

Classification of Viruses

By
D. R. Awad

- The virus can be classified on the basis of the type of host. They are:
- Animal viruses
- Plant viruses
- Bacteriophage
- **Animal Viruses**
- The viruses which infect and live inside the animal cell including man are called animal viruses. Eg; influenza virus, rabies virus, mumps virus, poliovirus etc. Their genetic material is RNA or DNA.

- **Plant Viruses**
- The viruses that infect plants are called plant viruses. Their genetic material is RNA which remains enclosed in the protein coat.
- Some plant viruses are tobacco mosaic virus, potato virus, beet yellow virus and turnip yellow virus etc.
- **Bacteriophages**
- Viruses which infect bacterial cells are known as bacteriophage or bacteria eaters. They contain DNA as genetic material.
- There are many varieties of bacteriophages. Usually, each kind of bacteriophage will attack only one species or only one strain of bacteria.

Thank You