



Discussions > General ICTV Discussions

searching for the proper name



Offline [Eric Carstens](#) 130.15.149.98 over 14 years ago

Untitled Document

Elliot

Here is a practical question for you. I sit on our university's biohazard committee. At a recent meeting, an application included "Herpes B" as a hazard. I suggested using the correct taxonomic name and provided the ICTVonline link. As you can see from the comments below, and my own experience, searching for ICTV approved nomenclature continues to be challenging, particularly when the common name is just that, very common. Do you have any suggestions on how to help people search for approved taxonomic names?

Eric

Begin forwarded message:

From: Shelagh Mirski <Shelagh.Mirski@queensu.ca>

Date: 2008 January 09 14:12:39 EST (CA)

To: Eric B Carstens <carstens@queensu.ca>

Subject: Viral nomenclature

Hi Eric,

At the last Biohazard Committee meeting you spoke quite strongly about using ICTV nomenclature to avoid confusion in the applications. I looked up Cercopithecine herpesvirus 1, the most recent formal name that I have seen for Herpes B virus in the published literature. I found it (with a bit of difficulty, going through multiple layered windows). However when I search for B-virus, or Herpesvirus simiae both of which are listed as alternative names in the "Taxon Info" then "list of Species in the Genus". So while I agree in principal with using the proper name, I think it is going to be tough for people to use this database to find the correct name if they know the common name. For this virus we know the proper name is, but in other cases we may not. Perhaps there is a different way to search the database that I missed? Suggestions?

Shelagh

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Offline [Elliot Lefkowitz](#) 24.175.153.136 over 14 years ago

Eric,

Ideally, ICTVdb should provide a listing of alternative names and synonyms. Once the new system comes online (perhaps this summer) these types of searches should be much easier. (One caveat is that I am unsure how complete the list of synonyms is within the ICTVdb database.) While we could decide to provide synonyms for the names in the Master Species List available from ictvonline.org, this would probably duplicate ICTVdb efforts and not be worth the time.

And for anyone interested, Dr. Mirski did find that NCBI provides the ability to search for alternative names from their taxonomy search page:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Browser/wwwtax.cgi> (set the option for token search)

Elliot

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