

Analysis on Genetic Diversity and Molecular Evolution of Human Group B Rotaviruses Based on Whole Genome Segments

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SUMMARY

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Group B rotavirus (GBR) is a rare enteric pathogen which causes severe diarrhea primarily in adults. Nearly full-length sequences of all the 11 RNA segments were determined for human GBRs detected recently in India (IDH-084 in 2007, IC-008 in 2008), Bangladesh (Bang117 in 2003), and Myanmar (MMR-B1 in 2007), and analyzed phylogenetically with the sequence data of GBRs reported previously. All the RNA segments of GBR strains from India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar showed more than 95% nucleotide sequence identities. Among the 11 RNA segments, the VP6 and NSP2 genes showed the highest identities (>98%), while the lowest identities were observed in the NSP4 gene (96.1%), NSP5 gene (95.6%), and VP8*-coding region of the VP4 gene (95.9%). Divergent or conserved regions in the deduced amino acid sequences of GBR VP1-VP4, NSP1-NSP5 were similar to those in group A rotaviruses (GARs), and the functionally important motifs and structural characteristics in viral proteins known for GAR were conserved in all the human GBRs. These findings suggest that while the degree of genetic evolution may be dependent on each RNA segment, human GBR may have been evolving in a similar manner to GAR, associated with the similar functional roles of individual viral proteins.

INTRODUCTION

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66 Rotavirus, a member of the family *Reoviridae*, is the most important viral
67 pathogen causing gastroenteritis in humans. Rotavirus has 11 segments of
68 double-stranded RNA as a genome, and the viral particle is composed of three concentric
69 layers, i.e. the outer capsid, inner capsid, and core (Estes & Kapikian, 2007). The outer
70 capsid consists of two structural proteins VP4 and VP7, which are neutralization
71 antigens. The inner capsid consists of structural protein VP6. Rotavirus is classified into
72 five groups, i.e., groups A-E, and two putative groups F and G, based on the antigenicity
73 of the inner capsid protein VP6 and genomic characteristics (Kapikian *et al.*, 2001). In
74 humans, groups A, B, C have been detected so far. Group A Rotavirus (GAR) is the most
75 prevalent throughout the world and is recognized as the leading viral pathogen of acute
76 gastroenteritis in children.

77 Group B Rotavirus (GBR) is genetically and antigenically distinct from GAR and
78 has been detected in humans, mice, calves, pigs and sheep. In humans, GBR has been
79 noted because it causes severe cholera-like diarrhea, mostly in adults (Mackow, 1995).
80 GBR was first identified as adult diarrhea rotavirus (ADRV) in nationwide outbreaks in
81 China in 1982-1983 (Hung *et al.*, 1983, 1984; Wang *et al.*, 1985), and the detection of this
82 virus has been limited to China (Dai *et al.*, 1987; Fang *et al.*, 1989). They were
83 subsequently detected in sporadic cases in India in 1997 and in Bangladesh in 2000,
84 demonstrating the distribution of GBRs in other Asian countries outside China
85 (Krishnan *et al.*, 1999; Sanekata *et al.*, 2003). Thereafter, GBRs have been again
86 detected in these countries in sporadic cases of diarrhea (Barman *et al.*, 2006; Rahman
87 *et al.*, 2007). Furthermore, a human GBR was detected in Myanmar in 2007 (Aung *et al.*,
88 2009). In contrast, recently in China, there has been only a 2002 report of detection of
89 GBR in sporadic cases of diarrhea in Wuhan (Yang *et al.*, 2004). Despite the extensive
90 epidemiologic surveillance on rotaviruses worldwide, the detection of human GBRs has

91 been extremely rare and limited to only the four countries mentioned above.

92 With the limited genetic information, human GBRs were known to be quite
93 distinct from bovine, porcine, ovine and murine GBRs. Recently, Kuga and coworkers
94 (2009) proposed a classification scheme of GBR genotypes in terms of VP7 gene sequence,
95 and GBRs were divided into five genotypes (G1-G5), among which human strains were
96 assigned to a single genotype G2. The human GBRs detected were classified genetically
97 into two lineages within the genotype G2 based on VP7 gene, the Chinese lineage and
98 the Indian-Bangladeshi lineage (Ahmed *et al.*, 2004; Yang *et al.*, 2004; Aung *et al.*, 2009).
99 The GBR strains of these two lineages were genetically closely related, suggesting that
100 these lineages diverged from a common ancestral origin several decades ago (Yang *et al.*,
101 2004; Rahman *et al.*, 2007). However, genetic diversity in RNA segments other than the
102 VP7 gene has been scarcely analyzed, and thus accurate status of molecular evolution of
103 the whole genome of GBR is still unknown. Similar to GAR, six RNA segments of GBR
104 encode structural proteins (VP1-VP4, VP6 and VP7) and five segments encode
105 non-structural proteins (NSP1-5). However, it is unique to human GBR that NSP1 gene
106 contains two ORFs encoding putative two protein products (Mackow, 1995; Kobayashi et
107 al., 2001).

108 Full genomic sequence of rotaviruses has been determined for many GAR strains
109 to date. Accordingly, based on the findings on diversity of individual RNA segments, a
110 full-genome based genotyping system composed of genotypes of 11 RNA segments has
111 been proposed (Matthijnssens *et al.*, 2008). However, genetic data of GBR is extremely
112 limited. Full genomic sequence of GBR has been determined for only three human
113 strains (CAL-1 in India, Bang373 in Bangladesh, and WH-1 in China) and a murine
114 strain IDIR. Genetic information available for human and animal GBRs is mostly for
115 VP7 gene sequences.

116 In the present study, nearly full-length sequences of all the gene segments were
117 determined for human GBRs detected recently in India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. The

118 obtained sequence data were analyzed and compared with those reported previously, to
119 understand difference in genetic diversity among the 11 RNA segments and divergent
120 regions in individual RNA segments. The results have provided fundamental information
121 about the genomic evolution of GBR, including the relatedness of genetic diversity to the
122 function of each viral protein.

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RESULTS

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127 Phylogenetic analysis of the VP7 gene

128 The VP7 gene sequences of GBRs determined in the present study were analyzed
129 phylogenetically with those of human, bovine, porcine, and murine GBR strains. Fig. 1(A)
130 represents a phylogenetic tree of the VP7 genes. Sequence identities of VP7 genes among
131 GBRs are shown in supplementary Table S1. The Indian strains IC-008 and IDH-084,
132 and Bangladeshi strain Bang117 were located in the human Indian-Bangladeshi lineage
133 of the GBR genotype G2. Within this lineage, IC-008 and IDH-084 clustered with
134 MMR-B1 in Myanmar, while Bang117 clustered with the Bangladeshi strains (Bang373
135 and Bang544) reported previously. Strains IC-008 and IDH-084 having 99.5% nucleotide
136 sequence identity to each other, showed extremely high sequence identities to GBRs in
137 the Indian-Bangladeshi lineage (97.8-99.4%), with the highest identity to MMR-B1
138 (99.4%) (Table S1). The strain Bang117 exhibited extremely high sequence identities to
139 Bangladeshi strains Bang373 (99.9%) and Bang544 (99.6%), while slightly lower
140 identities (97.9-98.3%) to GBRs in India and Myanmar. All the GBRs in the
141 Indian-Bangladeshi lineage showed 91.3-92.6% identities to Chinese strains ADRV and
142 WH-1, and considerably lower identities to bovine GBRs (62.2-66.6%), porcine GBRs
143 (62.9-63.9%) and a murine GBR (58.0-59.8%).

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145 Genetic analysis of other viral protein genes

146 Phylogenetic analysis of GBR genes encoding VP1, VP2, VP4, VP6, NSP1, NSP2,
147 and NSP5 revealed the presence of murine, human, and bovine GBR clusters
148 corresponding to GBR genotypes G1, G2, G3, respectively, which had been classified for
149 VP7 gene (Kuga et al., 2009) (Fig.1(B), (C), (E)-(H), (K)). For the genes of VP3, NSP3, and
150 NSP4, two genotypes G1 and G2 were discriminated (Fig.1(D), (I), (J)). Furthermore, all
151 the gene segments of human GBRs were discriminated into two lineages, i.e.,
152 Indian-Bangladeshi lineage and Chinese lineage, within the GBR genotype G2. Range of
153 sequence identities of individual gene segments within a lineage and between the two
154 lineages are summarized in Table 1 (Sequence identities of each gene segment among
155 GBRs are shown in supplementary Tables S2-S11). Within the same lineage, gene
156 sequences showed extremely high identities, i.e., 95.6-100.0% (94.7-100% at amino acid
157 level) in the Indian-Bangladeshi lineage, and 98.0-98.9% (98.0-100% in amino acid level)
158 in the Chinese lineage, while lower identities (89.5-94.9% at nucleotide level) were found
159 between the two lineages. Throughout the RNA segments, the strain MMR-B1 showed
160 the highest sequence identities (>99%) to IC-008 and IDH-084. In contrast, within GBRs
161 of the Indian-Bangladeshi lineage, the lowest levels of sequence identities were observed
162 mostly between the recent Indian strains (IC-008 or IDH-084) and CAL-1.

163 Among the 11 RNA segments of GBR strains from India, Bangladesh, and
164 Myanmar, the VP6 and NSP2 genes showed the highest identities (>98%), while the
165 lowest identities were observed in the NSP4 gene (96.1%) and NSP5 gene (95.6%). The
166 sequence identities of the VP8*-coding region of the VP4 gene were lower than those of
167 the VP5* region. Similarly, between the two lineages, VP6 and NSP2 gene sequences
168 were most conserved (93.1-94.9% identity); in contrast, NSP3, NSP5, and VP8* genes
169 exhibited the highest diversity (88.4-92.4% identity). Between strains IC-008 and
170 IDH-084, derived from a child and an adult, respectively, sequence identity was
171 98.9-99.7% throughout the gene segments.

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173 Divergent regions in viral proteins

174 To investigate whether genetic diversity among GBR genes occurred randomly,
175 presence of divergent or conserved region(s) within a viral protein was analyzed by
176 sequence alignment of the deduced amino acid sequences. Amino acid sequences of GBR
177 VP1 and NSP3, and partial VP3 and NSP2 sequences were aligned with those of GAR
178 and group C Rotavirus (GCR) (Figs. 2-4). Except for VP1 and NSP3, primary amino acid
179 sequence alignment of human GBRs are shown in supplementary Figs. S1-S9. Due to the
180 extremely conserved nature of VP7 (Fig. S5) and VP6 (Fig. S4), the divergent region of
181 these proteins was not specified,

182 The RNA polymerase domain of VP1 (Finger I, II, Palm I, II, and Thumb) located
183 in the central portion (469 amino acids) (McDonald et al., 2009), including functionally
184 critical motifs shared by different rotavirus groups as well as other RNA viruses (Cohen,
185 *et al.*, 1989; Nagashima *et al.*, 2008), was highly conserved among GBRs (Fig. 2). In the
186 catalytic region (182 amino acids from position 546 to 727), 54 amino acids (29.7%) were
187 conserved among GAR, GBR, and GCR, and the consensus motif of RNA polymerase (SG,
188 T, N, T, GDD) was commonly found in these three rotavirus groups. Most of the amino
189 acid differences in GBR VP1 were found in the N-terminal region (376 amino acids) and
190 C-terminal region (317 amino acids) where GAR and GCR had quite distinct sequences.

191 Sequence divergence of VP2 among GBRs was found in the 80 amino
192 acid-sequence from the N-terminus (Fig. S1). Amino acid differences of VP3 sequences
193 among the GBR strains were found throughout the sequence. However, a conserved motif
194 (ALYSLSNXXN) (Ito et al., 2001) was found in all the GBRs as well as GAR and GCR (Fig.
195 3(A)). Some sequences similar to the possible active sites of guanylyltransferase in VP3
196 (Cook & McCrae, 2004) were conserved among human GBRs (Fig. S2). In the VP4
197 sequence, some hydrophobic regions located mostly in the VP5* portion were highly
198 conserved, while the sequence in the N-terminal hydrophilic region in the VP8* portion

199 had more amino acid diversity than any other regions in VP4 (Fig. S3).

200 In the peptide 2 of the NSP1 gene, while the divergent amino acids were located
201 over the sequence, a cysteine and histidine-rich region was highly conserved (Fig. S6). A
202 cysteine-rich region was found in the peptide 1. Although NSP2 sequences of human
203 GBRs showed much less diversity, they were considerably distinct from those of GAR and
204 GCR (Fig. S7, Fig. 3(B)). However, some amino acids which had been known to be
205 required for nucleoside triphosphatase activity in GAR, including the conserved histidine
206 (H225 for GAR) (Kumar et al., 2007), were also conserved among human GBR, as well as
207 GCR (Fig. 3(B)).

208 Among the NSP3 sequences of GBRs, the N-terminal 120 amino acid-region was
209 highly conserved and corresponded to the RNA-binding region revealed for GAR NSP3
210 (Deo et al., 2002) (Fig. 4). Remarkably, amino acids in a motif RNXXW in the alpha-helix
211 4 (H4) which are essential for RNA binding by GAR NSP3 (Vende et al., 2000) were
212 conserved in NSP3 of GBR as well as GCR. In contrast, the remaining two-thirds portion
213 was divergent and included a region associated with eIF4G binding.

214 Two hydrophobic regions and two putative enterotoxin regions in NSP4 (Ishino et
215 al., 2006) were also highly conserved among the GBR strains (Fig. S8). In the NSP5
216 sequence, the C-terminal 60 amino acid-sequence was more conserved than the
217 remaining N-terminal portion comprising 110 amino acids (Fig. S9).

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DISCUSSION

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222 To date, human GBRs have been detected only in China, India, Bangladesh, and
223 Myanmar, and have been classified genetically into two lineages, i.e., Chinese lineage and
224 Indian-Bangladeshi lineage. However antibodies to human GBRs have been detected in
225 humans from several other countries such as Kenya, Thailand, Canada, the USA, and UK

226 at low prevalence, suggesting wide distribution of this virus (Brown *et al.*, 1987; Nakata
227 *et al.*, 1987). Also, GBRs have been detected in rats, pigs, cows, and goats, and have been
228 suggested to be highly prevalent in these animals through seroepidemiologic evidences
229 (Brown *et al.*, 1987; Tsunemitsu *et al.*, 2005). Animal GBRs are genetically distinct from
230 human GBRs and contain divergent populations of viruses. According to the classification
231 of GBR in terms of the VP7 gene by Kuga and coworkers (2009), GBRs were divided into
232 five genotypes (G1-G5) containing a single genotype G2 of human strains and other four
233 genotypes of murine, porcine, and bovine strains. Although genetic and molecular
234 epidemiologic study of GBR has been based primarily on the VP7 gene, genetic
235 information of other viral gene segments is extremely limited. So far, full-genomic
236 information has been available for only a murine strain and three human strains, and
237 eight gene segments have been sequenced for a bovine strain (Ghosh *et al.*, 2007, 2009).
238 For ovine and porcine GBRs, sequence data of only a few gene segments are available
239 (Shen *et al.*, 1999; Kuga *et al.*, 2009). In the present study, nearly full-length sequences of
240 four human GBRs were determined, which enabled us to analyze substantially the
241 genetic diversity of GBR at a full genome level.

242 Sequence analysis of whole gene segments of the human GBR provided two
243 epidemiologically significant findings. First, the Myanmar strain MMR-B1 is closer
244 genetically to the recent Indian strains than the old Indian strain (CAL-1) and
245 Bangladeshi strains for all the gene segments, suggesting that the GBR in Myanmar and
246 current Indian GBRs may have been derived from the same origin. Second, the two latest
247 GBR strains from a child (IC-008) and an adult (IDH084) detected in Kolkata were
248 genetically almost identical, which indicated distribution of the same GBR in a child and
249 an adult. Similarly, distribution of genetically identical GAR in both children and adults
250 was reported in China and Bangladesh (Wang *et al.*, 2007; Paul *et al.*, 2008). Together
251 with the report that GBR was detected by RT-PCR in 18.5% of diarrheal specimens from
252 children in Kolkata (Barman *et al.*, 2006), GBR is believed to infect both children and

253 adults and may be maintained among them.

254 Although the human GBRs analyzed in the present study were genetically highly
255 similar, sequence identities were different depending on gene segments. The VP6 and
256 NSP2 genes showed the highest identities, while NSP3-NSP5 genes were more divergent.
257 Similarly, within a single genotype of GAR, the VP6 gene showed the highest identity
258 among structural proteins (Matthijssens *et al.*, 2008). However, sequence variation in
259 nonstructural proteins seems to be different from GAR; that is, in GAR, NSP5 is the most
260 conserved while NSP1 is the most divergent. Such difference in GBR may be in part due
261 to insufficient numbers of strains analyzed in the present study.

262 In some RNA segments, genetic divergence or conservation was detected in
263 specific regions which are correlated to the function of the protein. The RNA polymerase
264 domain in VP1 and N-terminal RNA-binding domain in NSP3 were evidently conserved
265 compared with other regions in individual proteins, as found also in cognate proteins of
266 GAR (Heiman *et al.*, 2008; McDonald *et al.*, 2009; Rao *et al.*, 1995). In these domains,
267 some amino acids/motifs are commonly found among GAR, GBR, and GCR, despite high
268 sequence diversity among them. Furthermore, some functionally important motifs and
269 structural features of other rotavirus proteins known for GAR were also conserved in
270 GBR, including the conserved motif in VP3 of which the function is unknown (Ito *et al.*,
271 2001; Nagashima *et al.*, 2008), and that in NSP2 related to nucleoside triphosphatase
272 activity (Kumar *et al.*, 2007). The cysteine and histidine-rich region which was noted for
273 GAR NSP1 (Hua *et al.*, 1993) was found also in the peptide 1 and 2 of GBR NSP1. The
274 C-terminal region of NSP5 which is conserved among GAR and critical for its function for
275 viroplasm-like structure formation in cells (Sen *et al.*, 2007) was also conserved in GBR
276 NSP5.

277 In contrast, the VP8* portion in VP4 and the N-terminal region in VP2 were
278 more divergent than other regions in these proteins, in both GAR and GBR. The VP8* is
279 located as the outermost portion of the VP4 spike protein on the rotavirus virion and is

280 associated with the antigenic specificity and genotype of VP4 (Dormitzer et al., 2004;
281 Kapkian, 2001). The amino termini of GBR VP2 are predicted to lie inside core shell and
282 to bind viral enzyme-RNA complex (VP1/VP3/RNA) (McDonald & Patton, 2008). It can be
283 suggested that the interaction with protein and/or RNA causes the sequence variation in
284 the N-terminal region of VP2. The above findings suggested that viral proteins of GBR
285 and GBR have similar structural and functional features, subjected to similar molecular
286 evolution, despite a considerable genetic divergence between the two rotavirus groups.
287 Although the degree of genetic evolution may be dependent on each RNA segment,
288 human GBR genes are suggested to have evolved in association with functional roles of
289 individual viral proteins.

290 In the present study, GBR was first characterized for its genomic diversity and
291 evolution at a level of full genome. Further accumulation of genetic data with more GBRs
292 may be necessary to understand ecological features and epidemiologic dynamics of GBRs.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

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Rotavirus strains

298 Four human GBR strains, IC-008, IDH-084, Bang117, and MMR-B1 were
299 analyzed. The GBR strains IC-008 and IDH-084 were detected as a sole pathogen of
300 diarrhea in stool specimens from a child (12-month-old female) and an adult (35-year-old
301 male), respectively, who visited the Infectious Disease Hospital in Kolkata, India, in
302 January 2008 and November 2007, respectively. The strain Bang117 was found in a
303 32-year-old male patient with severe diarrhea admitted to SK hospital in Mymensingh,
304 Bangladesh, in March 2002. The strain MMR-B1 was detected in the diarrhea of an adult
305 patient in Yangon, Myanmar, and its VP7, VP4, VP6, and NSP4 genes had been
306 sequenced and reported previously (Aung *et al.*, 2009). Therefore, in the present study,

307 sequences of the remaining seven viral genes were determined for this strain. The
308 presence of GBRs in stool specimens was determined by detection of the typical migration
309 pattern (4-2-1-1-1-1-1 pattern) of 11 dsRNA segments in polyacrylamide gel
310 electrophoresis, and further confirmed by RT-PCR as described previously (Gouvea *et al.*,
311 1991). Stool specimens collected from patients were stored at -80°C until analyzed.

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313 Sequencing, Phylogenic analysis

314 Nucleotide sequences of GBR genes were determined directly with the amplified
315 cDNA products by RT-PCR. As a template for RT-PCR, dsRNA was extracted from stool
316 suspension with a commercially available kit (RNAID kit, BIO101, Inc., La Jolla, CA)
317 according to manufacturer's instructions. RT-PCR was performed with reverse
318 transcriptase (AMV) (Seikagaku Co., Tokyo), thermostable DNA polymerase (Expanded
319 High Fidelity PCR System, Roche, Mannheim, Germany) with the primers described
320 previously for rotavirus genes encoding VP2, VP4, VP6, VP7, NSP1-NSP5 (Ahmed *et al.*,
321 2004). The cDNA for VP1 and VP3 genes were amplified by primers prepared in the
322 present study based on the sequences of Bang373 strain (supplementary Table S12). For
323 all the gene segments, full-length sequences except for primer binding regions at 5' and
324 3'-end were amplified and sequenced.

325 PCR products were purified by Wizard^R SV GEL and PCR Clean-Up System
326 (Promega, Inc., Madison, WI). Sequencing reaction was performed with fluorescent
327 dideoxy chain termination chemistry using the BigDye Terminator version 3.1 cycle
328 sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). Sequence was determined by ABI
329 Prism 3100 genetic analyzer (Applied Biosystems). GENETYX-Win version 5.1 (Software
330 Development, Tokyo, Japan) was used to perform pairwise alignment and calculate the
331 identity of gene segments among GBRs. Multiple alignment of GBR sequences were
332 performed by the neighbor-joining method using the CLUSTAL W program. Phylogenetic
333 analysis was performed with MEGA software version 4.1 based on the neighbor-joining

334 method and the Kimura two-parameter model. Phylogenetic trees were supported
335 statistically by bootstrapping with 1,000 replicates.

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337 Accession numbers of sequences

338 The nucleotide sequences of GBR strains determined in this study were
339 deposited in the GenBank database under following accession numbers :
340 GU377213-GU377223 (IC-008), GU377224-GU377234 (IDH-084), GU391301-GU391311
341 (Bang117), and GU370054-GU370060 (MMR-B1).

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FIGURE LEGENDS

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553 Fig.1

554 Phylogenetic dendrograms (A-K) of group B rotavirus genes (RNA segments encoding
555 VP7, VP1-VP4, VP6, NSP1-NSP5, respectively) constructed by neighbor-joining method
556 with MEGA.4 program. Dendrogram is rooted with human rotavirus strain B219
557 belonging to a novel rotavirus group. Variation scale is described at the bottom. Percent
558 bootstrap support is indicated by the values at each node (the values <80 are omitted).
559 Closed circles indicates strains of which the genes were determined in the present study
560 (IC-008, IDH-084, Bang 117, and MMR-B1). Genotypes (G1-G5) of GBR strains are
561 indicated on the left. Vertical solid line and dotted line represent human GBRs belonging
562 to Indian-Bangladeshi lineage and Chinese lineage, respectively.

563

564 Fig.2

565 The primary amino acid sequence alignment of VP1 from the human GBRs, GAR (Wa),
566 and GCR (Bristol). Structural subdomains are indicated in the box above the sequence
567 alignment. Dot indicates identical amino acid to that of strain WH-1, and amino acids
568 numbers based on WH-1 are indicated above the sequences. A dash denotes gap, and an
569 asterisk indicates identical amino acid among all the rotavirus strains. A colon shows
570 conserved amino acid between GBR and GAR, or GBR and GCR. A catalytic region of
571 RNA polymerase predicted by ScanProsite program is indicated by a line above the
572 sequence, and the consensus motif of RNA polymerase (SG, T, N, T, GDD) (Cohen J, et al.,
573 1989; Nagashima et al., 2008) is shown by underlines.

574

575 Fig.3

576 Alignment of partial VP3 (A) and NSP2 (B) amino acid sequences of from the human
577 GBRs, GAR (Wa), and GCR (Bristol). Dot indicates identical amino acid to that of strain

578 ADRV, and amino acids numbers based on ADRV are indicated above the sequences. A
579 dash denotes gap, and an asterisk indicates identical amino acid among all the rotavirus
580 strains. A colon shows conserved amino acid between GBR and GAR, or GBR and GCR. A
581 consensus motif (ALYSLSNXXN) of VP3 found in all the rotavirus groups (Nagashima et
582 al., 2008) is shown by a line above the sequence alignment A. Active region of the
583 nucleotide triphosphatase of NSP2 (Kumar et al., 2007) is indicated by a line above the
584 sequences, and a catalytic residue H225 for GAR is shown by an arrowhead.

585

586

587 Fig.4

588 The primary amino acid sequence alignment of NSP3 from the human GBRs, GAR (Wa),
589 and GCR (Bristol). Dot indicates identical amino acid to that of strain ADRV, and amino
590 acids numbers are indicated above the sequences. A dash denotes gap, and an asterisk
591 indicates identical amino acid among all the rotavirus strains. A colon shows conserved
592 amino acid between GBR and GAR, or GBR and GCR. RNA binding domain (Deo et al.,
593 2002) is indicated by a line above the sequences. Shaded regions indicate alpha helices
594 (H1-H8) and beta strands (S1-S3) in the RNA-binding domain.

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Table 1. Sequence identities (%) of individual gene segments among human group B rotaviruses

| Gene segment | Indian, Bangladeshi, Myanmarese strains ^a (A) | | Chinese strains ^b (B) | | Between A and B | |
|-----------------|---|------------|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Nucleotide | Amino acid | Nucleotide | Amino acid | Nucleotide | Amino acid |
| VP1 gene | 97.4-99.8 | 98.7-99.9 | | | 90.3-91.7 | 95.4-95.9 |
| VP2 gene | 97.2-99.4 | 98.9-99.9 | 97.963 | 98.501 | 90.4-91.8 | 97.4-98.1 |
| VP3 gene | 97.5-99.5 | 98.6-100.0 | | | 90.3-91.2 | 94.0-94.5 |
| VP4 gene | 97.3-99.4 | 97.5-99.6 | 98.439 | 98.133 | 90.7-92.4 | 93.5-96.1 |
| VP5 * region | 97.6-99.7 | 98.7-99.8 | 98.545 | 98.694 | 91.5-93.2 | 94.8-96.8 |
| VP8 * region | 95.9-99.5 | 93.2-99.5 | 98.113 | 96.618 | 88.4-90.4 | 89.9-94.7 |
| VP6 gene | 98.0-99.9 | 98.7-100.0 | 98.582 | 98.721 | 93.1-94.6 | 96.7-98.5 |
| VP7 gene | 97.7-99.9 | 98.0-100.0 | 98.649 | 99.197 | 91.3-92.6 | 94.0-95.2 |
| NSP1 gene | 97.6-99.6 | | 98.824 | | 91.6-92.8 | |
| peptide1 region | | 97.2-100.0 | | 100 | | 97.2-99.1 |
| peptide2 region | | 97.2-99.4 | | 98.754 | | 91.6-92.8 |
| NSP2 gene | 98.0-99.4 | 98.0-99.7 | 98.373 | 99.003 | 93.6-94.9 | 96.0-98.0 |
| NSP3 gene | 97.0-99.7 | 96.8-99.7 | 98.137 | 97.983 | 89.8-91.2 | 89.0-89.9 |
| NSP4 gene | 96.1-99.9 | 97.3-100.0 | 98.4 | 98.63 | 90.8-92.9 | 93.2-95.9 |
| NSP5 gene | 95.6-100.0 | 94.7-100.0 | 98.891 | 99.412 | 89.5-92.4 | 90.6-93.5 |

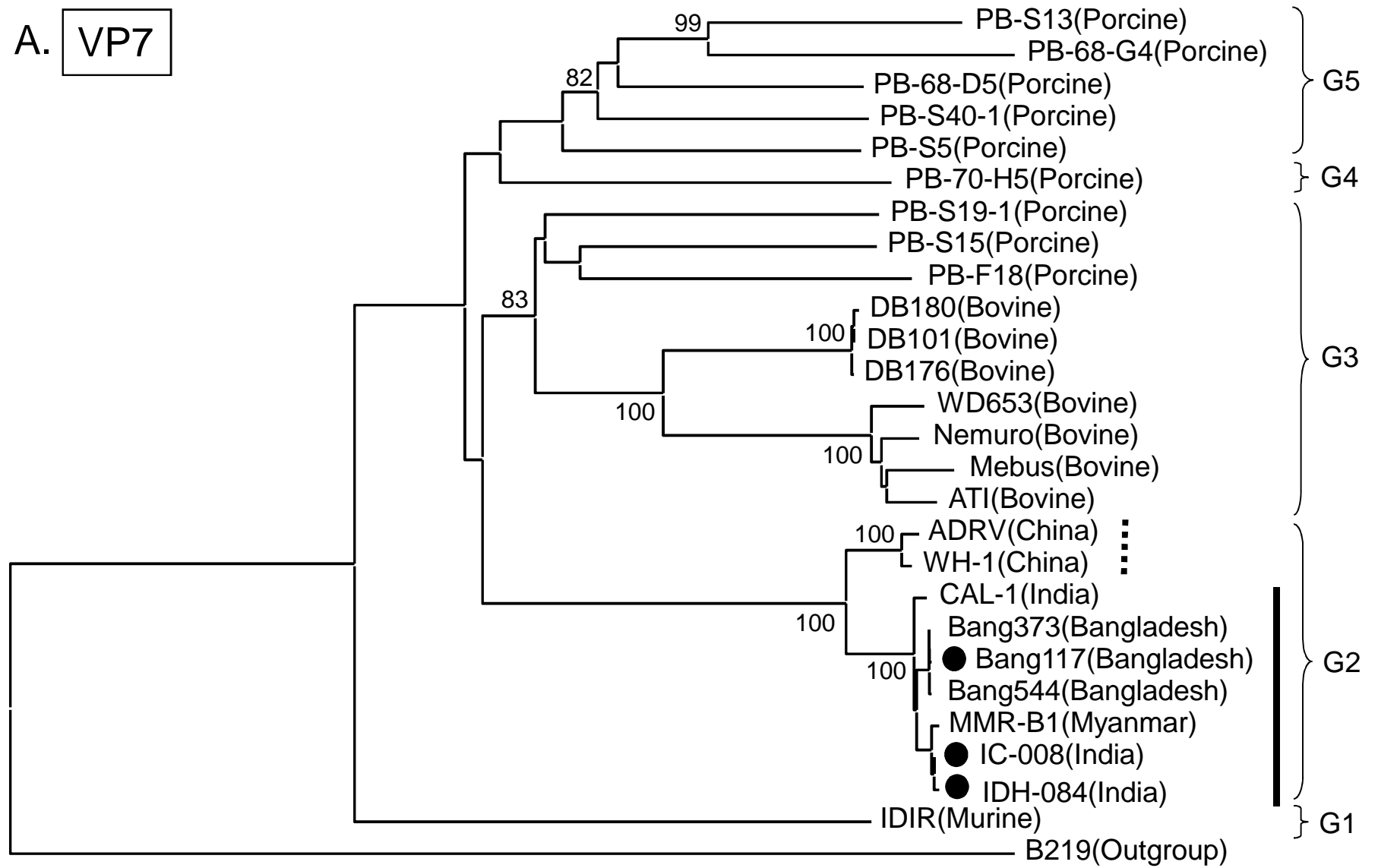
GenBank accession nos. of genes from human GBRs published previously and used in this analysis are as follows :
CAL-1, EU490414,EU490418, AB037931- AB037932, AF184083-AF184084, AF230974-AF230975, AY238383,
AY238386-AY238387 ; Bang373, EU490415, EU490418

^a CAL-1, Bang373, IC-008, IDH-084, Bang117, MMR-B1

^b ADRV, WH-1(VP1 and VP3 sequences are available only for WH-1)

Fig.1

A. VP7



0.1

Fig.1

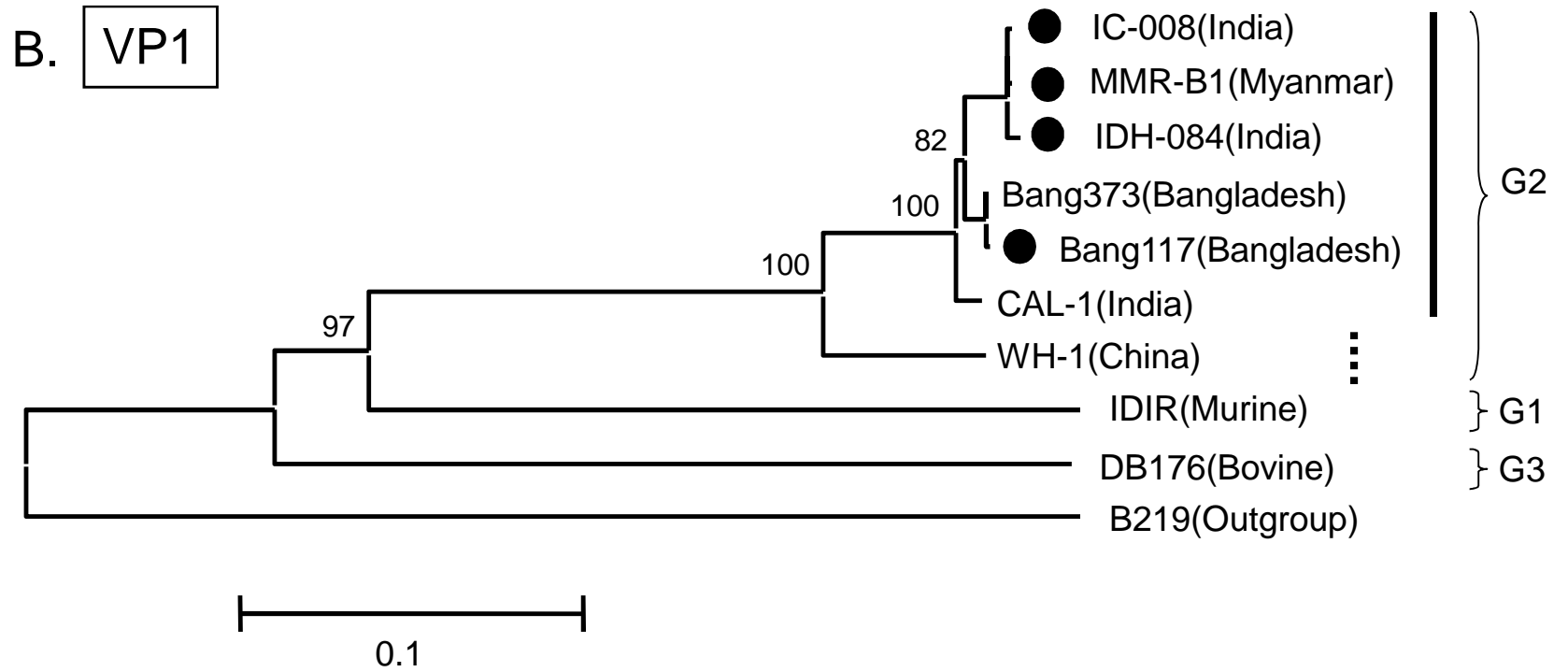


Fig.1

C. VP2

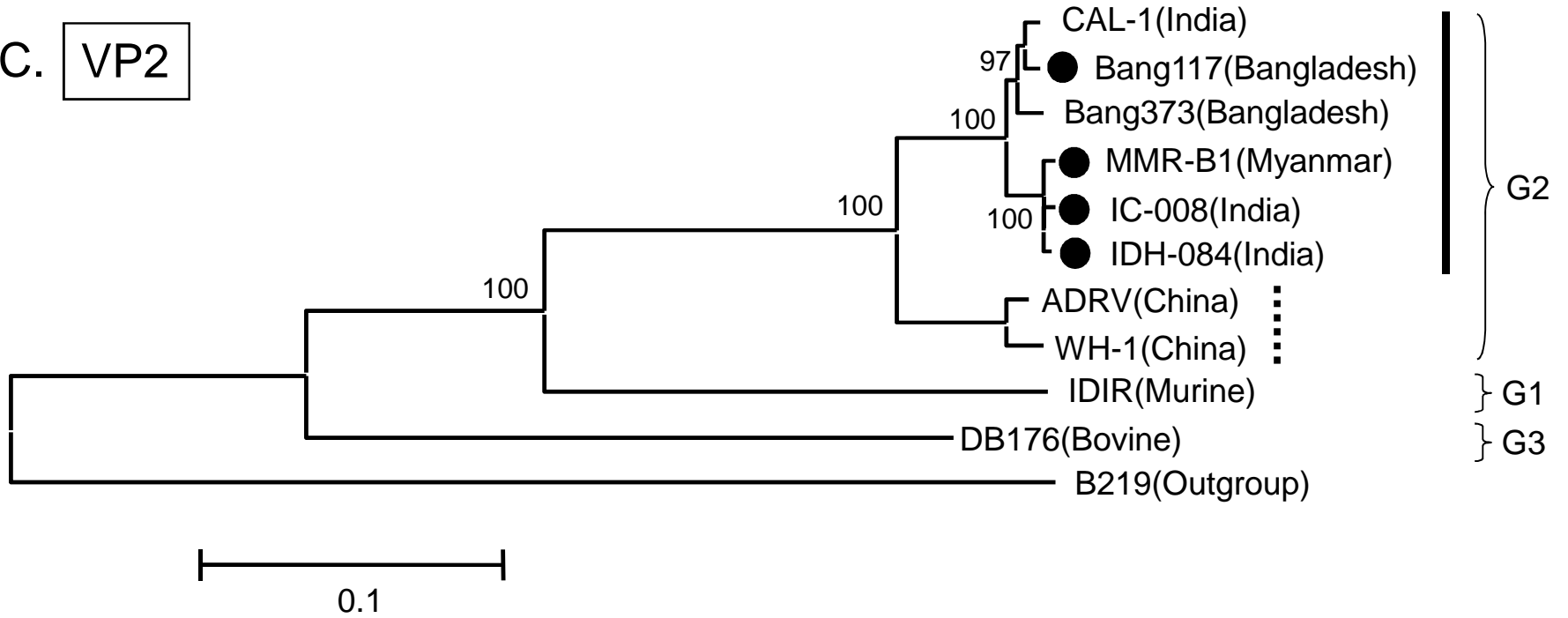


Fig.1

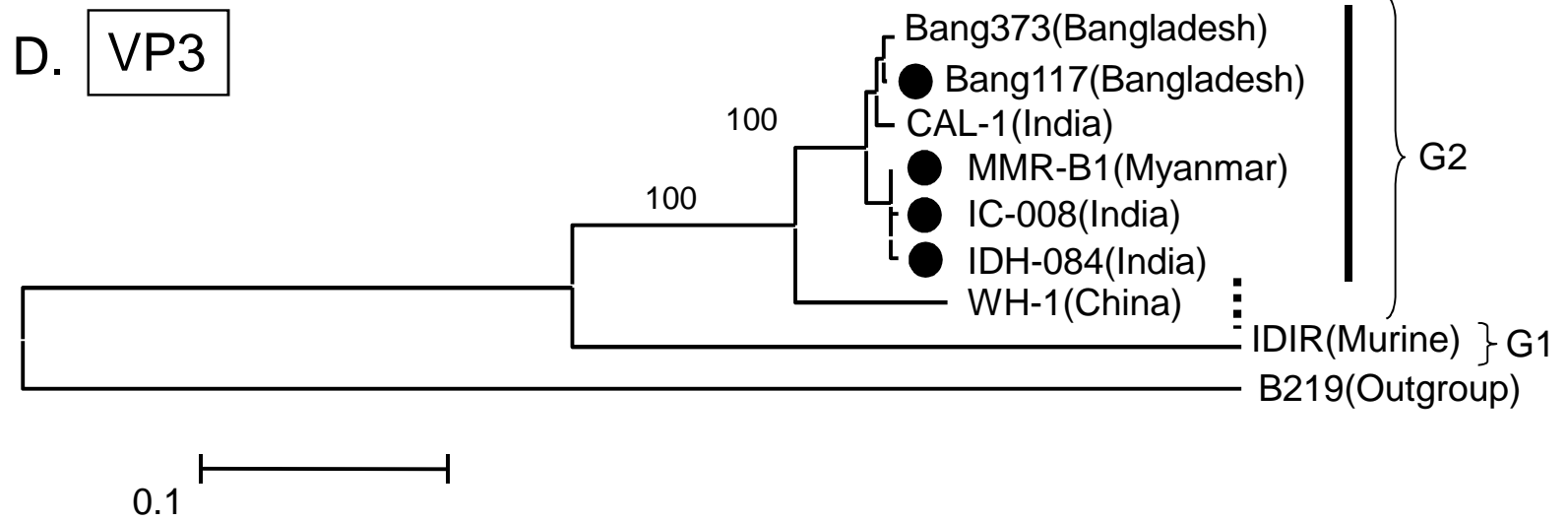


Fig.1

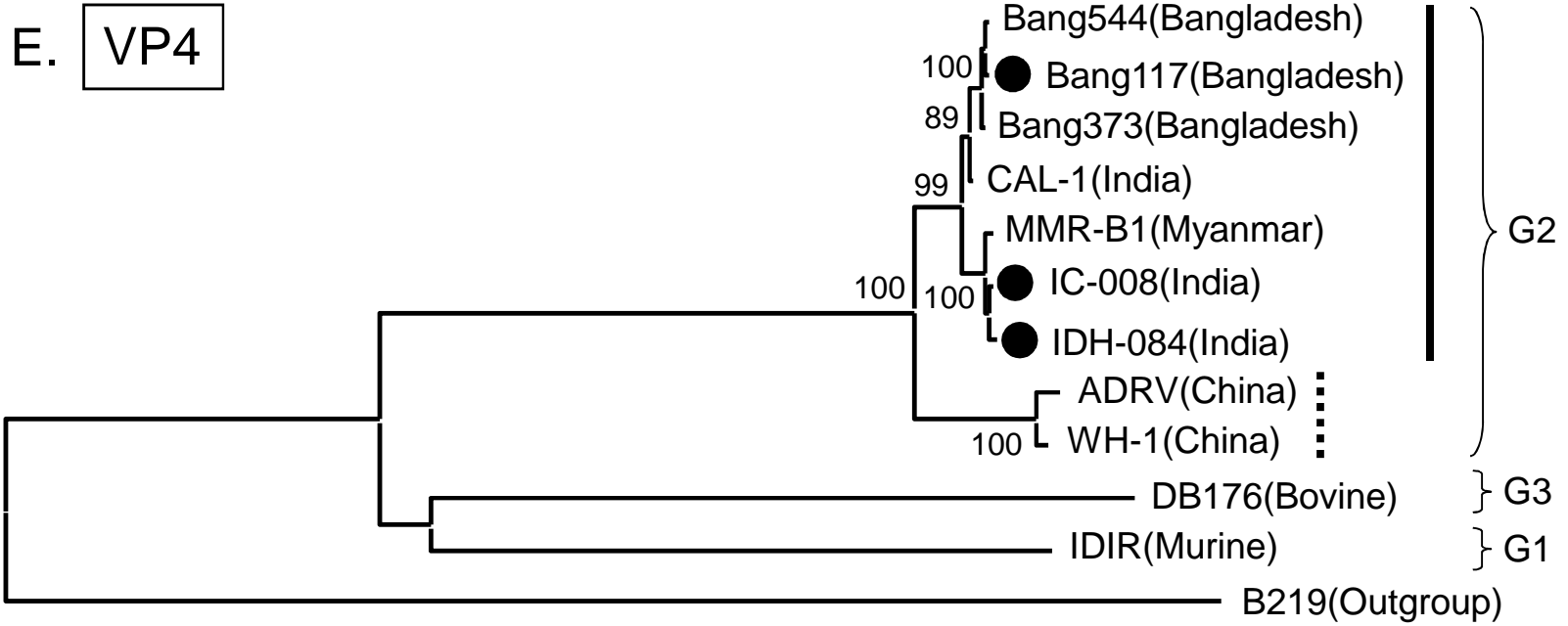


Fig.1

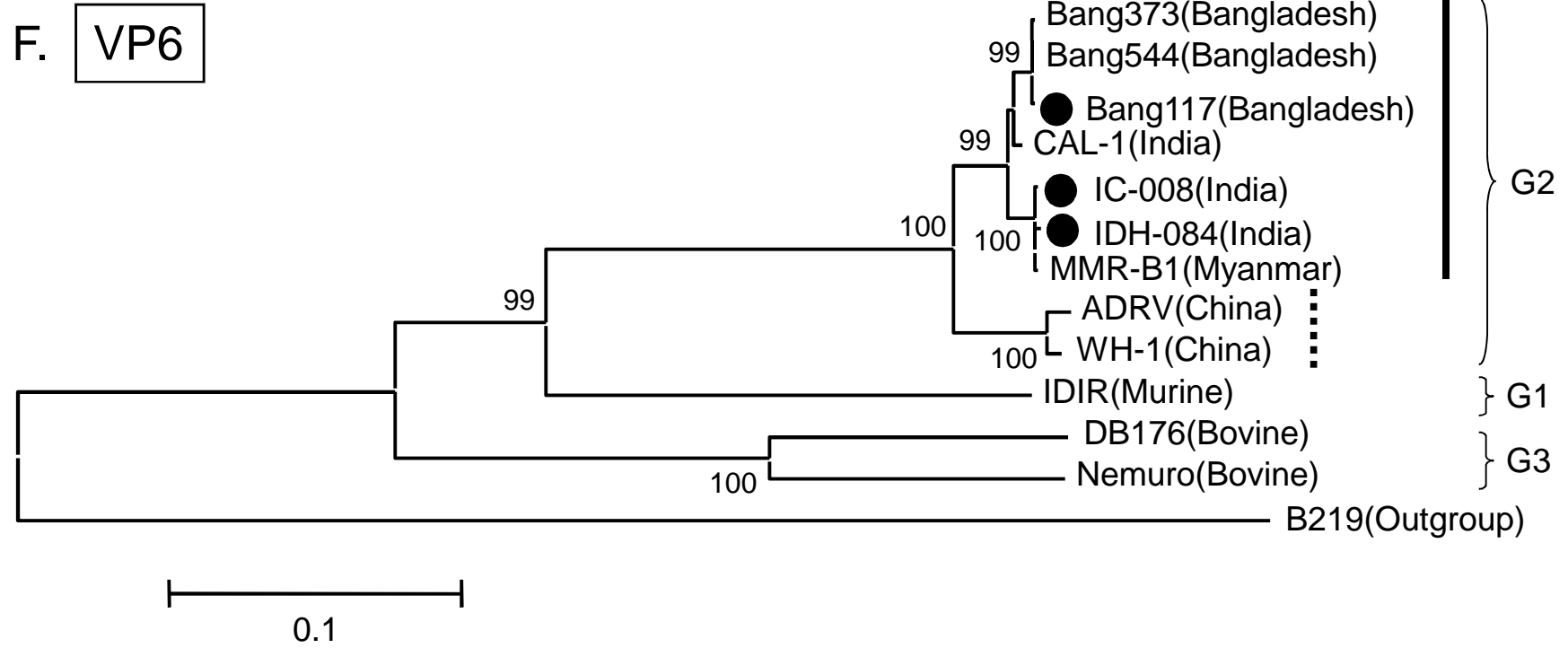


Fig.1

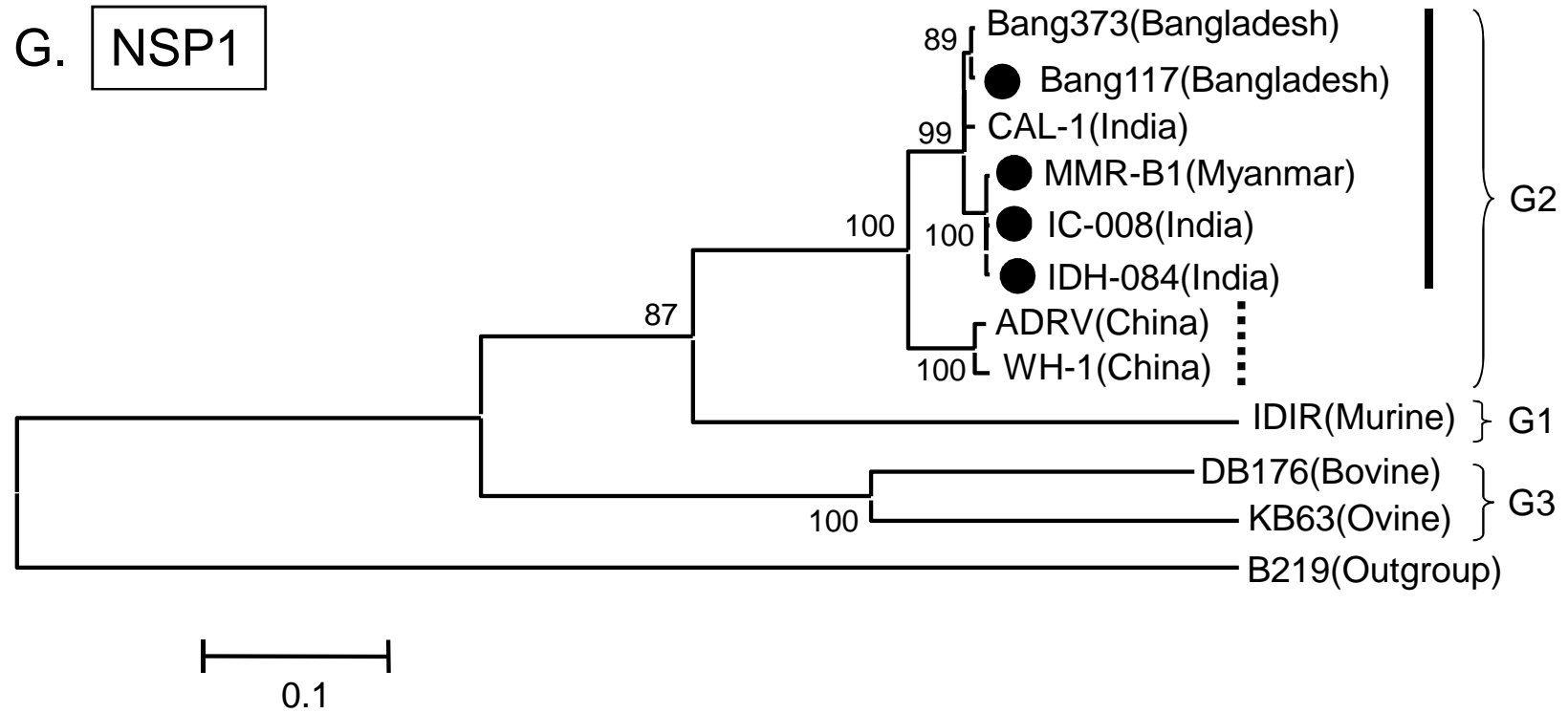


Fig.1

H. NSP2

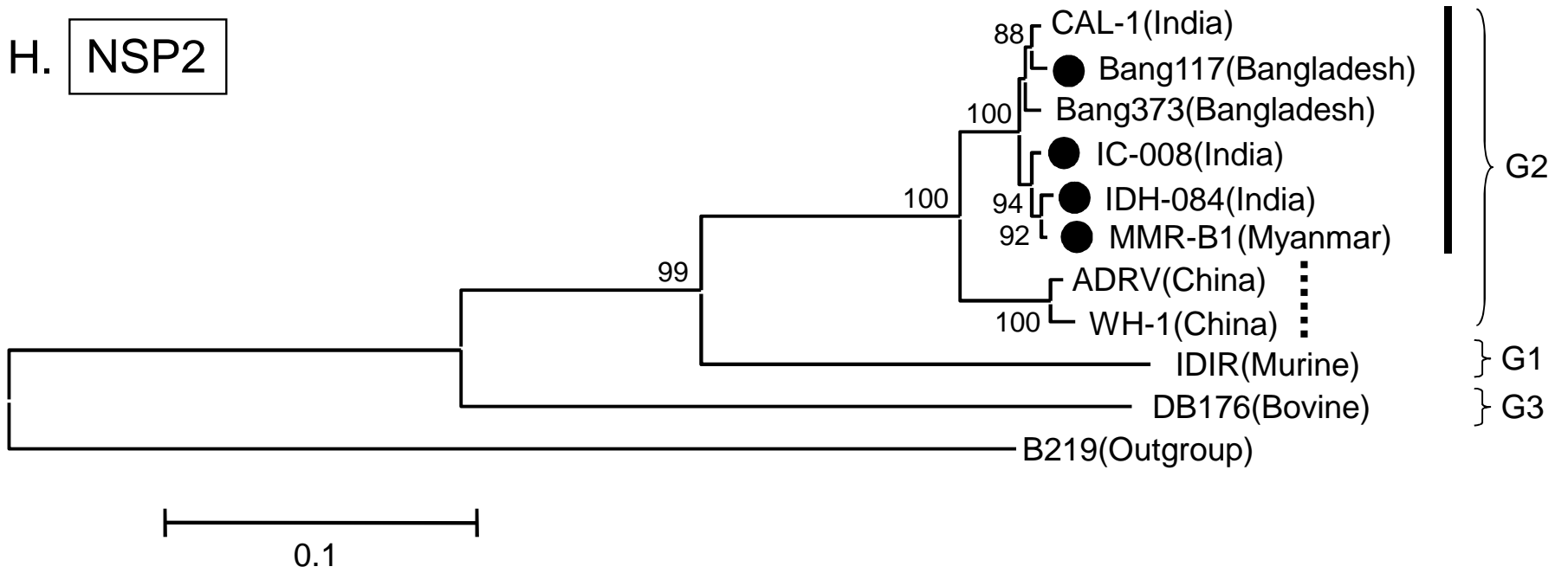


Fig.1

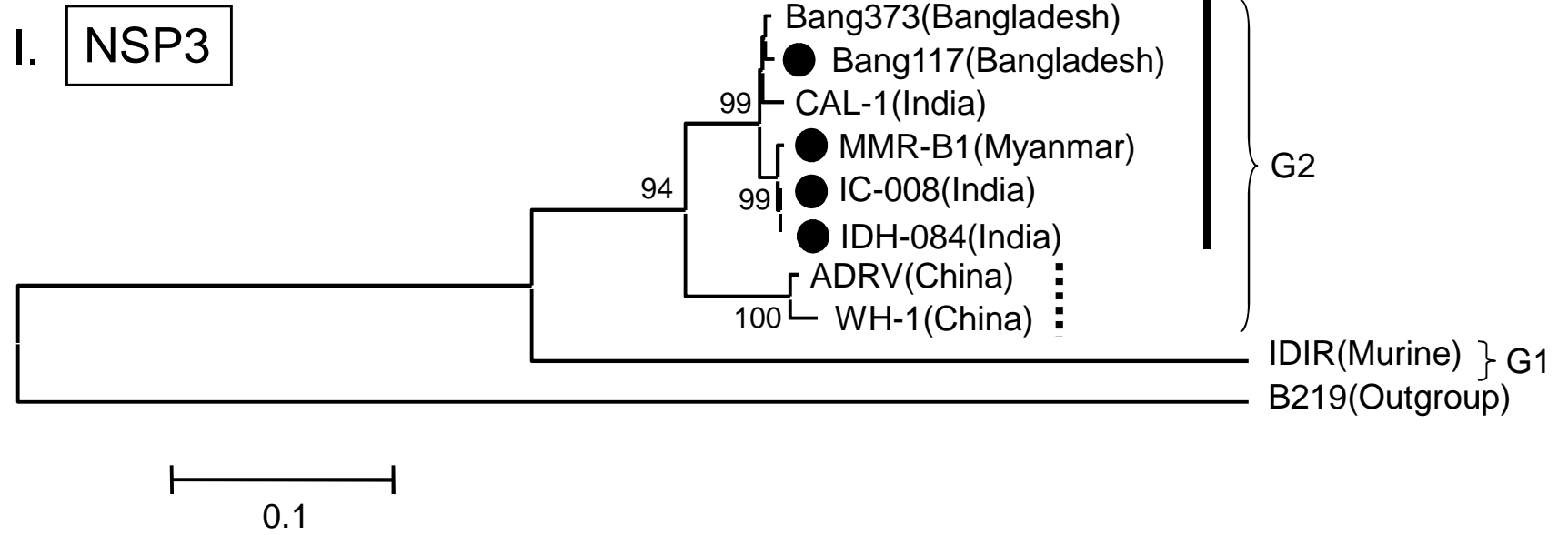


Fig.1

J. NSP4

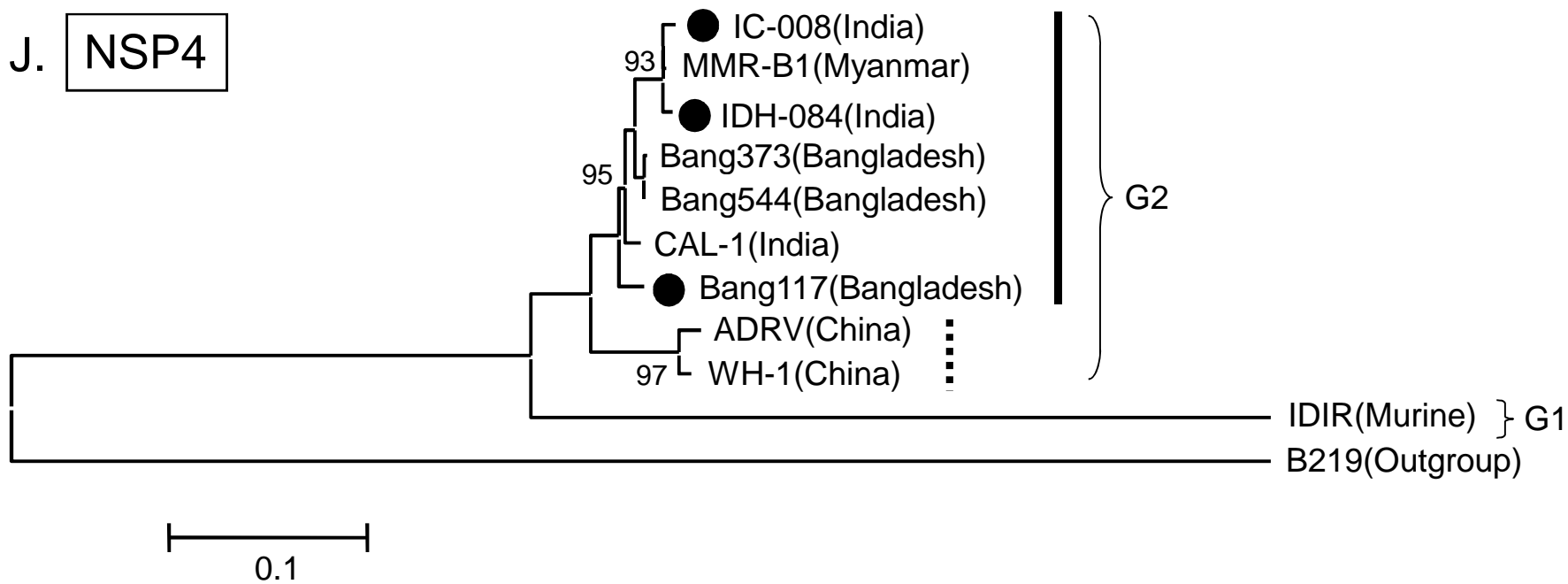


Fig.1

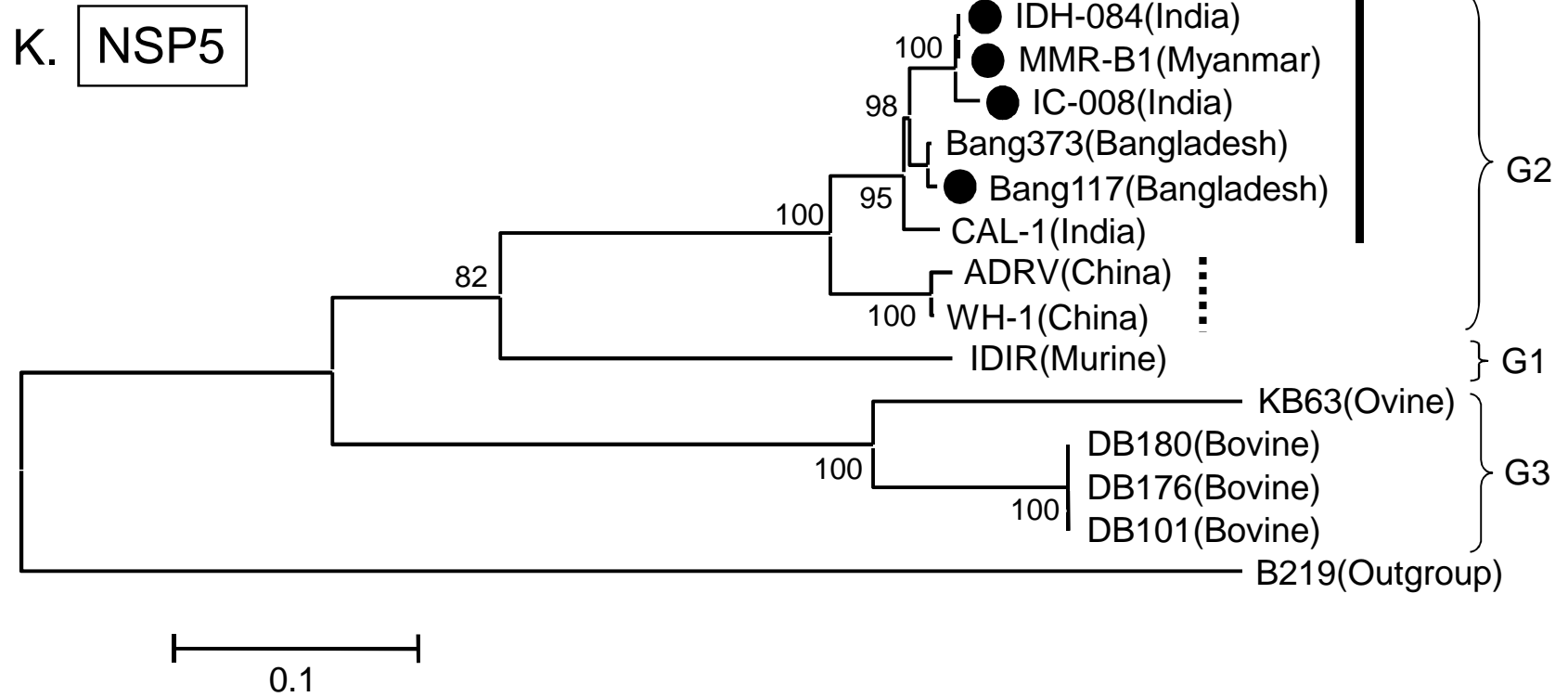


Fig. 2

| VP1 | N-terminal region | 80 |
|----------------------|--|------------------|
| WH-1 (China) | MDSFQFFSWLLKDIERNLLYTSLIYTNPRIAIVRYEESEKSLWKSKETNVLSPTEILNKIKDKLDSLCSCHDKIEELLR | |
| CAL-1 (India) |V..S.....R.....E.....S..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |V..S.....R.....E.....S..... | |
| IC-008 (India) |V..R.....R.....E.....E..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |V..R.....R..E.....E..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |V..S.....R.....E.....S..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |V..R.....R.....E..... | |
| Wa (group A) | -----MGKYNLILSE.LSFVYNSQSAVQIPIYY.SNSE.E.RCIFHAKCVDS--SKRG.S | |
| Bristol (group C) | -----MAQSIVVDGDYDALAS.LKFVYDFENVTYQN.YFATDKFKKD.EQY.K.IHDGEKITQSKID | |
| | * : : : : : | |
| | | 160 |
| WH-1 (China) | IRYFTVYVEDKSDKRNIVLTLNKTITNLGEYTEYDSIKLIELQARQWRIDNANSLRPHYNIPINEYLDRNEIELLDTG | |
| CAL-1 (India) |I...S...D..KHA.....F..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |I...SR...D..KHV.....F..... | |
| IC-008 (India) |I...SR...D..KHA.....N..L..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |I...SR...D..KHA.....S..L..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |I...SR...D..KHV.....F..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |I...SR...D..KHA.....N..L..... | |
| Wa (group A) | LKPLFEEYK.VI.NA----.L.SILSYSYDK.NAVERKLVNYAKGKPLEA.LTANEID.EN.KITS.LFQSA.EYTDLSM | |
| Bristol (group C) | EKEKILLDRVPAEE.----CLIS.LVFAY.KHGNVENKLVKYGVDALSHAPQKDAK..EN..ITS.IFKESYTDIYM | |
| | : : : : : : : * * * : | |
| | | 240 |
| WH-1 (China) | DNKWRSDTLQGLLPNFYHRTHTLVGSIYAVNSRLDKYTTDQKRALFYLLHV IQKCFSEGYLEMSRDRKWNHTLDELKNS | |
| CAL-1 (India) | ...K.....I...N..S.....S.....R.. | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | ...K.....I...S.....S.....R.. | |
| IC-008 (India) | ...K.....I...S.....S.....R.. | |
| IDH-084 (India) | ...K.....I...S.....S.....R.. | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | ...K.....I...S.....S.....R.. | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | ...K.....I...S.....S.....R.. | |
| Wa (group A) | .PAILTSLSS-----N.NAVMFWLERHSN.VADANKIYKRRLD.FT.VASTINK.GVPRHNE.YRYEYEV.M.DK | |
| Bristol (group C) | .PSINTSCQS-----NCQAMMFTISEMK.NNIKN---A.RLEK.FT.IAATINK.GMPRHNTRYRYEWETM..K | |
| | * : : : * * * * * : | |
| | | 320 |
| WH-1 (China) | KFHLYNAKTIHAACAMISLAHSDYIDLEFLCQIIVAVYSILPANAAKLLSSPMTMYGVVTFSSHQVASTGNASECAPTTI | |
| CAL-1 (India) | R.....H.....T...I.....S... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | R.....H.....T...I.....S... | |
| IC-008 (India) | R.....H.....T...I.....S... | |
| IDH-084 (India) | R.....H.....T...I.....S... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | R.....H.....T...I.....S... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | R.....H.....T...I.....S... | |
| Wa (group A) | PYY.VTWNASSIEML.SVFS.E..LIAKE.IILSYSN--RSTL...V...SIL.ALIDINGTFITNEEEL.FSDKYV | |
| Bristol (group C) | PY..AAWINSSIEMIACVVD.HT.MIARE.IVKSFTN---RTSL...V...VLTAMPLIRGTFITTENLEL.YSNKS | |
| | * : * : * * * * * : | |
| | | 376 Finger I 400 |
| WH-1 (China) | QNNIYVDKTYEEWNNMFNSDPLNTSKLLRLMNSNLKTSVEQFTLIFNCFSATFHVGHRRIDNAQDAITDQVATYTSDDI | |
| CAL-1 (India) | ...V...A..D...A.....I...S..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | ...V...A..D..S.....A.....I...S..... | |
| IC-008 (India) | ...V...A..D..S.....A.....I...S..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) | ...V...A..D..S.....A.....I...S..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | ...V...A..D..S.....A.....I...S..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | ...V...A..D..S.....A.....I...S..... | |
| Wa (group A) | KATVPDQIFDELQEMIDNMRKAGLVDIPRMIGEWLVDC.L.K..MSKIY.WS...F.KQKML..AL..LKTE..E.V. | |
| Bristol (group C) | NYL.SKEMAEDFMQAIKQLR.EGLEYPIDYEEKWFKSPDPLT.PN.ALTY.FS...Y.KQALS..VY..I.V..SDNVN | |
| | : : * : * * * * * ** ** * : : * : | |
| | | 480 |
| WH-1 (China) | REMYDNYYRRLKNMLKEEIIQYVEDHVAQYVDVTAESLSALANSSNGFSKEVTFIDRRIKTTKKILHLNDLLAEDYSID | |
| CAL-1 (India) |K.....G..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |I.....K.....N..... | |
| IC-008 (India) |K.....G.....N..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |K.....G.....N..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |I.....K.....G.....N..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |K.....G.....N..... | |
| Wa (group A) | G...NE.TMLIR-DEIVKMLEVPPVK.DDHLLR.SELAG.LSMSSA...E.RQLK.GRKT.FS...NM.VMD.IAHR.TP | |
| Bristol (group C) | M...KE.SE.IE-NEIFT.LKDKTI.ED.RLEEYELSA.LSMSSA...ILR.IN.GGQKVR...NM.VID.IVHKK.TT | |
| | *** * : : * : : * * * * * : * : * * * * * | |

Fig. 2-continued

| | 531 Palm I | 557 |
|----------------------|--|-----|
| WH-1 (China) | ---LGKALSHGIPMGTRNVPARQTRGIFILPWQVAAIQHTIAESLYKRAKKGSYQGSFAEAYTAKTASLTYGVLAEDTSK | |
| CAL-1 (India) | --- | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | --- | |
| IC-008 (India) | --- | |
| IDH-084 (India) | --- | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |L..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | --- | |
| Wa (group A) | GVIPPVNDRP...L.R.D..G.R..I....YEIFIA..AVV.KMLS.Y..H---TREY..F.SQSNQL.S..DVTRFL.- | |
| Bristol (group C) | -DIPVDARNP...L.R.D..G.R..A....Y.YFIA..SF..IMLNV..R---EREYS.F.SQANQV.S..DVTRYLD- | |
| | * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * | |

| | 566 Finger II | 637 |
|----------------------|---|-----|
| WH-1 (China) | ATKIILYTDVSWDASQHNTEPYRSAWINAIREARSEMKWLYSDEPTVLNMMVLDMSMIKIQEYLLNSNLIVASPGSRPL | |
| CAL-1 (India) |I..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |I..... | |
| IC-008 (India) |I..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |I..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |I..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |I..... | |
| Wa (group A) | SNSMV.....S.....Q.F.KGI.MGLDMLS-----NMTNDPK.VQTLNLYKQTQI.LMDSYVQIPDGNVI | |
| Bristol (group C) | SNS.LCF.....KVL.RSI.R.MKRLK-----QLTH.I.IHKAINIYIQSQE.LENSYVLIDK---- | |
| | : : * * * * * : * * * * * : : : * * * * * | |

| | 651 Palm II | 712 |
|----------------------|---|-----|
| WH-1 (China) | KIIRYHGVASGEKTTKIGNSFANVALIETVLDVRVKQEPDIEVTHLRVDGDDNVVSLTT----SCQISKLQETVKKAYS | |
| CAL-1 (India) |S..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |S..... | |
| IC-008 (India) |S..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |S..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |S..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |S..... | |
| Wa (group A) | .K.Q.GA.....Q.AA..I..L..K..S.IANKY-SFITKIL.....YAV.QFNTDVTKQMVQDVSNDRYIL.. | |
| Bristol (group C) | .A.Q.GAT.....Q...M..I..K...Q...GKLMTDY-TFD.KML.....YATVRFPIAITEKLL.EFTSKLRSY.. | |
| | * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * | |

| | 737 Thumb | 792 |
|----------------------|---|-----|
| WH-1 (China) | KLNAKVKALASYTGLEMAKRFIVCGKIFERGAIPIFTAERPYGTDVSIQSMCGSSIYSSAVNAVRFVGDVSYFAFMQDVLV | |
| CAL-1 (India) |R..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |R..... | |
| IC-008 (India) |R..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |R..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |GR..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |R..... | |
| Wa (group A) | RM.....V.TV.I.I..Y.AG...F.AG.NLLNN.KRG--QSTQWDQAAIYLSNYI..KL...ETDREFILTKIIQ | |
| Bristol (group C) | EM.V.....L.C.I..YVAG.ML.F.AGVN.LHH.KRN--QD.AYD.AATLYANYI..L..LTM.RTFILTKICIQ | |
| | * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * | |

| | 843 C-terminal region | 872 |
|----------------------|---|-----|
| WH-1 (China) | PPSSSVRITGRLRLVLLSPVTLYATGPLSFEITPQGLGRCRMYTQSEKLFRLFLLTQTVSVSYTPEEIKKYSNTPQFKK | |
| CAL-1 (India) | | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | | |
| IC-008 (India) |M..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |M..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |K.....M..... | |
| Wa (group A) | MT.--.A...S..LFP.ERV.TTNSTFKVFDSED-----FII.YGT.NDEVYI.RAFM.LSSQKSGIADEIASSQT | |
| Bristol (group C) | MT.--IK...T..LFPMKSI.ALNSAFKVFDEVD-----YVINYPISNLIQIQL.RKLS.IK-AKS.IAD.IAKSPQ | |
| | * : * * * * * : * * * * * : : : * * * * * : : : * * * * * | |

| | | 952 |
|----------------------|--|-----|
| WH-1 (China) | RTSVMIKSMQMLHTEATALSRIMIDKKEEQKTLGVPNVQSQKNRSQVLKATIDILGVPEQSGMSPKGYPEELYSLVIRHS | |
| CAL-1 (India) |A.....I...N.....I.....K.. | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |A.....I...N.....I.....VK.. | |
| IC-008 (India) |A.....I...N.....I.....K.. | |
| IDH-084 (India) |A.....I...N.....I.....K.. | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |A.....I...N.....I.....VK.. | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |A.....I...N.....I.....K.. | |
| Wa (group A) | FKNYVN.LSDQL.ISKNVIV.KGIAVT.KA.LNSYAP.YLE.R.A.ISALLTM.QK.---V.F.SNKITINDI.RDIKP | |
| Bristol (group C) | FK.YVELLNKSLTTD.NPIV.DGIRLT.KA.LNSYAPIALE.R.D.FSIMVSF.QN.----TTF.SETVTVINDVLYFI. | |
| | : : : : * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * : * * * * * | |

Fig. 2-continued

| | 1032 |
|----------------------|---|
| WH-1 (China) | I I K F I D Y Q Q P I D I Y R V N N R A V E L L R A Q L G V R I S D S K P I A K P S N H L Y D I V S S I S P I K L S P S D L L K Q S R K Y D L S T Y K G K R T Y |
| CAL-1 (India) | T.....K.....T..... |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | T.....K..... |
| IC-008 (India) | T.....K..... |
| IDH-084 (India) | T.....K..... |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | T.....K..... |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | T.....K..... |
| Wa (group A) | F F I T S E A N - - L P . Q Y R K F M P T L P N N V . Y V I Q C I G . R T Y Q I E D S G S K S S I . K L I S K Y S V Y K P S I E E L Y . V I S L R E Q E I Q L . |
| Bristol (group C) | G F I K . . S S T V L P K E E N . T M P L L P A I I K R T L S Y F G L R T H D Y D I K G S S S T . . K . I K Q Y S V Y T P G I E E L Y E I V N K S V D T I . G . |
| | : : : : : * : : * |

| | 1112 |
|----------------------|---|
| WH-1 (China) | L C D L G L T G N T L K T Y L A S K L L F R D L L S R Y D E L Y S T P G F G A T Q L T T I P L N I S S A E K V F S I R L N L P P H L Y E V V M L L L L Y E Y V |
| CAL-1 (India) | . L S K S I |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | . L K V S I |
| IC-008 (India) | . L K S I |
| IDH-084 (India) | . L K S I |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | . L K V S I |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | . L K S I |
| Wa (group A) | . V S . . V P P V D A G . . V G . R I Y S Q . K Y K I L E S Y V . N L L S I N Y G C Y Q L F N F . S P D L . . L I R . P F K G K I P A V T F I L H . Y A K L E I |
| Bristol (group C) | F A S F N V P K A D V D . . I S T Q M Y K H . R F K I L Q A Y I . N L L S V N Y G M Y Q L V D . . S A R F F D H V I H T P M A K T P T A V F M I D . A . R L K I |
| | : : : * : * * : * : * : * : * |

| | 1140 plug | 1160 |
|----------------------|---|------|
| WH-1 (China) | H Y V F M S H K T F T A T M H A S S Q E S A R L T K L V L H M L D N I Q L D Q V S F S D D A W | |
| CAL-1 (India) |D..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) |D..... | |
| IC-008 (India) |I.....D..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) |L.....D.....R..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) |D..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) |L.....D..... | |
| Wa (group A) | I N Y A I K N G A W I S L F C N Y P K S . M I K . W . K M W N I T A L R S P Y T S A N F F Q D - | |
| Bristol (group C) | I N H C I E K G E I I T V S V H A N K T D Y L K . W R M L W N V K T M N S P Y S K N S M F . E - | |
| | : : * : | |

Fig.3

A. VP3

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|---|-----|
| | 371 | | 450 |
| WH-1 (China) | | MGDKLGTVYNEDDR IAAKANNLPNYVFGGVPFTAALRFDYVNI ALYSLSNSVNSPEL I KATLSYDH I FTFPSYSKGDWR | |
| CAL-1 (India) | | ..N...T.....V.T.....K...I..... | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | | ..N...T.....V.T.....K...I..... | |
| IC-008 (India) | | ..N...T.....V.T.....K...I..... | |
| IDH-084 (India) | | ..N...T.....V.T.....K...I.....P..... | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | | ..N...T.....V.T.....K...I..... | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | | ..N...T.....V.T.....K...I..... | |
| Wa (group A) | | WDIITIKRFIPKGVFY.FI.VTTENVFIQ.PFKLKTSPDYIV...A...DL...RQDVINL I NKQKQSLITVR I NNTEFK | |
| Bristol (group C) | | HII.RQKIKVTKSLMYNAI.TIYSDNVFISGKYSLRG-KTEGVL...C...TI.QK.KVIQYANSFSGTCMTVRLNNTYE | |
| | | * : : * * * * * * : : | |

B. NSP2

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|-----|
| | 208 | | 278 |
| ADRV (China) | | EQPVNGMLALKAVAGN-----QFFMYHGHGH I RTVPYHELADA I KSFARKDKETLEN--- I SKSPLAAQCGSKFLDMLD | |
| WH-1 (China) | |V..... | |
| CAL-1 (India) | |Y.....S--- | |
| Bang373 (Bangladesh) | |S--- | |
| IC-008 (India) | |S--- | |
| IDH-084 (India) | |S--- | |
| Bang117 (Bangladesh) | |S--- | |
| MMR-B1 (Myanmar) | |T.....S--- | |
| Wa (Group A) | | DK.I SDVC I KEL. .ELRWQYNRFVAVIT. .K. .Y.V.K.SSV.NHADRVFATY.NSAKSGNV.DFNL.DQR I IWQNWYAF | |
| Bristol (Group C) | | KTD I PDRNQTAFA.YIRYNFNKFAAIS. .KR.W.L.LHSQ.MSHAERLD. .I.SDKKHGRQF.YDDGDMAFVHPGWKTC I | |
| | | : : * * * * * : : * : | |

Fig. 4

