

Table 2-1. Classification and Basic Properties of Bacteriophages^a

Symmetry	Nucleic Acid	Order and Families	Genera	Members	Particulars
Binary (tailed)	DNA, ds, L	<i>Caudovirales</i>	15	4950	
		<i>Myoviridae</i>	6	1243	Tail contractile
		<i>Siphoviridae</i>	6	3011	Tail long, noncontractile
		<i>Podoviridae</i>	3	696	Tail short
Cubic	DNA, ss, C	<i>Microviridae</i>	4	40	
		<i>Corticoviridae</i>	1	3?	Complex capsid, lipids
		<i>Tectiviridae</i>	1	18	Internal lipoprotein vesicle
		<i>Leviviridae</i>	2	39	
		<i>Cystoviridae</i>	1	1	Envelope, lipids
Helical	DNA, ss, C	<i>Inoviridae</i>	2	57	Filaments or rods
		<i>Lipothrixviridae</i>	1	6?	Envelope, lipids
		<i>Rudiviridae</i>	1	2	Resembles TMV
Pleomorphic	DNA, ds, C, T	<i>Plasmaviridae</i>	1	6	Envelope, lipids, no capsid
		<i>Fuselloviridae</i>	1	8?	Spindle-shaped, no capsid

C, circular; L, linear; S, segmented; T, superhelical; 1, single-stranded; 2, double-stranded.

^aModified from Ackermann, H.-W. 2001. Le matin des bactériophages. *Virologie* 5:35-43. With permission of John Libbey-Eurotext . Phage numbers are from reference [3](#).