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Colonies of the western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) are susceptible to a wide range of predators, parasites and pathogens threatening their health and often their survival. Among these, the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor* is considered the most important threat to honey bee health and is associated with high worldwide colony losses. While the mite weakens the colony by feeding on the brood and the adult bees, it also lowers the immune defenses of its host and transmits several viruses. In many cases, the final collapse of a honeybee colony is believed to be an effect of virus infections rather than the direct effect of parasitization by *V. destructor*.

While a few studies conducted in the Netherlands have investigated honey bee viruses, they mainly focused on Deformed wing virus (DWV) and were restricted to a limited geographical area. With the aim of assessing the diversity and the geographical distribution of viral species in Dutch honey bees, 300 colonies from 100 apiaries across the country were sampled at the end of the summer 2022. All samples, comprising 30 bees, were homogenised, RNA was extracted and viral loads of DWV as well as Chronic bee paralysis virus (CBPV) were measured using qPCR. In addition to this, samples were pooled and sequenced using Next Generation Sequencing (High Throughput Sequencing; HTS). Analysis of the generated NGS dataset revealed the presence of a number of recently discovered viruses such as *Apis* rhabdovirus-1 (Rhabdoviridae), Bee Macula-like virus (Tymoviridae), Hubei Partiti like virus 34 (Partitiviridae) and *Varroa* orthomyxovirus 1 (Orthomyxoviridae), the ecology of which is poorly understood.