



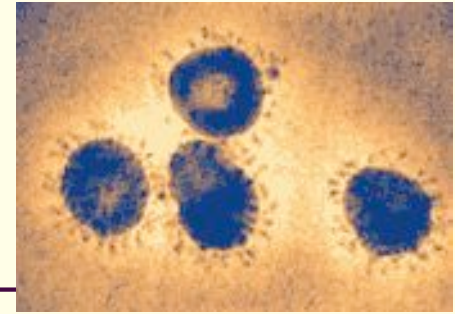
SARS

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

■ Objectives

- Name the type of organism that causes SARS
- Name three symptoms present in patients suffering SARS
- Discuss ways to prevent spreading SARS

■ General information

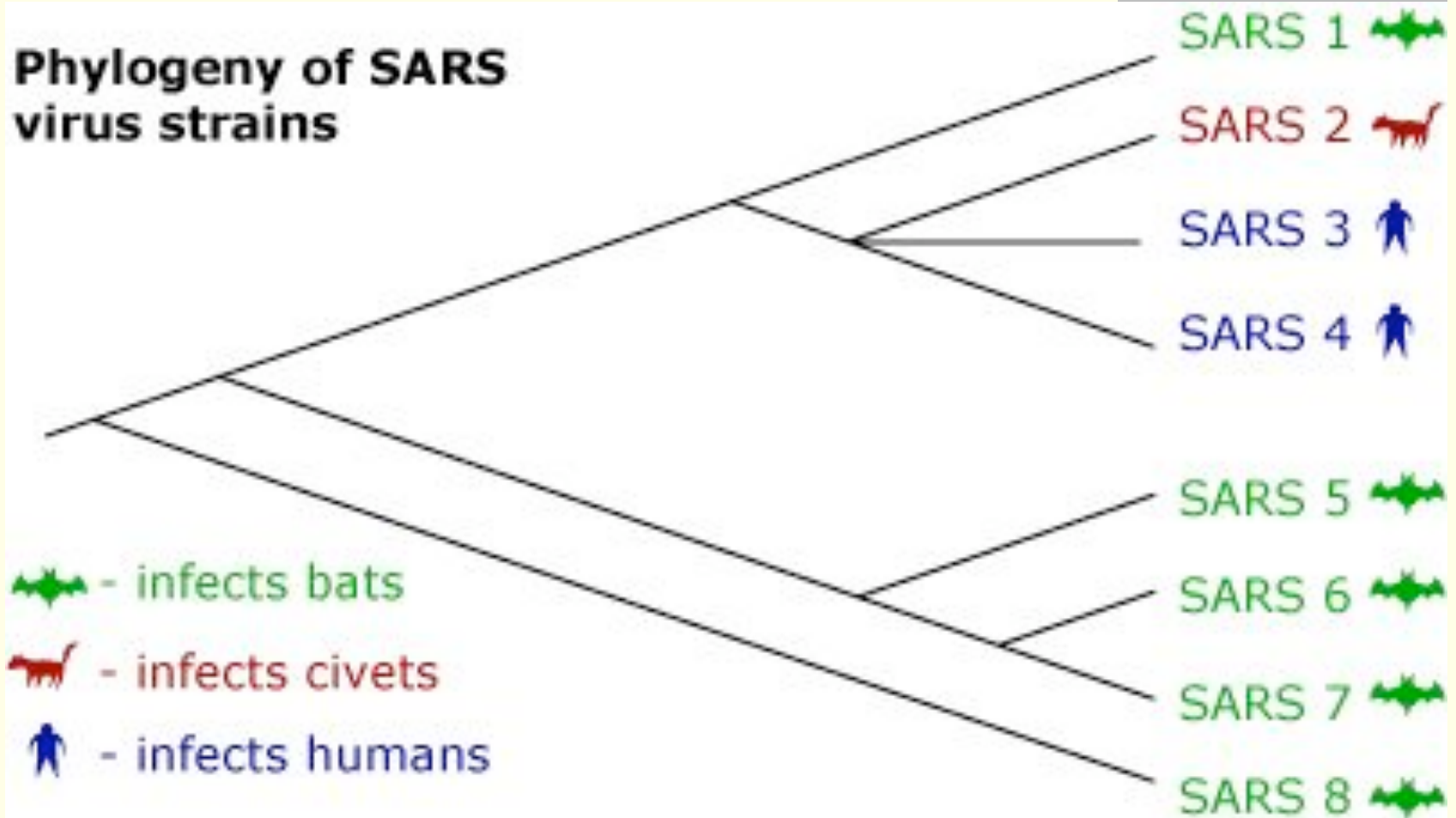


- Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a viral respiratory disease caused by a virus called SARS-associated coronavirus, which is an encapsulated virus
- SARS was first reported in Asia in February of 2003 and soon spread all over the world
- The virus has been linked to a cat-like mammal called a civet and the horseshoe bat



Spread of the virus

Phylogeny of SARS virus strains



Early Symptoms

- Flu like symptoms
- High fever
- General feeling of discomfort
- Chills
- Headache and body aches
- Possible respiratory discomfort
- Possible diarrhea

3-7 Days

- Dry, non-productive cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Hypoxia (reduction of oxygen supply to the body required for adequate perfusion)
- Pneumonia
- Acute Respiratory Syndrome

Lab Tests

- Low platelet count (Thrombocytopenia), which affects the body's ability to clot
- Low white blood cell count (Leukopenia), which affects the body's ability to fight off infections
- Elevated creatine phosphokinase (an enzyme in muscles used to reserve energy)
- Elevated Hepatic transaminase enzymes
- Presence of antibodies against the SARS virus

Spread

- Close personal contact, such as touching, hugging, kissing
- Being within a three foot radius to someone who sneezes or coughs
- Sharing eating and/or drinking utensils
- Living with or caring for someone infected with the SARS virus

Prevention

- Wash hands, wash hands, wash hands
 - After coming in contact with door knobs and handles
 - Before touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Good body immunity, healthy diet, exercise, stress reduction

- Review questions

- 1. What does SARS stand for?
- 2. What are some symptoms of SARS?
- 3. How is SARS spread?
- 4. How can you prevent getting SARS?