses?**

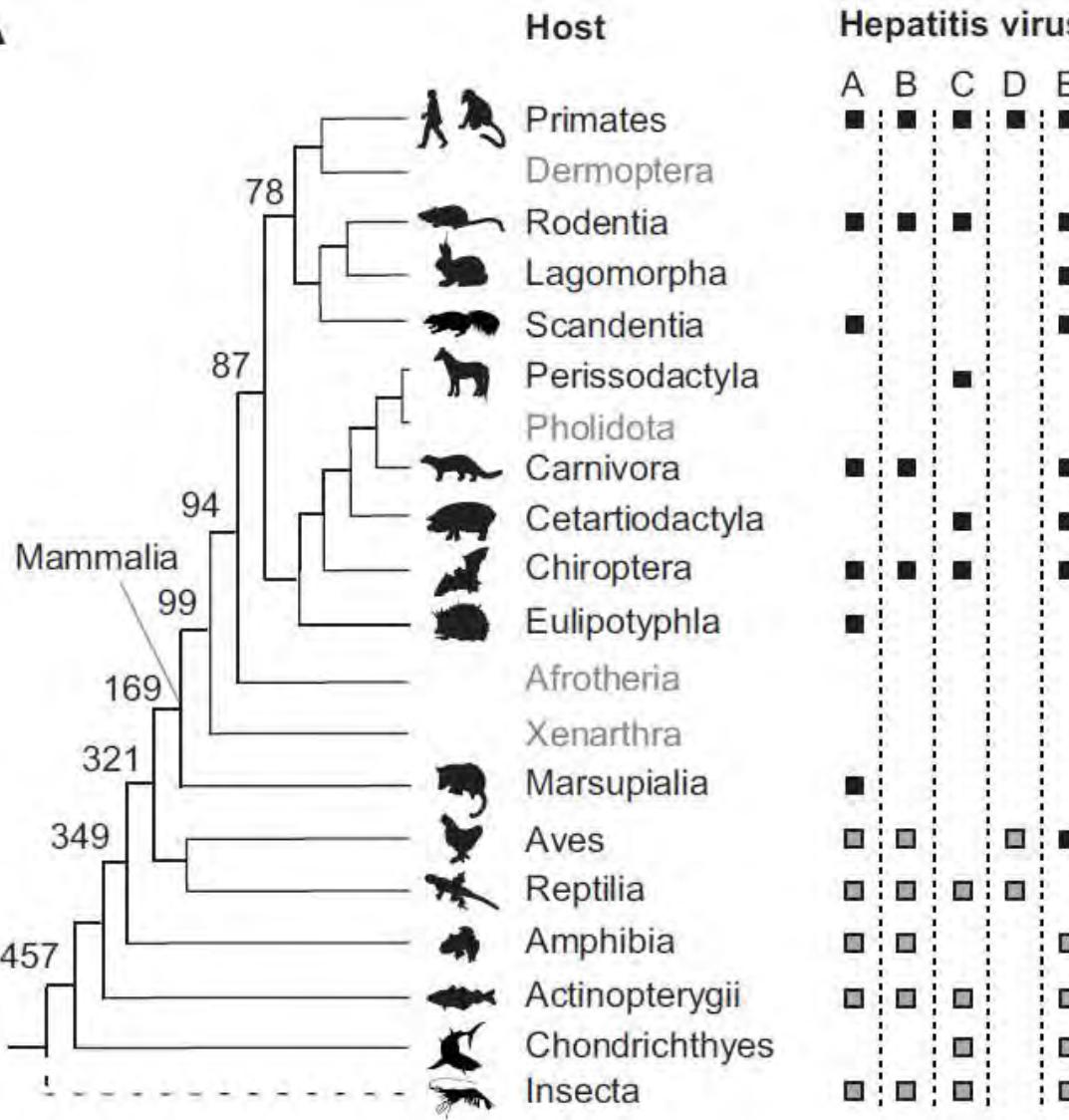
# First detections of hepatitis viruses in animals were ground breaking – yet sporadic



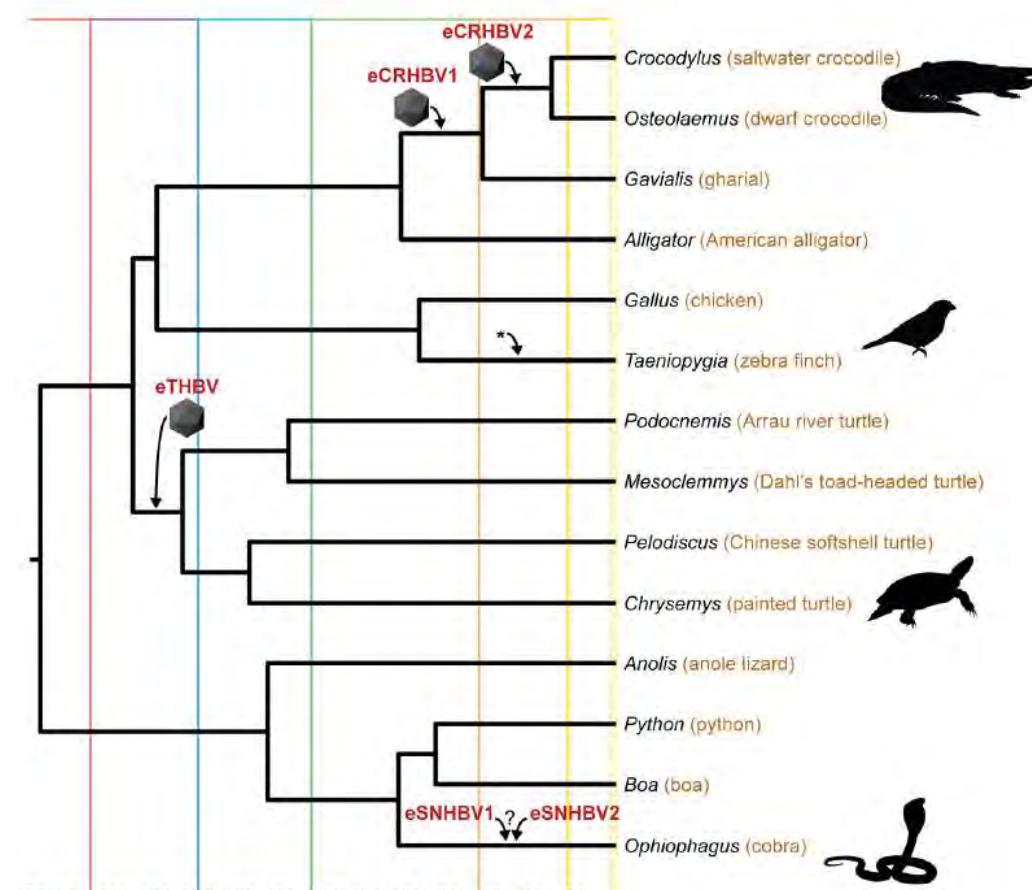
# A new era of virus discovery



# Long evolutionary association with vertebrates



# Endogenous bird & reptile HBV > 200 million years



# Ancient HBV >7000 years similar to contemporary strains

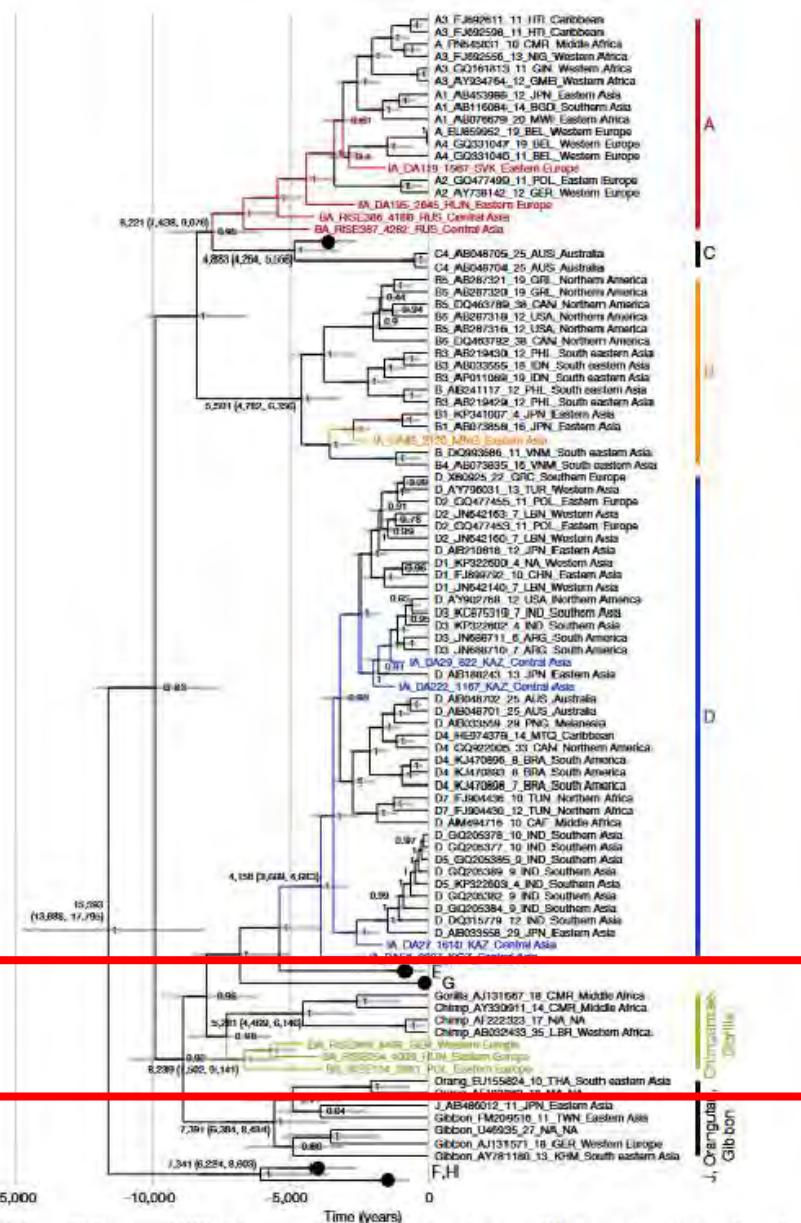
## Extinct genotype

LETTER

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0097-z>

### Ancient hepatitis B viruses from the Bronze Age to the Medieval period

Barbara Mühlemann<sup>1</sup>, Terry C. Jones<sup>1,2</sup>, Peter da Barros Damgaard<sup>3</sup>, Morten E. Allentoft<sup>4</sup>, Irina Shevchenko<sup>5</sup>, Andrey Logvin<sup>6</sup>, Emma Usmanova<sup>7</sup>, Irina P. Panyushkina<sup>8</sup>, Bazarsuren Boldzhiv<sup>9</sup>, Tsevel Baatarsuren<sup>9</sup>, Kadicha Taslabaeva<sup>9</sup>, Victor Merz<sup>10</sup>, Nims Lai<sup>11</sup>, Václav Smrká<sup>12</sup>, Dmitry Vovatkin<sup>13</sup>, Egor Kitov<sup>14</sup>, Andrey Epimakhov<sup>15</sup>, Dalia Pokorny<sup>16</sup>, Magdalena Vlček<sup>17</sup>, T. Douglas Price<sup>18</sup>, Vyacheslav Moiseyev<sup>19</sup>, Anders J. Hansen<sup>1</sup>, Ludovic Orlando<sup>7,20</sup>, Simon Rasmussen<sup>21</sup>, Martin Sikora<sup>1</sup>, Lasse Vinter<sup>1</sup>, Albert D. M. E. Osterhaus<sup>22</sup>, Derek J. Smith<sup>1</sup>, Dieter Glebe<sup>23,24</sup>, Ron A. M. Fouchier<sup>25</sup>, Christian Dröse<sup>26</sup>, Karl-Göran Sjögren<sup>26</sup>, Kristian Kristiansen<sup>18</sup> & Eske Willerslev<sup>1,27,28</sup>



Kahila Bar-Gal et al., Hepatology, 2012  
Mühlemann et al., Nature, 2018  
Krause-Kyora et al., eLife, 2018

# Eradication potentially possible – if no reservoirs

Editorial



JOURNAL OF  
HEPATOTOLOGY

## To have B or not to have B: Vaccine and the potential eradication of hepatitis B

Harvey J. Alter\*

*Department of Transfusion Medicine, Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD, USA*



doi:10.1111/j.1440-1746.2009.06165.x

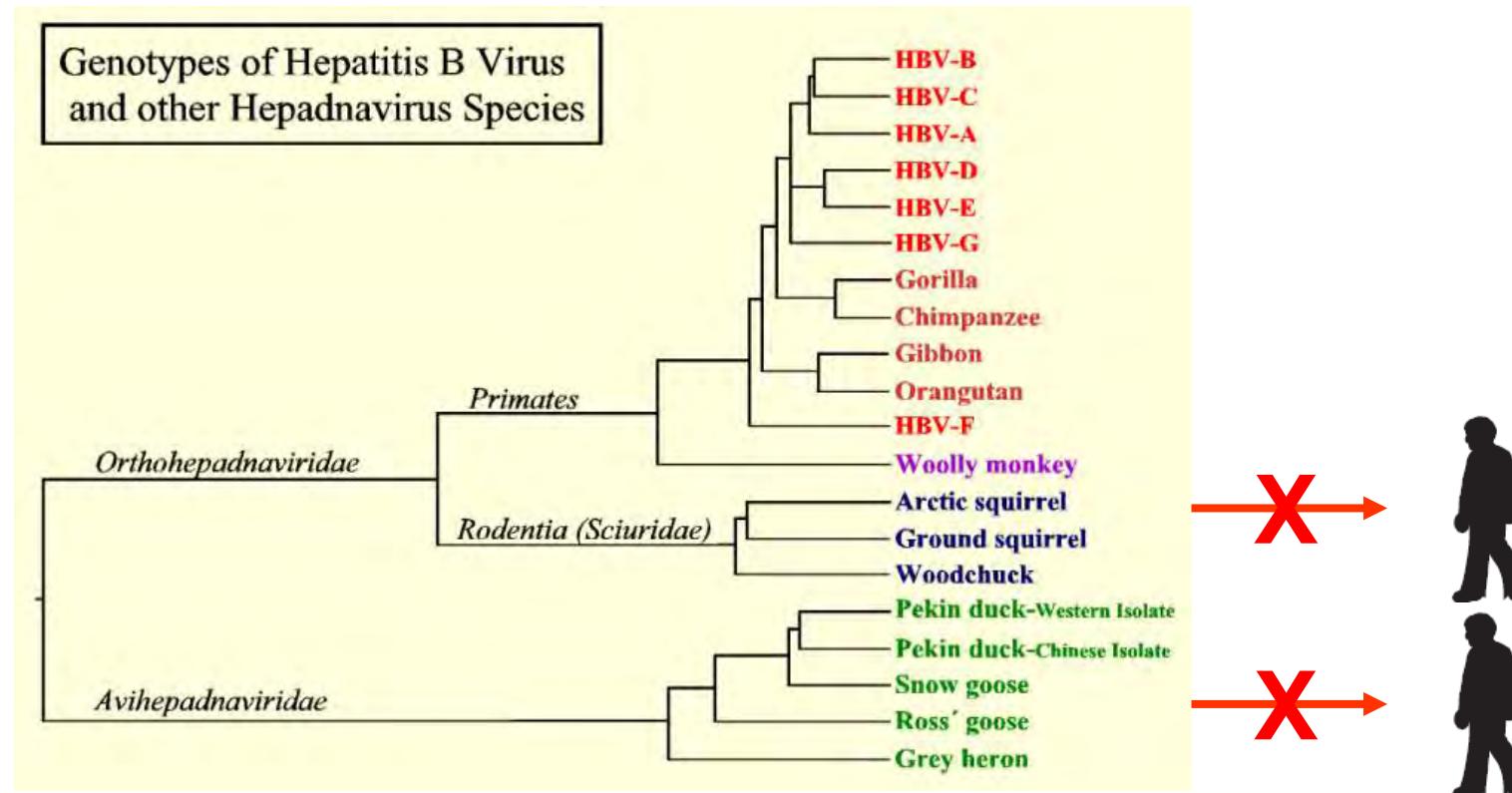
REVIEW

## Toward elimination and eradication of hepatitis B

Ding-Shinn Chen

*Department of Internal Medicine, National Taiwan University College of Medicine, Hepatitis Research Center, National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan*

# Textbook: animal HBVs cannot infect humans

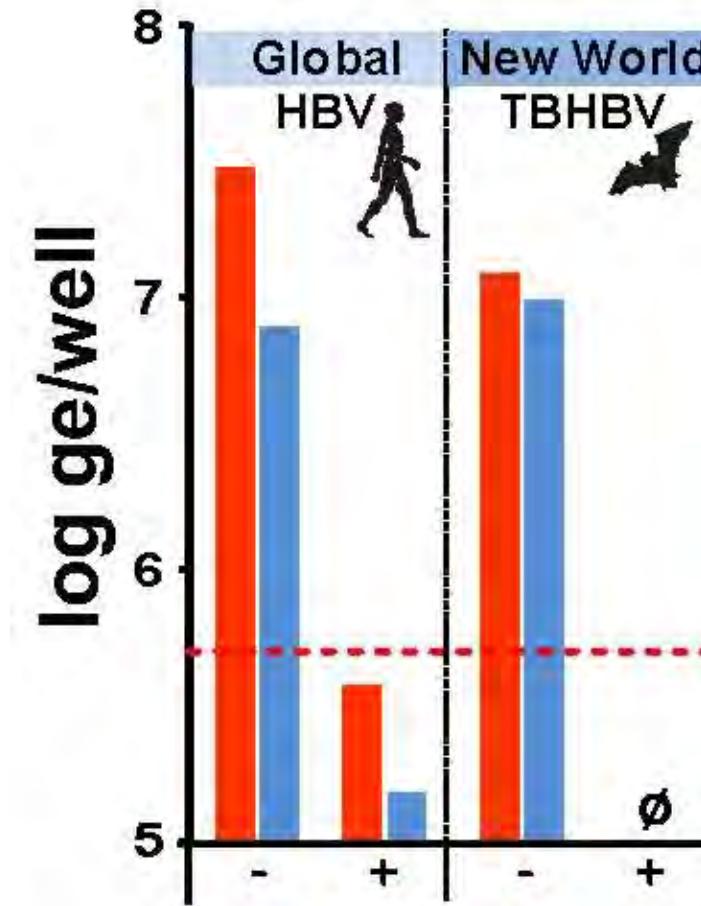


# Potentially zoonotic? A New World bat HBV can efficiently infect human hepatocytes

Tent-making bat  
*U. Bilobatum* –  
host of **TBHBV**

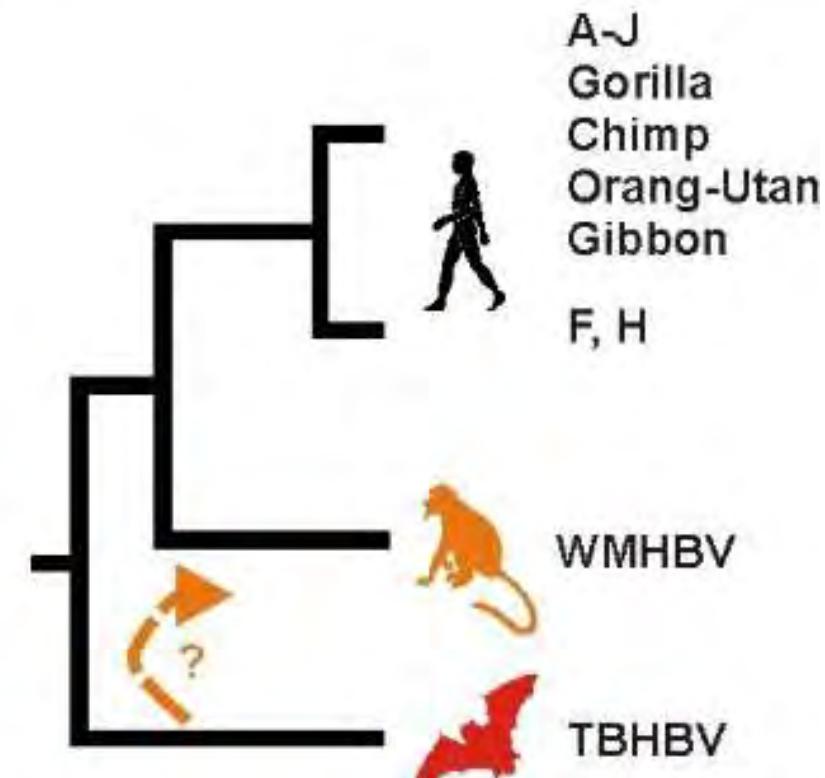


Image: natalie's Life List,  
inaturalist.org



Drexler/Geipel et al., 2013, PNAS

# From bats into primates?

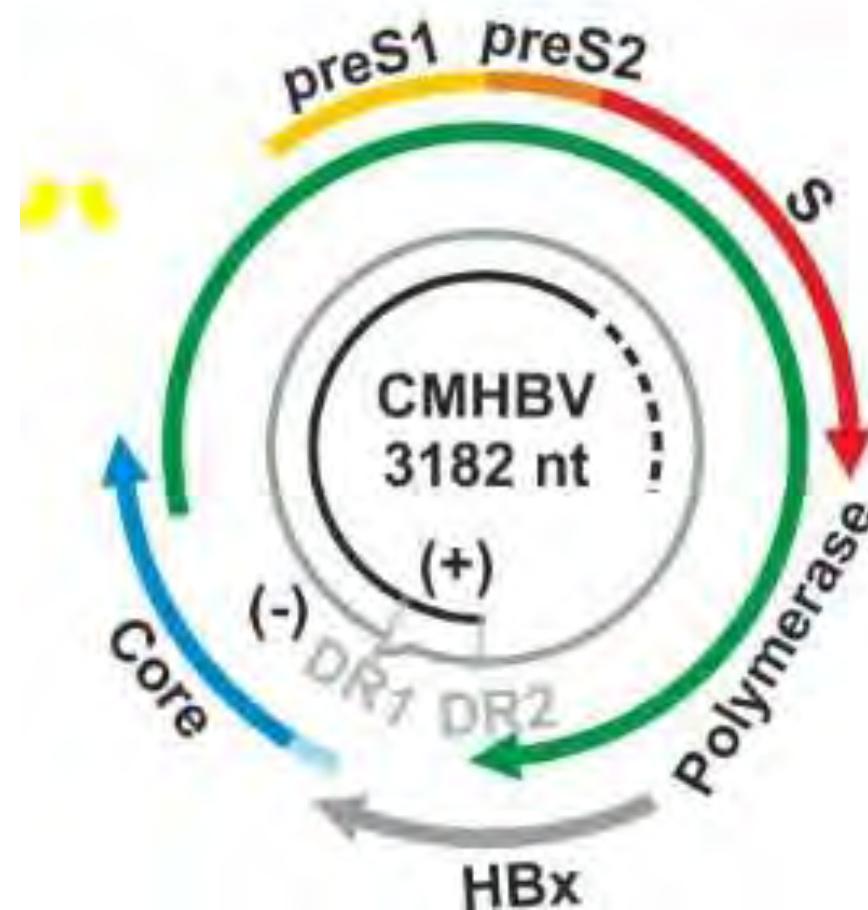


# Brazil: Highest primate diversity worldwide

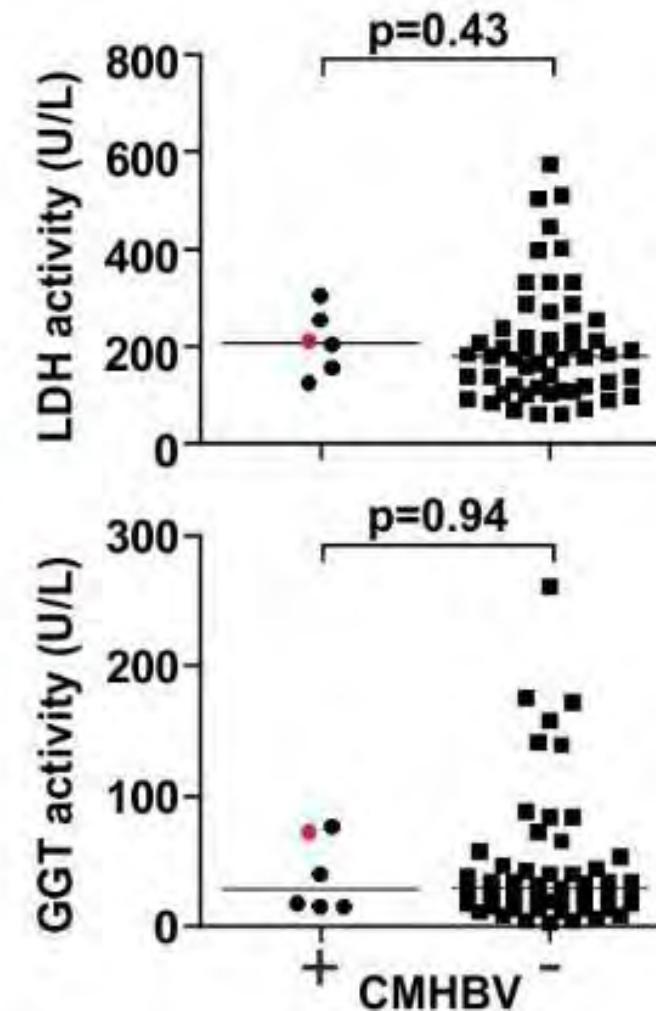
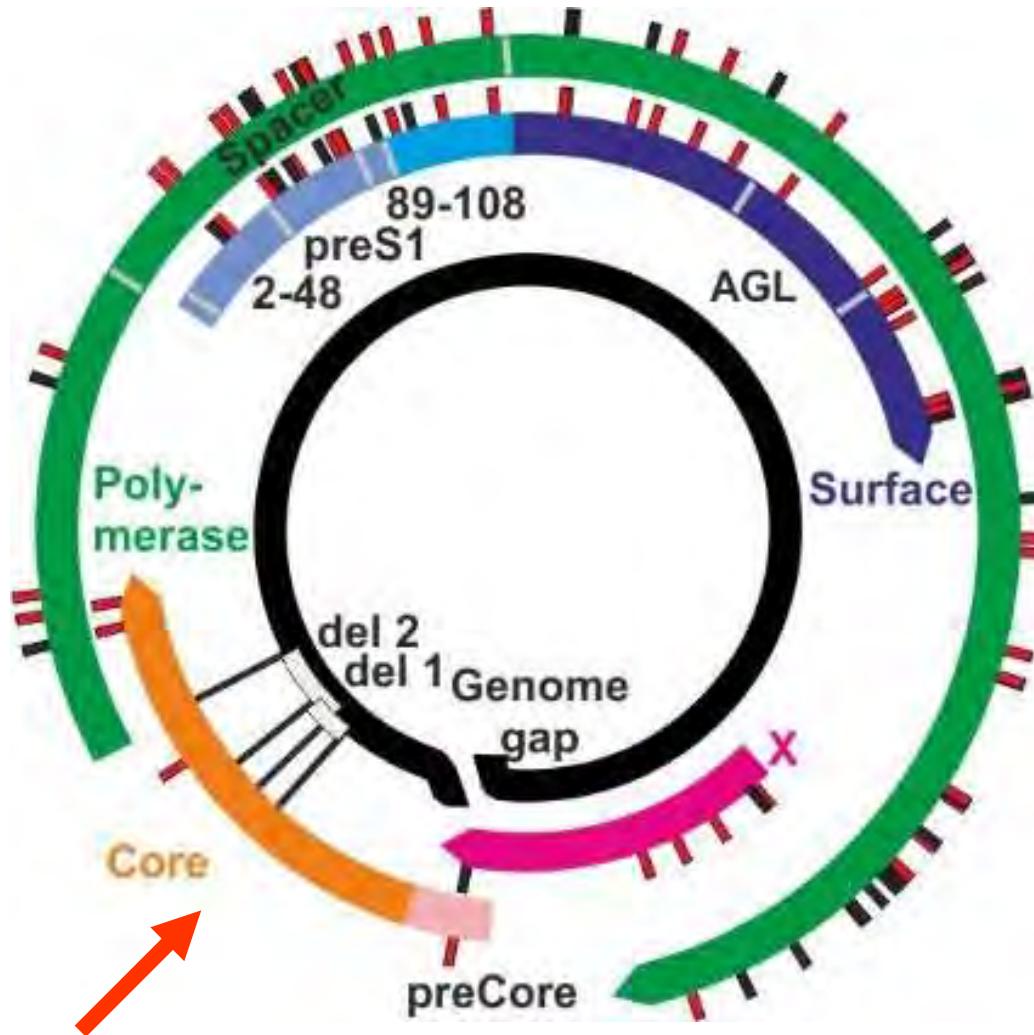


# New CMHBV

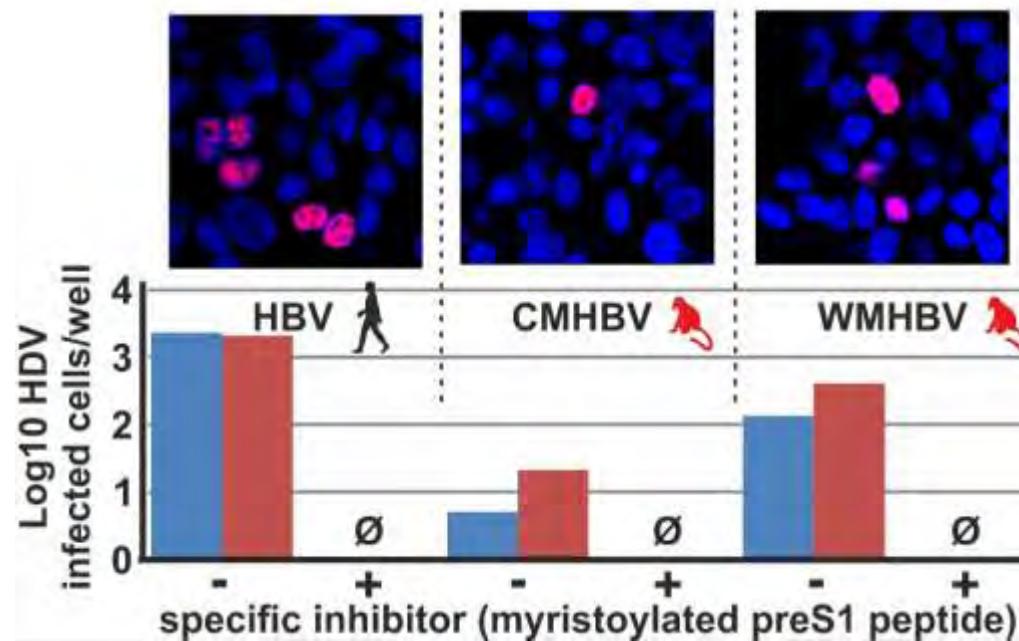
## Capuchin Monkey Hepatitis B Virus



# Chronic infection? Core deletions and no signs of inflammation



# Zoonosis? New World monkey HBVs can enter human hepatocytes



# Fresh data on animal HDV: no HBV – conservation of infection patterns?



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THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

New Results

## A divergent hepatitis D-like agent in birds

Michelle Wille, Hans J Netter, Margaret Littlejohn, Lilly Yuen PhD, Mang Shi, John-Sebastian Eden, Marcel Klaassen, Edward C. Holmes, Aeron Christopher Hurt  
**doi:** <https://doi.org/10.1101/423707>

Comment 0



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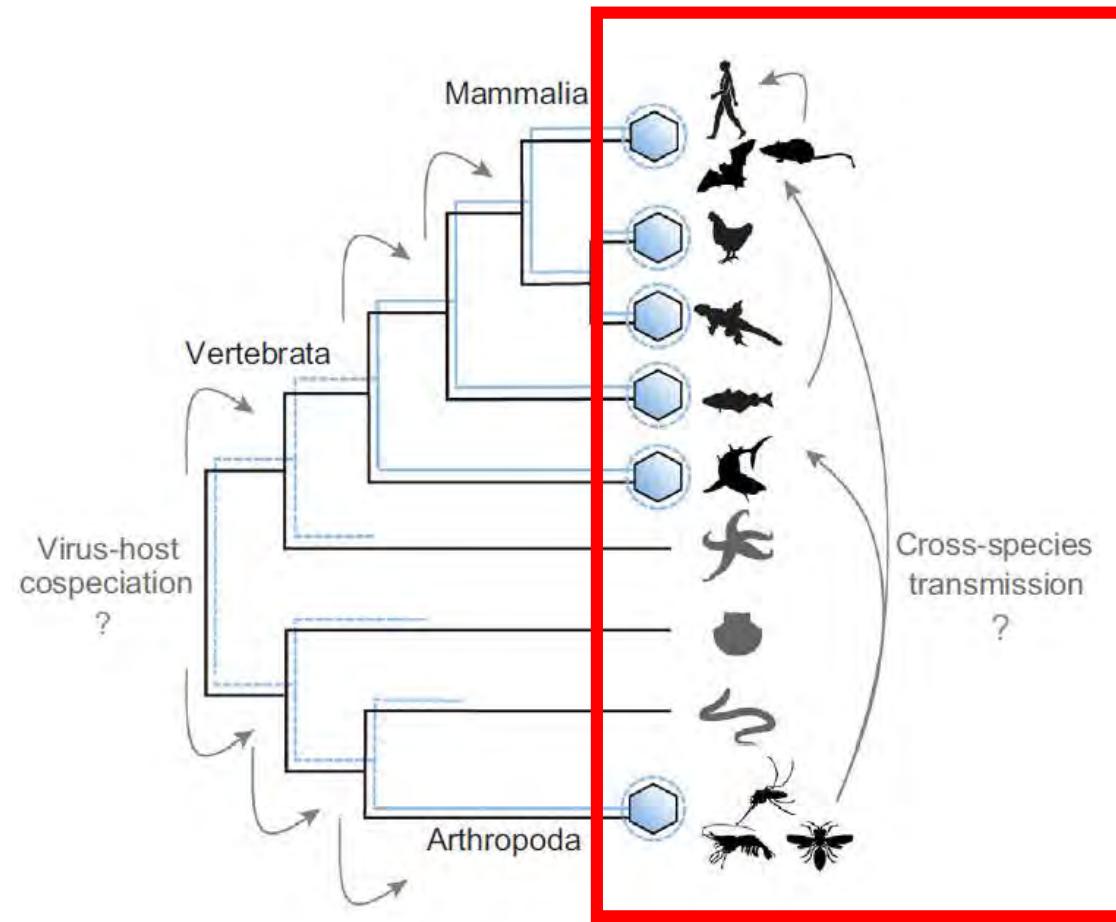
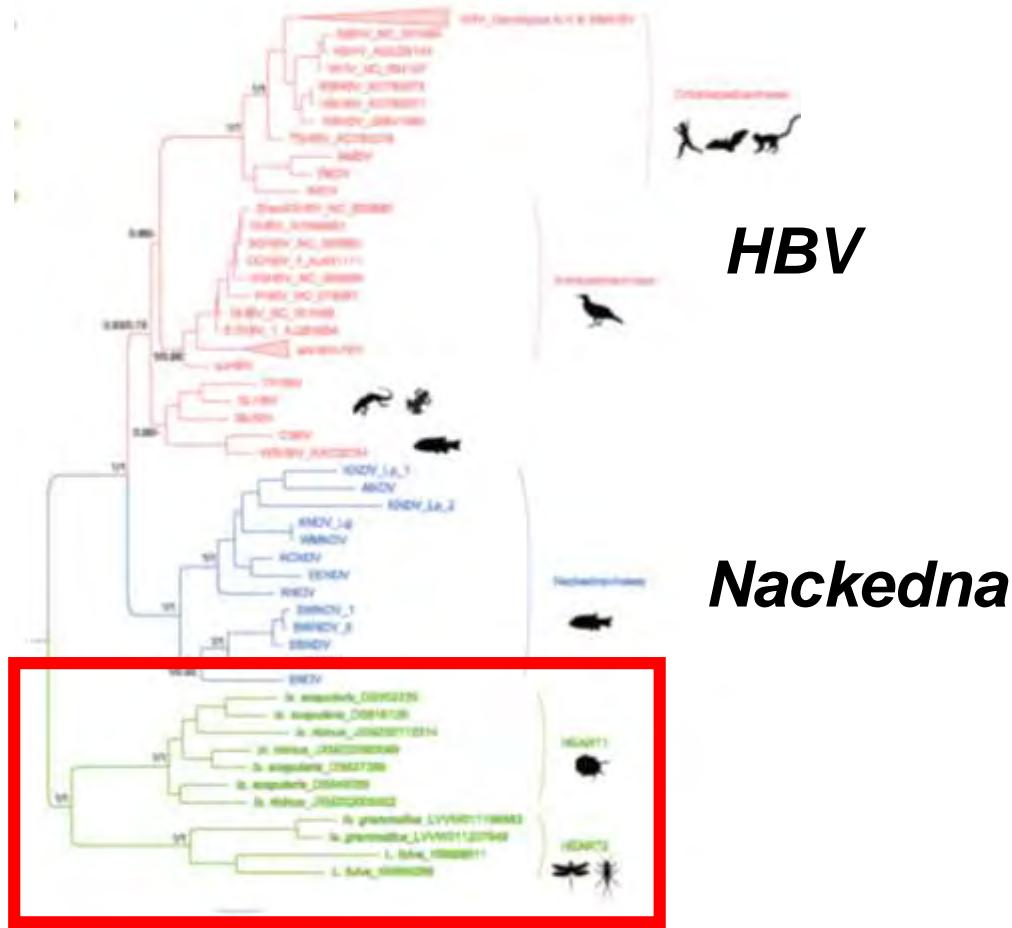
Comment on this

New Results

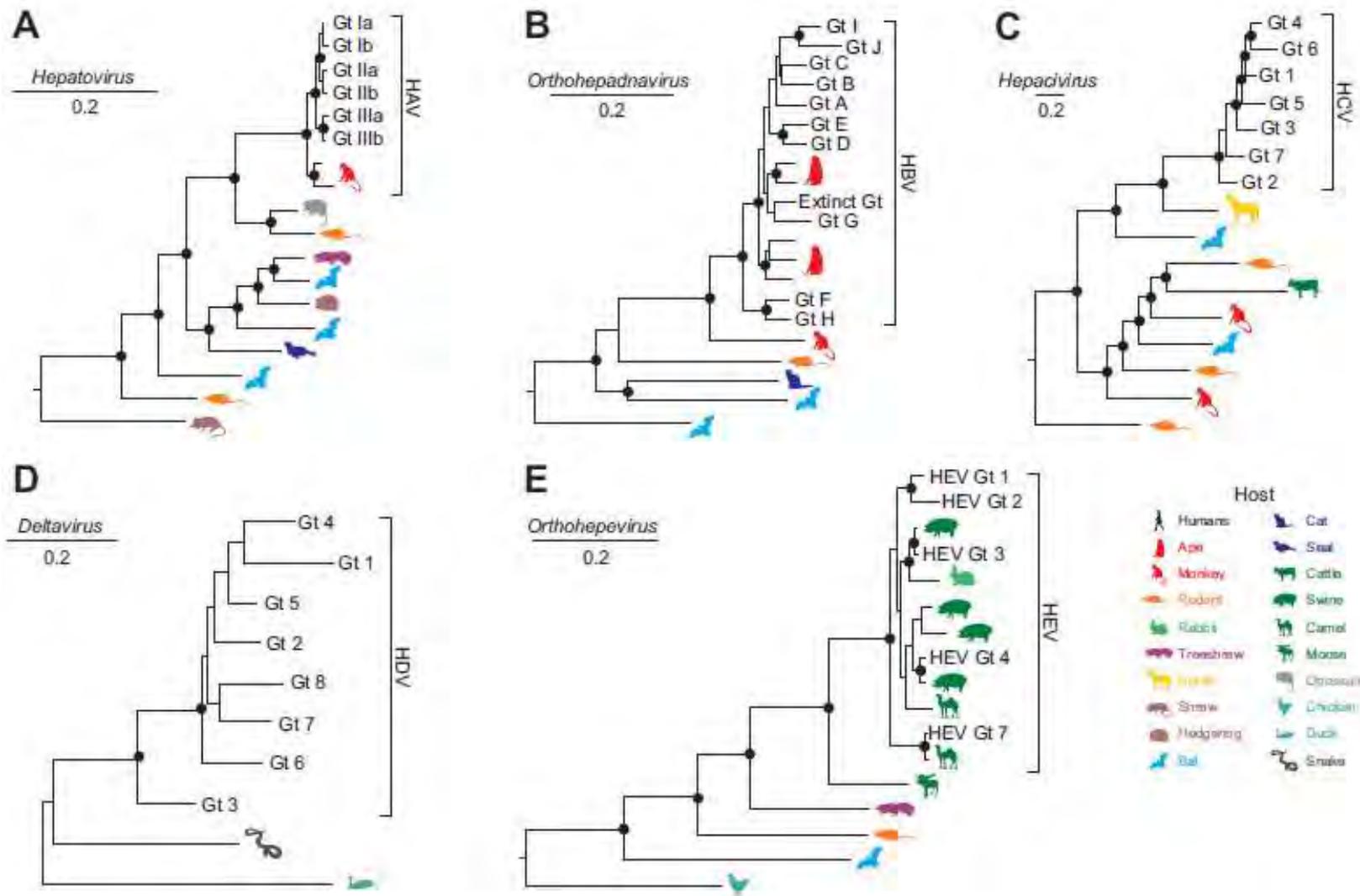
## Identification of a novel deltavirus in Boa constrictor

Udo Hetzel, Leonora Szirovicza, Teemu Smura, Barbara Prahauser, Olli Vapalahti, Anja Kipar, Jussi Hepojoki  
**doi:** <https://doi.org/10.1101/429753>

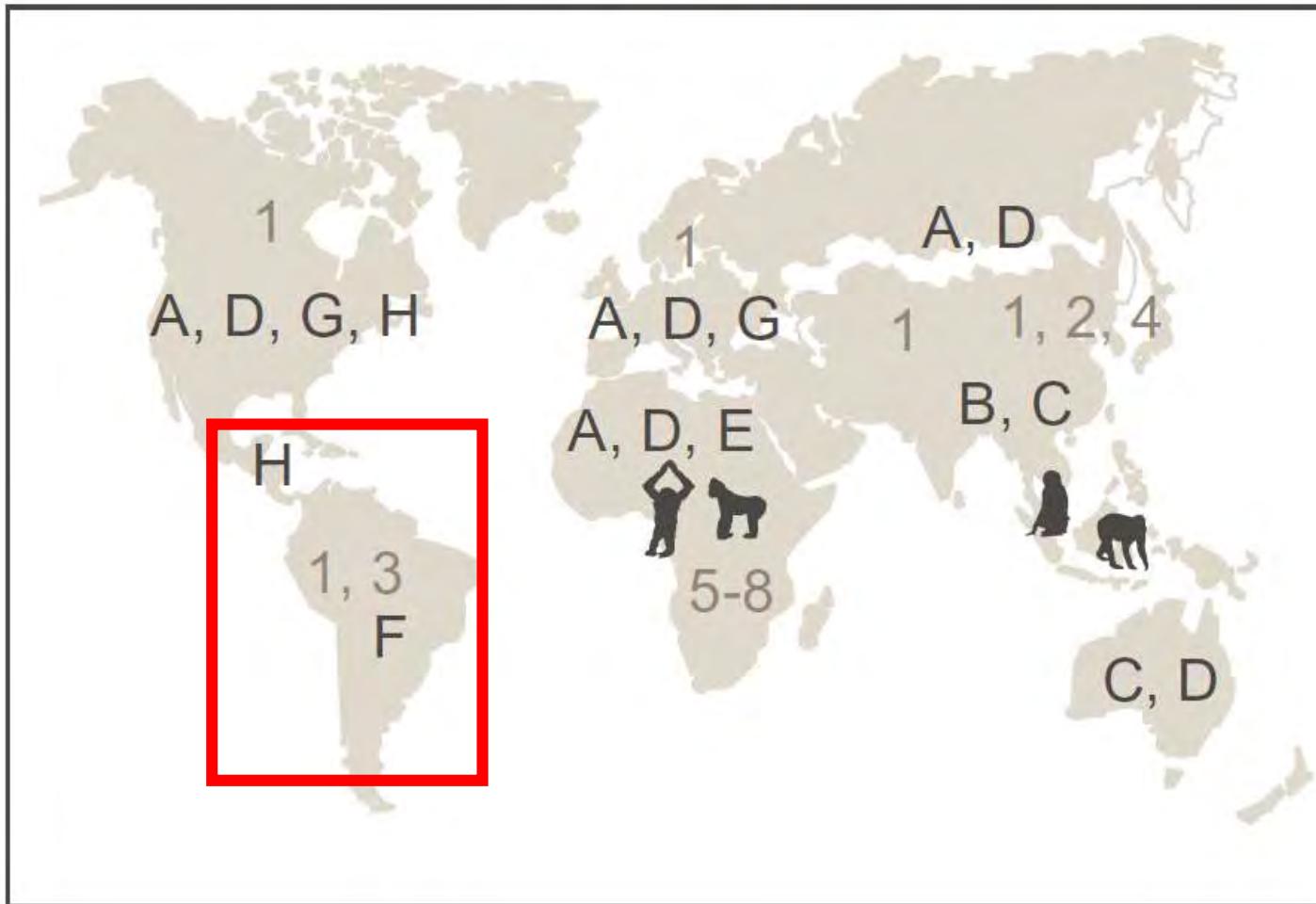
# Acquisition of insect precursors by ancient insectivorous mammals?



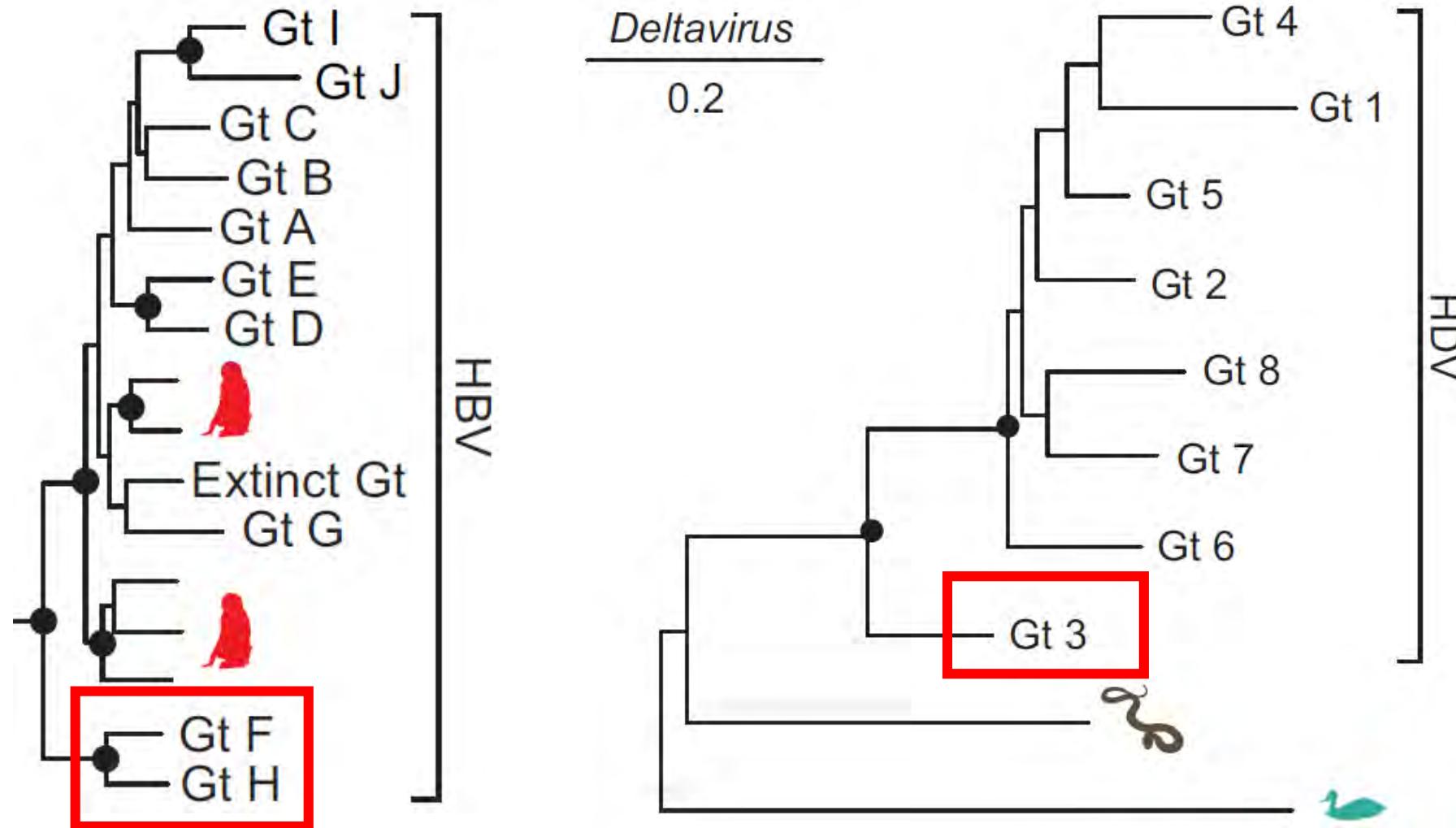
# Hepatitis viruses origins beyond primates

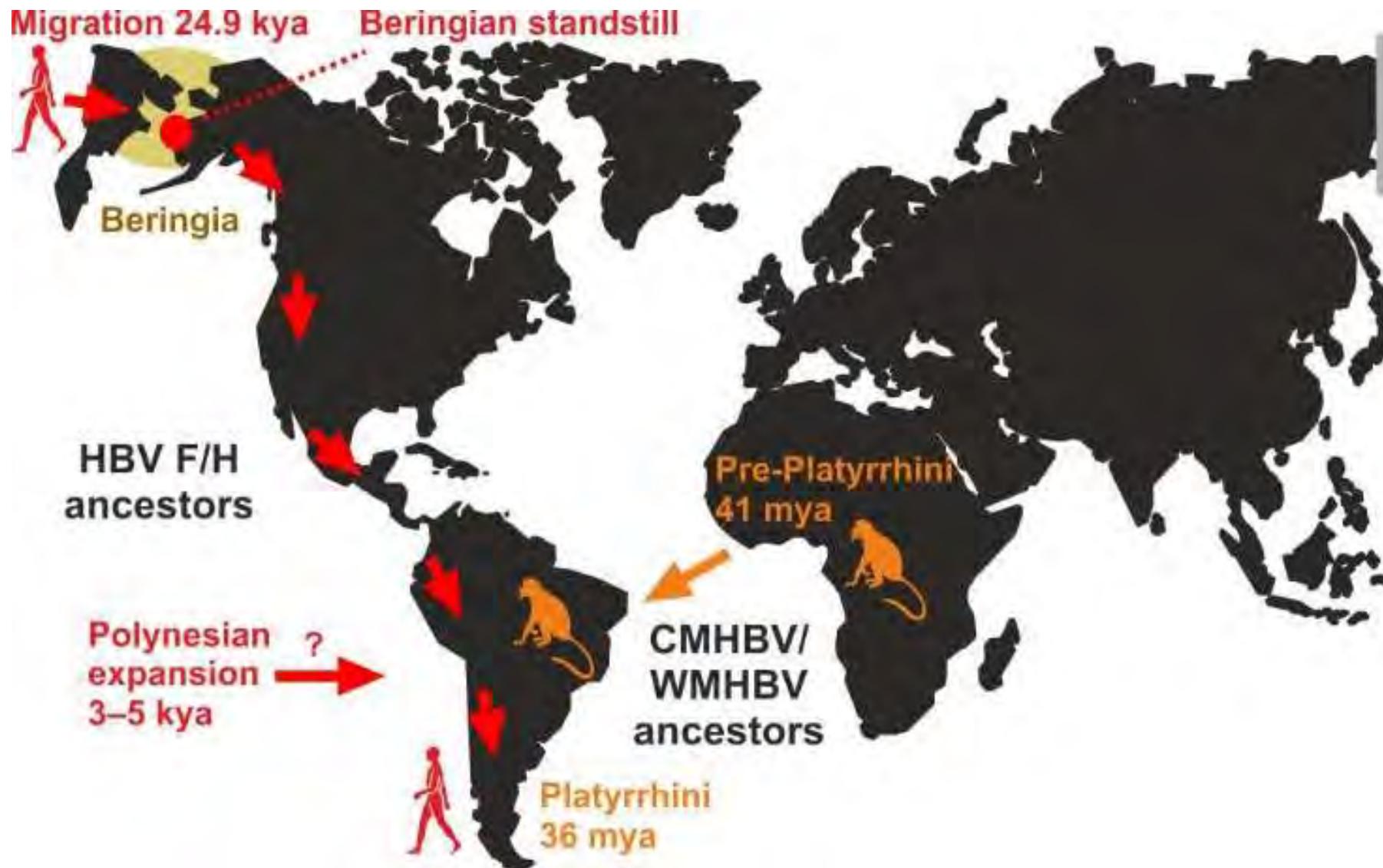


# Unclear origin of New World HBV/HDV genotypes



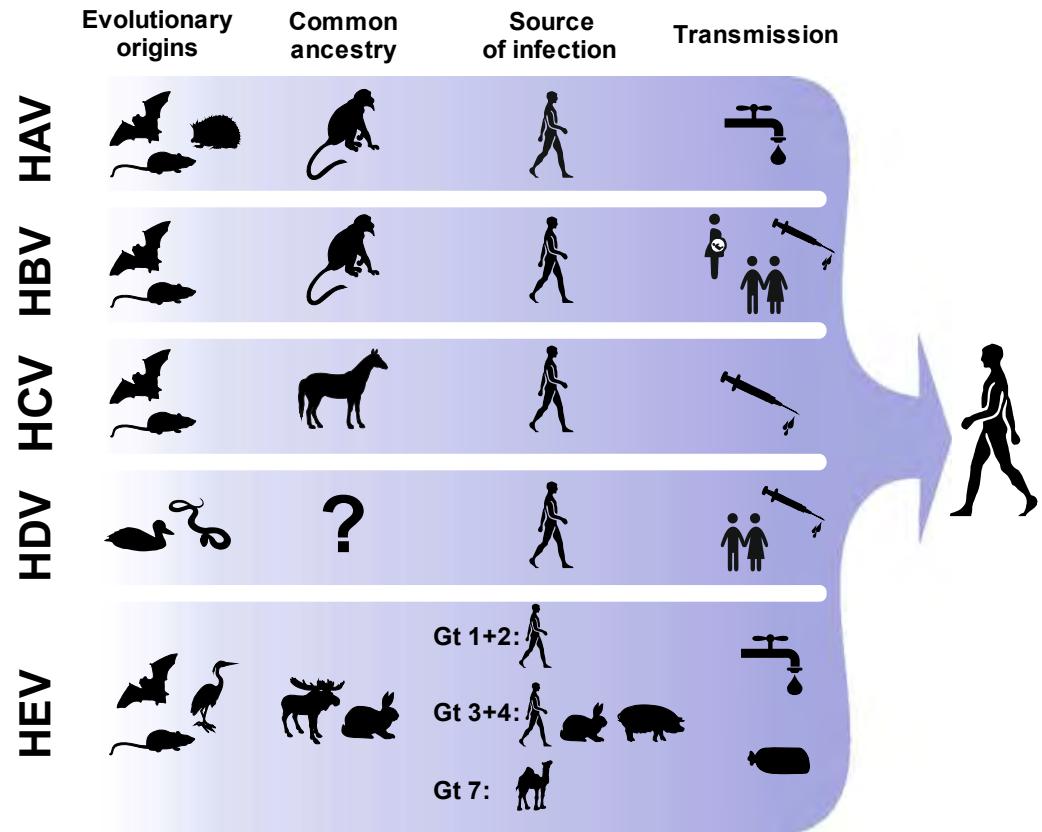
# Rooting the trees by new animal viruses – surprising similarities

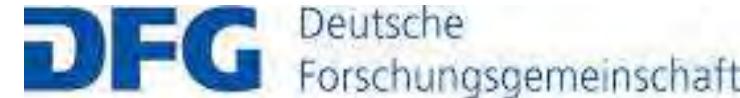




# Introduction along human migration?

- All human hepatitis viruses were once zoonotic
- The direct ancestors of human hepatitis viruses remain unknown
- Biological properties we took for certain are called into question
- Unique opportunities to understand pathogenesis





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Chumakov Institute, Moscow  
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