

Complete nucleotide sequence of the genome of *Spiroplasma citri* virus SpV1-R8A2 B

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We report the complete nucleotide sequence of the genome of *Spiroplasma citri* virus SpV1-R8A2 B. SpV1-type viruses of *S. citri* are rod-shaped particles containing a circular, single-stranded DNA molecule of 8 to 9 kilobases according to the virus strain. SpV1-R8A2 B was isolated from *S. citri* strain R8A2 subclone B. The replicative form was purified by CsCl density gradient centrifugation, and cloned in *E. coli* for sequencing by the dideoxy chain termination method. The genome contains 8273 nucleotide residues totaling 37.1% A, 8.1% C, 14.8% G and 40% T. Taking into account that, in spiroplasmas, UGA is not a stop codon but codes for tryptophan (1, 2), we found the Spv1 genome to contain 12 open reading frames (ORFs) distributed in all three reading frames and 4 intergenic regions (fig. 1). Interestingly, the putative translation product of ORF 4 shows limited homology with the integrase of phage P22. This finding is relevant to our previous results, namely the presence of viral SpV1 DNA sequences in the chromosomal DNA of the spiroplasmal host (2, 3).

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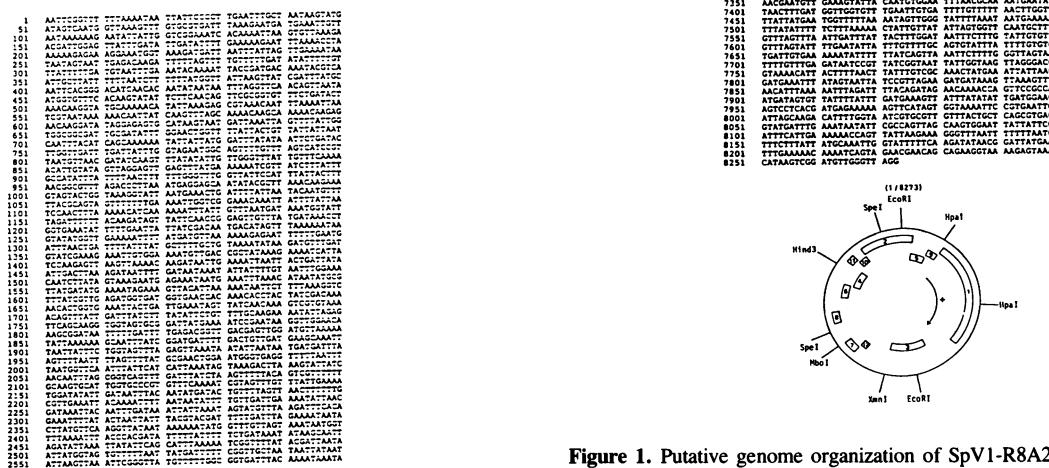


Figure 1. Putative genome organization of SpV1-R8A2 B.