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Borealpox [bōr'-ē-əl-poks]

JJ L. Miranda

The emerging borealpox virus causes zoonotic borealpox disease, characterized by dermal lesions, in humans. From the Latin adjective *borealis*, which refers to Boreas (βορέας), the Greek god of the north wind, boreal has indicated northern origin since the 15th Century.

The orthopoxvirus isolate AK2015_poxvirus was isolated from a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska,

USA, in 2015, and initially dubbed Alaskapox virus after complete genome sequence analysis revealed a novel species similar to Old World orthopoxviruses. Seven human cases, including 1 fatal case, preceded renaming to borealpox virus. Boreal references the taiga, a subarctic coniferous forest ecosystem where case-patients and likely small mammal virus reservoirs resided.

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