

Molecular epidemiology of rabies viruses in the Philippines

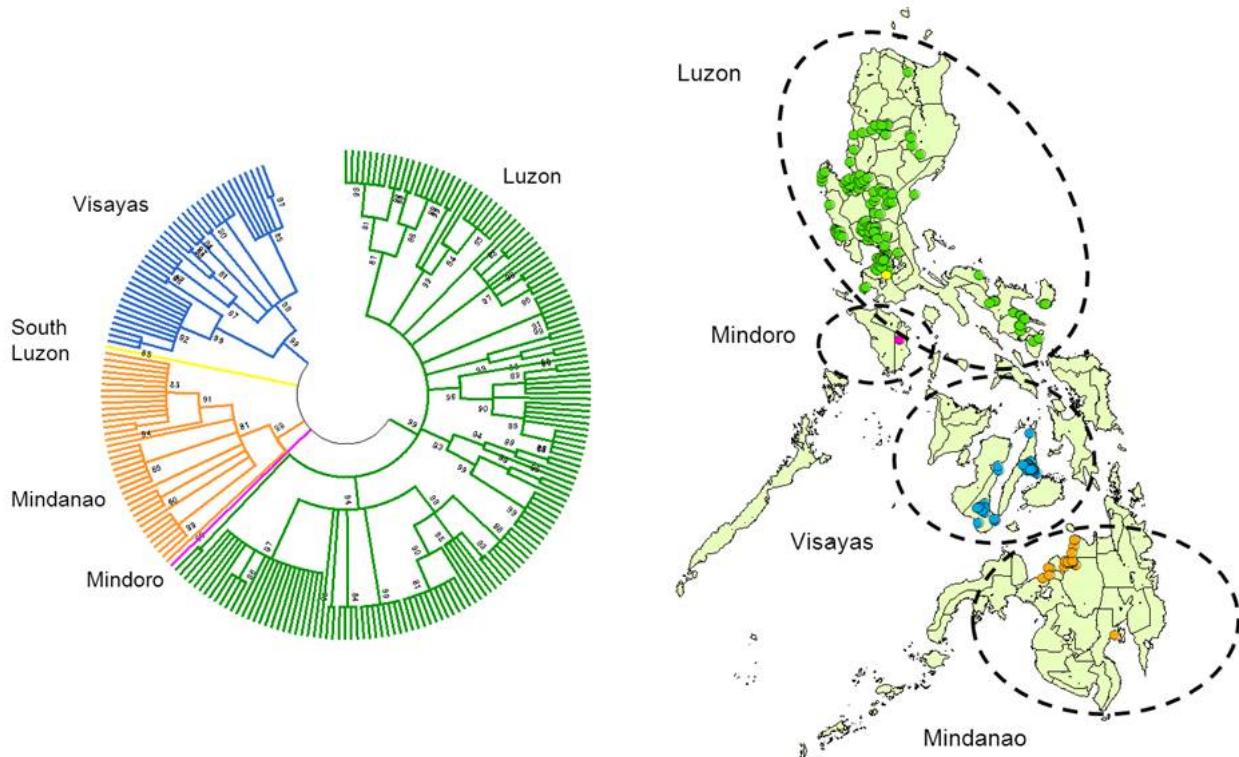
Professor Hitoshi Oshitani

A research group led by Assistant Professor Mariko Saito and Professor Hitoshi Oshitani of the Department of Virology at the Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine has clarified the genetic diversity and the geographical distribution of the Philippine rabies virus. The results of the research will hopefully contribute to the health measures against rabies in the Philippines.

In addition, these findings were published in PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases issue of April 4. The paper's title is "Genetic Diversity and Geographic Distribution of Genetically Distinct Rabies Viruses in the Philippines."



Prof. OSHITANI, Hitoshi
Virology
oshitanih@med.tohoku.ac.jp
<http://www.virology.med.tohoku.ac.jp/index-en.html>



We performed a molecular analysis of rabies viruses in the Philippines using rabies infected animal brain samples. We found unique genotype of rabies viruses in each island group, e.g. Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, which suggest geographically targeted dog vaccination is feasible and effective in controlling rabies in the Philippines.

"Genetic diversity and geographic distribution of genetically distinct rabies viruses in the Philippines."

Saito M, Oshitani H, Orbina JR, Tohma K, de Guzman AS, Kamigaki T, Demetria CS, Manalo DL, Noguchi A, Inoue S, Quiambao BP.

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