

Table 2. Virus-like particle (VLP) abundance, prokaryotic abundance and virus-to-prokaryote ratio (VPR) values in aquatic habitats. \mathcal{N} = number of sites

Environment	Habitat type	VLP abundance (ml ⁻¹)		Prokaryotic abundance (ml ⁻¹)		VPR	
		Mean	\mathcal{N}	Mean	\mathcal{N}	Mean	\mathcal{N}
Marine	Coastal	3.96×10^7	97	2.67×10^6	80	20.72	98
	Estuary	6.56×10^7	21	6.88×10^6	19	11.35	19
	Open ocean/offshore	9.68×10^6	101	7.75×10^5	93	38.07	97
	Deep sea (>1000 m)	1.59×10^6	28	1.59×10^5	27	28.45	28
Freshwater	Waterflow/river	5.56×10^7	17	4.85×10^6	16	9.38	16
	Reservoir/dam	2.82×10^7	11	3.22×10^6	5	10.17	10
	Floodplain/oxbow lake	3.52×10^7	10	2.99×10^6	10	11.50	16
	Cryoconite/meltwater	4.12×10^6	4	2.63×10^5	3	16.66	4
	Lake/pond	7.46×10^7	179	1.42×10^7	166	18.84	181