Molecular evolution and phylogeography of *Potato virus Y*

based on the CP gene

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Summary

 Potato virus Y (PVY) is an important plant pathogen with a wide host range that includes, among others, potato, tobacco, tomato, and pepper. The coat protein (CP) of PVY has been commonly used in phylogenetic studies for strain classification. In this study, we used a pool of 292 CP sequences from isolates collected worldwide. After detecting and removing recombinant sequences, we applied Bayesian techniques to study the influence of geography and host species in CP population structure and dynamics. Finally, we performed selection and covariation analyses to identify specific amino acids involved in adaptation. Our results show that PVY CP diversification is significantly accounted for by both geographic and host-driven adaptations. Amino acid positions detected as positively selected concentrate in the N-terminal region of the protein. Some of these selected positions may discriminate among strains, and to a much lesser extent, between potato and non-potato isolates.

 Potato potyvirus Y (PVY) is responsible for serious diseases in potato, tobacco, pepper, and tomato crops. PVY was originally classified into strain groups 3 (e.g., PVYN, PVY^O and PVY^C) according to biological properties, serological characteristics and/or genome sequences (Moury *et al.*, 2002; Singh *et al.*, 2008). Recombination is highly pervasive in PVY and additional genomic organizations have been recently described (Lorenzen *et al*., 2008; Schubert *et al*., 2007).

 Molecular evolution studies are useful tools to shed light on the molecular bases of virus geographical spread and adaptation to new hosts and for designing better epidemics control strategies (Elena *et al.*, 2011; Jones, 2009). We recently studied the phylogeography and molecular evolution of PVY whole- genomes (Cuevas *et al*., 2012), showing that host and geographic origin influenced PVY diversification, and detecting positively selected sites. Here we revisit these topics but focusing on the CP. Novelties of this study are: i) a much larger data set is available for the CP, which is expected to allow a more robust characterization of phylogenetic and selection patterns, ii) the CP plays an important role in host adaptation for many plant viruses, and iii) the CP is the most diverse and well-studied gene in PVY and other potyviruses (Moury & Simon, 2011; Ogawa *et al.*, 2008; Rohozkova & Navratil, 2011; Visser & Bellstedt, 2009).

 A detailed description of the methods employed in this study can be found elsewhere (e.g., Cuevas *et al*., 2012). For this study, we retrieved 198 PVY CP sequences from GeneBank, plus 94 additional sequences from worldwide isolates (PVYwide Organization, http://www.inra.fr/pvy_organization) (Table S1). This dataset was aligned with MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004) as implemented in MEGA 5 (Tamura *et al.*, 2011). We run recombination analyses to remove its effect from subsequent analyses. Bayesian Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) coalescent analyses were performed with non-recombinant isolates to study the effect of local adaptation and host species in the observed diversity. Finally, we performed selection analyses to identify regions from the CP cistron that may be more likely involved in PVY adaptation dynamics.

 Seventy-five out of the 292 isolates (Table S1) showed a breakpoint indicating 2 ancestral recombination between PVY^N and PVY^O strains at position 9170 (considering the full genome) in the CP (Schubert *et al.*, 2007) and worldwide distributed. Five other isolates showed uncommon breakpoints detected by at least three of the methods implemented in RDP3 (Martin *et al.*, 2010). N Nysa isolate showed a newly described breakpoint at position 8896 (Cuevas *et al.*, 2012). IAC and v951204-N isolates showed a breakpoint at position 8735 (being Mont and SASA-110 the major and minor parents, respectively), almost coincident with other previously described breakpoints (Moury *et al*., 2002). Finally, S-RB96 and NN-UK-N isolates showed a new recombination point at position 8947 (SASA-110 and Mont are the major and minor parents, respectively). All recombinants were excluded, reducing the dataset to 212 isolates.

14 Phylogenetic analyses were performed using the GTR + Γ_4 + I substitution model in the Bayesian MCMC framework, as implemented in BEAST 1.6 (Drummond & Rambaut, 2007). Substitution rates were estimated using the relaxed uncorrelated exponential clock model. The three typical PVY strain 18 groups (PVYC, PVY^O and PVY^N) could be observed (Figure S1), although the 19 differentiation between PVY^C and PVY^O strains was poorly supported. Chile3 occupies a basal position in the tree, outside any of the strain groups, 21 supporting its ancestry (Moury, 2010). Within the PVYC clade, 17 out of 22 isolates were collected from five different non-potato hosts. However, host species did not account for clustering within this clade, since most of the isolates from a given host were dispersed along the clade or closely grouped with isolates from other hosts. Only isolates PVY-MN and NC57 (from tobacco) formed a differentiated cluster, as previously observed (Kehoe & Jones, 2011; 27 Mascia *et al.*, 2010). PVY^C clade has been subdivided into PVY^{C1} and PVY^{C2} subgroups depending on their ability to infect pepper (Blanco-Urgoiti *et al.*, 1998). In our phylogenetic tree, only isolates PVY-C-CM and Adgen-C were of 30 pathotype PVT^{C2} , forming a differentiated cluster. Isolate CAA82 collected f from pepper, grouped outside the PVY^{C1} subgroup. More isolates from subgroup PVY^{C2} are thus necessary to check the relative distance of isolate

1 CAA82 to those from non-pepper subgroup PVYC2. Most isolates in our data 2 set belong to PVY^O. The globally low branch supports suggests a very genetically homogeneous group, compatible with a recent origin with minimal selection (Pagán *et al.*, 2006; Roossinck *et al.*, 1999). In fact, well-supported 5 clusters within the PVY^O clade included isolates with common geographic 6 origins. Finally, a similar trend was observed in the PVY^N clade, although internal branches close to the basis of the tree were usually well supported, thus differentiating several monophyletic clusters. Our study supports the classification proposed by Ogawa *et al*. (2008) into two PVYN main groups (i.e., N-Europe and N-North America). Some well-supported clusters were observed into each PVYN group, although this differentiation was not strictly associated with geographic origin.

 A visual inspection of the maximum clade credibility (MCC) phylogeny did not show a clear structure in terms of geographic origin at the continent level (Figure S1 and Table S1). For commercial and geographical reasons, North African and Middle East isolates were included into the European group. For the same reason, the only isolate from New Zealand was not included into any continental group. We used BATS 1.0b2 (Parker *et al.*, 2008) to calculate three statistics (*AI:* association index, *PS:* parsimony score and *MC:* maximum monophyletic clade size) describing the correlation between the geographic and the phylogenetic relationships. Significant signatures for geographic structure in the diversity of CP cistron were observed when grouped by geographic origins (Table 1), as shown by the significant *AI* and *PS* values. Asian, European, South African, and North American groups showed differentiated subpopulations (significant *MC* values). South American group did not show a significant association, which is accounted for by the small sample size, and no inference was possible for the single New Zealand isolate.

 Host-driven adaptation could also be tested using host as grouping variable, and a significant signature was also observed (Table 1). In this case, the differentiation was due to three subpopulations of isolates derived from potato, tobacco and pepper. For tomato and black nightshade no significant association was detected, whereas no inference was possible for single isolates from ají and

 tamarillo. Since most of the samples in our data set are potato isolates, the significance of *AI* and *PS* values could be a consequence of the global distribution of the same state across most of the branches in the tree (Parker *et al.*, 2008). However, host structure explained quite well the phylogeny, since 5 clade PVY^C predominantly included non-potato isolates (17 out of 22), whereas the remaining main clades only included 14 non-potato isolates (out of 189). 7 Twelve out of the 14 non-potato isolates falling outside the PVYC clade were collected from tobacco. In this sense, tobacco infection could accidentally take place from potato crops early in the year, thus leading to misidentification of some tobacco isolates (M. Chrzanowska pers. comm.). Besides, it is not 11 surprising either that tomato isolate GR_PVY12 fell outside clade $PVYC$, since tomato can be infected with most PVY potato isolates (Singh *et al.*, 2008), and thus a recent introduction from potatoes cannot be excluded. Finally, the 14 inclusion of black nightshade isolate SYR-Sn into PVY^O clade is surprising, although the biological properties of this isolate are not yet available.

 Selective pressures at a codon level were estimated using FEL, IFEL and MEME methods (www.datamonkey.org). Intramolecular covariation analyses were carried out using CAPS 1 (Fares & Travers, 2006), as previously described (Cuevas *et al*., 2012). Table 2 shows the distribution of codon positions under purifying, neutral and positive selection, and covarying positions. As previously shown, most of the codons evolve neutrally, whereas purifying selection is the main force driving the evolution of CP (Cuevas *et al.*, 2012). Negatively selected positions are scattered along the ORFs, suggesting that no domain is particularly constrained. FEL and IFEL predicted codon one as positively selected, whereas MEME detected three additional codons (68, 193 and 216) to be under episodic diversifying selection (Table 2). Finally, a covariation group of nine codons was also detected, all located at the first half of the CP. Selected codon one was involved into this covariation group.

 Previous phylogenetic studies showed that non-potato isolates mainly fell into clade PVYC (Ogawa *et al.*, 2008; Schubert *et al.*, 2007), highlighting the importance of host-driven adaptation. Our study, which included a significantly larger number of non-potato isolates, clearly showed that, in spite

 of the global consideration of non-potato isolates as belonging to the clade PVY^C , several other non-potato isolates were dispersed in the phylogeny. In fact, the analysis of amino acid composition for positively selected and covarying positions showed no clear differences between potato and non- potato isolates (Tables S2 and S3). Globally, both groups, except for positions 24, 138 and 193, shared the same predominant amino acid at a given position. Whereas similar amino acid composition between both groups was found for positions 24 and 193, the main difference was found at position 138, since the predominant amino acid for non-potato isolates was absent in potato isolates (Table S3). Besides, with the exception of position 138, specific residues of potato and non-potato isolates were always present at low frequencies. We also obtained the amino acid composition of positively selected and covarying 13 codons, but grouping in this case for the PVY^C , PVY^O and PVY^N strains, which allowed us to check if selective forces were strain-specific (Tables S4 and S5). Globally, the same predominant amino acid at a given position was usually shared by the three strains. For those cases showing differences in the predominant amino acid, these predominant residues for a given strain were also usually present at low frequencies in at least one of the alternative strains. We observed positions 24 and 193 wherein the predominant amino acid for 20 PVY^O strain was different from that of PVY^C and PVY^N strains. Besides, the 21 predominant amino acid from PVY^N strain was different from that observed at 22 PVYC and PVYO strains for positions 1, 11, 17, 26, 29, and 31. Finally, positions 99 and 138 showed different predominant residues for the three strains. 24 Interestingly, the predominant residue for the PVY^C strain at these two positions was absent in the other two strains, although the predominant amino 26 acids from PVY^O and PVY^N strains were also present at low frequencies. Consequently, the analysis of amino acid composition at selected and covarying positions showed more partially discriminant residues among strains than among potato and non-potato isolates, which indicates that selective forces are mainly acting independently of the potato/non-potato distinction. In this sense, as mentioned before, PVY does not have a narrow host range, which

 would account for the lack of association between selected positions and host usage.

 Selection analyses at a branch level were performed using SWAPSC (Fares, 2004) to check the potential association between selective events and the phylogeny. Thirty-four branches showed evidence of positive selection (18 internal and 16 terminal branches; Figure S1), and this selective signature was detected in 13 regions, often overlapping (Table 3). Most of them fell into the N-terminal region, congruently with the above selection and covariation analyses (Tables 2 and 3). Respect to the distribution of the selected branches in the phylogeny, we could differentiate between internal and terminal branches (Figure S1). The frequency of selected internal branches was different among 12 clades (20%, 3.7% and 15.8% for PVYC, PVYO and PVYN clades, respectively; 13 Fisher's exact test, $P = 0.003$), but not for terminal branches (with frequencies of 14 9.1%, 6.1%, and 10.5% for PVYC, PVY^O and PVY^N clades, respectively; Fisher's 15 exact test, $P = 0.568$). These results suggest that selective forces are stronger 16 into the PVY^C and PVY^N clades and milder into PVY^O. It is worth mentioning 17 that one selected internal branch lead to PVY^C clade (named as b2 in Table 3 and Figure S1), except for the tamarillo isolate falling outside the selected cluster. We obtained the amino acid composition of the region involved in this 20 branch specific selection event (codons $187-194$) for PVYC, PVY^O and PVY^N clades (Table S6). This region included selected site 193, which have been 22 discussed above. Besides, the predominant amino acid for PVYN clade was 23 different from that observed at PVY^C and PVY^O clades at position 187. Finally, 24 position 194 clearly discriminated between PVY^O and PVY^N clades, but the two 25 fixed residues present in these strains were also observed in the PVYC strain. In conclusion, branch selection analyses showed evidence of the differential effect of selective events among strains, but did not provide particular positions accounting for these differences at a strain level.

 The role of CP protein in the pathology of potyviruses have been previously confirmed (Andrejeva *et al.*, 1999; Hu *et al.*, 2011; Ullah & Grumet, 2002) and symptom determinants may be different even between strains of PVY in a particular host (Bukovinszki *et al.*, 2007). The N-terminal part of CP protein is a

 clear example of multifunctionality. It is exposed on the virion surface (potential function in binding ligands), besides being involved in vector transmission (Peng *et al.*, 1998) and systemic plant colonization (Andersen & Johansen, 1998; López-Moya & Pirone, 1998), becoming a potential target of selection at both vector and plant levels. In addition, CP protein from PVY interacts with different chloroplast proteins (Feki *et al.*, 2005). Consequently, it is not easy to discern if a given amino acid position is involved into one or more functions.

 Regarding biological functions of the CP protein, several commonalities were found when comparing our results with those described by Moury and Simon (2011). All positions showing positive selection in this previous study are within the N-terminal region of the CP cistron. In particular, positions 11, 24, 26, 68, and 138, were also detected to be under positive selection or covariation in our study. Position 11 is close to the DAG conserved motif involved in aphid transmission (Atreya *et al.*, 1991, 1995), and it has been shown that mutations in a neighbor residue can reduce substantially transmissibility (Atreya *et al.*, 1995). Furthermore, position 25 was shown to affect virus accumulation in host plants (Moury & Simon, 2011), and covarying positions detected in the vicinity could have some influence in this respect. Regarding position 68, it is worth mentioning that a mutation in this codon promoted differences in viral 21 accumulation and transmissibility by aphids (Moury $\&$ Simon, 2011). Finally, the region spanning amino acid positions 133 to 148 of the CP from *Soybean mosaic virus* (positions 136-151 of PVY CP), is involved in binding to the HC-Pro (Seo *et al.*, 2010), and then a potential influence for the included covarying position 138 could be postulated.

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References

2	structure of PV Y isolates.				
3	Analyses	# Isolates	Association	Test value	\boldsymbol{P}
4	Geographic		<i>PS</i>	106.985	< 0.001
5			AI	17.979	< 0.001
	Asia	30	МC	1.911	0.0099
6	Europe	88	МC	3.623	0.0099
7	South Africa	47	МC	2.451	0.0099
8	North America	43	МC	2.272	0.0099
	South America	-3	МC	1.004	$\mathbf{1}$
9	New Zealand	1	МC	NA ¹	
10	Host species		<i>PS</i>	31.480	< 0.001
11			AI	6.651	< 0.001
12	Potato	180	МC	13.145	0.0199
	Tobacco	14	МC	1.286	0.0400
13	Pepper	10	МC	1.136	0.0099
14	Tomato	4	МC	1.005	$\mathbf{1}$
15	Black nightshade	2	МC	1.001	$\mathbf{1}$
16	Ají	$\mathbf 1$	МC	NA ¹	
17	Tamarillo	$\mathbf{1}$	МC	NA ¹	

1 Table 1. Analysis of the geographic and host effect on the population 2 structure of PVY isolates.

18 ¹ insufficient sample size $(n < 2)$.

 Table 2. Results of the codon selection and covariation analyses at the CP gene. For selection methods (FEL, IFEL and MEME), the number of codons detected to be under negative, neutral or positive selection are given. The last column indicates the location of positively selected sites besides those positions showing covariation (CAPS).

- 1 Table 3. Results of branch selection analysis. First column indicates all regions 2 (codons) showing evidence of positive selection and second column shows the 3 branches associated with the selection event for a given region. For terminal 4 branches, the name of the corresponding isolate is shown. Internal branches are 5 numbered as indicated in Figure S1 and marked in bold. Positively selected 6 and covarying positions falling into the regions providing a positive selection
- 7 signature are shown in the last two columns, respectively.

1 *isolates showing the common recombination point at position 9170

2 **isolates showing other recombination points at the CP cistron

3 Underlined isolates in column one, newly described in this paper.

- Table S2. Amino acid composition for potato (P) and non-potato (NP) isolates (180 and 32, respectively) at positively selected codons. The last two columns indicate those amino acids that have been detected only in P or NP isolates, respectively, for a given position. Codon positions are given as the corresponding amino acid positions in the CP cistron.
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-
-
-

 Table S3. Amino acid composition for potato (P) and non-potato (NP) isolates (180 and 32, respectively) at covarying codons. The last two columns indicate those amino acids that have been detected only in potato or non-potato isolates, respectively, for a given position. Codon positions are given as the corresponding amino acid positions in the CP cistron.

1 Table S4. Amino acid composition for PVYC, PVY^O and PVY^N strain isolates (22, 132 and 57 isolates, respectively) at positively selected codons. The last three columns indicate those amino acids that have been detected only in PVY^C, PVY^O or PVY^N groups, 3 respectively, for a given position. Codon positions are given as the corresponding amino acid positions in the CP cistron.

1 Table S5. Amino acid composition for PVYC, PVY^O and PVY^N strain isolates (22, 132 and 57 isolates, respectively) at covarying 2 codons. The last three columns indicate those amino acids that have been detected only in PVYC, PVY^O or PVY^N groups, 3 respectively, for a given position. Codon positions are given as the corresponding amino acid positions in the CP cistron.

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1 Table S6. Amino acid composition for PVYC, PVY^O and PVY^N strain isolates (22, 132 and 57 isolates, respectively) at the region a showing evidence of positive selection for the internal branch leading to PVY^C clade (branch b2, codons 187-194, shown in Figure 3 S1). The last three columns indicate those amino acids that have been detected only in PVY^N, PVY^O or PVY^C groups, respectively, 4 for a given position.

 Figure S1. MCC phylogeny of the PVY isolates for the CP cistron. The tree was calculated from the posterior distribution of trees generated by Bayesian MCMC coalescent analyses with BEAST (Drummond & Rambaut, 2007). Posterior probabilities are indicated above branches. Branches detected to be under positive selection are shown in red, and internal branches are identified numbering in the range b1-b18. For clarity, branches were transformed as proportional using FigTree (www.tree.bio.ed.ac.uk).