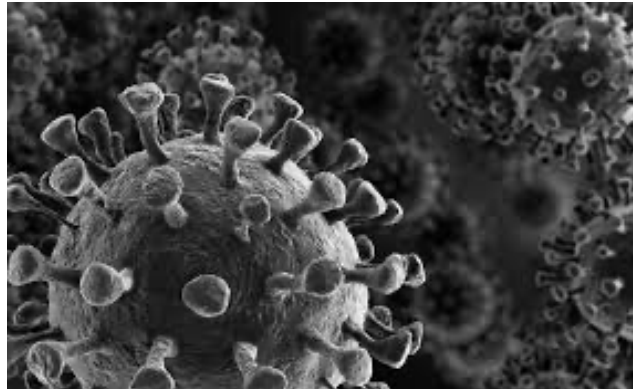


Two variants have merged into heavily mutated coronavirus



Picture: [Image credit: Shutterstock](#)

Full article link: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2268014-exclusive-two-variants-have-merged-into-heavily-mutated-coronavirus/#ixzz6mvaPNWUn>

A heavily mutated hybrid version of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus has been formed. Bette Korber at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico discovered that two variants known to cause COVID-19 have combined their genomes. One variant being, the B.1.1.7 variant discovered in the UK and the other being the B.1.429 variant discovered in California. The B.1.429 variant has been known to carry a mutation making it resistant to some antibodies while the B.1.1.7 variant has been known to be more transmissible. If confirmed this recombinant would be the first to be detected in this pandemic. Unfortunately, recombination could lead to the emergence of new and even more threatening variants. At this time there is still no evidence of widespread recombination, but it is known that recombination commonly occurs in coronaviruses therefore many scientists would not be surprised if they saw an increased incidence of recombination among the viruses. Very little is known about the recombinant's biology at this time but what worries scientists is the fact that this event could lead to a more infectious and more resistant virus.