

Mass Spectrometric Study of Proteins of Various Variants of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2

Poorna Khaneja ¹, Annette Angel ^{1,*}, Shareef Mohammed Buvvaji ¹,
Shilpa Barthwal ¹, Bhawna Sharma ¹ and Neha Singh ¹

¹ Centre of Excellence in Virology & Immunology
Sharda University, Greater Noida, UP, India-201310

* Corresponding author

This article is distributed under the Creative Commons by-nc-nd Attribution License.
Copyright © 2024 Hikari Ltd.

Abstract

The occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 infection since 2019 created a havoc worldwide. To add to this, the appearance of various variants from all parts of the world increased the pandemic and transmission capacity of the virus. Since proteins play the final role during the entry, replication as well as exit events, it becomes necessary to understand changes that might have taken place in all the protein constituents of the virus when it is inside the host. Present study was undertaken to look for the various protein components of the virus that is detectable in the host cell and its comparative existence in different variants of SARS-COV-2. The electrophoresis of the virus samples isolated from Vero cell lines were performed and then subjected for LC-Mass Spectrometric analysis. It was observed that Spike protein was the major protein visible in the Delta strain quantitatively compared to Wuhan and Omicron strains. On the other hand, Membrane protein which was of low molecular weight appeared to be stable in all three variants. The study addresses the prominent appearance of Spike protein of Delta strain in the infected cells that might have led to increased transmissibility and cell to cell infection compared to other strains.

Keywords: Mass Spectrometry, Protein, SARS-CoV-2, Delta strain, SDS-PAGE

1 Introduction

SARS-CoV-2 infection enters the host cell with the help of Spike glycoprotein binding with the host receptor ACE2 present on airway epithelium of human (Lachén-Montes et al., 2020). Post SARS-CoV-2 infection, some proteins have alternating levels in human cells leading to multiple organ-damage. This necessitates the study of various viral proteins and their involvement at various stages of viral infection (Babačić et al., 2023). Studies have been done on understanding the viral-host protein interactions in the past (Cardozo et al., 2020; Christian et al., 2020; Wong et al., 2022). However, the interactions of variants of SARS-CoV-2 individually with the host proteins have not been reported yet. Through the proteomic studies, the SARS-CoV-2 proteins, cellular kinetics required in replication, post translation modifications and also biomarker identification can be easily predicted (Haas et al., 2021). In this study, we performed Electrophoresis followed by Mass Spectrometry to understand the protein profile of Vero cells infected with Wuhan, Delta and Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.

2 Materials and Methods

The nasopharyngeal swab samples of SARS-CoV-2 stored in the repository of Centre of Excellence in Virology & Immunology was taken for the study. The samples from different waves were selected representing Wuhan, Delta and Omicron variants and then passaged in Vero cell lines (procured from National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune, India) following all necessary biosafety measures. Post inoculation of 1-2 hours in CO₂ incubator, the infected cells were detached from the flask and transferred to Eppendorf tubes and stored at -80°C till further use. 10µl of these cell line amplified viral stock were then subjected to protein digestion buffer and then taken for SDS-PAGE following the manufacturer's protocol (m/s Bio-rad, USA). 10% of Resolving gel and 5% of stacking gel was prepared and then samples were loaded in individual wells. After the electrophoretic run, the gel was stained using the Coomassie brilliant blue stain. The protein bands of SARS-CoV-2 were first analyzed. The most prominent ones were then cut from the gel and transferred to Eppendorf tube containing deionized water. The Eppendorf were then taken for LC-Mass spectrometry analysis (LC-MS) at the Central Instrumentation Facility, South Campus, Delhi University, India.

3 Results and Discussion

The expected molecular weight (MW) of various SARS-CoV-2 proteins are as follows: 141.178 kDa for Spike protein, 45.625 kDa for Nucleocapsid protein, 25.146kDa for Membrane protein, 8.365 kDa for Envelope protein, 217.252 kDa for NSP3, 70.511 kDa for NSP2 and 56.184 kDa for NSP4. Figure 1 depicts protein bands visible for the Omicron variant sample (Lanes: L2, L3 and L8), Delta variant (Lanes: L6, L7 and L9) and Wuhan variant (Lanes: L4 and L5). Very prominent bands of NSP3, Spike protein (S) and Nucleocapsid protein was seen in case of

Delta variant compared with the other variants. In case of Omicron strain, the bands obtained were very faint. Membrane protein (M) was seen in all the variants. Lane L1 was loaded with high range protein marker (m/s SRL, India).



Figure 1. 10% SDS-PAGE gel showing bands for SARS-CoV-2 proteins

Figure 2 depicts proteins in Omicron variant (Lanes: L7, L8 and L10), Delta variant (Lanes: L5 and L6) and Wuhan variant (Lanes: L3, L4 and L9). Very prominent bands of NSP3 and Spike protein (S) was seen in case of Delta as well as Omicron variant. Membrane protein (M) was seen in all the variants. L1 was loaded with high range protein marker. Figure 3 depicts proteins in Omicron variant (Lanes: L2, L3 and L8), Delta variant (Lanes: L6, L7 and L9) and Wuhan variant (Lanes: L4 and L5). Very prominent bands of NSP3, Spike protein (S) and Nucleocapsid protein was seen in case of Delta variant compared with the other variants. In case of Omicron strain, the bands obtained were very faint. Membrane protein (M) was seen in all the variants.

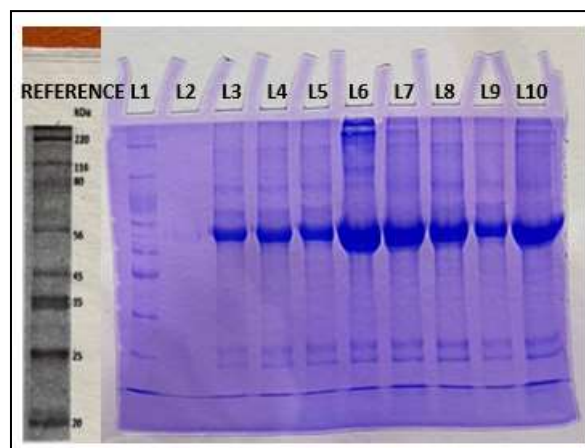


Figure 2. SDS-PAGE gel showing bands for SARS-CoV-2 proteins (Bands are visible in L1, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8, L9 and L10)

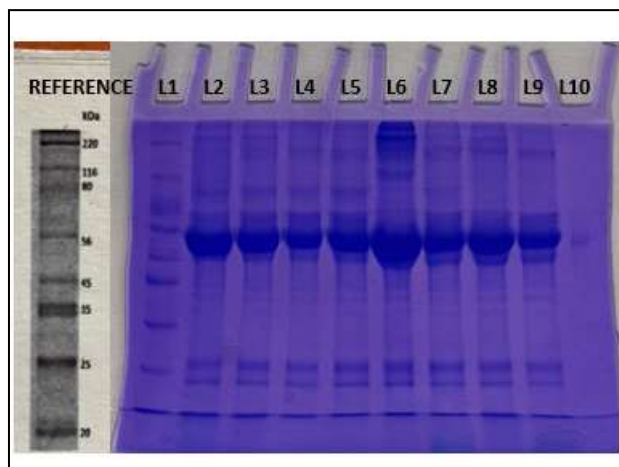


Figure 3. SDS-PAGE gel showing bands for SARS-CoV-2 proteins (Bands are visible in L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8 and L9)

Since the bands of Spike was appearing as a common and very clearly visible band in all the samples, hence this was taken forward for the LC-Mass spectrometric analysis. Two sequences were received from the LC-MS analysis. These were then put in the Protein Blast database to confirm the presence of specific SARS-CoV-2 proteins. The amino acid sequence data showed similarity with two proteins: Spike and ORF proteins (Accession no.-NC_05512.2) (Table 1, p. 197).

4 Conclusion

The global effect of COVID-19 had caused many researchers to look into various components of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which can prove to be a target for many purposes such as biomarkers, evidence in clinical investigation, drug manufacturing, vaccine development etc. This necessitates study to identify the proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which can be found in dominant way or which can be quantized for its presence in the human population. In our current proteomic studies, we aimed to focus on the viable protein of the virus once they have been amplified using cell culture techniques. It was observed that the Spike protein was the dominant one which was seen more conspicuously in the infected cells followed by the ORF protein. Slight modification in the amino acid composition of Spike protein was also observed. This enhances our knowledge of cause of higher transmission rate (Campbell et al., 2021) by Delta strain compared to other strains has been seen even via molecular / genomic studies conducted by other researchers (Russo et al., 2021).

Table 1. Amino Acid sequences obtained from LC-Mass Spectrophotometry (LC-MS) assay

Data Obtained from MS analysis study		Data existing in NCBI (Accession no.-NC_05512.2)	
Spike Glycoprotein		Spike Glycoprotein	
Number of amino acids : 1239		Number of amino acids : 1273	
Molecular weight: 136.9 kDa		Molecular weight: 141.17 kDa	
Sequence: GVVYPDKVFRSSVLHSTQDLFLPFSSNVTFWFAIHVSGTNGTKRFDNPVLPFNDGVVFA STKSNIIIRGWIFGTTLDSKTQSLILVNATNVVHKVCEFFQCNDFLGVVYHKNKNSW MESEFRVYSSANNCTFEYVSPQFLMDLEGGKQGNFKNLXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXRDLPQGSFALEPLVDLPIGINITRFTLLALHRSYLPDGSSSGWTXXXXXXX XX QPTESISVRFPNITNLCPFGEVFNATRFASVYAWNRRKRISNCVADYSVLVNSASFSTKCY GVSPSTKLNLCFTNVYADSFVIRGDEVVRQIAPGQTGKIADYNYKLPDDFTGCVIAWNS NLDSKVGGNYNLYLFRKSNLKPFRDISTEIQAGSTPCNGVEGFNCYFPLQSYGFGFQ PTNGVGVQPYRVVVLSEFLHAPATVCGPKKSTNLVNKNKCNVNFNGLTGTGLVTESN KKFLPQGFGRDIADTTDAVRDPQTLLEILDITPCSGFGSVITPGTNTSNQAVLVYQGVNCTE VPAIAHADQLTPTWRYVSTGSNVQTRAGCLIGAEHVNSYECDDIPGAGICASYQTQ TQTNSPRRARSVASQSIIAYTMSLGAENSVAYSNNISAIPTNFTISVTTEILPVSMTKTSVD CTMYICGDSSTECNLLQVGSFCTQLNRLATVIAVEQDKNTQEVFAQVKYQIKYKTPPIKID FGGFNSQILPDPSKPSKRSFIEDLFNFKVTLADAGFIKQYGDCLGDIAARDLICAKPQNG LTVLPPLLTDEMAIQAQTSALLAGTITSGWTFGAGAAQPFAQMAYRFGNGIGVTVQNVLY ENQKLIANQFNSAIGKIQDLSSTASALGKLDQDVVNQNAQALNTLVKQLSSNFGAISS VLNDILSRLDKVEAEVQIDRLITGLRQSLQTYVTQQLIRAAEIRASANLAATKMSECVLG QSKRVDFCGKGYHLMSFPQSPHGVVFLHVTYVPAQEKNFTTAPAICHGDKGAHFPEEG VEFSNGTHWVTVQRNFYEPQIITDNTFVSGNCDVIGIVNNTVYDPLQPELDSFKEELD KYFNKHTSPDVLGDISGINASVYVNIQKEIDRLNEVAKNLNESLIDLQELGKYEYQKWP WYIWLGFIAGLIAIVMTIMLCMTSCCSCCLKGCCGSCGCKFDEDDSEPLVKGVKLHY T		Sequence: MFVFLVLLPLVSSQCVNLTRTQLPPAYTNSFTRGVVYPDKVFRSSVLHSTQDLFLPFSSNV TFWFAIHVSGTNGTKRFDNPVLPFNDGVVFASTKSNIIIRGWIFGTTLDSKTQSLILVNATN VVHKVCEFFQCNDFLGVVYHKNKNSWMESEFRVYSSANNCTFEYVSPQFLMDLEGGKQGN FKNLREFVFNKIDGYFKIYSKHTPINLVRDLPGQSFSALEPLVDLPIGINITRFTLLALHRSYLT PGDSSSGWTAGAAAAYVGVLPQRTLLKYNENGTTTDAVDCALDPLSETKCTLKSFTEVEKG IYQTSNFRVQPTESISVRFPNITNLCPFGEVFNATRFASVYAWNRRKRISNCVADYSVLVNSASF STFKCYGVSPSTKLNLCFTNVYADSFVIRGDEVVRQIAPGQTGKIADYNYKLPDDFTGCVIAW NSNLSNLSKVGGNYNLYLFRKSNLKPFRDISTEIQAGSTPCNGVEGFNCYFPLQSYGFGFQ PTNGVGVQPYRVVVLSEFLHAPATVCGPKKSTNLVNKNKCNVNFNGLTGTGLVTESNKKFL LPQGFGRDIADTTDAVRDPQTLLEILDITPCSGFGSVITPGTNTSNQAVLVYQGVNCTEVPV AIHADQLTPTWRYVSTGSNVQTRAGCLIGAEHVNSYECDDIPGAGICASYQTQNTNSPRRA RSVASQSIIAYTMSLGAENSVAYSNNISAIPTNFTISVTTEILPVSMTKTSVTDCTMYICGDS CNLLQVGSFCTQLNRLATVIAVEQDKNTQEVFAQVKYQIKYKTPPIKIDFGGFNSQILPDPSK PSKRSFIEDLFNFKVTLADAGFIKQYGDCLGDIAARDLICAKPQNGLTVLPPLLTDEMAIQA TSALLAGTITSGWTFGAGAAQPFAQMAYRFGNGIGVTVQNVLYENQKLIANQFNSAIGKIQD LSSTASALGKLDQDVVNQNAQALNTLVKQLSSNFGAISSVLNDILSRLDKVEAEVQIDRLITG RLQSLQTYVTQQLIRAAEIRASANLAATKMSECVLGQSKRVDFCGKGYHLMSFPQSPHGV VFLHVTYVPAQEKNFTTAPAICHGDKGAHFPEEGVFSNGTHWVTVQRNFYEPQIITDNTFV SGNCDVIGIVNNTVYDPLQPELDSFKEELDQYFNKHTSPDVLGDISGINASVYVNIQKEIDR LNEVAKNLNESLIDLQELGKYEYQKWPWYIWLGFIAGLIAIVMTIMLCMTSCCSCCLKGCC GSCGSCCKFDEDDSEPLVKGVKLHYT	
ORF protein			
Number of amino acids: 7096		Number of amino acids: 7096	
Molecular weight: 793.5 kDa		Molecular weight: 794.05 kDa	
Sequence: ESLVPGFNEKHTHVQLSLPVLQVRDVLVRGFGDSVEEVLSEARQHLKDGTCGLVEVEKGVLPLEQEPYVFIKRS DARTAPHGHVMVELVAELLEGQYGRSGETTLGLVPHVGEIPVAYRKVLLLRKNGKNGAGGHSY GADLKSFDLGDELGTDPDYEDFQENWNTKHSSGVTRELMRELNGGAYTRYVDNNFCGPDGY PLECIKDLLARAGKASCTLEQDLDFIDTKRGVYCCREHEHEI AWYTERSEKSYELQTPFEIKLAKKFDTFNGECNPFVPLNSIIKTIQPRVEKKKLDGFMGRIS VYPVAPSPNECNMQMLSTLMKMDCHGCTSGWTGDFVKAATCEFCGTENLTGKAGTTTCGYLP QNAVVKIYCPACHNSEVGPESHSLAEYHNESGLKTLRKGGRTIAFGCGVFSYVGCCHNKCA YVWPVRASANIGCNHTGTVGEGSKGLNDNLLEILQKEKVNNINVGDFKLNEEIIAILASFS ASTAFVETVKGLDYKAFKQIVESCNGFNKVTGKAKKGAWNIGEQKSLSPLYAFASEAARV RSIFSRTLETAQNSVRVLQKAATILDGISQYSRLIDAMMFTSDLATNNLVMAIYITGGVVQL TSQWLTNIFGTVYEKLPVLDWLEEKFKGVEFLRDGWEIVKFISTCACEIVGGQVITCAKEIK ESVQTFFKLVNKFALCADSHIIGGAKLKALNLGETFVTHSGKLYRKCVKRSREETGLLMPL KAPKEIIFLEGETLPTVELTTEVVLTKGDLQPLEQPTSEAVEAPLVGTPVCINGMLLEIKD TEKYCALAPNMVMVTNNTFTLTKGGAPTKVTFGDDTVIEVQGYKSVNITFELDERIDILNE KCKSSAYTVELTEVEAFACVADAVEVTLQVSELLTPLGIDLDEWSMATYLLFDESGEFKL ASHMVCSEFYPPDEDEEEGDCEEEFEPSTQYEGYGTDEDDYVAGLQLEFGATSAALPKEE EQEEDWLD DSDSQTVGGQDSEDNQITTIQTIQVEVQQLMELETPVQVQTEVNSFSGLKLTNDNYIKNA DIVEAKKVXPTVVVNAANVYLKHGGVGAGALNKATNNAMQVESDDYVATNGPLKVGGS SGLSGHNLAKHCLSHVPGNVNKGEDILKLSAYENFNQHEVLLAPLLSAGIAGADPHISLR VCVDVTRVFLADEFKNLYDKLVSSFLEMKSEKVEKPEKPFITESKPSVEKQ QDDKKIKACEVETTLTEETKFLTENLLIYIDINGNLHPDSATLVSDIDITFLKKDAPYI GVGDVVEQGVLTAVVIPTKKAGGTTEMLAKALRKVPTDNYITTPYQOGLNGYTVEEAKT VLYKKCKSAHFVLSIISNEKQIETLVHAKNEMLLAAHEATERKLMPCVETKAIVSTIQRK YKGIQEGVDVYGARFYXYSKTTVASLINTLNDNETLVTMLPVTGCLLNEEAARYMRS LKVPATVSSSPDAITAYNGYLTSSSKTPPEHFITISLAGSYKDWSSYSGQSTQLGIEFL KRGDKSVVYYSNPTFHLDCGEVITFDNLKTLTSLREVRTIKVFTTVDNINLHTQVVD MSMTYVQCGFPTYL DGADVTIKIPHNSHEGKTFFYLPNDDTLRVEAFEYHHTDPSFLGRYMSALNHTKKWKY PQVNGLTSKIGWADNCCVLAAXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX APXAXX GQNGYCGHYKHITSKETLICIDGALLTKSSEYKGPITDVPYKENSYTTIKTPVTYKLDG VVCTEIDPKLDNYYKDKNSYFTEQPIDLPVNPQYPNASFNFKFCVDNFKFADDLNLQ TYGKKPASRELLKVTTFPDLNGDVVAIDYKHITPQSKGAALKLHKPIVHVHNATNKATYK PNTVPCIRCLWSTKPVETSNSFDVLKSEDAQGMNDLACEDLPKVEVNTPTQKDLVLC NCKVTVEVGDILK PANNLSKITEVEGHTDLMAAPYVDSNLSLTIKPNELSRVLGKLTLATHGLAAVNSP WDITANYAKREPLKNVSVSTTNIVTRCLNRVCTNYMPYFTFLLTLQCTTFRSTNRIKAS MPTTIAKNTSLRDPTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVC VSTSGRWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSLDNVLSTFISAAQRGFVDSVETKDVVECL KLSHQSDIEVTGDSNCNMYLTYNKVENMTPRDLGACIDCASA RHINAQYKLLSHNIALHVFVKNKDFMMSLSEQLRKQIRSAAKNNLPFKLTCA TTTRQVNVVTTKIALKGKSHFVNLKQLIKVTLVFLVAAIFLYLTPVHMYSKHTD YKIDAGVTRDIA STDTCFANKHADFTWFSQRGGSYTNDRKACPLIAAVITREGVFVPLGPTILRTNG DFLHFLPRVFSVAGNICYTPSKLIEYTFDATSACVLA AECTIFKIDASGKVPVPCYDNTNVLGSGVAYE SLRPDTRYVLMDSGISQIPNTYLEGSVRVVTTFDSEYCRHGTCESEAGVCVSTSG RWVLNNDYVPSFSGVCGVDVAVNLTNMFTRIPIQIALGIDISAVIVTCLAYE MFRFRAFGESHVYVAFNTLLFLMSFTVLCLTPVYSFLPGVYSVIYLYTFLYLTNDV SFLAHIQWVMFMTPLVPFWITIAIICISTKHFWFWSNVLKRRVFNFGVSFSTEEAAL CTFLLNKEMYKLKRS DYLLPLTQXNNRYLALYNNKYKFGSGMADTTSYREAAACCYLAKALNDFSNGSDV LYPQPQTSITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQTCGTTTLNGLWLDVVYCPRH VITGLNEDYLLIRKSNHNFLVQAGNVLRTHVHSMQNCVLYKLKVDTPANPKTPKYK FVRIPQPGTQSVLACYNGSPYVQCAMRPNFTIKGSFNLGSCSGVFNGIDVCSF CYMHMLLPTGVHAGCDYTLKEILVTNFCAGSTFISDEVTGLDLSLQFKRPINPITDQSSYI VDSVTVKNGSIHLFYDKAQGTYRHHLSHFVNLDNLNANNTKGSLPINVIFD GSKSESSAKSASVYVYQJLMQKPIILLDQALVSDVGDSDAEVAVKMFDAVYNT FSTFNVNMEKLTKLATAEELAKNVSL</			

Acknowledgements. The authors would like to thank National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune, India for providing us with the Vero Cell lines and to Central Instrumentation Facility at the South Campus, Delhi University, New Delhi, India for helping us with the LC-MS/MS analysis.

References

- [1] M. Lachén-Montes, F.J. Corrales, J. Fernández-Irigoyen and E. Santamaría, Proteomics insights into the molecular basis of SARS-CoV-2 infection: What we can learn from the human olfactory axis, *Frontiers in microbiology*, **11** (2020), 2101. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2020.02101>
- [2] H. Babačić, W. Christ, J.E. Araújo, G. Mermelekas, N. Sharma, J. Tynell, M. García, R. Varnaite, H. Asgeirsson, H. Glans and J. Lehtiö, Comprehensive proteomics and meta-analysis of COVID-19 host response, *Nature Communications*, **14** (1) (2023), 5921. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-41159-z>
- [3] P. Haas, M. Muralidharan, N.J. Krogan, R.M. Kaake and R. Huttenhain, Proteomic approaches to study SARS-CoV-2 biology and COVID-19 pathology, *Journal of Proteome Research*, **20** (2) (2021), 1133-1152. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jproteome.0c00764>
- [4] S. Al-Amrani, Z. Al-Jabri, A. Al-Zaabi, J. Alshekaili and M. Al-Khabori, Proteomics: Concepts and applications in human medicine, *World Journal of Biological Chemistry*, **12** (5) (2021), 57-69. <https://doi.org/10.4331/wjbc.v12.i5.57>
- [5] T.F. Wong, P.K. So and Z.P. Yao, Advances in rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2 by mass spectrometry, *Trends in Analytical Chemistry*, **157** (2022), 116759. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trac.2022.116759>
- [6] K.H.M. Cardozo, A. Lebkuchen and G.G. Okai, Establishing a mass spectrometry-based system for rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2 in large clinical sample cohorts, *Nature Communications*, **11** (2020), 6201. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-19925-0>
- [7] C. Ihling, D. Tanzler, S. Hagemann, A. Kehlen, S. Huttelmaier, C. Arlt and A. Sinz, Mass Spectrometric Identification of SARS-CoV-2 Proteins from Gargle Solution Samples of COVID-19 Patients, *Journal of Proteome Research*, **19** (11) (2020), 1535-3893. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jproteome.0c00280>
- [8] F. Campbell, B. Archer, H. Laurenson-Schafer, Y. Jinnai, F. Konings, N. Batra, B. Pavlin, K. Vandemaele, M.D. Van Kerkhove, T. Jombart, O. Morgan and O. le Polain de Waroux, Increased transmissibility and global spread of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern as at June 2021, *Euro Surveillance: European Communicable Disease Bulletin*, **26** (24) (2021), 2100509. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.es.2021.26.24.2100509>

[9] A. Russo, C. Minichini, M. Starace, R. Astorri, F. Calò, N. Coppola and Vanvitelli, COVID-19 group. Current Status of Laboratory Diagnosis for COVID-19: A Narrative Review, *Infection and Drug Resistance*, **13** (2020), 2657–2665.

Received: November 27, 2024; Published: December 10, 2024