

# Origin of Human T-Lymphotropic Virus Type 1 in Rural Côte d'Ivoire

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Simian T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (STLV-1) strains occasionally infect humans. However, the frequency of such infections is unknown. We show that direct transmission of STLV-1 from nonhuman primates to humans may be responsible for a substantial proportion of human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 infections in rural Côte d'Ivoire, where primate hunting is common.

**H**uman T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) can induce adult T-cell leukemia or lymphoma and HTLV-1-associated myelopathy or tropical spastic paraparesis. These pathologies are a serious threat to the several million persons infected with HTLV-1 (1).

Although HTLV-1 has spread globally, its geographic distribution is not uniform. Most infected persons live in areas where the virus is endemic and seroprevalence is comparatively high (>1%) (1), i.e., in Japan, Melanesia, South America, the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa. Phylogenetic analyses demonstrate that the geographic distribution of HTLV-1 genetic diversity is also not uniform. The most genetic diversity is seen in sub-Saharan Africa, where 6 of the 7 human molecular subtypes (HTLV-1A, B, D, E, F, and G) are found. Of those 6 subtypes, 5 are mainly found in or endemic to central Africa: HTLV-1B, D, E, F, and G (1).

Molecular HTLV-1 subtypes from humans in central Africa belong to composite clades that comprise HTLV-1 strains and simian T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (STLV-1) strains derived from nonhuman primates (2). Nonhuman primates in Africa are considered to be the source of recurrent zoonotic transmissions of STLV-1 to local human populations; virus transmission is believed to occur during the collection and consumption of nonhuman primate

bushmeat. This belief is supported by the fact that self-reported nonhuman primate hunters in Cameroon were infected with viruses closely related to STLV-1 strains circulating among local nonhuman primate prey (3). However, because intrafamilial transmission of HTLV-1B and -1D was also documented among hunters-gatherers in Cameroon (4), it is impossible to sort out cases of direct zoonotic transmission of STLV-1 from cases of consecutive human-to-human spread of virus (evolutionary rates for HTLV-1/STLV-1 are very slow) (5).

However, HTLV-1 and STLV-1 strains from western African segregate clearly in phylogenetic analyses; most humans are infected with HTLV-1A, the only human-restricted molecular subtype (6–9). Therefore, in western compared with central Africa, human infections with viruses closely related to local STLV-1 strains are much more likely to reflect direct zoonotic transmission. This situation enabled us to investigate the frequency of such direct zoonotic transmissions in a rural region of Côte d'Ivoire neighboring the Taï National Park (Figure 1).

## The Study

During 2006–2007, blood samples were obtained from 776 volunteers living in 18 villages bordering Taï National Park. All participants signed informed consent forms and completed questionnaires aimed at determining their exposure to nonhuman primate bushmeat through activities such as hunting of nonhuman primates or consumption of nonhuman primate bushmeat.

To determine effective exposure to HTLV-1/STLV-1, we used an HTLV-1/2 ELISA to test serum samples for reactivity to HTLV-1/2 antigens (10). Of the 776 serum samples, 16 were positive according to the ELISA manufacturer's criteria; an additional 15 samples had values just below the cutoff. We extracted DNA from all ELISA-reactive samples and performed a search for HTLV-1/STLV-1 sequences by using a *tax*-specific quantitative PCR (8). Of the 31 samples, 10 were positive and were analyzed by using a multiplex nested/seminested PCR targeting *env* and long terminal repeat (LTR) sequences (Table 1; online Technical Appendix, [wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/pdfs/11-1663-Techapp.pdf](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/pdfs/11-1663-Techapp.pdf)). To identify multiple infections with HTLV-1/STLV-1, this assay was applied on near endpoint dilutions of the 10 DNA extracts (2–6 starting template molecules per reaction; online Technical Appendix). For each person, 6–20 *env* and 2–20 LTR sequences (15–40 sequences per person) were determined by Sanger sequencing. No evidence of multiple infections was found.

Phylogenetic analyses were performed by using Bayesian and maximum likelihood methods on *env* and LTR datasets (online Technical Appendix). Both methods agreed on all essential features of the LTR tree topology

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Figure 1. Sampling zone in study of the origin of human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 in rural western Africa, 2006–2007. Taï National Park is indicated in white on the gray background of Côte d'Ivoire. The black rectangle overlapping Taï National Park defines a zone encompassing the 18 villages where study participants resided. Village names and the number of participants are as follows: Daobly (38), Djereoula (31), Djiboulay (40), Gahably (55), Gouléako (37), Goulégui-Béoué (55), Kéibly (90), Pauléoula (20), Ponan (21), Port-Gentil (47), Sakré (75), Sioblooula (35), Taï (26), Tieleoula (40), Zagné (17), Zaïpobly (37), Ziriglo (74).

(Figure 2) and *env* tree topology (online Technical Appendix Figure). Six of the newly determined HTLV-1 sequences were unambiguously related to HTLV-1A (bootstrap, 94; posterior probabilities, 1) (Figure 2), confirming the predominance of this molecular subtype in Côte d'Ivoire and in western Africa (6). Another 3 HTLV-1 sequences were closely related to STLTV-1 sequences found in sooty mangabeys (*Cercocebus atys*) from Taï National Park (bootstrap, 83; posterior probabilities, 1) (Figure 2; online Technical Appendix Table 2), whereas the last 1 was related to STLTV-1 sequences from red colobus monkeys (*Piliocolobus badius badius*) and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) from Taï National Park (bootstrap,

98; posterior probabilities, 1) (Figure 2; online Technical Appendix, Table 2) (7,8). Bayesian analyses were run under the assumption of a molecular clock and calibrated. However, reliable divergence dates could not be determined because most shallow nodes of the trees, including those of interest here, were not supported (online Technical Appendix). Observed divergences, however, seemed compatible with cross-species transmission events, particularly in the case of study participant Pau009 (divergence to closest STLTV-1, 0% in LTR and 0.2% in *env*) (Table 1).

## Conclusions

We investigated the frequency of direct zoonotic transmission of STLTV-1 in a rural region of Côte d'Ivoire neighboring Taï National Park and found that only 2 of the STLTV-1-related sequences would be compatible with a local human-to-human transmission (Gah050 and Kei005; Figure 2). Therefore, our data support the notion that direct zoonotic transmissions of STLTV-1 represent a measurable proportion of HTLV-1 infections, at least in rural regions bordering nonhuman primate habitat. In addition, these results mirror observations made among adult chimpanzees from Taï National Park, which are often infected with retroviruses (i.e., simian foamy viruses and STLTV-1) of their prey (Figure 2) (7,11).

Despite the high prevalence of STLTV-1, simian foamy virus, and simian immunodeficiency virus infections among red colobus populations (8) and the fact that this nonhuman primate species is the one most frequently hunted by humans (4), most zoonotic transmissions of retroviruses in western Africa seem to originate from sooty mangabeys, as shown here for STLTV-1 and previously described for simian immunodeficiency virus of sooty mangabeys, the precursor of HIV-2 (12). It remains to be determined whether these zoonotic transmissions from sooty mangabeys are favored as a result of molecular determinants (e.g., convergent

Table 1. Characteristics of persons positive for HTLV-1 or STLTV-1 in a study of the origin of HTLV-1, rural western Africa, 2006–2007\*

Study participant†, sex	Infecting subtype	Minimum observed distance to any STLTV-1, %		Type of contact and nonhuman primate contacted			
		LTR	<i>env</i>	Hunting	Dismembering	Preparation or cooking	Eating
Gah050, M	STLV-1I/SM	0.6	0.4	None	Monkeys, chimp	Monkeys, chimp	Monkeys, chimp
Gul014, F	HTLV-1A	3.2	2.9	None	None	Monkey, chimp	Monkeys, chimp
Kei005, F	STLV-1I/SM	0.6	0.5	None	Monkeys	Monkeys	Monkeys
Kei025, M	STLV-1J	0.3	0.2	None	Monkeys	None	Monkeys
Kei075, F	HTLV-1A	3.0	3.0	None	None	Monkeys	Monkeys
Pau002, F	HTLV-1A	3.2	2.5	None	None	Monkeys	Monkeys
Pau009, M	STLV-1I/SM	0	0.2	Monkeys, chimp	Monkeys, chimp	None	Monkeys, chimp
Pon002, F	HTLV-1A	4.2	2.8	None	Monkeys	Monkeys	Monkeys
Tie005, F	HTLV-1A	4.0	2.5	None	Monkeys	Monkeys	Monkeys
Tie011, F	HTLV-1A	4.5	2.4	None	Monkeys	Monkeys	Monkeys

\*Gray shading indicates infections with STLTV-1-like HTLV-1 (as determined through phylogenetic analyses). Minimum distances were calculated by using the same datasets as for phylogenetic analyses (see online Technical Appendix, [wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/pdfs/11-1663-Techapp.pdf](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/pdfs/11-1663-Techapp.pdf)). HTLV-1, human T-lymphotropic virus type 1; STLTV-1, simian T-lymphotropic virus type 1; LTR, long terminal repeat; chimp, chimpanzee(s).

†First 3 letters refer to the persons' village of residence.

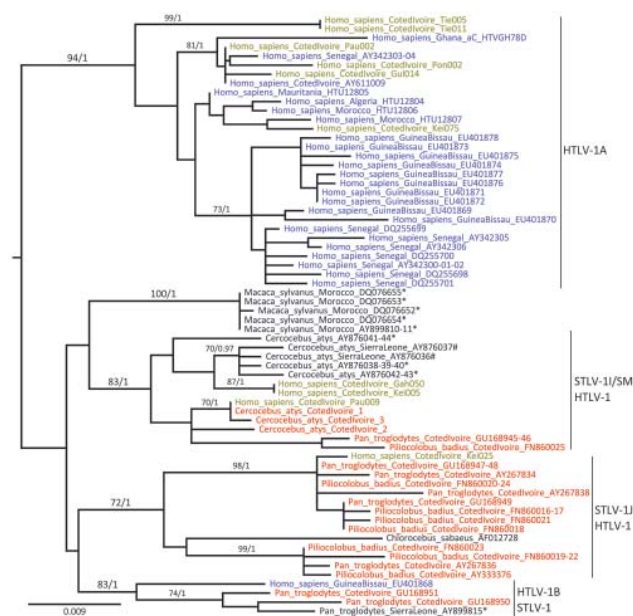


Figure 2. Maximum-likelihood tree based on the analysis of a long terminal repeat (853 bp) alignment in a study of the origin of human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) in rural western Africa, 2006–2007. Bayesian analyses supported similar topologies. After rooting, branches leading to outgroup sequences (HTVMEL5 and Z46900) were removed from the figure to increase its legibility. The HTLV-1 sequences determined from specimens from West and North Africa are shown in light blue; HTLV-1 sequences determined from persons living in the region of Taï National Park are shown in green; STLV-1 sequences determined from specimens from West and North Africa are shown in black; and STLV-1 sequences determined from persons living in the Taï National Park are shown in red. Sequence names are built as follows: [host species]\_[country of origin]\_[GenBank accession number]. Reference sequence names also include their molecular subtype assignment: [host species]\_[country of origin]\_[molecular subtype]\_[accession number]. \*Sequences determined from captive or semicaptive hosts; #sequences determined from bushmeat samples. Molecular subtypes were assigned on the basis of an analysis performed on an enlarged dataset including assigned reference sequences (data not shown). Bootstrap (Bp) and posterior probability (pp) values are indicated where Bp≥50.0 and pp≥0.95. Scale bar indicates nucleotide substitutions per site.

≈150,000 kg sold per year in markets) (13) and given the high prevalence of STLV-1 among local nonhuman primates (7,8), the observation that zoonotic transmission events are, in absolute terms, exceedingly rare is striking. Yet, the accumulation of genetically distinct HTLV-1/STLV-1 over restricted geographic areas remains possible, as illustrated by the finding of 1 person infected with HTLV-1A and 2 persons infected with putative STLV-1 in a single village, Kéibly (Table 1; Figure 1). Such local accumulations add to the threat represented by direct transmissions of STLV-1 because they can provide an opportunity for recombinant viruses to emerge, even though HTLV-1/STLV-1 biology may be unfavorable to recombination (14).

The analysis of behavioral data reveals generalized exposure of local populations to cooked nonhuman primate bushmeat (Table 2). Exposure to fresh tissues, which can be expected to be more risky in terms of retroviral transmission, is less common (Table 2). Along a gradient of bushmeat freshness, going from hunting to preparation and cooking, a clear reversal of sex-related skew can be observed: only men are hunters, men and women are equally involved in dismembering, and women predominantly prepare and cook nonhuman primate bushmeat (Table 2). Hence, men likely constitute a population at risk. In our study, 75% of persons who were identified as infected with viruses closely related to STLV-1 were men, whereas all HTLV-1A–infected persons were women. Increased surveillance for zoonotic transmission of STLV-1 to humans in areas where such transmission is more likely and increased surveillance of nonhuman primate species with high transmission potential (like sooty mangabeys) will contribute to a better understanding of risk factors.

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evolution of retroviral receptors) or behavioral determinants (e.g., increased aggressiveness).

Considering the human exposure to nonhuman primate bushmeat in this region (as illustrated by

Table 2. Type of nonhuman primate contact by participants in a study of the origin of HTLV-1 in rural western Africa, 2006–2007\*

Variable	Activity resulting in contact			
	Hunting	Dismembering	Preparing or cooking	Eating
Women, n = 402	0%	62.4%	66.9%	81.3%
Men, n = 371	11.6%	63.6%	21.6%	90.8%
Relative exposure, men vs. women	NA	1.02	0.32	1.12

\*Sex assignment was lost for 3 persons; thus, the total sampling size was 773 rather than 776, the total number included in the study. HTLV-1, human T-lymphotropic virus type 1; NA, not applicable.



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Dr Calvignac-Spencer is a researcher at the Robert Koch-Institut. His research interest is in the patterns of viral transmission in the wild between and within primate species.

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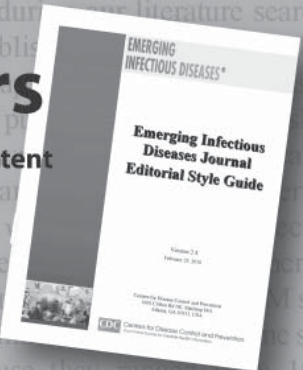
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# Origin of Human T-Lymphotropic Virus Type 1 in Rural Côte d'Ivoire

## Technical Appendix

Detailed material and methods for a study on the origin of human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 in rural West Africa

## Sample Collection and Storage

Nonhuman primate samples were collected as described in (1). People living in 18 villages bordering the Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire, were invited to participate in this study. Potential participants received thorough, coherent information about the study. After having given their informed consent, study participants were asked to complete a questionnaire that attempted to determine each individual's involvement in various steps of nonhuman primate bushmeat processing, such as hunting of nonhuman primate or consumption of nonhuman primate bushmeat. Blood was then collected by venipuncture from participants before being separated into plasma and cellular fractions. Buffy coat layer and plasma were isolated and immediately snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen. At the end of the field study, buffy coat and plasma samples were transferred to Institut Pasteur (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire) and Robert Koch-Institut (Berlin, Germany) and kept at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  in each of the institutes until analyses were performed.

## Ethics

Permits for nonhuman primate sampling were obtained from the Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves and the Ministère de la Recherche of Côte d'Ivoire. Permission for the study was obtained from the Institut Pasteur (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire) and the Ministère de la Santé of Côte d'Ivoire, representing the ethics commission (Ref #: 0428/MDCS/CAB-1/kss). The study was performed according to the Declaration of Helsinki, "Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects," as last revised by the World Medical Association. Informed consent

forms were signed by all participants after the scope of the study was explained in the local language.

## **Serology**

Serum samples were tested in duplicate for HTLV-1 reactivity by using an HTLV-1/2 ELISA (Murex Biotech, Dartford, UK) (2) at Robert Koch-Institute, Germany, and in parallel at the Institute Pasteur Côte d'Ivoire.

## **Molecular Biology**

DNA was extracted from blood-isolated buffy coat by using a DNA blood kit and from the mangabey samples by using a DNeasy tissue kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany). First, 200 ng DNA extract was used as template in a quantitative PCR targeting a short *tax* fragment ( $\approx 190$  bp), by using the primers SK43 (CGG ATA CCC AGT CTA CGT GT) and SK44 (GAG CCG ATA ACG CGT CCA TCG) and the probe HTLV Tax<sup>TM</sup> (6FAM-CGC CCT ATG GCC ACC TGT CCA GA XT P; 6FAM is 6-carboxyfluorescein), following the protocol described in (1).

Next, longer long terminal repeat (LTR) and *env* proviral DNA fragments ( $\approx 650$  bp and 560 bp, respectively) were amplified by using a multiplex seminested/nested PCR system to determine phylogenetically informative sequences. In first-round reactions, two pairs of primers were used: S10 (GGC CCT AAT AAT TCT ACC CG) and R8906 (GAA CTT TCG ATC TGT AAC GGC G) for LTR; HFL71 (CCA GTG GAT CCC GTG GAG A) and HFL72 (AGG AGG ATT TGA TGG GAG A) for *env*. Cycling conditions were: 95°C for 5 min followed by 35 cycles of 95°C for 30 s, 55°C for 30 s and 72°C for 90 s with a final step at 72°C for 10 min. For human samples, the quantities of DNA extract that were added to this first-round reaction were derived from the results of the HTLV-*tax* quantitative PCR and arranged so that each reaction would start from only 2 to 6 templates. A total of 47 such near endpoint dilution reactions were run for each of the 10 DNA extracts. Our reason for conducting these steps in this manner was that in these conditions, multiple infections would easily be identified by multiple peaks in chromatograms at polymorphic positions. For nonhuman primate samples, first round reactions were seeded with 200 ng DNA extract.

Two separate second-round reactions were then completed by using the first-round products. Primers Xho (GAG CTC GAG CAG ATG ACA ATG ACC ATG AG) and R8906 were used in a seminested reaction that targeted LTR while primers HFL75 (TCA AGC TAT AGT CTC CTC CCC CTG) and ENV2 (GGG AGG TGT CGT AGC TGA CGG AGG) were used in a nested reaction that targeted *env*. Cycling conditions were 95°C for 5 min followed by 35 cycles of 95°C for 30 s, 58°C (LTR) or 62°C (*env*) for 30 s and 72°C for 90 s with a final step at 72°C for 10 min. Two µL from a 40-fold dilution of first-round reaction products were used to seed all second-round reactions.

PCR products were visualized with gel electrophoresis before being purified. Sequencing was performed according to the Sanger method. For all cases, comparison to publicly available sequences, using the NCBI BLAST service (3), confirmed that the expected proviral DNA sequences had been amplified. Sequences determined in this study have been deposited in the EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database under the following accession numbers: HE667747-59 (LTR) and HE667760-72 (*env*).

## Sequence Analyses

### Datasets

The LTR and *env* datasets comprised the sequences determined in this study, 2 outgroup sequences (1 STLV-1 sequence determined from an Asian macaque and 1 HTLV-1C determined from a Solomon Islands inhabitant), as well as all publicly available HTLV-1/STLV-1 sequences determined from humans or nonhuman primates in West and North Africa. All publicly available sequences were retrieved from NCBI (in phylogenetic trees, all sequences appear with their accession numbers). Sequences determined from captive monkeys from uncertain geographic origin, such as captive nonhuman primates, were also included as long as the distribution of the host species in the wild was clearly restricted to West and North Africa (according to distribution ranges from the IUCN Red List Web site: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>). Table 1 summarizes the main characteristics of the West and North African sequences that were part of these datasets.

Table 1. Main characteristics of publicly available HTLV-1 and STLV-1 sequences determined from West and North African humans and nonhuman primates\*

Total cases	HTLV-1, country (no. cases)		STLV-1, host species, country (no. cases)	
	LTR	<i>env</i>	LTR	<i>env</i>
	Algeria (1), Côte d'Ivoire (1), Ghana (1), Guinea Bissau (11), Morocco (2), Mauritania (1), Senegal (11)	Burkina Faso (3), Côte d'Ivoire (5), Guinea Bissau (2), Mali (1), Mauritania (3), Senegal (20)	<i>Cercocebus atys</i> , captive (7), <i>C. atys</i> , Sierra Leone (2), <i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i> , captive (1), <i>Macaca sylvanus</i> , Morocco (6), <i>Pan troglodytes</i> , Côte d'Ivoire (10), <i>P. troglodytes</i> , Sierra Leone (1), <i>Ptilocolobus badius</i> , Côte d'Ivoire (11)	<i>C. atys</i> , captive (17), <i>C. atys</i> , Sierra Leone (3), <i>C. sabaeus</i> , Senegal (4), <i>M. sylvanus</i> , Morocco (5), <i>P. troglodytes</i> , Côte d'Ivoire (9), <i>P. troglodytes</i> , captive (4), <i>P. badius</i> , Côte d'Ivoire (1)
Total	28	34	38	43

\*HTLV-1, human T-lymphotropic virus type 1; STLV, simian T-lymphotropic virus type 1; LTR, long terminal repeat.

Results of analyses performed on nonhuman primates from Tai National Park are specifically reported in Table 2.

Table 2. Simian T-lymphotropic virus type 1 infection in nonhuman primates from Tai National Park, Côte d'Ivoire

Nonhuman primate	No. animals positive/no. total	Reference
<i>Cercocebus atys</i> , sooty mangabey	3/5	This study
<i>Ptilocolobus badius badius</i> , red colobus monkey	13/27	(1,2)
<i>Pan troglodytes verus</i> , Western common chimpanzee	11/24	(2,14,15)

Molecular subtype assignment was based on the analysis of an enlarged LTR dataset, which also comprised the 42 reference sequences described in (4) (data not shown). Each dataset was aligned by using MUSCLE (5) as implemented in SeaView v4 (6), reduced to unique sequences by using Fabox (<http://birc.au.dk/software/fabox/>) (7) and checked for the presence of recombinant sequences by using RDP3 (no recombinant was found) (8). It should be noted that although alignments included gaps, most were unambiguous. In addition, analytical methods used thereafter are notoriously insensitive to gaps (as long as they do not lead to faulty site homology), which are dealt with as missing data. Haplotyped datasets are available at <http://sebastienalvignac.fr/downloads/index.html>.

### Phylogenetic Analyses (including Divergence Date Estimations)

Several models of nucleotide substitution were first assessed for their ability to explain the data by using jModeltest v0.1 (9). On the basis of the comparison of Akaike information criterion (AIC) scores derived from model likelihoods, a global time reversible (GTR) model with a proportion of invariant sites (+I) and  $\gamma$ -distributed rate heterogeneity with 4 classes (+G4) was



selected for both the LTR and the *env* datasets, Phylogenetic analyses were performed in both maximum-likelihood (ML) and Bayesian frameworks, using the corresponding models.

ML analyses were performed on the PhyML webserver (<http://www.atgc-montpellier.fr/phyml/>) (10,11). Substitution models also included nucleotide equilibrium frequency optimization. Tree search was arranged to start from a BioNJ tree and to be performed using both nearest-neighbor interchange and subtree pruning-regrafting with optimization of topology and branch lengths. Branch robustness was assessed by using non-parametric bootstrapping (500 pseudo-replicates).

Bayesian analyses were performed by using BEAST v1.6.1 (12). Analyses were run under the assumptions of a relaxed molecular clock (uncorrelated lognormal) and a constant population size (previous analyses of a comparable HTLV-1/STLV-1 dataset had shown that tree topology was robust to tree shape assumptions) (1). So as to be able to place divergence events into an absolute time framework, we placed a strong prior on the divergence date of Melanesian (HTVMEL5) and West African HTLV-1 and STLV-1 (all other sequences except Z46900). The divergence of Melanesian/Australian HTLV-1 strains from all other HTLV-1 strains is indeed thought to reflect a host virus co-divergence event which took place 40,000 to 60,000 years ago when human populations started migrating in direction of the Pacific islands (13). We therefore chose to model the time to the most recent common ancestor of all HTLV-1 strains by using a normal distribution of mean 50,000 years and SD 5,100 years, which resulted in a distribution for which 95% of the values were to be included between 40,000 years and 60,000 years. Three runs totaling 40,000,000 generations were completed for the LTR dataset and 2 runs totaling 200,000,000 generations were completed for the *env* dataset. Trees, and numerical values taken by parameters of the model were sampled every 1,000 generations. Tracer v1.5 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/tracer/>) was used to check that individual runs had converged, that independent runs converged onto the same parameter values and that chain mixing behavior was appropriate (effective sample size values of combined runs >200). Trees sampled in duplicate runs were then gathered into a single file by using LogCombiner v1.6.1 (part of the BEAST suite) after the removal of a visually conservative 10% burn-in period and, a 2- and 10-fold decrease in sampling frequencies for LTR and *env* chains, respectively. The information of 18,000 trees per dataset was condensed into a maximum clade credibility tree by using

TreeAnnotator v1.6.1 (also part of the BEAST suite). Posterior probability, the frequency of a given bipartition in the posterior sample, was taken as a measure of branch robustness.

### Tree Display

ML trees were chosen to be displayed as Figure 2 (LTR; main text) and Technical Appendix Figure (*env*; this file). Outgroup-based rooting was further optimized by using Path-O-Gen (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/pathogen/>), a purely cosmetic operation whose principle is equivalent to midpoint rooting, although being much cleaner since it determines the display that minimizes the variance of root-to-tip distances (as midpoint rooting it therefore makes the assumption of clock-like evolution). Branch robustness measures of ML and Bayesian analyses were annotated on the resulting tree.

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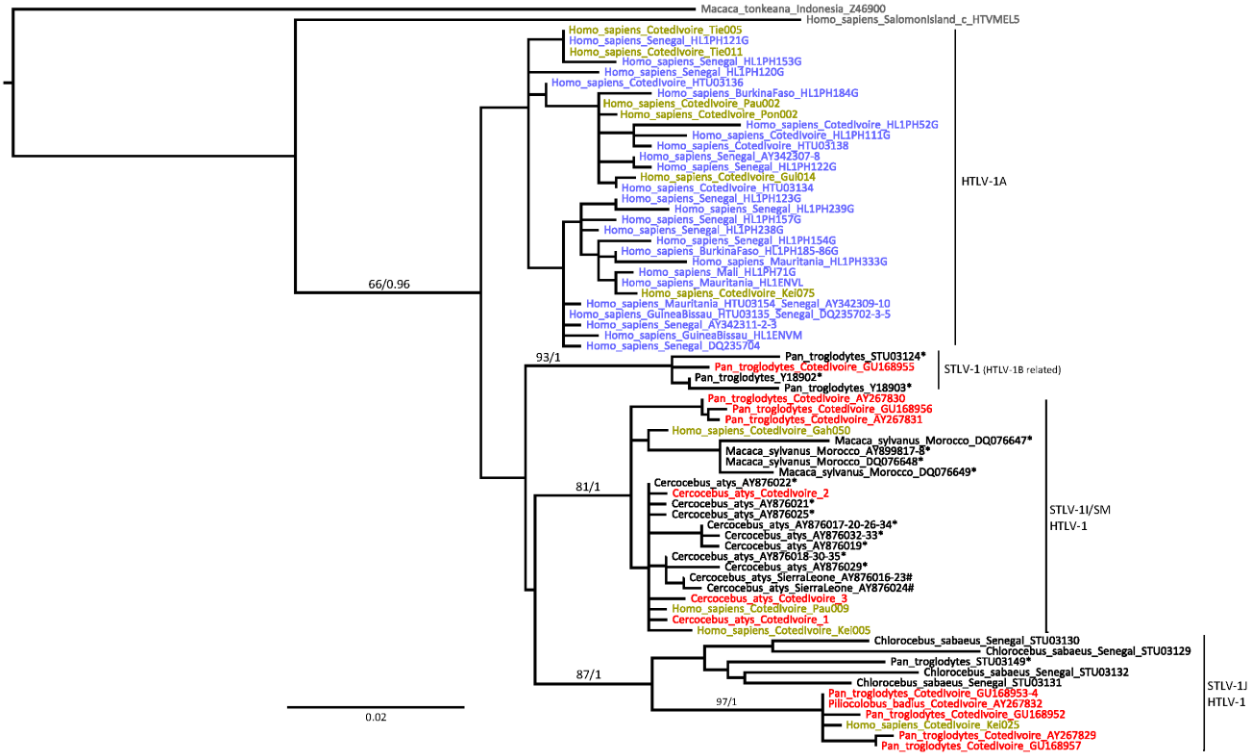


Figure. Maximum-likelihood tree based on the analysis of a 522-bp long *env* alignment, including all available human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) and simian T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (STLV-1) sequences from West Africa. Bayesian analyses supported similar topologies. HTLV-1 sequences determined from specimens from persons living in the Taï region are green; HTLV-1 sequences determined from other specimens from West and North Africa are blue; STLV-1 sequences determined from nonhuman primates living in the Taï National Park are red; STLV-1 sequences determined from other specimens from West and North Africa are black. Sequence names are built as in the Figure in the main text. \*, sequences determined from captive or semicaptive hosts; #, sequences determined from bushmeat samples. Bootstrap (Bp) and posterior probability (pp) values are indicated where Bp $\geq$ 50.0 and pp $\geq$ 0.95.