

Ecology and evolution of giant viruses

We investigate how biotic interactions shape the physiology and eco-evolutionary trajectory of diverse microorganisms in the ocean. A key research theme is the interactions between 'giant' viruses and microbial eukaryotes (protists).

Although widely distributed in nature, we have just started to understand the role of giant viruses in modulating microbial populations in the marine environment. We will investigate the dynamics of the giant viruses in the coastal ecosystem, along with evaluating their role in shaping the evolutionary history of diverse microbial eukaryotes.

We will employ laboratory techniques, field sampling, and bioinformatic approaches to address fundamental questions regarding the molecular and eco-evolutionary aspects of giant virus-host interactions.

