

1 Article

2 NEW ADENOVIRUS GROUPS IN WESTERN 3 PALAEARCTIC BATS

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16 **Abstract:** In the context of long-term screening for viruses on Western Palaeartic bats, we tested
17 for the presence of adenovirus 1.392 oropharyngeal swabs and 325 stool samples taken from 27 bat
18 species. Adenoviruses were detected in 12 species of the *Vespertilionidae* and the *Rhinolophidae*
19 families. Fifty positive respiratory and 26 positive stool samples were studied. Phylogenetic
20 analyses of partial hexon protein and partial DNA-dependent DNA polymerase genes, indicate all
21 these bat adenoviruses belong to the genus *Mastadenovirus* but without constituting a monophyletic
22 cluster. According to genetic identities, the new groups are distinct to the previously described *Bat*
23 *mastadenovirus A* and *B* species, and contribute with potentially new members. Our data support
24 that diversity of Bat mastadenovirus is host-dependent and increase the knowledge of potentially
25 pathogenic virus from bats. For human concerns this knowledge is an important Public Health
26 issue due to the active role of bats as viral reservoirs.

27 **Keywords:** Adenovirus, Western Palaeartic Bats, Phylogenetic analysis, Spain

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29 1. Introduction

30 Bats are the second largest order of mammals, including more than 1,200 different species [1]. Their
31 high vagility and the organization typically in social groups predispose them to infection and viral
32 dissemination [2]. Extensive surveys have shown its susceptibility to host a wide range of viruses
33 and the possibility to be a source of emerging infectious in humans [3]. The Order Chiroptera plays a
34 role as a reservoir for many significant viruses such as Lyssavirus, Coronavirus, Herpesvirus,
35 Filovirus, Reovirus, Paramyxovirus and Astrovirus, among others. Several studies have shown bats
36 as a source of novel viruses, including Adenoviruses [4–7].

37 Adenoviruses (AdVs) are subdivided in five genera, Mastadenovirus (mammals), Aviadenovirus
38 (birds), Atadenovirus (mammals, birds and reptiles), Siadenovirus (poultry and amphibians) and
39 Ichtadenovirus (fish) [8]. In 2008, the first AdV from a bat, Bat AdV1-FBV1, was isolated during
40 attempts to establish a specific cell line from a Ryukyu flying fox (*Pteropus dasymallus yayeyamae*), in
41 Japan [9]. Subsequently, after a search in 55 German free-ranging bats, family *Vespertilionidae*, a
42 second, Bat AdV2 strain PPV1, was identified in 3 common pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*),
43 being the first AdV isolated from a microchiropteran bat and the second fully sequenced genome
44 [10], Bat mastadenovirus B. The first fully sequenced AdV genome from a bat was from a Rickett's

45 big-footed bat (*Myotis ricketti*), BtAdV3 strain TJM, named as Bat mastadenovirus A [11]. Several
46 other studies have shown a large genetic viral diversity in bats from Brazil [12], Japan [9], Germany
47 [4,10,13,14], China [11,15], Hungary [5,14], Ghana [16], Zambia [17], Kenya [7], South Africa [18] and
48 USA [19].

49 In Spain, rabies surveillance has become an important issue due to its geographic position between
50 Africa and Europe [20], particularly on bats with expected genetic flow between the South of Spain
51 and the North of Morocco such as *Eptesicus isabellinus* [21]. Several studies confirmed both Iberian
52 species of *Eptesicus* as rabies vectors [22,23] including the detection of the new Lleida bat lyssavirus
53 [24]. Other studies have described new viruses, such as a novel Lloviu filovirus detected in dead
54 *Miniopterus schreibersii* in the North of Spain [25], 14 coronavirus distributed in new groups
55 including 2 betacoronavirus related with the MERS-CoV group [26], 42 potentially novel
56 betaherpesvirus from the families *Vespertilionidae*, *Miniopteridae*, *Rhinolophidae*, *Molosidae* and
57 *Pteropodidae* in the South and North of Spain [27]. These studies have increased the knowledge of
58 new virus and their potential as human pathogens. Due to the active role of bats as viral reservoirs,
59 this knowledge is an important part of the Public Health surveillance. Our study aimed to
60 investigate the Bat AdVs groups and to describe their phylogenetic relations analyzing two distinct
61 informative partial genes.

62 2. Materials and Methods

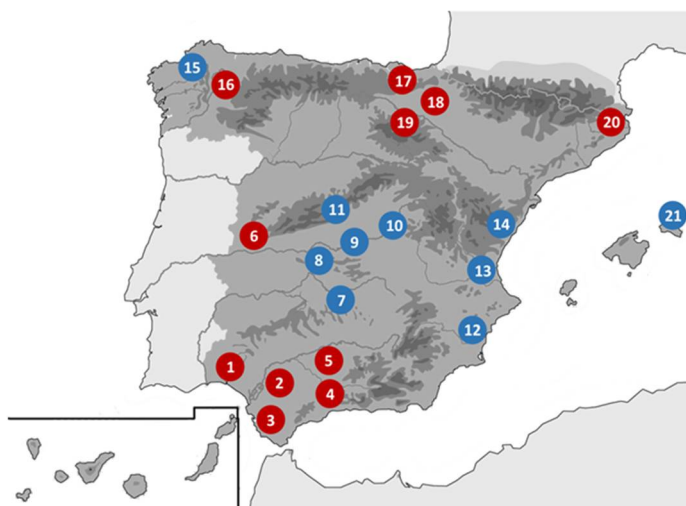
63 2.1. Origin of samples and preparation

64 During 2004 to 2016, in the context of rabies surveillance, a screening for other different virus was
65 performed according to the General Research Program protocol of the Spanish Government (specific
66 projects SAF2006-12784-C02, SAF2009-09172 and SAF2013-47194-P). Bats were captured and
67 sampled in several campaigns across the Iberian Peninsula (Figure 1). Sampling methods followed
68 the regulations and ethical procedures of the Spanish Bat Society (SECEMU). After being captured,
69 each animal was identified, sexed, measured and weighed. For identification of cryptic species
70 complexes, a wing-punch sample was taken for analysis of a cytochrome-b gene fragment [21]. For
71 virological studies, oropharyngeal swabs (OPS) and stool samples (SS) were taken and homogenized
72 in 1 ml of lysis buffer. After being studied and sampled, bats were released at the same location.
73 Samples were sent to the Rabies National Reference Laboratory, aliquoted and stored at -80°C until
74 tested. Total nucleic acids were extracted from aliquots of 200 μl -buffered suspension and pellets
75 were diluted in 50 μl of water [28].

76

77 **Figure 1:** Geographical distribution of Bat capture locations in Spain. South of Spain: 1. Huelva, 2.
78 Seville, 3. Cádiz, 4. Málaga, 5. Córdoba. Center of Spain: 6. Cáceres, 7. Ciudad Real, 8. Toledo, 9.
79 Madrid, 10. Guadalajara, 11. Segovia, 12. Alicante, 13. Valencia, 14. Castellón. North of Spain: 15. A
80 Coruña, 16. Lugo, 17. Vizcaya, 18. Navarra, 19. La Rioja, 20. Gerona. Balearic Islands: 21. Menorca.
81 Red circles are locations with positive Bat AdVs.

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84 *2.2. Adenovirus detection by Generic PCR methods*

85 Two independent generic PCR assays were used for the Adenoviridae family detection. For the
86 screening of samples, panAdVHex nested PCR used previously for human AdVs genotyping,
87 amplify one of the seven hypervariable regions of the hexon gene [29,30]. Five μ l of nucleic acids
88 extracted were added to 45 μ l of reaction mixture containing 60 mM Tris-HCl (pH8.5), 15
89 mM(NH₄)₂SO₄, 0.4 mM each of dNTPs (GE Healthcare, UK), 60 pmol of each primer and 2.5U
90 AmpliTaq DNA Polymerase (Applied Biosystems, New Jersey USA). Temperature-time profiles
91 were: 95°C-4 min and 40 cycles, 95°C-30 sec, 50°C-2 min, 72°C-30 sec. For nested reactions, same
92 reagents and temperature-time profiles were used. Amplified products (\pm 768 bp) were visualized by
93 2% agarose gel electrophoresis. To increase the phylogenetic accuracy, a panAdVPol hemi-nested
94 PCR assay targeting a taxonomical informative fragment of the DNA-dependent DNA polymerase
95 gene (DNAPol) was designed and used. Five μ l of extract was added to 20 μ l of reaction mixture
96 (LightCycler 480, Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany) and 10 pmol of the primers pol-F
97 (5'GTIGCRAAIGAICCRTAGAGGGC 3') and pol-R (5'GTTTAYGAYATITGYGGMATGTAYGC 3').
98 Temperature-time profiles were: 95°C-5 min, followed by 45 cycles, 95°C-15 sec, 57°C-2 min, 68°C-30
99 sec. For heminested reactions, 2 μ l of the previously amplified DNA and 10 pmol of the primers
100 pol-F2 (5'AAIGAICCRTAGAGGGCRITTKGA 3') and pol-R were added to a reaction mixture
101 containing 60 mM Tris-HCl (pH8.5), 15 mM(NH₄)₂SO₄, 0.2 mM each of dNTPs, and 1.25U
102 AmpliTaq DNA Polymerase. Temperature-time profiles were: 95°C-5 min, followed by a
103 two-step-cycle of 95°C-15 sec and 62°C-2 min 45 times. Amplified products (\pm 450 bp) were visualized
104 by 2 % agarose gel electrophoresis.

105 *2.3. Sequence and phylogenetic analysis*

106 Amplified products of the expected size were double-strand sequenced by Sanger chain-termination
107 method using the BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit in an ABI PRISM 3700 DNA
108 Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). The nucleotide sequences were compared with those published in
109 GenBank database using the BLASTn algorithm (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) to assess and
110 identify similar deposited AdV sequences. Two nucleotide multiple-sequence alignments from the
111 hexon and DNAPol genes, comprising a selection of available Mastadenovirus sequences from the
112 GenBank database, were constructed using CLUSTAL X (v.2.0; <http://www.clustal.org/>).
113 Phylogenetic analysis was performed with MEGA 5.2 software and were based on a
114 Neighbor-Joining criterion using a Tamura 3 and Kimura 2-parameter models for the hexon and
115 DNAPol genes respectively, selected by Modeltest software [31]. Pairwise distance comparison
116 between the predicted DNAPol aminoacid sequences of Iberian Bat AdVs and Bat mastadenovirus A

117 and B was calculated using MEGA 5.2 software. Name for the putative new Bat AdVs was assigned
118 using the bat host species abbreviation and the identification ring number.

119 3. Results

120 Bat species studied, year of capture, type of sample and the corresponding GenBank accession
121 numbers for the Iberian Bat AdV sequences are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Bat species studied, AdV positive results, year of capture and GenBank accession numbers. 1 Abb., Bat species abbreviations, 2 OPS, Oropharyngeal swabs, 3 SS, Stool samples, 4 Capture Year, 5 GenBank Accession number for hexon sequences, 6 GenBank Accession number for DNA polymerase sequences

Iberian Bat species			OPS ²	SS ³	Year ⁴	Hexon sequences ⁵	DNA-pol sequences ⁶
Family	Name	Abb ¹					
Vespertilionidae	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Bba	0/38	0/4	07,08	N/A	N/A
	<i>Eptesicus isabellinus</i>	Eis	0	0/8	04,07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Ese	0	0/14	03,07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	Hsa	0/31	3/26	07	HM856338,41,42	N/A
	<i>Myotis alcaethoe</i>	Mal	0	0/1	07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Mbe	1/18	0/2	07	MF540611	N/A
	<i>Myotis blythii</i>	Mbl	0/29	0	04	N/A	N/A
	<i>Myotis capaccinii</i>	Mca	0/15	0	04,07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Mda	0/63	0/41	04,07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	Mem	3/56	0	08	MF540608-10	N/A
	<i>Myotis escaleraei</i>	Mes	0/13	0	04,07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Mmy	1/79	0/1	04,07	HM856353	N/A
	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Mmt	0/2	0/8	07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Mna	0/36	0/3	07	N/A	N/A
	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Nno	3/122	0	07	MF540597-99	N/A
	<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	Nlas	10/139	6/40	07	HM856327-34,39-40,43, 50, MG132211	JX065117-20, 23,25-26,28
	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Nle	1/19	3/26	07	HM856344,51-52 HM86348	JX065124,27,29
	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	Pku	12/350	2/4	07,16	MF540577-85,87,89	MF404970-73, MF404997,86
	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Ppi	0/29	0/4	07,16	HM856349	
	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Ppy	6/36	11/120	07,16	MF540575-76, 86,88,90-96	MF404968-69,74, 76-79,82-85,87-89
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Pau	0/11	0/8	04,07	N/A	N/A	
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Pas	0/10	0/6	04,07	N/A	N/A	
Miniopterae	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Msc	0/152	0/2	04,07, 16	N/A	N/A
Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	Reu	6/49	0	04,07, 08	MF540600-02,12-13 HM856335,MH521261	N/A
	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Rfe	7/90	1/3	04,07	MF540603-07,14	N/A

					HM856336-37		
	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Rhi	0/4	0/4	07,08	N/A	N/A
	<i>Rhinolophus mehelyi</i>	Rme	0/1	0	07,08	N/A	N/A
Total	27/32		50/1392	26/325		70	35
						49OPS + 21SS	14OPS + 21SS

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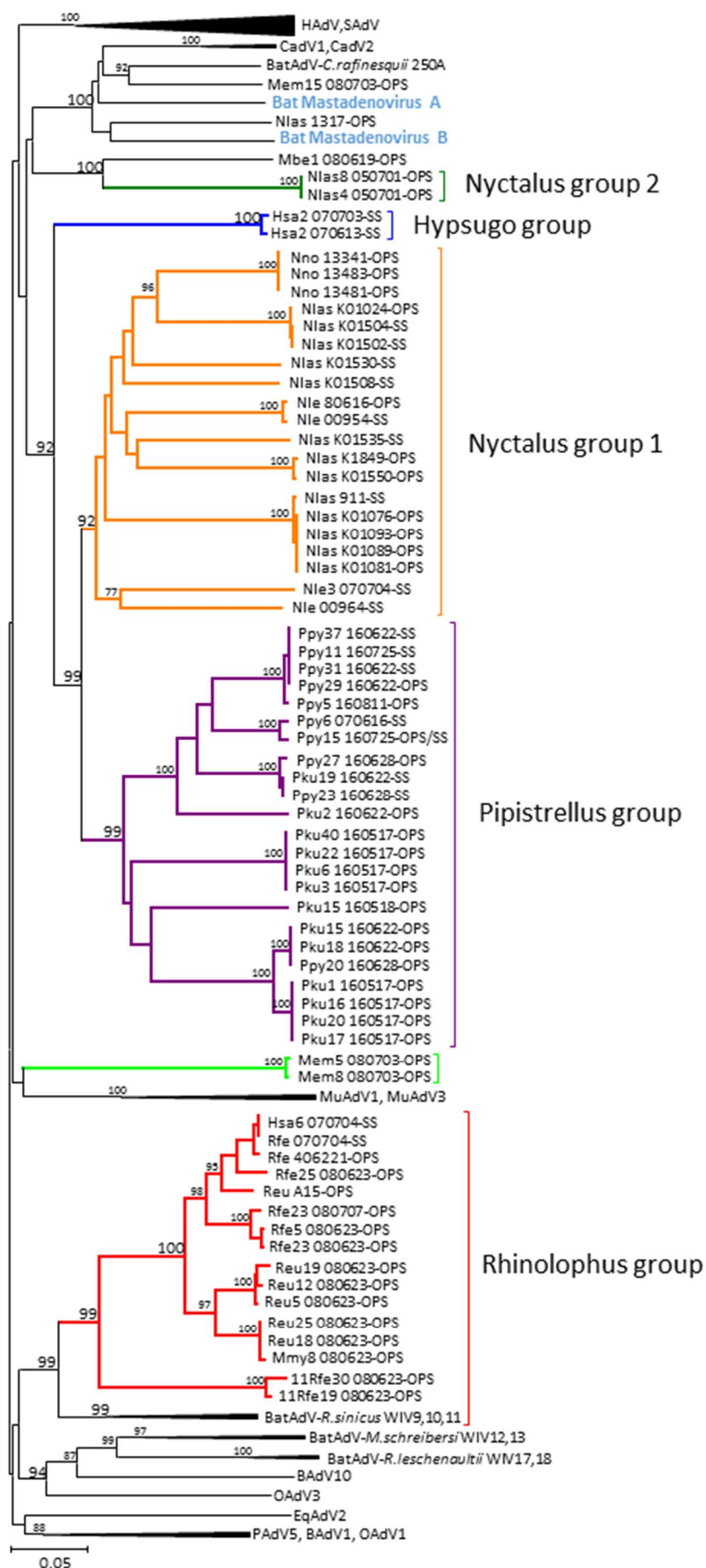
123 We studied for the presence of Bat AdV, a total of 1.717 samples, 1.392 OPS and 325 SS, representing
 124 27 out of the 32 bat European species (<http://secemu.org>), belonging to the families *Vespertilionidae*
 125 (22 spp), *Miniopteridae* (1 sp) and *Rhinolophidae* (4 spp). Positive results were found in 50 OPS
 126 (3,6%) and in 26 SS (8,3%). Seventy different bats were positive and 3 bats were positive in both OPS
 127 and SS. Amplification of the partial AdV hexon gene was obtained in 70 samples, 49 OPS and 21 SS,
 128 and partial DNAPol in 35 samples, 14 OPS and 21 SS. All amplified products were confirmed by
 129 sequencing and individual sequences were deposited in the GenBank database (Table 1). In 29 bats
 130 both genes were studied. Sequences of the hexon were obtained only in 41 and the DNAPol only in 6
 131 bats.

132 According to the geographical distribution of positive bats, Andalusia (South of Spain), was the
 133 region in which more positive bats were detected including several genera of the families
 134 *Vespertilionidae*, (*Pipistrellus*, *Myotis* and *Nyctalus*) and the *Rhinolophidae* (*Rhinolophus*). The majority
 135 of positive bats belonging to the *Pipistrellus* genus corresponded to those sampled in Andalusia. All
 136 59 Bat AdVs found in the *Rhinolophus* genus came also from Andalusian bats even though out of 78
 137 bats sampled in the Basque Country (North) no positives were found. The 3 *Nyctalus* species (*N.*
 138 *noctula*, *N. lasiopterus* and *N. leisleri*, 23 bats) and 2 of the 3 *Pipistrellus* (*P. kuhlii* and *P. pygmaeus*, 28
 139 bats) contributed the most to the list of positives detected in OPS and SS. Two out of 4 species of the
 140 *Rhinolophus* genus (*R. euryale* and *R. ferrumequinum*, 14 bats) also contributed mainly and AdV were
 141 detected only in OPS.

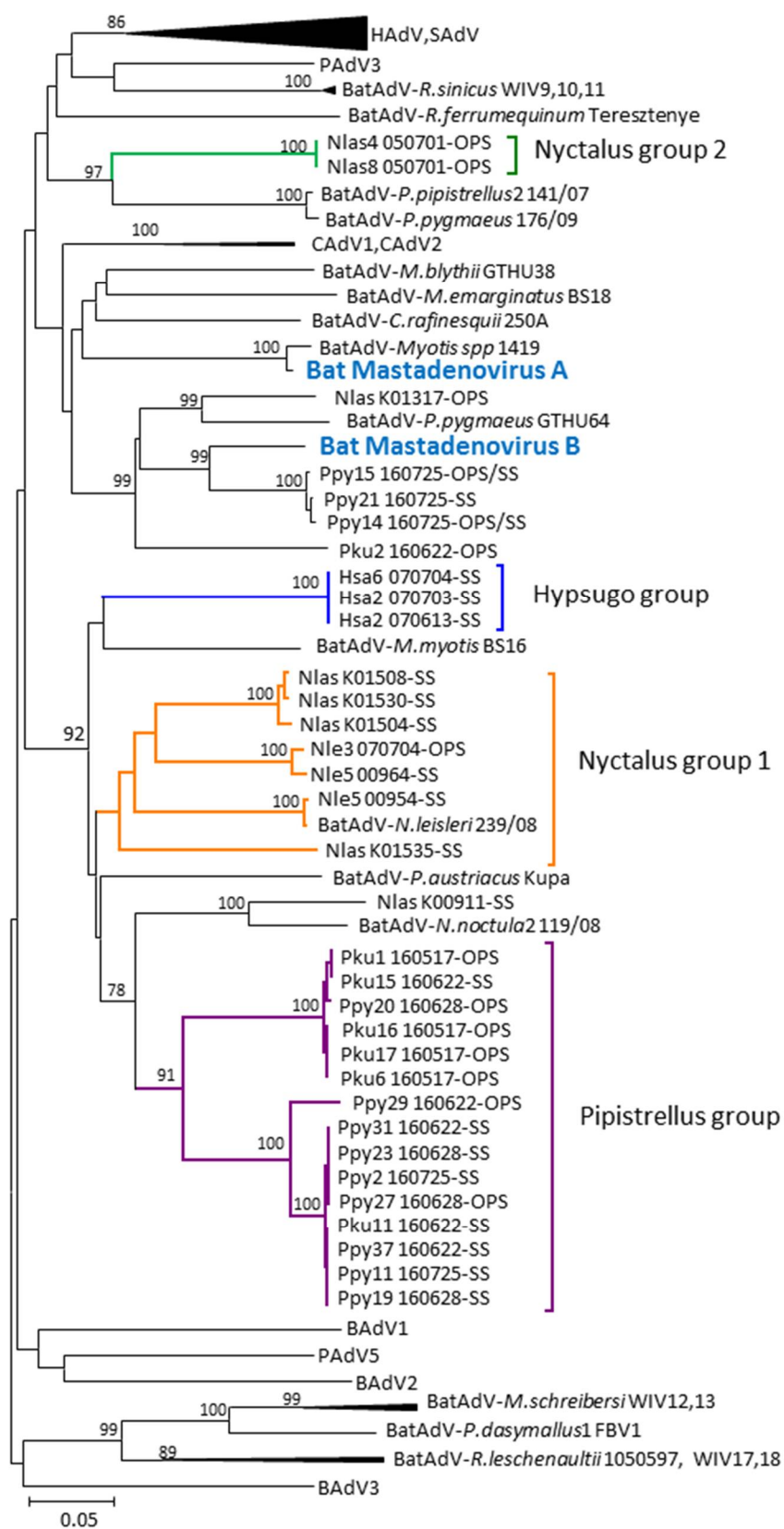
142 3.1. Phylogenetic analysis of Bat AdV sequences

143 Our sequences from partial AdV hexon and DNAPol genes, Figure 2 and Figure 3 respectively, were
 144 included within the genus *Mastadenovirus*. High bootstrap values supported clusters which
 145 differentiate the Bat mastadenovirus from the families *Rhinolophidae* and *Vespertilionidae*. Both
 146 genetic markers based on partial sequences reproduced the clustering obtained using the complete
 147 genome sequences with high bootstrap values [18].

148 **Figure 2:** Phylogenetic tree based on the analysis of the hexon partial gene. Trees were estimated
 149 with MEGA 5.2 software by using the neighbor-joining method on Tamura 3 parameters model. A
 150 bootstrap test was replicated for 5000 times. Numbers represent percentage bootstrap support.
 151 GenBank accession numbers for the sequences included in the tree are as follows: Bat
 152 mastadenovirus A (GU226970), Bat mastadenovirus B (JN252129), human AdVs: type 1 (AF534906),
 153 type 2 (J01917), type 3 (DQ086466), type 4 (AY594254), D8 strain Ger/Berlin/04_2003 (KT862545),
 154 type 9 (AJ854486), type 12 (X73487), type 14 (FJ841902), type 16 (X74662), type 21 (KF528688), type 24
 155 (JN226751), type 27 (JN226753), type 42 (JN226761), type 45 (JN226764), simian AdV: type 1
 156 (AY771780), type 4 (KP853121), ovine AdV: type 1 (DQ630754), type 3 strain (DQ630756), porcine
 157 AdV 5 (AF289262.1), murine AdV: type 1 (M81889), type 3 (EU835513), bovine AdV: type 1
 158 (DQ630761), type 10 (AF282774), canine AdV: type 1 (KX545420), type 2 (U77082), equine
 159 adenovirus type 2 (L80007), Bat mastadenovirus: *M. schreibersi* WIV12 (NC_030860), *M. schreibersi*
 160 WIV13 (NC_030874), *R. leschenaultii* WIV17 (NC_034626), *R. leschenaultii* WIV18 (NC_035072), *R.*
 161 *sinicus* WIV9 (NC_029898), *R. sinicus* WIV10 (NC_029899), *R. sinicus* WIV11 (NC_029902), *C.*
 162 *rafinesquii* 250-A (NC_031948)



164 **Figure 3:** Phylogenetic tree based on the analysis of the DNA-dependent DNA polymerase partial
165 gene. Trees were estimated with MEGA 5.2 software by using the neighbor-joining method on
166 Kimura 2 parameters model. A bootstrap test was replicated for 5000 times. Numbers represent
167 percentage bootstrap support. GenBank accession numbers for the sequences included in the tree are
168 as follows: Bat mastadenovirus A (GU226970), Bat mastadenovirus B (JN252129), human AdV: type
169 1 (AF534906), type 2 (J01917), type 3 (DQ086466), type 4 (AY594254), type 5 (AY339865), type 7
170 (AY594256), type 6 (HQ413315), type 9 (AJ854486), type 12 (X73487), type 17 (AF108105), type 19
171 (JQ326209), type 26 (EF153474), type 48 (EF153473), type 53 (AB605245), simian AdV: type 1
172 (AY771780), type 4 (KP853121), bovine AdV: type 2 (AF252854), type 3 (AF061654), bovine
173 adenovirus A (AC_000191), porcine AdV: type 3 (AB026117), type 5 (AF289262), canine AdV: type 1
174 (KX545420), type 2 (U77082), Bat mastadenovirus: *M. schreibersi* WIV12 (NC_030860), *M. schreibersi*
175 WIV13 (NC_030874), *R. leschenaultii* WIV17 (NC_034626), *R. leschenaultii* WIV18 (NC_035072), *R.*
176 *sinicus* WIV9 (NC_029898), *R. sinicus* WIV10 (NC_029899), *R. sinicus* WIV11 (NC_029902), *C.*
177 *rafinesquii* 250-A (NC_031948), *P. austriacus* Kupa (JN167523), *R. ferrumequinum* Teresztenye
178 (JN167522), *Myotis spp* 1419 (GU226962), *R. leschenaultia* 1050597 (HQ529709), *N. noctula2* 119/08
179 (KM043096), *M. emarginatus* BS18 (KM043084), *M. myotis* BS16 (KM043106), *M. blythii* GTHU38
180 (KM043086), *N. leisleri* 239/08 (KM043102), *P. pygmaeus* GTHU64 (KM043090), *P. pygmaeus* 176/09
181 (KM043091).



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185 3.2. Partial AdV hexon gene sequence analysis

186 Only 2 of our 73 Bat AdVs were included in a significantly supported group clustered with both
187 reference Bat mastadenovirus A (GU226970) and B (JN252129), detected in a *Myotis ricketti* from
188 China [11] and in a *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* from Germany [13], respectively. These 2 Bat AdVs were
189 detected in OPS from a *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, Nylas_K01317 (HM856343), and from a *Myotis*
190 *emarginatus*, Mem15_080703 (MF540610), highly related with a Bat mastadenovirus 250-A
191 (KX871230) from a *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* captured in USA [19].

192 The rest of the 71 Bat AdVs clustered in six groups with significantly bootstrap values, supporting
193 potential novel groups within the genus *Mastadenovirus*. These new groups are host differentiated:
194 *Nyctalus* group 1, *Nyctalus* group 2, *Pipistrellus* group and *Hypsugo* group of the *Vespertilionidae*
195 family and a *Rhinolophus* group of the *Rhinolophidae* family (Figure 2 and 3).

196 *Nyctalus* group 1 clustered 13 AdVs from *N. lasiopterus*, 4 from *N. leisleri*, and 3 from *N. noctula*,
197 highly associated with the *Pipistrellus* group. *Nyctalus* group 2 clustered apart including 2 AdVs
198 from 2 distinct *N. lasiopterus* and 1 from a *Myotis bechsteinii* (Mbe1_080619 (MF540611)). In a
199 well-defined *Pipistrellus* group (bootstrap 99) cluster 13 AdVs from *P. kuhlii* and 9 from *P. pygmaeus*.
200 Similarly, a well-defined group included sequences from *Rhinolophus*, 8 from *R. ferrumequinum*, and
201 6 from *R. euryale*, and 2 other from a *Myotis myotis* (Mmy-8_080623) and 1 from *Hypsugo savii*
202 (Hsa6_070704). This cluster was highly supported and included 3 Bat AdVs detected in *R. sinicus*
203 captured in China [6]. Furthermore, 2 distinct AdV detected from 2 *Hypsugo savii* bats were grouped
204 in one independent cluster defined as *Hypsugo* group, highly related with the *Nyctalus*-group 1 and
205 the *Pipistrellus* group. Two AdV detected in two *Myotis emarginatus* could defined a new *Myotis*
206 group (Figure 2)

207 3.3. Partial AdV DNA-dependent DNA polymerase gene sequences

208 The groups defined in this gene were clearly associated by host with lower support in some nodes
209 and less resolution comparing with the hexon partial gene analysed (Figure 3).

210 Five AdVs detected in *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Ppy14_160725 both OPS and SS, Ppy15_160725 both
211 OPS and SS, Ppy21_160725) clustered together with the reference Bat mastadenovirus B (JN252129)
212 in a group which included other 3 detected in 1 *Pipistrellus kuhlii* (Pku2_160622), in 1 *Nyctalus*
213 *lasiopterus* (Nylas_K01317) and in 1 *P. pygmaeus* GTHU64 captured in Hungary [14]. This group,
214 which included 6 AdVs found in the genus *Pipistrellus*, was separated from the rest of our
215 *Pipistrellus* Bat AdVs.

216 Sequences from the genus *Nyctalus* were similar with those defined in the hexon gene with the
217 exception of Nylas_K00911 detected in a *N. lasiopterus*, from the group 1 in the hexon gene,
218 associated with an AdV detected in a *N. noctula* (KM043110) from Hungary. *Nyctalus* group 2 was
219 clustered with 2 different detected in a *P. pipistrellus* (KM043096) and in a *P. pygmaeus* (KM43091)
220 from Hungary. Five AdVs detected in *P. kuhlii* and 12 in *P. pygmaeus* clustered together defining a
221 group as it occurs in the hexon gene. In the *Hypsugo* group, Hsa6_070704 detected in a *H. savii*
222 clustered in the *Hypsugo* group unlike in the hexon gene. No positive results were obtained in this
223 gene with the rhinolophid bats.

224 Pairwise distance matrix values obtained from the partial amino acid sequence of DNAPol,
225 supported the new groups (Table 2). According to the data, none of the Iberian Bat AdVs were
226 related with the reference Bat mastadenovirus A exceeding the pairwise distance (>15 %). Otherwise,
227 3 AdV detected in *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Ppy14_160725, Ppy15_160725 and Ppy21_160725) were very
228 similar to the reference Bat mastadenovirus B.

229 **Table 2:** Spanish Bat mastadenoviruses classified by the aminoacid distance matrix analysis based on partial
 230 DNA-dependent DNA polymerase. ¹Values more than 15% are potentially new species following the ICTV
 231 demarcation

Group of Bat AdV	Tentative virus name	% aa pairwise distances ¹	
		BatAdV A	BatAdVB
Bat AdVs associated with Bat AdVB	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 14 160725	31,4	11,8
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 15 160725	31,4	12,7
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 21 160725	32	12,2
Potentially novel Bat AdVs	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01317	33,8	25,5
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01508	35	41,8
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01530	35,7	42,5
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01504	35,7	42,5
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N.leisleri</i> 3-070704	32,5	42,5
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N.leisleri</i> 5-00964	34,5	44
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N.leisleri</i> 5-00954	39,7	41,8
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01535	41,8	52,1
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K00911	43,5	46,1
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> 4- 050701	42,6	38,8
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> 8- 050701	42,6	38,8
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 2 160622	37,5	23,8
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 1 160517	39,4	39
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 15 160622	39,4	39
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 20 160628	38,7	39
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 16 160517	38,7	38,3
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 17 160517	38,7	38,3
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 6 160517	38,7	38,3
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 29 160622	44,8	36,5
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 31 160622	41,2	41,6
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 23 160628	41,2	41,6
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 2 160725	41,2	41,6
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 27 160628	41,2	41,6
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 11 160622	42	40,9
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 37 160622	42	40,9
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 11 160725	42	40,9
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 19 160628	42	40,9
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>H. savii</i> 6 070704	41	41,7
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>H. savii</i> 2 070613	41	41,7
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>H. savii</i> 2 070703	41	41,7

233 4. Discussion

234 In this work we describe the detection and the phylogenetic relationships among potentially new Bat
235 mastadenovirus and known AdVs from bats using two different gene markers. Our study shows, for
236 the first time, their diversity in bats captured in the South of Europe and particularly in our country
237 which reveals a crucial importance for its strategic geographical placement, as a corridor between
238 Africa and Europe.

239 Previous studies have shown a high diversity of AdVs found in bat species analyzed across Europe,
240 Asia and Africa [9,12,13,15,17,19]. To further study of AdV in bats, 27 out of the 32 Iberian bat species
241 were examined obtaining positive results in 12 species framed in 6 bat genera. In Centre of Europe,
242 Hungary and Germany, have also found positive results for AdVs in 9 of these 12 species [14]. With
243 the aim of having a broad representation of the AdV diversity in the Iberian bats, a total of 1.717
244 biological samples were analysed being the biggest AdV screening in bats ever studied. These bats
245 were captured within Spain in a variety of habitats, from the Pyrenees and Cantabrian mountain
246 ranges in the North to the Mediterranean South considered as natural border with Africa, and
247 including several bat species with possible gene flow across the Gibraltar Strait [32].

248 The percentage of AdV positive bats was 3,6 % in OPS and 8,3 % in SS over the 18,6% in German
249 samples and the 9,9% in Hungary [14]. These marked differences could be explained by bat health
250 conditions and/or the use of different type of biological samples, from the homogenised internal
251 organ tissues taken in dead or injured bats in the German study to healthy bats and guano samples
252 in roosting places in the Hungarian. Positive Bat AdV percentages similarity between our study and
253 the Hungarian could be explained by the type of samples studied (OPS and SS). It is noteworthy the
254 absence of AdVs in some bats such as the bent-winged *Miniopterus schreibersii*, despite the large
255 number of individuals of this species screened. Similar negative results were found in Germany and
256 Hungary [14]. Most of the AdV positive bats were found within the diverse bat family
257 *Vespertilionidae*, and particularly within the tribe *Pipistrellini* (*Pipistrellus* and *Nyctalus*), whereas they
258 seem absent from other bat tribe *Plecotinii* (*Barbastella* and *Plecotus*). Within the subfamily *Myotinae*,
259 bats were found positive in several species, although sparsely along the phylogenetic trees without
260 making any monophyletic cluster. Interestingly, AdVs were not found in some *Myotis*, *M.*
261 *daubentonii*, despite it was well represented in the screening (n=60 and n=41 for OPS and SS,
262 respectively).

263 Previous studies mostly focused on the analysis of guano and internal tissues [9,12–14,17]. The
264 analysis of OPS for the screening of AdV is a novelty of this study that has allowed AdV detection in
265 the upper respiratory tract of bats and the reconnaissance of a possible faecal-oral transmission
266 substantiate with positive results in both type of samples, such as in two *P. pygmaeus* (Ppy15_160725
267 and Ppy14_160725) with the same Bat AdV in OPS and SS. The phylogenetic reconstructions
268 identify, in both type of samples, AdVs highly related in different groups of bats, supporting this
269 possible oral-faecal transmission. An important reason for the study of OPS in bats is the fact that
270 many human AdV serotypes have not a specific well identified cellular receptor, and given that
271 replicate poorly in animals [33], the understanding of factors that define tropism and transmission
272 during a natural infection increase the knowledge of AdV infections, especially in bats that are now
273 considered as emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases vectors.

274 Previous authors have published new Bat mastadenovirus mostly based on the phylogenetic
275 analysis of a short and informative fragment of the DNAPol gene [10,11,13,14]. This is a well
276 preserved gene involved in viral transcription [34]. Despite its extensive use in phylogenetic analysis
277 of new human and animal AdVs, the resolution of the phylogenetic reconstruction based on it is
278 limited (less than 100 aminoacids). The PCR presented in this study amplified ± 450 bp, offering the
279 possibility to increase the resolution in the correspondent phylogenetic tree. However, with the
280 aim to compare our sequences with the previously published from the Centre of Europe [14] and the

281 reference available in the GenBank database, the length was reduced to 277 bp. Currently, ICTV
282 accepted two Bat AdVs, Bat mastadenovirus A [11] and Bat mastadenovirus B [13]. According to the
283 taxonomic criteria [8] and based on the analysis of distance matrix, the Bat mastadenoviruses
284 presented in our study are potentially new for the genus Mastadenovirus and very divergent from
285 the ICTV references with the exception of three detected in *P. pygmaeus* (Ppy15_160725,
286 Ppy21_160725, Ppy14_160725). Moreover, one *P. kuhlii* (Pku2_160622) and one *N. lasiopterus*
287 (Nylas_K01317) were associated with the Bat mastadenovirus B although the amino acid pairwise
288 distance exceeded the 15% of difference suggesting potentially a new Bat AdVs. It is remarkable that
289 Bat AdVs obtained from the species *P. kuhlii* and *P. pygmaeus* clustered together in two well
290 supported groups indicating host specificity even at the species level.

291 In this work, the identification of new Bat AdVs is further supported by the results obtained using
292 the hexon gene a more variable protein [10,11,16,19] which contains seven hypervariable regions
293 identified as viral epitopes [35]. Nucleic acids variation define the different human serotypes [36].
294 Our generic PCR in the hexon gene was designed out the hypervariable region 7 and the analysis of
295 the sequences obtained has proved the concordance between genotype and serotype in human
296 AdVs [29].

297 The evolutionary relationships based on the two genetic markers are presented separately since they
298 provide different information according to their different mutation rates. Both genes agree in the
299 main structure of their tree topologies and clusters, and both provide support for a presumably new
300 Iberian Bat mastadenoviruses clustering and distinguishing between the families *Vespertilionidae* and
301 *Rhinolophidae* in the phylogenies. Most of the available AdVs in the Genbank database grouped by
302 host bats within the three monophyletic groups corresponding to their bats hosts genera *Pipistrellus*,
303 *Nyctalus* and *Rhinolophus*. This relationship is also supported by the phylogenetic analysis of the
304 DNAPol gene in which the AdV detected in a *N. leisleri* (Nyle_00954) clusters with a Bat AdV
305 detected in a *N. leisleri* sampled in Hungary [14]. In our sampling, more basal relationships among
306 the main bat hosts are much harder to be traced back due to the lack of representation of important
307 bat groups such as *Scotophilini*, *Nycticeinii* and *Plecotinii* within the family *Vespertilionidae*. These
308 basal relationships were clearly recovered from the widespread Herpesviruses [27] but still, AdVs
309 could represent another example of parallel evolution of DNA virus and their bat hosts. The
310 phylogenetic analysis of partial hexon gene proved that there are not differences between AdVs
311 from bats captured in the South and the North of Spain, as it is shown in a *P. pygmaeus* (Ppy6_070616)
312 collected in Lugo (North), and the *P. pygmaeus* (Ppy15_160725) collected in Seville (South).

313 Although most of the AdVs cluster by their bat host, there are also some exceptions. In the hexon
314 gene, first the AdV detected in a *M. myotis* (Mmy8_080623) clusters with the group composed of two
315 different species of *Rhinolophus* bats. It is well known that many *Myotis* colonies share roosts with
316 several species of the genus *Rhinolophus* and this could be the origin of the inter-specific transmission
317 between these two bat species. Second, the AdV detected in a *H. savii* (Hsa6_070704), clusters again
318 within those detected from the *Rhinolophus* group despite the DNAPol gene reveals a specific AdV
319 group in three different *H. savii*. In this second example, a natural transmission seems less likely
320 since the two species have very different life history and barely share any ecological requirement.
321 Nevertheless, the description of recombinant viruses is a common phenomenon in human AdV [37],
322 and could explain the different results, depending on the genetic marker used. However, this
323 possible recombination in Bat AdVs requires a further confirmation by the complete genomic
324 sequence. A third exception shows the AdV detected in a *M. emarginatus* (Mem15-080703) that
325 cluster together with a Bat AdV detected in a *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* and two others detected in
326 *Myotis* bats from Hungary. The *C. rafinesquii* is a vespertilionid bat which distribution is restricted to
327 the Southeast of North America and Mexico [19,38]. The connexion between these viruses is a puzzle
328 given that their hosts are far apart geographically and evolutionary, although it could be related to a
329 recent colonization of North America by Palearctic *Myotis* [39].

330 In conclusion, based on the analysis of two different genetic markers used to study two different
331 type of samples, the present study contributes with potentially new members from Mastadenovirus
332 genus distinct to the previously reference described Bat mastadenovirus A y B [11,13]. The new AdV
333 groups were detected in bats captured in a broad geographical region and generate data supporting
334 that diversity of Bat mastadenovirus is associated by host and the distribution of the host.

335 **Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1, Table S1: Tentative
336 viruses names, type of sample and localization of *Pipistrellus* group, Table S2: Tentative viruses names, type of
337 sample and localization of *Nyctalus* group, Table S3: Tentative viruses names, type of sample and localization of
338 *Hypsugo* and *Myotis* groups and Table S4: Tentative viruses names, type of sample and localization of
339 *Rhinolophus* group.

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342 and JA.; Data Curation, MIC, SVM, CAL and IC.; Writing-Original Draft Preparation, MIC and IC.;
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465

466 Table S1: Tentative viruses names, type of sample and localization of *Pipistrellus* group.

467

Tentative virus name	Type of sample		Localization
	OPS	SS	
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 2 160725		X	Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 11 160725		X	Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 14 160725	X	X	Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 15 160725	X	X	Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 21 160725		X	Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 5 160811	X		Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 1 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 3 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 6 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 16 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 17 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 20 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 22 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 40 160517	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 15 160518	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 2 160622	X		Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 11 160622		X	Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 15 160622	X	X	Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.kuhlii</i> 18 160622	X		Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 19 160622		X	Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 29 160622	X		Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 31 160622		X	Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 37 160622		X	Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 19 160628		X	Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 20 160628	X		Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 23 160628		X	Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 27 160628	X		Huelva
Bat mastadenovirus <i>P.pygmaeus</i> 6 070616		X	Lugo

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469 Table S2: Tentative viruses names, type of sample and localization of *Nyctalus* group

Tentative virus name	Type of sample		Localization
	OPS	SS	
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01076	x		Cádiz
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01093	x		Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01081	x		Cádiz
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01089	x		Cádiz
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K00911		x	La Rioja
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01024	x		Cádiz
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01502		x	Málaga
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01504		x	Málaga
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> 4- 050701	x		Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> 8- 050701	x		Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01317	x		Sevilla
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. leisleri</i> 00954		x	Málaga
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01508		x	Málaga
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01535		x	La Rioja
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01550	x		Málaga
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. leisleri</i> 00964		x	La Rioja
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K01530		x	La Rioja
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. leisleri</i> 3-070704		x	Gerona
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. leisleri</i> 1-080616	x		Navarra
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. noctula</i> 13341	x		Navarra
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. noctula</i> 13481	x		Navarra
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. noctula</i> 13483	x		Navarra
Bat mastadenovirus <i>N. lasiopterus</i> K1849	x		Cádiz

489 Table S3: Tentative viruses names, type of sample and localization of *Hypsugo* and *Myotis* groups

Host	Tentative virus name	Type of sample		Localization
		OPS	SS	
Hypsugo group	Bat mastadenovirus <i>H. savii</i> 6 070704		X	Gerona
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>H. savii</i> 2 070613		X	Cáceres
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>H. savii</i> 2 070703		X	Gerona
Myotis group	Bat mastadenovirus <i>M. emarginata</i> 5 080703	X		Vizcaya
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>M. emarginata</i> 8 080703	X		Vizcaya
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>M. emarginata</i> 15 080703	X		Vizcaya
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>M. bechsteinii</i> 1 080619	X		Navarra
	Bat mastadenovirus <i>M. myotis</i> 6 080623	X		Córdoba

491 Table S4: Tentative viruses names, type of sample and localization of *Rhinolophus* group.

Tentative virus name	Type of sample		Localization
	OPS	SS	
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 1 40622	X		Valencia
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 1 070704		X	Gerona
Bat mastadenovirus R.euriale 12 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.euriale 19 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.euriale 5 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 19 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 23 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 25 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 5 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 23 080707	X		Vizcaya
Bat mastadenovirus R.euriale 25 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.euriale 18 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.ferrumequinum 30 080623	X		Córdoba
Bat mastadenovirus R.euriale 2 40409	X		Valencia
Bat mastadenovirus R.euriale A15	x		Valencia

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