

1 pH-Induced Conformational Changes of Human Bocavirus Capsids

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Abstract

Human bocavirus 1 (HBoV1) and HBoV2-4 infect children and immunocompromised individuals, resulting in respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, respectively. Using cryo-electron microscopy and image reconstruction, the HBoV2 capsid structure was determined to 2.7 Å resolution at pH 7.4 and compared to the previously determined HBoV1, HBoV3, and HBoV4 structures. Consistent with previous findings, surface variable region (VR) III of the capsid protein VP3, proposed as a host tissue-tropism determinant, was structurally similar among the gastrointestinal strains HBoV2-4, but differed from HBoV1 with its tropism for the respiratory tract. Towards understanding the entry and trafficking properties of these viruses, HBoV1 and HBoV2 were further analyzed as species representatives of the two HBoV tropisms. Their cell surface glycan-binding characteristics were analyzed, and capsid structures determined to 2.5-2.7 Å resolution at pH 5.5 and 2.6, conditions normally encountered during infection. The data showed that glycans with terminal sialic acid, galactose, GlcNAc or heparan sulfate moieties do not facilitate HBoV1 or HBoV2 cellular attachment. With respect to trafficking, conformational changes common to both viruses were observed at low pH conditions localized to the VP N-terminus under the 5-fold channel, in the surface loops VR-I and VR-V and specific side-chain residues such as cysteines and histidines. The 5-fold conformational movements provide insight into the potential mechanism of VP N-terminal dynamics during HBoV infection and side-chain modifications highlight pH-sensitive regions of the capsid.

Importance

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46 Human bocaviruses (HBoVs) are associated with disease in humans. However, the lack of an
47 animal model and a versatile cell culture system to study their life cycle limits the ability to
48 develop specific treatments or vaccines. This study presents the structure of HBoV2, at 2.7 Å
49 resolution, determined for comparison to the existing HBoV1, HBoV3, and HBoV4 structures, to
50 enable the molecular characterization of strain and genus-specific capsid features contributing
51 to tissue tropism and antigenicity. Furthermore, HBoV1 and HBoV2 structures determined under
52 acidic conditions provide insight into capsid changes associated with endosomal and
53 gastrointestinal acidification. Structural rearrangements of the capsid VP N-terminus, at the
54 base of the 5-fold channel, demonstrate a disordering of a “basket” motif as pH decreases.
55 These observations begin to unravel the molecular mechanism of HBoV infection and provide
56 information for control strategies.

58 The genus *Bocaparvovirus*, belonging to the *Parvovirinae* subfamily of the *Parvoviridae*
59 family (1), was named after the first two virus members, bovine parvovirus (BPV) reported in
60 1961 (2, 3) and canine minute virus (CnMV) isolated in 1967 (4). In 2005, a third member,
61 human bocavirus 1 (HBoV1) was discovered in children (<2 years of age) suffering from acute
62 respiratory tract infections (5). Three more human bocaviruses, HBoV2, HBoV3, and HBoV4,
63 were subsequently isolated from pediatric patients with acute gastroenteritis (6-8). HBoV
64 infections have been described worldwide in young children (7, 9-13), resulting in high
65 seroprevalences of up to 80% for HBoV1 and 50% for HBoV2 already at the age of 6 years (14,
66 15).

67 The HBoV genomes contain three open reading frames (ORFs) (16, 17). ORF1 encodes a
68 non-structural protein 1 (NS1) involved in genomic DNA replication (18). ORF2 encodes a
69 phosphorylated nucleoprotein (NP) also important for DNA replication, capsid protein
70 expression, and interferon signaling (19-21). ORF3 encodes three overlapping viral proteins,
71 VP1 (~74 kDa), VP2 (~64 kDa), and VP3 (~60 kDa) (16, 17), which assemble the capsid, with
72 T=1 icosahedral symmetry, from 60 VPs in an approximate 1:1:10 ratio (22). The VPs are
73 expressed from different start codons within the same transcript and therefore share a common
74 C-terminus (23-25). However, 60 copies of the common VP3 are capable of assembling capsids
75 (26). Importantly, VP1 contains a unique N-terminal region (VP1u) containing a phospholipase
76 A2 (PLA2) domain conserved in most parvoviruses (27). Its enzymatic activity is required for the
77 capsid to escape the endo/lysosomal pathway after entry into host cells. The structure of the
78 VP3 common region contains two α -helices (α A and α B) and an eight-stranded anti-parallel- β
79 barrel (β B to β I) that forms the conserved core of the capsid. Large loops inserted between the
80 β -strands form the exterior capsid surface (28, 29). These loops display the highest amino acid
81 (aa) sequence variability and structural diversity among HBoV1, HBoV3, and HBoV4 capsids,

82 and contain regions defined as variable regions (VRs) (28, 29). Characteristic features of the
83 capsids include depressions at the icosahedral 2-fold axes and surrounding a channel at the 5-
84 fold axes, three separate protrusions that surround the 3-fold axes, and raised capsid regions
85 between the 2- and 5-fold axes, termed the 2-/5-fold wall (28, 29).

86 The HBoV capsid, as with other parvoviruses, serves as a protective coat for the
87 packaged genome during the infection process that initiates with receptor attachment and
88 cellular entry, involves trafficking in the endo/lysosomal pathway, nuclear entry, genome release
89 and replication, transcription and translation, and ultimately capsid/virion assembly (30-32). For
90 host cell recognition the capsid attaches to specific receptor(s) on the cell surface. With the
91 exception of bovine parvovirus (BPV), reported to bind glycoprotein A (GPA) with terminal α -2,3
92 O-linked sialic acid on erythrocytes, nothing is known about cellular entry receptor usage by
93 other bocaviruses (33). As shown for many other parvoviruses, the capsid traffics through the
94 endo/lysosomal pathway, to the nucleus for genome replication, after cellular entry, and requires
95 a pH gradient from the early endosome (pH 6.0), to late endosome (pH 5.5), and lysosome (pH
96 4.0) conditions for successful infection (32). This acidification is reported to serve as a trigger for
97 virus escape from the transport vesicles, utilizing the VP1u PLA2 enzymatic activity (31, 34).
98 Similar to other parvoviruses, the bocavirus VP1u is postulated to become externalized through
99 the 5-fold channel of the capsid, from the interior of the capsid, to enable its PLA2 function upon
100 acidification of the endosomes (35-37).

101 In this study, the capsid structure of HBoV2 was determined to 2.7 Å resolution by cryo-
102 electron microscopy (cryo-EM) and image reconstruction, and compared to the available capsid
103 structures of HBoV1, HBoV3, and HBoV4 determined with the same method, to 2.9, 2.8, and
104 3.0 Å resolution, respectively (28). The HBoV2 structure is similar to those of HBoV3 and 4, the
105 other enteric viruses. All four structures, determined at neutral pH, exhibit surface loop topology
106 differences in the VRs associated with tropism disparities (among parvoviruses), and all display

107 a “basket” motif formed by the N-termini of VP3, extending the 5-fold channel into the capsid
108 interior. The cell surface glycan-binding properties of HBoV1 and HBoV2 were also investigated
109 and their structures determined at pH 5.5 and 2.6, to characterize the effect of pH acidification
110 encountered during trafficking on the capsid structure. Column and cell binding-based assays
111 failed to identify potential interacting glycans either because the cell attachment receptor does
112 not contain a glycan, that the glycan recognized was not present in the array tested or the
113 attachment site is not present in VP3. Comparison of the structures at pH 7.4, 5.5, and 2.6
114 showed analogous disordering of the basket motif under the 5-fold channel, in addition to
115 conformational changes at several surface loops, and modifications of cysteine and histidine
116 amino acid side chains as pH drops. These changes suggest potential re-arrangements
117 required for successful virus trafficking. Significantly, capsid stability measurements showed the
118 highest thermal stability (T_m) at pH 5.5, suggesting that concurrent stabilization and re-
119 arrangements drive the capsid transitions required for infection, including the disordering of the
120 5-fold basket motif, predicted to be necessary for externalization of the PLA2 function at low pH.
121 This study provides insight into the mechanism(s) of HBoV infection and potential means to
122 control HBoV spread.

Results and Discussion

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The HBoV2 structure conserves features of other bocavirus members. HBoV2 VP3 virus-like particles (VLPs) were generated using the baculovirus/*Sf9* expression system, and produced and purified as previously reported (28) (see Methods section) in quantities and quality suitable for structural studies (not shown). The structure of HBoV2, at pH 7.4, was determined from a total of 188,857 capsid images, extracted from 2,921 micrographs. The individual capsid images were combined to reconstruct the capsid structure to 2.7 Å resolution (Fourier shell correlation (FSC) = 0.143 (Table 1)). The HBoV2 capsid density map exhibits surface capsid topology features shared by other known *Parvovirinae* subfamily members, including: a depressed region at the 2-fold axes; three protrusions surrounding the 3-fold axes; a cylindrical channel at the 5-fold axes, surrounded by a wide depressed region; and a "wall" between the 2- and 5-fold axes (22, 31) (Fig. 1A). A cross-sectional view of the HBoV2 capsid showed a "basket" beneath the 5-fold axes, a structural feature observed for BPV (29), HBoV1, HBoV3, and HBoV4 (28) (Fig. 1B). The HBoV2 amino acid side chains were well ordered in the core secondary structure (Fig. 1C) and most surface loop regions enabling most of VP3 to be built. Exceptions were missing side-chain densities for some residues at the apexes of some surface loops and acidic residues known to be most susceptible to radiation damage in cryo-EM (38). Furthermore, the first 32 residues of VP3 could not be built into the density map due to lack of ordering of the N-terminus. Similar to the other HBoV structures (28), the first ordered N-terminal residue of VP3, residue 33, is located under the 5-fold channel projecting into the basket density extending into the interior of the capsid (Fig. 1D). The refined model, from residue 33 to the C-terminal residue 542, has a correlation coefficient (CC) of 0.83 to the reconstructed density map. The refinement statistics for the model are summarized in Table 1. The VP3 structure of HBoV2 displays the conserved core features of other parvoviruses (29), including an eight-stranded anti-parallel β -barrel ($\beta\text{B} - \beta\text{I}$) that is organized in two β -sheets,

149 BIDG and CHEF with an additional β A strand that is anti-parallel to β B, and an α -helix (α A)
150 between β B and β C (Fig. 2A). In addition, a second α -helix (α B) exists in the HBoV2 VP3
151 structure located in one of the surface loops between the β E and β F (Fig. 2A), similar to other
152 known bocavirus structures (28, 29).

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154 **Comparison of HBoV VP3 structures at pH 7.4 supports a role for VR-III as a tropism**

155 **determinant.** The HBoV VPs have an amino acid sequence identity that ranges from 77 to 90%
156 (7). Structural comparison of the different HBoV capsid structures showed that their core
157 regions are nearly perfectly superposable (Fig. 2B). Furthermore, several VRs exhibit similar
158 conformations, including VR-II, VI, VII, VIII, and IX (Fig. 2B). The remaining VRs, VR-I, VR-III,
159 VR-IV, and VR-VIII B, showed differences, with VR-III and VIII B differing in HBoV1 due to a 4 aa
160 insertion and an alternative conformation, respectively, and VR-IV in HBoV4 due to a 2 aa
161 insertion as previously reported (28). Variable region I and VR-V differed among all HBoV
162 strains despite the lack of insertions or deletions. Overall, the HBoV2 VRs resemble those of
163 HBoV3 with a minor difference in VR-V (Fig. 2B), with an overall $C\alpha$ RMSD of 0.66 Å for their
164 superposed VPs. HBoV4 displays structural differences to HBoV2 in VR-I, IV, and V (Fig. 2B),
165 and is the next most structurally similar with an overall VP $C\alpha$ RMSD of 0.78 Å. HBoV1, has the
166 lowest sequence similarity and a different tissue tropism compared to the gastrointestinal
167 HBoVs and also exhibits the greatest VP $C\alpha$ RMSD of 1.13 Å compared to HBoV2. Previously,
168 it was postulated that VR-III, displaying the highest structural difference between the respiratory
169 and the gastrointestinal HBoVs, might be a determinant for tissue tropism (28). HBoV2
170 conserves the structure of this loop in the gastrointestinal HBoVs. In contrast to the other
171 surface loops, the aa sequence of VR-III, residues 196-IHELAEMED(A/S)NAVEKAI-212, is
172 highly conserved among HBoV2, HBoV3, and HBoV4. This further highlights the potential
173 importance of VR-III for tissue tropism. VR-III is located at the 2-5-fold wall of the capsid where

174 other parvoviruses are also known to bind to glycan receptors, e.g. AAV1 to sialic acid (39) or
175 AAV9 to terminal galactose (40). This capsid region along with VR-I, VR-IV, VR-V, and VR-VIII
176 also serve as dominant antigenic regions (41). HBoV-based vectors are currently being
177 developed as vectors for gene therapy applications (42). The structure information for HBoV2,
178 along with those already available for the other HBoV strains (28), will assist future engineering
179 of vectors to reduce the detrimental effects of pre-existing immunity, and improve or alter the
180 tropism as recently shown for HBoV1 (43).

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182 **HBoV1 and HBoV2 VP3 VLPs do not bind common cell surface glycans.** To date, no viral
183 entry receptors have been identified for any of the HBoVs. To characterize whether the HBoVs
184 use glycans as receptors, HBoV1 and HBoV2, the two most widely distributed HBoVs
185 representing the two HBoV tropisms and disease phenotypes (5, 7), were analyzed. Heparin-
186 binding assays, to mimic heparan sulfate proteoglycan (HSPG) interactions, utilizing VLPs, were
187 performed (Fig. 3A) in addition to cell-binding assays with fluorescently labeled VLPs (Fig. 3B).
188 AAV2 VLPs known to bind HSPG (44) and AAV5 VLPs that do not bind to HSPGs but bind to
189 terminal sialic acid (45), were used as controls. In the heparin-binding assays, AAV2 VLPs
190 appeared in the elutions fraction consistent with binding while AAV5 and the HBoV1 and HBoV2
191 VLPs were detected in the wash and flowthrough fractions indicating lack of binding (Fig. 3A).
192 Cell-binding assays, to analyze binding to terminal sialic acid, galactose, or N-
193 acetylglucosamine, utilized differential glycan-presenting CHO cell lines. The parental CHO-
194 Pro5 cell line displays terminal sialic acid, the mutant Lec2 cell line displays terminal galactose,
195 and the Lec8 cell line displays N-acetylglucosamine, resulting from mutations in specific genes
196 required for glycan biosynthesis (46). AAV5 that is known to bind to sialic acid (45) only bound
197 to Pro5 cells whereas AAV2, which binds to HSPG (44) and does not require any of the glycans
198 affected by the mutations of the CHO cell lines, bound to all three cell lines with approximately

199 equal efficiency (Fig. 3C). In contrast, both HBoV1 and HBoV2 showed no significant binding to
200 any of the three cell lines, indicating that they do not use terminal sialic acid, galactose, or N-
201 acetylglucosamine as receptors (Fig. 3C). In addition, a series of colon cell lines: HT-29, CaCo-
202 2, and CMT-93 and the lung cell line A549, were analyzed (Fig. 3C). While AAV2-VLPs bound
203 efficiently to all these cells, AAV5 showed weak to medium binding phenotypes and both HBoV1
204 and HBoV2 showed no significant binding (Fig. 3C). These observations indicate that these
205 viruses might require additional cofactors for cellular attachment such as bile salts or microbial
206 molecules as described recently for noroviruses (47). It could also be that they do not utilize
207 glycans for cellular entry or that, unlike AAV2 and AAV5, VP3 alone does not contain the glycan
208 binding determinant and VP1 is required, as reported for B19 (48).

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210 **HBoV1 and HBoV2 capsids reveal strain-specific as well as common phenotypes under**
211 **pH environments associated with infection.** During infection and trafficking, HBoVs
212 encounter different cellular environments. HBoV1, is exposed to the mild acidic pH conditions in
213 the respiratory tract ranging from pH 5.5 to 6.7 (49). In contrast, HBoV2-HBoV4, associated with
214 gastrointestinal infections, are initially exposed to the acidic extracellular environment of the
215 stomach, ranging from pH 1.5 to 3.5 (50). While experiencing these varied extra-cellular pH
216 conditions the capsids have to remain structurally intact to infect cells. In addition, the HBoVs all
217 also experience varied pH conditions after cellular internalization while trafficking through the
218 early (pH 6) and late endosome (pH 5.5), lysosome (pH 4), and then nucleus (pH 7.4). In order
219 to confirm that HBoV1 and HBoV2 capsids are indeed intact at these conditions the VLPs were
220 dialyzed into different pH environments and analyzed by negative-stain EM. The result showed
221 that the capsids were visually intact in all the pHs tested, even with multiple changes of pH
222 conditions (from pH 7.4 to 2.6 and back to 7.4) (Fig. 4A and B).

223 To further analyze the stability of the capsids at the different pH environments the
224 melting temperature (T_M) of the HBoV VLPs were determined by differential scanning fluorimetry
225 (DSF) with previously characterized AAV5 VLPs for direct comparison. The T_M of AAV5 at pH
226 7.4 has been reported to be $89.0 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ (in Universal buffer, see methods for ingredients) (51)
227 and confirmed here (T_M of 89.5°C , Fig. 4C). At lower pH conditions the T_M of AAV5 gradually
228 decrease; 89.5°C at pH 7.4, 88.0°C at pH 6.0, 80.5°C at pH 5.5, 78.0°C at pH 4.0, and 71.5°C
229 at pH 2.6. The thermal stability of AAV5 capsids has also been analyzed in citric phosphate
230 buffer at pH 7.4, 6.0, 5.5, and 4.0 with comparable results (37). The thermal stability profile of
231 HBoV2 followed a similar trend to AAV5, however at lower temperatures, with the T_M decreasing
232 with pH; 73.2°C at pH 7.4, 70.3°C at pH 6.0, 70.0°C at pH 5.5, 67.8°C at pH 4.0, and 43.5°C at
233 pH 2.6 (Fig. 4C). The HBoV1 profile differed in that its T_M increased as pH dropped and then
234 decreased again: 65.3°C at pH 7.4, 68.7°C at pH 6.0, 69.7°C at pH 5.5, and then reduced to
235 67.0°C at pH 4.0 and 41.3°C at pH 2.6. A similar trend was previously observed for AAV1,
236 AAV2, and AAV8 (37). The capsid stability is reversible, for example, when dialyzed from pH 2.6
237 to 7.4 (Fig. 4C).

238 The T_M of the two HBoVs differed most at pH 7.4, by $\sim 8^\circ\text{C}$, and by only $\sim 2^\circ\text{C}$ from pH 6
239 to 2.6, with HBoV2 being the most stable. The difference at pH 7.4 is consistent with the utility of
240 T_M for identifying AAV serotypes (52) and suggests that the HBoVs can be similarly
241 differentiated by T_M . Notably, the VP1u and VP1/2 common regions of VP1 and VP2 do not
242 contribute to AAV capsid stability, and this phenotype is likely the same for the HBoVs. Despite
243 the lack of minor VPs in the HBoV VLPs, the maintained stability of the capsids at pH 6.0 and
244 5.5 is consistent with the need to preserve integrity under the conditions where the PLA₂ domain
245 within the VP1u is proposed to be externalized for endo/lysosomal escape (53). The reversibility
246 of the pH effects on the capsid, from a destabilized low pH environment to pH 7.4, provides

247 insight into the requirements to escape into the cytoplasm and travel into the nucleus while
248 protecting the genome.

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250 **The capsid structure of HBoV1 and HBoV2 at pH 2.6 and 5.5 reveals capsid dynamics**
251 **associated with endo/lysosomal escape.** To further analyze the observed contrasting capsid
252 stabilities at pH 2.6 and 5.5, the structures of HBoV1 and HBoV2 were determined at these pHs
253 to identify any associated structural differences. VLPs were dialyzed to the two pH conditions
254 and vitrified on EM grids for data collection. For HBoV1 50,342 capsids were selected at pH 2.6
255 and 66,471 capsids at pH 5.5 resulting in a three-dimensional (3D) reconstructed capsid
256 structure at 2.54 and 2.74 Å resolution, respectively (Table 1). Similarly, for HBoV2, 19,648 and
257 30,308 capsids were selected at pH 2.6 and pH 5.5 for a 3D-reconstructed capsid structure at
258 2.51 and 2.74 Å resolution, respectively (Table 1).

259 Comparison of the HBoV1 and HBoV2 maps at pH 2.6 and 5.5, with the previously
260 published pH 7.4 HBoV1 map (28) and the map of HBoV2 described above, showed minor
261 structural differences on the capsid exterior surface but significant movement of the VP3 N-
262 terminus (Fig. 5, 6 and 7). The capsid surface differences are located at the 2-5-fold wall (VR-I)
263 and 3-fold protrusions (VR-V) of the HBoV1 and HBoV2 capsids at pH 2.6 compared to pH 7.4
264 and 5.5 (Fig. 6), with HBoV2 showing additional density at the 3-fold symmetry axis at pH 2.6
265 (Fig. 5). On the capsid interior, the 'basket' structure beneath the 5-fold axis at pH 7.4 becomes
266 less pronounced at pH 2.6, suggesting that low pH induces movements of the VP3 N-terminus
267 for both HBoV1 and HBoV2 (Fig. 5). Interestingly, low resolution cryo-EM structures of both
268 capsids returned to pH 7.4 from 2.6 showed the reappearance of the basket structure and loss
269 of the 3-fold density in HBoV2 (data not shown), implying that these structural observations are
270 reversible. This would be consistent with the requirement to maintain capsid integrity following
271 VP1u externalization to protect the encapsulated genome en route to the nucleus for replication.

272 Similar to pH 7.4, the low pH structures were ordered from residue 33 to the C-terminus,
273 residue 542 in HBoV1 and 537 in HBoV2. The CCs for the models fitted into their respective
274 maps ranged from 0.80 to 0.87 (Table 1). The RMSDs for HBoV1 are 0.6 Å (pH 5.5) and 0.7 Å
275 (pH 2.6) for $C\alpha$ atoms compared to the pH 7.4 structure. As reported previously, two regions of
276 the HBoV1 pH 7.4 map, residues 204-209 (VR-III) and 333-338 (VR-V), were poorly ordered,
277 and only the main chain interpreted. Similarly, the HBoV1 map at pH 2.6 displayed disordered
278 density in these loops and as well as residues 78-84 (VR-I) (Fig. 6A and C). Despite the high
279 level of disorder in these loops, the main chain was interpretable (Fig. 6A and C). In contrast to
280 the pH 2.6 and pH 7.4 HBoV1 maps, the pH 5.5 density was better ordered in these loops with
281 most side-chain densities observed (Fig. 6A and C). Overall, the HBoV1 VP structure topology
282 was similar at all three pH conditions analyzed except for conformational shifts in VR-I and VR-
283 V (Fig. 6E). These structural shifts were more pronounced for pH 2.6 with main chain
284 movements of ~9 Å in both VR-I and VR-V compared to pH 7.4, and ~3 Å in VR-I and ~7 Å in
285 VR-V between pH 5.5 and 7.4. These observations identify the 2/5-fold wall and 3-fold
286 protrusions of the capsid as being involved in the capsid dynamics associated with low pH-
287 mediated transitions required for infection.

288 For the HBoV2 pH 5.5 and 2.6 structures the overall RMSDs for their VP superposed
289 onto the pH 7.4 coordinates is 0.4 and 0.7 Å, respectively, for $C\alpha$ atoms. The HBoV2 surface
290 loops were generally more ordered at pH 7.4 and 5.5 compared to those of HBoV1 (Fig. 6A-D).
291 At pH 2.6, VR-V was slightly disordered and only the main chain interpreted (Fig. 6D). Similar to
292 HBoV1, the overall capsid structure was maintained with low pH-dependent shifts of the main
293 chain observed in VR-I and VR-V. These shifts are also more pronounced at pH 2.6, with main
294 chain movements of ~4 Å in VR-I and ~6 Å in VR-V compared to pH 7.4, and <2 Å in VR-I and
295 <3 Å in VR-V at pH 5.5 compared to pH 7.4. Thus, the HBoV2 capsid is susceptible to reduced
296 pH-induced conformational changes compared to HBoV1. This could be an adaptation to the

297 potential fecal-oral transmission route involving the acidic conditions of the stomach. In addition,
298 the pH-sensitive regions of the HBoV capsids, VR-I and VR-V, located at the side of the 2/5-fold
299 wall and 3-fold protrusions, is known to bind to various receptors in other parvoviruses (39, 40,
300 54, 55). The pH-induced movement of these loops may enable the capsid to detach from its
301 receptor after cell entry and acidification of the endosomes.

302

303 **The HBoV VP N-terminus experiences pH-induced conformational changes.** The basket-
304 like structure of the HBoVs under the 5-fold channel (Fig. 1D) is formed by the glycine-rich N-
305 terminus of VP3 (28). The high number of glycine residues grouped at the N-terminus of the
306 major VP is a common element among the parvoviruses (22). However, among the parvoviral
307 structures determined to date only the bocaviruses (28, 29), AAV5 in complex with an antibody
308 (56), and *Penaeus monodon* metallodensovirus (57) display this feature. The clustering of
309 glycines is believed to provide flexibility to the N-terminus for the externalization of the VP1u
310 region with its PLA2 domain through the 5-fold channel. The presence of the basket could thus
311 be thought to prevent premature externalization, acting as a "cork" to the 5-fold channel, or as
312 the region positioned to initiate the process. However, the basket is still present at pH 5.5 (Fig. 5
313 and 7), the condition encountered by capsids during endosomal acidification and is thought to
314 be associated with the externalization of the VP1u region. At pH 2.6 the basket under the 5-fold
315 channel disappears, with density observed leading away from the 5-fold channel, on the capsid
316 interior surface, interpreted as aa24-29 of the VP3 N-terminus (Fig. 5 and 7). This density runs
317 antiparallel to the β G strand in both HBoV1 and HBoV2 (Fig. 7B and D) and possesses several
318 glycines on both ends. It is possible that this movement away from the 5-fold channel (Fig. 7E
319 and F) is a mechanism to prevent premature externalization of VP1u, or that externalization is
320 via a different portal, for example, the 2-fold axis. However, these studies were performed on
321 HBoV VP3-only VLPs. The wild-type capsid contains, on average, 50 copies of VP3, 5 of VP1,

322 and 5 of VP2 with extended N-terminus of 129 and 35 aa, respectively. Due to the
323 incompatibility of the number of VP1 and VP2 with icosahedral symmetry (imposed during
324 structure determination), their structures would also be absent in the density map of wild-type
325 capsids (22). Nonetheless, in future studies, it would be interesting to see whether VP1 and VP2
326 has an effect on the basket structure under the 5-fold channel.

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328 **pH-induced residue level changes targets cysteines and histidines.** In addition to structural
329 shifts described above a number of side chain rotamer changes and unassigned densities
330 proximal to side chains were observed in the HBoV1 and HBoV2 pH 2.6 and 5.5 maps
331 compared to pH 7.4 (Fig. 8). The amino acids affected the most are cysteines and histidines.
332 The HBoV1 and HBoV2 VP3 contains a total of 10 and 8 cysteines, respectively. None of these
333 are in close enough proximity to form disulfide bonds. However, in HBoV1, at pH 5.5 and 2.6,
334 two and eight cysteines, respectively, exhibited modifications or additional density, not
335 consistent with the cysteine side chain alone, as seen at pH 7.4 (Fig. 8A and B, Table 2).
336 Similarly, the same observation was made for HBoV2, with three cysteines at pH 5.5 and five at
337 pH 2.6 exhibiting additional density (Fig. 8A and B, Table 2). In some cases, the additional
338 density on the cysteines caused steric clashes with neighboring amino acids resulting in
339 conformational shifts of amino acid side chains. For example, conserved C159's modification
340 flips the orientation of a nearby phenylalanine (F234 in HBoV1; F239 in HBoV2) at pH 5.5 and
341 2.6 (Fig. 8A). Generally, conserved cysteines showed modifications in both HBoVs except for
342 C473 in HBoV2 that did not show any additional densities unlike structurally equivalent C477 in
343 HBoV1 (Fig. 8B). This density extends to nearby C104, not conserved in HBoV2 (Table 2), and
344 M177 in HBoV1. Vice-versa there were also unique cysteine densities in HBoV2, e.g., C393
345 (valine in HBoV1), modified by additional density. This cysteine is located near the 3-fold
346 symmetry axis (Fig. 8B). The three symmetry-related cysteines created the large extra density

347 seen at the center of the 3-fold axis (Fig. 5 and 8B). Generally, the cysteines with modifications
348 in the HBoV1 and HBoV2 capsids are located either on the exterior or interior surface of the
349 capsid (Fig. 8C and D) and are located in hydrophobic environments. In contrast, unmodified
350 cysteines are either buried or situated in less hydrophobic regions (not shown).

351 The cysteine modification phenomenon appears to be independent of the buffer used,
352 because glycine-HCl was used at pH 2.6 and universal buffer at pH 5.5 (see methods for
353 ingredients). It is important to note that pH-induced cysteine modifications have not been
354 previously described. Deposited EM maps in the electron microscopy data bank (EMDB) mostly
355 described protein structures at neutral pH and the few maps at lower pH do not possess the
356 necessary resolution required for this level of comparison with one exception. EMD-4063 (PDB
357 accession number 5LK7) is the structure of the slow bee paralysis virus virion at pH 5.5 (in
358 sodium acetate buffer) at a resolution of 3.42 Å. This structure contains five cysteines. While not
359 discussed in the publication, two of these cysteines, Cys117 and Cys241 in chain A, show
360 similar modifications as seen in the HBoV maps. The fact that these additional densities were
361 not observed at pH 7.4 indicates that the low pH may be responsible through the reaction of
362 glycine or acetate ions react with the thiol group. In future studies, mass spec analyses may
363 clarify the nature of these cysteine modifications. A low-resolution structure of HBoV2
364 determined from a sample dialyzed to 2.6 and then back to pH 7.4 did not show the extra
365 density at the center of the 3-fold axis. This indicates that these modifications are reversible.
366 The biological significance of these cysteines and their modifications needs to be evaluated
367 especially given that Cys159 and Cys247/243 showing these densities at pH 2.6 and 5.5 (Fig.
368 8A, Table 2) are conserved in all HBoVs (28).

369 HBoV1 and HBoV2 both contain 12 histidines within their VP3 sequence (Table 2).
370 Among these, there are two conserved pairs with continuous density between them:
371 H156:H230/226 and H163:H443/439 for HBoV1 and HBoV2, respectively (Fig. 9A, Table 2). At

372 pH 2.6, additional density occurs between the H156:H230/226 pair in HBoV1 and HBoV2, but
373 not between the H163:H443/439 pair (Fig. 9A). These "joined" histidine pairs are connected
374 within the same VP monomer and are conserved in all HBoVs. In addition, a series of "single"
375 histidines also exhibited modifications at pH 2.6 (Table 2). Conserved histidines in both HBoVs
376 behaved identical with either both having additional density at pH 2.6, e.g. H497/493 (Fig. 9B),
377 or both not having additional density, e.g. H515/511. In some cases, aa near histidines with
378 extra density underwent a conformation change, such as K459 and Y462 near H70 in HBoV2
379 (Fig. 9B). Interestingly, these residues did not make the same conformational rotation in HBoV1
380 despite being conserved. In contrast to the cysteines mentioned above, histidines with and
381 without additional density are found on both the capsid interior and exterior surfaces (Fig. 9C).
382 Histidines have been shown to change their orientation at different pHs in AAV8 (58). However,
383 additional density was not reported at low pH in this past study that utilized X-ray
384 crystallography. Here it is only seen at pH 2.6 (Fig. 9A and B). To our knowledge, no cryo-EM
385 structure of sufficient resolution has been published at this pH of other parvoviruses and thus
386 relevance requires further studies beyond the scope of this work.

387 In summary, the HBoV2 capsid structure presented here completes the panel for the
388 currently available HBoV strains. As anticipated, HBoV2 was structurally similar to the other
389 gastrointestinal HBoVs, HBoV3 and HBoV4, and differs from HBoV1 at VR-III, supporting a role
390 for this VP region in tissue tropism as originally proposed (28). The capsid dynamics associated
391 with endo/lysosomal trafficking was documented with HBoV1 and HBoV2 as representatives of
392 the respiratory and gastrointestinal strains, respectively. Both show similar N-terminal VP
393 rearrangements and residue level, cysteine and histidine, modifications at specific positions on
394 the interior and exterior capsid surface. The N-terminal changes support progression towards
395 the externalization of the PLA2 enzyme required for phospholipid cleavage and escape to the
396 cytosol or interaction with the nuclear membrane. The modifications are reversible, suggesting

397 that they may be required for interaction with other molecules in vesicle membranes. Following
398 escape from the endo/lysosomal pathway, the HBoV capsid reverts to protecting the packaged
399 genome and trafficking to the nucleus for genome replication.

400

Methods

401 **HBoV VLP generation and purification.** The baculovirus-expression system in *Sf9*
402 (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) cells was used to express VLPs of HBoV1 and HBoV2. Briefly, 250 ml
403 of *Sf9* cells ($1.7\sim 2.0\times 10^6$ cells/ml) were infected by a recombinant baculovirus expressing
404 HBoV1 or HBoV2 VP3 at a multiplicity of infection of 5 and incubated at 28°C for 3 days. The
405 infected cells were lysed by three rounds of freeze/thaw cycles in TNET buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl,
406 pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2% Triton X-100). After the third cycle, the completely
407 thawed pellet was treated with Benzonase (250 U/ μ l, 1 μ l/ml sample) to remove nucleic acid.
408 The VLPs were pelleted through a 20% sucrose (w/v, in TNET) cushion centrifugation at 45,000
409 rpm for 3 h at 4°C. Subsequently, the pelleted VLPs were resuspended in TNTM buffer and
410 further purified by sucrose gradient (5% to 40% sucrose [wt/vol] in TNTM buffer (25 mM Tris-
411 HCl, pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.2% Triton X-100), centrifugation at 35,000 rpm for 3
412 h at 4°C. 20-25%, 25-30%, and 30-35% fractions of sucrose gradient were collected and
413 analyzed for the presence of VLPs. The fractions were dialyzed three times into 1×PBS
414 (phosphate buffer saline, pH 7.4) at 4°C for 3 h each and concentrated to ~1-2 mg/mL using an
415 Apollo concentrator column. SDS-PAGE and negative-stain EM using a Tecnai G² Spirit TEM
416 (FEI Co.) were used to analyze the purity and VLP integrity, respectively, as described
417 previously (56). Alternatively, the purified HBoV1 or HBoV2 samples were dialyzed into glycine-
418 HCl (50 mM glycine, adjusted to pH 2.6) or universal buffer (20 mM HEPES, 20 mM MES, 20
419 mM sodium acetate, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM CaCl₂) adjusted to a pH of 4.0, 5.5, 6.0, or 7.4,
420 respectively. All pH treated VLP samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and negative-stain EM
421 prior to 3D structure determination.

422

423 **Cryo-EM and Data Collection.** HBoV1 VLPs (~1 mg/ml) were applied to C-flat holey carbon
424 grids (Protochips, Inc.) while HBoV2 VLPs were applied to a thin carbon coated over holey

425 QUANTIFOIL[®] grids to overcome aggregation. The samples were vitrified using a Vitrobot[™]
426 Mark IV (FEI Co.) and screened on a 16-megapixel CCD camera (Gatan, Inc.) in a Tecnai (FEI
427 Co.) G2 F20-TWIN Transmission Electron Microscope (200 kV, $\sim e^-/\text{Å}^2$) prior to data collection.
428 For high resolution data collection of HBoV2 at pH 7.4 micrographs were collected by using a
429 Titan Krios electron microscope (FEI Co.) operating at 300 kV with a DE20 (Direct Electron)
430 direct electron detector. This data set was collected as part of the NIH Southeastern Center for
431 Microscopy of MacroMolecular Machines (SECM4) project. For the HBoV VLPs at low pH
432 conditions data was collected using a Titan Krios electron microscope on a K2 Summit (Gatan)
433 direct electron detector at the UMASS Cryo-EM core. Images were recorded as 'movies'
434 consisting of multiple frames and their parameters are summarized in Table 1. Subsequently,
435 the frames of the micrographs were aligned for motion correction and to enhance the signal-to-
436 noise ratio by using the DE_process_frames software (Direct Electron) with corresponding dark
437 and bright reference images without radiation dose damage compensation for the data collected
438 on the DE20 direct electron detector (59). The frames collected on the K2 Summit direct
439 electron detector were aligned using MotionCor2 (60).

440

441 **Structure Determination of HBoV VLPs.** For the 3D image reconstruction of HBoV1 and
442 HBoV2 at the different pH conditions the cisTEM software package was utilized (61). Briefly, the
443 aligned micrographs were imported into the program and their contrast transfer function (CTF)
444 parameters estimated. The CTF information was used to eliminate micrographs of poor quality.
445 This was followed by automatic capsid picking using a radius of 125 Å. The selected capsids for
446 each data set were subjected to 2D classification that eliminated ice particles and debris from
447 the automatic picking process. Following 2D classification, the structures were reconstructed
448 using default settings. This included ab initio 3D model generation, auto refinement, and density
449 map sharpening with a pre-cut off (low resolution amplitudes) B-factor value of -90 Å^2 , and

450 variable post-cut off (high resolution amplitudes) B-factor values such as 0, 20, and 50 Å². The
451 sharpened density maps were inspected in the Coot and Chimera applications (62, 63). The -90
452 Å² (pre-cut off) and 0 Å² (post-cut off) sharpened maps were used for assignment of the amino
453 acid main- and side chains for the majority of the capsid. For the more disordered surface loops,
454 VR-I and VR-V (particularly at pH 7.4 and pH 2.6), the -90 Å² (pre-cut off) and 50 Å² (post-cut
455 off) sharpened maps were used, which were less noisy and allowed a better assignment of the
456 amino acid main chain in these VP regions. The resolution of the cryo-reconstructed maps was
457 estimated based on a Fourier shell correlation (FSC) of 0.143 (Table 1).

458

459 **VP3 Model Building and Structure Refinement.** A model of the HBoV2 VP3 monomer was
460 generated based on the protein sequence (NCBI accession number: [AFW98869.1](https://.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucl/AFW98869.1)) on the
461 SWISS-MODEL protein structure homology-modelling server (<https://swissmodel.expasy.org/>)
462 (64) using the structure of HBoV3 as the template (28, 64). The resulting monomer was utilized
463 to build an icosahedral 60-mer capsid model in VIPERdb (65). The 60-mer capsid model was
464 docked into the HBoV2 cryo-reconstructed density map using the 'fit in map' subroutine in
465 UCSF-Chimera (63). The quality of the fit between the map and the model was evaluated by a
466 correlation coefficient (CC) calculation. The pixel size of the reconstructed map was adjusted to
467 obtain the best fit of the 60-mer model in the reconstructed map. Using the e2proc3d.py
468 subroutine in EMAN2 and the program MAPMAN, a CCP4 format map file with the correct pixel
469 size was generated that also represents a compatible file type for Coot (66-68). In Coot the
470 reference VP3 model was fitted into the density map by adjusting the position of residues
471 through interactive model building and the real-space-refine options (66). For the HBoV capsids
472 at low pH conditions, the pH 7.4 VP3 model was fitted into the maps as described above and
473 structural rearrangements refined in Coot using the real-space-refine option. All VP3 models
474 were further refined using PHENIX real space refinement with the default settings (69). The

475 resulting model was analyzed in Coot with the density map and side chains were modified if
476 necessary. Finally, a B-factor refinement of the models was conducted in PHENIX.

477

478 **Structure Alignment of HBoVs.** For comparative analysis, the VP3 structures of HBoV1-4 or
479 of the HBoV1 and HBoV2 at the different pH conditions, were superimposed with each other by
480 using the secondary structure matching (SSM) program in Coot (70). The program also
481 calculated root mean square deviations (RMSDs) for the superposed structures and the
482 distances between the aligned C α positions. The cartoon representations of the VP3 structures
483 and side chain density images were generated in Chimera (63).

484

485 **Fluorescent Labeling of VLPs.** 300-500 μ l of purified HBoV1, HBoV2, AAV2, and AAV5 VLPs
486 (0.5-0.8 mg/ml) were labeled using the DyLight 488 antibody labeling kit (Thermo Fisher) as
487 described previously (71). Unbound dye was removed by repeated dialysis. The success of
488 capsid labeling was confirmed by SDS-PAGE and analysis of the gel on a UV transilluminator.
489 Labeled VLPs were aliquoted and stored until usage at -80°C.

490

491 **Cell Lines and Cell Binding Assay.** The CHO cell lines Pro5, Lec2, and Lec8 were cultured as
492 monolayers in MEM- α with 10% FBS (fetal bovine serum) and 1% Antibiotic-Antimycotic (Gibco)
493 in a 5% CO₂ 37°C incubator. For cell binding assays, the cells were diluted to 5 \times 10⁵ cells/ml,
494 pre-chilled for 30 min at 4°C and aliquoted in 500 μ l fractions. Each tube of cells was then
495 incubated with the fluorescently labeled VLPs at a MOI of 10⁶ under constant rotation for 3~4 h
496 at 4°C. Following the incubation, the cells were pelleted at 2000 rpm for 10 min and the
497 supernatant discarded. Unbound VLPs were removed by washing the cells with 300 μ l ice-cold
498 1 \times PBS, followed by another centrifugation. Pellets were resuspended in 300 μ l 1 \times PBS and

499 analyzed by fluorescence-activating cell sorting (FACs) utilizing a FACS Calibur (Becton &
500 Dickinson).

501

502 **Heparin Binding Assay.** Microspin columns (BioRad) were washed with 200 μ l TNTM buffer
503 followed by 1 ml 1 \times TD buffer (1 \times PBS with 1 mM MgCl₂, 2.5 mM KCl). Then 50 μ l of heparin-
504 conjugated agarose type I resin (Sigma) was loaded into the columns. The affinity columns were
505 equilibrated with 1 ml of 1 \times TD buffer and charged by washing with 500 μ l of 1 \times TD/1 M NaCl
506 buffer followed by three sequential washes with 1 ml of 1 \times TD buffer. Subsequently, 10 μ g of
507 HBoV1, HBoV2, AAV5, and AAV2 VLPs were diluted in 60 μ l 1 \times TD buffer respectively and 30 μ l
508 of the samples loaded onto the columns followed by sequential collection of flow through, five
509 column washes with 1 \times TD buffer (30 μ l each), and five elution fractions with 1 \times TD/1 M NaCl
510 buffer (30 μ l each). All fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE.

511

512 **Differential Scanning Fluorescent (DSF) Stability Assay.** Purified HBoV and AAV5 VLPs
513 (72) were diluted to ~0.2 mg/ml in 1 \times PBS buffer and then dialyzed in universal buffer to pHs of
514 4.0, 5.5, 6.0, or 7.4 or glycine-HCl at pH 2.6, respectively. For the DSF assay 2.5 μ l of 1%
515 SYPRO-Orange dye (Molecular Probes, Invitrogen) was added to 22.5 μ l of dialyzed sample.
516 The assay was conducted in a thermocycler (BioRad CFX Connect) with the temperature
517 ramped from 30 to 99 $^{\circ}$ C, increasing by 0.1 degrees every 6 s. The melting temperature (T_M) for
518 each sample was defined as the vertex of the first derivative (dF/dT) of relative fluorescence unit
519 (RFU) values.

520

521 **Structure accession numbers**

522 The HBoV1 and HBoV2 cryo-EM reconstructed density maps and models built for their capsids
523 were deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB) with accession numbers EMD-
524 XXXXX/PDB ID XXXX (HBoV1 pH5.5), EMD-XXXXX/PDB ID XXXX (HBoV1 pH2.6), EMD-
525 XXXXX/PDB ID XXXX (HBoV2 pH7.4), EMD-XXXXX/PDB ID XXXX (HBoV2 pH5.5), and EMD-
526 XXXXX/PDB ID XXXX (HBoV2 pH2.6), respectively.

527

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547

548 **Author contributions**

549 M.L. was responsible for VLP production, purification, and dialysis to the desired pH condition,
550 fluorescent labeling of VLPs, the execution of the cell and heparin binding assays, DSF assay,
551 initial structure determinations using reconstruction by cryo-EM, and wrote a first draft of the
552 manuscript. M.M. was responsible for cell binding assay analysis, cryo-reconstruction, structure
553 refinement and analysis, model building and refinement, and manuscript preparation. P.C.
554 vitrified sample, frozen, and screened cryo-EM grids. C.X., J.S. and D.S. collected cryo-EM
555 data. R.M. and M.S-V. contributed to interpretation of the results and manuscript preparation.
556 M.A-M. conceived and designed the project, analyzed all results, and contributed to manuscript
557 preparation. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

558

559 **Competing interests**

560 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

561

562 **Figure Legends:**

563 **Fig. 1:** The HBoV2 capsid structure. **A)** The reconstructed capsid surface map colored
564 according to radial distance from the capsid center (blue) to outermost regions (red) as
565 indicated by the scale bar. **B)** Cross-sectional view of the capsid. Locations of the 5-fold channel
566 (5f), 3-fold (3f), 2-fold (2-f) axes, and 2/5-fold wall are indicated by arrowheads. Density coloring
567 is as in (A). **C)** Example of fitted amino acid residues, W94 - N98, in β C strand. The density map
568 depicted as a black mesh. The VP model is shown in stick representation and the atoms are
569 colored: C: yellow; O: red, N: blue. **D)** Closeup of a cross-sectional view of "the basket" under
570 the 5-fold channel (refer to panel B). The ribbon diagram of VP3 is shown within the
571 semitransparent density. The first ordered residue G33 is labeled. This figure was generated
572 using UCSF-Chimera (63).

573 **Fig. 2:** HBoV2 VP structure. **A)** Ribbon diagram of HBoV2 VP structure. The conserved β -barrel
574 core motif (β B-I), β A strand, α A and α B helices are indicated. The N- and C-terminal are
575 labeled. The loops inserted between these secondary structure elements also contain β -strand
576 regions, as indicated. **B)** Structural superposition of HBoV1 (blue), HBoV2 (orange), HBoV3
577 (green), and HBoV4 (red), with the location of variable loops VR-I to IX labeled. The
578 approximate icosahedral 2-, 3-, and 5-fold axes are indicated as a filled oval, triangle, and
579 pentagon, respectively. The images were generated with PyMOL (73).

580 **Fig. 3:** Glycan binding analysis of HBoV1 and HBoV2. **A)** SDS-PAGE of heparin binding assay
581 fractions for AAV2, AAV5, HBoV1, and HBoV2 VLPs. FT: flow-through, W1-5: wash fraction;
582 E1-5: elution fractions. **B)** SDS-PAGE of labeled HBoV1, HBoV2, AAV2, and AAV5 VLPs. Gels
583 (left) stained for proteins shows the presence of VP3 of HBoV1 and HBoV2 (~60kDa) as well as

584 VP1 (~87 kDa), VP2 (~72 kDa) and VP3 (~62 kDa) of AAV2 and AAV5 (AAV5 VP1 is low
585 concentration). Gels (right) imaged under UV light to confirm successful fluorescent capsid
586 labeling. **C**) Cell binding assay analysis of fluorescently-labeled VLPs incubated with the
587 indicated cell lines. Results show the percentage of cells bound by the fluorescently-labeled
588 capsids and displayed as mean \pm standard deviation (n=3).

589 **Fig. 4:** HBoV capsids under different pH conditions. Negative-stain EM analysis of HBoV1 **(A)**
590 HBoV2 **(B)** capsids dialyzed into indicated pH. Sample labeled 2.6>7.4 was dialyzed to pH 2.6
591 then subsequently re-dialyzed to pH 7.4. **C**) Capsid stability analysis using differential scanning
592 fluorimetry. The melting temperature (T_M) of HBoV1, HBoV2, and AAV5 capsids were
593 determined at pH 2.6, 4.0, 5.5, 6.0, and 7.4. Results are displayed as mean \pm standard
594 deviation (n=3).

595 **Fig. 5:** Capsid density maps of HBoV1 and HBoV2. HBoV1 structures at pH 7.4, 5.5, and 2.6
596 are shown on the left-hand side. Similar pH structures for HBoV2 are shown on the right-hand
597 side. The reconstructed maps are colored according to radial distance (blue to red), as indicated
598 by the scale bar below. Shown are surface and cross-sectional views of HBoV1 and 2 at the
599 different pH conditions indicated. The images were generated with UCSF-Chimera (63).

600 **Fig. 6:** VP structure of HBoV1 and HBoV2 at varying pHs. **A**) Conformation of VR-I in HBoV1 at
601 pH 7.4 (blue), 5.5 (yellow-orange) and 2.6. (red) shown as coil diagrams. Amino acid side
602 chains are shown within the corresponding density map for each pH condition. **B**) Conformation
603 of VR-I in HBoV2 shown as in (A). **C**) Conformation of VR-V in HBoV1 and **D**) HBoV2 presented
604 as in (A). **E**) Superposition of the HBoV1 and **F**) HBoV2 VP structures at the different pH
605 conditions. The positions of VR-I to VR-IX, the N-, and C-terminus are labeled. The images
606 were generated with UCSF-Chimera (63).

607 **Fig. 7:** The structures of the N-termini of HBoV1 and HBoV2 at varying pHs. **A)** Cross-sectional
608 views of the HBoV1 density maps and fitted models shown as ribbon diagrams for each pH
609 condition (pH 7.4 – blue; pH 5.5 – yellow-orange; and pH 2.6 – red) studied. The 5-fold
610 symmetry axis, glycine 33, and β -strand G are indicated. **B)** The amino acids of the HBoV1 N-
611 terminus and β -strand G are shown in stick representation inside the pH 2.6 mesh density map.
612 **C)** Cross-sectional views of HBoV2 as in (A) and **D)** the amino acids of the HBoV2 N-terminus
613 and β -strand G inside the pH 2.6 mesh density map as in (B). **E)** Representation of the interior
614 surface of the HBoV1 or **F)** HBoV2 capsid from a 9-mer at a pH of 2.6. At this condition, the N-
615 terminus is extending away from the 5-fold channel. The N-terminal residue, G33, are colored
616 red and the last N-terminal residue ordered, 24, are colored blue. The asymmetric unit, the 2-,
617 and 3-fold symmetry axes is indicated. Panel A-D were generated with UCSF-Chimera (63) and
618 E-F with PyMOL (73).

619 **Fig. 8:** Modification of cysteines at low pH conditions. **A)** HBoV1 and HBoV2 model and density
620 map (black mesh) are shown at pH7.4, 5.5 and 2.6. Additional density relative to pH 7.4 is
621 indicated as a red mesh. Density meshes are contoured at a σ -level threshold of 2.0. The
622 additional cysteine density for Cys159 causes F243/239 to flip at pH 5.5 and 2.6, indicated by a
623 red arrow. **B)** Similar depiction (as in A) for cysteines with additional densities exclusively at pH
624 2.6. In HBoV2 C393 causes extra density at the center of the 3-fold symmetry axis. The view is
625 rotated by 90° without density mesh for the VP3 amino acids. The images were generated with
626 UCSF-Chimera (63). **(C and D)** Position of cysteines on the exterior and interior surface of
627 HBoV1 and HBoV2 capsids. Cysteines labeled red indicate that these possess additional
628 densities whereas cysteines in blue display no additional densities. The images were generated
629 with PyMOL (73).

630 **Fig. 9:** Modification of histidines at low pH conditions. **A)** HBoV1 and HBoV2 paired-histidines
631 and density (black mesh) are shown at pH7.4, 5.5 and 2.6. Additional density relative to pH 7.4

632 is indicated as a red density mesh. Density meshes are shown at a σ -level threshold of 2.0. The
633 movement of H230 indicated by a red arrow. **B)** Similar depiction (as in A) for “single” histidines.
634 The conformation change to Y462 at pH2.6 is indicated by a red arrow. The images were
635 generated with UCSF-Chimera (63). **(C and D)** Position of histidines on the exterior and interior
636 surface of HBoV1 or HBoV2 capsids. Histidines labeled red indicate that these possess extra
637 densities, in orange the paired H163 with H443/439 and in blue histidines that displayed no
638 additional densities. The images were generated with PyMOL (73).

639 **Table 1:** Summary of data collection, image-processing parameters, and refinement statistics

	HBoV1		HBoV2		
	pH 2.6	pH 5.5	pH 2.6	pH 5.5	pH 7.4
Total number of micrographs	785	711	691	927	2,921
Defocus range (μm)	0.84 - 4.03	0.82 - 3.74	0.83 - 4.02	0.82 - 4.03	0.78-4.39
Electron dose ($\text{e}^- / \text{\AA}^2$)	32	32	32	32	64
Frames / micrograph	50	50	50	50	36
Pixel size ($\text{\AA} / \text{pixel}$)	0.90	1.04	0.90	0.91	0.96
Particles used for final map	50,342	66,471	19,648	30,308	188,857
Resolution of final map (\AA)	2.54	2.74	2.51	2.74	2.71
PHENIX model refinement statistics					
Map CC	0.81	0.80	0.84	0.87	0.83
RMSD [bonds] (\AA)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
RMSD [angles] (\AA)	0.85	0.84	0.88	0.84	0.81
All-atom clash score	11.88	10.55	9.66	8.17	10.17
Ramachandran plot					
Favored (%)	96.7	95.9	96.9	97.2	96.8
Allowed (%)	3.3	4.1	3.1	2.6	3.2
Outliers (%)	0	0	0	0.2	0
Rotamer outliers (%)	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
C-β deviations	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Summary of observed modification of side chain densities

HBoV1	extra density			comment	HBoV2	extra density			comment
	pH 7.4	pH 5.5	pH 2.6			pH 7.4	pH 5.5	pH 2.6	
C89	no	no	yes		C89	no	yes	yes	causes flip of K262
C104	no	no	yes	density to C477, M177	S104	N/A	N/A	N/A	
C159	no	yes	yes	causes flip of F243	C159	no	yes	yes	causes flip of F239
C247	no	yes	yes		C243	no	yes	yes	
C322	no	no	yes		V318	N/A	N/A	N/A	
C347	no	no	yes		S343	N/A	N/A	N/A	
V397	N/A	N/A	N/A		C393	no	no	yes	density at 3-fold
C421	no	no	yes	density towards H170	C417	no	weak	yes	density towards H170
C471	no	no	no		C467	no	no	no	
C477	no	no	yes	density to C104, M177	C473	no	no	no	
C531	no	no	no		C527	no	no	no	
H48	no	no	no		Y48	N/A	N/A	N/A	
H70	no	no	yes		H70	no	no	yes	flip of K450 / Y462 nearby
H105	yes	yes	yes	coordinated ion?	H105	yes	yes	yes	coordinated ion?
Q127	N/A	N/A	N/A		H127	no	no	yes	shift of K129 nearby
H156	no	no	yes	paired with H230	H156	no	yes	yes	paired with H226
H163	no	no	yes	paired with H443	H163	yes	yes	yes	paired with H439
H170	no	weak	yes	density towards C421	H170	no	weak	yes	density towards C417
N197	N/A	N/A	N/A		H197	no	no	no	
H230	no	no	yes	paired with H156	H226	yes	yes	yes	paired with H156
N278	N/A	N/A	N/A		H274	no	no	†	
H329	†	no	†		A325	N/A	N/A	N/A	
H429	no	no	yes		N425	N/A	N/A	N/A	
H443	no	no	yes	paired with H163	H439	yes	yes	yes	paired with H163
H497	no	no	yes		H493	no	no	yes	
H515	no	no	no		H511	no	no	no	

† local resolution not sufficient to determine whether extra density is present

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