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such instance was in 2002-2003 when a

new coronavirus of the B genera and

with origin in bats crossed over to

humans via the intermediary host of

palm civet cats in the Guangdong

province of China. This virus,

designated as severe acute respiratory

syndrome coronavirus affected 8422

people mostly in China and Hong Kong

and caused 916 deaths (mortality rate

11%) before being contained [4].

Almost a decade later in 2012, the

Middle East respiratory syndrome

coronavirus (MERS-CoV), also of bat

origin, emerged in Saudi Arabia with

dromedary camels as the intermediate

host and affected 2494 people and

caused 858 deaths (fatality rate 34%)

[5].

Origin and Spread of COVID-19

[1, 2, 6]

In December 2019, adults in Wuhan,

capital citv of Hubei province anda

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