

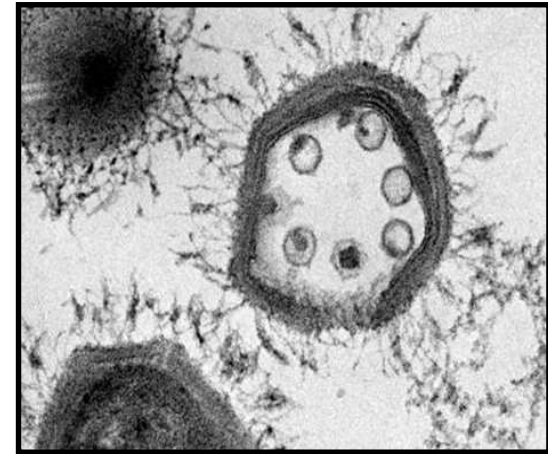
# Sputnik

## *Virus-Infecting Virus*

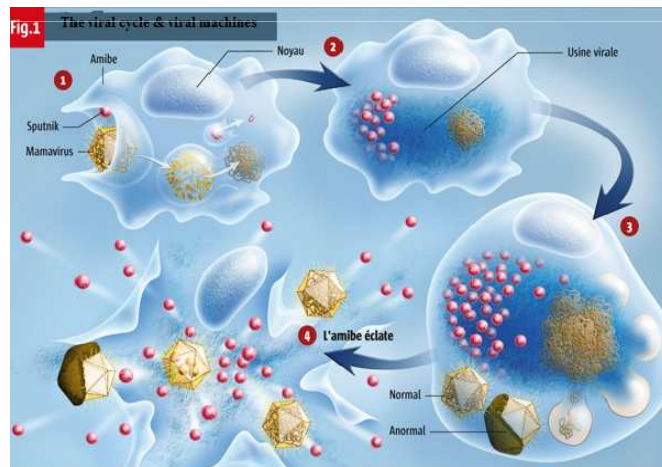
**Who would ever imagine that a virus can be infected? To tell the truth, the question did not even arise, a virus not being regarded as a living organism**

The giant virus *Mamavirus*, which infects *Amoeba*, is itself likely to be infected by a small virus. And this last, which absolutely needs *Mamavirus* to multiply, is not satisfied to benefit from the giant virus: it blocks its proliferation. This discovery, carried out by the team of *Didier Raoult*, at the medical college of Marseille.

The tiny satellite virus, called *Sputnik*, is the first described **Virophage**, so named because its behavior resembles that of bacteria-targeting viruses known as **Bacteriophages**.



- Ameba infects by Mamavirus, infected to him by Sputnik -



After the infection, one sees appearing a “**viral machine**” in the cytoplasm of the infected amoeba. It is about a structure quite visible with the electron microscope, which resembles the cellular core. It is within this viral machine that the genome of the virus is retorted, and that the viral particles are synthesized and assembled.

These results obviously caused agitation in the scientific community interested at the evolutionary origin of the viruses and, beyond, at the origin of the alive one.

*Since the giant virus Mamavirus is infected, doesn't prove that it is a living organism?*

There are viruses which approach the bacteria: it is once again a beautiful illustration in which the definition established at a given time reflect only one partial knowledge, and which it is necessary to make them evolve.