



Fig. 9.1 BLAST output showing the foreignness of ORF1ab to human proteome

9.1 Determining the Foreignness of ORF1ab Poly Protein of Novel Corona Virus to Human Proteome Using BLAST

BLAST [8] is a basic local alignment search tool from NCBI. BLAST performs alignment for the comparison of any two sequences and identifies their degree of similarity. This tool is used to identify the degree of foreignness [9] between the human proteome and the targeted protein ORF1ab poly protein of Novel Corona Virus. In case the viral protein does not share any similarity, it would be recognized as FOREIGN to humans thus can be an immunogenic protein (Fig. 9.1).

Inference: The above BLAST result shows that the sequence of ORF1ab (Novel Corona Virus) shares 31% sequence similarity to Homo sapiens with a query coverage 1% only. This indicates that the sequence is not close to the human proteome and possesses foreignness; thus it can be antigenic and pathogenic and hence can be used for further analysis.

9.2 Identification of Antigenic Regions Using PVS

PVS [10] codes for Protein variability server that harbors many tools for the annotation of proteins. Antigenic Peptide prediction is a tool in PVS that would predict the antigenic regions within the protein having potential to trigger the production of antibodies in the host. Along with the antigenic peptides antigenic propensity of amino acids is also displayed in the tool output. The use of Peptide vaccines is always preferable than the whole organism Vaccine due to several parameters like less cost, high efficiency and lower risk of side effects (Fig. 9.2).