

VIROLOGY (nomenclature)

Main rules for the correct spelling of names of viruses and related agents:

The name of the **order** always ends in the suffix *-virales* and is written in italics and the first letter is capitalized.

The name of the **family** always ends in the suffix *-viridae* and is written in italics and the first letter is capitalized.

The name of the **subfamily** always ends in the suffix *-virinae* and is written in italics and the first letter is capitalized.

The name of the **genus** always ends in the suffix *-virus* and is written in italics and the first letter is capitalized.

For instance:

- Order ~~————~~ *Mononegavirales*
- Family *Paramyxoviridae*
- Subfamily *Paramyxovirinae*
- Genus *Morbillivirus*

This nomenclature corresponds to the guidelines proposed by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV). This information is available at Virus Taxonomy: VIIIth Report of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. Elsevier Academic Press, 2005 (Fauquet CM, Mayo MA, Maniloff J, Desselberger U, Ball LA, editors). It is also published on the official website of the ICTV (<http://www.ictvonline.org/virusTaxInfo.asp>). When the name of the species, serotype, strain or isolate is mentioned, the accepted name in Spanish must be used (*). Nevertheless, the acronym for which the virus is known must not be translated. The first time it is mentioned, the full name from which the acronym derives must be written between parentheses. The complete list with the classification and acronyms can be consulted on the ICTV database (<http://www.ictvdb.org/Ictv/index.htm>).

For instance:

- virus de la inmunodeficiencia humana 1 (Human immunodeficiency virus 1: HIV-1):
The acronym VIH is no longer accepted, being the international acronym HIV only valid.
- virus del sarampión (*Measles virus*: MeV).
- virus de la fiebre aftosa (*Foot and mouth disease virus*: FMDV)

(*) this implies using synonyms in some cases, for instance:

- virus del aborto equino, virus de la rinoneumonitis equina o herpesvirus equino tipo 1 (*Equid herpes virus 1*: EHV-1)

In English, the name of the species is written in italics and the first word is capitalized. However, in Spanish, the species name should be written in roman and lower case; capital letters should only be used when a proper name is involved, for example:

- virus del Nilo Occidental (*West Nile virus*: WNV).

- virus de la pseudorrabia, virus de la enfermedad de Aujeszky o herpesvirus porcino tipo 1 (*Suid herpesvirus 1*: SuHV-1).

Serotypes, strains or isolates are also non-italicized.

- virus de la fiebre aftosa serotipo A (FMDV-A)
- virus de la fiebre aftosa serotipo C (FMDV-C)
- virus de la fiebre aftosa serotipo O (FMDV-O)

General rules for classification and nomenclature:

The following classification hierarchy is accepted. However, it is not mandatory to use all the taxonomic levels of the hierarchy. For many viruses, the **family** is the maximum taxonomic level reached.

In addition, families are not necessarily divided into subfamilies. Parentheses indicate the hierarchies that do not always exist.

For instance:

- (order) - - -
- family *Picornaviridae*
- (subfamily) - - -
- genus *Aphthovirus*
- species virus de la fiebre aftosa (*Foot and mouth disease virus*: FMDV)

Subviral Agents

The same rules also apply to the classification of viroids. The formal way to write the name of a viroid is as follows:

:

- The word *viroide* for the species.
- The suffix *viroid* for the genus.
- The suffix *viroinae* for the subfamilies and
- The suffix *viroidae* for the families.