Table 3.1: Size and Structure of Viruses

The term virion is the more recent designation for an infective viral particle; capsomer refers to the morphological subunit that builds the capsule that envelops the nucleic acid. The virus that triggers AIDS is one of the retroviruses. For data on the size of bacteria, see Table 3.2.

Data after GRAFE 1977, LASKIN and LECHEVALIER 1973, OTTE and BRANDIS 1978, RIESNER 1979, WEIDE and AURICH 1979

Virus group	Diameter of virion (nm)	Capsomers (n)	Molecular weight of the genome ($\times 10^6$)
Adenoviruses	70– 90	252	20 – 30
Arenaviruses	50–300		3.2– 5.6
Bacteriophage λ	54		33
Coronaviruses	80–160		9
Herpesviruses	160–200	162	92 –102
Iridoviruses	130		130
Orthomyxoviruses (influenza viruses)	80–120		6
Papovaviruses	45– 55	72	3 – 5
Paramyxoviruses	150–300		5 – 8
Parvoviruses	16– 26	32 ?	1.5– 2.2
Picornaviruses	20– 30	32 ?	2.5
Pox viruses	170–260 × 300–450		130 –240
Reoviruses	60– 80	92 ?	15
Retroviruses	80–120		7 – 10
Rhabdoviruses	70 × 130 –300		3.5– 4.5
Togaviruses	40– 70	32	3 – 4
Viroid	40 ×? 2		0.12