## VIRBIOHUB: A CENTRAL RESOURCE FOR VIRUS BIOINFORMATICS RESEARCH

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## **ABSTRACT**

Viruses are a major cause of infectious diseases, and they lead to a substantial burden on public health and the global economy. Recently emerged outbreaks such as COVID-19 and monkeypox further emphasize the need for bioinformatics resources supporting research on viral diseases. Estimation of infection capacity for viruses, identifying host shifts, and more importantly predicting virus-host protein-protein interactions (PPIs) that are a prerequisite to viral infections are main topics of interest in virus bioinformatics research. Yet, there is still a shortage of data resources to support such research when compared to alternative research areas in bioinformatics (e.g., cancer bioinformatics). To this end, we developed a web resource for virus bioinformatics, namely VirBioHub.

VirBioHub provides a catalog of viruses and their respective hosts, selected virus-host PPI prediction tools, and a pre-computed set of viral infection predictions for various viral families and hosts. In the catalog of viruses and hosts component, for each pair of viruses and their known host which corresponds to a known infection-, we provide a dataset of manually curated viral attachment protein(s) and host receptor protein(s) together with their taxonomic data. Currently, VirBioHub has the interacting proteins for virushost pairs from two viral families (89 pairs for Coronaviridae and 80 pairs for Adenoviridae). Virus-host PPI prediction component enables users to run publicly available PPI prediction tools (currently HVPPI and HOPITOR) using their own choice of virus and host protein sequences. The viral infection prediction component is designed to provide host and host shift predictions based on a previously developed infection prediction pipeline originally developed for adenoviruses, namely ML-AdvInfect. Currently, VirBio-Hub has the precomputed infection prediction results for two viral families (Coronaviridae and Adenoviridae) along with the PPI data supporting these infection predictions. VirBioHub supports virus bioinformatics research by allowing researchers to export all its query results and datasets.

VirBioHub is developed using React.js for the front-end, Redux Toolkit/PostgreSQL for state & data management, and Django REST for the back-end.

VirBioHub acts as a central resource, providing ease of access to virus bioinformatics researchers. In the future, we plan to extend VirBioHub's coverage in terms of viral families and PPI prediction methods. Furthermore, we intend to improve the accuracy of infection and host-shift predictions as new PPI prediction tools and data become available.

## **Availability**

The website is available at <a href="https://virbiohub.mu.edu.tr">https://virbiohub.mu.edu.tr</a>. Please see the figure below for a snapshot of VirBioHub.

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