

Table 1
Species in the Genus *Iilarvirus*

Species (acronym)	Subgroup	Taxonomic status
American plum line pattern (APLPV)	5	Approved
Apple mosaic (ApMV)	3	Approved
Asparagus virus 2 (AV-2)	2	Approved
Citrus leaf rugose (CiLRV)	2	Approved
Citrus variegation (CVV)	2	Approved
Elm mottel (EMoV)	2	Approved
Humulus japonicus (HJV)	9	Approved
Hydrangea mosaic (HdMV)	8	Approved
Lilac ring mottle (LRMV)	7	Approved
Parietaria mottle (PMoV)	10	Approved
Prune dwarf (PDV)	4	Approved
Prunus necrotic ringspot (PNRSV)	3	Approved
Spinach latent (SpLV)	6	Approved
Tobacco streak (TSV)	1	Type member
Tulare apple mosaic (TAMV)	2	Approved

The list contains the species according to **ref. 1**.

shown in **Fig. 1B**. The two larger genomic RNAs (1 and 2) are monocistronic and encode nonstructural proteins involved in viral replication (5). In contrast, RNA-3 is bicistronic, encoding a polypeptide presumably required for cell-to-cell movement at the 5' proximal end and the viral CP at the 3' distal end (5–7). The putative movement protein is translated directly from RNA-3; the CP is expressed from a subgenomic RNA-4, which is colinear with the 3' end of RNA-3 and also becomes encapsidated. Iilarviruses are not as intensively studied at the molecular level as other viruses with tripartite genomes, such as alfalfa mosaic virus (AIMV), and brome mosaic virus (BMV); nevertheless, some sequence data became available recently (**Table 2**). So far, however, no complete ilarvirus genome sequence has been published. Some information of ilarvirus molecular biology has been deduced from results obtained for the single member of the next-closest related genus, *Alfamovirus*, alfalfa mosaic virus (AMV).

A unique property of ilarviruses, as well as AMV, which separates them from the other genera of the bromoviridae, is the necessity of CP or CP subgenomic mRNA to initiate infection (12). This phenomenon, referred to as genome activation, has been studied in most detail with AMV (13). The genome activation depends on the interaction of the N-terminus of the CP with the 3'-untranslated region of the viral genomic RNAs (13). Moreover, the respective