

Arboviruses

The term arbovirus was derived from the translation of the English term **arthropod-borne virus**. The arboviruses **include viruses of various families** that are **transmitted by arthropods**. The term has an ecological meaning because **the patterns of spread and circulation of infection in nature are similar for most arboviruses**. Arboviruses are among the most important infectious diseases. They occur on all continents except Antarctica. The arthropods that spread and transmit these viruses to humans, as well as other mammals and other animal species, include haematophagous arthropods such as **mosquitoes, hookworms, ticks, mites**, etc. Understanding the mechanism of invasion and virulence, as well as tracking the history of these viruses, is key to some control of the spread, especially to develop effective prevention, vaccination and treatment.

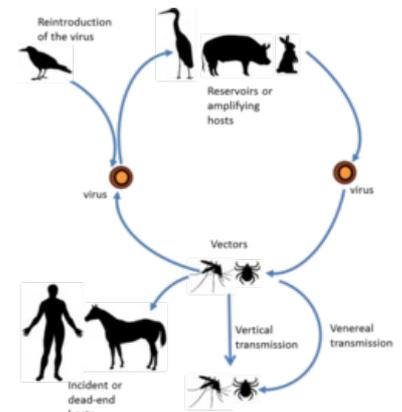


Mosquito

Arboviruses are a group of many viruses belonging to different families that share a similar mode of disease spread. There are 7 families of arthropod-borne viruses:

- **Peribunyaviridae** (genus *Nairovirus*, *Orthobunyavirus*, *Phlebovirus* and *Tospovirus*);
- **Reoviridae** (genus *Orbivirus*);
- **Flaviviridae** (genus *Flavivirus*);
- **Rhabdoviridae** (genus *Vesiculovirus*);
- **Togaviridae** (genus *Alphavirus*);
- **Orthomyxoviridae** (genus *Thogotovirus*);
- **Asfarviridae** (genus *Asfivirus*).

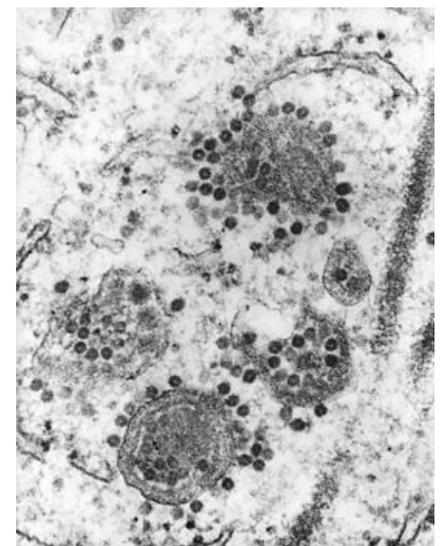
Some human arboviruses are asymptomatic, or the course of the disease resembles influenza, **whereas some cause severe haemorrhagic fevers, encephalitis and death**. Of the families listed above, only 3 families cause encephalitis in humans, the **Bunyaviridae**, **Togaviridae** and **Flaviviridae**.



The arbovirus cycle

Occurrence

Arboviruses are widespread worldwide, with about **500 arboviruses registered today**, and about 134 arboviruses have been linked to human disease. In the Czech Republic, only 8 representatives of arboviruses can be found. They are the biggest health problem in third world countries, however, the gradual development of tourism and trade is leading to the introduction of tropical infections even in temperate zones where they did not occur before. Urbanisation, population growth and agricultural development have also increased the risk of contact with arthropod-borne viruses or their vectors. Overcrowding, poor living and sanitation conditions, including lack of drinking water, provide an ideal environment for mosquito breeding. We must not forget climate change, with longer periods of warmth and milder winters than in the past, and this, of course, also contributes to a higher incidence of arboviruses. In tropical climates, the risk of arboviruses is almost year-round, whereas in temperate climates, the risk of arboviruses is from spring to autumn, and the viruses survive the winter, for example, if the mosquito is the vector, in mosquito eggs



Eastern equine encephalitis virions

Life cycle

The life cycle of arthropod-borne viruses takes place in natural foci. Arbovirus **lives without dependence on humans**, but if humans are present in an outbreak, they can be infected. In addition to the dynamics of the vector and the host, the climate, the site of occurrence and the host immune system are important for the arbovirus cycle. During their life cycle, most **arboviruses cycle between arthropods**, which serve as **vectors**, and **enzootic vertebrates, which act as reservoirs**. This is biological transmission, during which the infectious agent actively multiplies in the host, which is different from mechanical transmission. There are also cases where the virus is capable of transovarial and transstadial transmission within the carrier population, as well as the ability for sexual transmission between transovarially infected males and uninfected females. **Typical vertebrates** that serve as reservoirs for arthropod-borne viruses are **birds, rodents** and **non-human primates**. However, there are exceptions where it is the human or domesticated animal that becomes the so-called **accidental host**. Accidental hosts, as opposed to natural hosts, have outbreaks of disease. Humans and domesticated animals are a blind link in the arboviral life cycle because there is insufficient viremia to infect the vector. However, there are so-called urban cycles where humans act as hosts and sufficient viremia occurs to infect the vector. This occurs with Dengue, yellow fever and Chikungunya viruses. Domesticated animals (e.g. horses or pigs) serving as hosts with sufficient viremia to infect the vector are described in the cases of Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus and Japanese encephalitis virus.

Family Flaviviridae (genus Flavivirus)

Most flaviviruses belong to arboviruses and some are very well studied in association with arboviral encephalitis. They are among the most biologically complex and medically important families of animal viruses. They are spherical enveloped **+ssRNA viruses and their size is about 40-50 nm**. They are labile and sensitive to ether. It is possible to distinguish them serologically. They include Japanese encephalitis virus, Dengue viruses, yellow fever virus and tick-borne encephalitis viruses (2 subtypes - eastern type and western type).

Family Togaviridae (genus Alphavirus)

The viruses are distributed worldwide and there are 29 known representatives of this genus. They are transmitted by several species of mosquitoes. In humans, they cause clinically different diseases in different parts of the world. In **Asia, Australia and Africa**, alphaviruses mainly cause **arthritis, fevers, rashes** (e.g. Chikungunya viruses), and their hosts are **mammals**. In **the Americas, birds and horses** are the **main reservoirs** for alphaviruses, and the viruses mainly cause **encephalitis**. Examples of alphaviruses on the new continent are the East American equine encephalitis virus, the West American equine encephalitis virus and the Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus.

Family Peribunyaviridae

It is the largest virus family with more than **350 species** included in five genera (***Orthobunyavirus, Nairovirus, Phlebovirus, Tospovirus and Hantavirus***). All but the genus Hantavirus belong to the arboviruses. These are human and animal pathogens, the exception being the genus Tospovirus. This genus is a plant pathogen. They are widespread worldwide, infecting a wide range of invertebrates and vertebrates. **They use haematophagous arthropods (mosquitoes, ticks) as vectors**. The course of the disease can range from mild **asymptomatic infection to pulmonary disease, hemorrhagic fever** and severe **encephalitis**. There is as yet no effective treatment or vaccination for humans.

Family Reoviridae (genus Orbivirus)

This genus of viruses is transmitted to plants, animals, and rarely humans. Very widespread in nature. It is mainly an animal pathogen. In cattle and farm animals it is the causative agent of a number of important diseases such as **bluetongue (BTV), African horse sickness (AHSV), epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHDV)**. Human diseases caused by orbiviruses include **tick-borne Colorado fever**. Tick-borne Colorado fever has a similar course to influenza. The disease is caused by uncoated viruses around **70 nm** in size. **Their genome consists of 10 dsRNA segments**.

Family Rhabdoviridae (genus Vesiculovirus)

Occurrence on the American continent, it is mainly an agent causing disease in animals. In humans, most cases are occupational infections, infecting endemic areas. The course resembles influenza. They are cylindrical in shape, resembling a projectile. They contain an unsegmented linear -RNA strand.

Family Orthomyxoviridae (genus Thogotovirus)

The endemic areas are mainly **Africa** and **Asia**. The vector is the tick and the **reservoir** of the infectious agent is **cattle** and **camels**.

Family Asfarviridae (genus Asfivirus)

The genome formed by **dsDNA**. So far, only one representative of the genus is known. It causes African swine fever. The genus name is derived from the English name African Swine Fever-Like Viruses. It is a 200 nm large DNA virus.

Conclusion

Due to climate change, but also due to the development of agriculture, industry, tourism, etc., arboviruses are being introduced to places where they were not present before. Some cause mild discomfort to the sufferer, while others result in serious illnesses that sometimes end in death. There is as yet no effective treatment or vaccination for all diseases caused by arthropod-borne viruses. Prevention in terms of the use of repellents and other means to prevent being bitten or stung by arboviruses should not be underestimated. Another prevention is to prevent the multiplication of the vector.

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Viruses

RNA viruses	uncoated	ds	Reoviruses	genus Orthoreovirus, genus Orbivirus, genus Rotavirus, genus Coltivirus	
		ss (+)	Astroviruses	genus Mamastrovirus	
			Caliciviruses	genus Norovirus	
			Picornaviruses	genus Enterovirus - coxsackie viruses, echoviruses, enteroviruses 68-71, polioviruses, genus Rhinovirus, genus Hepatovirus - hepatitis A virus	
			Hepeviruses	Hepatitis E virus	
	coated	ss (+)	Coronaviruses	genus Coronavirus, genus Torovirus	
			Flaviviruses	genus Flavivirus - dengue viruses - Japanese encephalitis virus - tick-borne encephalitis complex viruses - Zika virus - yellow fever virus, genus Hepacivirus - hepatitis C virus	
			Retroviruses	genus Alpharetrovirus, genus Betaretrovirus, genus Gammaretrovirus, genus Deltaretrovirus, genus Epsilonretrovirus, genus Lentivirus - HIV, genus Spumavirus	
			Togaviruses	genus Alphavirus - EEE - VEE - WEE, genus Rubivirus - rubella virus	
		ss (-)	Arenaviruses	Lassa fever virus, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus	
			Bunyaviruses	genus Bunyavirus, genus Hantavirus, genus Nairovirus, genus Phlebovirus	
			Filoviruses	genus Ebolavirus - Ebola viruses, genus Marburgvirus - Marburg disease virus	
			Ortomyxoviruses	genus Influenzavirus A, genus Influenzavirus B, genus Influenzavirus C, genus Thogotovirus	
			Paramyxoviruses	genus Morbillivirus - measles virus, genus Paramyxovirus - parainfluenza virus - mumps virus, genus Pneumovirus - human respiratory syncytial virus	
Rhabdoviruses			genus Lyssavirus - rabies virus, genus Vesiculovirus - vesicular stomatitis virus		
genus Deltavirus			Hepatitis D virus		
DNA viruses		uncoated	ds	Adenoviruses	genus Aviadenovirus, genus Mastadenovirus
				Papillomaviruses	human papillomavirus
	Polyomaviruses			BC virus, JK virus	
	coated	ds	ss	Parvoviruses	parvovirus B19
			Herpesviruses	herpes simplex virus - varicella zoster virus - Epstein and Barr virus - cytomegalovirus - human herpesvirus-6 (HHV-6) - human herpesvirus-7 (HHV-7) - human herpesvirus-8 (HHV-8)	
			Hepadnaviruses	Hepatitis B virus	
			Poxviruses	variola virus - vaccinia virus - molluscum contagiosum virus	
Unconventional viruses	prions				