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2023 SEA Symposium Abstract

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Discovery of Gordonia terrae, Actinobacteriophages, Phitt412, Beyoncephae and Aphlak

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The SEA-PHAGES program is a partnership between the University of Pittsburgh and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). This program is a great tool to learn lab techniques and discover new bacteriophages. This semester, Spring 2023, we isolated several new *Gordonia terrae* bacteriophages. There were challenges in isolating this phage because at the beginning of the semester there was a lot of contamination. This poster will discuss three of the phages, named Phitt412, Beyoncephae and Aphlak, all of which grow at 30C. Phitt412 has a ~2mm plaque size and a halo morphology. Beyoncephae has a larger plaque size at 4mm, and also a halo morphology. Aphlak has two morphologies with plaque sizes at 1mm and 4mm in diameter, both of which are clear. Discovering and isolating phages has been educational, exciting and eventful. Currently we are isolating DNA for sequencing, in hopes of annotating the genome for future analysis.