

1 **Title: Proposing a Systematic Lineage Classification Below the Genotype Level**
2 **for Dengue Serotypes 1 and 2**

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4 **James Siqueira Pereira¹, Gabriela Ribeiro¹, Vinicius Carius de Souza¹, Isabela**
5 **Carvalho Brcko¹, Igor Santana Ribeiro¹, Iago Trezena Tavares De Lima¹,**
6 **Svetoslav Nanev Slavov¹, Sandra Coccuzzo Sampaio Vessoni¹, Maria Carolina**
7 **Elias¹, Alex Ranieri Jerônimo Lima^{1,2}**

8
9 ¹ Center for Viral Surveillance and Serological Assessment (CeVIVAS), Butantan
10 Institute, São Paulo, Brazil;

11 Corresponding author

12 # Alex Ranieri J. Lima, Butantan Institute, Av. Vital Brasil, 1500, São Paulo, 05503-
13 900, Brazil, alex.lima@fundacaobutantan.org.br

14
15 **Abstract**

16
17 Dengue virus (DENV), a mosquito-borne flavivirus, is causing a significant
18 outbreak in Brazil. The recent surge in complete DENV genome sequences
19 necessitates a standardized classification system for an improved understanding of
20 viral dynamics and transmission patterns. Traditionally, DENV classification relies on
21 serotypes and genotypes but lacks a consensus for sub-genotype classification. This
22 hinders comprehensive analyses of viral diversity. We address this gap by proposing
23 a novel lineage classification system for DENV using a semi-automatic workflow,
24 leveraging the use of complete genome sequences to classify and re-evaluate DENV
25 genetic diversity. This system offers a more granular classification scheme compared
26 to current methods. The proposed hierarchical nomenclature, incorporating serotype,
27 genotype, subgenotype, lineage, and sublineage, facilitates precise tracking of viral
28 introductions and evolutionary events. This information might have crucial implications
29 for public health interventions, enabling more targeted control strategies and improved
30 monitoring of vaccine effectiveness during future outbreaks.

31
32 **Keywords:** Dengue virus (DENV), Lineage classification, Genomic surveillance,
33 Public health

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40 **Introduction**

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42 Dengue fever, caused by the four Dengue virus (DENV) serotypes, stands as
43 a paramount arboviral ailment globally. Manifestations range from mild febrile illness
44 to severe hemorrhagic diathesis, also recognized as Dengue Shock Syndrome (Wang
45 *et al.*, 2020). Transmitted by *Aedes* mosquito vectors, notably *Aedes aegypti* and
46 *Aedes albopictus*, the disease exhibits an expanding geographical footprint,
47 portending an inevitable surge in DENV-related morbidity and mortality rates
48 worldwide. Notably, in 2023, the global toll encompassed over five million reported
49 cases of dengue, accompanied by more than 5000 fatalities across 80 countries. The
50 Americas Region bore the brunt, recording approximately 4.1 million cases,
51 representing nearly 80% of the global burden (WHO, 2023). This high transmission
52 rate has continued into 2024, with a total of 1,874,021 suspected cases of dengue
53 reported spanning from epidemiological weeks 1 to 8. Out of these cases, 658,215
54 were lab-confirmed, 1,670 were classified as severe (0.1%), with 422 resulting in
55 fatalities (case fatality rate 0.023%) (PAHO, 2024).

56 DENV belongs to the *Flaviviridae* family with a well-defined genomic structure:
57 a single positive strand RNA of approximately 11 Kb. The genomic organization
58 encompasses two untranslated regions (UTR) at the 5' and 3' ends, flanking an Open
59 Read Frame (ORF), which serves as a template to encode a polyprotein composed of
60 3 structural proteins and 7 non-structural proteins. The structural proteins are the
61 capsid (C), pre-membrane (PrM), and envelope (E), while the non-structural proteins
62 are numbered as NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5 (Nanaware *et al.*,
63 2021). There are four distinct DENV serotypes (DENV-1-4), along with a recently
64 described fifth serotype (DENV-5) (Mustafa *et al.*, 2015). In addition to this
65 classification, each serotype is divided into different genotypes, often defined as
66 strains with less than 6% divergence at the junction between the E and NS1 coding
67 regions (Rico-Hesse, 1990).

68 The elucidation of virus lineages and strains is pivotal for comprehending their
69 evolutionary trajectories. Integrating this genetic information with diverse datasets,
70 including geographical, epidemiological, and clinical parameters, furnishes invaluable
71 insights into the disease dynamics (Grubaugh, 2022). Previous studies suggest that
72 DENV lineages go extinct every 7-10 years, being replaced by new lineages, typically
73 resulting in epidemics (Adams *et al.*, 2006; Nunes *et al.*, 2014; Lourenço *et al.*, 2018).

74 Nonetheless, the absence of a standardized lineage classification and nomenclature
75 for DENV at subgenotype levels poses a significant challenge in longitudinally
76 monitoring lineage substitutions. Moreover, communicating lineage-replacement
77 events or identifying epidemic strains to stakeholders and public health agencies
78 becomes problematic in the absence of an established lineage system. The utilization
79 of the lineage classification system proposed by Rambaut *et al.*, 2020 has successfully
80 overcome those issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, as it helped to precisely track
81 the virus variants across the globe for SARS-CoV-2 (Oude Munnink and Koopmans,
82 2023; WHO, 2024). This approach has since been adapted to propose lineage
83 designation frameworks for other viruses, including Monkeypox, Rabies, and HRSV
84 (Campbell *et al.*, 2022; Happi *et al.*, 2022; Goya *et al.*, 2024), leveraging the rationale
85 behind its implementation.

86 In March 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global
87 Arbovirus Initiative, a collaborative effort designed to unite key stakeholders in
88 bolstering surveillance and preventative strategies against arboviruses (Balakrishnan,
89 2022). Leveraging existing genomic surveillance networks established for SARS-CoV-
90 2, this initiative facilitated the real-time availability of comprehensive DENV genomes.
91 With the escalation of the number of dengue cases came a pressing necessity to
92 systematically organize and centralize this burgeoning genomic data, culminating in
93 establishing the GISAID EpiArbo database in 2023 (Wallau *et al.*, 2023). Concurrently,
94 novel bioinformatic tools emerged, geared towards impartially proposing and
95 delineating new lineage classification systems for pathogens, adept at managing vast
96 genomic datasets (Campbell *et al.*, 2022; Ha and Aylward, 2024; McBroome *et al.*,
97 2024)

98 Brazil has become a significant area of concern due to the rapid rise in dengue
99 cases. During the first five epidemiological weeks of 2024, a substantial number of
100 455,525 dengue cases were reported in Brazil (PAHO and WHO, 2024). This
101 concerning trend continued, with an additional 239,058 cases reported by
102 epidemiological week eight (PAHO, 2024). Notably, while all four DENV serotypes
103 have been identified in Brazil, in recent years there is also intensive circulation of
104 DENV serotypes 1 and 2 (Figure S1). This regional dominance underscores the urgent
105 need for tailored strategies aimed at classification and surveillance to manage and
106 control dengue within the country's borders effectively. As such, understanding the
107 dynamics of these prevalent serotypes beyond the genotype level within Brazil holds

108 significant implications for global dengue control efforts, necessitating a concerted
109 focus on this geographic hotspot. Thus, we propose a lineage classification system for
110 DENV serotypes 1 and 2 in this work, applying a semi-automatic workflow.

111

112 **Methods**

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114 **Retrieving and filtering the sequence dataset**

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116 The genomes of DENV-1 and DENV-2 were obtained from GISAID EpiArbo
117 (<https://www.gisaid.org/>) selecting sequences with a minimum 10,000-nt, aiming to
118 retrieve only genomes expected to be complete. Only DENV original passages and
119 genomes obtained from the human host were selected. The DENV-1 and DENV-2
120 datasets contained sequences obtained up to January 2024 with initial collection dates
121 between 1944 and 1976. To ensure comprehensive data coverage, we employed an
122 in-house established script to assess the presence of ambiguous bases in each
123 genome, setting a 10% cutoff. This strategy ensured that only genomes with at least
124 90% coverage would be retained. The metadata of the sequences used (including the
125 GISAID accession IDs) are available in Supplementary files 1 and 2.

126

127 **Phylogenetic tree reconstruction**

128

129 Genomic sequences from the two filtered serotype datasets were aligned
130 independently using the Augur align tool within the Augur program toolkit v24.1.0
131 (Huddleston *et al.*, 2021), employing the MAFFT v.7.520 algorithm (Katoh and
132 Standley, 2013). Subsequently, maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic trees were
133 constructed utilizing IQ-TREE v2.2.6 (Minh *et al.*, 2020). The trees were reconstructed
134 employing the GTR+F+I+G4 nucleotide substitution model, selected by the
135 ModelFinder application (Kalyaanamoorthy *et al.*, 2017) within IQ-TREE2. To assess
136 the robustness of tree topology, 5000 UFBoot replicates were generated. Phylogenetic
137 trees were dated using Treetime v0.11.2 (Sagulenko, Puller and Neher, 2018),
138 integrated in Augur. Furthermore, multiple refinements were applied during this phase,
139 including rerooting the tree using the midpoint method, inference of node confidence
140 dates, stochastic resolution of polytomies, and pruning of genomes that exhibited
141 deviation from the evolutionary rate (clock filter interquartile distance of 4). To
142 automate the analysis workflow, a local Bash script was developed and is available on

143 the GitHub repository (<https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/blob/main/scripts/execPhyloDenv.sh>).

145 Ancestral inference and identification of nucleotide mutations were conducted
146 using Augur ancestral, while amino acid mutations were annotated utilizing Augur
147 translate. For DENV-1, the GenBank sequences NC_001477.1 served as the
148 reference, and for DENV-2, NC_001474.2 was utilized.

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150 **Lineage definition workflow**

151

152 Initially, DENV-1 and DENV-2 lineages were defined using an automated
153 heuristic approach implemented in Autolin (McBroome *et al.*, 2024). The code was
154 modified to consider only clusters with robust statistical support (UFBoot \geq 90%)
155 (available at https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/blob/main/scripts/annotate_json.py). This lineage definition
156 method strictly considered the occurrence of, at least, one amino acid mutation within
157 minimally sized groups ($n \geq 10$) where at least 90% of sequences presented the
158 mutation at every possible hierarchical depth level. To define a lineage, it was
159 considered a GRI (Genotype Representation Index) of 1, implying, on average, that a
160 single amino acid mutation differentiates the lineage from a randomly chosen sample
161 on the phylogenetic tree.

163 The Autolin output underwent post-processing using a custom Python script
164 (available at https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/blob/main/scripts/posProcessingAutolin_aa.py) to ensure
165 alignment with Augur Clades standards, as implemented within the Augur v24.1.0
166 toolkit, which became the primary platform for lineage assignment. This post-
167 processing step involved manual curation of both the lineage designations generated
168 by Autolin and the corresponding mutation table. The curation process focused on
169 retaining only those mutations observed in all, or at least 90%, of sequences within a
170 given branch. This selection strategy aimed to identify mutations with high
171 discriminatory power, capable of reliably differentiating the corresponding
172 phylogenetic nodes.

174 To ensure lineage assignments transcended serotype boundaries and adhered
175 to established classification criteria, a systematic approach was implemented to link
176 lineage-defining mutations with those previously associated with distinct genotypes.

177 This validation process leveraged a hereditary framework, where mutations
178 associated with designated lineages were compared against the established genotype
179 mutation table curated within the Nextstrain dengue build
180 (<https://github.com/nextstrain/dengue>). This methodology was consistently applied
181 across all hierarchical levels, encompassing both primary lineages and any identified
182 sublineages.

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184 **Lineage labeling definitions**

185

186 The proposed nomenclature system for DENV lineages follows a hierarchical
187 structure of serotype, genotype, subgenotype, lineage, and sublineage, adapting the
188 rationale used in the Pango system (Rambaut *et al.*, 2020). At the genotype level, a
189 combination of numbers and letters designated both the serotype and genotype
190 classification. For instance, "1V" means DENV-1 genotype V. The subgenotype
191 nomenclature was chosen because it represents the initial hierarchical subdivision
192 designated by Autolin software, following the genotype level. Thus, subgenotypes
193 were defined using a period (".") followed by a capital letter ("A," "B," etc.) assigned
194 sequentially. This alphabetical attribution commenced with the letter "A" for clarity and
195 ease of reference. For instance, "1IV.A" represents a subgenotype of DENV-1
196 genotype IV. At the same time "1V.A" denotes a subgenotype of DENV-1 genotype V.
197 Lineages and sublineages were labeled using ascending numeric identifiers separated
198 by periods to indicate hierarchical depth. For clarity, this labeling system is limited to
199 three numerical levels. When the fourth level is reached, an additional letter followed
200 by a period and another number is appended to the lineage label. Following this logic,
201 "2II.D.B.1" signifies a sublineage derived from lineage "2II.D.10.1.2" instead of using
202 a longer string like "2II.D.10.1.2.1". The labeling scheme reflects the order of nodes
203 within each genotype based on the tree topology.

204

205 **Implementation of lineage assignment**

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207 To facilitate the classification of novel DENV sequences into defined lineages,
208 a dedicated Nextclade dataset was constructed. This dataset (available at
209 https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main/Nextclade_V2_data) serves
210 as a reference for lineage assignment and leverages the Nextclade framework's robust

211 phylogenetic inference capabilities (Aksamentov *et al.*, 2021). By incorporating this
212 dataset within the lineage assignment workflow, newly obtained DENV sequences can
213 be efficiently classified based on their genetic relatedness to previously defined
214 lineages.

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216 **Results**

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218 **Phylogenetic lineage-labeled tree**

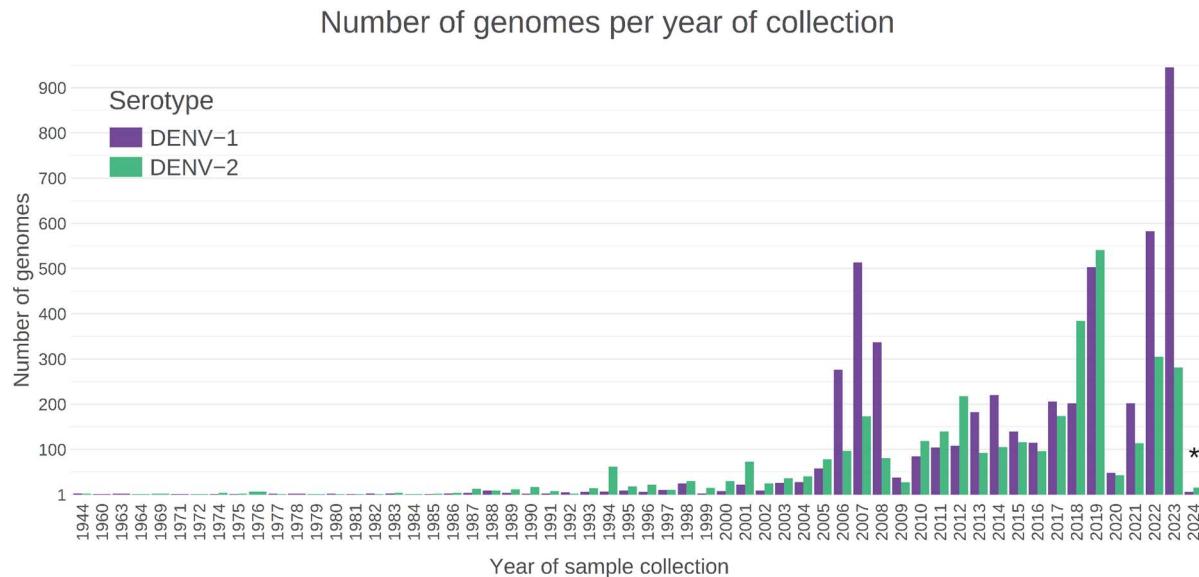
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220 A total of 5,084 and 3,672 DENV-1 and DENV-2 genomes, respectively, were
221 employed to construct the lineage-labeled phylogenetic trees. The temporal
222 distribution of these sequences across collection years is depicted in Figure 1.
223 Furthermore, the geographical distribution across continents and countries is
224 presented in Figure S2. Autolin successfully assigned lineage labels to most of the
225 DENV-1 and DENV-2 sequences. It labeled 5,036 (DENV-1) and 3,668 (DENV-2)
226 sequences, representing approximately 99% of each dataset. This translates to a high
227 level of representativeness for the lineage assignment process. For DENV-1, Autolin
228 generated 192 unique annotation labels across 6 hierarchical levels, while for DENV-
229 2, 148 unique labels were generated across 8 hierarchical levels. Details regarding
230 the GRI values and initial labels are provided in Supplementary Files 3 and 4. The top
231 hierarchical levels annotated by Autolin (i.e., the inner nodes of the tree) reflected the
232 DENV genotype labels.

233 Following manual curation and application of the established lineage labeling
234 definitions, a comprehensive DENV lineage classification system was developed
235 (Figure 2). Notably, for DENV-1, a novel genotype containing 22 sequences (named
236 1VI) was identified, which was observed circulating in Africa with the most recent
237 sample collected in 2021, and with no assigned subgenotypes. In total, 26
238 subgenotypes were designated for DENV-1, encompassing 86 distinct lineages and
239 their sublineages. Interestingly, subgenotype designations were absent for 1II, while
240 1V displayed the highest subgenotype diversity within DENV-1 (n=20).

241 For DENV-2, 23 subgenotypes were designated, encompassing 66 lineages
242 and their sublineages. The genotype 2V exhibited the greatest subgenotype richness
243 within DENV-2 (n=15), whereas 2IV lacked subgenotype designations. Lineage-
244 labeled phylogenetic trees for DENV-1 and DENV-2 are available for visualization at

245 https://nextstrain.org/fetch/raw.githubusercontent.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/main/Nextclade_V2_data/DENV1/tree.json?branchLabel=lineage&c=lineage_membership&p=full and
246 https://nextstrain.org/fetch/raw.githubusercontent.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/main/Nextclade_V2_data/DENV2/tree.json?branchLabel=lineage&c=lineage_membership&p=full, respectively.
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251 **Figure 1. Temporal Distribution of DENV Genomes Employed for Lineage Assignment.** The data
252 are grouped by collection date. * For 2024, sequences were retrieved from GISAID up to January 4th
253 for DENV-1 and January 11th for DENV-2.

254
255 In DENV-1 lineage classification, the NS5, E, and NS3 genes served as the
256 primary determinants, being utilized in 98 (34.5%), 44 (15.5%), and 35 (12.3%)
257 instances, respectively. Similarly, DENV-2 lineage definitions were primarily
258 established based on mutations within the NS5, E, and NS2A genes, with these genes
259 being employed in 64 (29.1%), 35 (15.9%), and 31 (14.1%) instances, respectively. A
260 comprehensive mutation table, compatible with the Augur Clades, has been compiled
261 and is available for reference at https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main/mutation_tables.
262

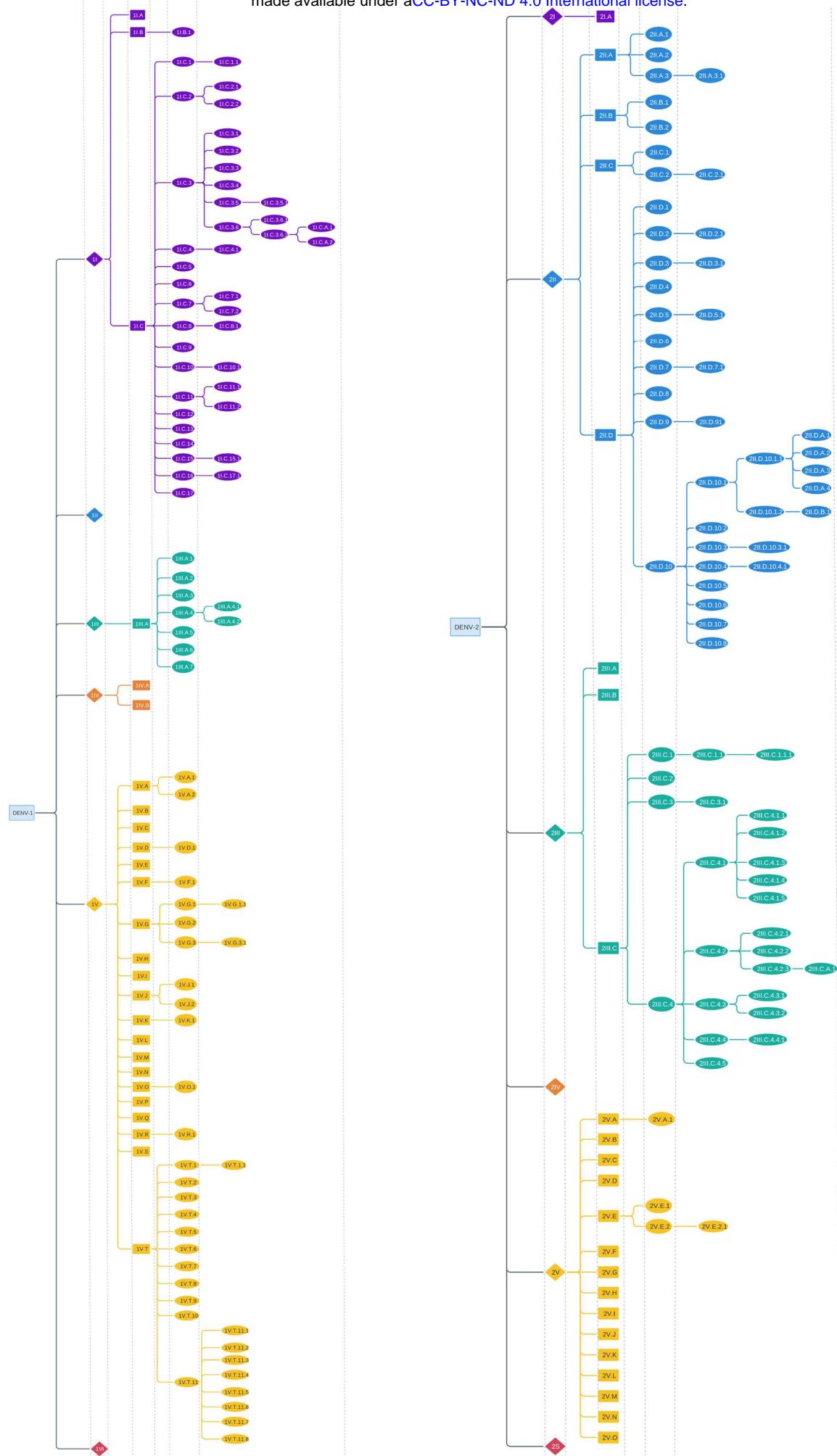
264 Implementation of the lineage classification system

265
266 To promote the widespread adoption of the proposed DENV lineage
267 classification system, a dedicated Nextclade dataset was constructed. A web version

268 for DENV-1 and DENV-2 are available for lineage assignment at
269 https://v2.clades.nextstrain.org/?dataset-url=https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main/Nextclade_V2_data/DENV1 and
270 https://v2.clades.nextstrain.org/?dataset-url=https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main/Nextclade_V2_data/DENV2, respectively. This
271 dataset serves as a reference resource for assigning the lineage of novel DENV
272 genomes generated by ongoing genomic surveillance initiatives. To evaluate the
273 accuracy of the system in assigning lineages to novel sequences, a validation
274 approach was employed using Nextclade v2.14.0. This involved the use of genomic
275 sequences (complete or partial) deposited in GISAID during 2024. Forty DENV-1
276 sequences with collection dates ranging from January 5th to 31st and 14 DENV-2
277 sequences collected between January 12th and 30th were selected for analysis (data
278 accessed on GISAID on March 20th, 2024). All obtained samples were from Brazil.

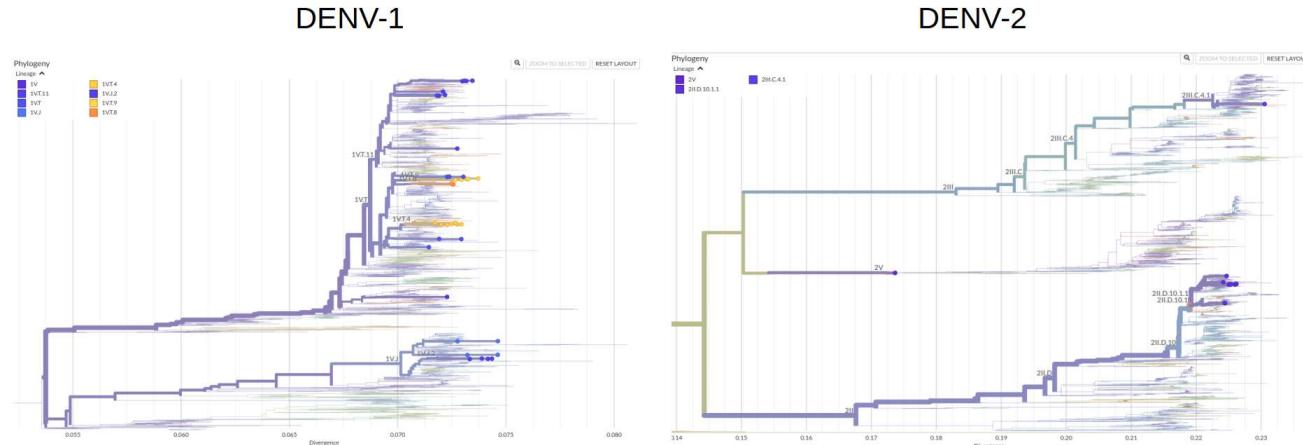
281 Analysis of DENV-1 sequences revealed their assignment to subgenotypes
282 1V.T (n=31) and 1V.J (n=8), encompassing their constituent lineages. Notably, one
283 sequence was classified solely to genotype 1V without subgenotype designation
284 (Figure 3 left). The genomic coverage of these sequences ranged from 74% to 97%.
285 Both subgenotypes were first identified in 2021 and have exhibited ongoing circulation
286 (including their associated lineages) within Brazil up to the beginning of 2024. Analysis
287 of DENV-2 sequences revealed that a majority of sequences (n=12) were assigned to
288 lineage 2II.D.10.1.1 (Figure 3 right). This lineage was first detected in Peru in
289 September 2019, but its subsequent circulation has been predominantly observed in
290 Brazil. Notably, additional detections of 2II.D.10.1.1 were identified in Paraguay and
291 Bolivia. The most recent samples for this lineage were collected in Brazil during 2024,
292 suggesting ongoing circulation. Lineage 2III.C.4.1 was primarily identified in Brazil,
293 being first detected in 2016, with the most recent sequence collected in August 2023.
294 Finally, one sequence was classified solely to genotype 2V (Asian I) without further
295 lineage designation. The genomic coverage of DENV-2 genome sequences ranged
296 from 74% to 99%.

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304 **Figure 2. DENV Lineage Classification System.** Schematic depicting the proposed DENV lineage
305 classification system for serotypes 1 (left) and 2 (right). The system incorporates a hierarchical structure
306 for each serotype, encompassing four main levels displayed from left to right: genotype, subgenotype,
307 lineage, and sublineage.

308



309

310 **Figure 3. Genetic Diversity of Dengue Virus (DENV) Sequences in Brazil, 2024.** Analysis of distinct
311 subgenotype distributions for DENV-1 (40 sequences) is on the left panel; DENV-2 (15 sequences)
312 sequences are displayed on the right panel. GISAID accession IDs can be found in Supplementary
313 Files 5 and 6.

314

315 **Discussion**

316

317 The escalating arboviral threat posed by DENV necessitates the development
318 of a robust, global genotyping framework. This framework would facilitate the
319 contextualization of spatiotemporal epidemiological data, enabling a deeper
320 understanding of DENV dynamics. Endemic persistence and incursions into previously
321 non-endemic regions have significantly shaped DENV's genetic diversity and
322 evolutionary divergence (Chen and Vasilakis, 2011; Fontaine *et al.*, 2018).

323

324 DENV exhibits significant genetic heterogeneity, organized hierarchically into
325 serotypes, genotypes, and subgenotype clades. However, inconsistent nomenclature
326 systems, a lack of standardized classification procedures, and ambiguities in reporting
327 antigenic diversity hinder comprehensive analysis (Cuypers *et al.*, 2018). A recent
328 study proposed a unified global genotyping framework for DENV-1, utilizing complete
329 E gene sequences from diverse epidemic regions to address these concerns (Li *et al.*,
330 2022). This framework offers a standardized approach, revealing distinct global
331 epidemic patterns, identifying persistent transmission zones and emerging outbreaks,
and highlighting the necessity for a coordinated global surveillance platform to combat

332 DENV's expansion. However, there is a lack of lineage classification systems
333 implemented within bioinformatic tools for DENV classification below the genotype
334 level.

335 Our study addresses this gap by proposing a novel nomenclature system for
336 DENV lineages, currently encompassing DENV-1 and DENV-2. This system aims to
337 enhance viral surveillance and classification addressing key aspects. Firstly, it will
338 facilitate improved monitoring efforts by providing a clear and consistent method for
339 lineage assignment. Secondly, it will enable researchers to more precisely track the
340 introduction and dissemination of specific regional lineages. Most importantly, our
341 system acknowledges the growing volume of complete DENV genomes sequenced in
342 recent years, promoting improved identification, reporting, and understanding of the
343 virus.

344 DENV-1, Brazil's most prevalent and continuously circulating serotype, is
345 traditionally classified into five genotypes (Goncalvez *et al.*, 2002). To enhance the
346 resolution of DENV-1 classification, we propose a more granular system that
347 categorizes this serotype into 26 subgenotypes and 86 lineages. This refined
348 approach facilitates more precise identification and reporting of analyzed genomic
349 samples. For instance, a study by Adelino *et al.*, 2021, sought to characterize the
350 diversity of DENV-1 genotype V, identifying three distinct clades (I, II, and III). The
351 authors suggested that clades II and III replaced clade I in 2019. When analyzed using
352 the proposed classification system, the sequences from those clades were grouped
353 as follows: Clade I - Lineage 1V.A.1; Clade II - 1V, 1V.G.1 and 1V.G.1.1; Clade III -
354 1V. This finding shows that a concise lineage classification system allows for precise
355 reporting of replacement events. It would be more informative to say that lineages
356 1V.G.1 and 1V.G.1.1, along with a diverging 1V branch, replaced lineage 1V.A.1.
357 Moreover, an additional evolutionary event was observed within Clade II with the
358 advent of the sublineage 1V.G.1.1, allowing precise tracking of genetic diversity.
359 Finally, it shows that the detected replacement events occurred not necessarily
360 spanning new lineages.

361 Intriguingly, the proposed classification system identified a putative sixth
362 genotype for DENV-1, labeled as 1VI, and covers 22 sequences. These sequences
363 are currently classified as part of genotype V based on the mutation scheme used by
364 the Nextstrain dengue compilation (<https://github.com/nextstrain/dengue>). This
365 discovery demonstrates the potential of the proposed system to uncover previously

366 unknown diversity within the DENV-1. The 1VI genotype has been circulating in Africa,
367 and the most recent sample collected in 2021 does not have assigned subgenotypes.
368 Identifying such potentially divergent lineages is crucial for evolutionary and
369 epidemiological monitoring, particularly for tracking the emergence and re-emergence
370 of strains in regions with limited genomic surveillance capabilities.

371 In investigations into the introduction of DENV-2 in Brazil, it was also observed
372 that replacement events occurred within genotype III (Asian/American) of DENV-2 with
373 the introduction of a fourth lineage. In a study conducted by De Jesus et al., 2020, the
374 authors identified a sequence cluster naming it as Clade BR-4. Our classification
375 method found that this cluster of sequences belongs to the same subgenotype (2III.C),
376 specifically to the 2III.C.4 lineage. However, they could be distinguished into two
377 different sublineages, with 17 sequences classified as 2III.C.4.1 and two classified as
378 2III.C.4.2. It is worth noting that 11 of the 17 sequences assigned to 2III.C.4.1 were
379 classified into a sublineage called 2IIIC.4.1.4, adding a deeper comprehension on the
380 cluster evolutionary dynamics.

381 As performed in the Clade BR-4 analysis, we applied our classification system
382 to the samples from Amorim et al., 2024, which provides valuable insights into the
383 genetic diversity of DENV-2 and its implications for epidemiology. In that study, the
384 authors identified a group of samples calling it Lineage 5, belonging to genotype II
385 (Cosmopolitan). These samples were cohesively grouped in our proposed
386 classification as subgenotype 2II.D, specifically to sublineage 2II.D.10.1 within lineage
387 2II.D.10. However, two sequences present in Lineage 5 reported by Amorim et al.,
388 2024, could be classified at a further level of depth, belonging to sublineage
389 2II.D.10.1.1, indicating genetic diversification events within the previously reported
390 Lineage 5.

391 By investigating the genetic diversity of Clade BR-4 and Lineage 5, we inferred
392 that each of these sequence groups is indeed internally related, as indicated by the
393 authors, as they share the ancestries of lineages 2III.C.4 and 2II.D.10.1, respectively.
394 However, they exhibit internal diversification events that should be considered from a
395 genomic surveillance perspective.

396 The proposed unified classification system for DENV represents a significant
397 advancement over scattered generic nomenclatures. This detailed and precise
398 approach not only facilitates dynamic DENV monitoring, crucial for targeted
399 vaccination strategies during outbreaks and vaccine introductions but also enables a

400 more agile response to changes in the epidemiological landscape. By allowing for
401 specific lineage and sublineage monitoring, the system simplifies communication with
402 public health authorities and facilitates effective tracking of potential viral
403 replacements. Additionally, this standardized tool simplifies the interpretation of
404 phylogenetic analyses across studies, resulting in a more accurate understanding of
405 DENV evolution and dispersal, ultimately informing the development of effective
406 control and prevention strategies.

407 **Future perspectives**

408

409 This study establishes the foundation for applying the proposed Dengue virus
410 (DENV) lineage classification system to DENV-3 and DENV-4. This expansion will
411 create a comprehensive framework for DENV lineage designation encompassing all
412 four serotypes.

413 The system's user-friendliness is augmented by its online accessibility through
414 the Nextclade V2 web application for DENV-1
https://v2.clades.nextstrain.org/?dataset-url=https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main/Nextclade_V2_data/DENV1) and DENV-2
https://v2.clades.nextstrain.org/?dataset-url=https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main/Nextclade_V2_data/DENV2). Alternatively, users can
419 download datasets from <https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main> for
420 offline analysis using Nextclade CLI V2.14.0. Future integration with the Viral
421 Identification Pipeline for Emergency Response (VIPER) assembly pipeline
422 (<https://github.com/alex-ranieri/viper>) is planned. Additionally, datasets will be
423 upgraded to ensure compatibility with Nextclade V3.

424 To facilitate the proposition of novel lineages, a comprehensive guideline
425 document will be developed and hosted on <https://github.com/alex-ranieri/denvLineages/tree/main>. Finally, we aim to create a dedicated pipeline that
426 leverages Nextclade, this DENV lineage classification system's datasets, and Autolin
427 software to suggest new lineages for newly submitted sequences. This will further
428 enhance DENV genomic surveillance efforts.

430

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436 sequences on GISAID, particularly those affiliated with the Central Public Health
437 Laboratories (LACEN) from the Brazilian States of Alagoas, Pará, and Paraná. We are
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440

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442

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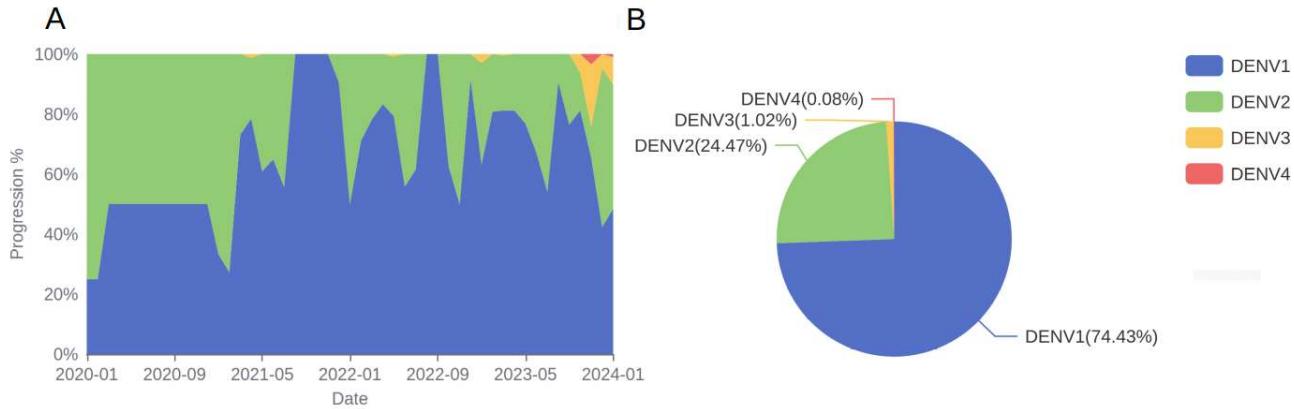
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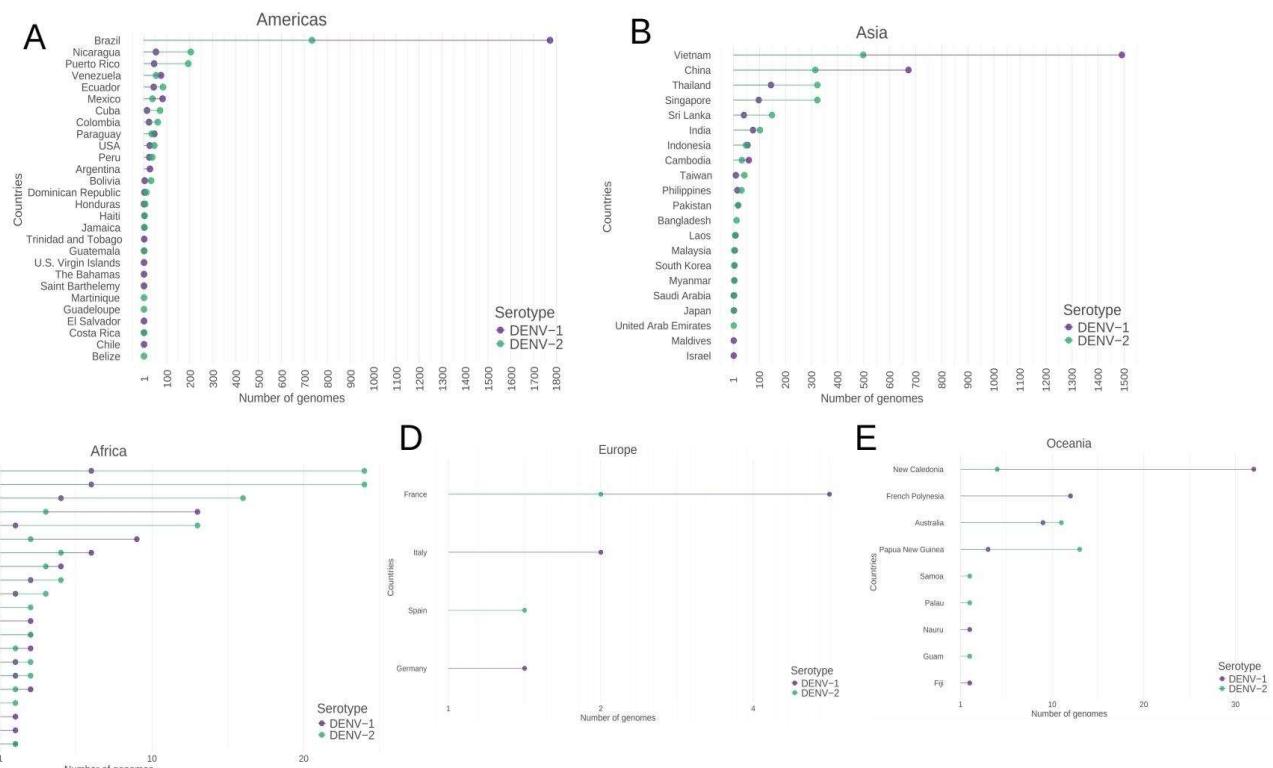
554 **Supplementary Figures**

555



556 **Figure S1. Distribution of DENV Genome Sequences across Serotypes in Brazil. A.** Percentage
557 distribution of DENV genome sequences by serotype, spanning from January 2020 to January 2024.
558 **B.** Serotype prevalence of DENV based on genome sequencing data. Data sourced from GISAID as
559 of March 15, 2024, encompassing 2,693 genome sequences.

560



561 **Figure S2. Geographical Distribution of DENV Genomes Employed for Lineage Assignment.** The
562 data is presented according to the continent and country of origin for each sequence.