1	Computational inference of selection underlying the evolution of the novel coronavirus,
2	SARS-CoV-2
3	
4	Rachele Cagliani ^{*1#} , Diego Forni ^{*1} , Mario Clerici ^{2,3} , Manuela Sironi ¹
5	
6	¹ Scientific Institute IRCCS E. MEDEA, Bioinformatics, Bosisio Parini, Italy;
7	² Department of Physiopathology and Transplantation, University of Milan, Milan, Italy;
8	³ Don C. Gnocchi Foundation ONLUS, IRCCS, Milan, Italy.
9	* These authors equally contributed to this work. Author order was determined alphabetically.
10	
11	# Address for correspondence: Rachele Cagliani (rachele.cagliani@lanostrafamiglia.it)
12	
13	
14	Running title: Molecular evolution of SARS-CoV-2
15	
16	
17	Abstract word count: 250
18	Text word count: 3151
19	

- 20 Abstract
- 21

22 The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) recently emerged in China is thought to have a bat origin, as 23 its closest known relative (BatCoV RaTG13) was described in horseshoe bats. We analyzed the 24 selective events that accompanied the divergence of SARS-CoV-2 from BatCoV RaTG13. To this 25 aim, we applied a population genetics-phylogenetics approach, which leverages within-population 26 variation and divergence from an outgroup. Results indicated that most sites in the viral ORFs 27 evolved under strong to moderate purifying selection. The most constrained sequences 28 corresponded to some non-structural proteins (nsps) and to the M protein. Conversely, nsp1 and 29 accessory ORFs, particularly ORF8, had a non-negligible proportion of codons evolving under very 30 weak purifying selection or close to selective neutrality. Overall, limited evidence of positive 31 selection was detected. The 6 bona fide positively selected sites were located in the N protein, in 32 ORF8, and in nsp1. A signal of positive selection was also detected in the receptor-binding motif 33 (RBM) of the spike protein but most likely resulted from a recombination event that involved the 34 BatCoV RaTG13 sequence. In line with previous data, we suggest that the common ancestor of 35 SARS-CoV-2 and BatCoV RaTG13 encoded/encodes an RBM similar to that observed in SARS-36 CoV-2 itself and in some pangolin viruses. It is presently unknown whether the common ancestor 37 still exists and which animals it infects. Our data however indicate that divergence of SARS-CoV-2 38 from BatCoV RaTG13 was accompanied by limited episodes of positive selection, suggesting that 39 the common ancestor of the two viruses was poised for human infection.

- 40
- 41
- 42
- 43
- 44

Importance

Coronaviruses are dangerous zoonotic pathogens: in the last two decades three coronaviruses have crossed the species barrier and caused human epidemics. One of these is the recently emerged SARS-CoV-2. We investigated how, since its divergence from a closely related bat virus, natural selection shaped the genome of SARS-CoV-2. We found that distinct coding regions in the SARS-CoV-2 genome evolve under different degrees of constraint and are consequently more or less prone to tolerate amino acid substitutions. In practical terms, the level of constraint provides indications about which proteins/protein regions are better suited as possible targets for the development of antivirals or vaccines. We also detected limited signals of positive selection in three viral ORFs. However, we warn that, in the absence of knowledge about the chain of events that determined the human spill-over, these signals should not be necessarily interpreted as evidence of an adaptation to our species.

62 Introduction

63

64 In December 2019, a human-infecting coronavirus, now referred to as SARS-CoV-2 (1), emerged in 65 Wuhan, China, causing respiratory disease in a large number of people and being responsible for 66 thousands of deaths (https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019) (2). After SARS-CoV (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus) and MERS-CoV (Middle East 67 respiratory syndrome coronavirus), SARS-CoV-2 is the third coronavirus to cause a human 68 69 epidemic in the last two decades (3, 4). 70 Coronaviruses (family Coronaviridae, order Nidovirales) have positive-sense, single stranded RNA 71 genomes, which are unusually long and complex if compared to those of other RNA viruses. Two 72 thirds of the coronavirus genome are occupied by two large overlapping open reading frames 73 (ORF1a and ORF1b), that are translated into the pp1a and pp1ab polyproteins. These are processed 74 to generate 16 non structural proteins (nsp1 to 16) (5). The remaining portion of the genome 75 includes ORFs for the structural proteins: spike (S), envelope (E), membrane (M) and nucleoprotein 76 (N), as well as a variable number of accessory proteins (3-5). 77 Several coronavirus genera and subgenera are recognized (https://talk.ictvonline.org/ictv-reports/) 78 (1, 6, 7). Whereas MERS-CoV is a member of the *Merbecovirus* subgenus, phylogenetic analyses 79 indicated that SARS-CoV-2 clusters with SARS-CoV and other bat-derived viruses in the 80 Sarbecovirus subgenus (genus Betacoronavirus) (1, 8, 9). A recent report by the Coronavirus Study 81 Group of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) indicated that SARS-CoV-2 82 can be assigned to the species Severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (1). 83 Bats host a large diversity of coronaviruses related to SARS-CoV (5, 10, 11) and, in general, these 84 animals are believed to represent the original reservoir of several human-infecting coronaviruses (3, 85 4). This also seems to be the case for SARS-CoV-2, as analysis of the viral genome indicated that 86 its known closest relative, with an average identity of ~96%, is a virus (BatCoV RaTG13) identified

in horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus affinis*) (8). Two other bat-derived coronaviruses (bat-SL-CoVZC45
and bat-SL-CoVZXC21) display high levels of similarity (> 70%) to SARS-CoV-2, with identity
varying along the genome (9, 12, 13). However, because both SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV were
transmitted to humans via intermediate hosts (3, 4), it remains unclear whether the Wuhan epidemic
was initiated by a spill-over from bats or from other animals. Recent data suggested that viruses
related to SARS-CoV-2 are found in pangolins (*Manis javanica*), but the role of these animals in
fueling the human epidemic remains unclear (14-17).

94 A major determinant of coronavirus host range is represented by the binding affinity between the spike protein and the cognate cellular receptor (18-22). Notably, this was previously shown to be 95 96 the case for SARS-CoV, which, in analogy to SARS-CoV-2, uses ACE2 (angiotensin-converting enzyme 2) to enter host cells (8, 23). Few amino acid changes in the receptor binding domain 97 98 (RBD) of SARS-CoV were shown to modulate the binding efficiency to ACE2 from different 99 mammalian species and contributed to the adaptation of the virus to human cells (24-26). However, 100 the SARS-CoV epidemic was characterized by another signature change in the viral genome: 101 relatively early during the human-to-human transmission chain, SARS-CoV strains acquired a 29-102 nucleotide deletion which split ORF8, encoding an accessory protein, in two functional ORFs (27). 103 Together with the observation that ORF8 is fast evolving in SARS-CoV strains, this finding was 104 taken to imply adaptation to our species (28). The evidence for adaptation was subsequently 105 questioned and recent data indicated that the 29-nucleotide deletion most likely represents a founder effect, which causes fitness loss irrespective of the host species (4, 29). These data underscore the 106 relevance (and possible pitfalls) of evolutionary analyses in the study of viral species emergence 107 108 and host shifts.

Herein, we used available SARS-CoV-2 strains to describe the selective events that accompanied
the divergence of this novel human pathogen from its closets known relative (BatCoV RaTG13) (8).

112 **Results and Discussion**

113

As mentioned above, the closest relative (BatCoV RaTG13) of the novel human-infecting SARS-114 115 CoV-2 was identified in bats (8). It is presently unknown whether BatCoV RaTG13 can be transmitted in human populations and if it can infect human cells. Likewise, the reservoir and the 116 117 animal host that fueled the human transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is presently uncertain. For sure, ample data now indicate that human-to-human transmission has a role in spreading the SARS-CoV-118 119 2 epidemic (30-33) and that, in addition to humans, the virus can infect cells from bats, small 120 carnivores, and pigs (8). We thus set out to determine the selective events that accompanied the 121 divergence of the SARS-CoV-2 lineage from BatCoV RaTG13. In doing so, we do not imply that any such event was primarily responsible for human adaptation, as high efficiency of human 122 123 infection might instead represent an incidental byproduct of adaptation to another host. Based on the alignment of forty-four SARS-CoV-2 genomes and the BatCoV RaTG13 sequence, 124 125 147 amino acid replacements, unevenly distributed along the genome, were found to separate 126 SARS-CoV-2 from its closest relative. Forty-one amino acid changes are polymorphic in the SARS-127 CoV-2 population (Fig. 1A). To investigate the selection patterns acting on SARS-CoV-2 genomes, we applied a method that 128 129 combines analysis of within-population variation (i.e., variation among SARS-CoV-2 strains) and divergence from an outgroup (BatCoV RaTG13). Specifically, nucleotide alignments were analyzed 130 using gammaMap (34), which estimates selection coefficients (γ) along coding regions and allows 131 the detection of fine-scale differences in selective pressures at specific codons. In practical terms, γ 132 133 values can be considered a measure of the fitness consequences of new nonsynonymous mutations. 134 The method categorizes selection coefficients into 12 predefined classes ranging from -500 135 (inviable) to 100 (strongly beneficial). For gammaMap analysis, we divided the ORF1a and ORF1b 136 alignments into the 16 nsps; because nsp3 is a long, multi-domain protein, it was also split into

137 domains. Likewise, the coronavirus S protein includes two functionally distinct units (S1 and S2),

138 which were separately analyzed. Alignments of more than 80 codons were analyzed with

139 gammaMap (Fig. 1A).

140 As previously shown for several other viruses (35-37), we found that most sites evolved under 141 strong to moderate purifying selection ($\gamma < -5$). However, the strength of purifying selection varied 142 depending on the region. The strongest constraints were observed for nsps 6 to 10, for nsp16, and for the M ORF (Fig. 1B). Whereas nsp6 is involved in the formation of the reticulovesicular 143 144 membrane network where viral RNA replication occurs, nsp7 to nsp10 are small proteins that function as cofactors for viral replicative enzymes, including nsp16, a 2'-O-methyl transferase (38). 145 146 Conversely, the M ORF encodes a structural protein, which is highly abundant in the in the virion of coronaviruses (39). The M protein interacts with other structural viral proteins and plays an 147 148 important role in virion morphogenesis (40). Importantly, the M protein is a dominant immunogen 149 for both the humoral and the cellular immune responses (41, 42). These latter features and its high 150 level of constraint suggest that the M protein represents an excellent target for vaccine design. 151 Among the non-accessory ORFs, the lowest levels of constraint were observed for nsp1 and the 152 acidic domain of nsp3 (Fig. 1B and 1C). This is in line with evidences indicating that these regions are fast evolving in coronaviruses at large (see below) (43, 44). Accessory ORFs, and in particular 153 154 ORF8, had a non-negligible proportion of codons evolving under very weak purifying selection or 155 close to selective neutrality. On one hand, this is in line with the idea that genetic variation in accessory ORFs causes limited fitness consequences, as the above-mentioned case of SARS-CoV 156 ORF8 indicates (4, 29). In fact, gains and losses of accessory proteins have been common during 157 158 the evolutionary history of coronaviruses and accessory ORFs differ in number and sequence even 159 among coronaviruses belonging to the same genus or subgenus (4). On the other hand, accessory 160 proteins were often shown to contribute to the modulation of immune responses, as well as to 161 virulence (3, 4). It is thus conceivable that their limited constraint maintains variability in

162 coronavirus accessory ORFs, eventually facilitating rapid adaptation when the environment (e.g.,163 host) changes.

164 We next wished to determine whether positive selection at specific sites also drove the evolution of 165 SARS-CoV-2. We thus estimated codon-wise posterior probabilities for each selection coefficient. Very strong evidence (defined as a posterior probability > 0.80 of $\gamma \ge 1$) of positive selection was 166 167 detected for seven sites, six in the S1 region of the spike protein and one in N (Fig. 2). When the posterior probability cutoff was lowered to a less stringent value of 0.50, five additional sites in 168 169 ORF8 (4) and in nsp1 (1) were identified (Fig. 2). It should be noted that this p value cutoff represents a reasonably strong evidence of positive selection. Using these criteria, positively 170 171 selected sites were estimated to account for the 0.12% of analyzed codons if 0.5 is used as the cutoff 172 (0.07% for a 0.8 cutoff) (34, 45, 46).

173 The S1 region contains the RBD, and crystal structure of the SARS-CoV S protein in complex with 174 human ACE2 showed that, in turn, the RBD is formed by two subdomains, a core structure and the receptor-binding motif (RBM, that directly contacts ACE2) (47, 48). The S2 region includes the 175 176 fusion machinery (49). We performed homology modeling of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein onto the 177 SARS-CoV structure and we analyzed the distribution of selection coefficients (Fig. 3A). The S2 subunit was characterized by stronger constraint than the S1 portion and five out of six putative 178 179 positively selected sites were found to be located in the RBM, at the binding interface with ACE2 180 (Fig. 3A).

When SARS-CoV-2 and BatCoV RaTG13 are compared, the RBM stands out as the single most divergent region (Fig. 1A)(8, 16). Very recent evidence indicated that, although the average genome similarity is lower compared to BatCoV RaTG13, coronaviruses isolated from pangolins have RBMs almost identical to that of SARS-CoV (14-17). This clearly implies that recombination might have inflated the estimation of positive selection in the S1 region. A pangolin virus available in GenBank (isolate MP789) has an RBM with high identity to SARS-CoV-2. Thus, using the genome

187 sequence of isolate MP789, SARS-CoV-2 and BatCoV RaTG13 we searched for recombination 188 events using RDP4 (50). No evidence of recombination was detected, but this finding might be due to the fact that the parental sequence with which BatCoV RaTG13 recombined is presently 189 190 unsampled. We thus analyzed synonymous substitutions in the RBM alignment for these viruses: 191 we found that 41% (n= 37) of such substitutions are shared between SARS-CoV-2 and isolate 192 MP789, whereas only 27% (n= 10) are shared between SARS-CoV-2 and BatCoV RaTG13. 193 Overall, these findings strongly suggest that recombination rather than positive selection shaped the 194 genetic diversity at the RBM, as previously suggested (16). Recombination is known to affect evolutionary inference (51). In this case, because we used the BatCoV RaTG13 as an outgroup, the 195 196 spurious signals were generated by considering the selected sites as amino acid replacements that arose and fixed in the SARS-CoV-2 population, whereas they may represent changes that occurred 197 198 in the outgroup through recombination. We consider that this is not the case for the other signals we 199 detected, as all of them were located in regions of high overall similarity between BatCoV RaTG13 200 and SARS-CoV-2, indicating no evidence of recombination (Fig. 1A).

201 The positively selected site (A267) in the nucleocapsid protein is located in the C-terminal domain. 202 Homology modeling using the SARS-CoV N protein as a template indicated that A267 is located on an exposed loop on the protein surface (Fig. 3B)(52). The N protein is the most abundant protein in 203 204 coronavirus-infected cells (53, 54). Its primary function is to package the viral genome into a ribonucleoprotein complex. In addition, the N protein performs non-structural functions, as it 205 regulates the host cell cycle and the stress response, it acts as a molecular chaperone, and it 206 interferes with the host immune response (53, 54). Because these activities are mediated by 207 208 interaction with different cellular proteins, the positively selected site might be evolving to 209 establish, maintain, or avoid the binding of different host molecules.

210 Another positively selected site was detected in the nsp1 region, which also displayed relatively

211 weak selective constraint. In SARS-CoV and other betacoronaviruses, nsp1 is a virulence factor and

212 is essential for viral replication at least in the presence of an intact host interferon (IFN) response 213 (55-57). Despite their relevant role for viral fitness in vivo, nsp1 proteins tend to be variable in sequence both within and among coronavirus genera. Detailed analysis of SARS-CoV nsp1 214 215 indicated that the protein plays multiple roles during viral infection, including inhibition of host protein synthesis, antagonism of IFN responses, modulation of the calcineurin/NFAT pathway, and 216 217 induction of chemokine secretion (43). Homology modeling using the SARS-CoV nsp1 structure 218 indicated that the positively selected site (E93) is exposed on the protein surface (Fig. 3C). 219 Extensive mutagenesis of SARS-CoV nsp1 showed that exposed charged residues, including the positively selected site, mediate inhibition of gene expression and antiviral signaling (58). 220 221 Moreover, the N-terminal half of SARS-CoV nsp1 interacts with immunophilins and calcipressins to modulate the calcineurin/NFAT pathway (59). Overall, these observation suggest that the 222 223 diversity of coronavirus nsp1 proteins is driven by the need to establish interactions with multiple 224 cellular partners and to evade immune surveillance. This is also likely to explain the positive 225 selection signal we detected. In general, a better understanding of the evolutionary constraints and 226 forces acting on coronavirus nsp1 proteins may be extremely relevant, as the generation of viruses 227 carrying nsp1 mutations was regarded as a potential strategy to generate attenuated vaccine strains (57, 60), and inhibitors of cyclophilins were considered as potential antivirals for coronavirus 228 229 treatment (59).

Finally, the selected sites we identified in ORF8 (F3, I10, A14, T26) are all located in the Nterminal portion of the protein (Fig. 2). The SARS-CoV-2 ORF8 protein displays 30% identity to
the intact ORF8 from the SARS-CoV GZ02 stain. It is presently unsure whether the SARS-CoV
ORF8 N-terminus is cleaved as a signal peptide or inserted in the endoplasmic reticulum membrane
(61, 62). Using computational methods to predict signal peptides and transmembrane helices we
found evidence for both in the case of the N-terminus of SARS-CoV-2 ORF8 (not shown). Clearly,

experimental analyses will be required to determine the function of the N-terminal region of ORF8,

and, more generally the relevance of the selected sites on virus fitness or pathogenicity.

Overall, our analyses indicate that distinct coding regions in the SARS-CoV-2 genome evolve under 238 239 different degrees of constraint and are consequently more or less prone to tolerate amino acid 240 substitutions. In practical terms, the level of constraint can provide indications concerning which 241 specific proteins or protein regions are better suited as possible targets for the development of antivirals or vaccines. Conversely, the current available knowledge and the analyses reported here 242 243 allow no inference on the selective events (or lack thereof) that turned SARS-CoV-2 into a human pathogen. Recent analyses payed much attention to changes in the RBM. This is indeed expected to 244 245 represent a major determinant of host range and its sequence is highly variable among SARS-CoVrelated viruses (as also evident in Fig. 2). Albeit preliminary and necessarily limited to currently 246 247 sampled genomes, our analyses suggest that recombination had a role in shaping the diversity of the 248 RBMs in these viruses. Our data also indicate that divergence of SARS-CoV-2 from BatCoV 249 RaTG13 was accompanied by limited episodes of positive selection, suggesting that the common 250 ancestor of the two viruses was poised for human infection. We also emphasize that lack of 251 knowledge about the reservoir host and the chain of events that determined the human spillover prevent us from drawing any conclusion on the selective pressure underlying the limited 252 253 positive selection events we detected. These will need to be interpreted in the future, by 254 incorporating epidemiological, biochemical, and additional genetic data. Clearly, a caveat of our analyses lies in the quality and paucity of SARS-CoV-2 genomes, as well as 255 in the limited availability of genomes of other coronaviruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2. 256 257 Available sequences were obtained using different methods and most likely contain errors. This is 258 unlikely to strongly affect inference of positive selection, as the frequency of all selected sites is 259 high in the SARS-CoV-2 population. Also, the SARS-CoV-2 sequences we analyzed display limited 260 diversity (with only 41 nonsynonymous polymorphisms, most of them present in one or a few

261	sequences). Thus, although the availability of additional genomes may increase the power to detect
262	selective events and the confidence with which evolutionary patterns are inferred, simply increasing
263	the number of genomes is unlikely to change the bulk of our results. However, sustained viral
264	spread in the human population will necessarily introduce new mutations in the viral population.
265	Thus, data reported herein can only depict the situation of the early phases of the human epidemic.
266	Follow-up analyses of the SARS-CoV-2 population will be required to determine the evolutionary
267	trajectories of new mutations and to assess whether and how they affect viral fitness in the human
268	hots.
269	
270	Materials and Methods
271	
272	Sequences and alignments
273	Genome sequences were retrieved from the National Center for Biotechnology Information
274	database (NCBI, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). Only complete or almost complete genome
275	sequences were included in the analysis (Table 1).
276	Alignments were generated using MAFFT (63), setting sequence type as codons.
277	
278	Population genetics-phylogenetic analysis
279	Analyses were performed with gammaMap, that uses intra-species variation and inter-species
280	diversity to estimate, along coding regions, the distribution of selection coefficients (γ). In this
281	framework, γ is defined as $2PN_es$, where P is the ploidy, N_e is effective population size, and s is the
282	fitness advantage of any amino acid-replacing derived allele (34).
283	For the eight longest ORFs in the SARS-CoV-2 genome, the corresponding coding sequence of
284	BatCoV RaTG13 was used as the outgroup.

We assumed θ (neutral mutation rate per site), k (transitions/transversions ratio), and T (branch length) to vary within genes following log-normal distributions, whereas p (probability of adjacent codons to share the same selection coefficient) following a log-uniform distribution. For each ORF we set the neutral frequencies of non-STOP codons (1/61). For selection coefficients, we considered a uniform Dirichlet distribution with the same prior weight for each selection class. For each ORF we performed 2 runs with 100,000 iterations each and with a thinning interval of 10 iterations. Runs were merged after checking for convergence.

- The similarity plot was computed using a Kimura (two-parameter) distance model with SimPlot version 3.5.1 (64). The strip gap option was set at the 50% default value. Similarity scores were
- calculated in sliding windows of 250 bp moving with a step of 50 bp.
- 295

296 Protein 3D structures and homology modeling

- 297
- 298 The structures of SARS-CoV N (PDB ID:2CJR) (65) and S (PDB ID: 6ACG)(48) proteins were
- 299 obtained from the Protein Data Bank (PDB).
- 300 Homology modeling analysis was performed through the SWISS-MODEL server (66). The
- 301 accuracy of the models was examined through the GMQE (Global Model Quality Estimation) and
- 302 QMEAN (Qualitative Model Energy ANalysis) scores (67).
- 303 3D structures were rendered using PyMOL (The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version
- 304 1.8.4.0 Schrödinger, LLC).
- 305
- 306
- 307 Acknowledgments

- This work was supported by the Italian Ministry of Health ("Ricerca Corrente 2019-2020" to MS,
 "Ricerca Corrente 2018-2020" to DF)
- 311
- 312
- 313 **References**
- 314
- 315 1. Coronaviridae Study Group of the International Committee on Taxonomy, of Viruses. 2020.
- 316 The species Severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus: classifying 2019-nCoV and
- 317 naming it SARS-CoV-2. Nature Microbiology. **5**:536-544. doi: 10.1038/s41564-020-0695-z.
- 318 2. Zhu, N., D. Zhang, W. Wang, X. Li, B. Yang, J. Song, X. Zhao, B. Huang, W. Shi, R. Lu, P.
- 319 Niu, F. Zhan, X. Ma, D. Wang, W. Xu, G. Wu, G. F. Gao, W. Tan, and China Novel
- 320 Coronavirus Investigating and Research Team. 2020. A Novel Coronavirus from Patients with
- 321 Pneumonia in China, 2019. N. Engl. J. Med. **382**:727-733. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2001017.
- 322 3. Cui, J., F. Li, and Z. L. Shi. 2019. Origin and evolution of pathogenic coronaviruses. Nat. Rev.
- 323 Microbiol. **17:**181-192. doi: 10.1038/s41579-018-0118-9.
- 4. Forni, D., R. Cagliani, M. Clerici, and M. Sironi. 2017. Molecular Evolution of Human
- 325 Coronavirus Genomes. Trends Microbiol. 25:35-48. doi: S0966-842X(16)30133-0.
- 326 5. Luk, H. K. H., X. Li, J. Fung, S. K. P. Lau, and P. C. Y. Woo. 2019. Molecular epidemiology,
- 327 evolution and phylogeny of SARS coronavirus. Infect. Genet. Evol. 71:21-30. doi: S1567-
- 328 1348(19)30031-0.
- 329 6. de Groot, R. J., S. C. Baker, R. S. Baric, C. S. Brown, C. Drosten, L. Enjuanes, R. A.
- 330 Fouchier, M. Galiano, A. E. Gorbalenya, Z. A. Memish, S. Perlman, L. L. Poon, E. J. Snijder,
- 331 G. M. Stephens, P. C. Woo, A. M. Zaki, M. Zambon, and J. Ziebuhr. 2013. Middle East
- 332 respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV): announcement of the Coronavirus Study Group. J.
- 333 Virol. 87:7790-7792. doi: 10.1128/JVI.01244-13.

- 334 7. Gorbalenya, A. E., E. J. Snijder, and W. J. Spaan. 2004. Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- coronavirus phylogeny: toward consensus. J. Virol. 78:7863-7866. doi: 10.1128/JVI.78.15.78637866.2004.
- 337 8. Zhou, P., X. L. Yang, X. G. Wang, B. Hu, L. Zhang, W. Zhang, H. R. Si, Y. Zhu, B. Li, C. L.
- Huang, H. D. Chen, J. Chen, Y. Luo, H. Guo, R. D. Jiang, M. Q. Liu, Y. Chen, X. R. Shen, X.
- 339 Wang, X. S. Zheng, K. Zhao, Q. J. Chen, F. Deng, L. L. Liu, B. Yan, F. X. Zhan, Y. Y. Wang, G.
- 340 F. Xiao, and Z. L. Shi. 2020. A pneumonia outbreak associated with a new coronavirus of probable
- 341 bat origin. Nature. **579**:270-273. doi: 10.1038/s41586-020-2012-7.
- 342 9. Wu, F., S. Zhao, B. Yu, Y. M. Chen, W. Wang, Z. G. Song, Y. Hu, Z. W. Tao, J. H. Tian, Y. Y.
- 343 Pei, M. L. Yuan, Y. L. Zhang, F. H. Dai, Y. Liu, Q. M. Wang, J. J. Zheng, L. Xu, E. C. Holmes,
- and Y. Z. Zhang. 2020. A new coronavirus associated with human respiratory disease in China.
- 345 Nature. **579**:265-269. doi: 10.1038/s41586-020-2008-3.
- 346 10. Hu, B., L. P. Zeng, X. L. Yang, X. Y. Ge, W. Zhang, B. Li, J. Z. Xie, X. R. Shen, Y. Z.
- 347 Zhang, N. Wang, D. S. Luo, X. S. Zheng, M. N. Wang, P. Daszak, L. F. Wang, J. Cui, and Z. L.
- 348 Shi. 2017. Discovery of a rich gene pool of bat SARS-related coronaviruses provides new insights
- into the origin of SARS coronavirus. PLoS Pathog. 13:e1006698. doi:
- 350 10.1371/journal.ppat.1006698.
- 11. Wang, L., S. Fu, Y. Cao, H. Zhang, Y. Feng, W. Yang, K. Nie, X. Ma, and G. Liang. 2017.
- 352 Discovery and genetic analysis of novel coronaviruses in least horseshoe bats in southwestern
- 353 China. Emerg. Microbes Infect. **6:**e14. doi: 10.1038/emi.2016.140.
- 12. Lu, R., X. Zhao, J. Li, P. Niu, B. Yang, H. Wu, W. Wang, H. Song, B. Huang, N. Zhu, Y. Bi,
- 355 X. Ma, F. Zhan, L. Wang, T. Hu, H. Zhou, Z. Hu, W. Zhou, L. Zhao, J. Chen, Y. Meng, J.
- 356 Wang, Y. Lin, J. Yuan, Z. Xie, J. Ma, W. J. Liu, D. Wang, W. Xu, E. C. Holmes, G. F. Gao, G.
- 357 Wu, W. Chen, W. Shi, and W. Tan. 2020. Genomic characterization and epidemiology of 2019

- 358 novel coronavirus: implications for virus origins and receptor binding. Lancet. **395**:565-574. doi:
- 359 S0140-6736(20)30251-8.
- 360 13. Paraskevis, D., E. G. Kostaki, G. Magiorkinis, G. Panayiotakopoulos, G. Sourvinos, and S.
- 361 Tsiodras. 2020. Full-genome evolutionary analysis of the novel corona virus (2019-nCoV) rejects
- 362 the hypothesis of emergence as a result of a recent recombination event. Infect. Genet. Evol.
- 363 **79:**104212. doi: S1567-1348(20)30044-7.
- 14. Lam, T. T., M. H. Shum, H. Zhu, Y. Tong, X. Ni, Y. Liao, W. Wei, W. Y. Cheung, W. Li, L.
- 365 Li, G. M. Leung, E. C. Holmes, Y. Hu, and Y. Guan. 2020. Identification of 2019-nCoV related
- 366 coronaviruses in Malayan pangolins in southern China. Biorxiv. 2020.02.13.945485. doi:
- 367 10.1101/2020.02.13.945485.
- 368 15. Xiao, K., J. Zhai, Y. Feng, N. Zhou, X. Zhang, J. Zou, N. Li, Y. Guo, X. Li, X. Shen, Z.
- 369 Zhang, F. Shu, W. Huang, Y. Li, Z. Zhang, R. Chen, Y. Wu, S. Peng, M. Huang, W. Xie, Q.
- 370 Cai, F. Hou, Y. Liu, W. Chen, L. Xiao, and Y. Shen. 2020. Isolation and Characterization of 2019-
- 371 nCoV-like Coronavirus from Malayan Pangolins. Biorxiv. 2020.02.17.951335. doi:
- 372 10.1101/2020.02.17.951335.
- 16. Wong, M. C., S. J. Javornik Cregeen, N. J. Ajami, and J. F. Petrosino. 2020. Evidence of
- 374 recombination in coronaviruses implicating pangolin origins of nCoV-2019. Biorxiv.
- 375 2020.02.07.939207. doi: 10.1101/2020.02.07.939207.
- 376 17. Liu, P., J. Jiang, X. Wan, Y. Hua, X. Wang, F. Hou, J. Chen, J. Zou, and J. Chen. 2020. Are
- pangolins the intermediate host of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)? Biorxiv.
- 378 2020.02.18.954628. doi: 10.1101/2020.02.18.954628.
- 18. Haijema, B. J., H. Volders, and P. J. Rottier. 2003. Switching species tropism: an effective
- 380 way to manipulate the feline coronavirus genome. J. Virol. 77:4528-4538. doi:
- 381 10.1128/jvi.77.8.4528-4538.2003.

- 382 19. Kuo, L., G. J. Godeke, M. J. Raamsman, P. S. Masters, and P. J. Rottier. 2000. Retargeting
- 383 of coronavirus by substitution of the spike glycoprotein ectodomain: crossing the host cell species
- 384 barrier. J. Virol. **74:**1393-1406. doi: 10.1128/jvi.74.3.1393-1406.2000.
- 385 20. McCray, P. B., Jr, L. Pewe, C. Wohlford-Lenane, M. Hickey, L. Manzel, L. Shi, J. Netland,
- 386 H. P. Jia, C. Halabi, C. D. Sigmund, D. K. Meyerholz, P. Kirby, D. C. Look, and S. Perlman.
- 387 2007. Lethal infection of K18-hACE2 mice infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome
- 388 coronavirus. J. Virol. **81:**813-821. doi: JVI.02012-06.
- 389 21. Moore, M. J., T. Dorfman, W. Li, S. K. Wong, Y. Li, J. H. Kuhn, J. Coderre, N. Vasilieva,
- 390 Z. Han, T. C. Greenough, M. Farzan, and H. Choe. 2004. Retroviruses pseudotyped with the
- 391 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus spike protein efficiently infect cells expressing
- 392 angiotensin-converting enzyme 2. J. Virol. 78:10628-10635. doi: 10.1128/JVI.78.19.10628-
- 393 10635.2004.
- 394 22. Schickli, J. H., L. B. Thackray, S. G. Sawicki, and K. V. Holmes. 2004. The N-terminal
- 395 region of the murine coronavirus spike glycoprotein is associated with the extended host range of
- 396 viruses from persistently infected murine cells. J. Virol. **78**:9073-9083. doi:
- 397 10.1128/JVI.78.17.9073-9083.2004.
- 398 23. Li, W., M. J. Moore, N. Vasilieva, J. Sui, S. K. Wong, M. A. Berne, M. Somasundaran, J. L.
- 399 Sullivan, K. Luzuriaga, T. C. Greenough, H. Choe, and M. Farzan. 2003. Angiotensin-
- 400 converting enzyme 2 is a functional receptor for the SARS coronavirus. Nature. **426:**450-454. doi:
- 401 10.1038/nature02145.
- 402 24. Li, W., C. Zhang, J. Sui, J. H. Kuhn, M. J. Moore, S. Luo, S. K. Wong, I. C. Huang, K. Xu,
- 403 N. Vasilieva, A. Murakami, Y. He, W. A. Marasco, Y. Guan, H. Choe, and M. Farzan. 2005.
- 404 Receptor and viral determinants of SARS-coronavirus adaptation to human ACE2. Embo J.
- 405 **24:**1634-1643. doi: 7600640.

- 406 25. Wu, K., G. Peng, M. Wilken, R. J. Geraghty, and F. Li. 2012. Mechanisms of host receptor
 407 adaptation by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. J. Biol. Chem. 287:8904-8911. doi:
 408 10.1074/jbc.M111.325803.
- 409 26. Qu, X. X., P. Hao, X. J. Song, S. M. Jiang, Y. X. Liu, P. G. Wang, X. Rao, H. D. Song, S. Y.
- 410 Wang, Y. Zuo, A. H. Zheng, M. Luo, H. L. Wang, F. Deng, H. Z. Wang, Z. H. Hu, M. X. Ding,
- 411 G. P. Zhao, and H. K. Deng. 2005. Identification of two critical amino acid residues of the severe
- 412 acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus spike protein for its variation in zoonotic tropism transition
- 413 via a double substitution strategy. J. Biol. Chem. 280:29588-29595. doi: M500662200.
- 414 27. Chinese SARS Molecular Epidemiology Consortium. 2004. Molecular evolution of the
- 415 SARS coronavirus during the course of the SARS epidemic in China. Science. **303:**1666-1669. doi:
- 416 10.1126/science.1092002.
- 417 28. Lau, S. K., Y. Feng, H. Chen, H. K. Luk, W. H. Yang, K. S. Li, Y. Z. Zhang, Y. Huang, Z. Z.
- 418 Song, W. N. Chow, R. Y. Fan, S. S. Ahmed, H. C. Yeung, C. S. Lam, J. P. Cai, S. S. Wong, J. F.
- 419 Chan, K. Y. Yuen, H. L. Zhang, and P. C. Woo. 2015. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
- 420 (SARS) Coronavirus ORF8 Protein Is Acquired from SARS-Related Coronavirus from Greater
- 421 Horseshoe Bats through Recombination. J. Virol. **89:**10532-10547. doi: 10.1128/JVI.01048-15.
- 422 29. Muth, D., V. M. Corman, H. Roth, T. Binger, R. Dijkman, L. T. Gottula, F. Gloza-Rausch,
- 423 A. Balboni, M. Battilani, D. Rihtaric, I. Toplak, R. S. Ameneiros, A. Pfeifer, V. Thiel, J. F.
- 424 Drexler, M. A. Muller, and C. Drosten. 2018. Attenuation of replication by a 29 nucleotide
- 425 deletion in SARS-coronavirus acquired during the early stages of human-to-human transmission.
- 426 Sci. Rep. 8:15177. doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-33487-8.
- 427 30. Chan, J. F., S. Yuan, K. H. Kok, K. K. To, H. Chu, J. Yang, F. Xing, J. Liu, C. C. Yip, R. W.
- 428 Poon, H. W. Tsoi, S. K. Lo, K. H. Chan, V. K. Poon, W. M. Chan, J. D. Ip, J. P. Cai, V. C.
- 429 Cheng, H. Chen, C. K. Hui, and K. Y. Yuen. 2020. A familial cluster of pneumonia associated

- 430 with the 2019 novel coronavirus indicating person-to-person transmission: a study of a family
- 431 cluster. Lancet. **395**:514-523. doi: S0140-6736(20)30154-9.
- 432 31. Li, Q., X. Guan, P. Wu, X. Wang, L. Zhou, Y. Tong, R. Ren, K. S. M. Leung, E. H. Y. Lau,
- 433 J. Y. Wong, X. Xing, N. Xiang, Y. Wu, C. Li, Q. Chen, D. Li, T. Liu, J. Zhao, M. Li, W. Tu, C.
- 434 Chen, L. Jin, R. Yang, Q. Wang, S. Zhou, R. Wang, H. Liu, Y. Luo, Y. Liu, G. Shao, H. Li, Z.
- 435 Tao, Y. Yang, Z. Deng, B. Liu, Z. Ma, Y. Zhang, G. Shi, T. T. Y. Lam, J. T. K. Wu, G. F. Gao, B.
- 436 J. Cowling, B. Yang, G. M. Leung, and Z. Feng. 2020. Early Transmission Dynamics in Wuhan,
- 437 China, of Novel Coronavirus-Infected Pneumonia. In press. N. Engl. J. Med. . doi:
- 438 10.1056/NEJMoa2001316.
- 439 32. Phan, L. T., T. V. Nguyen, Q. C. Luong, T. V. Nguyen, H. T. Nguyen, H. Q. Le, T. T.
- 440 Nguyen, T. M. Cao, and Q. D. Pham. 2020. Importation and Human-to-Human Transmission of a
- 441 Novel Coronavirus in Vietnam. N. Engl. J. Med. **382:**872-874. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2001272.
- 442 33. Chinazzi, M., J. T. Davis, M. Ajelli, C. Gioannini, M. Litvinova, S. Merler, A. Pastore Y
- 443 Piontti, K. Mu, L. Rossi, K. Sun, C. Viboud, X. Xiong, H. Yu, M. E. Halloran, I. M. Longini Jr,
- 444 and A. Vespignani. 2020. The effect of travel restrictions on the spread of the 2019 novel
- 445 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Science. In press. doi: eaba9757.
- 446 34. Wilson, D. J., R. D. Hernandez, P. Andolfatto, and M. Przeworski. 2011. A population
- 447 genetics-phylogenetics approach to inferring natural selection in coding sequences. PLoS Genet.
- 448 **7:**e1002395. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1002395.
- 449 35. Ho, S. Y., R. Lanfear, L. Bromham, M. J. Phillips, J. Soubrier, A. G. Rodrigo, and A.
- 450 **Cooper.** 2011. Time-dependent rates of molecular evolution. Mol. Ecol. **20**:3087-3101. doi:
- 451 10.1111/j.1365-294X.2011.05178.x.
- 452 36. Wertheim, J. O., and S. L. Kosakovsky Pond. 2011. Purifying selection can obscure the
- 453 ancient age of viral lineages. Mol. Biol. Evol. 28:3355-3365. doi: 10.1093/molbev/msr170.

- 454 37. Wertheim, J. O., D. K. Chu, J. S. Peiris, S. L. Kosakovsky Pond, and L. L. Poon. 2013. A
- 455 case for the ancient origin of coronaviruses. J. Virol. **87:**7039-7045. doi: 10.1128/JVI.03273-12.
- 456 38. Snijder, E. J., E. Decroly, and J. Ziebuhr. 2016. The Nonstructural Proteins Directing
- 457 Coronavirus RNA Synthesis and Processing. Adv. Virus Res. 96:59-126. doi: S0065-
- 458 3527(16)30047-1.
- 459 39. Armstrong, J., H. Niemann, S. Smeekens, P. Rottier, and G. Warren. 1984. Sequence and
- topology of a model intracellular membrane protein, E1 glycoprotein, from a coronavirus. Nature.
- 461 **308:**751-752. doi: 10.1038/308751a0.
- 462 40. Siu, Y. L., K. T. Teoh, J. Lo, C. M. Chan, F. Kien, N. Escriou, S. W. Tsao, J. M. Nicholls, R.
- 463 Altmeyer, J. S. M. Peiris, R. Bruzzone, and B. Nal. 2008. The M, E, and N structural proteins of
- the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus are required for efficient assembly, trafficking,
- 465 and release of virus-like particles. J. Virol. **82:**11318-11330. doi: 10.1128/JVI.01052-08.
- 466 41. Liu, J., Y. Sun, J. Qi, F. Chu, H. Wu, F. Gao, T. Li, J. Yan, and G. F. Gao. 2010. The
- 467 membrane protein of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus acts as a dominant immunogen
- 468 revealed by a clustering region of novel functionally and structurally defined cytotoxic T-
- 469 lymphocyte epitopes. J. Infect. Dis. **202:**1171-1180. doi: 10.1086/656315.
- 470 42. Pang, H., Y. Liu, X. Han, Y. Xu, F. Jiang, D. Wu, X. Kong, M. Bartlam, and Z. Rao. 2004.
- 471 Protective humoral responses to severe acute respiratory syndrome-associated coronavirus:
- 472 implications for the design of an effective protein-based vaccine. J. Gen. Virol. 85:3109-3113. doi:
- 473 10.1099/vir.0.80111-0.
- 474 43. Narayanan, K., S. I. Ramirez, K. G. Lokugamage, and S. Makino. 2015. Coronavirus
- 475 nonstructural protein 1: Common and distinct functions in the regulation of host and viral gene
- 476 expression. Virus Res. **202**:89-100. doi: 10.1016/j.virusres.2014.11.019.

- 477 44. Neuman, B. W. 2016. Bioinformatics and functional analyses of coronavirus nonstructural
- 478 proteins involved in the formation of replicative organelles. Antiviral Res. 135:97-107. doi:
- 479 10.1016/j.antiviral.2016.10.005.
- 480 45. Brand, C. L., M. V. Cattani, S. B. Kingan, E. L. Landeen, and D. C. Presgraves. 2018.
- 481 Molecular Evolution at a Meiosis Gene Mediates Species Differences in the Rate and Patterning of
- 482 Recombination. Curr. Biol. 28:1289-1295.e4. doi: S0960-9822(18)30241-0.
- 483 46. Hemmer, L. W., and J. P. Blumenstiel. 2016. Holding it together: rapid evolution and positive
- 484 selection in the synaptonemal complex of Drosophila. BMC Evol. Biol. 16:91. doi:
- 485 10.1186/s12862-016-0670-8.
- 486 47. Li, F., W. Li, M. Farzan, and S. C. Harrison. 2005. Structure of SARS coronavirus spike
- 487 receptor-binding domain complexed with receptor. Science. **309:**1864-1868. doi: 309/5742/1864.
- 488 48. Song, W., M. Gui, X. Wang, and Y. Xiang. 2018. Cryo-EM structure of the SARS coronavirus
- 489 spike glycoprotein in complex with its host cell receptor ACE2. PLoS Pathog. 14:e1007236. doi:
- 490 10.1371/journal.ppat.1007236.
- 491 49. Graham, R. L., and R. S. Baric. 2010. Recombination, reservoirs, and the modular spike:
- 492 mechanisms of coronavirus cross-species transmission. J. Virol. 84:3134-3146. doi:
- 493 10.1128/JVI.01394-09.
- 494 50. Martin, D. P., B. Murrell, A. Khoosal, and B. Muhire. 2017. Detecting and Analyzing
- 495 Genetic Recombination Using RDP4. Methods Mol. Biol. 1525:433-460. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939496 6622-6 17.
- 497 51. Martin, D. P., P. Lemey, and D. Posada. 2011. Analysing recombination in nucleotide
- 498 sequences. Mol. Ecol. Resour. **11:**943-955. doi: 10.1111/j.1755-0998.2011.03026.x.
- 499 52. Takeda, M., C. K. Chang, T. Ikeya, P. Guntert, Y. H. Chang, Y. L. Hsu, T. H. Huang, and
- 500 M. Kainosho. 2008. Solution structure of the c-terminal dimerization domain of SARS coronavirus

- 501 nucleocapsid protein solved by the SAIL-NMR method. J. Mol. Biol. 380:608-622. doi:
- 502 10.1016/j.jmb.2007.11.093.
- 503 53. Chang, C. K., M. H. Hou, C. F. Chang, C. D. Hsiao, and T. H. Huang. 2014. The SARS
- 504 coronavirus nucleocapsid protein--forms and functions. Antiviral Res. 103:39-50. doi:
- 505 10.1016/j.antiviral.2013.12.009.
- 506 54. Surjit, M., and S. K. Lal. 2008. The SARS-CoV nucleocapsid protein: a protein with
- 507 multifarious activities. Infect. Genet. Evol. 8:397-405. doi: S1567-1348(07)00102-5.
- 508 55. Wathelet, M. G., M. Orr, M. B. Frieman, and R. S. Baric. 2007. Severe acute respiratory
- 509 syndrome coronavirus evades antiviral signaling: role of nsp1 and rational design of an attenuated
- 510 strain. J. Virol. **81:**11620-11633. doi: JVI.00702-07.
- 511 56. Brockway, S. M., and M. R. Denison. 2005. Mutagenesis of the murine hepatitis virus nsp1-
- 512 coding region identifies residues important for protein processing, viral RNA synthesis, and viral
- 513 replication. Virology. **340:**209-223. doi: S0042-6822(05)00377-6.
- 514 57. Zust, R., L. Cervantes-Barragan, T. Kuri, G. Blakqori, F. Weber, B. Ludewig, and V. Thiel.
- 515 2007. Coronavirus non-structural protein 1 is a major pathogenicity factor: implications for the
- 516 rational design of coronavirus vaccines. PLoS Pathog. **3:**e109. doi: 07-PLPA-RA-0063.
- 517 58. Jauregui, A. R., D. Savalia, V. K. Lowry, C. M. Farrell, and M. G. Wathelet. 2013.
- 518 Identification of residues of SARS-CoV nsp1 that differentially affect inhibition of gene expression
- and antiviral signaling. PLoS One. 8:e62416. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0062416.
- 520 59. Pfefferle, S., J. Schopf, M. Kogl, C. C. Friedel, M. A. Muller, J. Carbajo-Lozoya, T.
- 521 Stellberger, E. von Dall'Armi, P. Herzog, S. Kallies, D. Niemeyer, V. Ditt, T. Kuri, R. Zust, K.
- 522 Pumpor, R. Hilgenfeld, F. Schwarz, R. Zimmer, I. Steffen, F. Weber, V. Thiel, G. Herrler, H. J.
- 523 Thiel, C. Schwegmann-Wessels, S. Pohlmann, J. Haas, C. Drosten, and A. von Brunn. 2011.
- 524 The SARS-coronavirus-host interactome: identification of cyclophilins as target for pan-
- 525 coronavirus inhibitors. PLoS Pathog. 7:e1002331. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1002331.

- 526 60. Jimenez-Guardeno, J. M., J. A. Regla-Nava, J. L. Nieto-Torres, M. L. DeDiego, C.
- 527 Castano-Rodriguez, R. Fernandez-Delgado, S. Perlman, and L. Enjuanes. 2015. Identification
- 528 of the Mechanisms Causing Reversion to Virulence in an Attenuated SARS-CoV for the Design of a
- 529 Genetically Stable Vaccine. PLoS Pathog. **11**:e1005215. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1005215.
- 530 61. Oostra, M., C. A. de Haan, and P. J. Rottier. 2007. The 29-nucleotide deletion present in
- 531 human but not in animal severe acute respiratory syndrome coronaviruses disrupts the functional
- 532 expression of open reading frame 8. J. Virol. **81:**13876-13888. doi: JVI.01631-07.
- 533 62. Sung, S. C., C. Y. Chao, K. S. Jeng, J. Y. Yang, and M. M. Lai. 2009. The 8ab protein of
- 534 SARS-CoV is a luminal ER membrane-associated protein and induces the activation of ATF6.
- 535 Virology. **387:**402-413. doi: 10.1016/j.virol.2009.02.021.
- 536 63. Katoh, K., and D. M. Standley. 2013. MAFFT multiple sequence alignment software version
- 537 7: improvements in performance and usability. Mol. Biol. Evol. **30:**772-780. doi:
- 538 10.1093/molbev/mst010; 10.1093/molbev/mst010.
- 539 64. Lole, K. S., R. C. Bollinger, R. S. Paranjape, D. Gadkari, S. S. Kulkarni, N. G. Novak, R.
- 540 Ingersoll, H. W. Sheppard, and S. C. Ray. 1999. Full-length human immunodeficiency virus type
- 541 1 genomes from subtype C-infected seroconverters in India, with evidence of intersubtype
- 542 recombination. J. Virol. **73:**152-160.
- 543 65. Chen, C., C. Chang, Y. Chang, S. Sue, H. Bai, L. Riang, C. Hsiao, and T. Huang. 2007.
- 544 Structure of the SARS coronavirus nucleocapsid protein RNA-binding dimerization domain
- 545 suggests a mechanism for helical packaging of viral RNA. J. Mol. Biol. **368:**1075-1086. doi:
- 546 10.1016/j.jmb.2007.02.069.
- 547 66. Biasini, M., S. Bienert, A. Waterhouse, K. Arnold, G. Studer, T. Schmidt, F. Kiefer, T. Gallo
- 548 Cassarino, M. Bertoni, L. Bordoli, and T. Schwede. 2014. SWISS-MODEL: modelling protein
- 549 tertiary and quaternary structure using evolutionary information. Nucleic Acids Res. 42:W252-8.
- 550 doi: 10.1093/nar/gku340.

551	67. Benkert, P., M. Biasini, and T. Schwede. 2011. Toward the estimation of the absolute quality
552	of individual protein structure models. Bioinformatics. 27:343-350. doi:
553	10.1093/bioinformatics/btq662.
554	68. Lei, J., Y. Kusov, and R. Hilgenfeld. 2018. Nsp3 of coronaviruses: Structures and functions of
555	a large multi-domain protein. Antiviral Res. 149:58-74. doi: 10.1016/j.antiviral.2017.11.001.
556	69. Chan, J. F., K. H. Kok, Z. Zhu, H. Chu, K. K. To, S. Yuan, and K. Y. Yuen. 2020. Genomic
557	characterization of the 2019 novel human-pathogenic coronavirus isolated from a patient with
558	atypical pneumonia after visiting Wuhan. Emerg. Microbes Infect. 9:221-236. doi:
559	10.1080/22221751.2020.1719902.

- 560 70. Coutard, B., C. Valle, X. de Lamballerie, B. Canard, N. G. Seidah, and E. Decroly. 2020.
- 561 The spike glycoprotein of the new coronavirus 2019-nCoV contains a furin-like cleavage site absent

562 in CoV of the same clade. Antiviral Res. **176:**104742. doi: S0166-3542(20)30052-8.

563

564

565 Figure legends

566

567	Figure 1. Selective	patterns of SARS-	CoV-2. (A)	Similarity	plot (genera	ated with SimP	'lot) of
201	I Igai e It Selective			Similarity	prot (Senere		100,01

568 BatCoV RaTG13 relative to SARS-CoV-2 (Wuhan-Hu-1 reference strain, NC_045512.2).

569 Similarity (Kimura distance) was calculated within sliding windows of 250 bp moving with a step

570 of 50 bp. A schematic representation of the SARS-CoV-2 genome is also shown. ORF and nsp (non-

571 structural protein) names, lengths, and relative positions are in accordance with the annotation for

572 the reference Wuhan-Hu-1 sequence. Box colors indicate the level of amino acid identity between

573 the SARS-CoV-2 and BatCoV RaTG13 sequences. Black triangles indicate amino acid changes that

are polymorphic in the analyzed SARS-CoV-2 genomes. Asterisks denote positively selected sites

575 and their size is proportional to the number of selected sites/region. Short ORFs with names in red

- 576 were not analyzed with gammaMap. Violin plots (median, white dot; interquartile range, black bar)
- 577 of selection coefficients (γ) for the longest (more that 80 codons) ORFs (B) and nsp3 sub-domains

578 (C) are shown. Nsp3 domains were retrieved from the SARS-CoV annotation (68).

579

580

581 Figure 2. SARS-CoV-2 positively selected sites. Schematic representation of the nsp1, ORF8, 582 Spike (S), and nucleocapsid (N) proteins. Positively selected sites (magenta), amino acid 583 substitutions between SARS-CoV-2 and BatCoV RaTG13 (red), and between SARS-CoV-2 and pangolin-CoV MP789 (blue) are reported in the alignments. 584 585 The location of an insertion (insPRRA) in the spike glycoprotein is also shown. This insertion is predicted to occur in the S1/S2 furin-like cleavage site (69, 70). 586 587 Figure 3. Homology modeling of positively selected SARS-CoV-2 proteins. Selected sites are 588 589 mapped onto the 3D structure of models obtained using SARS-CoV proteins as a templates (PDB 590 ID: 6ACG for panel A, 2CJR for panel B, 2HSX for panel C). Coronavirus proteins are colored in 591 hues of blue based on the most likely selection coefficient. Positively selected sites are marked in red. (A) Ribbon representation of the spike glycoprotein model (one monomer is shown) in 592 593 complex with human ACE2 (green) (48). The binding interface is shown in the enlargement. (B) 594 Ribbon representation of the C-terminal domain of the nucleocapsid protein. (C) Ribbon 595 representation of the N-terminal portion of nsp1. Note that although some sites had the highest posterior probability for $\gamma = 1$ (yellow), they were not called as positively selected because the 0.5 596 597 threshold was not reached. 598

599

Table 1. List of analyzed strains.

Strain Name	GenBank ID
Wuhan-Hu-1	NC_045512.2
2019-nCoV WHU01	MN988668.1
2019-nCoV WHU02	MN988669.1
2019-nCoV_HKU-SZ-005b_2020	MN975262.1
2019-nCoV_HKU-SZ-002a_2020	MN938384.1
SARS-CoV-2/WH-09/human/2020/CHN	MT093631.1
SARS-CoV-2/IQTC01/human/2020/CHN	MT123290.1
HZ-1	MT039873.1
BetaCoV/Wuhan/IPBCAMS-WH-01/2019	MT019529.1
BetaCoV/Wuhan/IPBCAMS-WH-03/2019	MT019531.1
BetaCoV/Wuhan/IPBCAMS-WH-02/2019	MT019530.1
BetaCoV/Wuhan/IPBCAMS-WH-04/2019	MT019532.1
BetaCoV/Wuhan/IPBCAMS-WH-05/2020	MT019533.1
WIV02	MN996527.1
WIV04	MN996528.1
WIV05	MN996529.1
WIV06	MN996530.1
WIV07	MN996531.1
SARS-CoV-2/Yunnan-01/human/2020/CHN	MT049951.1
nCoV-FIN-29-Jan-2020	MT020781.1
SARS0CoV-2/61-TW/human/2020/ NPL	MT072688.1
SNU01	MT039890.1
SARS-CoV-2/01/human/2020/SWE	MT093571.1
SARS-CoV-2/NTU01/2020/TWN	MT066175.1
SARS-CoV-2/NTU02/2020/TWN	MT066176.1
2019-nCoV/USA-WA1/2020	MN985325.1
2019-nCoV/USA-AZ1/2020	MN997409.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA1/2020	MN994467.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA2/2020	MN994468.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA3/2020	MT027062.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA4/2020	MT027063.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA5/2020	MT027064.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA6/2020	MT044258.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA7/2020	MT106052.1

2019-nCoV/USA-CA8/2020	MT106053.1
2019-nCoV/USA-CA9/2020	MT118835.1
2019-nCoV/USA-IL2/2020	MT044257.1
2019-nCoV/USA-IL1/2020	MN988713.1
2019-nCoV/USA-MA1/2020	MT039888.1
2019-nCoV/USA-TX1/2020	MT106054.1
2019-nCoV/USA-WA1-A12/2020	MT020880.1
2019-nCoV/USA-WA1-F6/2020	MT020881.1
2019-nCoV/USA-WI1/2020	MT039887.1
Australia/VIC01/2020	MT007544.1
Bat coronavirus RaTG13	MN996532.1
Pangolin coronavirus isolate MP789	MT084071.1
Bat SARS-like coronavirus isolate bat-SL-CoVZC45	MG772933.1
Bat SARS-like coronavirus isolate bat-SL-CoVZXC21	MG772934.1
SARS-CoV tor2	NC_004718.3
SARS-CoV GZ02	AY390556.1
Bat SARS coronavirus HKU3-1	DQ022305.2
Rhinolophus affinis coronavirus isolate LYRa11	KF569996.1







A

В



Wuhan-Hu-1 BatCoV RaTG13 Pangolin-CoV Bat-SL-CoVZC45 Bat-SL-CoVZXC21 Human-SARS-Tor2 Bat-HKU3-1 Bat-lyra11

Bat-lyra11



SARS-CoV-2 spike

