

The coevolutionary mosaic of betacoronavirus emergence risk

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Driven by the need to understand the ecological factors involved in the emergence of *Betacoronavirus* (the genus causing the SARS, MERS, and COVID-19 in human) through bat hosts, we develop an approach to the assessment of spillover risk based on the Geographic Mosaic Theory of Coevolution. In doing so, we provide a global mapping of the spillover risk posed by betacoronaviruses, reflecting the fact that this risk is best understood through the multi-faceted prism of ecological and evolutionary mechanisms. Our framework reveals that host richness alone, although a component of viral hazard, is not a sufficiently integrative predictor of risk. We offer alternative insights based on viral sharing, host compositional uniqueness, and host phylogenetic diversity and phylogeographic regions. By comparing our aggregated measure of risk to a proxy for human density, namely the proportion of each pixel that is covered by urban or built land, we provide a synthetic risk map, allowing the identification of hotspots where the bat-betacoronavirus interaction network may facilitate the emergence of novel viruses and their spillover into human populations.

1 Disease emergence is complex, and is driven not only by animal-human contact, but also by the
2 underlying evolutionary dynamics in viral reservoirs.¹ Although host richness is often used as a superficial
3 proxy for spillover risk,^{2,3} these approaches oversimplify the relevant interspecific heterogeneity in
4 immunology, behavior, and other traits, and therefore overlook unique host pools that allow for the rapid
5 evolution of highly divergent viruses.⁴ In the case of generalist pathogens like betacoronaviruses, there is
6 conceptual and empirical support to the idea that these community-level mechanisms are even more
7 important,⁵ particularly given that cross-species transmission may, as a rule, structure viral evolution
8 more than co-divergence with hosts.⁶ This creates a disconnect between coevolutionary theory (including
9 empirical evidence from virology) and most existing ecological frameworks for mapping spillover risk.

10 The Geographic Mosaic Theory of Coevolution (GMTC) attempts to explicitly connect microevolutionary
11 dynamics to the macroecology and biogeography of symbiotic interactions.⁷ The GMTC posits that
12 coevolutionary processes among pairs⁸ or complexes⁹ of species are structured in space by the rippling
13 effects of abiotic conditions onto evolutionary mechanism, giving rise to fragmented systems with
14 different structure and ecologically dynamics over large spatial extents.¹⁰ The GMTC predicts a spatial
15 fragmentation of coevolutionary dynamics under the joint action of three processes:¹¹ coevolutionary hot-
16 and coldspots, which appear when the intensity of *interaction* (in terms of reciprocal fitness consequences)
17 varies spatially; selection mosaics, wherein the intensity of *selection* varies across space, driven by both the
18 biotic complexity of the community (locally diverse hosts and viruses are more biotically complex) and the
19 local favorability of the environment;¹² and trait remixing, which occurs when coevolutionary dynamics
20 are driven by the arrival (or departure) of *functional traits*, through changes in community composition
21 due to invasions, meta-community dynamics, and dispersal.

22 Here, we apply the GMTC to explore and explain the global biogeography of betacoronaviruses, the group
23 that includes SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2. In their bat reservoirs, coronaviruses evolve
24 through a mix of host jumps, recombination among disparate lineages, and, to a lesser degree,
25 co-divergence with their hosts—²a mix of mechanisms that creates a complex and nonlinear relationship
26 between host diversity and viral emergence. Working from a recently published database of bat hosts of
27 betacoronaviruses, we develop the first global maps of both host and virus evolutionary distinctiveness
28 and biogeographic regions for this system. Aiming to explain these patterns, we develop a generalized
29 framework for applying the GMTC to host-virus interactions, with a specific emphasis on the potential to
30 create independent coevolutionary dynamics (and therefore spatial fragmentation in risk) through

31 heterogeneity. We develop a trivariate risk assessment system that connects each GMTC mechanism to a
32 quantifiable aspect of host-virus interactions: (i) viral sharing rates in host communities, representing the
33 strength of potential interaction between viruses and any one host (i.e., places where viruses undergo
34 constant host switching may be coevolutionary coldspots); (ii) the phylogenetic diversity of hosts, as a
35 proxy for variation in the immunological mechanisms that antagonize viruses (i.e., the selection mosaic);
36 and (iii) the local uniqueness of the bat community, representing the potential for viruses to be exposed to
37 novel host traits (e.g., variation in receptor sequences). Together, we argue that these can be used to
38 identify and map the evolutionary drivers that—in conjunction with transmission processes (e.g., viral
39 prevalence in reservoirs and animal-human contact rates)—determine disease emergence risk.

40 Results and Discussion

41 Hotspots of host richness and viral diversification are distinct

42 Bats, the second most diverse group of mammals, are found worldwide; gradients in their species
43 richness generally track broader patterns of mammal diversity, with a striking Neotropical hotspot
44 (especially in the Amazon basin) and a secondary hotspot centered in the southeast Asian peninsula.
45 These hotspots of bat diversity are generally presumed to be hotspots of viral adaptive radiation, and
46 therefore areas of concern for human health.^{2,13} However, the hotspots of bat betacoronavirus reservoirs
47 show a distinct pattern, with primary hotspots (both in terms of size and higher values) of host richness
48 situated primarily southeast Asia, parts of southern Europe, and to a lesser extent parts of Africa in the
49 -25-0 range of latitudes (fig. 1; top). Although hundreds of species likely host undiscovered
50 betacoronaviruses, machine learning predictions have suggested that these undiscovered reservoirs should
51 follow the same diversity gradient.¹⁴ In principle, these hotspots of locally-diverse, virus-rich bat
52 communities should drive more adaptive diversification in their viruses.

53 [Figure 1 about here.]

54 However, we find that the global pattern of betacoronavirus phylogenetic distinctiveness is quite distinct
55 from both bat host richness and phylogenetic distinctiveness (fig. 1; bottom). In contrast to the sparsity of
56 Neotropical betacoronavirus hosts, South America has the most evolutionary distinct hosts *and* viruses,

57 followed by secondary hotspots in southeast Asia and the Rift Valley region have mostly distinct viruses.
58 Some degree of sampling bias may contribute to these patterns: for example, South-America is one of the
59 places where the fewest bat betacoronavirus sequences have been generated,^{2,13,15} resulting in a sparser
60 phylogenetic tree, and artificially inflating distinctiveness; conversely, disproportionate research effort in
61 eastern China¹⁶ may have led to a more complete inventory of the local diversity of coronaviruses, again
62 inflating these metrics relative to underlying patterns. Even accounting for these potential biases, though,
63 there are obvious and distinctive regional regimes of bat-betacoronavirus diversification.

64 These global patterns recapitulate the evolutionary history of both the order Chiroptera and the genus
65 *Betacoronavirus*. Horseshoe bats (Rhinolophidae) are both the reservoirs of the SARS-like viruses
66 (subgenus *Sarbecovirus*) and the presumed ancestral host of *Betacoronavirus*.¹⁷ The hotspot of host
67 richness and viral diversity in southeast Asia—both of which are disproportionately high considering the
68 global landscape of bat species richness—is almost entirely driven by dynamics in this clade.^{3,14} In
69 contrast, the Neotropical hotspot is driven by a combination of distinct bat and virus adaptive radiation.
70 The hotspot of bat diversity in the Americas is driven by the New World leaf-nosed bats
71 (Phyllostomidae),¹⁸ a group of bats that have undergone multiple explosive diversification events—but
72 that are more often hosts of alphacoronaviruses. Out of the four main groups of betacoronaviruses, only
73 the subgenus *Merbecovirus*—the outgroup of the betacoronavirus tree—has been found in New World bats;
74 while found worldwide, the merbecoviruses are almost entirely restricted to vesper bats (Vespertilionidae)
75 []. In this light, the hotspot of virus distinctiveness in the Americas is the result of isolation by
76 vicariance—a unique branch of coronavirus-bat coevolution, separate from the rest of the globe.

77 The phylogeographic regions of hosts and their viruses overlap

78 Despite differences in hotspots of evolutionary distinctiveness, there are reasons to expect that the
79 phylogeography of bats and betacoronaviruses should show some degree of congruence.^{19,20} In particular,
80 this should be the case if viruses can circulate among hosts and co-evolve with local hosts communities,
81 making their evolutionary process more than a byproduct of host evolution. High density of hosts sharing
82 the same virus (albeit possibly different strains) can drive or result from evolution of the bat antiviral
83 immune system, resulting in spatially distinct immunological responses, as evidenced in several bat
84 species.²¹ Immune characteristics that allow bats to be better adapted to infection by emerging viruses,^{22,23}
85 in addition to being hardcoded in their genome,²⁴ may be related to a wide variety of diets,^{21,25} themselves

86 likely to be driven by spatial effects, especially at the local scale – bats, indeed, occupy a variety of
87 environments, and therefore display a variety of adaptations to these environments.²⁶

88 [Figure 2 about here.]

89 In fig. 2, we show a projection of the phylogeographic signal of bats (top) and viruses (bottom) in space;
90 the distinct groupings (represented by different colors symbolizing positions in the subspace formed by
91 the first two axes of the PCoA) are essentially equivalent between the two groups, and can be coarsely
92 delineated as southeast Asia, Eurasia above a northing of 25, and Africa and south America. These results
93 suggest that, although the evolutionary distinctiveness of the bat-betacoronaviruses complex varies
94 spatially, the system shows an important degree of spatial consistency, with a reduced number of
95 bioregions. Available information describing the spillover of zoonotic betacoronaviruses of bat origin
96 where data was available before and up through the COVID-19 pandemic puts spillover events of
97 SARS-CoV-2 in Wuhan, China; SARS-CoV in Guangdong, China based on the presence of closest known
98 viruses circulating in nature, and a nearby location where serological (antibody) evidence has indicated
99 human exposure to SARS-like viruses;²⁷ MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia based on index cases available from a
100 recently-published compendium of cases.²⁸ For the latest event, most if not all index cases are presumed to
101 be camel-to-human transmission, and the precise origin point (if it exists) of MERS-CoV in bats is
102 uncertain. Recent recombinant canine coronavirus spillover events in Haiti²⁹ and Europe³⁰ are not
103 relevant here, as bats' involvement in these cycles of transmission have been supposed to be non-existent.
104 These index cases fall within different phylogeographic bioregions (fig. 2), which further highlight the
105 issue that different host-virus sub-systems may lead to widespread emergence.

106 Coevolution-informed emergence risk is different in space

107 As host richness, joint distinctiveness, or phylogeographic structure suggest that the bat-betacoronaviruses
108 complex is globally fragmented enough to give rise to both different levels of risk (as evidenced by the
109 spatial location of spillover events) and different types of co-evolutionary dynamics, we turn to the
110 Geographic Mosaic Theory of Coevolution to provide a measure of risk accounting for multiple processes.
111 In fig. 3, we overlapped three components of spillover risk: viral sharing, *i.e.* the chance that two bats will
112 share viruses overall; Local Contribution to Beta Diversity, *i.e.* the fact that a bat community is
113 compositionally unique compared to the average compositional similarity across the entire system; finally,

114 host phylogenetic diversity, *i.e.* how dispersed the bats in a location are within the tree of life. This
115 approach leads to the definition of broad biogeographic regions of risk, where the same color represents
116 the same type of risk. By way of contrast to figures fig. 1 and fig. 2, these regions do not necessarily
117 overlap with previous spatial partitions of the bat-betacoronaviruses complex.

118 [Figure 3 about here.]

119 From the perspective of spillover risk, the most important combination of factors is a high phylogenetic
120 diversity of hosts with low viral sharing; this, essentially, means that very different betacoronaviruses
121 could co-exist within the same place. This is particularly the case given that betacoronaviruses often
122 evolve and even achieve host shifts through recombination, which requires the co-occurrence of
123 sufficiently distinct viruses to be a major driver of emergence. In fig. 3, this corresponds to yellow to pale
124 green areas, which are essentially limited to South-Eastern Asia, and to some part of Sub-Saharan Africa.
125 Adopting a geographic mosaic theory perspective on risk, other regions of the world are of lesser concern
126 (fig. 4). Our risk decomposition does not account for viral diversity or distinctiveness. The simple
127 rationale behind it is that the acquisition of viral data is rarely disconnected from the acquisition of host
128 data. There are more sources of information on hosts than on viruses, allowing to develop a host-centric
129 perspective on risk (although this estimate would be more accurate with viral traits related to *e.g.* ability to
130 switch hosts or pathogenic potential). Areas with high bat diversity and high turnover *may* facilitate the
131 evolutionary radiation of viruses, matching previous findings that the diversification of bat coronaviruses
132 is driven largely by host shifts (inter-genus or higher levels of cross-species transmission) and, to a lesser
133 degree, cospeciation and sharing, representing intra-genus cross-species transmission.² This
134 diversification is not an actual risk factor for spillover itself, but acts downstream of a spillover event by
135 increasing the random chance of the emergence of a virus with the raw genomic components required for
136 the potential to infect humans.

137 [Figure 4 about here.]

138 From another perspective, areas of high host uniqueness and virus sharing (red-to-pink) could provide
139 hotspots of *Betacoronavirus* risk through mixing of unique viruses (via codivergence) and in turn
140 recombination. Under our framework, such a hotspot was identified in Madagascar, where most bat
141 species are endemic following evolutionary divergence from sister species in both African and Asian

142 continents.³¹ Recent surveillance³² has identified a novel *Betacoronavirus* (in the subgenus *Nobcovirus*) in
143 Madagascar-endemic pteropid bat species (*Pteropus rufus*, *Rousettus madagascariensis*), emphasizing
144 strong proof of principle in model predictions.

145 Human occupancy drives different levels of effective risk globally

146 Based on the previous result, we extracted the risk component from the composite map (see Methods), to
147 provide a single measure of risk varying between 0 and 1. This measure is presented in fig. 4. As this map
148 represents the potential risk, it must be weighed by the potential for contacts with humans. As a proxy for
149 this measure, we used the proportion of build/urban land from the EarthEnv dataset: this is a reasonable
150 proxy for the density of humans per unit area, which increases the probability of pathogen spread more
151 widely.³³ Since human activity is required to amplify the frequency of virus encounters and thus create
152 areas of viral amplification, mapping the potential risk against measures of land use is required to generate
153 a more actionable assessment of risk. This map is presented in fig. 5. Most of South America and Europe
154 are at comparatively lower risk, as although densely populated, settlements tend to be in areas with lower
155 potential risk. Regions like Malaysia and the North coast of Australia have a high risk component, but
156 should represent a relatively lower effective risk due to low human density. However, this mapping reveals
157 that South-East Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, are at high risk due to the
158 overlap between built areas and bat communities representing more opportunities for cross-species
159 transmission of betacoronaviruses. In looking for the origins of SARS in China,³⁴ present serological
160 evidence that strongest human-animal contact results in higher risk of virus exposure, regardless of the
161 animal species, but that different types of contact had different impacts. Ideally, finer-grained information
162 about human activity (rather than human presence through anthropisation) could allow to partition this
163 risk further, albeit at the cost of more hypotheses required to estimate the amount of risk represented by
164 each activity. Our map of purported high risk/diversitifcation potential (Madagascar, South-America)
165 overlay with sampling gaps for *Betacoronavirus*,¹⁶ stressing the need for spatially targeted monitoring and
166 discovery.

167

[Figure 5 about here.]

168 **Conclusion**

169 Bats are important reservoir hosts for different classes of microorganisms, many of which a threat to
170 human health.^{19,20} Chiropterans emerged around 64 million years ago and are one of the most diverse
171 mammalian orders, with an estimated richness of more than 1400 species.^{35,36} They exhibit a broad variety
172 of habitat use, behaviour, and feeding strategies, putting them at key positions in the delivery and
173 provisioning of several ecosystem services, tied to important ecosystem-derived benefits to human.³⁷ For
174 example, bats are an essential component of many seed-dispersal networks.³⁸ Over two-thirds of bats are
175 know to be either obligate or facultative insectivores, therefore actively contributing for agricultural pest
176 control,^{39,40} and vectors of pathogens that put a risk on human health.^{41,42} Because bats are globally
177 distributed and have a long evolutionary history, phylogeographic and biogeographic approaches are
178 required to shed light on the contemporary distribution of coevolutionary processes between bats and the
179 pathogens they host. Not all areas in which bats, viruses, and human are co-occurring are facing a risk of
180 spillover towards human populations, and the areas in which this risk exist may not be facing risks of the
181 same nature and magnitude.

182 Here, we propose a simple framework with broad explanatory power that helps contextualize discoveries
183 like highly divergent nobecoviruses in Madagascar and the previously-neglected adaptive radiation of
184 sarbecoviruses outside of southern China and throughout southeast Asia. In doing so, it advances
185 ecological theory beyond the current state of the art for global maps of emergence risk. For example,
186 previous studies that have used host richness as proxy have predicted a high diversity of unsampled bat
187 viruses,¹³ bat coronaviruses,² and even specifically betacoronaviruses¹⁴ in both the Amazon and southeast
188 Asia. While we find that both regions are characterized by highly divergent host and viral communities,
189 our framework identifies key differences between the regions. We find that Latin America is a hotspot of
190 both host and viral distinctiveness, suggesting that this branch of the bat-betacoronavirus complex may be
191 undergoing independent evolutionary dynamics from the rest of the global pool, but with limited potential
192 for viral diversification—a finding that is supported by previous work indicating a higher rate of
193 codivergence in Latin America.² In contrast, in southeast Asia, host richness and viral distinctiveness are
194 high but sharing is low; this suggests a different type of evolutionary dynamics that could generate high
195 local diversity of viruses through host switching and viral recombination (see e.g.,¹⁷ as well as the
196 discovery of recombinant viruses that share genetic material from both the SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2

197 branches of the Sarbecovirus lineage).⁴³ Both of these regions are priority areas for sampling, especially
198 given predictions that they contain many bat hosts of undiscovered betacoronaviruses.^{14,16} However, both
199 the evolutionary and ecological aspects of emergence risk are likely higher in southeast Asia—a fact that
200 will only become more relevant, as bats track shifting climates and exchange viruses with other species,
201 creating a hotspot of cross-species transmission unique to the region.⁴⁴

202 The diversity and diversification potential of bats responds to anthropogenic factors others than shifting
203 climates.⁴⁵ Land use changes could significantly decrease bat suitability, notably through effects on diet
204 and availability of habitats.⁴⁶ As our results establish that the diversification of bats betacoronaviruses
205 happens on top of processes affecting hosts, biogeographic variation in human population density and
206 anthropogenic disturbances may feed into co-evolutionary dynamics. Increase in humans-hosts contacts
207 also increase the risk of emergence of novel diseases,⁴⁷ so does the changes in landscape connectivity at
208 local/regional scales.⁴⁸ This represents a challenge for both conservation strategies and disease ecology:
209 some areas can a high emergence risk and more potential for the acquisition of zoonotic viruses through
210 bat-human encounters.⁴⁹ In particular, the challenge ahead lies in the need to quantify actual exposure
211 (and risk) accounting for several transmission scenarios, including both direct and indirect bat - human
212 interactions, and feeding back into the provision of ecosystem services by bats.

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223 **Methods**

224 **Known *Betacoronavirus* hosts**

225 We downloaded the data on bats hosts of *Betacoronavirus* from
226 <https://www.viralemergence.org/betacov> on Apr. 2022,¹⁴ and filtered it to “known” hosts (established
227 before the emergence of SARS-CoV-2) and “novel” hosts (confirmed through sampling and competence
228 assays since the initial data collection). The original database was assembled by a combination of data
229 mining and literature surveys, including automated alerts on the “bats” and “coronavirus” keywords to
230 identify novel empirical evidence of bats-betacoronaviruses associations; this yielded a total of 126 known
231 hosts, 47 of which were novel hosts.

232 **Bat occurrences**

233 We downloaded the rangemap of every current bat species that was classified as an empirically
234 documented host of *Betacoronavirus* from the previous step, according to recent IUCN data.⁵⁰ The range
235 maps were subsequently rasterized using the rasterize function from GDAL⁵¹ at a resolution of
236 approximately 100kmx100km. For every pixel in the resulting raster where at least one bat host of
237 *Betacoronavirus* was present, we extract the species pool (list of all known bat hosts), which was used to
238 calculate the following risk assessment components: bat phylogenetic diversity, bat compositional
239 uniqueness, and predicted viral sharing risk.

240 **Bat phylogenetic diversity**

241 For every pixel, we measured Faith’s Phylogenetic Diversity⁵² based on a recent synthetic tree with robust
242 time calibration, covering about 6000 mammalian species.⁵³ Faith’s PD measures the sum of unique
243 branches from an arbitrary root to a set of tips, and comparatively larger values indicate a more
244 phylogenetic diverse species pool. We measured phylogenetic diversity starting from the root of the entire
245 tree (and not from Chiroptera); this bears no consequences on the resulting values, since all branches
246 leading up to Chiroptera are only counted one per species pool, and (as we explain when describing the
247 assembly of the composite risk map), all individual risk components are ranged in [0,1]. This measure
248 incorporates a richness component, which we chose not to correct for; the interpretation of the

249 phylogenetic diversity is therefore a weighted species richness, that accounts for phylogenetic
250 over/under-dispersal in some places.

251 **Bat compositional uniqueness**

252 For every species pool, we measured its Local Contribution to Beta-Diversity;⁵⁴ LCBD works from a
253 species-data matrix (traditionally noted as \mathbf{Y}), where species are rows and sites are columns, and a value of
254 1 indicates occurrence. We extracted the \mathbf{Y} matrix assuming that every pixel represents a unique location,
255 and following best practices⁵⁵ transformed it using Hellinger's distance to account for unequal bat
256 richness at different pixels. The correction of raw community data is particularly important for two
257 reasons: first, it prevents the artifact of richer sites having higher importance; second, it removes the effect
258 of overall species richness, which is already incorporated in the phylogenetic diversity component. High
259 values of LCBD indicate that the pixel has a community that is on average more dissimilar in species
260 composition than what is expected knowing the entire matrix, i.e. a more unique community. Recent
261 results by⁵⁶ shows that LCBD measures are robust with regards to spatial scale, and are therefore
262 applicable at the global scale.

263 **Viral sharing between hosts**

264 For all bat hosts of *Betacoronavirus*, we extracted their predicted viral sharing network, generated from a
265 previously published generalized additive mixed model of virus sharing by a tensor function of
266 phylogenetic distance and geographic range overlap across mammals.⁵⁷ This network stores pairwise
267 values of viral community similarity. To project viral sharing values into a single value for every pixel, we
268 averaged the pairwise scores. High values of the average sharing propensity means that this specific extant
269 bat assemblage is likely to be proficient at exchanging viruses.

270 **Composite risk map**

271 To visualize the aggregated risk at the global scale, we combine the three individual risk components
272 (phylogenetic diversity, compositional uniqueness, and viral sharing) using an additive color model.⁵⁸ In
273 this approach, every risk component gets assigned a component in the RGB color model (phylogenetic
274 diversity is green, compositional uniqueness is red, and viral sharing is blue). In order to achieve a valid

275 RGB measure, all components are re-scaled to the [0,1] interval, so that a pixel with no sharing, no
276 phylogenetic diversity, and no compositional uniqueness is black, and a pixel with maximal values for
277 each is white. This additive model conveys both the intensity of the overall risk, but also the nature of the
278 risk as colors diverge towards combinations of values for three risk components. Out of the possible
279 combinations, the most risky in terms of rapid diversification and spillover potential is high phylogenetic
280 diversity and low viral sharing,⁵⁹ in that this allows multiple independent host-virus coevolutionary
281 dynamics to take place in the same location. In the colorimetric space, this corresponds to yellow – because
282 the HSV space is more amenable to calculations for feature extraction,⁶⁰ we measured the risk level by
283 calculating the angular distance of the hue of each pixel to a reference value of 60 (yellow), and weighted
284 this risk level by the value component. Specifically, given a pixel with colorimetric coordinates (h, s, v) , its
285 ranged weighted risk value is

$$v \times \left[1 - \frac{|\text{atan}(\cos(\text{rad}(h)), \sin(\text{rad}(h))) - X|}{2\pi} \right],$$

286 where X is $\text{atan}(\cos(\text{rad}(60)), \sin(\text{rad}(60)))$, a constant approximately equal to 0.5235.

287 **Viral phyogeography and evolutionary diversification**

288 To next represent phyogeography of betacoronaviruses in bats, we aggregated and analyzed
289 betacoronavirus sequence data. We used the following query to pull all *Betacoronavirus* sequence data
290 from the GenBank Nucleotide database except SARS-CoV-2; (“Betacoronavirus”[Organism] OR
291 betacoronavirus[All Fields]) NOT (“Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2”[Organism] OR
292 sars-cov-2[All Fields]). We added a single representative sequence for SARS-CoV-2 and manually curated
293 to remove sequences without the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) sequence or that contained
294 words indicating recombinant or laboratory strains including “patent”, “mutant”, “GFP”, and
295 “recombinant”. We filtered over-represented taxa including betacoronavirus 1, hCoV-OC43, Middle East
296 respiratory syndrome coronavirus, Murine hepatitis virus, and hCoV-HKU1. Curated betacoronavirus
297 RdRp sequences were then aligned using MAFFT⁶¹ v1.4.0 (Algorithm FFT-NS-2, Scoring matrix 200PAM /
298 k=2, gap open penalty 1.53m offset value 0.123) and a maximum likelihood tree reconstructed in
299 IQ-TREE⁶² v1.6.12 with ModelFinder⁶³ ultrafast bootstrap approximation⁶⁴ with a general time reversible
300 model with empirical base frequencies and the 5-discrete-rate-category FreeRaye model of nucleotide

301 substitution (GTR+F+R5).

302 We first tested the hypothesis that hotspots of viral diversification would track hotspots of bat
303 diversification. To do so, we plotted the number of known bat hosts (specifically only those included in the
304 phylogeny, so there was a 1:1 correspondence between data sources) against the “mean evolutionary
305 distinctiveness” of the associated viruses. To calculate this, we derived the fair proportions evolutionary
306 distinctiveness⁶⁵ for each of the viruses in the tree, then averaged these at the bat species level, projected
307 these values onto their geographic distributions, and averaged across every bat found in a given pixel. As
308 such, this can be thought of as a map of the mean evolutionary distinctiveness of the known viral
309 community believed to be associated with a particular subset of bats present.

310 **Co-distribution of hosts and viral hotspots**

311 Subsequently, we tested the hypothesis that the biogeography of bat betacoronaviruses should track the
312 biogeography of their hosts. To test this idea, we loosely adapted a method from,^{66,67} who proposed a
313 phylogenetic method for the delineation of animal biogeographic regions. In their original method, a
314 distance matrix - where each row or column represents a geographic raster’s grid cell, and the dissimilarity
315 values are the “beta diversity similarity” of their community assemble - undergoes non-metric
316 multidimensional scaling (NMDS); the first two axes of the NMDS are projected geographically using a
317 four-color bivariate map. Here, we build on this idea with an entirely novel methodology. First, we
318 measure the phylogenetic distance between the different viruses in the betacoronaviruses tree by using the
319 cophenetic function in ape;⁶⁸ subsequently, we take a principal components analysis of that distance
320 matrix (readily interchangeable for NMDS in this case) to project the viral tree into an n-dimensional
321 space. We then take the first two principal components and, as with the evolutionary distinctiveness
322 analysis, aggregated these to a mean host value and projected them using a four-color bivariate map.

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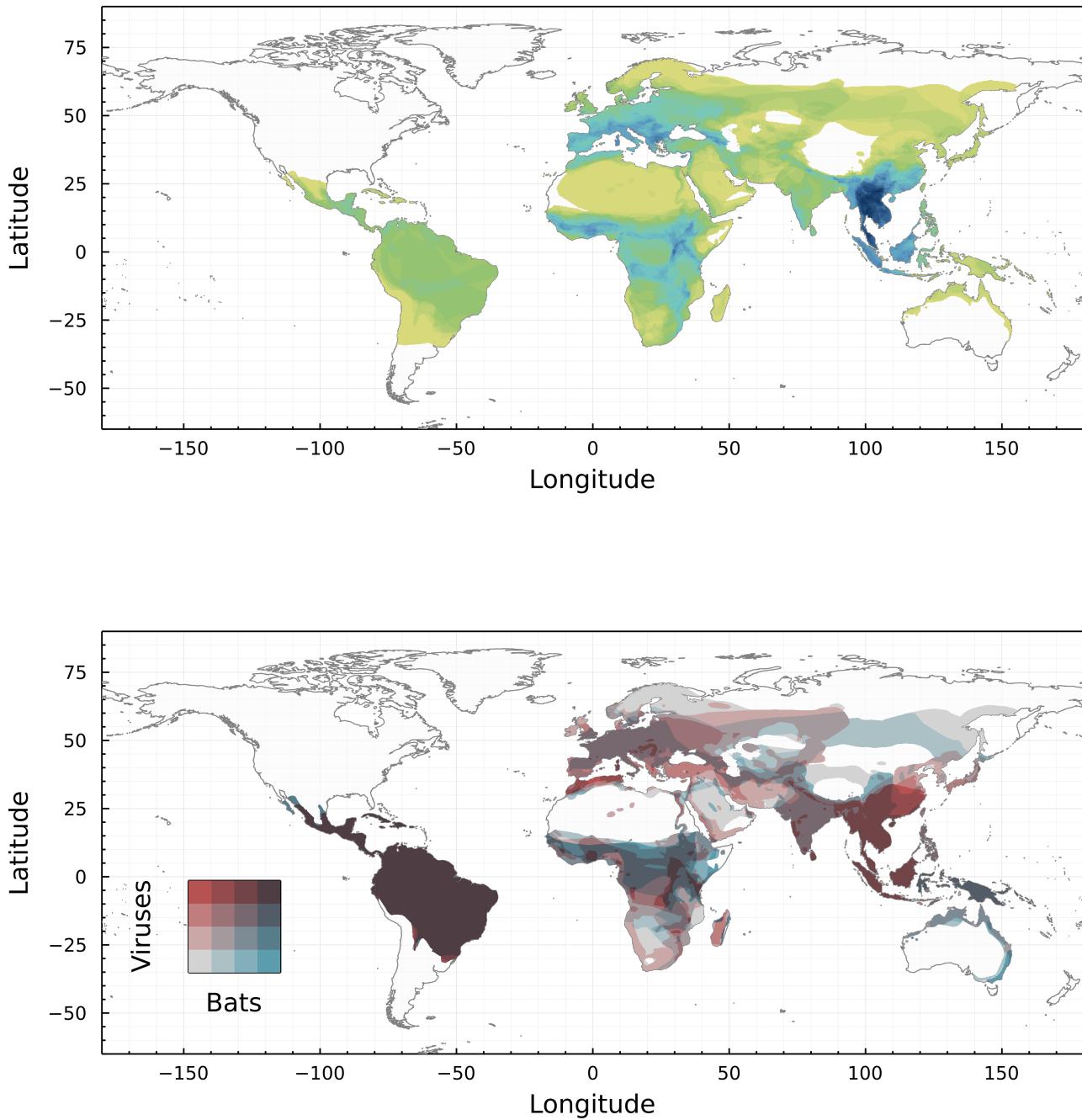


Figure 1: Top panel: relative diversity of known bat hosts of betacoronaviruses. This map shows that the region with the largest number of possible hosts is South-Eastern Asia. Bottom panel: congruence between the evolutionary distinctiveness of the hosts (grey to blue) and the viruses (grey to red).

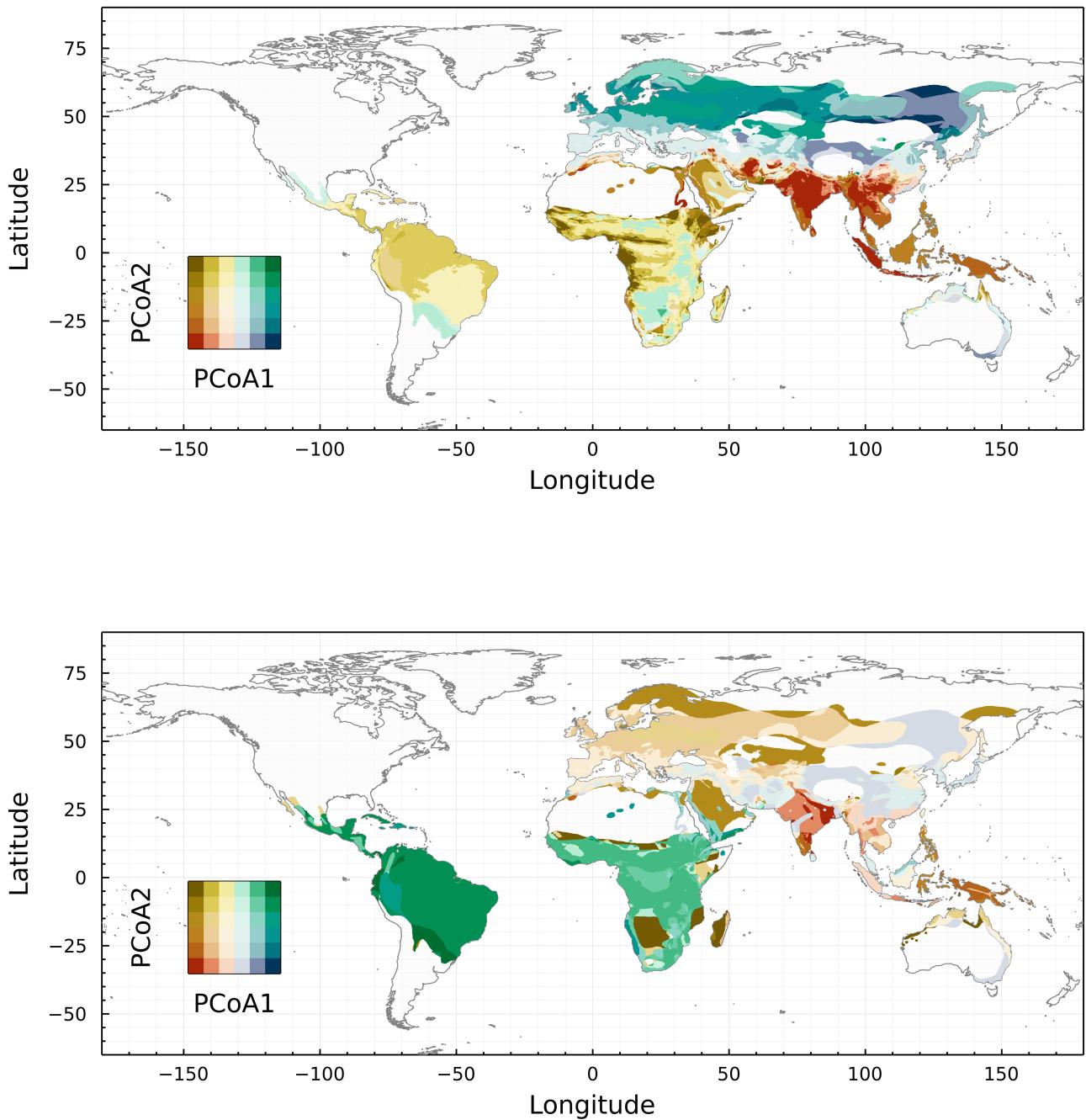


Figure 2: Phylogeographic regions of bats (top) and viruses (bottom) based on the joint analysis of their occurrence and phylogenetic relatedness. The different colors show tendencies to separate alongside the first two components of a PCoA. Note that the PCoA for the bats and viruses are independent, and so cannot be compared directly – that being said, the regions can be compared across maps.

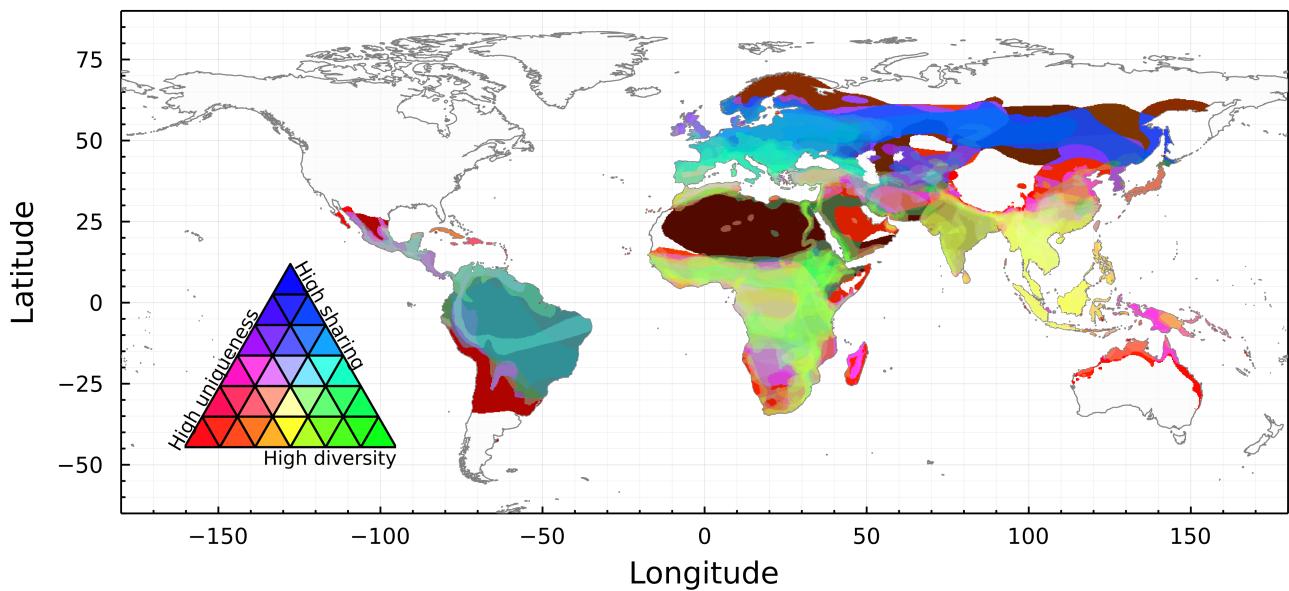


Figure 3: Trivariate additive mapping of the components of risk in the red/green/blue, where high virus sharing is encoded in the blue channel, host phylogenetic diversity in the green channel, and compositional uniqueness in the red channel. A pixel that would maximize all measures (highest possible risk) would be a pure white (specifically $\text{RGB}(1.0, 1.0, 1.0)$), and a pixel with the lowest possible values would be pure black (specifically $\text{RGB}(0.0, 0.0, 0.0)$). Therefore, lighter values (the sum of the three channels gets closer to 3) indicate higher risk, and the color indicates the proportional distribution of the factors making up the total risk.

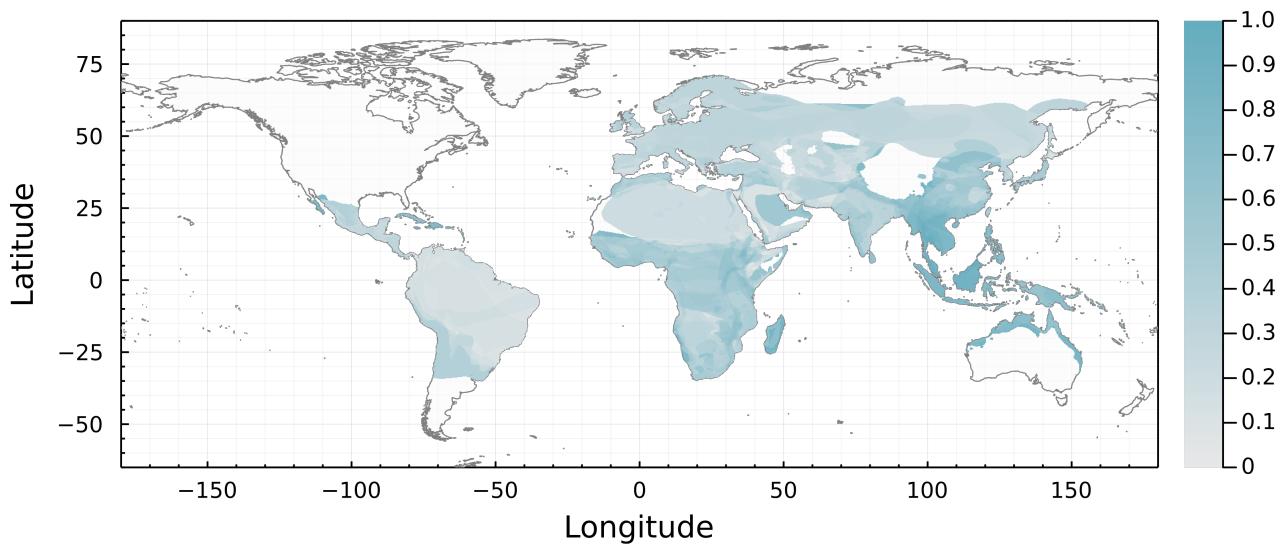


Figure 4: Extraction of a measure of *Betacoronavirus* spillover risk from bat hosts based on the colorimetric space from fig. 3. The risk is a composite measure of the color value and angular distance to the yellow hue, as defined in the methods, ranged in the unit space. Based on this analyses, regions at high risk of spillover are southeast Asia and Madagascar.

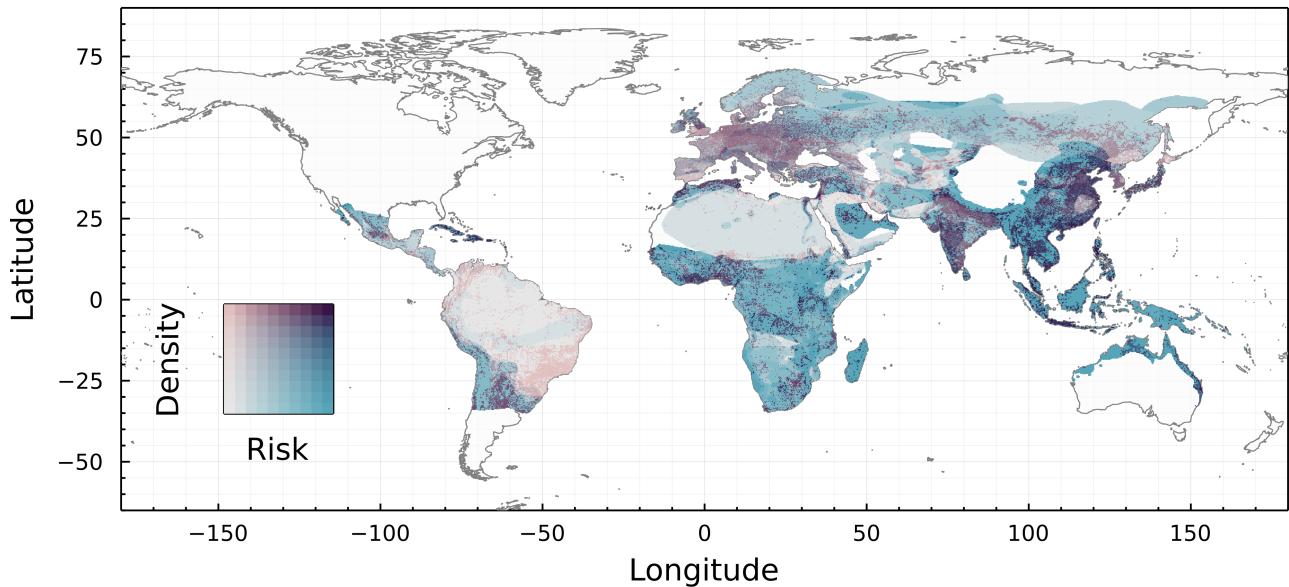


Figure 5: Overlap of the percent of each pixel occupied by urbanized structures, representing the degree of settlement, on the spillover risk map (where the risk comes only from wildlife, and ignores multi-hosts chains of transmissions including non-bats hosts). Darker pixels correspond to more risk, in that the GMTC-derived risk of fig. 4 is high *and* the pixel is densely occupied by human populations. This approach increases the relative risk of several regions in Africa, and highlights the risk in India, southeast China, and the Arabian peninsula where areas of high to moderate risk overlap with areas of denser population.