



Virus predation by sponges is a new nutrient-flow pathway in coral reef food webs

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ABSTRACT: The removal efficiency of viral particles by the coral reef sponge *Negombata magnifica* was measured. Virus particles were removed by the sponge at an average efficiency of $23.3\% \pm 2.9\%$. Significant amounts of nutrients are transported from virus particles to higher trophic levels via sponges.

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