

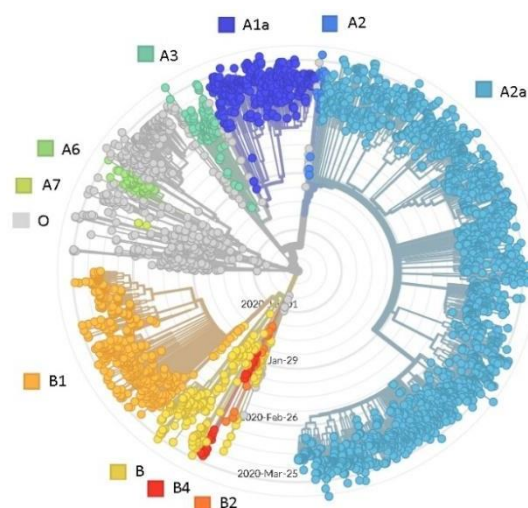
DBT-NIBMG scientists study the evolution of Coronavirus



New Delhi, May 26: COVID-19 is a pandemic which has spread across the globe. Viruses are known to mutate over a period of time. Scientists at the Department of Biotechnology's National Institute of BioMedical Genomics (DBT-NIBMG), Kalyani, have investigated how SARS-CoV-2 has evolved with the progression of the pandemic across countries over time.

They examined 3,636 viral sequences submitted to public databases from 55 countries, and 45 genomes from India. They found that the virus has evolved into 10 other types apart from the ancestral O type which was found in Wuhan, China; out of these the A2a type has emerged as the dominant type in every geographical region. The A2a type was found to harbour a mutation which makes it easier for it to enter into lung cells perhaps leading to increased ability to cause infection and survive in the host. These results will help in streamlining the efforts being put in across the world for vaccine development for the virus. Further, the impact of host genome on the disease severity remains to be evaluated.

The figure shows the evolution of the virus and their transmission in



id

Contact Person Name & Details:

Dr.ParthaPratimMajumder

Email:ppm1@nibmg.ac.in