



Genome Sequence Analysis of Largemouth Bass Virus Isolates from Smallmouth Bass

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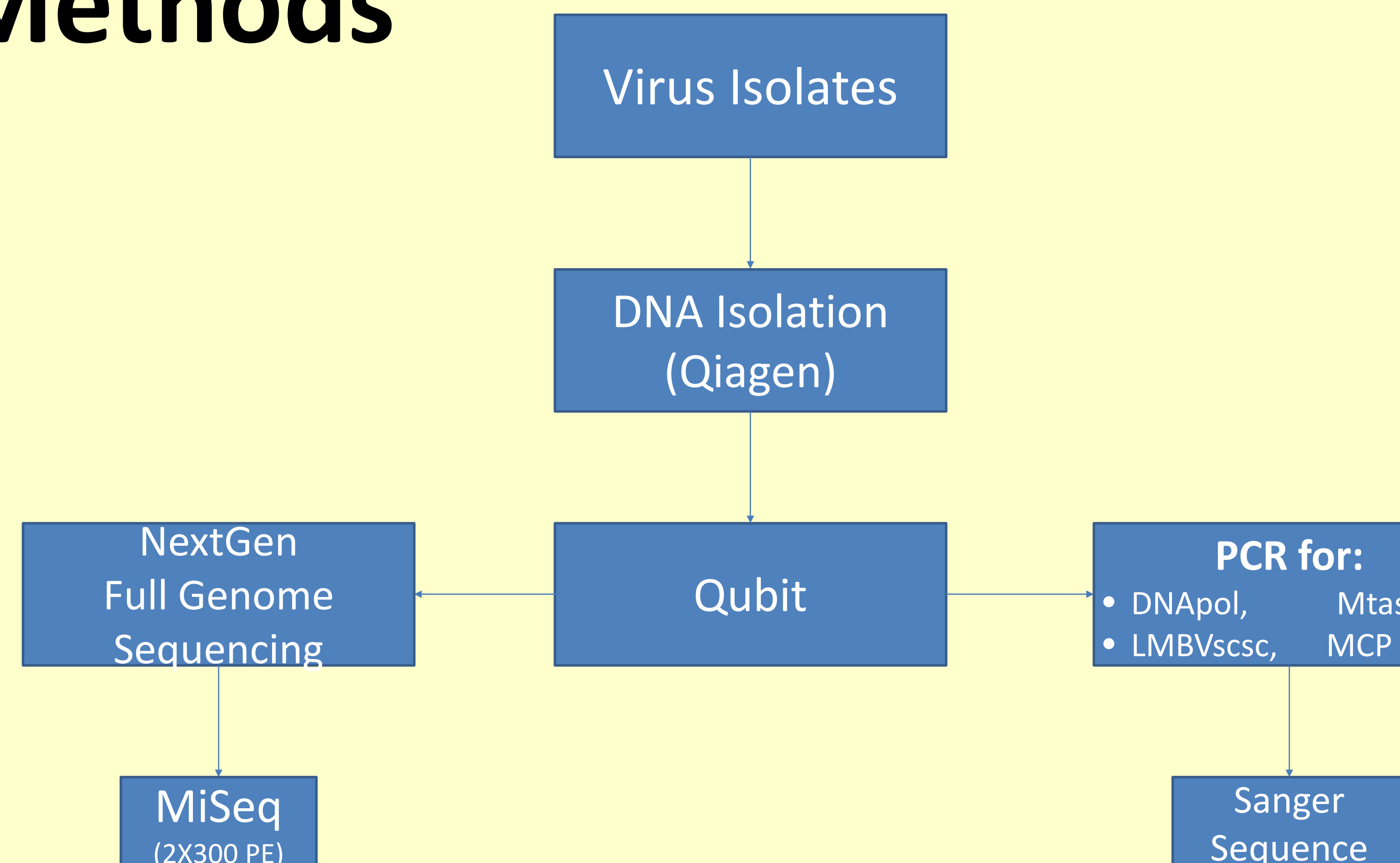
Abstract

The viral pathogen, Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV), is a member of the family Iridoviridae and has been known to cause large fish kills among Largemouth Bass, *Micropterus salmoides*. The viral pathogen is also consistently isolated from other species where diseased fish are found. Throughout the Susquehanna River Basin since 2005, Smallmouth Bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*, have been suffering from wide-spread disease related deaths. Even though LMBV is not clinically known to affect Smallmouth Bass, this virus is prevalent among diseased fish infected with other pathogens such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The question we seek to address is whether there are significant genetic differences between LMBV isolates from smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. Total DNA was isolated from preparations of LMBV derived from smallmouth bass and largemouth bass isolates. Five LMBV-specific primer sets were used to amplify fragments from each preparation for conventional Sanger sequencing and the total DNA preparations are also being analyzed using MiSeq NextGen sequence analysis. After analysis of the sequences, there does not appear to be any significant difference between the DNA sequences of the virus when it is isolated from either the largemouth bass or smallmouth bass. Further analysis using BLAST and other comparison tools will be studied to determine any differences between the sequences.

Background

- Isolates of LMBV were collected from smallmouth bass in the Susquehanna Watershed
- Is LMBV causing disease in the smallmouth bass?
- Is the smallmouth bass within the virus's normal host range?
- Are the SMB isolates different from the LMB isolates?

Methods



Analysis of MCP PCR Product:

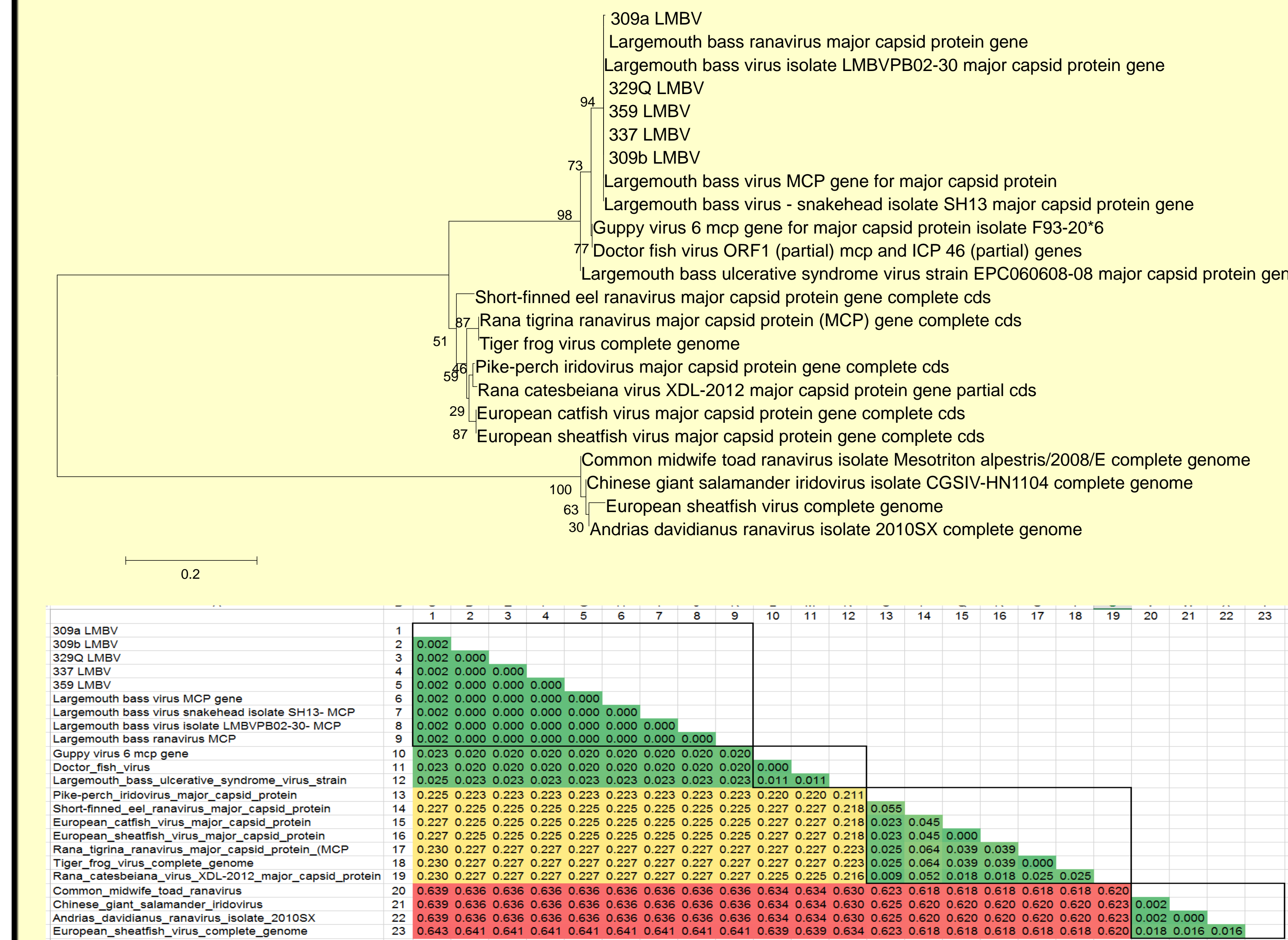


Figure 1. Neighbor joining tree and distance matrix showing relationships among iridovirus Major Coat Protein Genes

Analysis of DNAPol PCR Product:

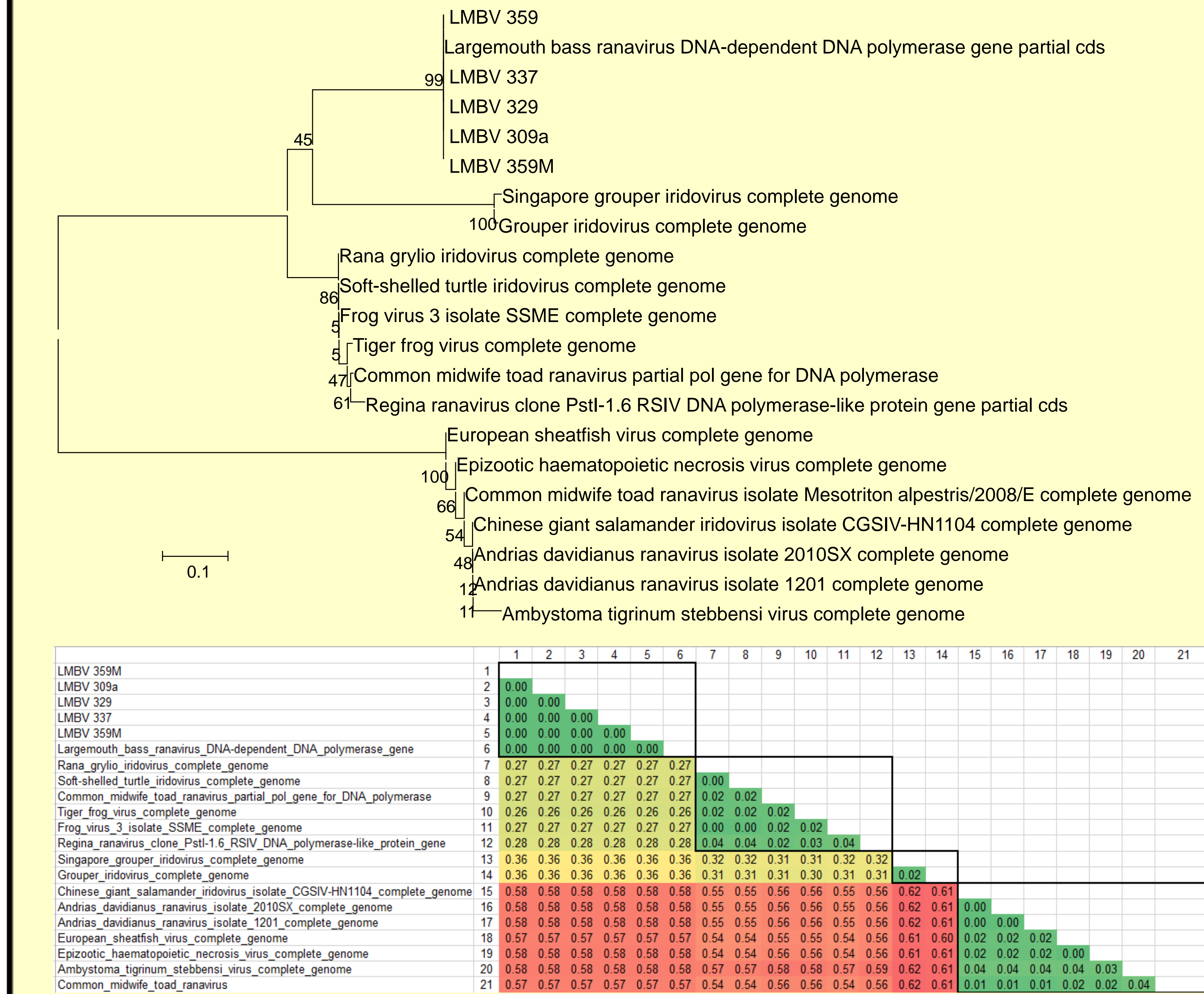


Figure 2. Neighbor joining tree and distance matrix showing relationships among iridovirus DNA Polymerase Genes

Conclusion: PCR products including MCP, DNAPol, Mtase, and LMBVscsc of new isolates cluster closely with previously identified LMBV isolates.

Table 1. Whole Genome Sequencing Stats

	329 (LMB)	309 (SMB)	337 (SMB)	359 (SMB)
reads	2,009,727	1,384,503	1,376,857	3,551,237
coverage	1350x	1040x	1650x	3025x
contigs	6	6	4	12
genome size	98,613	98,032	98,625	101,410
annotated genes (RAST)	105	107	107	108

Figure 3. Comparison of LMBV to closest Iridovirus genome (from redfin perch Accession FJ433873)

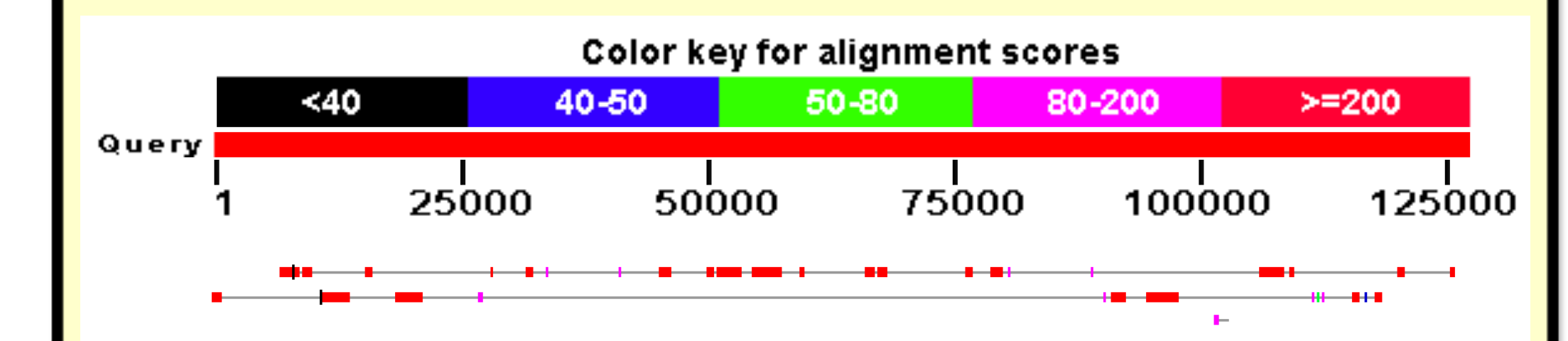
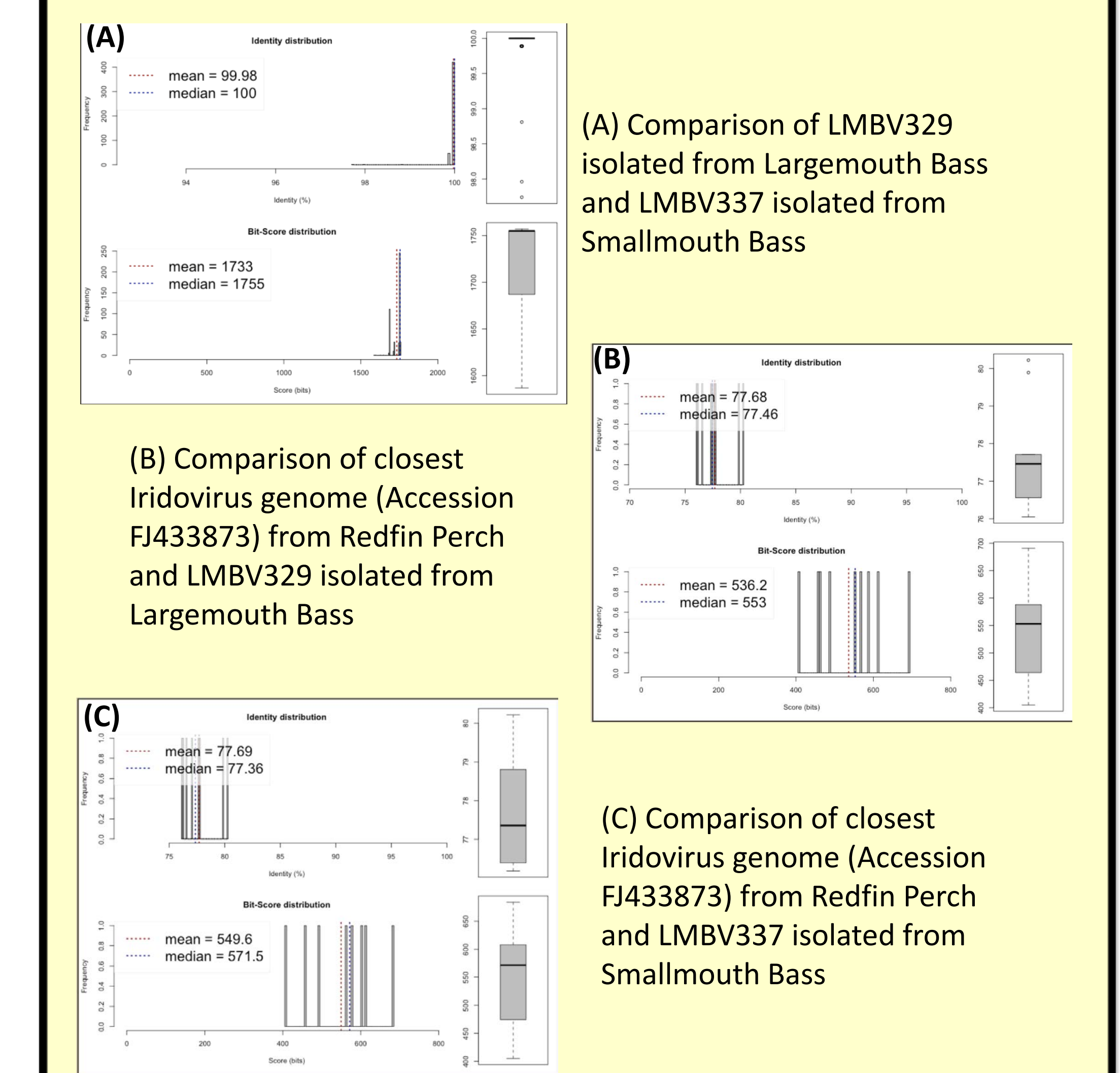


Figure 5. ANI Comparison:



Conclusions

- 1st genome sequences of LMBV
- No obvious differences observed in LMBV from SMB

Acknowledgements:

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References

L. Iwanowicz, C. Densmore, C. Hahn, P. McAllister & J. Odenkirk (2013) Identification of Largemouth Bass Virus in the Introduced Northern Snakehead Inhabiting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health*, 25:3, 191-196.

Figure 4. LMBV gene comparison

