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Title: Fulfilling Koch's postulates confirms the monopartite nature of tomato leaf deformation virus, a begomovirus native to the New World

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1

2 **Highlights**

3 !! Koch's postulates are fulfilled for ToLDeV as a monopartite begomovirus native
4 of the New World

5 !! ToLDeV is found throughout the major tomato growing regions of Peru

6 !! Three major genetic types are found present in the ToLDeV population

7 !! Local evolution is suggested for the ToLDeV population present in Peru

8 !! Geographic segregation was observed for the population of ToLDeV.

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11 **Fulfilling Koch's postulates confirms the monopartite nature of tomato**
12 **leaf deformation virus, a begomovirus native to the New World**

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31

31 **Summary**

32 The monopartite nature of the begomovirus tomato leaf deformation virus (ToLDeV)
33 reported in Peru is demonstrated here. The DNA molecule cloned from an infected plant
34 was shown to be fully infectious in tomatoes inducing leaf curling and stunted growth
35 similar to that observed in field-infected plants. The viral DNA was reisolated from
36 systemically infected tissues of inoculated plants, thus fulfilling Koch's postulates.
37 ToLDeV was demonstrated, therefore, as the causal agent of the disease syndrome
38 widespread in tomato crops in Peru. This virus was shown to be present throughout the
39 major tomato-growing regions of this country, both in tomatoes and wild plants.
40 Analyses of the sequences of 51 ToLDeV isolates revealed a significant genetic
41 diversity with three major genetic types co-circulating in the population. A geographical
42 segregation was observed which should be taken into account for virus control.
43 Constraints to genetic divergence found for the C4 gene of ToLDeV isolates suggest a
44 relevant function for this protein. The results obtained confirm ToLDeV as a
45 monopartite begomovirus native to the New World, which is a significant finding for
46 this region.

47

48 **Key words:** Begomovirus, *Geminiviridae*, *Solanum lycopersicum*, tomato, Tomato leaf
49 deformation virus, Genetic diversity.

50

51 **1. Introduction**

52 Begomoviruses (genus *Begomovirus*) are small plant viruses with twinned,
53 quasi-isometric virions encapsidating genomes of circular single-stranded DNA
54 (ssDNA) characteristic of members of the family *Geminiviridae* (Brown et al., 2012).
55 Begomoviruses are an emerging threat worldwide (Varma et al., 2012) and are

56 transmitted in nature by the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* Genn. (*Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae*).
57 The genus *Begomovirus* consists of viruses with either monopartite or bipartite
58 genomes. Globally, begomoviruses are grouped into two major phylogenetic clades
59 named Old World (OW) and New World (NW) (Briddon et al., 2010). Most
60 begomoviruses have bipartite genomes with components designated DNA-A and DNA-
61 B, each of which is 2.5–2.8 kilobases. Both components are required for infectivity
62 (Stanley, 1983). Demonstration of the infectivity of a single component was done for
63 the first time for the begomovirus tomato yellow leaf curl virus (TYLCV), thus showing
64 that begomoviruses with a single genomic component exist (Navot et al., 1991).
65 Remarkably, no monopartite begomovirus native to the NW has been identified to date,
66 although recently the OW monopartite begomovirus TYLCV was inadvertently
67 introduced and has spread in the NW (Duffy and Holmes, 2007; Polston et al., 1999).
68 Another exception is monopartite begomoviruses that infect sweet potato [*Ipomoea*
69 *batatas* (L.) Lam], which probably are spreading worldwide through the exchange of
70 infected propagating material (tubers). These are known as sweepviruses and cluster in
71 a monophyletic clade separated from OW and NW begomoviruses (Albuquerque et al.,
72 2012).

73 Coding sequences are present in both the virion (V) and complementary (C)
74 sense strands of genome components of monopartite and bipartite begomoviruses,
75 separated by the an intergenic non coding region (IR). In bipartite begomoviruses, the
76 DNA-A component has five or six genes. These are AV1 (which encodes the coat
77 protein, CP), AV2 (precoat protein), AC1 (replication associated protein, Rep), AC2
78 (transcriptional activator protein, TrAP), AC3 (replication enhancer protein, Ren), and
79 AC4. Interestingly, DNA-As of NW begomoviruses are characterized for the absence of
80 AV2. The DNA-B component has two genes that encode proteins directly involved in

81 movement, BV1 (which encodes the nuclear shuttle protein, NSP), and BC1 (movement
82 protein, MP), on the V-sense and C-sense strands respectively (Brown et al., 2012). The
83 genomes of monopartite begomoviruses have a similar organization and genes
84 homologous to DNA-A of bipartite begomoviruses (Brown et al., 2012). These genes
85 include V1 (CP protein), V2 (precoat), C1 (Rep), C2 (TrAP), C3 (Ren), and C4.
86 Different gene requirements exist for monopartite and bipartite begomoviruses. Thus,
87 monopartite begomoviruses absolutely require a functional CP for systemic infection
88 and C4 as a pathogenicity factor, whereas both proteins can be dispensable in bipartite
89 begomoviruses; also, V2 is essential for virus-host interaction and pathogenicity,
90 whereas it is absent in NW bipartite begomoviruses (Luna et al., 2012; Pooma et al.,
91 1996; Pooma and Petty, 1996; Rojas et al., 2001; Wartig et al., 1997). The IR contains
92 the promoters for transcription of the V- and C- sense genes (Hanley-Bowdoin et al.,
93 1999), the stem-loop structure with the nonanucleotide sequence conserved in
94 geminiviruses, TAATATTAC (Jeske 2007; Lazarowitz et al., 1992), and virus-specific
95 repeated sequences (iterons) where the Rep binds to initiate replication (Argüello-
96 Astorga et al., 1994).

97 The spread of begomoviruses causing severe damage to important food crops in
98 tropical and subtropical regions in the last two decades is associated with the spread of
99 their insect vector *B. tabaci* and the global movement of plant materials (Navas-Castillo
100 et al., 2011; Seal et al., 2006; Varma et al., 2011). Emergence of these viruses is
101 especially important in Latin America in regions where reproduction of *B. tabaci* is
102 favored by high temperatures (Morales, 2010; Morales and Jones 2004; Navas-Castillo
103 et al., 2011; Rojas and Gilbertson, 2008). Control of begomoviruses is mainly based on
104 intensive insecticide treatment programs to control vector transmission, with limited
105 success to reduce virus spread (Nauen and Denholm, 2005). The use of host genetic

106 resistance if available, therefore, is the best control option, such as for the *Ty-1* gene
107 widely used commercially to control damage caused by TYLCV (Michelson et al.,
108 1994). Durable control based on genetic resistance, however, requires knowledge about
109 the genetic diversity of the virus population (García-Arenal and McDonald, 2003).

110 A new begomovirus named tomato leaf deformation virus (ToLDeV) has been
111 recently described infecting tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) crops in Peru (Márquez-
112 Martín et al., 2011). Tomato plants infected with ToLDeV exhibited a disease syndrome
113 consisting of upward curling of leaflet margins, leaflet deformation and growth stunting
114 with dramatic yield losses when infections occur in early growth stages (Márquez-
115 Martín et al., 2011). The complete nucleotide sequence was obtained for a circular
116 ssDNA molecule associated with symptomatic plants (GenBank accession number
117 GQ334472), showing a genome organization typical of DNA-A of NW begomoviruses
118 (with no AV-2 gene present) and phylogenetic relationships with this group of viruses
119 (Márquez-Martín et al., 2011). No DNA-B could be isolated from symptomatic plants
120 suggesting that ToLDeV might be a monopartite begomovirus (Márquez-Martín et al.,
121 2011). Demonstration of the infectivity of the cloned DNA, however, was lacking as
122 was fulfilling of Koch's postulates for this virus as the causal agent of the disease
123 observed in tomato. The presence of a monopartite begomovirus would be a significant
124 finding for the New World. Also, no information was available about the genetic
125 diversity of the ToLDeV population in Peru, which is essential to implement durable
126 control strategies.

127 In the present study, we demonstrated the monopartite nature of ToLDeV and
128 that it is the causal agent of the disease spreading in tomato crops in Peru. Isolates of
129 this virus were found throughout this country. The genetic diversity of ToLDeV was
130 characterized suggesting the presence of a locally evolved population with three major

131 genotypes. Also, infection of ToLDeV was shown in wild hosts and a geographical
132 segregation of the population is suggested. This demonstrates ToLDeV as a monopartite
133 begomovirus native to the New World.

134

135 **2. Materials and methods**

136 2.1. Virus isolates

137 A total of 250 samples were collected from cultivated and wild host plants
138 exhibiting begomovirus-like symptoms throughout vegetable growing regions of Peru
139 (departments of Lambayeque, La Libertad, Lima, Ica and Arequipa) during 2003 and
140 2008 to 2010. Surveys comprised plants from cultivated hosts such as tomato, pepper
141 (*Capsicum annuum* L., *Capsicum chinense* Jack, *Capsicum bacatum* cv. *Pendulum* (Willd.)
142 Eshbaugh), bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L., *Phaseolus lunatus* L.), and cucurbit (*Citrullus lanatus*
143 (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai), wild relatives of tomato indigenous to Peru, and weeds ([Table](#)
144 [1](#)). A sample from each plant consisted of apical young leaves that were stored dried at
145 4°C until used. After confirming ToLDeV presence by dot-blot hybridizaion (see
146 below), 48 isolates from tomato representing all growing areas of Peru along with the
147 three additional isolates detected in wild hosts were included in the analysis ([Table 1](#)).

148

149 2.3 Sample analysis

150 Field samples and agroinoculated plants were analyzed for the presence of
151 ToLDeV by squash blot or by dot-blot hybridization using 1!1 of total DNA (see
152 below), on positively charged nylon membranes (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim,
153 Germany). For hybridization, a digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled DNA probe, specific to the
154 ToLDeV IR region was used. The probe was prepared by PCR according to the DIG-
155 labeling detection kit (Roche Diagnostics) and as described by Navas-Castillo et al.

156 (1999), using the primer pair MA1644 (5'-CTTAAAGGCCTTAGGTGGGGGC-3',
157 nucleotides 2436 to 2457) and MA1645 (5'-CGCCATGGGGCATCCCGCTTWGG-3',
158 nucleotides 201 to 179) designed on the sequence reported for ToLDeV DNA
159 (GenBank accession number GQ334472). Hybridization was carried out under high
160 stringency conditions (washing steps at 65°C in 0.1× SSC [15 mM NaCl and 1.5 mM
161 sodium citrate] and 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate) following standard procedures.

162

163 2.3 Total DNA extraction, Southern-blot hybridization and amplification

164 Total DNA was extracted from 10 mg of dried leaf tissue using a CTAB-based
165 purification method (Haible et al., 2006). Different viral DNA forms were visualized in
166 Southern-blot hybridizations of total DNA extracts performed as reported by Noris et al.
167 (1998) using the DIG-labeled DNA probe indicated above. Begomovirus DNA was
168 amplified from total DNA extracts by using the degenerate primers MA55 (5'-
169 GCCACATYGTCTTYCCNGT-3') and MA56 (5'-GGCTTYCTRACATRGG-3'),
170 based on primers PAL1v1978 and PAR1c476, respectively, universal for begomoviral
171 DNA-A and designed by Rojas et al. (1993) (Fiallo-Olivé et al., 2012). For DNA-B
172 amplification, primers designed by Rojas et al. (1993) and Idris and Brown (1998) were
173 used. Rolling-circle amplification (RCA) with Φ 29 DNA polymerase was used for full-
174 length genome amplification as described by Inoue-Nagata et al. (2004) using a
175 TempliPhi DNA Amplification Kit (GE Healthcare, Little Chalfont, UK).

176

177 2.4 Sequence analysis

178 The genetic diversity study was conducted by using a sequence of 921
179 nucleotides (nucleotides 1846 to 175 of ToLDeV sequence, GenBank GQ334472)
180 deduced from the PCR products amplified from the 51 ToLDeV isolates detected in the

181 survey ([Supplementary Table 1](#)). This sequence comprises the IR and the 5' terminal
182 two-thirds of the Rep gene that includes the overlapping C4 gene ([Fig. 1](#)). Nucleotide
183 sequences were obtained through the commercial service offered by Macrogen Inc.
184 (Seoul, South Korea). EditSeq, SeqBuilder and SeqMan softwares (available in
185 "Lasergene", DNASTar Inc., Madison, WI, USA) were used for assembly and analysis
186 of the sequences. Genetic distances for synonymous (d_S) and nonsynonymous
187 substitutions (d_{NS}) were estimated using the Pamilo-Bianchi-Li method in *MEGA*
188 version 4 (Pamilo and Bianchi 1993; Tamura et al., 2007). *MEGA* version 5 (Tamura et
189 al., 2011) was used for phylogenetic inference by the Maximum-Likelihood method.
190 The nucleotide sequences reported in this work were deposited in the GenBank database
191 under the accession numbers KC237066 to KC237115, as indicated in [Supplementary](#)
192 [Table 1](#).

193

194 2.4 Construction of an infectious clone of ToLDeV and infectivity assays

195 A head-to-tail dimer construct for the infectivity of clone pPT1K7-1.0 obtained
196 from isolate PT1:2003 (Márquez-Martín et al., 2011) was produced. For this, a 1-mer
197 fragment was excised from pPT1K7-1.0 by digestion with the restriction enzyme *KpnI*
198 (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany) and religated to obtain the 1-mer
199 circular genome. Then, RCA amplification was performed and the product obtained was
200 partially digested with *HindIII* (Roche Diagnostics) to recover a 2-mer fragment that
201 was cloned into the unique *HindIII* site of the pCAMBIA 0380 vector (Cambia,
202 Canberra, Australia) to produce pPT1/03K7-2.0 which was transformed into
203 *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain LBA 4404.

204 For plant inoculation, liquid cultures of *A. tumefaciens* containing pPT1/03K7-
205 2.0 were produced, adjusted to an OD of 1.0 at 600 nm, and used to inoculate test plants

206 by stem puncture inoculation (Monci et al., 2005). Inoculated plants were maintained in
207 an insect-free growth chamber (26 °C during the day and 18 °C at night, 70% relative
208 humidity, with a 16-h photoperiod at 250 $\mu\text{mol s}^{-1} \text{m}^{-2}$ photosynthetically active
209 radiation) until analyzed.

210

211 3. Results

212 3.1. Widespread occurrence of ToLDeV in Peru.

213 An extensive field survey was conducted throughout the major tomato growing
214 regions of Peru between 2003 and 2010. Analysis of samples collected showed a
215 widespread occurrence of ToLDeV. A total of 51 out of 250 plant samples analyzed
216 resulted in positive reaction for the presence of ToLDeV (Table 1). Among cultivated
217 host plants sampled, the presence of ToLDeV was only detected in tomatoes, with a
218 similar prevalence observed in plants of susceptible and resistant cultivars, the latter
219 based on the *Ty-1* resistance gene (Table 1). Very mild or no symptoms, however, were
220 observed in plants of resistant cultivars in contrast to the striking symptoms of
221 begomovirus infection observed in those of susceptible cultivars. Interestingly, ToLDeV
222 was also detected infecting weeds sampled close to tomato crops, such as in *Anoda*
223 *cristata* (L.) Schldl or *Tanacetum parthenium* L. The presence of ToLDeV in wild
224 relatives of tomato was only identified in a single *Solanum penelli* Correll plant located
225 close to an infected tomato crop (Table 1).

226

227 3.2. Genetic diversity and structure of the ToLDeV population in Peru

228 Sequence analysis of a 921-nucleotide (nt) region (Fig. 1) from the genome of
229 51 virus isolates revealed a significant genetic diversity in the ToLDeV population
230 present in Peru. Nucleotide sequences of isolates were grouped in three phylogenetically

231 separated clades (Groups 1 to 3, Fig. 2). High percentages of nucleotide sequence
232 identity were observed among sequences of single clades (98.3 to 100.0% in Group 1,
233 96.9 to 100.0% in Group 2, and 92.4 to 99.8% in Group 3) (Supplementary Fig. 1)..
234 Percentages of nucleotide sequence identity among sequences from different clades
235 were 91.7 to 93.8% between Groups 1 and 2, 84.4 to 90.4% between Groups 2 and 3,
236 and 85.5 to 92.5% between Groups 1 and 3 (Supplementary Fig. 1). Group 3 contained
237 the most divergent sequences (especially those of isolates PE7:2010_To_Ica and
238 PE12:2010_To_Ica) (Fig. 2A). Even within a single clade, slight nucleotide sequence
239 variation was observed suggesting genetic variability in the population (Fig. 2A).
240 Interestingly, a geographical segregation of the population was observed. Thus, isolates
241 of Group 1 were detected only in the Departments of Lambayeque, La Libertad and
242 Lima in central-north Peru, whereas isolates of Group 3 and most of those of Group 2
243 (except isolates P22:2009 and P110:2009) were detected in Ica and Arequipa (south
244 Peru) (Fig.2). Virus isolates collected from wild hosts belonged to Group 1 (isolate
245 P17:2009 Ac) and Group 2 (isolates P110:2009 Tp and P182:2009 Sp).

246 Repeated sequences (iterons) were localized in the intergenic region of ToLDeV
247 as described previously (Márquez-Martín et al., 2011). These iterons were located
248 upstream from of the TATA box and presented three different patterns correlated with
249 the three groups of isolates observed in the phylogenetic analysis of the 921-nt region
250 sequenced (Supplementary Fig. 2). Thus, the first pattern ACACC / GGTGT / GGAGT
251 corresponded to isolates from Group 1 (Fig. 2) that includes the isolate PT1:2003 for
252 which the complete genome sequence is available. The other two patterns, (ACCCC /
253 GGGGT / GGGGT and TTACC / GGTAG / GGTA A) corresponded to isolates from
254 Group 2 and Group 3, respectively (Supplementary Fig. 2).

255 Nucleotide diversities were calculated for sequences obtained in this study at
256 synonymous (d_S) and nonsynonymous (d_{NS}) positions of the open reading frames
257 (ORFs) contained in the sequenced 92-nt fragment that includes 5'-terminal two-thirds
258 of the C1 ORF and the C4 ORF completely overlapped in the C1 ORF. As summarized
259 in Table 2, d_{NS}/d_S ratios lower than 1 were obtained, suggesting a positive selection. For
260 the C1 ORF, the d_{NS}/d_S ratio was about three times lower (0.201) than the one obtained
261 for C4 (0.581) suggesting stronger constraints to variation. The d_{NS}/d_S values of C1
262 were of the same order in overlapping and nonoverlapping regions (0.184 vs. 0.207
263 respectively).

264

265 3.3. ToLDeV is a monopartite begomovirus

266 As for samples collected in years 2003 and 2008 included in a previous analysis
267 (Márquez-Martín et al., 2011), efforts to detect and clone a putative cognate DNA-B
268 component from isolates collected during years 2009 and 2010 were unsuccessful.
269 Specifically, PCR with primers designed for DNA-B amplification did not produce any
270 products, and RFLP analysis conducted on RCA products appear to show the presence
271 of only a single circular DNA for all analyzed samples. As the presence of a
272 monopartite begomovirus would be a significant finding for the NW, further studies
273 were conducted. In this sense, the infectivity of the DNA molecule cloned from sample
274 PT1:2003 (Márquez-Martín et al., 2011) was studied. For this, a head-to-tail dimer
275 clone was obtained and inoculated in test plants via *A. tumefaciens*. Twenty-five tomato
276 and five *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants were inoculated resulting in all of them infected
277 systemically with ToLDeV based on tissue-blot hybridization (Fig. 3E). Moreover,
278 Southern-blot analysis of DNA extracted from young noninoculated leaves of
279 agroinoculated tomato and *N. benthamiana* plants clearly exhibited the presence of

280 replication intermediate forms of the DNA genome of the ToLDeV infectious clone
281 (Fig. 3F). *N. benthamiana* plants exhibited yellowing, curling of apical leaves and
282 significant plant-growth stunting (compare ToLDeV-infected plant with mock-
283 inoculated plant in right and left positions, respectively, of Fig. 3A). Tomato plants
284 developed symptoms similar to those observed in field-infected plants consisting of
285 curling and deformation of apical leaves, and yellowing (Figs. 3B and 3D -mock
286 inoculated on the right-) and stunted growth (Fig. 3C -mock-inoculated on the right).
287 Sequencing of DNA fragments amplified from young noninoculated tissues of infected
288 tomato and *N. benthamiana* test plants (two plants analyzed per host species) using
289 primer pair MA55 / MA56 confirmed 100% nucleotide sequence identity with the
290 corresponding sequence of isolate PT1:2003 inoculated. We conclude, therefore, that
291 the DNA molecule cloned from PT1:2003 is fully infectious and biologically active in
292 the absence of DNA-B both in tomato and *N. benthamiana*. Also, in tomato it was able
293 to reproduce the disease symptoms observed in field-infected plants. Thus, Koch's
294 postulates were fulfilled for this molecule as the causal agent of the disease syndrome
295 observed in field-infected tomato plants.

296

297 **4. Discussion**

298 The curling and leaf deformation syndrome causing damage to commercial tomatoes
299 grown along the Pacific Ocean coast of Peru since the early 2000s, was demonstrated to
300 be caused by ToLDeV. A previous report suggested an association of this virus with
301 symptomatic plants (Márquez-Martín et al., 2011). Only one circular ssDNA molecule,
302 however, similar to DNA-A of NW begomoviruses (with no AV2-precoat gene present)
303 could be isolated from symptomatic plants. Efforts to detect and clone the putative
304 cognate DNA-B component characteristic of NW begomoviruses were unsuccessful,

305 suggesting that this virus could be a monopartite begomovirus. Here, we demonstrated
306 that the DNA-A-like molecule was infectious and causes the disease syndrome observed
307 in field tomatoes, thus, demonstrating that ToLDeV is a monopartite begomovirus. The
308 high genetic diversity found in the ToLDeV population present in Peru is not consistent
309 with a genetic bottleneck typical of a founder effect due to the introduction of a small
310 number of individuals of a virus in a new niche as observed in other cases (Delatte et
311 al., 2007; García-Arenal et al., 2001; Sánchez-Campos et al., 2002). In contrast, the
312 presence of a locally evolved population is more plausible based on the results obtained.
313 Three major groups of virus variants related phylogenetically were detected among
314 ToLDeV isolates collected throughout Peru's tomato-growing regions. Such a
315 population structure might reflect independent evolution due to genetic isolation. These
316 data, together with phylogenetic clustering of ToLDeV with NW begomoviruses
317 (Márquez-Martin et al., 2011) support this virus as a monopartite begomovirus native to
318 the NW. Based on the surveys conducted here, a narrow host range was found in nature
319 for ToLDeV which was almost confined to tomatoes. No infection was found in any
320 sample collected from other cultivated hosts and a limited presence was detected in wild
321 hosts. Nevertheless, more intensive samplings would be needed to investigate this
322 aspect. The availability of an infectious clone would help to perform controlled
323 inoculations under experimental conditions that will inform about the host range of this
324 virus. This information is essential to establish control strategies in affected areas
325 (Cooper and Jones, 2006).

326 The demonstration of the presence of a native monopartite begomovirus in the
327 NW is a significant finding. Monopartite begomoviruses have been reported so far only
328 in the OW, where they cause diseases in the absence of DNA-B. OW monopartite
329 begomoviruses have been shown to associate also with ssDNA satellites known as

330 betasatellites to effectively infect plants and induce disease (Amin et al., 2011; Briddon
331 and Stanley, 2006). Mutagenesis studies with the OW monopartite begomovirus
332 TYLCV have shown that the CP, V2 and C4 proteins mediate movement in plants
333 including nuclear shuttling (CP) and cell-to-cell movement (V2, C4), respectively, the
334 functions carried out by the DNA-B-encoded proteins of bipartite viruses (Rojas et al.,
335 2001; Wartig et al., 1997). It has been speculated, moreover, that the lack of
336 monopartite begomoviruses in the NW might be related to the absence of the V2 gene
337 (Briddon et al., 2010). In this study we showed, however, that the single DNA
338 component characterized for ToLDeV is fully infectious and causes disease in tomatoes
339 in the absence of V2. The V2 protein is involved in virus-host interactions in OW
340 monopartite begomoviruses, being a strong suppressor of gene silencing that might
341 determine host range (Luna et al., 2012) and essential for virus movement (Rojas et al.,
342 2001). The results obtained here, however, demonstrated that the presence of V2 is not
343 essential for fully biological activity of this NW monopartite begomovirus. ToLDeV
344 has evolved in such a way that the genes present in its genome component can
345 complement functions provided by DNA-B-encoded genes of bipartite begomoviruses
346 and by the V2 gene of OW monopartite begomoviruses. It is tempting to speculate if
347 ToLDeV has evolved from the DNA-A molecule of a bipartite begomovirus which
348 would give some clues about begomovirus evolution. The requirement of C4 and/or CP
349 for virus movement and pathogenicity for this NW monopartite begomovirus as for OW
350 monopartite begomoviruses and in contrast to most NW bipartite begomoviruses
351 (Pooma and Petty, 1996; Rojas et al., 2001) needs also to be studied. These are aspects
352 that merit further research to help to shed light into the evolutionary aspects of
353 begomoviruses and the need for monopartite or bipartite genomes to survive in nature
354 (Briddon et al., 2010). Mutagenesis analyses of genes encoded by ToLDeV and the

355 subcellular localization of coded proteins would provide further insight into this aspect
356 as shown in other cases (Rojas et al., 2001; Wartig et al., 1997).

357 The ratio of nucleotide diversity values at nonsynonymous to synonymous sites
358 (d_{NS}/d_S) can be used to estimate the degree of selective constraint on a coding region
359 (Fraile et al., 1996; Hall 2006). Here, we found that the genomic regions of ToLDeV
360 analyzed (partial C1 and complete C4 genes) are under negative selection, stronger in
361 the case of C1 with a d_{NS}/d_S ratio almost three times smaller than that of C4 (Table 2).
362 The d_{NS}/d_S values obtained for the C1 region (overlapping region = 0.184 and
363 nonoverlapping = 0.207) are similar to those obtained for both overlapping and
364 nonoverlapping regions of the C1 gene of other begomoviruses such as cotton leaf curl-
365 like (CLCu-like) viruses (0.233 and 0.168, respectively) (Sanz et al., 1999) or East
366 African cassava mosaic virus (EACMV) (0.180) (Duffy and Holmes, 2009). Great
367 differences, however, were found for d_{NS}/d_S values of the C4 ORF of ToLDeV and
368 those reported for other OW monopartite begomoviruses, such as for CLCu-like or
369 tobacco leaf curl-like (TbLC-like) viruses (Sanz et al., 1999; Yahara et al., 1998). A
370 d_{NS}/d_S value of 0.581 for ToLDeV C4 supports functional constraints to genetic
371 divergence. In contrast, d_{NS}/d_S values > 1 were reported for C4s of CLCu-like or TbLC-
372 like begomoviruses and explained by their overlap nature with C1 and that constrictions
373 imposed upon C1 prevail upon those acting on C4 (Sanz et al., 1999; Yahara et al.,
374 1998). Also, similar d_{NS}/d_S values > 1 are found for C4s of NW bipartite
375 begomoviruses, based on complete genome sequences available in databases [e.g.,
376 $d_{NS}/d_S = 1.433$ for Macroptilium yellow spot virus (n = 56 sequences), $d_{NS}/d_S = 1.444$
377 for Bean golden mosaic virus (n = 11), or $d_{NS}/d_S = 2.154$ for Sida golden yellow vein
378 virus (n = 6)]. It could be speculated that the C4 protein of ToLDeV is assuming roles
379 of the V2 protein of monopartite begomoviruses and/or proteins present in DNA-B of

380 bipartite begomoviruses making it less permissive to variation. This is an aspect that
381 merits further research.

382 The tomato is an economically and socially important vegetable crop in Peru,
383 with about 225,000 tons produced in 6,000 ha in 2010 (Anonymous, 2010). Therefore,
384 the widespread occurrence of ToLDeV throughout Peru in the tomato-growing regions
385 is a major concern. As suggested for similar monopartite begomovirus epidemics, the
386 use of host genetic resistance would be the best alternative to limit damage (Polston and
387 Lapidot, 2007). A wide genetic diversity was found for the ToLDeV population, which
388 is a challenge when resistance genes are deployed. Thus, for epidemics of tomato
389 yellow leaf curl disease caused by monopartite begomoviruses (Moriones and Navas-
390 Castillo, 2000), not every resistance gene is effective against every virus variant (Picó et
391 al., 2000). Deployment of resistance genes, moreover, in regions in which virus genetic
392 diversity occurs can result into population structure changes that can limit durability of
393 the resistance (García-Andrés et al., 2009). Broad-spectrum resistance genes would be
394 better introduced for durable resistance (Seal et al., 2006). The occurrence of three
395 major groups of ToLDeV isolates has been shown here with some geographical
396 segregation of the population. Therefore, breeding for resistance and deployment of
397 resistance genes should take into account this genetic diversity. The best approach to
398 breed for wide-range resistance would be to obtain infectious clones of representative
399 isolates of each ToLDeV genetic group and challenge begomovirus resistance genes
400 available in tomatoes (Polston and Lapidot, 2007). Pyramidation of effective genes
401 could help to produce broad-spectrum resistance (Vidavski et al., 2008). If no useful
402 resistance gene was found, new sources of resistance should be explored (Picó et al.
403 2000). Results obtained here suggest that the *Ty-1* gene widely used commercially to

404 control TYLCV (Michelson et al., 1994) might provide ToLDeV-tolerance, although
405 virus accumulation occurs in infected plants.

406

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418

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582

583 **Table 1.** Presence of tomato leaf deformation virus (ToLDeV) in samples exhibiting begomovirus-

584 like symptoms collected in Peru during a survey conducted between 2003 and 2010.

Host plants	Species	No. ToLDeV infected samples / Total No. of plants analyzed (% infected) ^a
CULTIVATED HOSTS ^b		
Tomato Resistant cv.	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L.	30/71 (42.2)
Tomato Susceptible cv.	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L.	18/44 (40.9)
Sweet pepper	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.	0/10 (0)
Habanero pepper	<i>Capsicum chinense</i> Jack	0/3 (0)
Red Peruvian chile	<i>Capsicum bacatum</i> cv. <i>Pendulum</i> (Willd.) Eshbaugh	0/4 (0)
Watermelon	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai	0/3 (0)
Common bean	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.	0/5 (0)
Pallar bean	<i>Phaseolus lunatus</i> L.	0/5 (0)
WILD HOSTS		
Weeds	21 species	2/60 (3.3) ^c
Wild relatives of tomato	4 species	1/45 (2.2) ^d
TOTAL		51/250 (20.4)

585 ^a Samples were analyzed by dot-blot hybridization using a digoxigenin-labeled DNA probe specific
586 to the tomato leaf deformation virus.

587 ^b Tomato resistant cvs. are commercial tomato cultivars with tolerance to tomato yellow leaf curl
588 disease (TYLCD), the most widespread: ‘Dominator’ (Seminis, Saint Louis, USA) and ‘Tyson’
589 (Hazera Genetics, Shikmim, Israel). Tomato susceptible cvs. are several commercial tomato
590 cultivars not tolerant to TYLCD.

591 ^c Samples positive to ToLDeV were from a plant of the species *Anoda cristata* (L.) Schldl. (family
592 *Malvaceae*) and from a plant of *Tanacetum parthenium* L. (family *Compositae*).

593 ^d The sample from a plant of a wild relative of tomato infected with ToLDeV corresponds to the
594 species *Solanum pennellii* Correll.

595

595 **Table 2.** Nucleotide diversities for the genomic regions included in the
 596 ToLDeV sequence fragment analyzed in this study^a.

ToLDeV genomic region	d_{NS}	d_S	d_{NS}/d_S
C1 5'-2/3 ORF (610 nt)	0.042	0.209	0.201
C1 ORF nonoverlapping regions (353 nt)	0.047	0.227	0.207
C1–C4 overlap (257 nt)			
C1 ORF	0.035	0.190	0.184
C4 ORF	0.061	0.105	0.581

597 ^a Nucleotide diversity was computed separately for nonsynonymous (d_{NS}) and
 598 for synonymous (d_S) sites by using the Pamilo-Bianchi-Li method (Pamilo and
 599 Bianchi, 1993).

600

600 **Figure legends**

601 **Figure 1.** Schematic representation of the genome of tomato leaf deformation virus
602 composed of a circular single stranded DNA molecule of ~2.6 kb in length. Arrows
603 indicate open reading frames that putatively encode the coat protein (CP) in the virus
604 sense strand, and the replication-associated protein (Rep), protein C4, the transcriptional
605 activator protein (TrAP), and the replication enhancer protein (REn) in the
606 complementary sense strand. The intergenic region (IR) that contains the stem-loop
607 structure is shown. The black box represents the 921-nt fragment sequenced for the
608 genetic diversity study.

609

610 **Figure 2. A.** Phylogenetic tree based upon an alignment of the sequences of a 921-nt
611 fragment (nucleotides 1846 to 175, numbers based on the sequence of ToLDeV isolate
612 PT1:2003, GenBank accession number GQ334472) obtained in this work for 51 tomato
613 leaf deformation virus (ToLDeV) isolates collected in Peru during a survey conducted
614 between 2003 and 2010. The fragment comprises the intergenic region and 5' terminal
615 two-thirds of the C1 coding region, including the overlapping the C4 gene. The
616 evolutionary history was inferred by using the Maximum Likelihood method based on
617 the Tamura-Nei model. The tree with the highest log likelihood is shown. Bootstrap
618 (1,000 replicates) values are shown as percentage values, and only the nodes with
619 values greater than 50% are labeled. The isolate of ToLDeV described by Márquez-
620 Martín et al. (2011), PT1:2003, was shown (black shadow). Also, the sequences of nine
621 additional ToLDeV isolates available in databases were included in the analyses
622 (boxed). The DNA A component of tomato chino La Paz begomovirus (ToChLPV)
623 (GenBank accession number DQ347948), was used as an outgroup. Whereas horizontal
624 bars represent genetic distances as indicated by the scale bar, vertical distances are

625 arbitrary. The bar below the tree indicates 0.05 nucleotide substitutions per site. For
626 isolates from this study, the name of each isolate indicates the isolate code number, the
627 year of collection, the plant species [To: tomato, Ac: *Anoda cristata* (L.) Schltldl; Tp:
628 *Tanacetum parthenium* L.; Sp: *Solanum pennellii* Correll.] and the geographic
629 Department of origin. The GenBank accession number of the nucleotide sequence is
630 indicated in each case. **B.** Map of Peru showing the location of the Departments
631 surveyed. Blue, red and green circles on the map indicate the presence of isolates
632 corresponding to Group 1, Group 2 or Group 3, respectively, as shown in the
633 phylogenetic tree of Figure 2A.

634

635 **Figure 3. A to D.** Leaf symptoms caused by tomato leaf deformation virus (ToLDeV)
636 isolate PT1:2003 on agroinfected *Nicotiana benthamiana* (**A**) and tomato
637 ‘Moneymaker’ (**B to D**) plants. Mock-inoculated controls are shown in panels A (left),
638 and C–D (right). **E.** Analysis of ToLDeV-agroinoculated plants at 30 days
639 postinoculation (dpi) for virus presence by hybridization of tissue blots of petiole cross
640 sections of newly emerged young leaves performed on positively charged nylon
641 membranes (two prints per sample were performed in each individual square); the
642 results for ten tomato and ten *N. benthamiana* plants are shown in the lines A and B,
643 respectively; tissue prints of mock-inoculated *N. benthamiana* (C1 and C2) and tomato
644 (C3 and C4) plants, and dot-blots of DNA extracts obtained from ToLDeV-infected
645 tomato plants (C9 and C10) were included as negative and positive controls,
646 respectively. **F.** Southern-blot analysis of DNA extracted (at 30 dpi) from young
647 noninoculated leaves of *N. benthamiana* (lines lines 1 to 3) and tomato (lines 4 to 6)
648 plants mock-inoculated (lines 1 and 4) or agroinoculated with the infectious clone of
649 ToLDeV (lines 2-3 and 5-6); DNA extracts from field-infected PT1:2003 and P92:2009

650 tomato plants were included (lines 7 and 8, respectively); positions are indicated for the
651 single-stranded genomic DNA (SS) and for the open circular (OC), linear (LIN), and
652 supercoiled (SC) double-stranded DNA forms.

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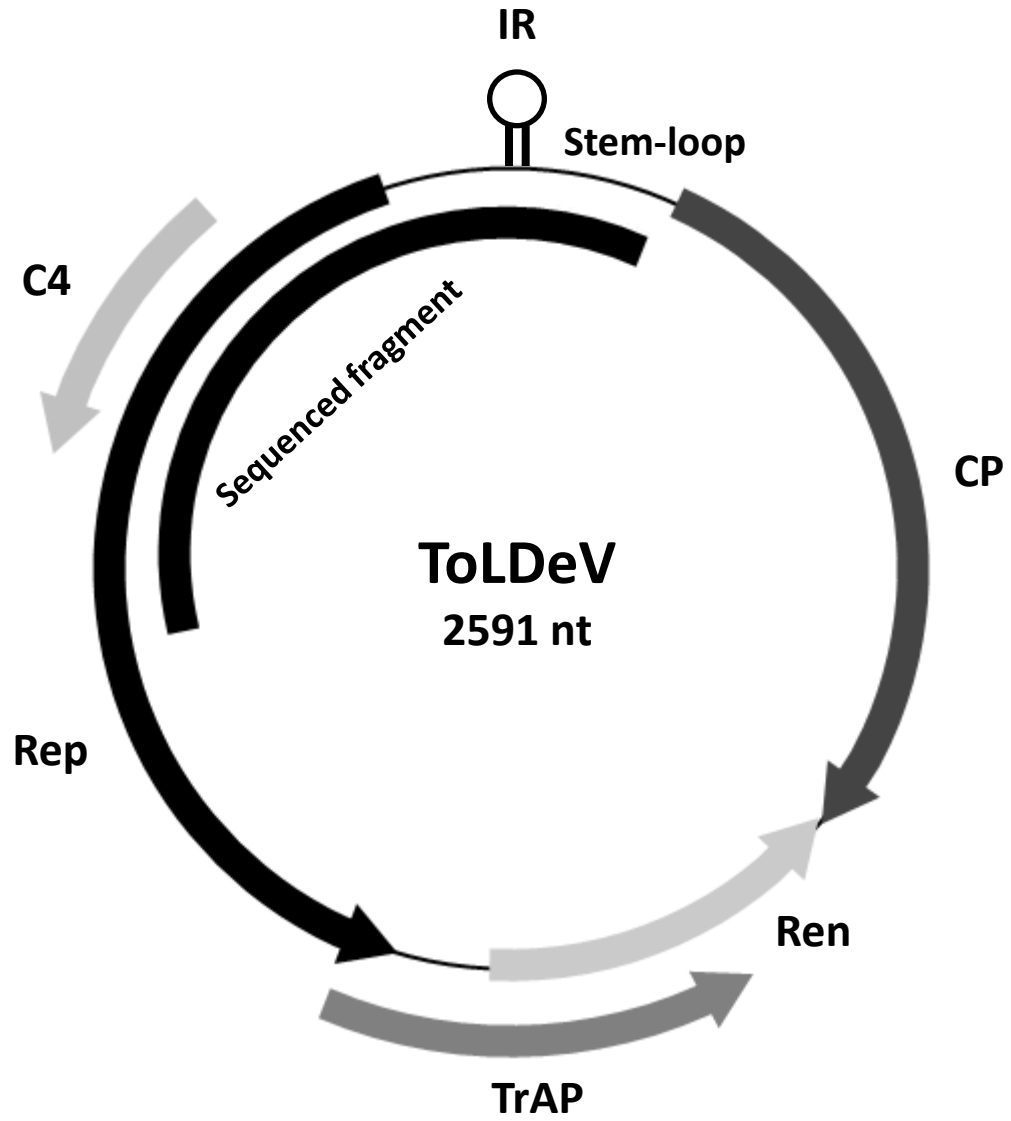
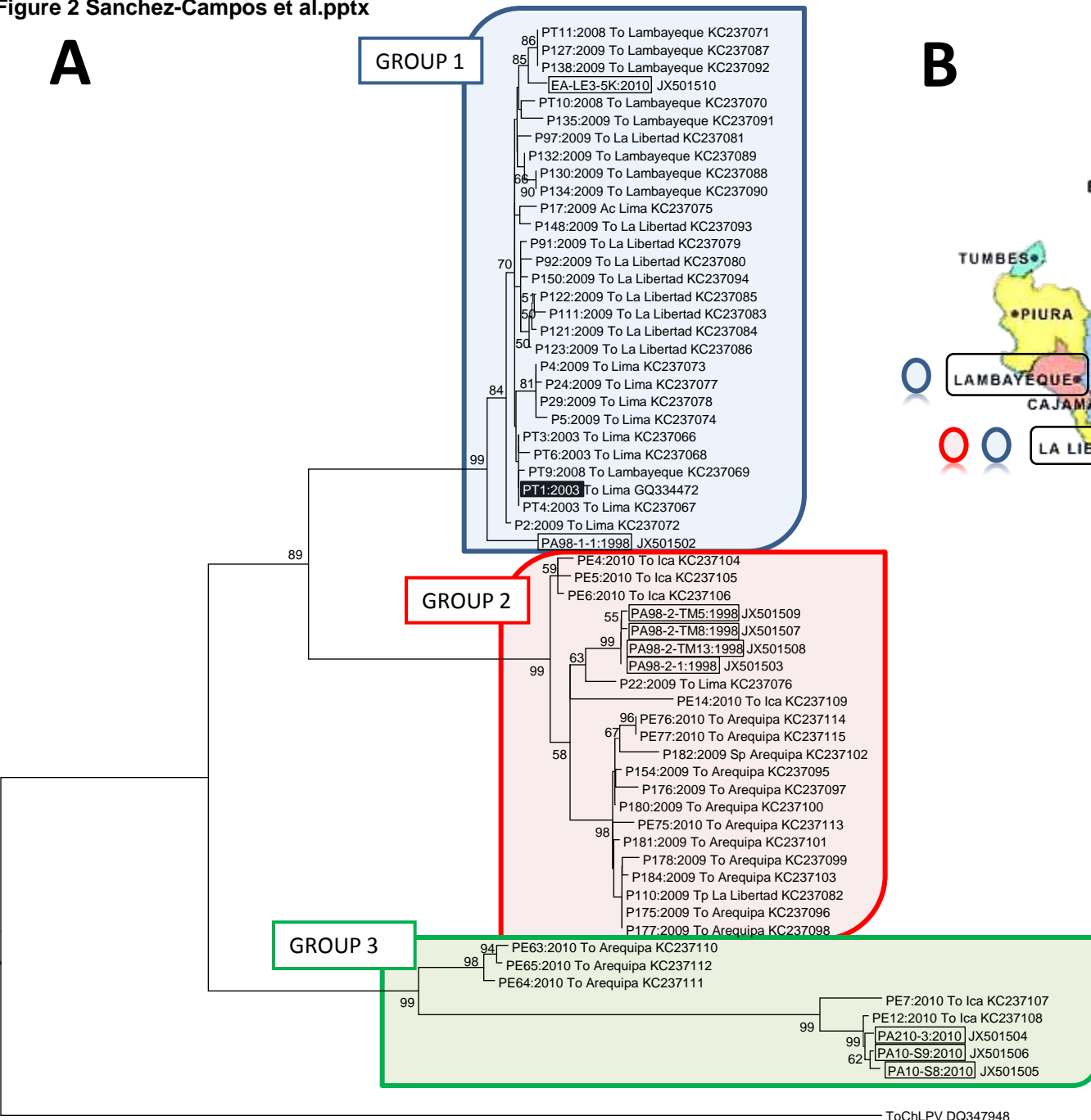


Figure 1, Sánchez-Campos et al., *Virus Research*

Figure 2 Sanchez-Campos et al.pptx

A



B



Figure 2, Sánchez-Campos et al., *Virus Research*

Figure 3 Sánchez-Campos et al.ppt

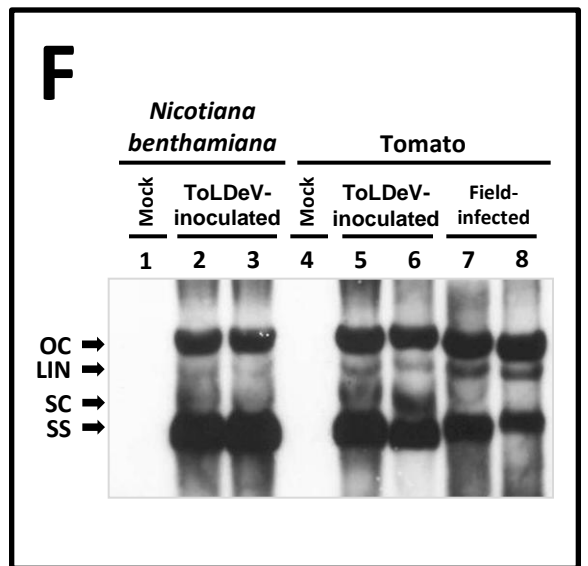
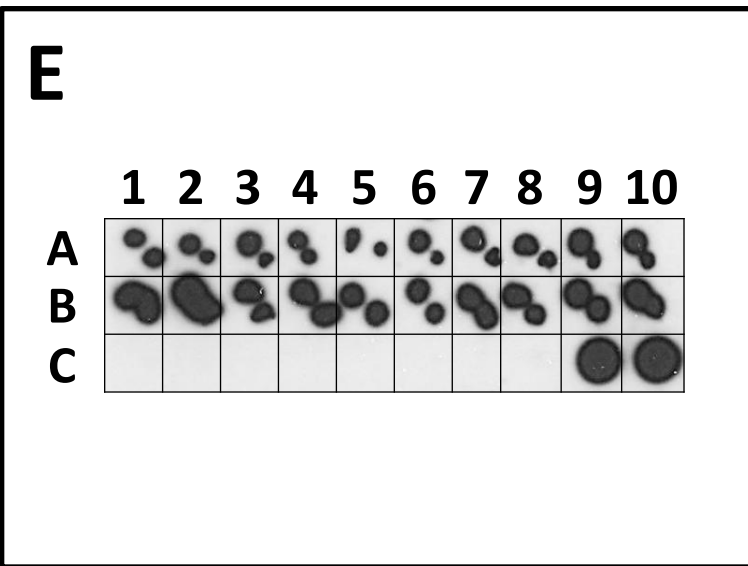


Figure 3, Sánchez-Campos et al., *Virus Research*