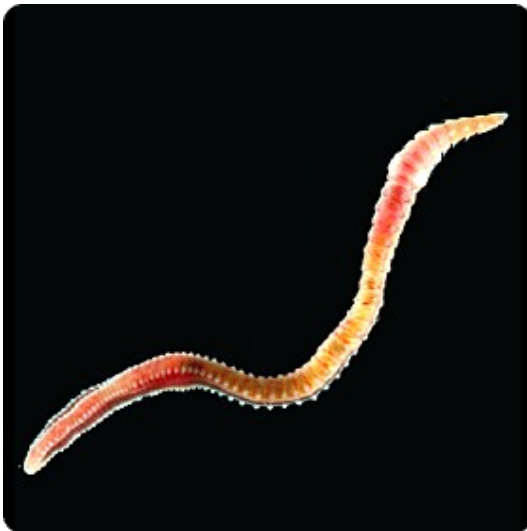


# Comparative genomics:

What animal genomes can tell us about their past (and future?)



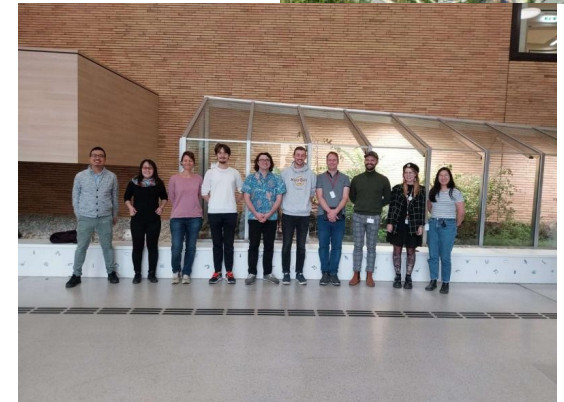
# About myself

Until 2009 Studies U Karlsruhe/U Heidelberg, DE  
MSc thesis UC Berkeley, USA  
(Dan Rokhsar)

2009 – 2013 PhD  
EMBL Heidelberg and U Konstanz, DE  
(Detlev Arendt, Axel Meyer)

2013 – 2017 Postdocs  
U Heidelberg (Thomas Holstein)  
OIST Okinawa, Japan (Dan Rokhsar, Sydney  
Brenner)

Since 2017: Assis/Assoc Prof U Vienna, AT



Personal motivation:  
“evolution/implications of “complexity” ”

- Around 2008: Early animal genomic sequencing accomplishments

“ancestral complexity” - much cool

MSc project: hydra and sponge genomes

“The dynamic genome of Hydra”

Back then: no bioinfo courses! Pascal, Delphi  
(I do write manuals! molbiosoft.de), then perl

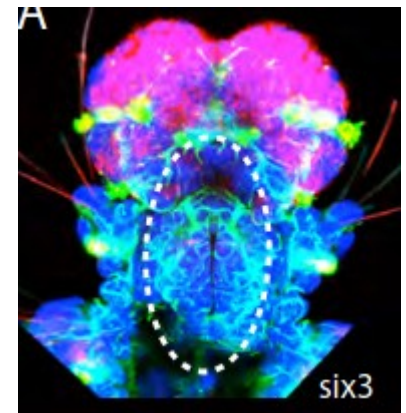
PhD:

Evo-devo from a quantitative genomics perspective  
Attempt to overlay genome  
(micro/macro-)evolutionary trends onto cell type  
evolution. *Platynereis* foregut as a model system.

- too “difficult”

- Back to genomics

The three spiralian genomes paper





## Postdocs:

Early branching animal genome architecture:  
From micro- to macro-synteny (and function)

Changes in genome architecture as measured by  
synteny



Press: “omg, aliens”



The system at  
OIST that  
almost burned  
down!

## Tenure-track at U Vienna:

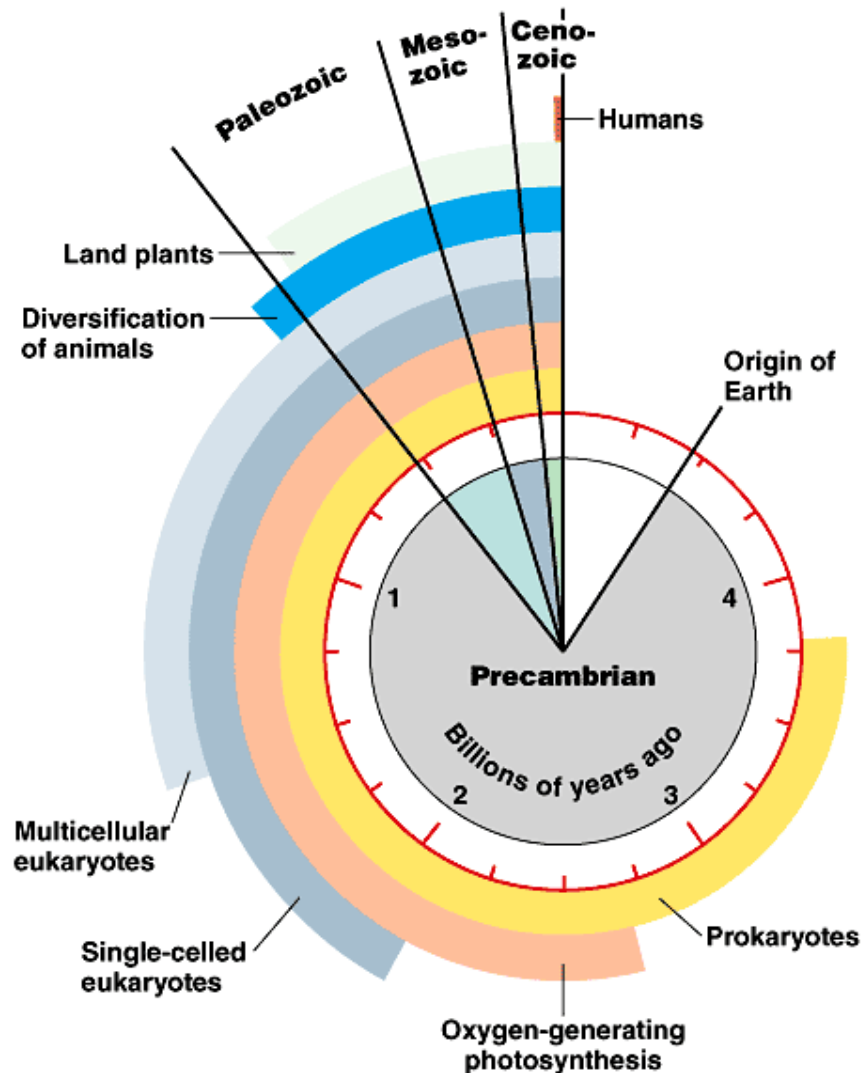
Genome architecture (synteny), its evolutionary properties (also repetitive element forces) and impact of its change onto gene regulation



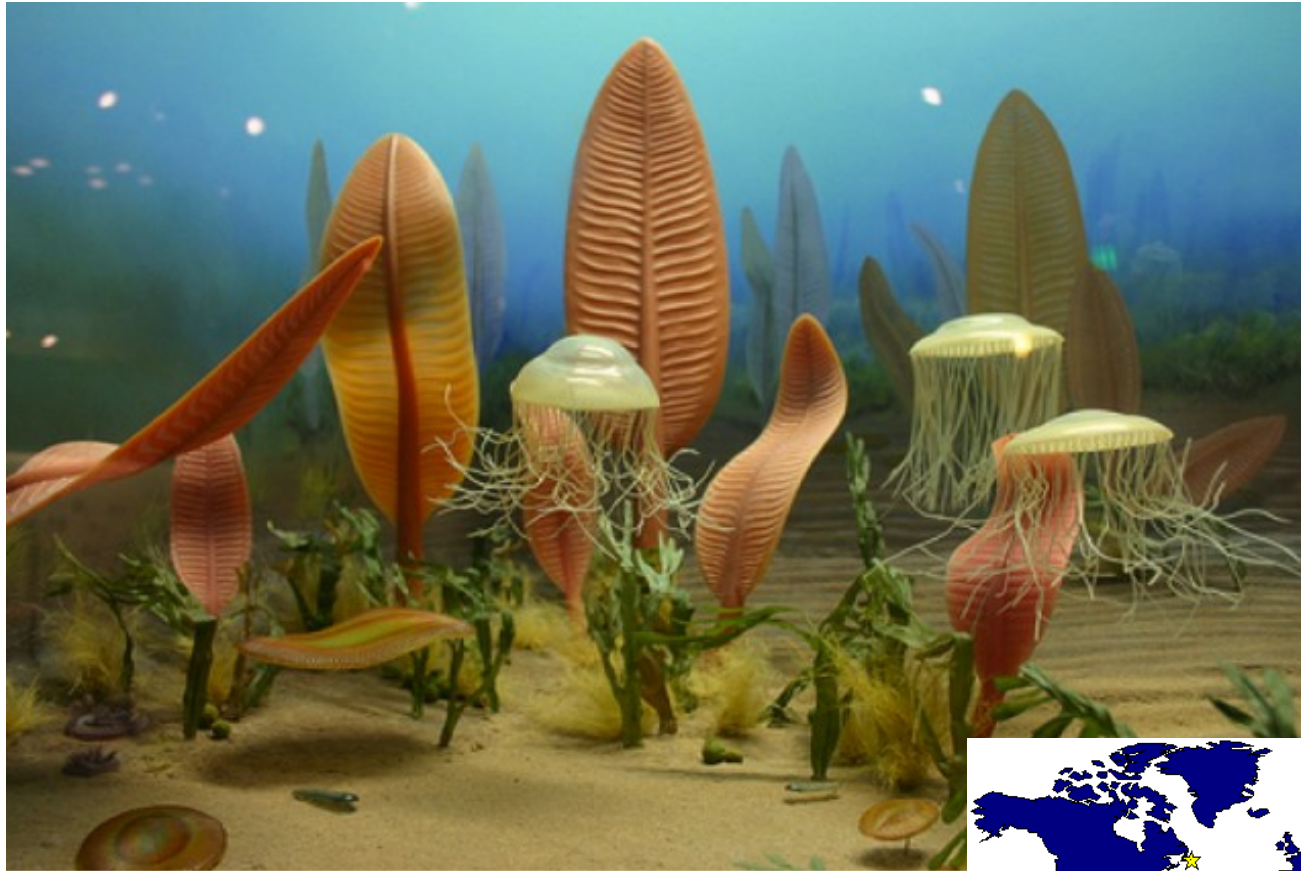
- I. (Somewhat) early animal genomics and initial insights
- II. Current approaches and bottlenecks (from  
chromosomes to 3D structure?)
- III. Future theoretical genomics, predictions and applications

# I. (Somewhat) early animal genomics and initial insights

# 'Recent' appearance of animal multicellularity



# The cradle of animal life: Ediacaran/Vendian



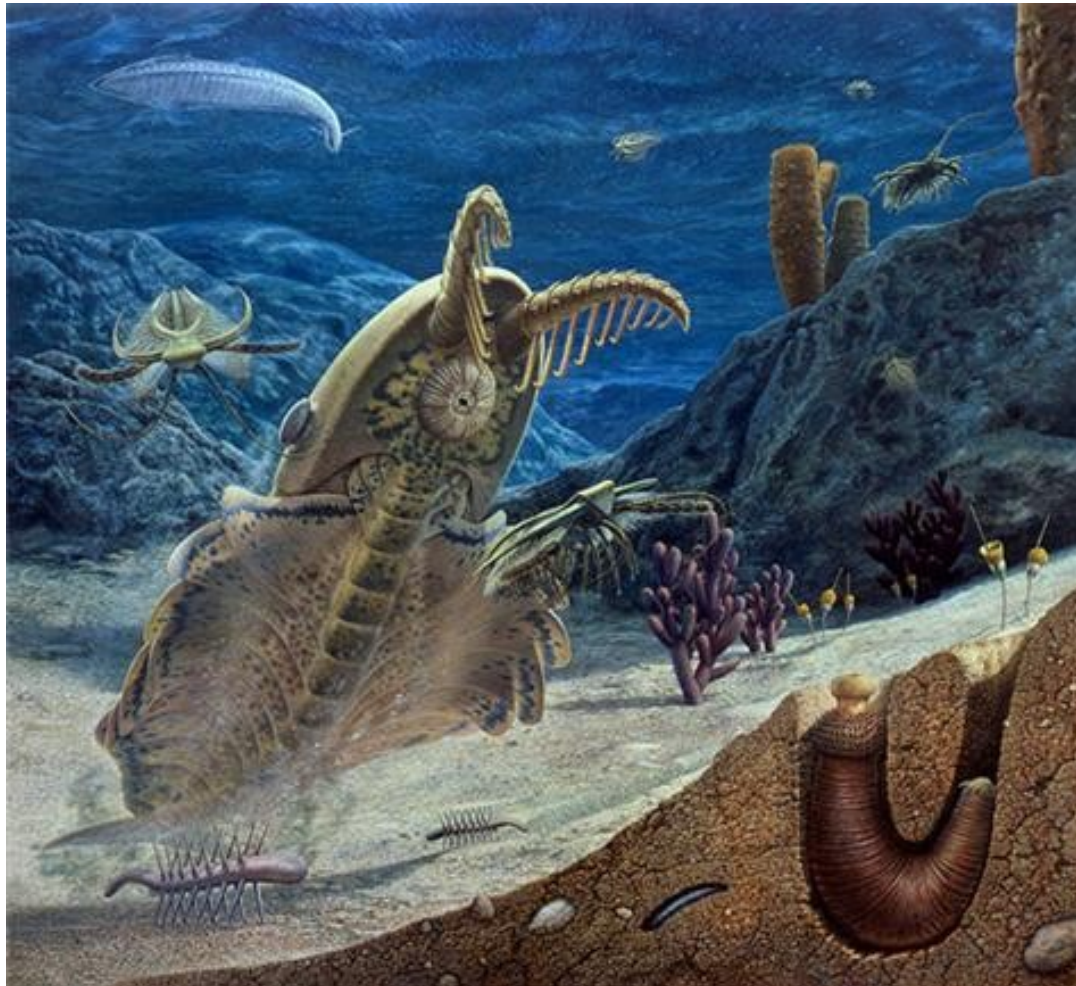
650-540 million years ago  
No predation  
Mostly sessile  
Sponge/cnidarian grade organization

Image: Ryan Somma

Map: <https://ucmp.berkeley.edu/vendian/vendianloc.htm>



# The 'explosion': Cambrian

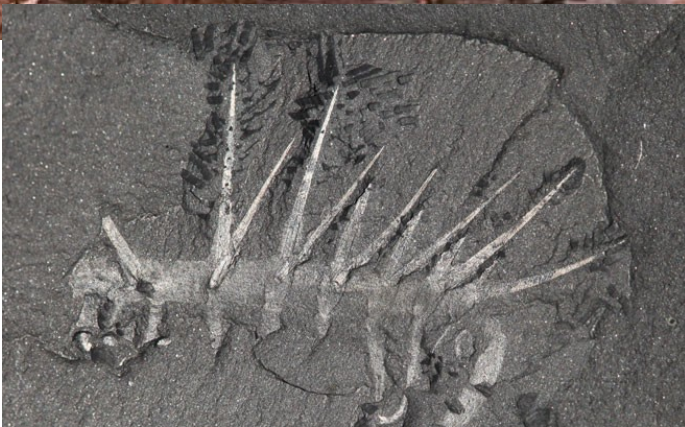


540-520 million years ago  
True bilateral symmetry  
High predation  
Origin of the major animal phyla

Image: John Sibbick

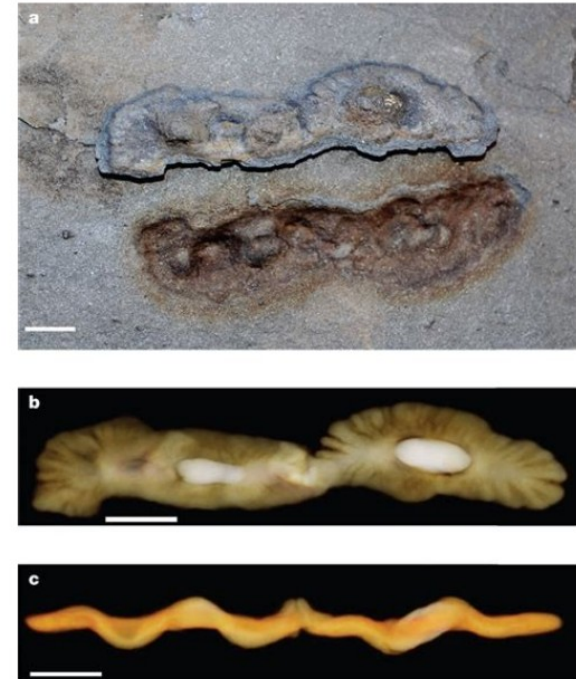
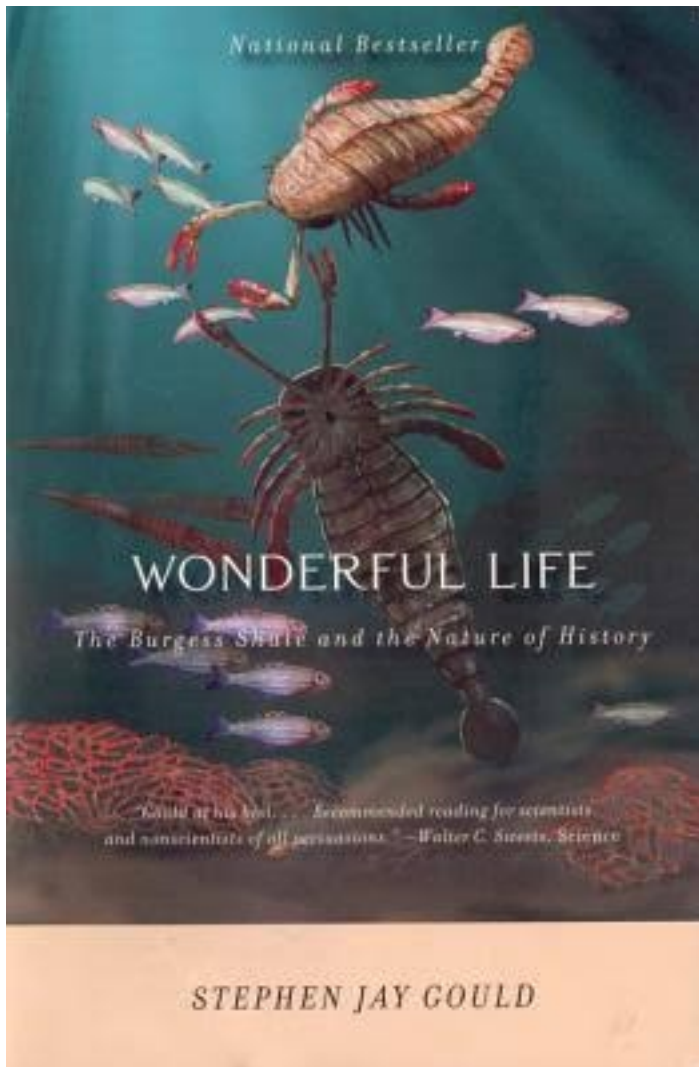


# Burgess shale






# Wonderful life? (how often?)



Large colonial organisms with coordinated growth in oxygenated environments 2.1 Gyr ago

Abderrazak El Albani , Stefan Bengtson, Donald E. Canfield, Andrey Bekker, Roberto Macchiarelli, Arnaud Mazurier, Emma U. Hammarlund, Philippe Boulvais, Jean-Jacques Dupuy, Claude Fontaine, Franz T. Fürsich, François Gauthier-Lafaye, Philippe Janvier, Emmanuelle Javaux, Frantz Ossa-Ossa, Anne-Catherine Pierson-Wickmann, Armelle Riboulleau, Paul Sardini, Daniel Vachard, Martin Whitehouse & Alain Meunier

Enter “genome era”

Working draft of human genome



# Human Genome Project

1990

Human Genome Project (HGP) launched in the U.S.



Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) programs founded at NIH and DOE

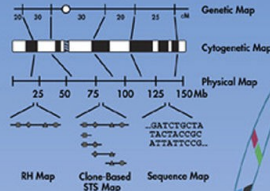


First gene for breast cancer (BRCA1) mapped



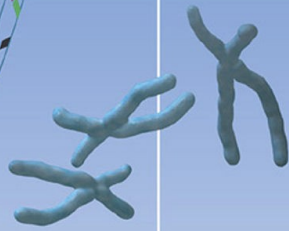
1991

First U.S. Genome Centers established



1992

Second-generation human genetic map developed



Rapid data release guidelines established by NIH and DOE

1993

New five-year plan for the HGP in the U.S. published



Sanger Centre founded (later renamed Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute)



The Wellcome Trust

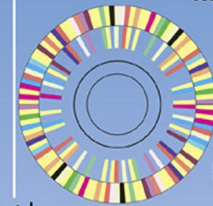
1994

HGP's human genetic mapping goal achieved



1995

HGP's human physical mapping goal achieved



First bacterial genome (*H. influenzae*) sequenced

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issues policy on genetic discrimination in the workplace

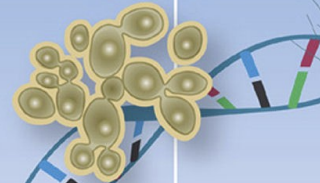
1996

First human gene map established

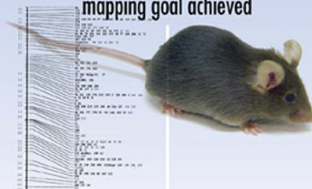
Pilot projects for human genome sequencing begin in U.S.

First archaeal genome sequenced

Yeast (*S. cerevisiae*) genome sequenced



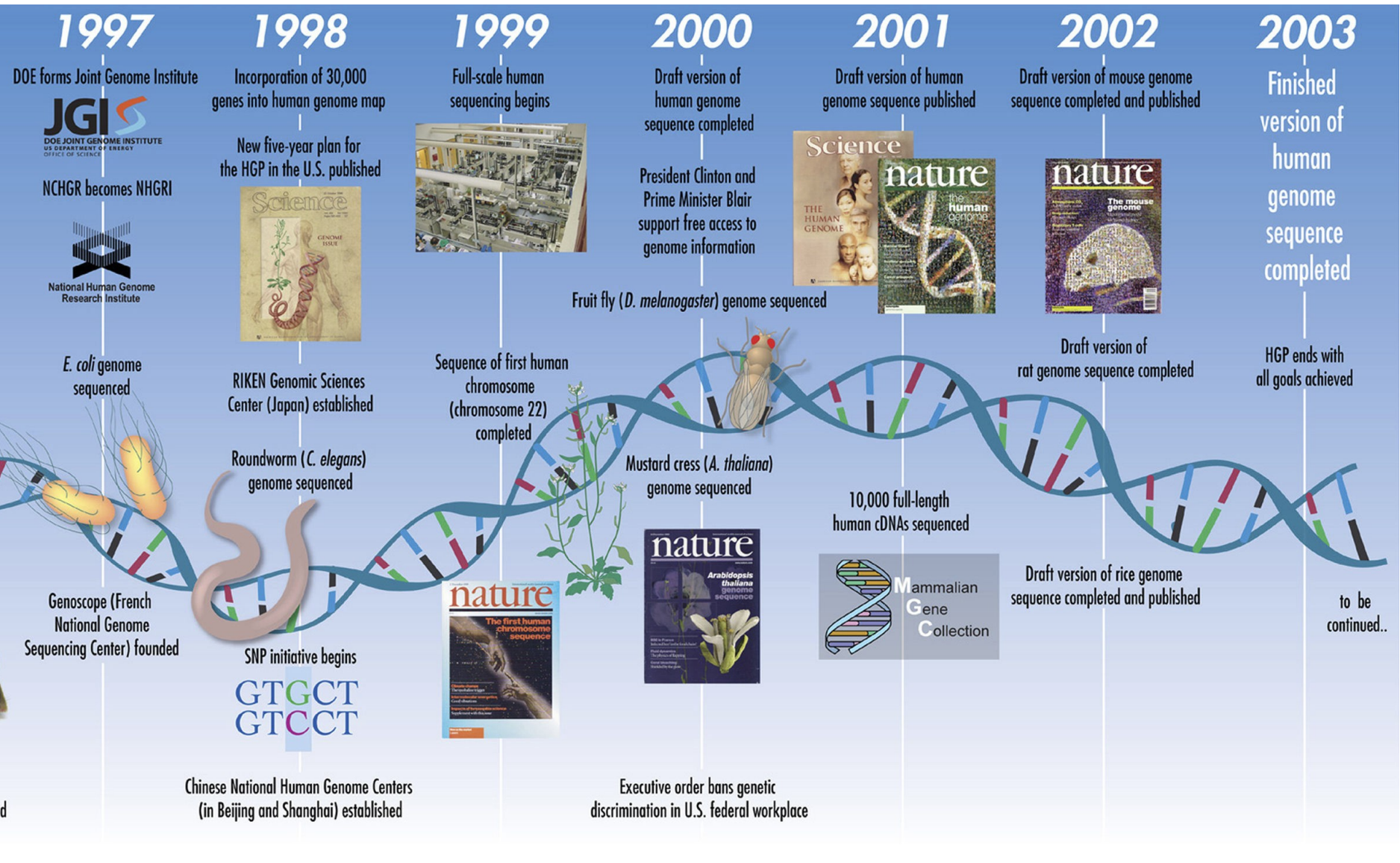
HGP's mouse genetic mapping goal achieved



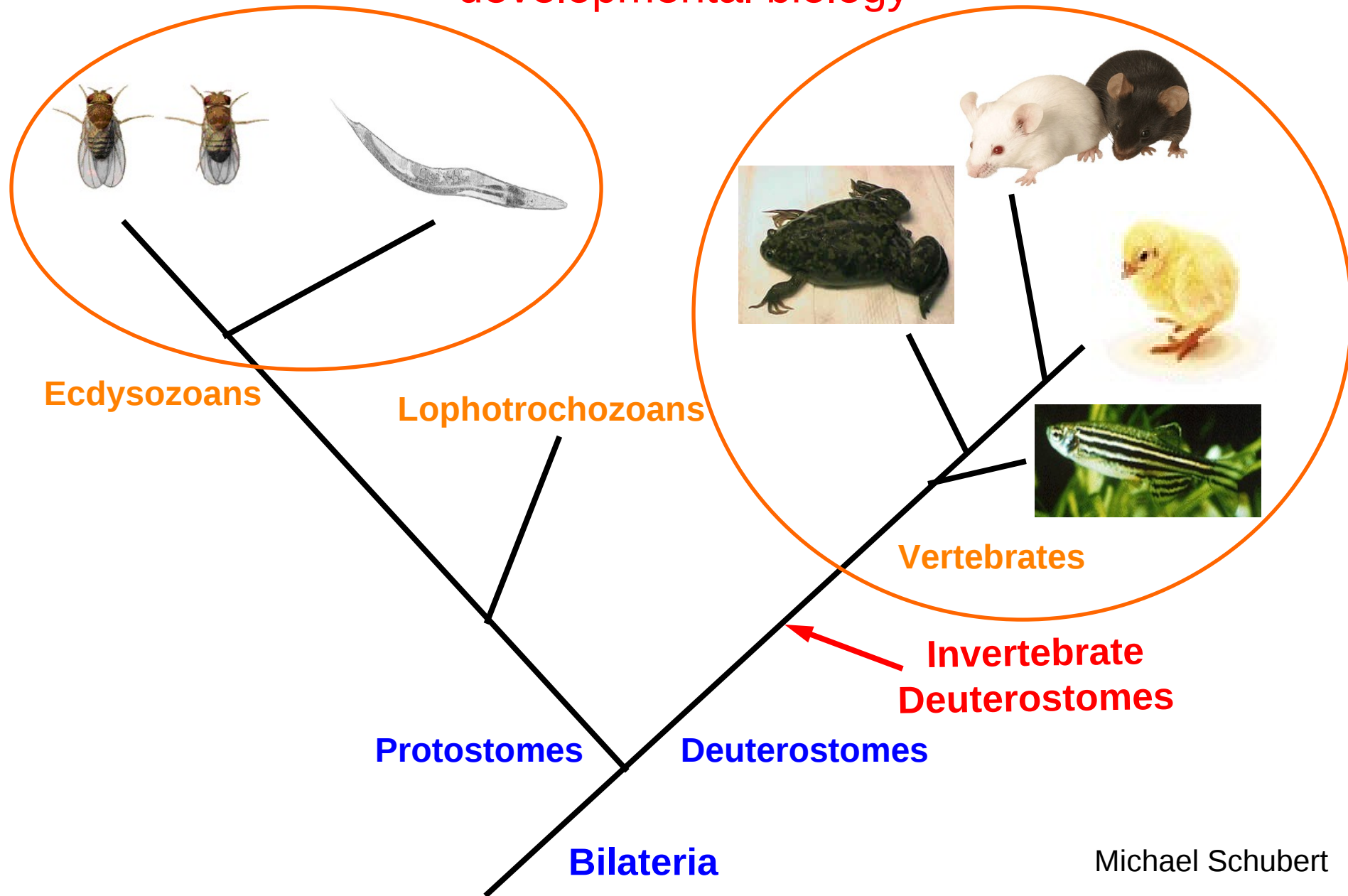
Bermuda principles for rapid and open data release established



# Human Genome Project



# Pre-genomic era: Phylogeny of the classical model systems in developmental biology



# Previous notion – basal animals are 'simple'

134

JAMES W. VALENTINE ET AL.

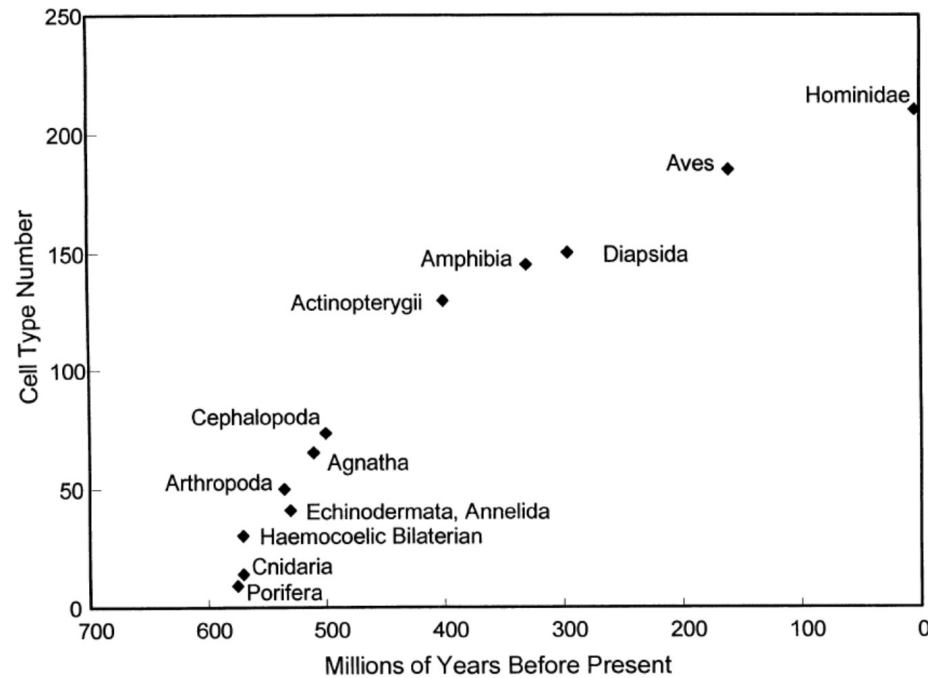
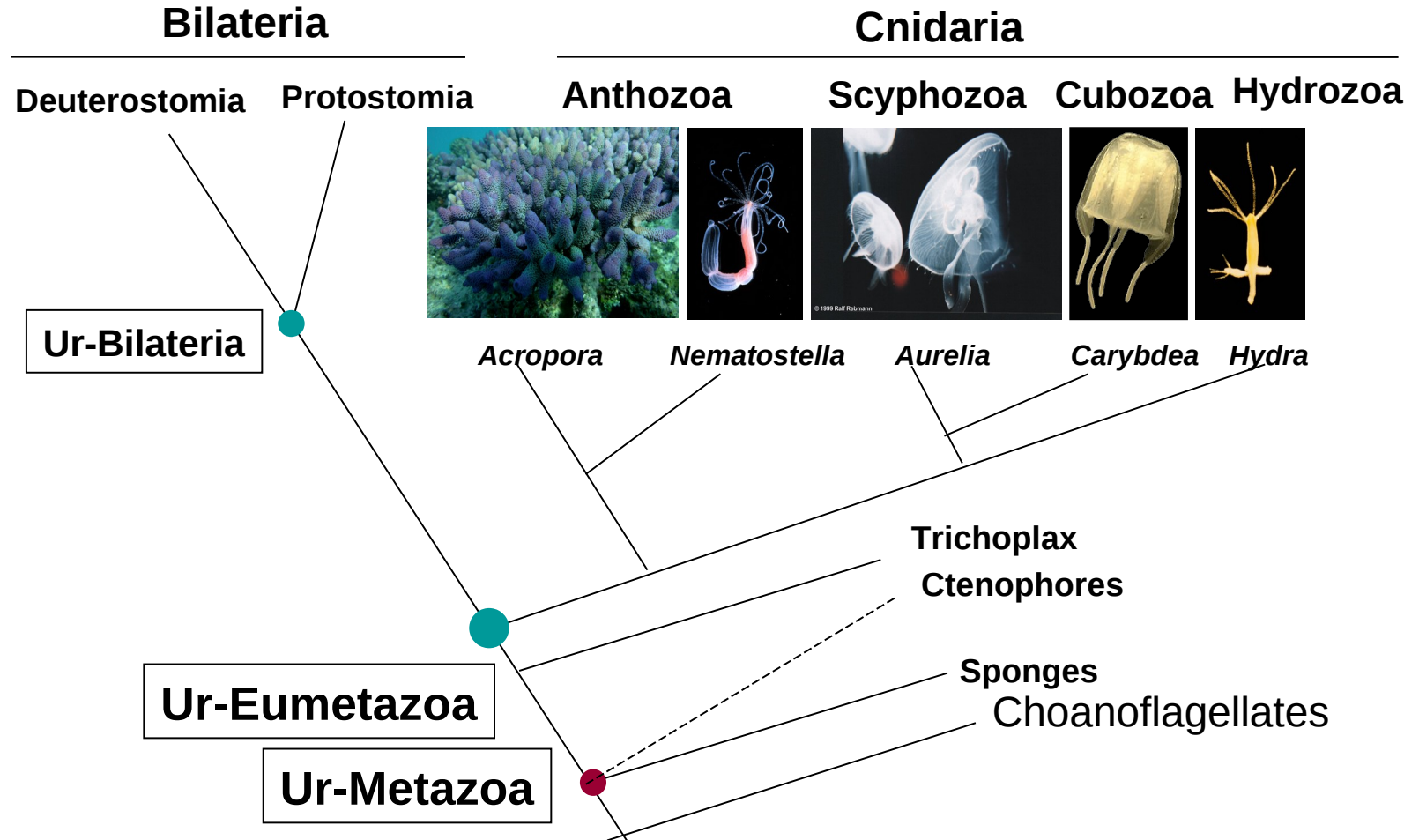


FIGURE 1. Estimated cell-type numbers of primitive members of selected metazoan taxa, inferred from counts of cells in living individuals, plotted against the estimated time of origin of the body plan of each taxon. Only taxa that are believed to have been rather near the upper bound of cell-type numbers when originating are included. For sources on which cell-type number estimates are based, and sources for ages, see Appendix.

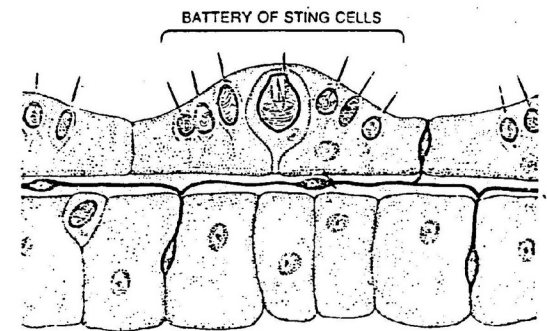
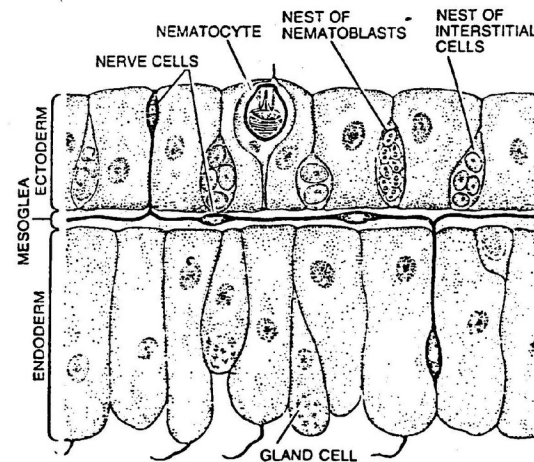
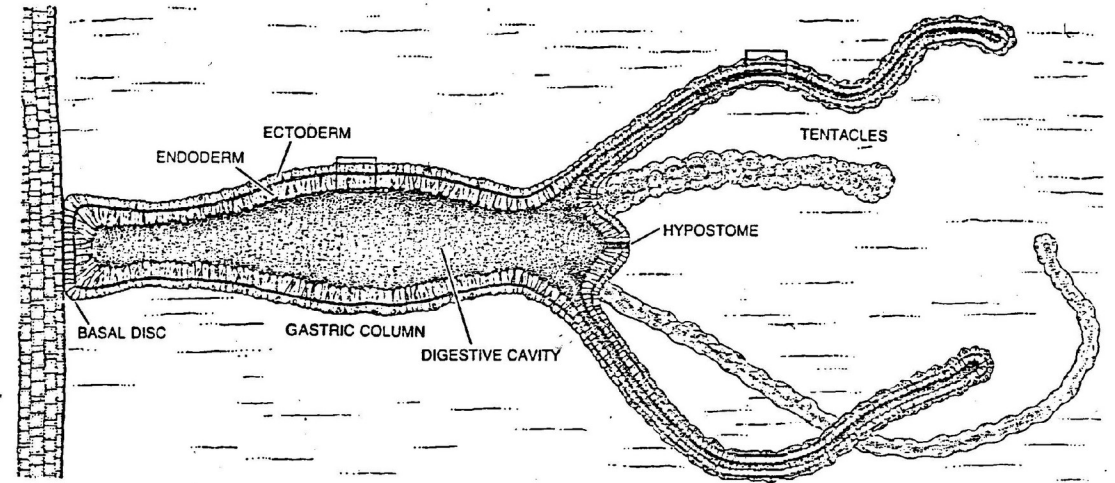


# Reconstructing the common ancestor of Cnidaria and Bilateria

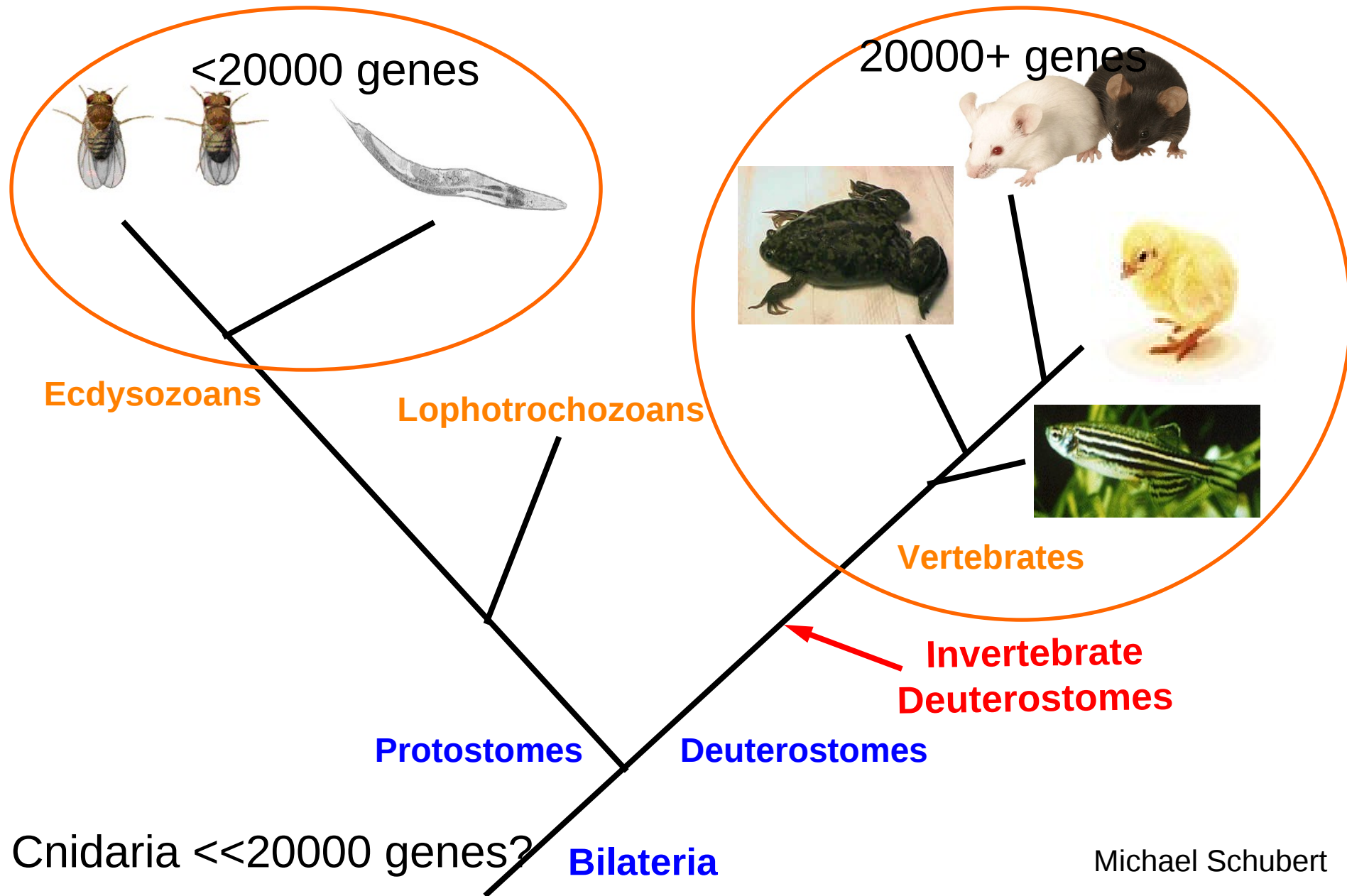


# Cnidarians are simple (?)

2 cell layers, one apparent body axis, 20 (?) cell types



# Pre-genomic era predictions

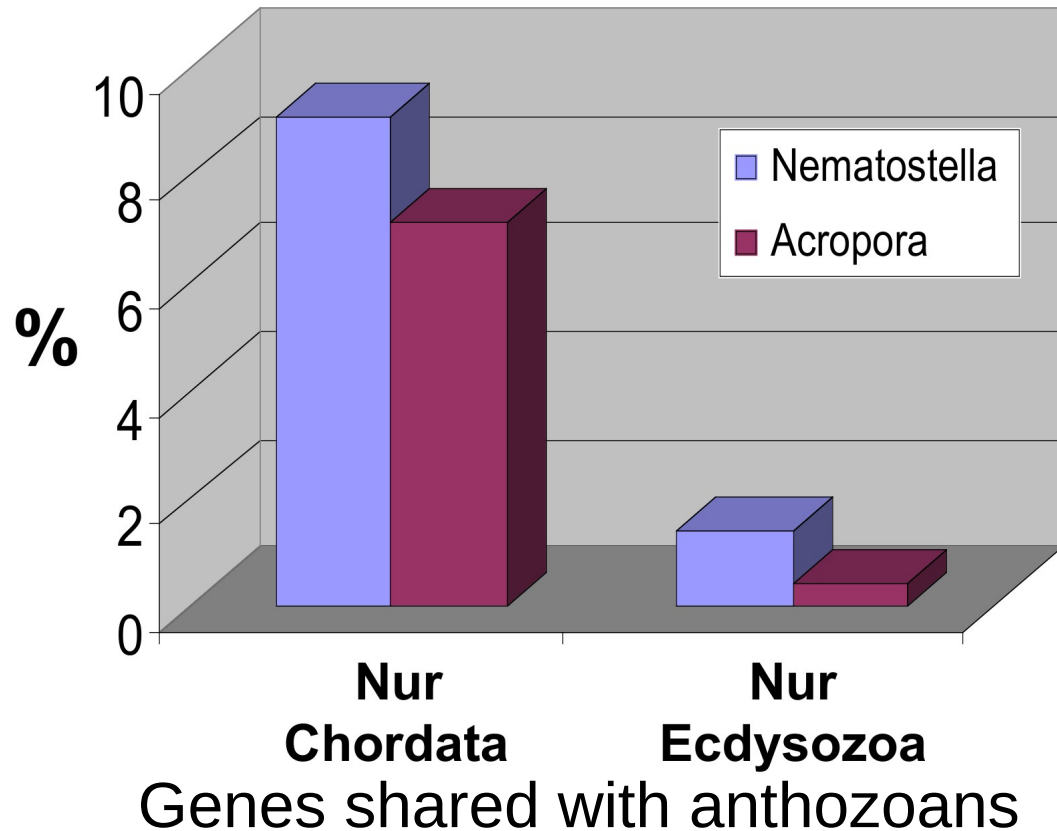


# Transcriptome-screen in Anthozoa:

Cnidaria have a complex transcriptome and share many genes only with chordates

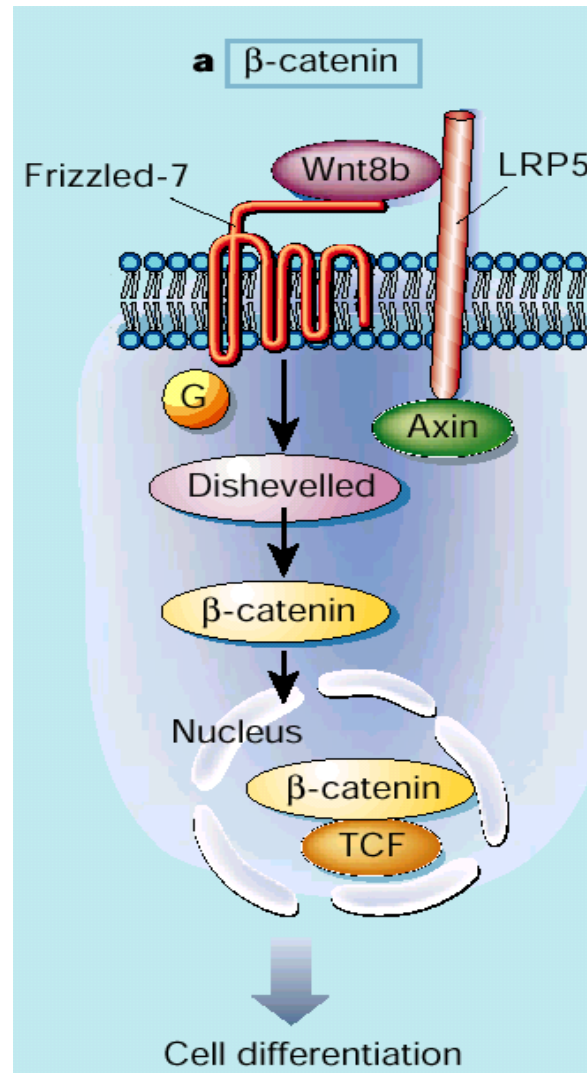


Technau et al., TiG, 2005






















































➔ Significant gene loss in some Ecdysozoa

# The canonical Wnt signaling pathway: One pathway, many different ligands









































































# *Nematostella* has 12 out of 13 *Wnt*-Sub-families

## Evidence for significant loss of *Wnt*-genes in insects and nematodes

	Wnt1	Wnt2	Wnt3	Wnt4	Wnt5	Wnt6	Wnt7	WntA	Wnt8	Wnt9	Wnt10	Wnt11	Wnt16
Ecdysozoa													
<b>Fly</b>		X	X					X	X		X	X	X
<b>Nematode</b>		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Beetle</b>		X	X	X						X			
Lophotrochozoa													
<b>Polychaete</b>													
<b>Mollusc</b>													
Deuterostomia													
<b>Amphioxus</b>								X					
<b>Human</b>		 	 					X	 	 	 		

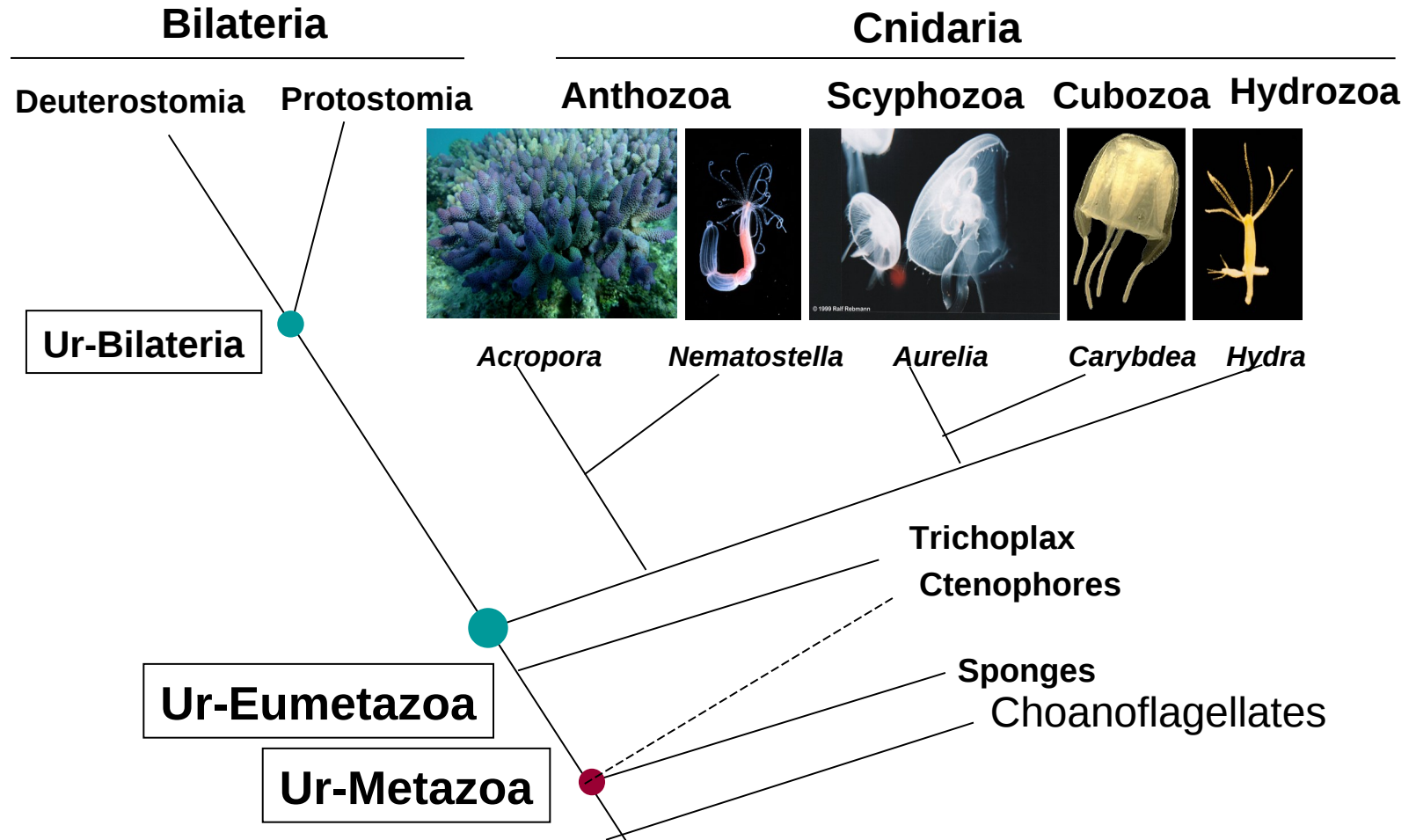
# *Nematostella* has 12 out of 13 *Wnt*-Sub-families

## Evidence for significant loss of *Wnt*-genes in insects and nematodes

	Wnt1	Wnt2	Wnt3	Wnt4	Wnt5	Wnt6	Wnt7	WntA	Wnt8	Wnt9	Wnt10	Wnt11	Wnt16
Ecdysozoa													
<b>Fly</b>		X	X					X	X		X	X	X
<b>Nematode</b>		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Beetle</b>		X	X	X						X			
Lophotrochozoa													
<b>Polychaete</b>													
<b>Mollusc</b>													
Deuterostomia													
<b>Amphioxus</b>								X					
<b>Human</b>								X					
<b>Cnidaria</b>													
<b>Ur-Eumetazoa</b>													



# From mid 2000's: Genomes of “Phylogenetically informative species”



Sequencing: Sanger ~million \$ per project  
(JGI, JCVI, Broad etc.)

# The eumetazoan ancestor contained at least 7k gene families

(orthologs are present in modern day species)

Descendants of the ancestral eumetazoan gene set account for at least 50-65% of all genes in a given genome

*Nematostella*  
(Total: 18,000)

Vertebrates  
(Total: 22,000)

*Drosophila* /  
*C. elegans*  
(Total: 14-19,000)

12,319  
(68%)

13,830  
(65%)

7,300  
(45%)

6918

5659

7766

7766

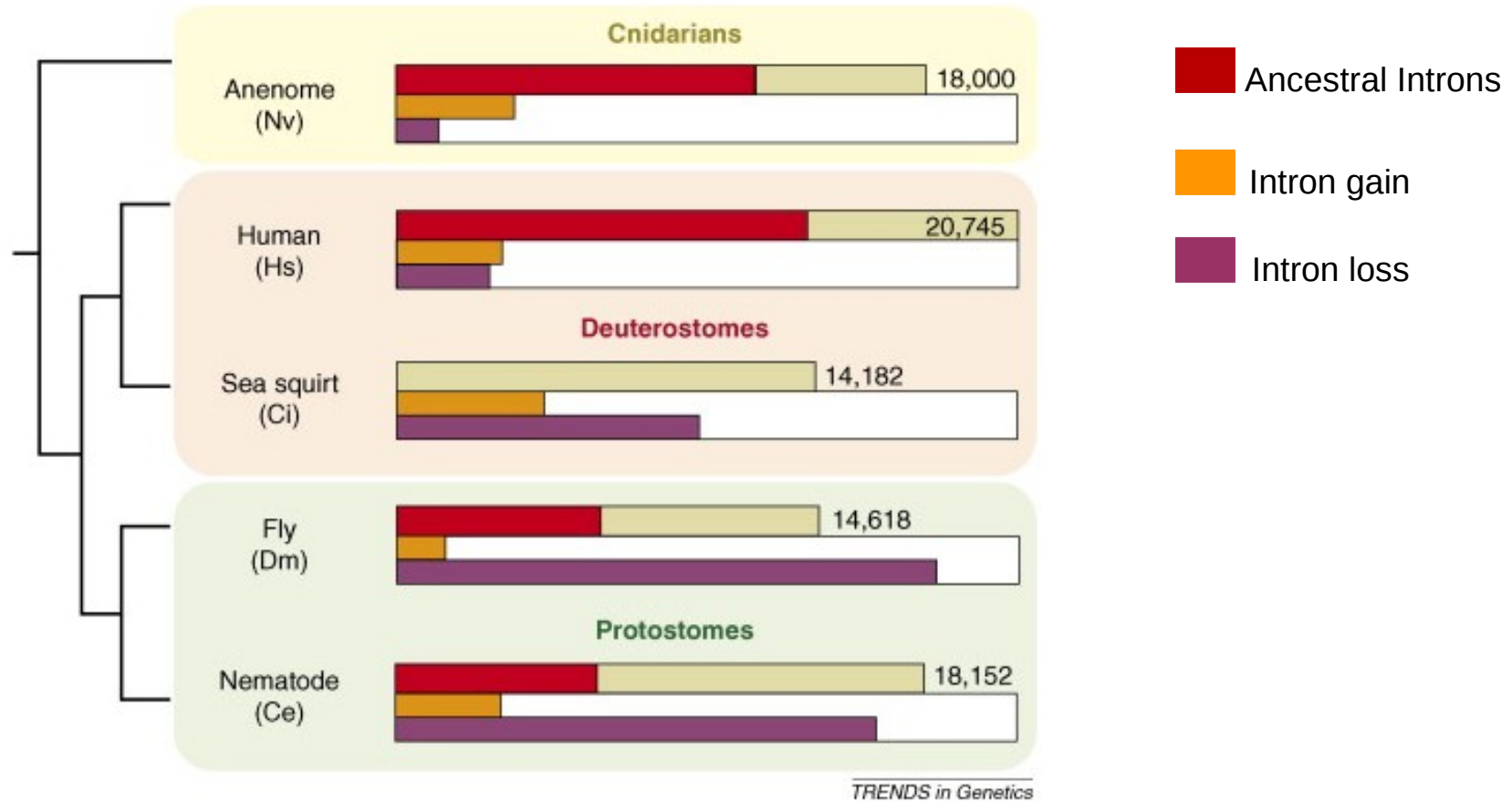
Ancestral Eumetazoan gene set

Putnam et al. Science 2007



# ***Nematostella* and humans have preserved 80% of the ancestral introns\***

**Significant intron losses in model ecdysozoans**



\* Of 5175 introns in highly conserved protein sequence positions

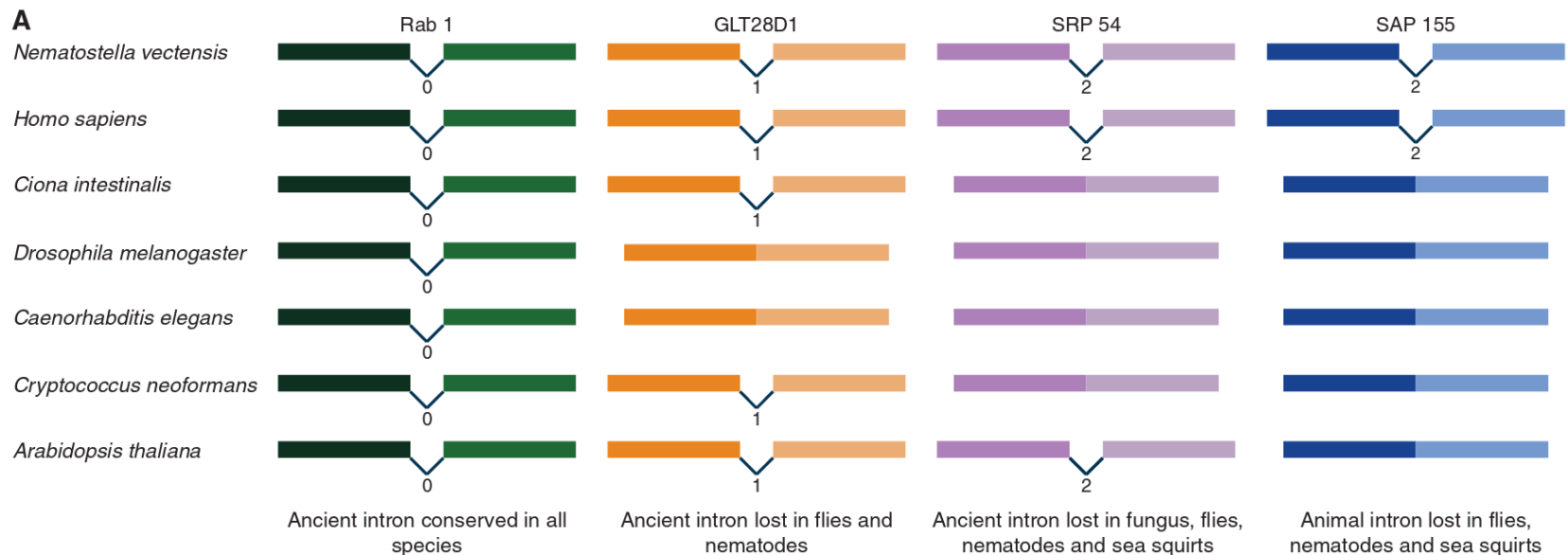
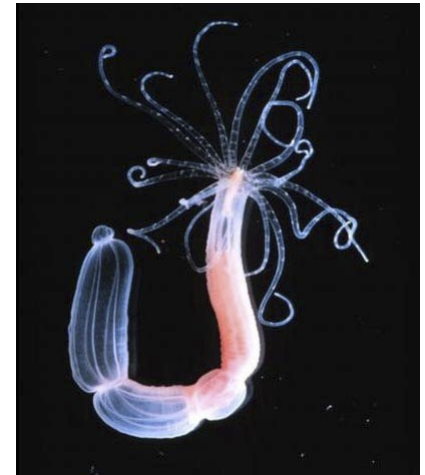
Miller and Ball, TiG, 2008  
Putnam et al., Science, 2007

# Intron conservation

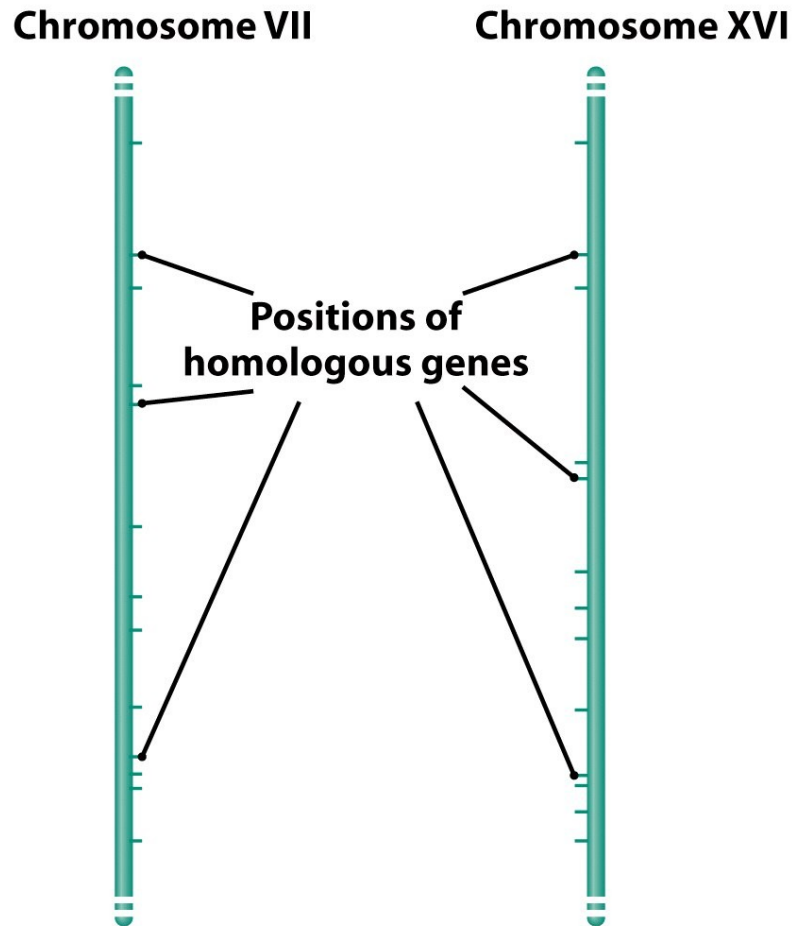
## Sea Anemone Genome Reveals Ancestral Eumetazoan Gene Repertoire and Genomic Organization

Nicholas H. Putnam,<sup>1</sup> Mansi Srivastava,<sup>2</sup> Uffe Hellsten,<sup>1</sup> Bill Dirks,<sup>2</sup> Jarrod Chapman,<sup>1</sup> Asaf Salamov,<sup>1</sup> Astrid Terry,<sup>1</sup> Harris Shapiro,<sup>1</sup> Erika Lindquist,<sup>1</sup> Vladimir V. Kapitonov,<sup>3</sup> Jerzy Jurka,<sup>3</sup> Grigory Genikhovich,<sup>4</sup> Igor V. Grigoriev,<sup>1</sup> Susan M. Lucas,<sup>1</sup> Robert E. Steele,<sup>5</sup> John R. Finnerty,<sup>6</sup> Ulrich Technau,<sup>4</sup> Mark Q. Martindale,<sup>7</sup> Daniel S. Rokhsar<sup>1,2\*</sup>

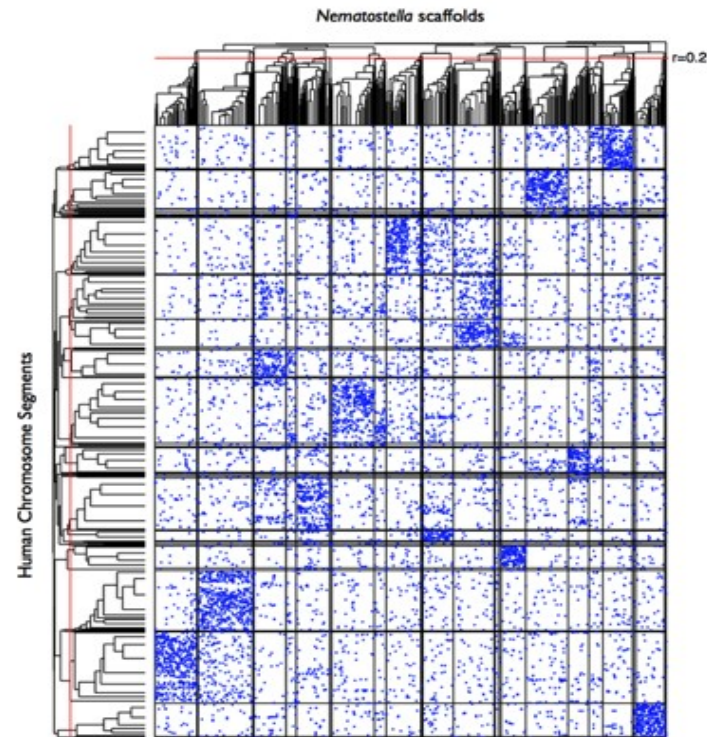
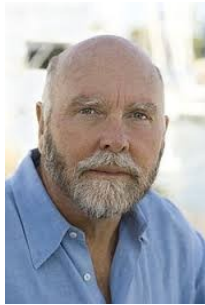
Sea anemones are seemingly primitive animals that, along with corals, jellyfish, and hydras, constitute the oldest eumetazoan phylum, the Cnidaria. Here, we report a comparative analysis of the draft genome of an emerging cnidarian model, the starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*. The sea anemone genome is complex, with a gene repertoire, exon-intron structure, and large-scale gene linkage more similar to vertebrates than to flies or nematodes, implying that the genome of the eumetazoan ancestor was similarly complex. Nearly one-fifth of the inferred genes of the ancestor are eumetazoan novelties, which are enriched for animal functions like cell signaling, adhesion, and synaptic transmission. Analysis of diverse pathways suggests that these gene “inventions” along the lineage leading to animals were likely already well integrated with preexisting eukaryotic genes in the eumetazoan progenitor.



# Gene order/colocalization: Synteny conservation between chromosomes



# “Bags of genes”: Syntenic signal (gene colocalization in the same ‘territories’, chromosomes?)

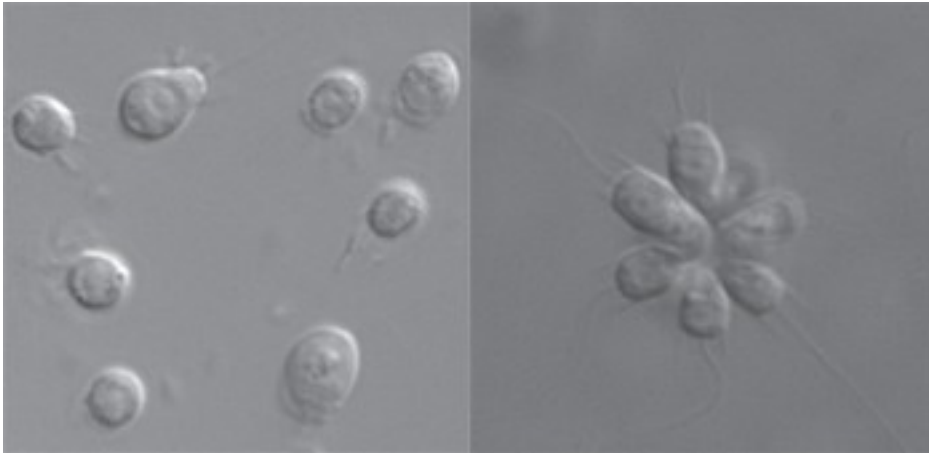


- Large gene family complement
- Complex gene structure
- Preservation of synteny

What about unicellular to metazoan transition?



# Our closest unicellular relatives



Nicole King

Uniconta: Monosiga sp.

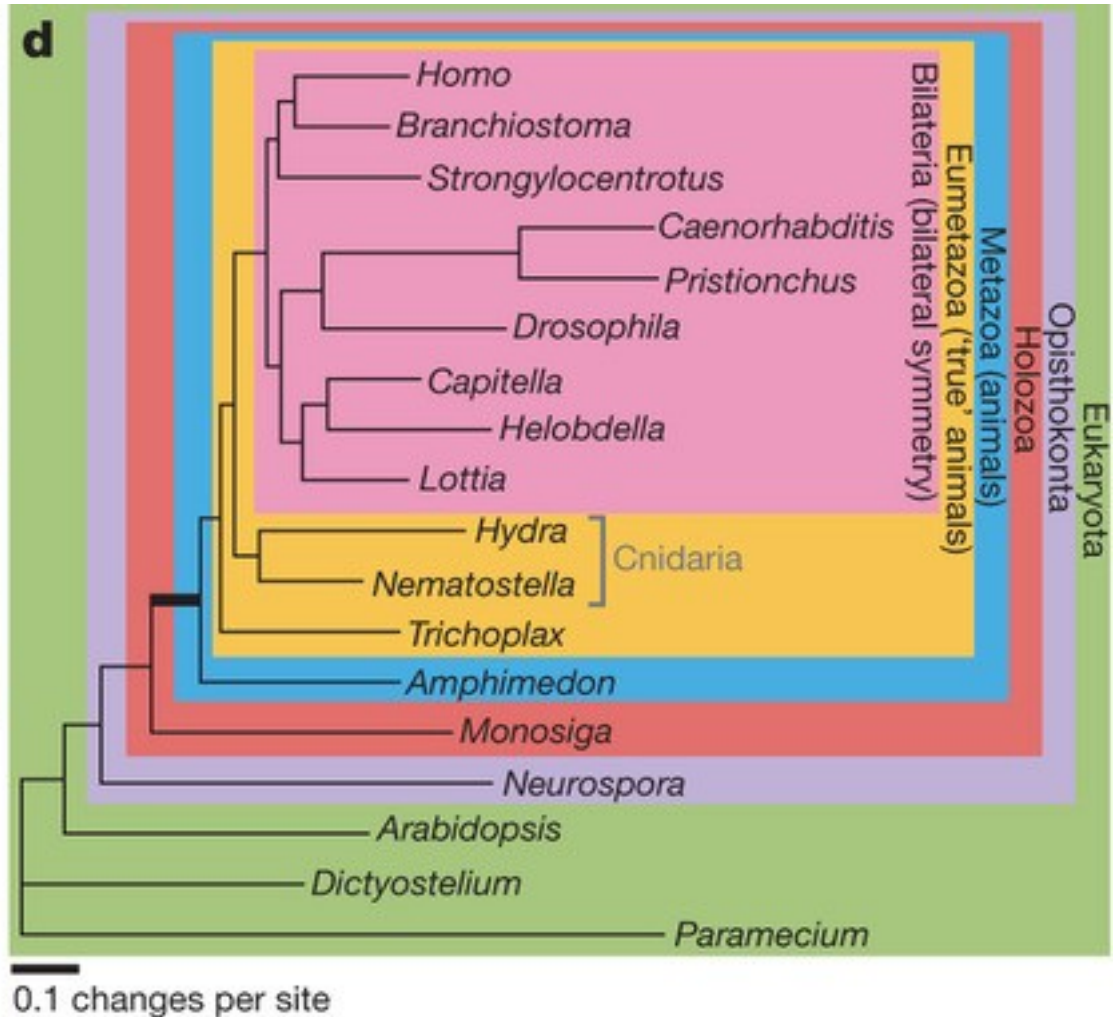


DSCC

Sponge

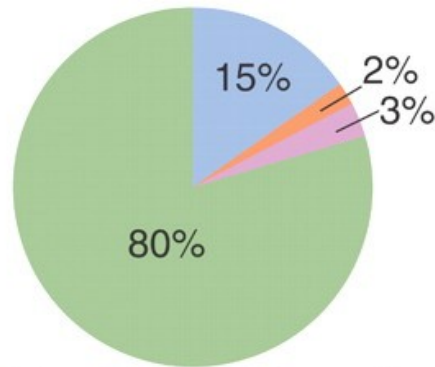
- > cell adhesion evolution
- > cell signaling

# Unicont position on the phylogenetic tree



# Nature of novel genes in metazoan evolution

A



- Type I (completely novel)
- Type II (novel domain)
- Type III (novel pairing)
- Ancient

## Type I Novelty: SMAD Family Proteins



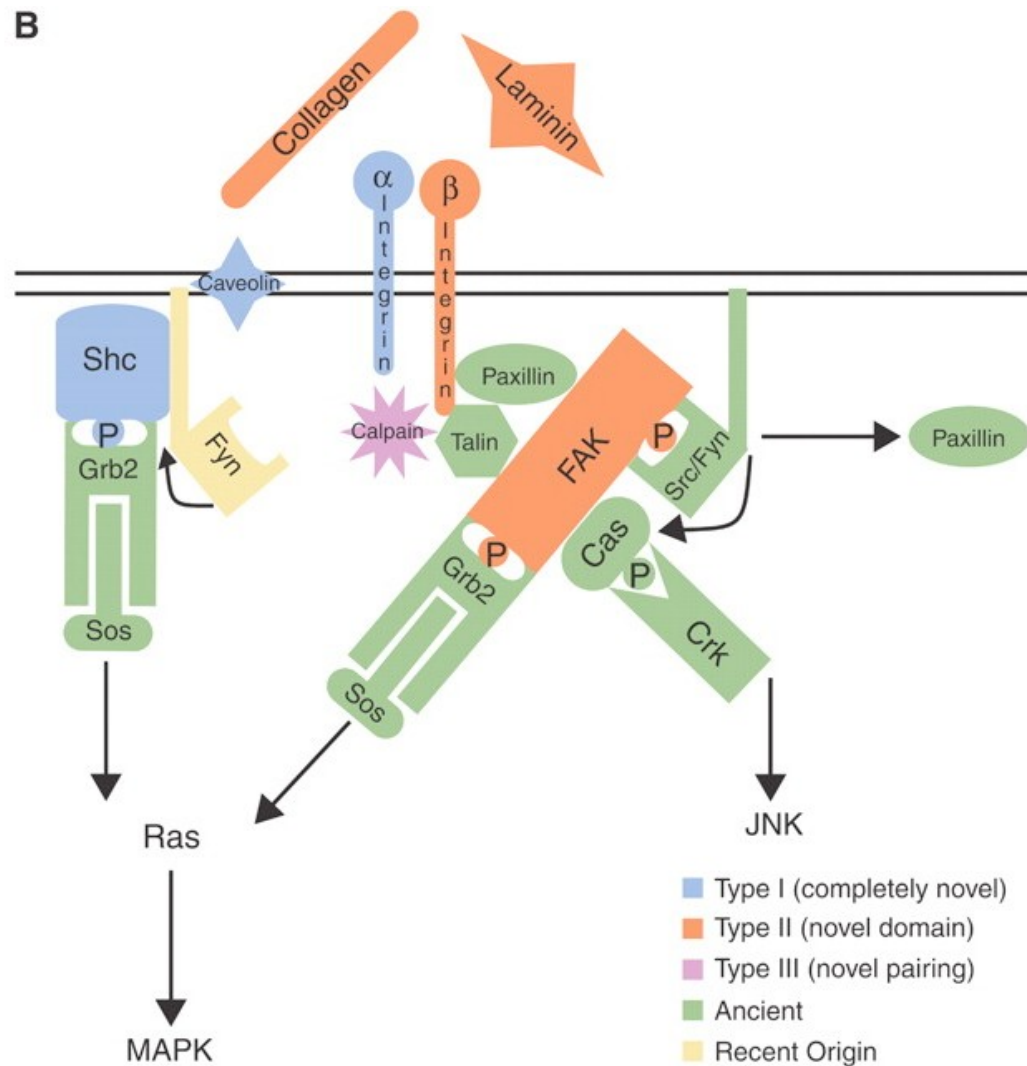
## Type II Novelty: Notch Proteins



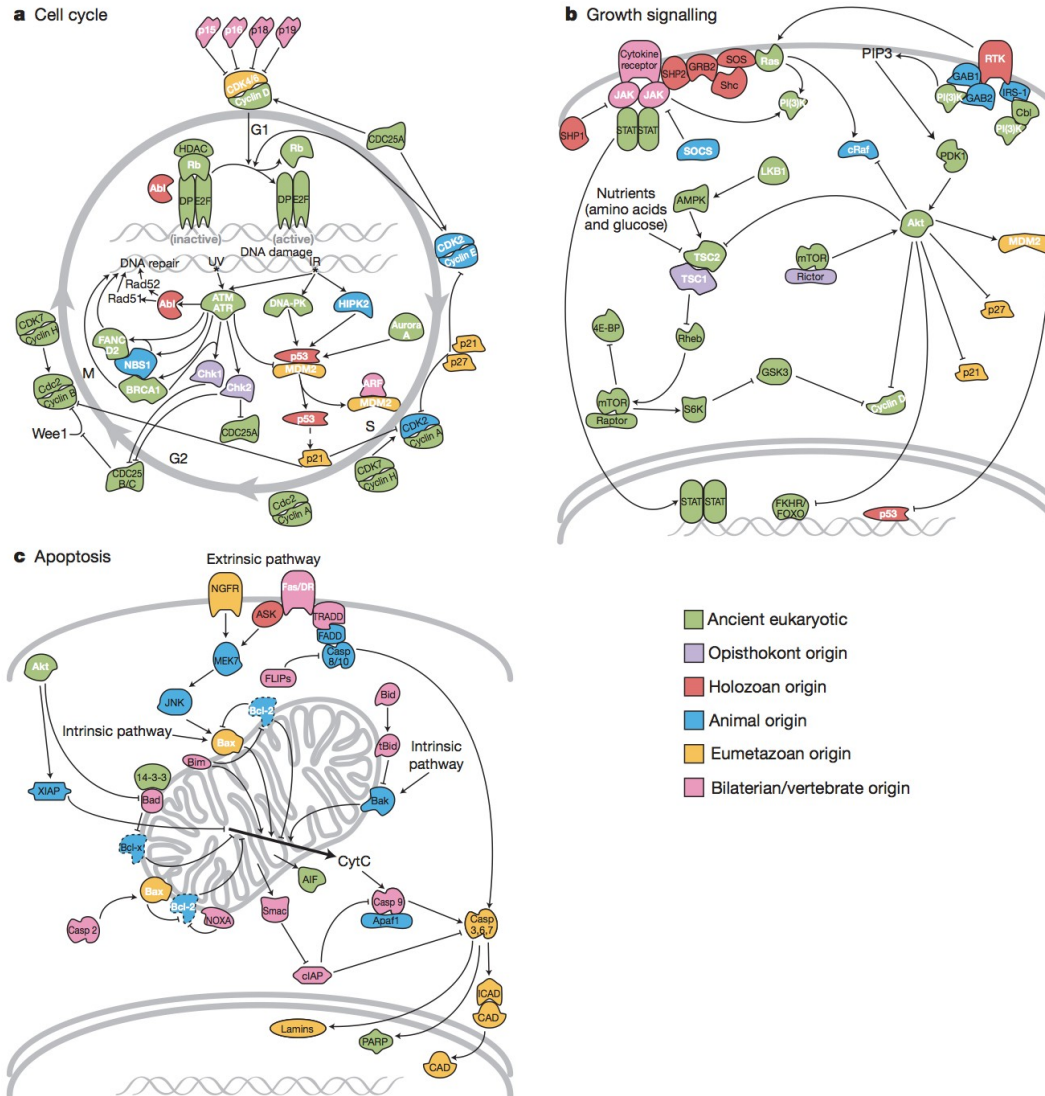
## Type III Novelty: Lim Homeodomain Proteins



# Integration of novel proteins into existing protein networks

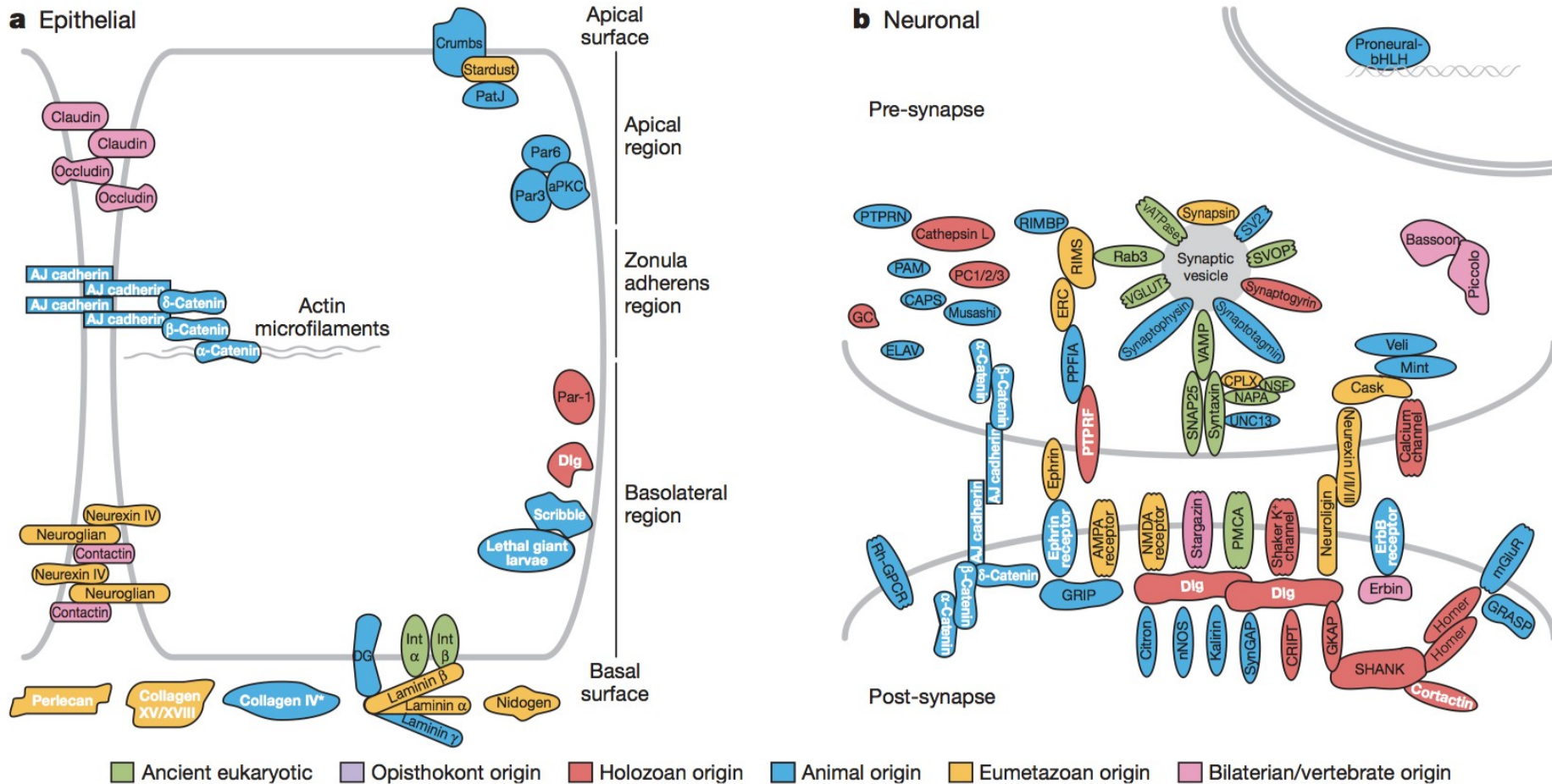


# Gene novelties and evolutionary transitions





# Cell signaling



-> gene novelties contributed significantly to early metazoan evolution



Quick recap:

The metazoan ancestor had a fairly complex gene repertoire and genomic organisation - “**ancestral complexity**”

This complexity is observed at ALL scales of genomic organization: gene structure (introns), gene presence, gene synteny

Gene loss and genome compaction dominated in some model species

No single species represents the ancestral state – species sampling and comparison are important!

Origin of multicellularity can be linked to several key innovations (and gene novelties) in cell-cell interactions (signaling, adhesion etc)

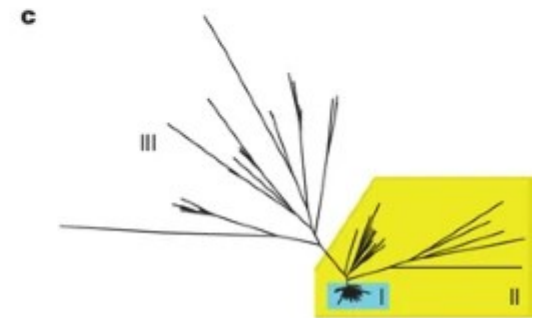
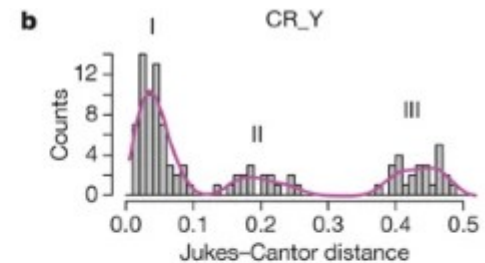
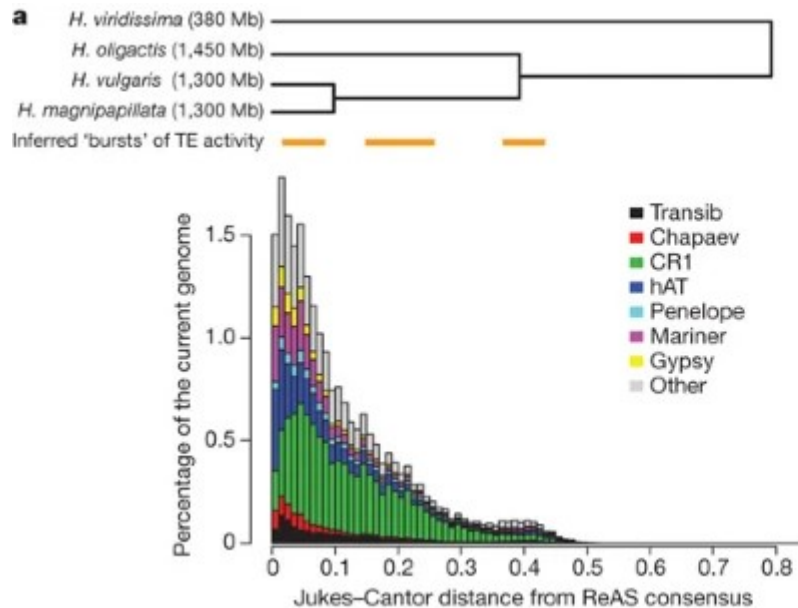
Beyond “woa, things were really complex back then”

Predictions?

- Conserved gene families and especially transcription factors must have function (→ evo-devo)
- Synteny preservation beyond the observed contigs or scaffolds
- Unclear what the actual ‘innovation’ driver is in the genome? Gene novelty, duplication, loss, non-coding element evolution etc?

# The value of the “second” genome?

The dynamic genome? How dynamic can genomes be??  
Do repeats break ancient “architecture”?

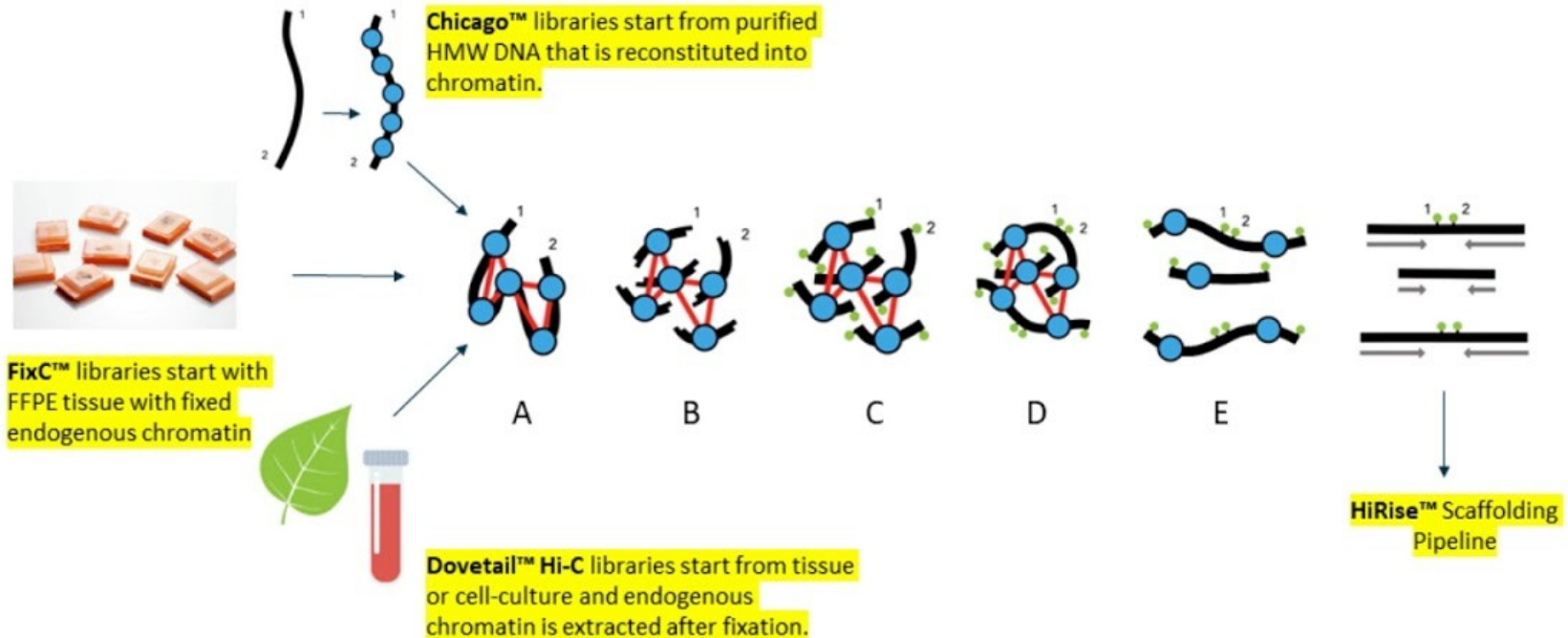


Chapman et al, 2010

## II. Current approaches and bottlenecks (from chromosomes to 3D structure?)

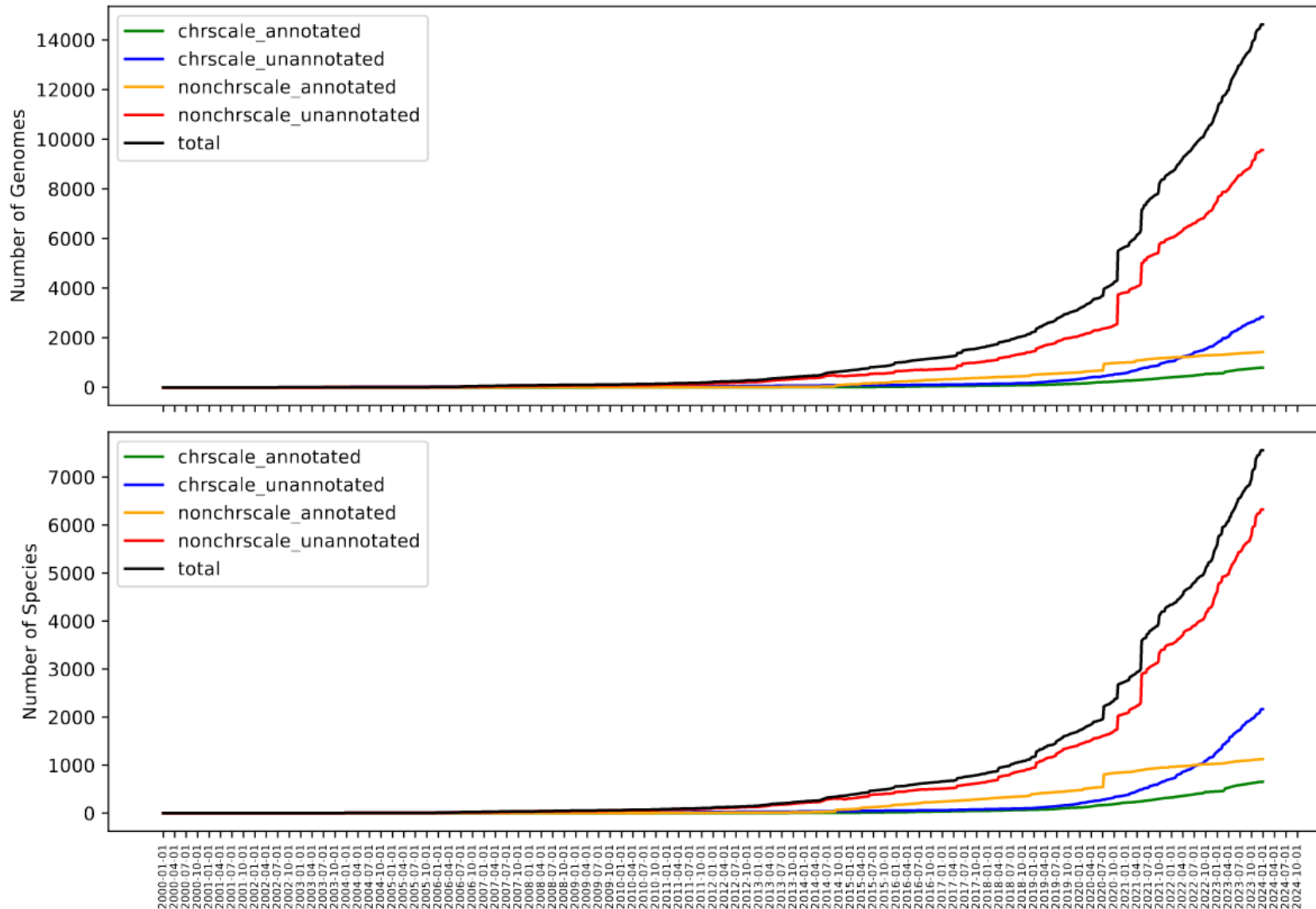
# Genome scaffolding with HiC (chromosomal conformational capture derivative)

## Methods: Proximity Ligation Approaches



# The (recent) avalanche of chromosome-scale genome depositions

NCBI:

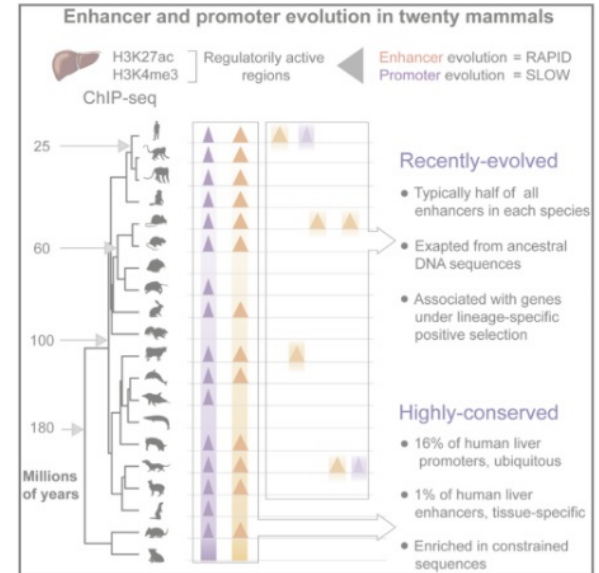


Darrin Schultz





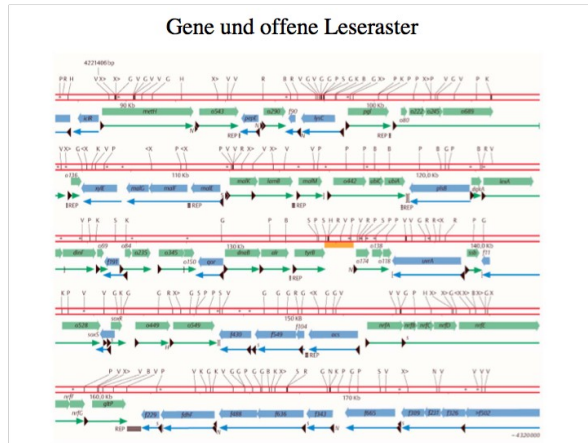
## Regulatory regions



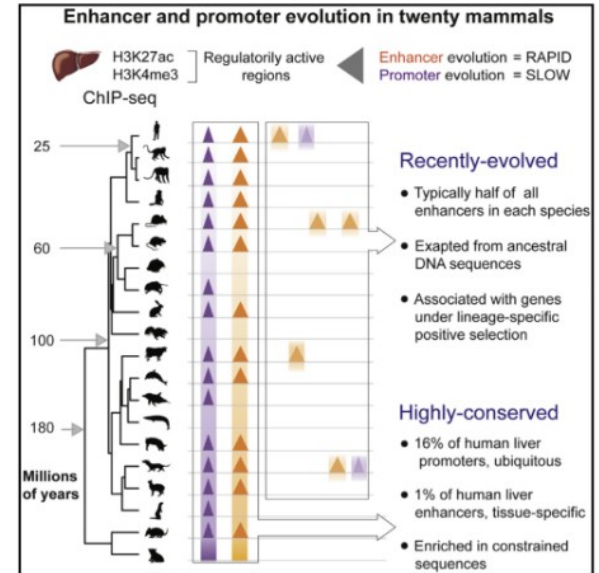
# What is a genome in 2020's?



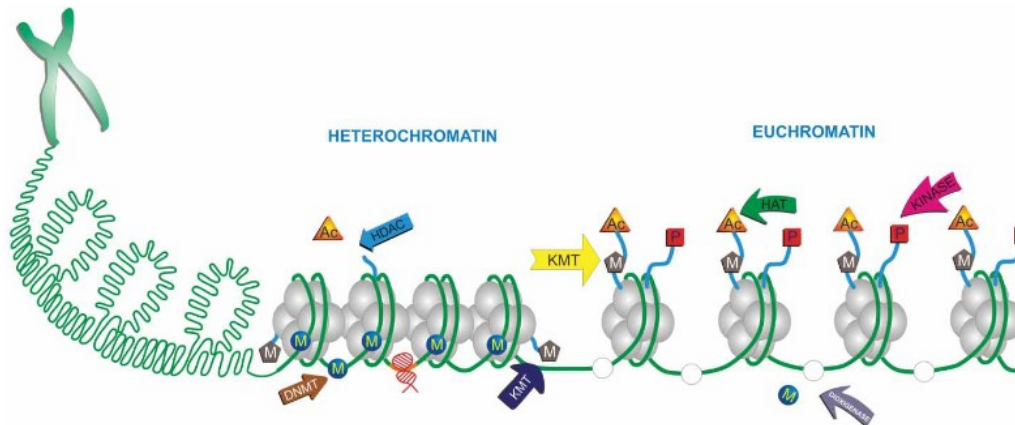
## Gene annotation



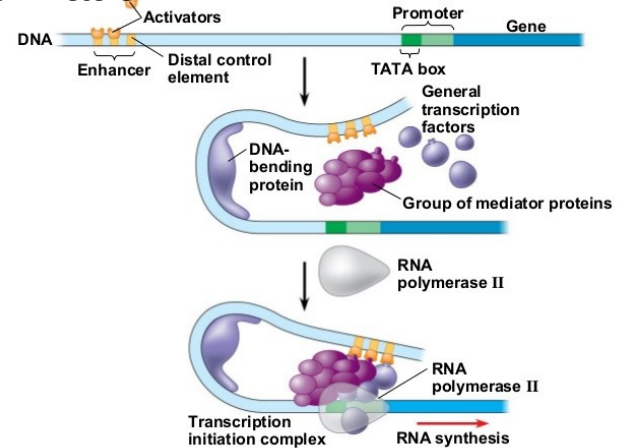
## Regulatory regions



## Epigenetic modification

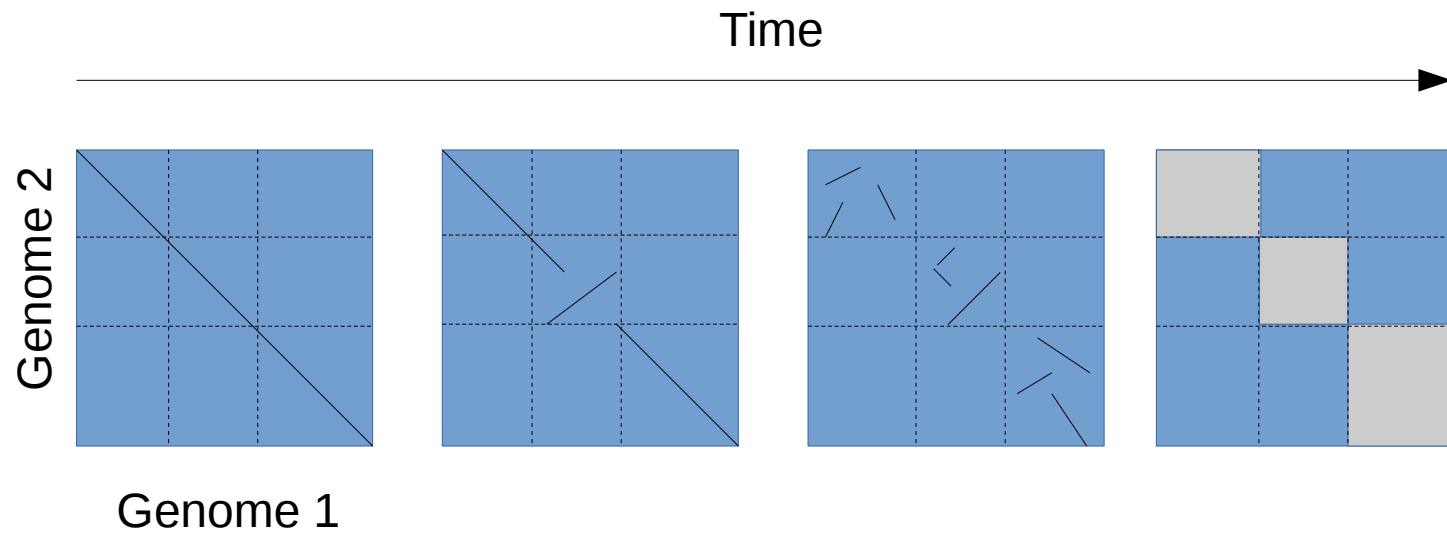


## 3D organization

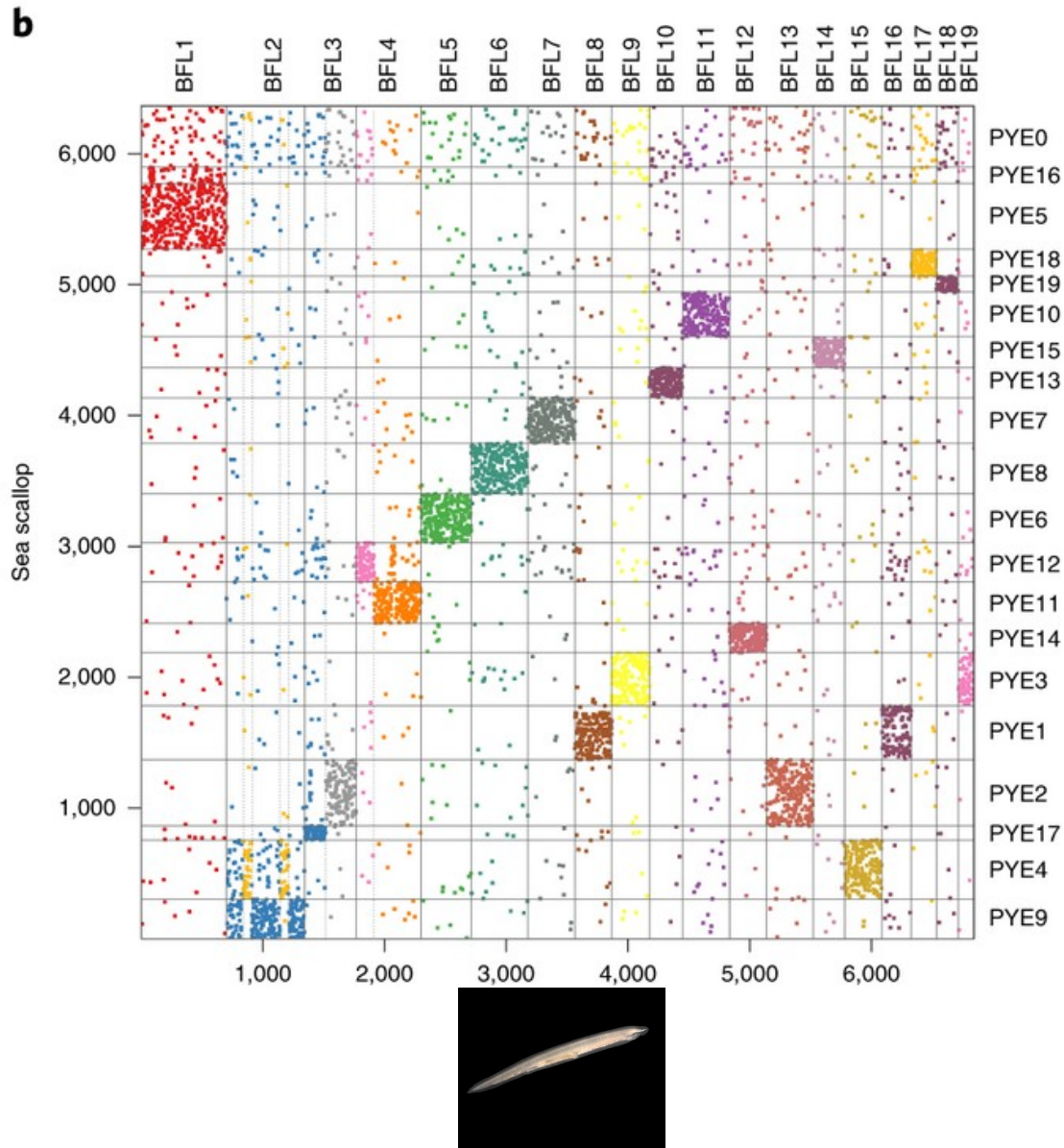


- Which of the pre-chromosomal assembly age hypotheses can be verified now?

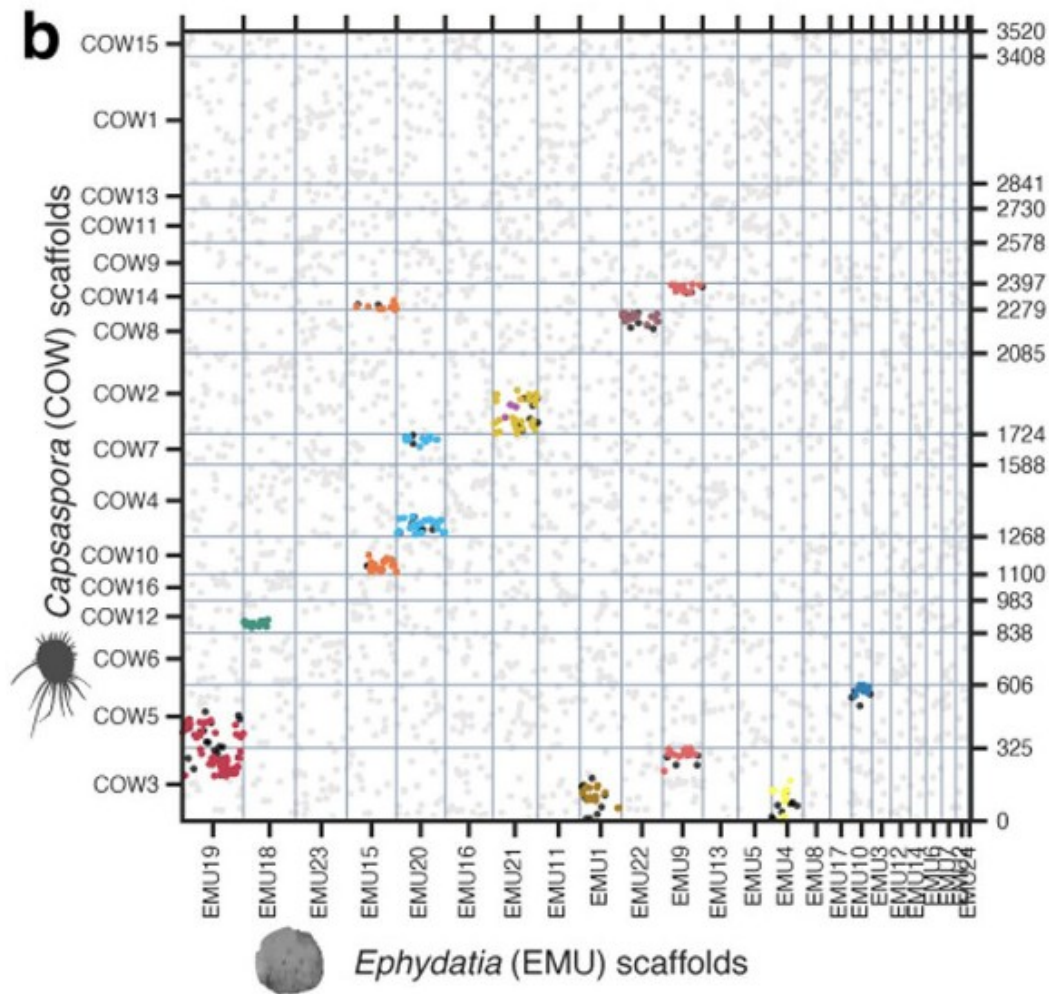
# Macro-syntenic patterns in metazoan genomes



# Most (invertebrate) animal chromosomes are 'ancient' linkage units

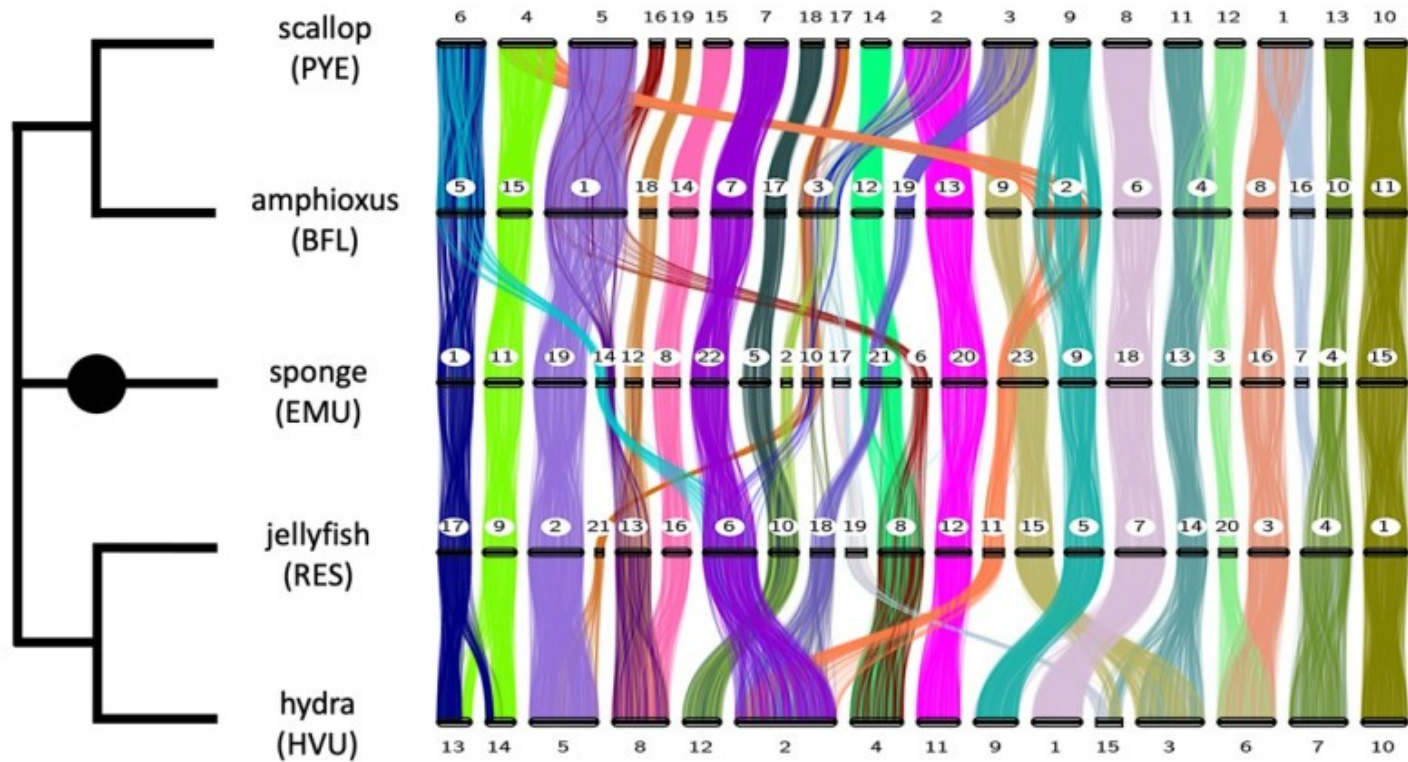


With homologies ranging up to their unicellular relatives



1billion+ years





Simakov et al, 2022  
 Data from:  
 Wang et al, 2017  
 Li et al, 2020  
 Kenny et al, 2020  
 Simakov et al, 2020

Chromosomes (almost) never break, but they do “add up”  
 What are the evolutionarily independent chromosomal elements?



Chromosomal  
elements  
representation of  
modern day genomes

ALG	amphioxus	scallop	bilaterian ancestor (24)	sponge	cnidarian ancestor (21)	jellyfish	hydra	no. of shared orthologs
G	BFL11	PYE10	G	EMU15	G	RES1	HVU10	137
B1	BFL10	PYE13	B1	EMU04	B1⊗B2	RES4	HVU7	100
B2	BFL16	PYE1	B2	EMU07/24				88
M	BFL8	PYE1	M	EMU16	M	RES3	HVU6	102
C2	BFL3L	PYE17	C2	EMU10	C2	RES21	HVU5	20
A1a	BFL1	PYE5	A1a⊗A1b	EMU19	A1a	RES2	HVU5	209
A1b				EMU14R	A1b⊗B3	RES13	HVU8	52
B3				BFL18				PYE19
P	BFL14	PYE15	P	EMU08	P	RES16	HVU8	76
L	BFL15	PYE4	L	EMU11	L	RES9	HVU14R	72
L_							HVU13R	31
Ea	BFL5	PYE6	Ea⊗Eb	EMU01	Ea	RES17	HVU13L	87
Ea_				EMU14L			HVU14L	26
Eb							Eb⊗F⊗Qb	RES6
F	BFL7	PYE7	F	EMU22	Eb⊗F⊗Qb	RES6		
Qb	BFL3R	PYE2	Qb⊗Qa	EMU10			12	
Qa				EMU02	Qa⊗J1	RES10	HVU12	31
J1	BFL17	PYE18	J1	EMU05				55
R	--	PYE12	R	EMU17	R⊗Qc	RES19	HVU15L	32
Qc	BFL3R	PYE2	Qc⊗Qd					13
Qd				EMU10	Qd⊗O2	RES18	HVU2	21
O2	BFL19	PYE3	O2	EMU21mid				46
N	BFL12	PYE14	N	EMU21end	A2⊗N	RES8	HVU4	106
A2	BFL1	PYE16	A2	EMU06				41
H	BFL13	PYE2	H	EMU20	H	RES12	HVU11	136
J2	BFL2eve	PYE4	J2	EMU23L	J2	RES11	HVU2	64
C1	BFL2odd	PYE9	C1	EMU09	C1	RES5	HVU9	142
D	BFL6	PYE8	D	EMU18	D	RES7	HVU1	158
D_							HVU9t	14
K	BFL9	PYE3	K	EMU23R	K	RES15	HVU3	100
K_							HVU15R	17
I	BFL4R	PYE11	I	EMU13	I	RES14	HVU3	79
I_							HVU15R	14
O1	BFL4L	PYE12	O1	EMU03	O1	RES20	HVU6	54

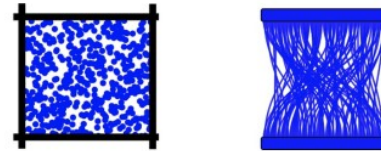


Dan Rokhsar

# Fundamental processes in chromosomal evolution and their macrosyntentic outcomes

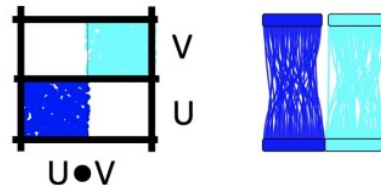
a)   $\equiv$  



Complete retention



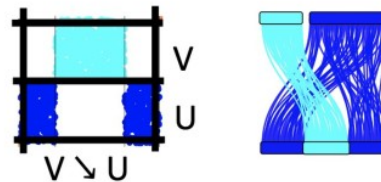
b)   $\leftrightarrow$  

Robertsonian fusion



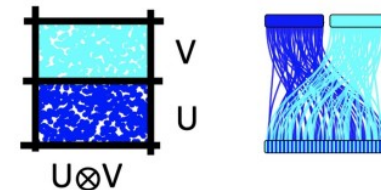
c)   $\leftrightarrow$  

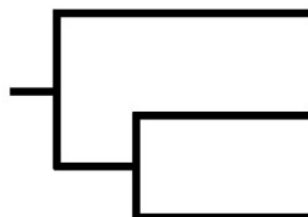
Centric insertion

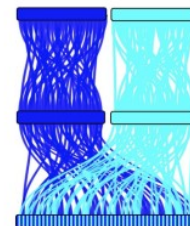


d)   $\rightarrow$  

Fusion with mixing



e)    
 U and V are   
 ancestral   
 linkage groups   
 Fusion-with-mixing



# Algebra representation of

$$\text{BFL1} = {}^{41}A2 \otimes {}^{258}A1$$

$$\text{BFL2} = {}^{142}C1 \searrow {}^{66}J2$$

$$\text{BFL3} = {}^{18}C2 \bullet {}^{78}Q$$

$$\text{BFL4} = {}^{90}I \bullet {}^{55}O1$$

$$\text{BFL5} = {}^{162}E$$

$$\text{BFL6} = {}^{172}D$$

$$\text{BFL7} = {}^{145}F$$

$$\text{BFL8} = {}^{102}M$$

$$\text{BFL9} = {}^{119}K$$

$$\text{BFL10} = {}^{95}B1$$

$$\text{BFL11} = {}^{138}G$$

$$\text{BFL12} = {}^{107}N$$

$$\text{BFL13} = {}^{135}H$$

$$\text{BFL14} = {}^{78}P$$

$$\text{BFL15} = {}^{104}L$$

$$\text{BFL16} = {}^{86}B2$$

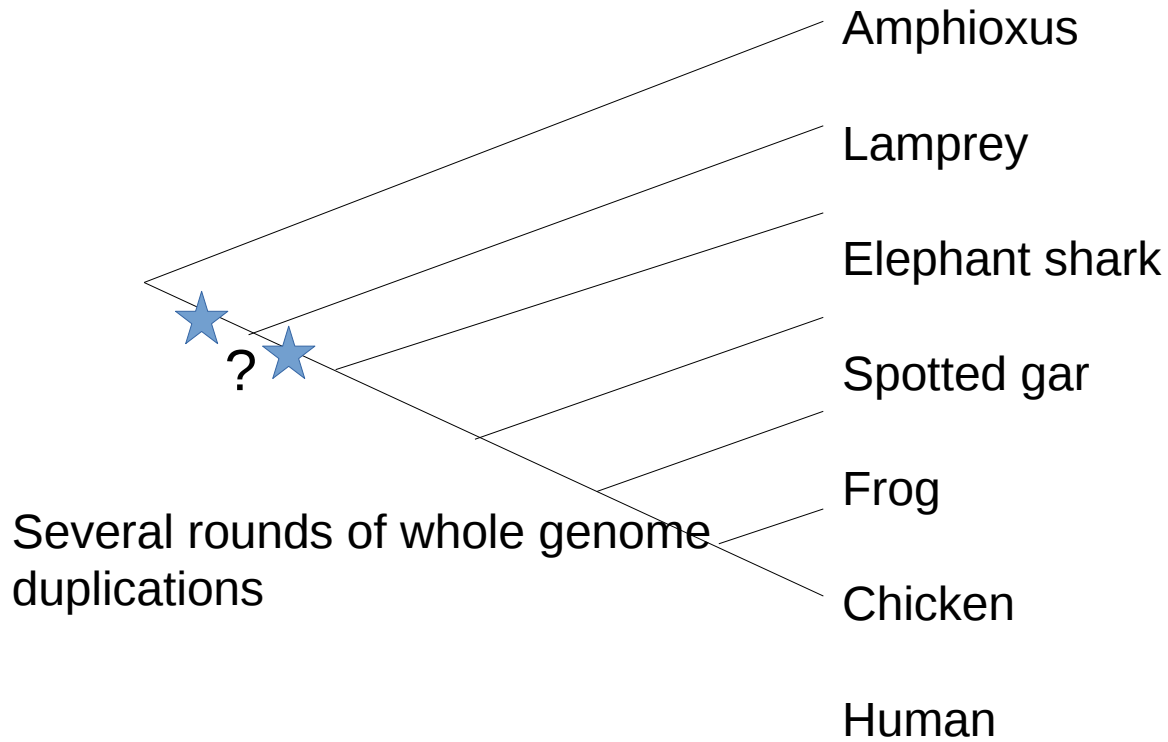
$$\text{BFL17} = {}^{54}J1$$

$$\text{BFL18} = {}^{46}B3$$

$$\text{BFL19} = {}^{46}O2$$

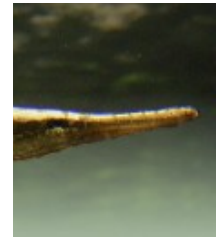
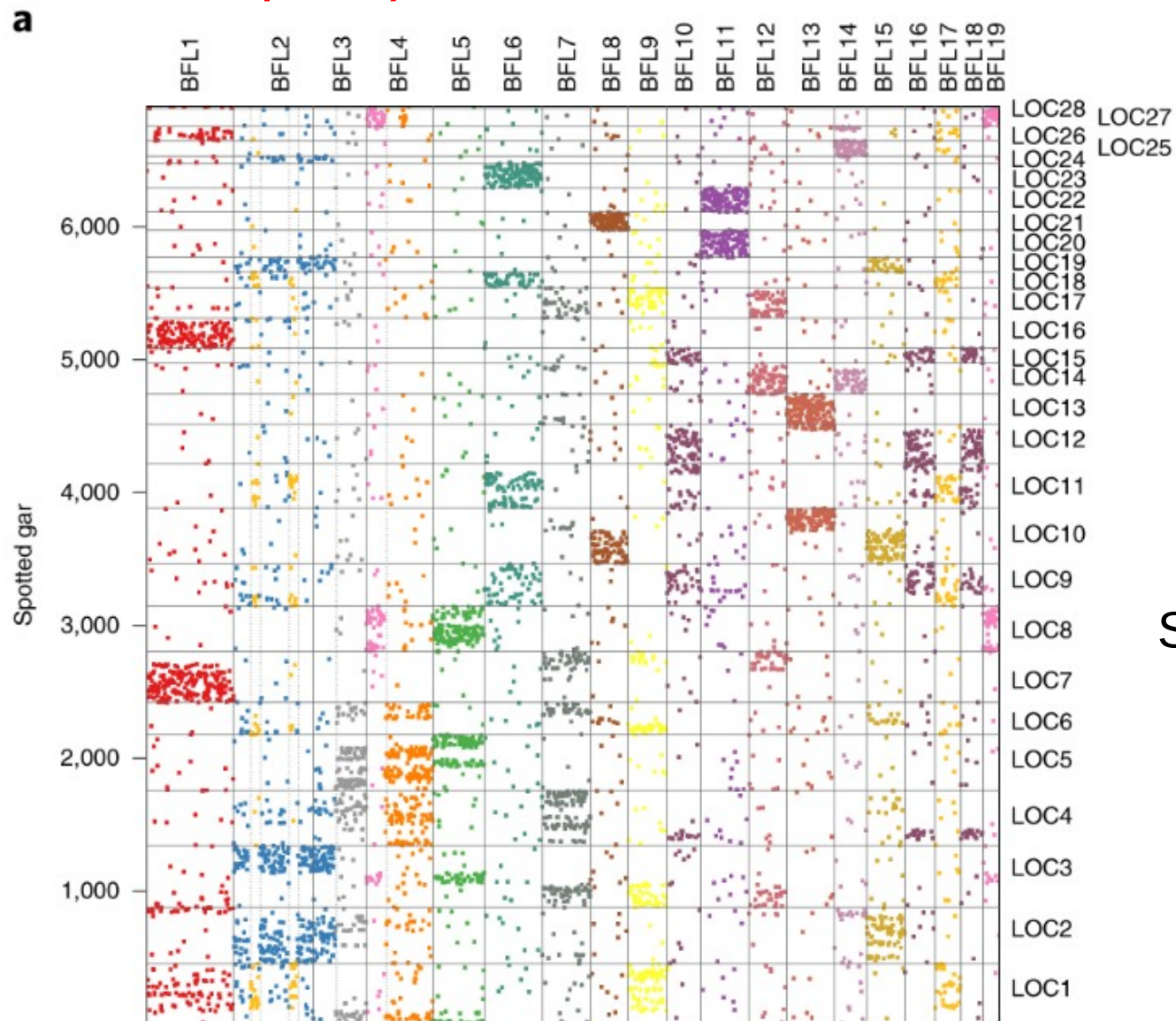
ALG	amphioxus	scallop	bilaterian ancestor (24)	sponge	cnidarian ancestor (21)	jellyfish	hydra		
G	BFL11	PYE10	G	EMU15	G	RES1	HVU10		
B1	BFL10	PYE13	B1	EMU04	B1⊗B2	RES4	HVU7		
B2	BFL16	PYE1	B2	EMU07/24					
M	BFL8	PYE1	M	EMU16	M	RES3	HVU6		
C2	BFL3L	PYE17	C2	EMU10	C2	RES21	HVU5		
A1a	BFL1	PYE5	A1a⊗A1b	EMU19	A1a	RES2	HVU5		
A1b				EMU14R	A1b⊗B3	RES13	HVU8		
B3	BFL18	PYE19	B3	EMU12					
P	BFL14	PYE15	P	EMU08	P	RES16	HVU8		
L	BFL15	PYE4	L	EMU11	L	RES9	HVU14R		
L_							HVU13R		
Ea	BFL5	PYE6	Ea⊗Eb	EMU01	Ea	RES17	HVU13L		
Ea_				EMU14L			HVU14L		
Eb									
F	BFL7	PYE7	F	EMU22	Eb⊗F⊗Qb	RES6	HVU2		
Qb	BFL3R	PYE2	Qb⊗Qa	EMU10					
Qa				EMU02	Qa⊗J1	RES10	HVU12		
J1	BFL17	PYE18	J1	EMU05					
R	--	PYE12	R	EMU17	R⊗Qc	RES19	HVU15L		
Qc	BFL3R	PYE2	Qc⊗Qd						
Qd				EMU10	Qd⊗O2	RES18	HVU2		
O2	BFL19	PYE3	O2	EMU21mid					
N	BFL12	PYE14	N	EMU21end	A2⊗N	RES8	HVU4		
A2	BFL1	PYE16	A2	EMU06					
H	BFL13	PYE2	H	EMU20	H	RES12	HVU11		
J2	BFL2eve	PYE4	J2	EMU23L	J2	RES11	HVU2		
C1	BFL2odd	PYE9	C1	EMU09	C1	RES5	HVU9		
D	BFL6	PYE8	D	EMU18	D	RES7	HVU1		
D_							HVU9t		
K	BFL9	PYE3	K	EMU23R	K	RES15	HVU3		
K_							HVU15R		
I	BFL4R	PYE11	I	EMU13	I	RES14	HVU3		
I_							HVU15R		
O1	BFL4L	PYE12	O1	EMU03	O1	RES20	HVU6		

# Modification of the ancestral(-ish) karyotype





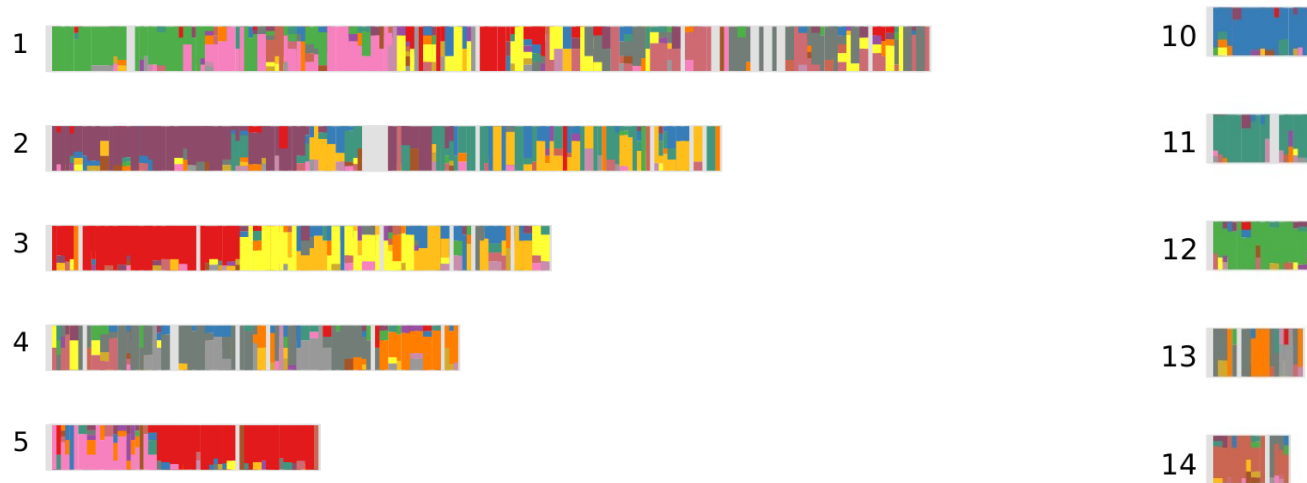
Ancestral linkage groups were largely retained (and multiplied) in vertebrates, however...



Spotted gar

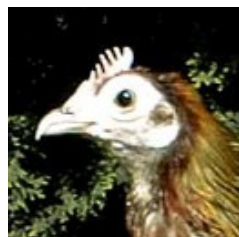


... many underwent fusions (with and without mixing).

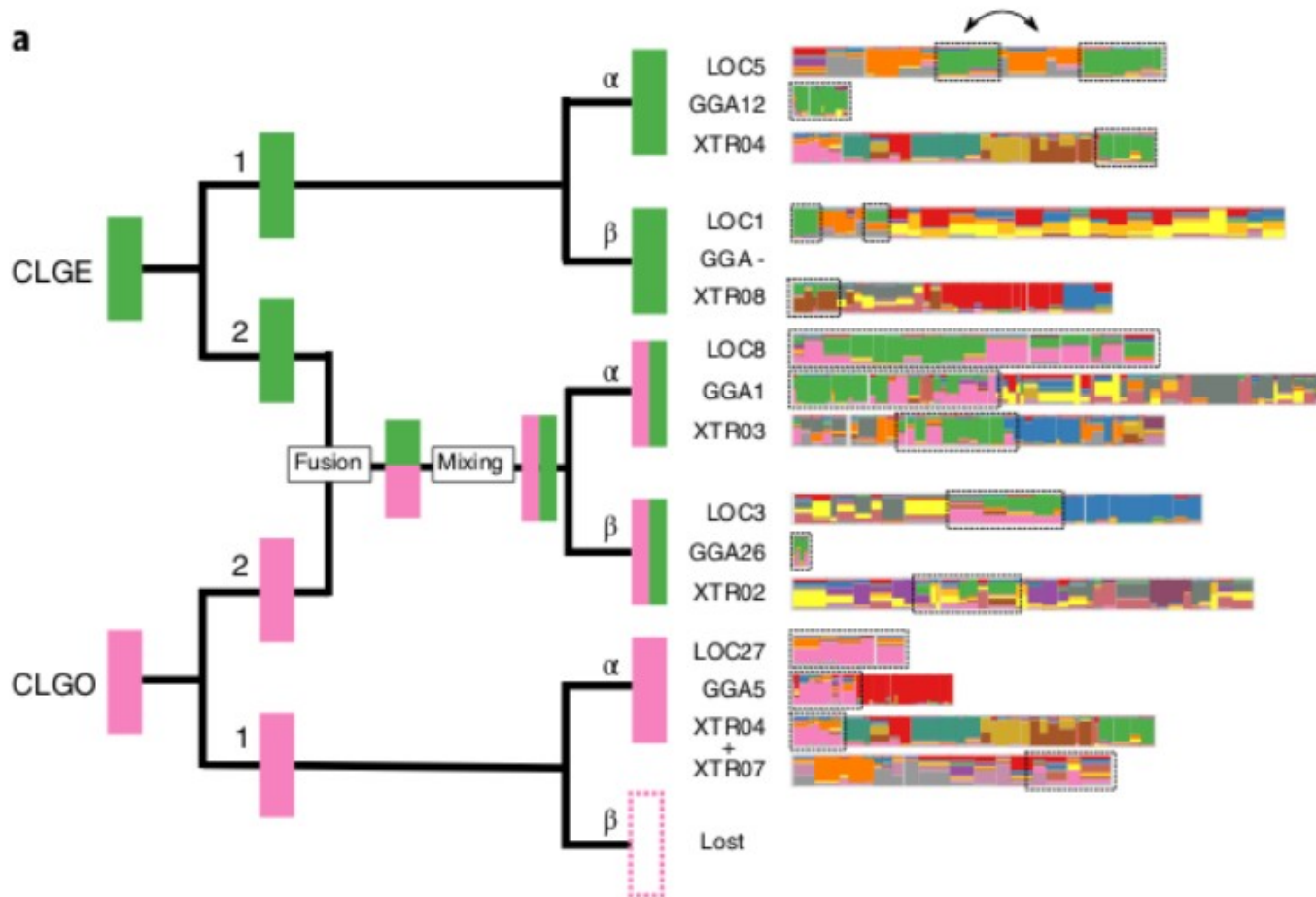


Unfused chromosomes: mostly micro-chromosomes

Chicken-specific fusions (sharp syntenic boundaries)  
and old vertebrate fusions (mixed) – mostly on macro-chromosomes

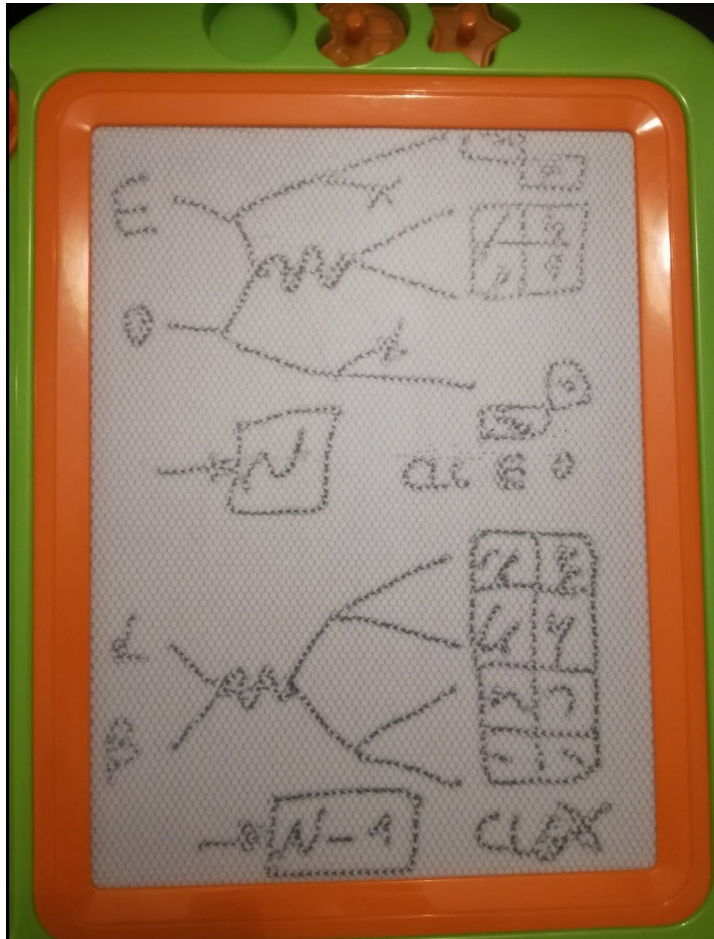


# FWM events specific for the second round of vertebrate whole genome duplications



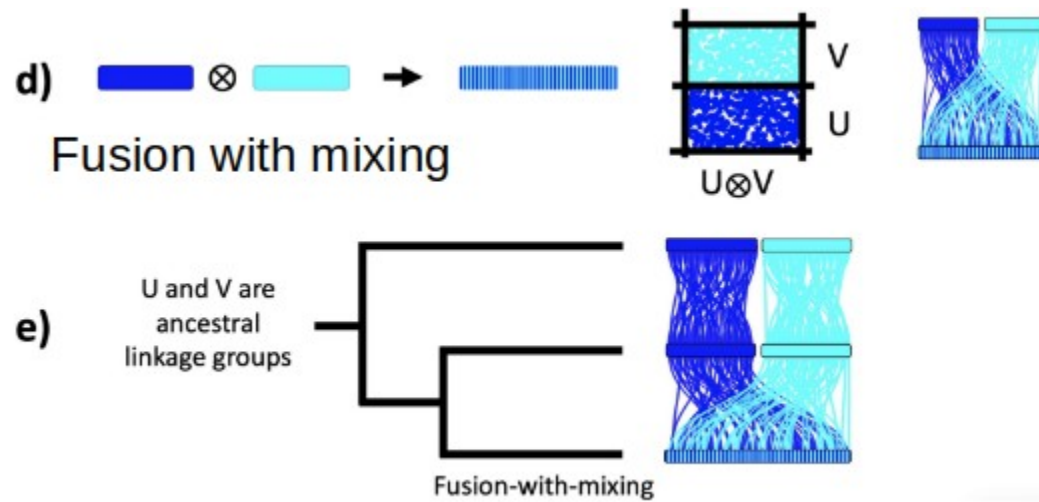
(CLG = Chordate ancestral linkage group for more details, see Simakov et al, NEE 2020, also Sacerdot et al, Genome Biology 2018)

## Worst parenting...

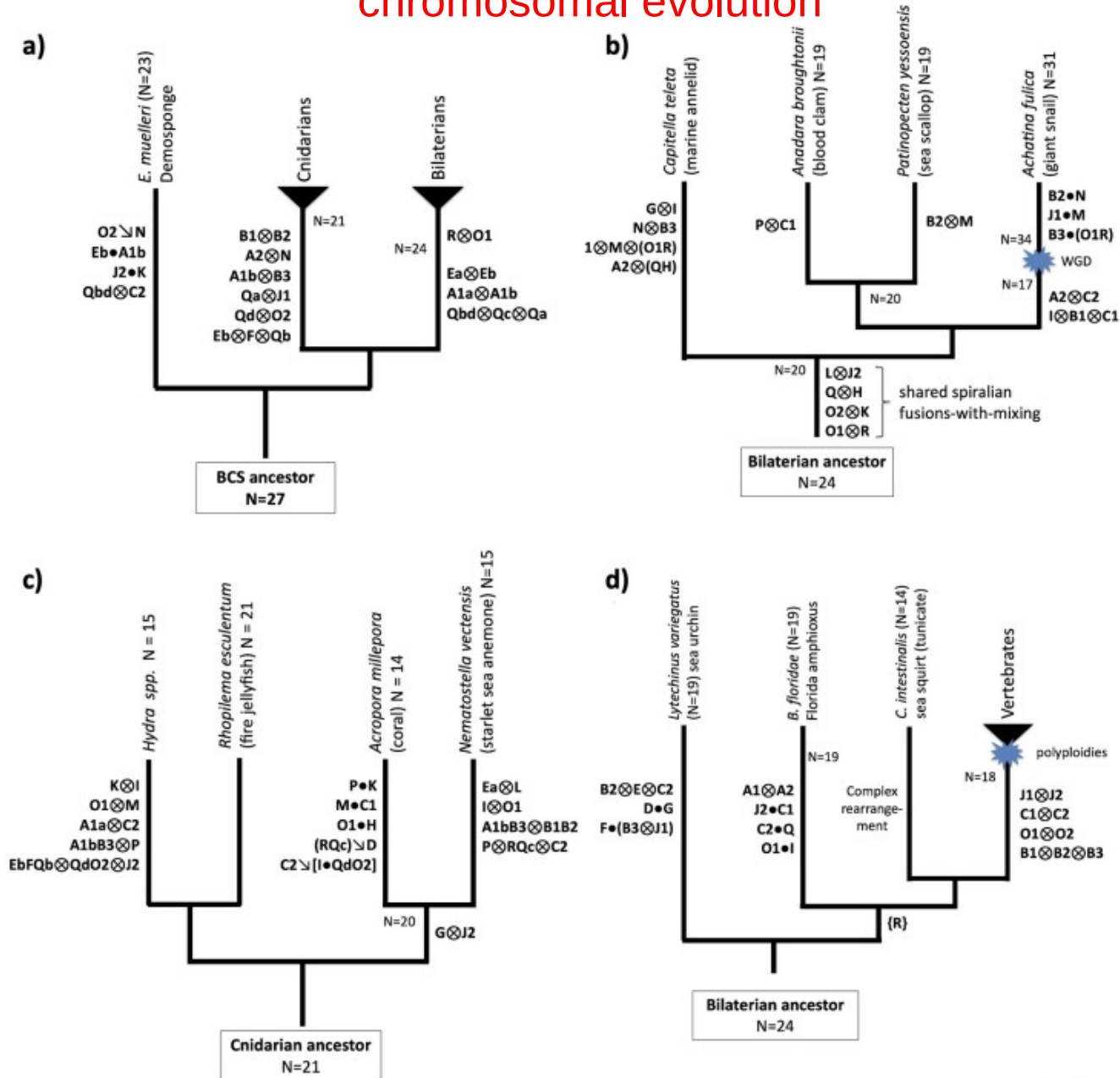


Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

# Irreversible algebraic processes in animal chromosome evolution



# Fusion-with-mixing (FWM) – a synapomorphic character in animal chromosomal evolution



## Article

# Ancient gene linkages support ctenophores as sister to other animals


<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-05936-6>




Received: 30 April 2022

Accepted: 9 March 2023

Published online: 17 May 2023

Open access

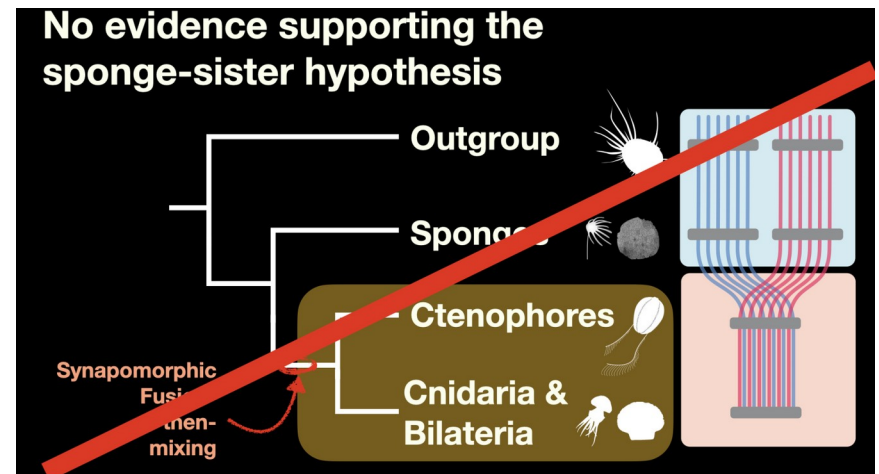
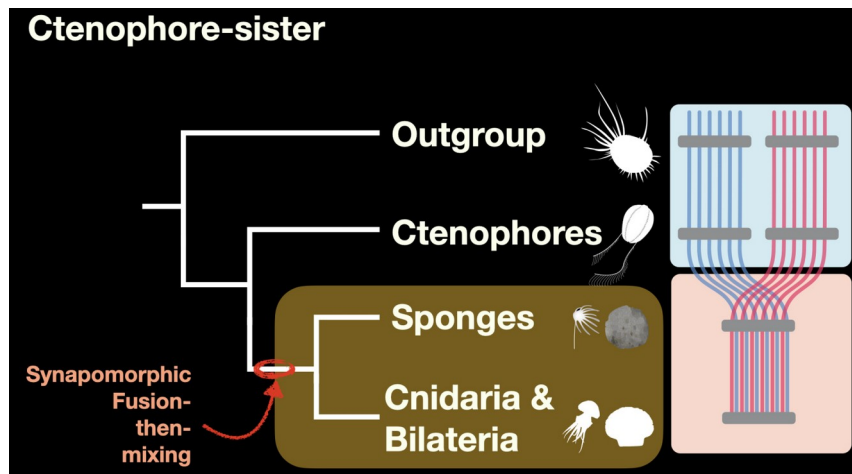
 Check for updates

Darrin T. Schultz<sup>1,2,3</sup> , Steven H. D. Haddock<sup>2,4</sup>, Jessen V. Bredeson<sup>5</sup>, Richard E. Green<sup>3</sup>, Oleg Simakov<sup>1,3</sup>  & Daniel S. Rokhsar<sup>5,6,7</sup> 

A central question in evolutionary biology is whether sponges or ctenophores (comb jellies) are the sister group to all other animals. These alternative phylogenetic hypotheses imply different scenarios for the evolution of complex neural systems and other animal-specific traits<sup>1–6</sup>. Conventional phylogenetic approaches based on morphological characters and increasingly extensive gene sequence collections have not been able to definitively answer this question<sup>7–11</sup>. Here we develop chromosome-scale gene linkage, also known as synteny, as a phylogenetic character for resolving this question<sup>12</sup>. We report new chromosome-scale genomes for a ctenophore and two



Darrin Schultz

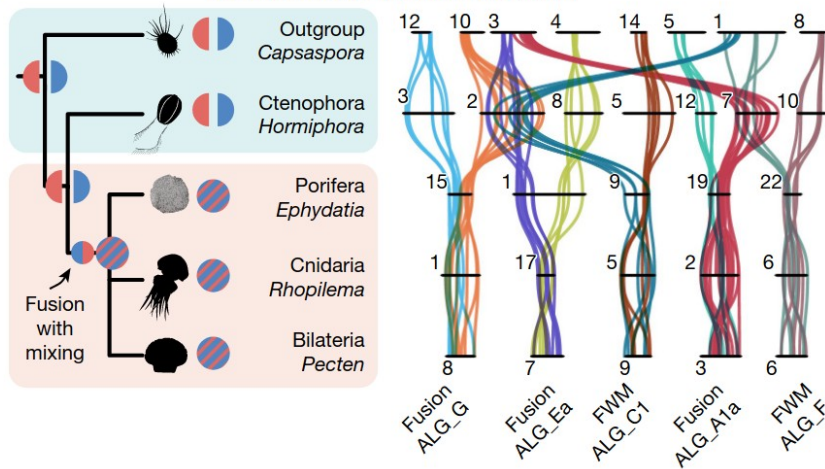




# Several fusion and fusion-with-mixing characters support “ctenophore sister”

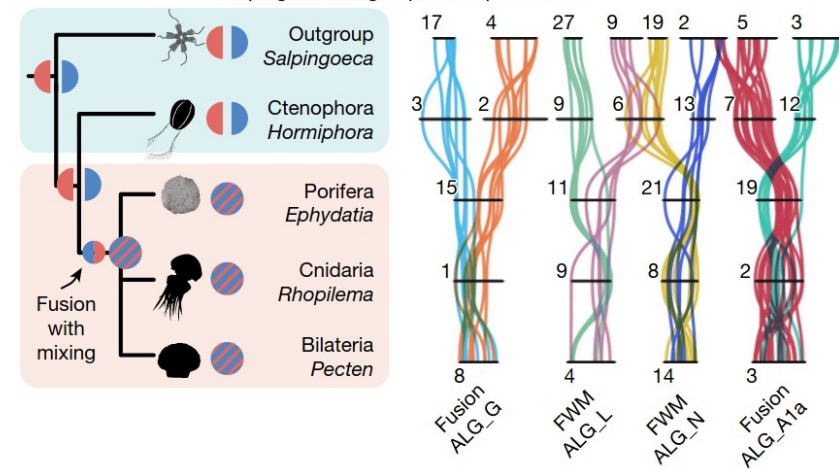
**h**

*Capsaspora* outgroup, Ctenophora sister



**i**

*Salpingoeca* outgroup, Ctenophora sister

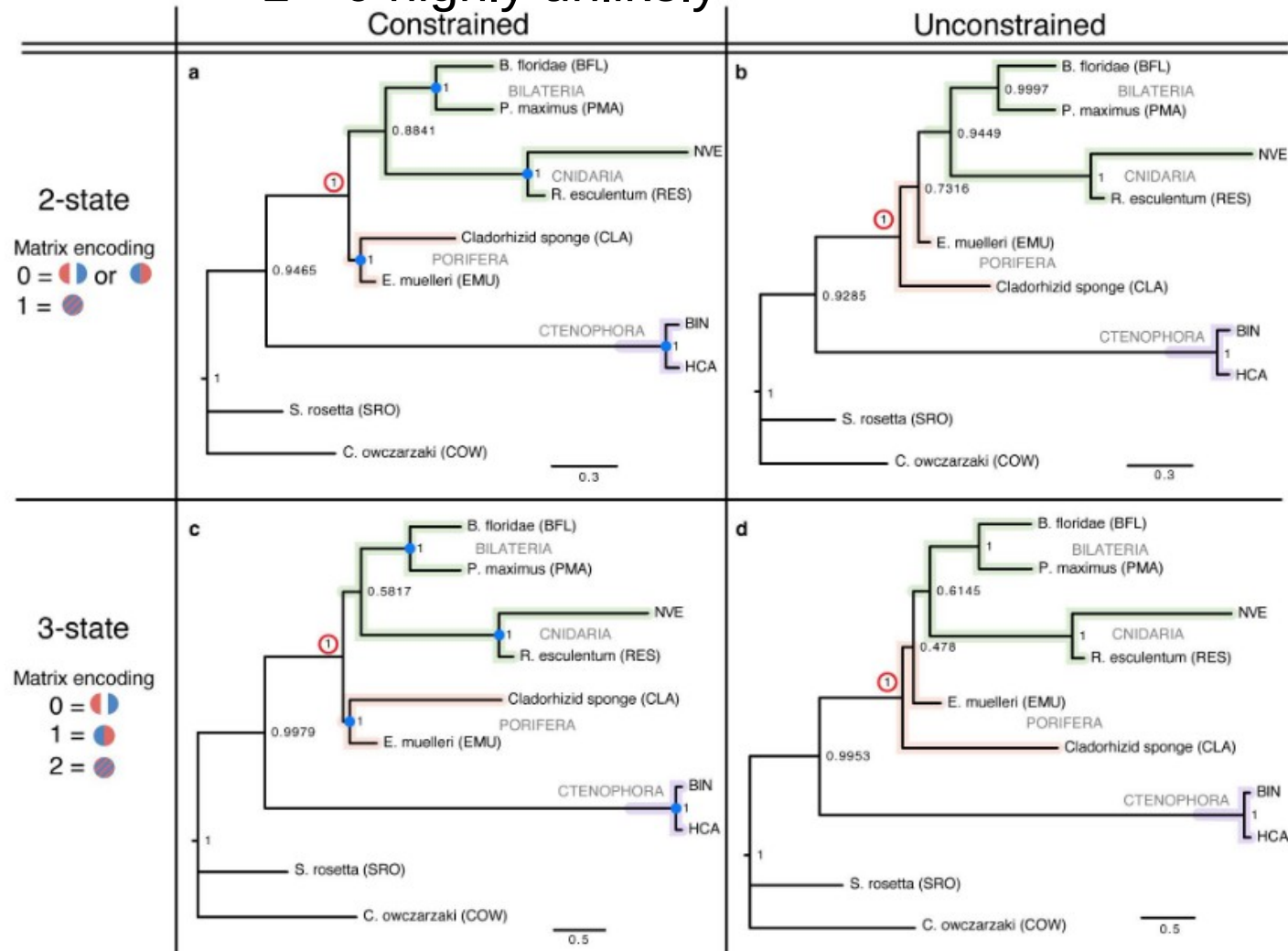


# But also important to take into account convergent FWM events

Transition rates:

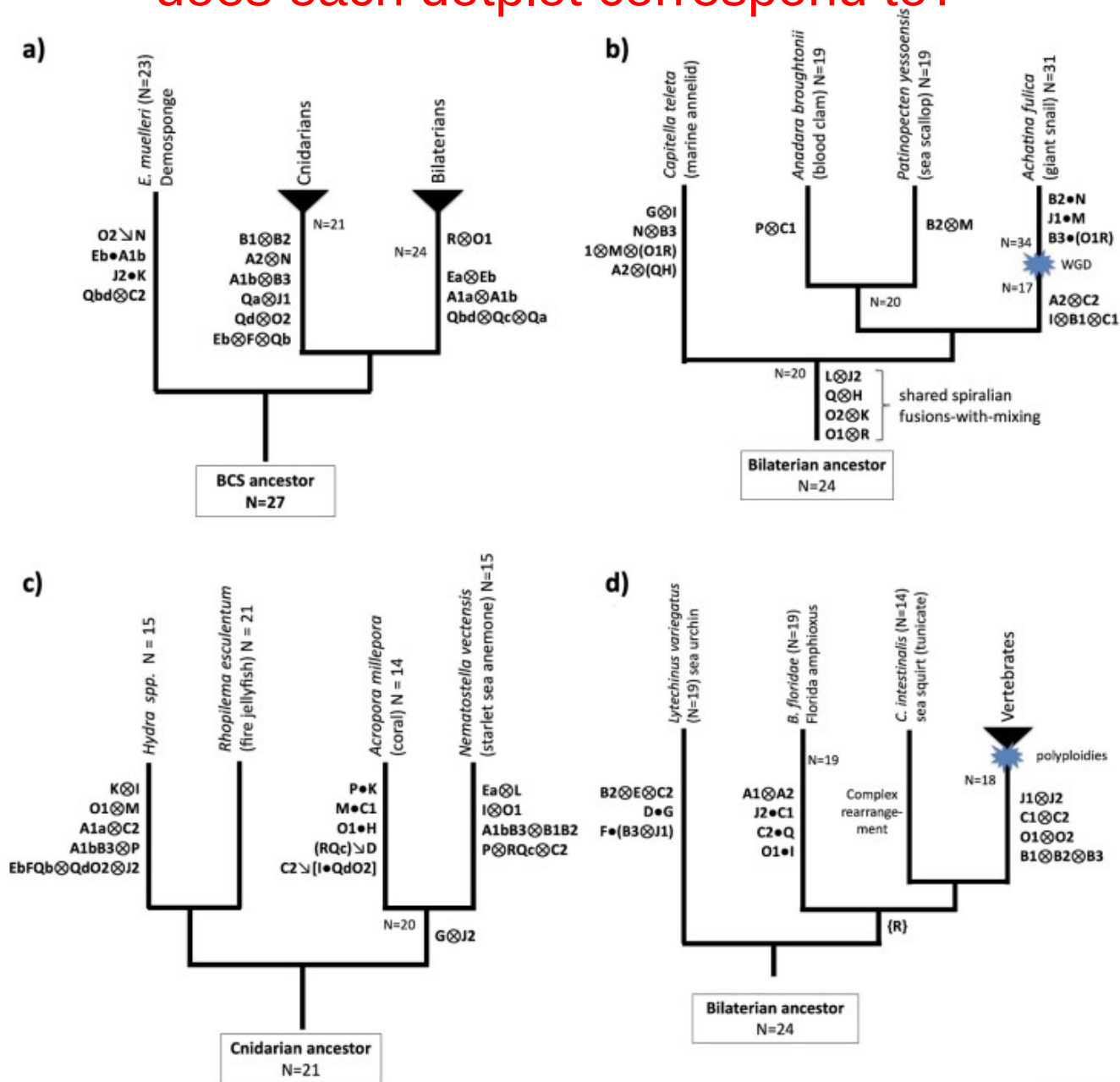
$0 \rightarrow 1$  (observing two chromosomes fused by chance)

$1 \rightarrow 0$  highly unlikely



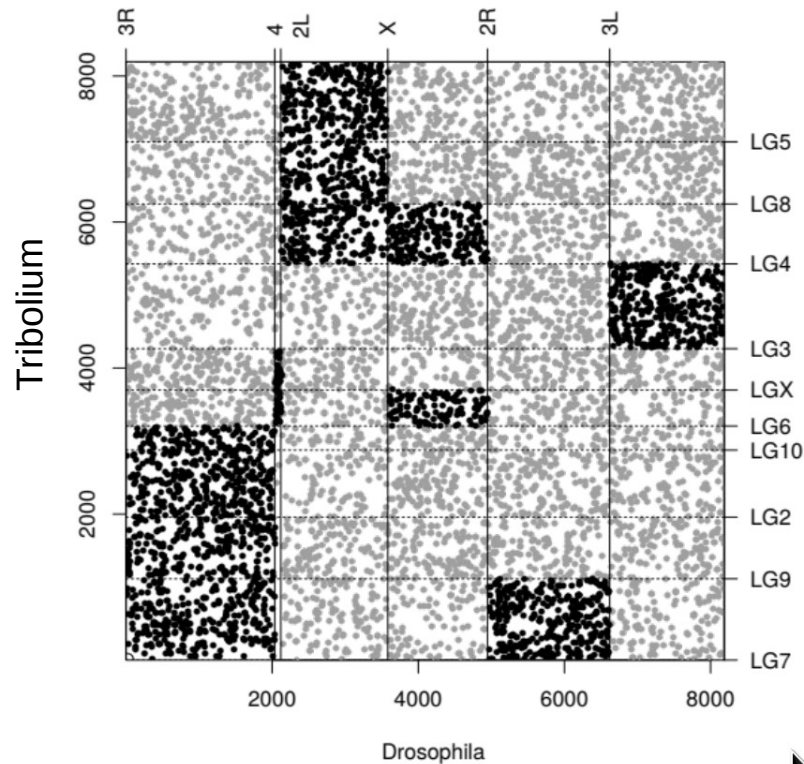
Surprise

# Exercise! What clade (bonus for species guess) does each dotplot correspond to?

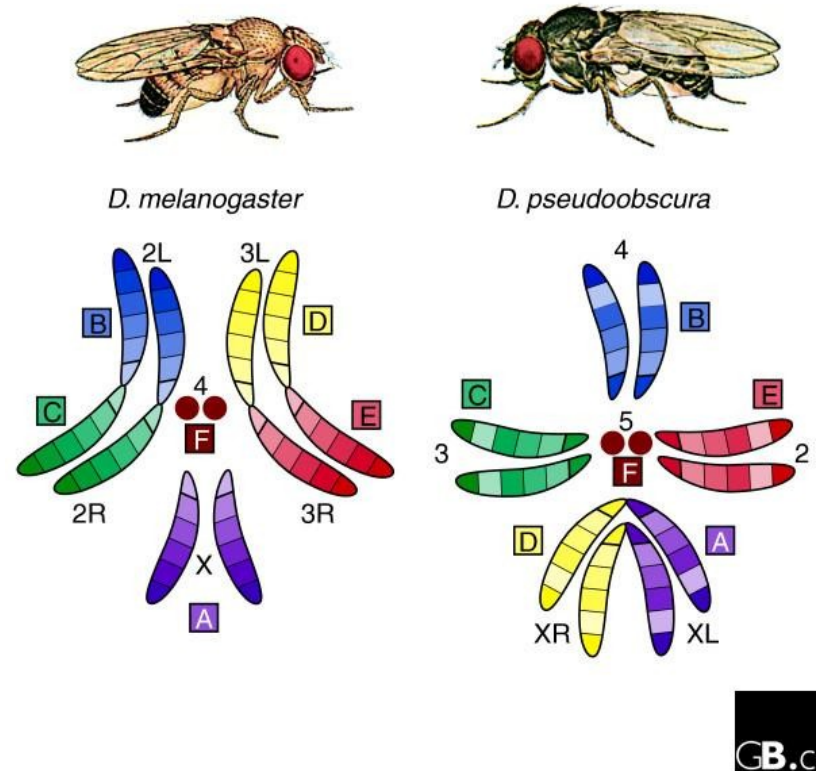


Are the chromosomal “units” the same in all animals?

# Loss of the ancestral chromosomal building scheme and the emergence of novel chromosomal elements



Simakov, 2022



Kulathinal, Hartl, Genome Biol. 2005

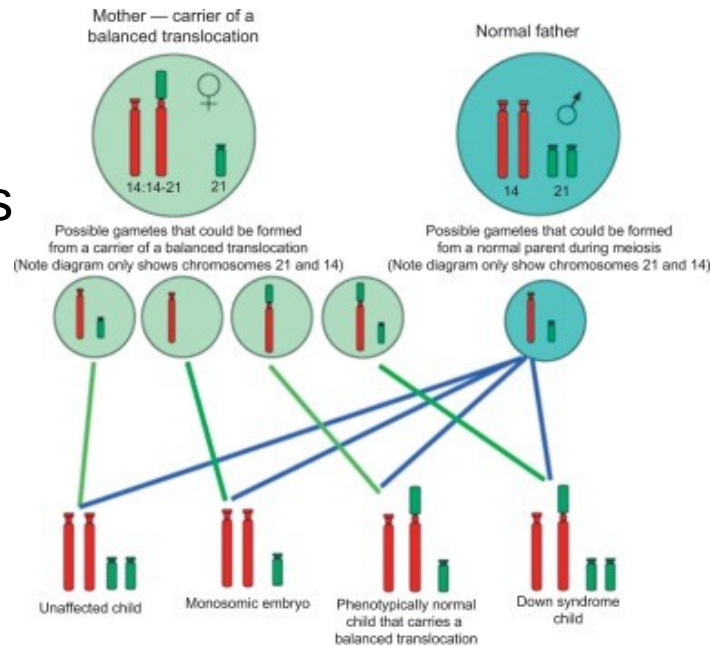


Why are chromosomes preserved?

Why do they break?

Is there any impact?

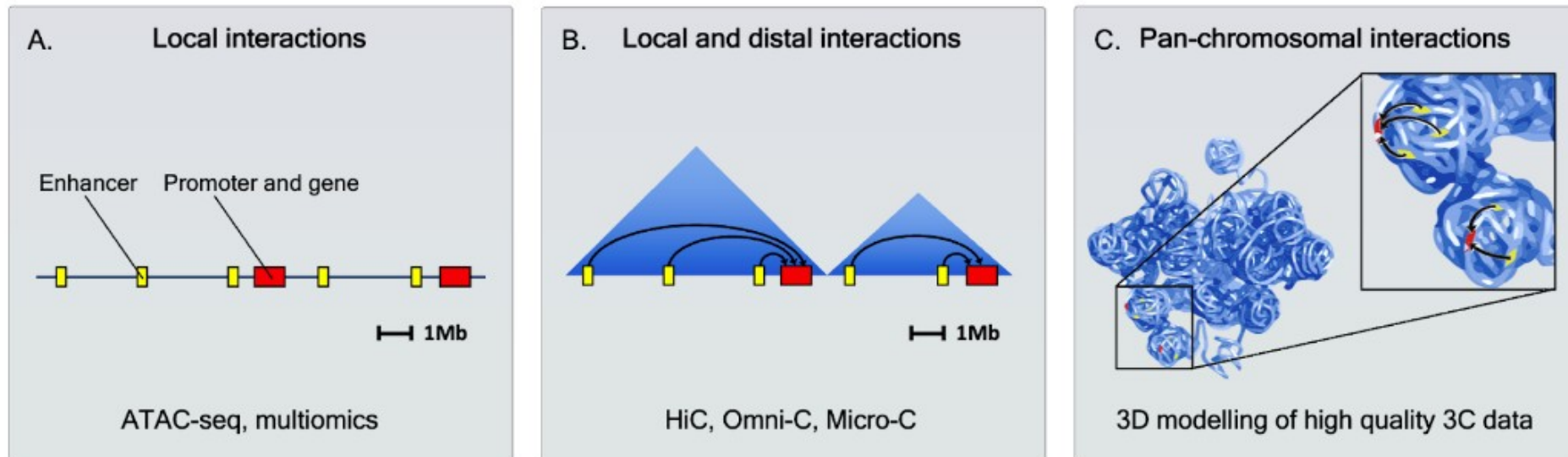
# Meiotic constraints



Seidman et al, 2016

(b)

## Pan-chromosomal regulatory constraints



Rogers et al 2023

# Scientists declare that octopuses are basically aliens

BY [MEREDITH PLACKO](#) 08.14.2015 :: 5:01PM EDT [MPLACKO](#)



646 SHARES

**Scientists conclude Octopus DNA is out of this world**



By [Ancient Code](#) [✉](#)

## Octopuses 'are aliens', scientists decide after DNA study



**Rob Waugh** Wednesday 12 Aug 2015 2:02 pm

### Shocking Claim: Scientists Think Octopuses Might Be Aliens After Studying Their DNA

According to a group of scientists, the lovable octopus, nature's aquatic contortionists, might actually be aliens not of this world. Researchers who mapped out the genetic code of the octopus found it to be so strange that it could actually be an extraterrestrial.

It's the first genome sequencing ever conducted on a cephalopod and it showed remarkable complexity with some 33,000 protein-coding genes identified - more than is found in a human.



Octopus genetic code is so strange it could be an ALIEN, according to scientists

24,217 views

[131](#) [6](#) [SHARE](#) [...](#)

# Unique mode of cephalopod genome evolution

**“Vertebrates without WGD”**

Convergent expansion of C2H2/PCDH? Yes

Extensive RNA editing? Yes

Whole genome duplication? No

Whole genome rearrangements? Yes



Albertin *et al*, Nature 2015

Belcaid *et al*, PNAS 2019

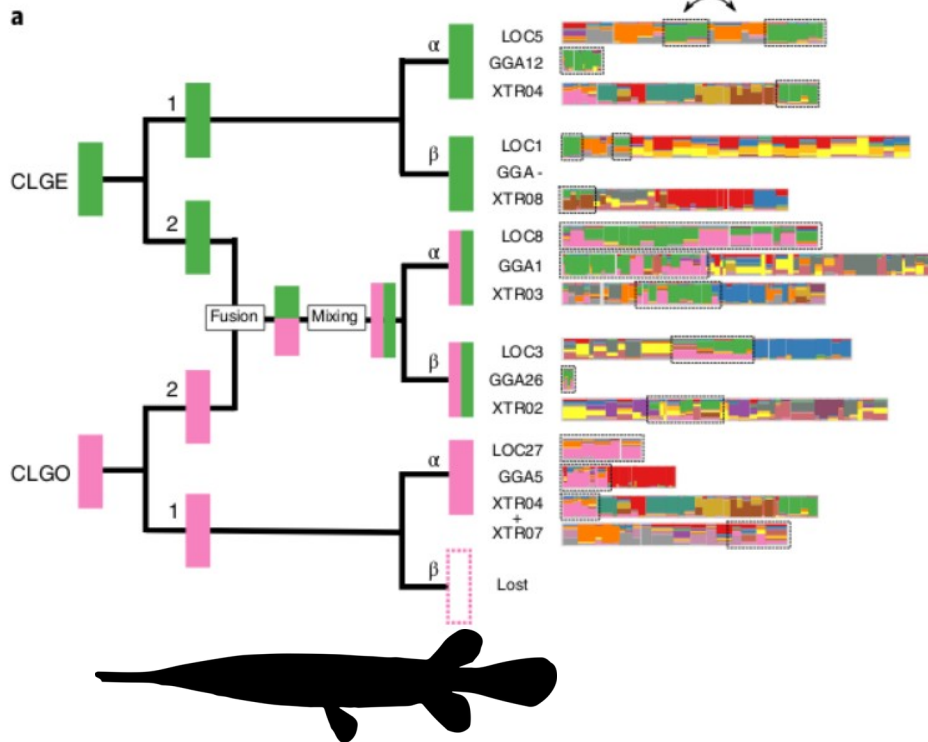
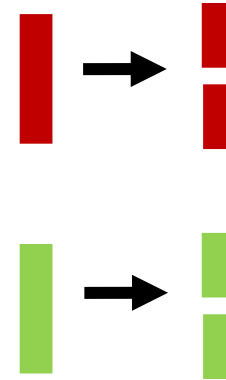
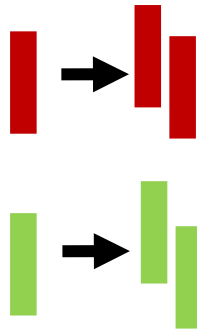
Albertin *et al*, Nat Comm 2022

Schmidbaur *et al*, Nat Comm 2022

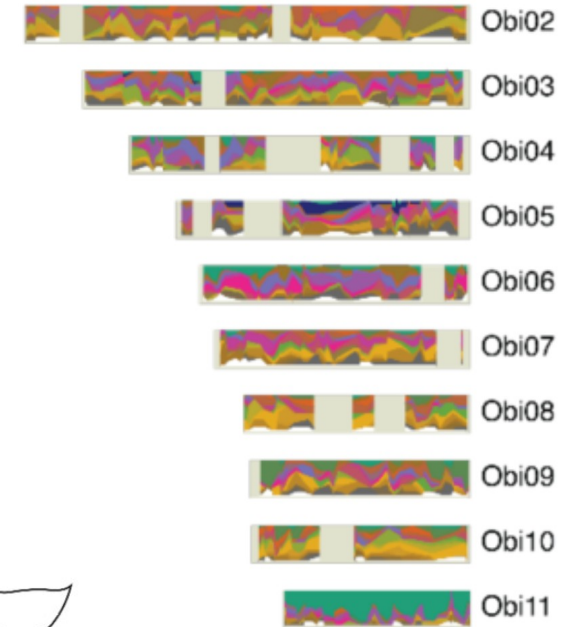
Albertin and Simakov, Ann Rev Anim Bio 2020

Ritschard *et al*, Bioessays 2019

# Fusion-with-mixing after duplication or large-scale rearrangements



Simakov et al, NEE 2020



Albertin et al, Nat Comm 2022

What is going on after such fusions?



# Fusion-with-mixing – a single tectonic event with long-lasting consequences

Chromosome 1



Chromosome 2



Pre-fusion ancestor



Ancestor stem

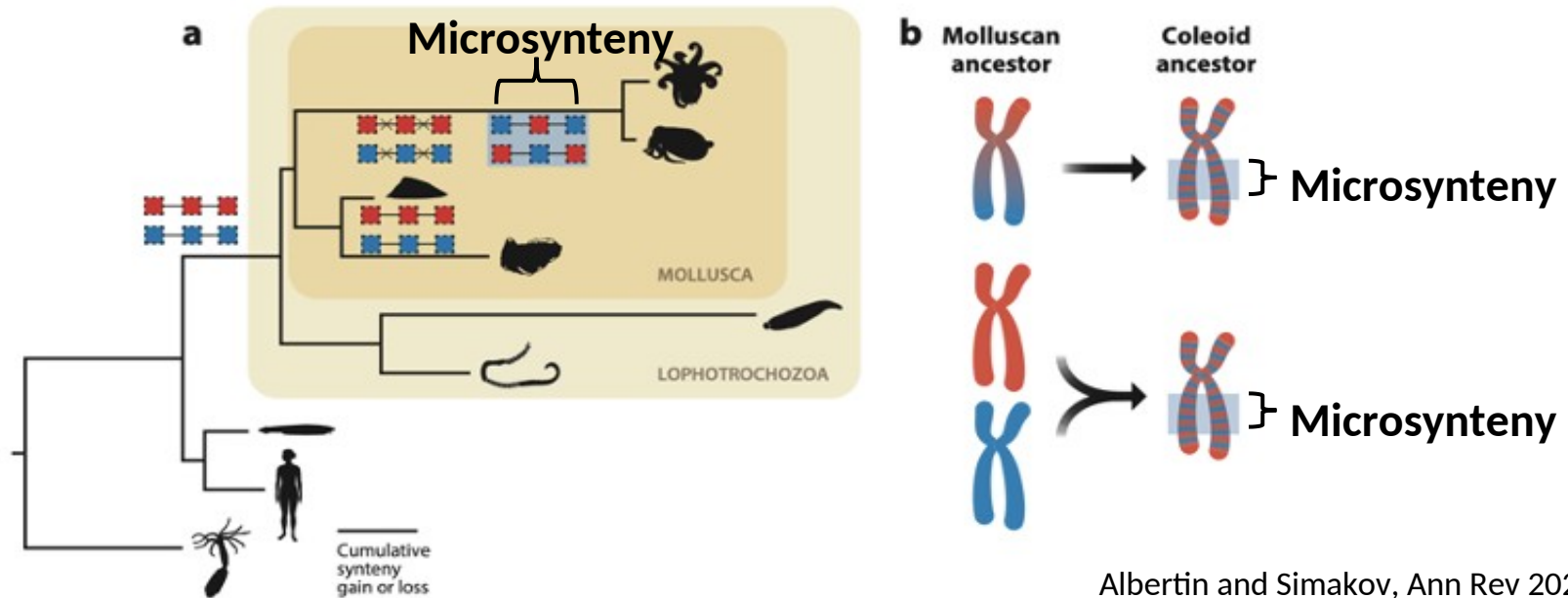


Full mixing achieved

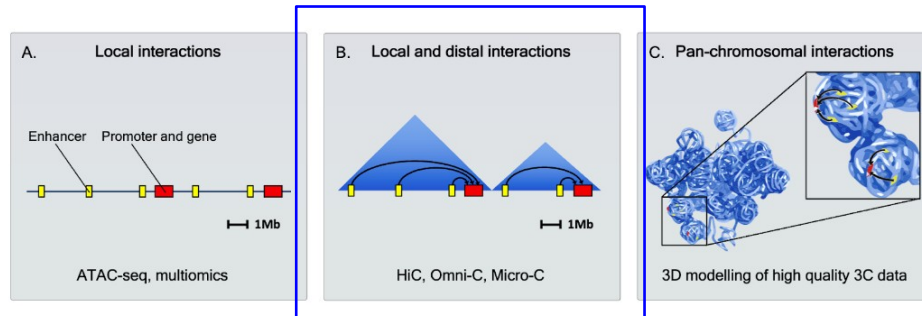


Co-regulated region, under  
functional/selective constraint

# Hundreds of novel gene neighborhoods (micro-synteny) in the coleoid ancestor

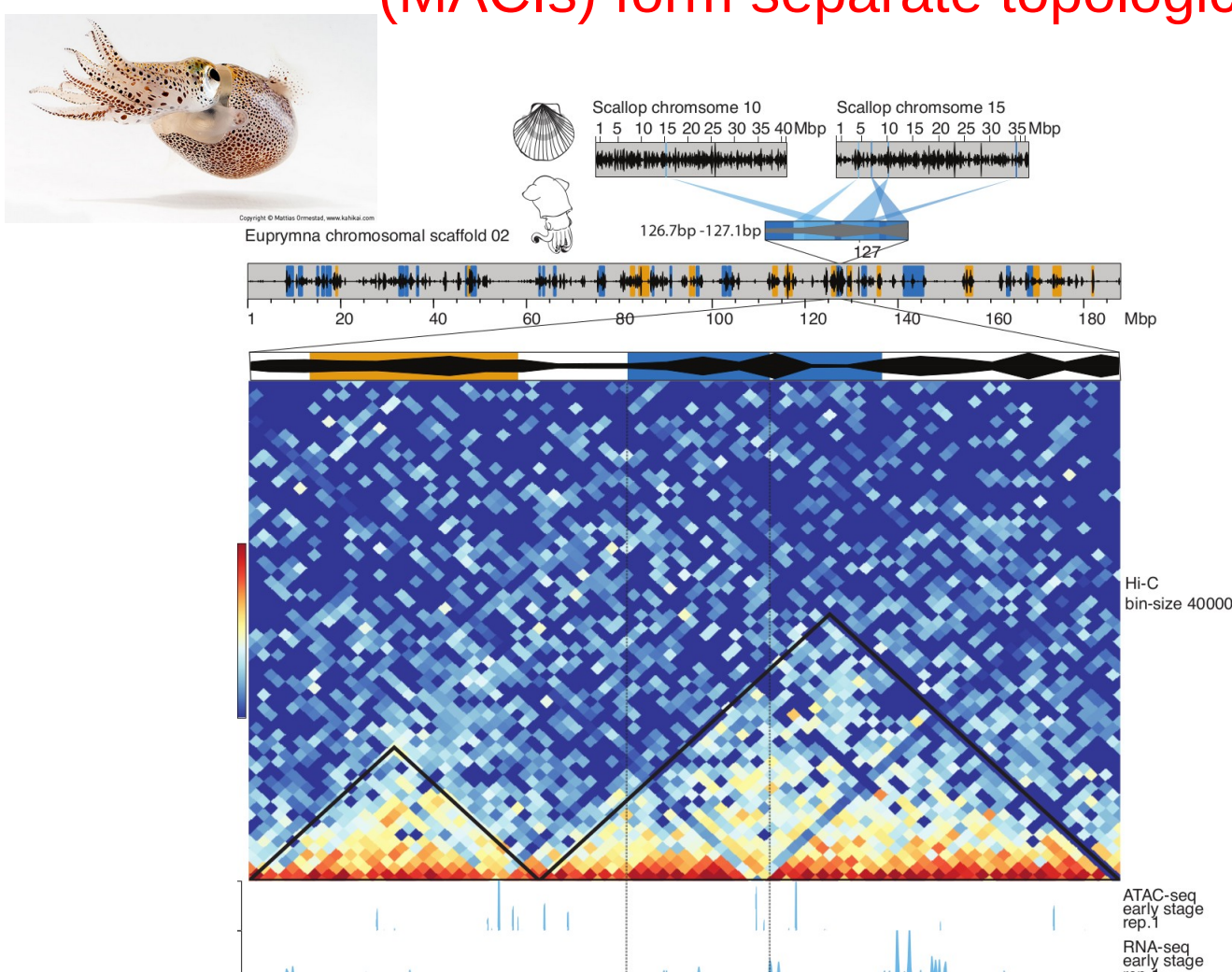


Albertin and Simakov, Ann Rev 2020  
Belcaid et al, PNAS 2019  
Schmidbaur et al, Nat Comm 2022  
Robert et al, BMC Genomics 2022  
Robert et al, Bioinformatics 2022  
Zimmermann et al, NEE 2019

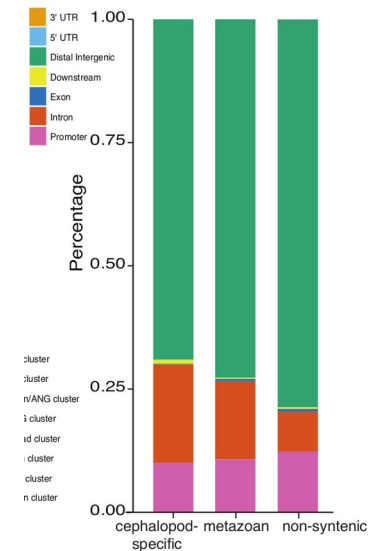


Rogers et al, 2023

# Microsyntenies Associated with Cephalopod Innovations (MACIs) form separate topological units



## ATAC-peaks in introns



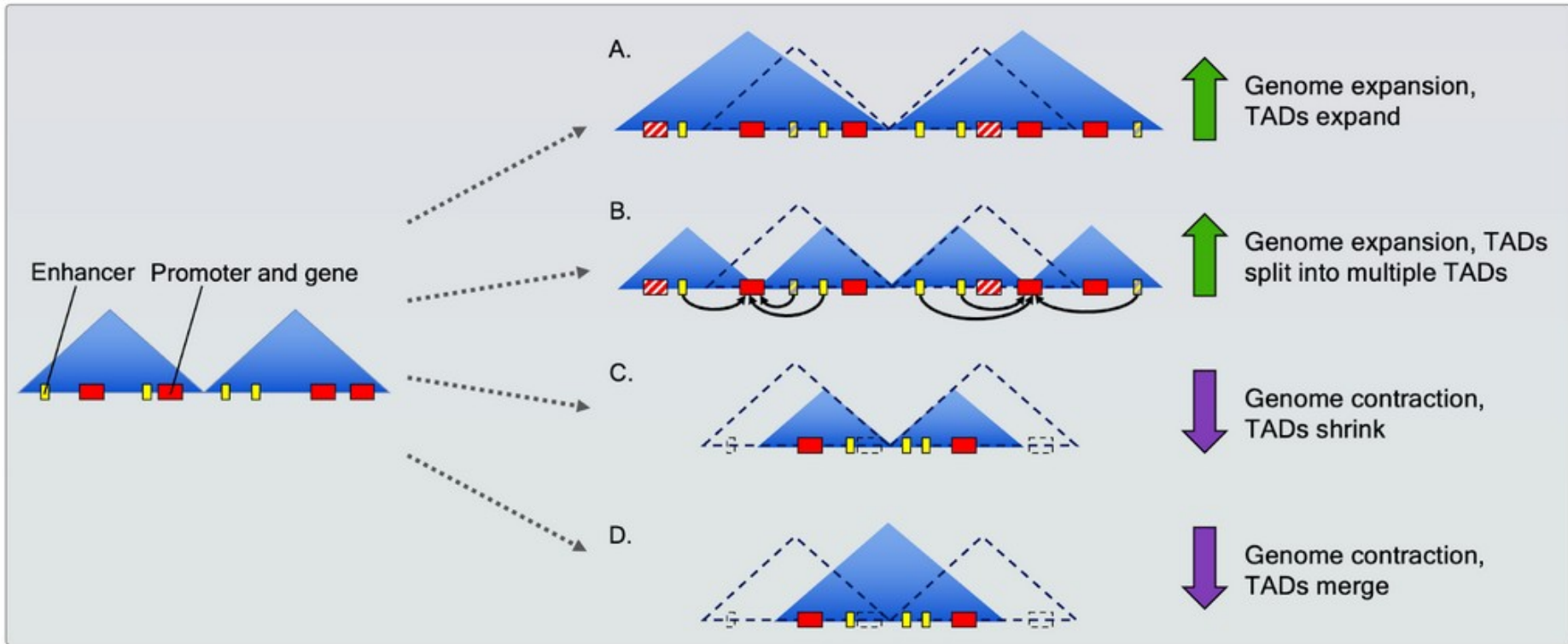
- novel microsyntenic regions show different co-expression and topological properties
- putative enhancers in intronic regions

Schmidbaur *et al*, Nat Comm 2022  
Rouressol *et al*, iScience 2023  
Rogers *et al*, in preparation



Thea Rogers

# Impact of topology in changing genomes



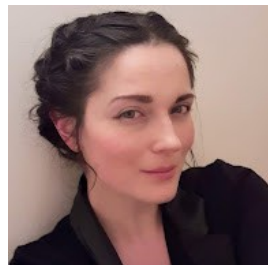
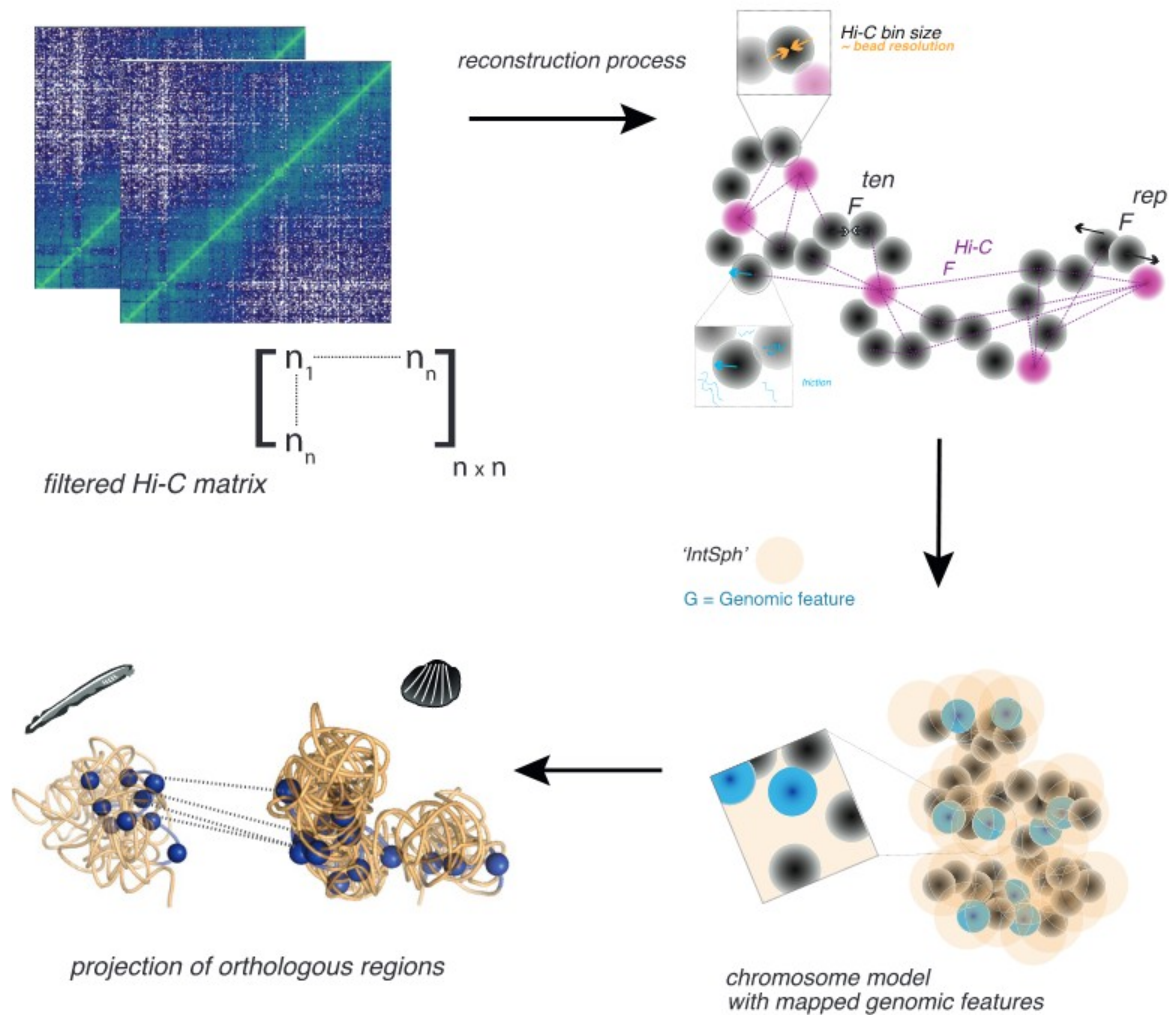
Rogers et al, in press



Thea Rogers

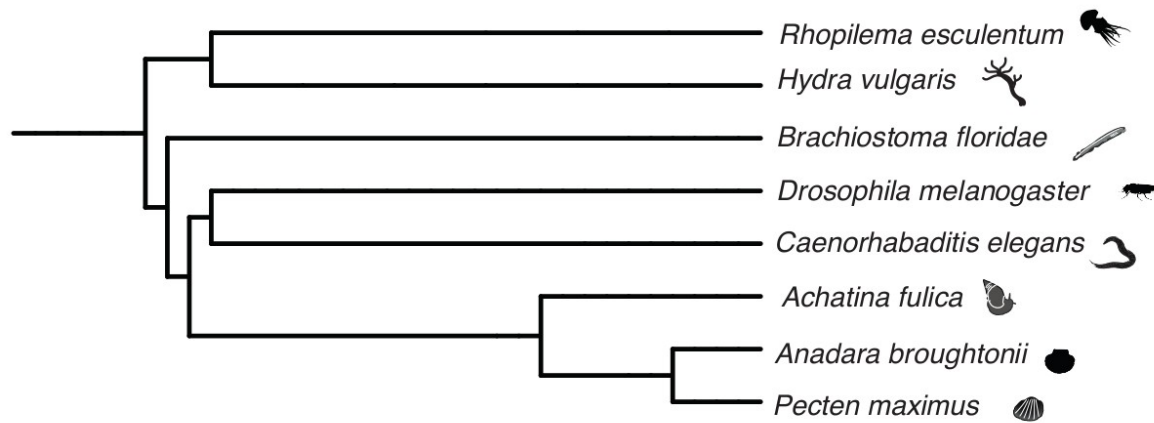
Squid genomes are on average 2x larger than the octopus genomes

# Test for evolutionarily conserved pan-chromosomal interactions

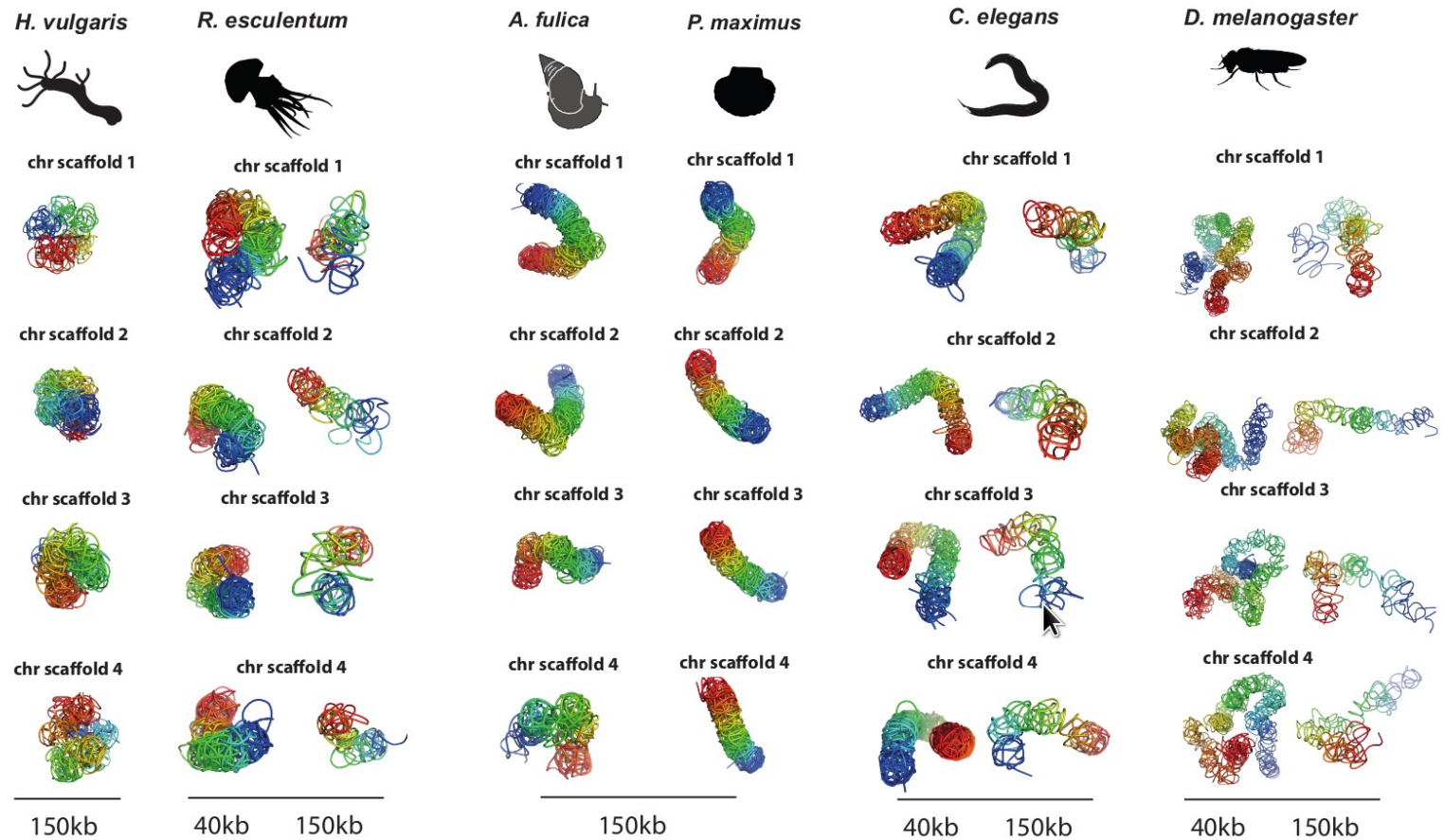




A)

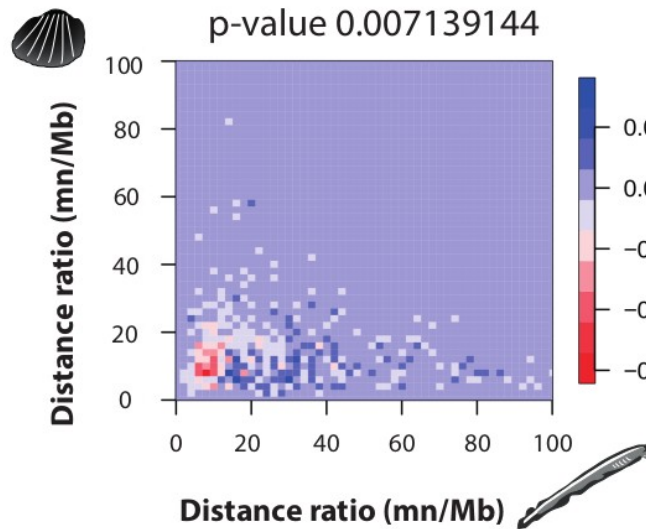


B)



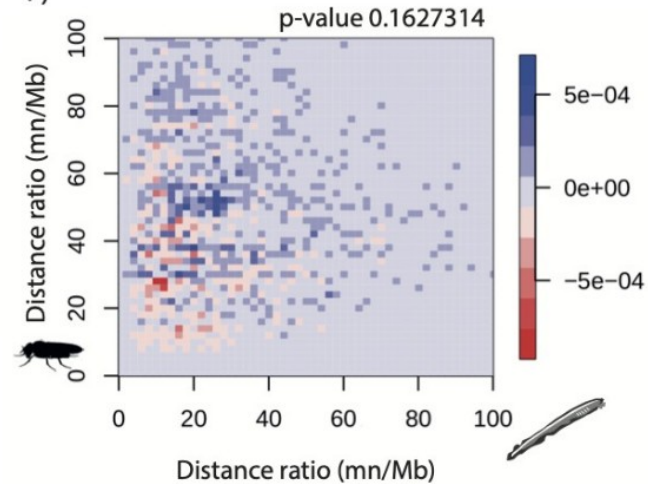
# Synteny beyond local gene clusters?

B)

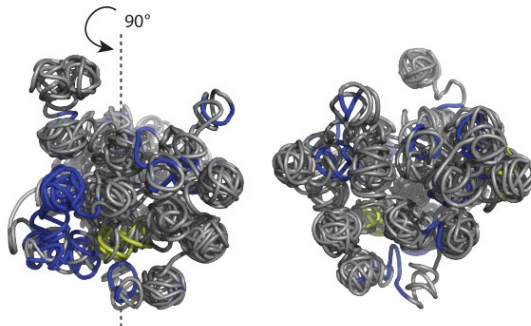


Enrichment of long-range interaction distance ratio among orthologous genes

F)



Clarence et al, 2023

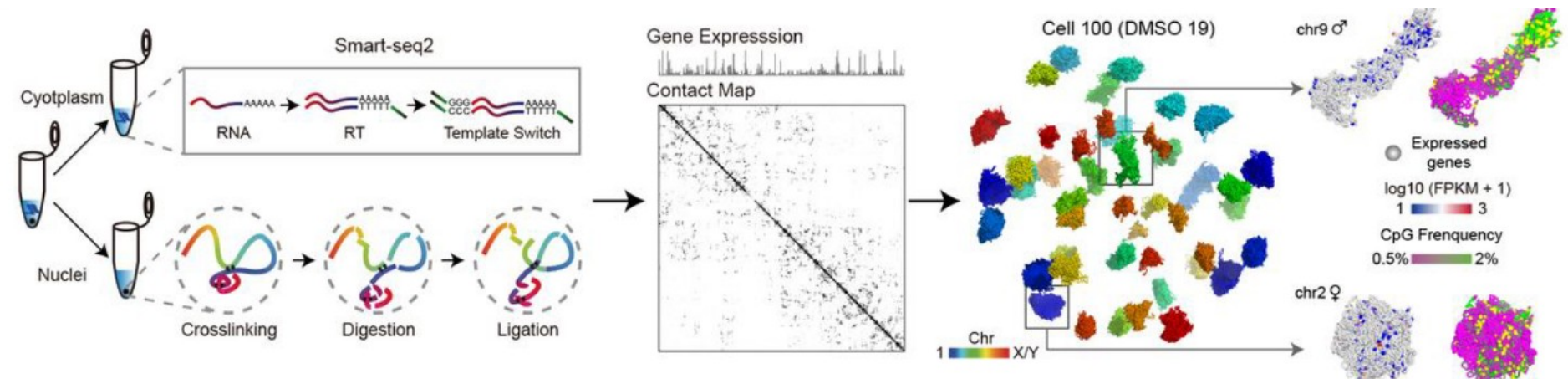


Conserved, metazoan synteny  
Cephalopod-specific synteny

Preferential localization of micro-syntenic clusters?

Schmidbaur et al, 2022

# Bottleneck: HiC at single cell resolution

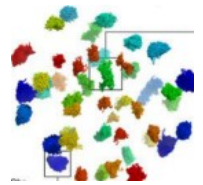


Tan lab at Stanford:  
<https://3dgeno.me/publications>

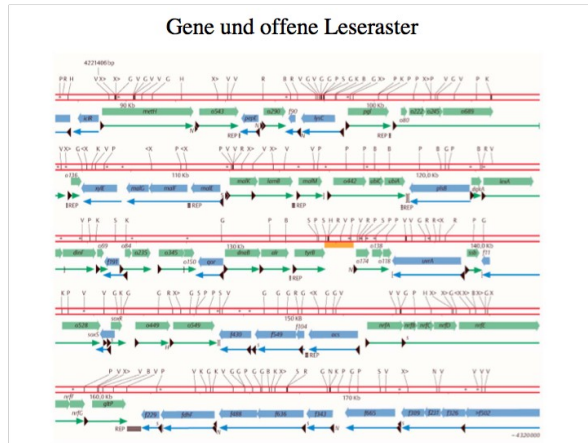
## Recap: Current status and challenges

- Chromosomal-scale genomes and extensive species sampling is almost a norm
- Big challenge to identify regulatory sequences and EP interactions, test using knock-out etc
- Evidence for the role of topology at local (sub-chromosomal) scales
- “It’s complicated” at the whole chromosome scale

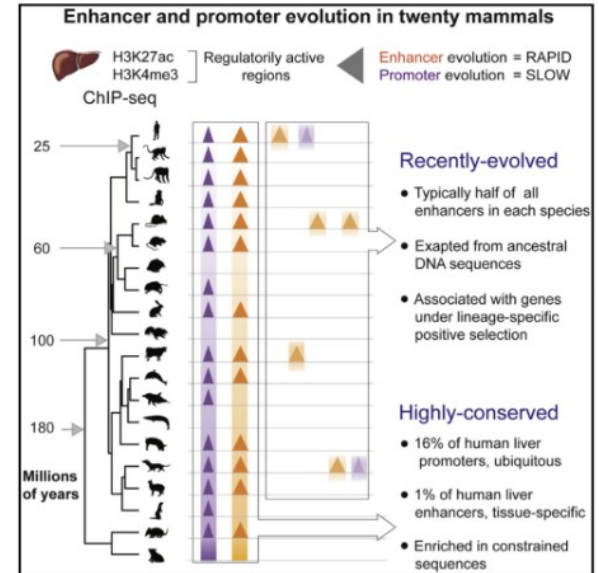
# What will genome be like in 2030's/aka next year?



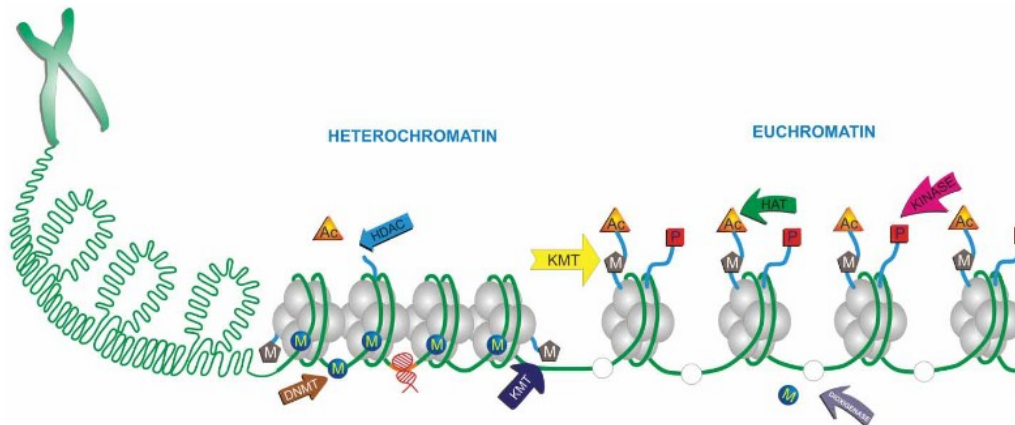
## Gene annotation



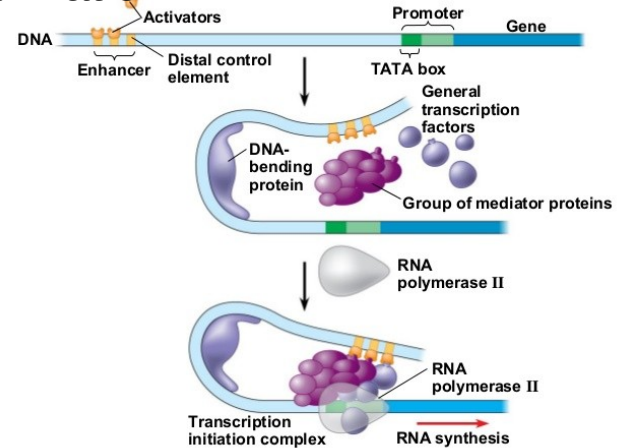
## Regulatory regions



## Epigenetic modification



## 3D organization





### III. Future theoretical genomics, predictions, and applications

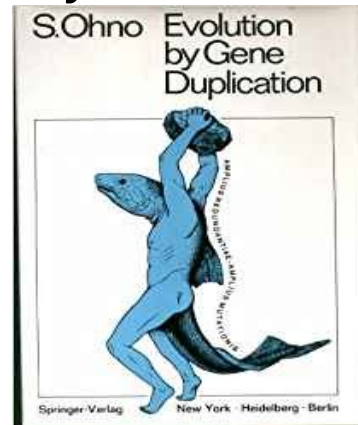
# “Evolutionary topology of genomes, form and function”

We can reconstruct the genomes of the first animals



Over 600 million years ago

... but how do clade-specific (i.e. macro-) evolutionary “trajectories” contribute to evolutionary novelty?



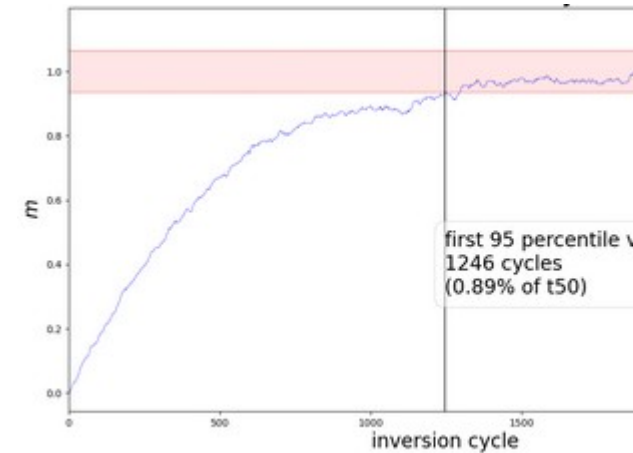
Copyright © Mattias Ormestad, [www.kahikai.com](http://www.kahikai.com)

# Fusion-with-mixing – a single tectonic event with long-lasting consequences

Chromosome 1



Chromosome 2



Full mixing achieved



Co-regulated region, under functional/selective constraint

Arno Bluemel Darrin Sch

Time to explore half of all possible neighborhoods ( $\tau_{50}$ ) –  
macro-evolutionary time-scale

Chromosome 1



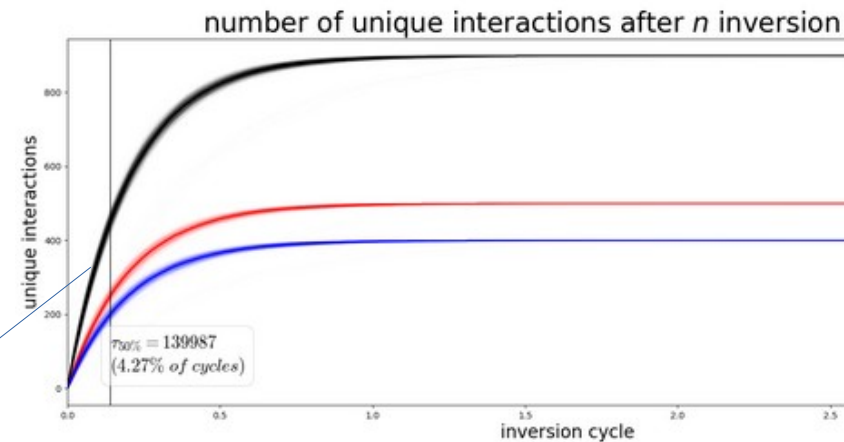
Chromosome 2



50% of all possible combinations explored

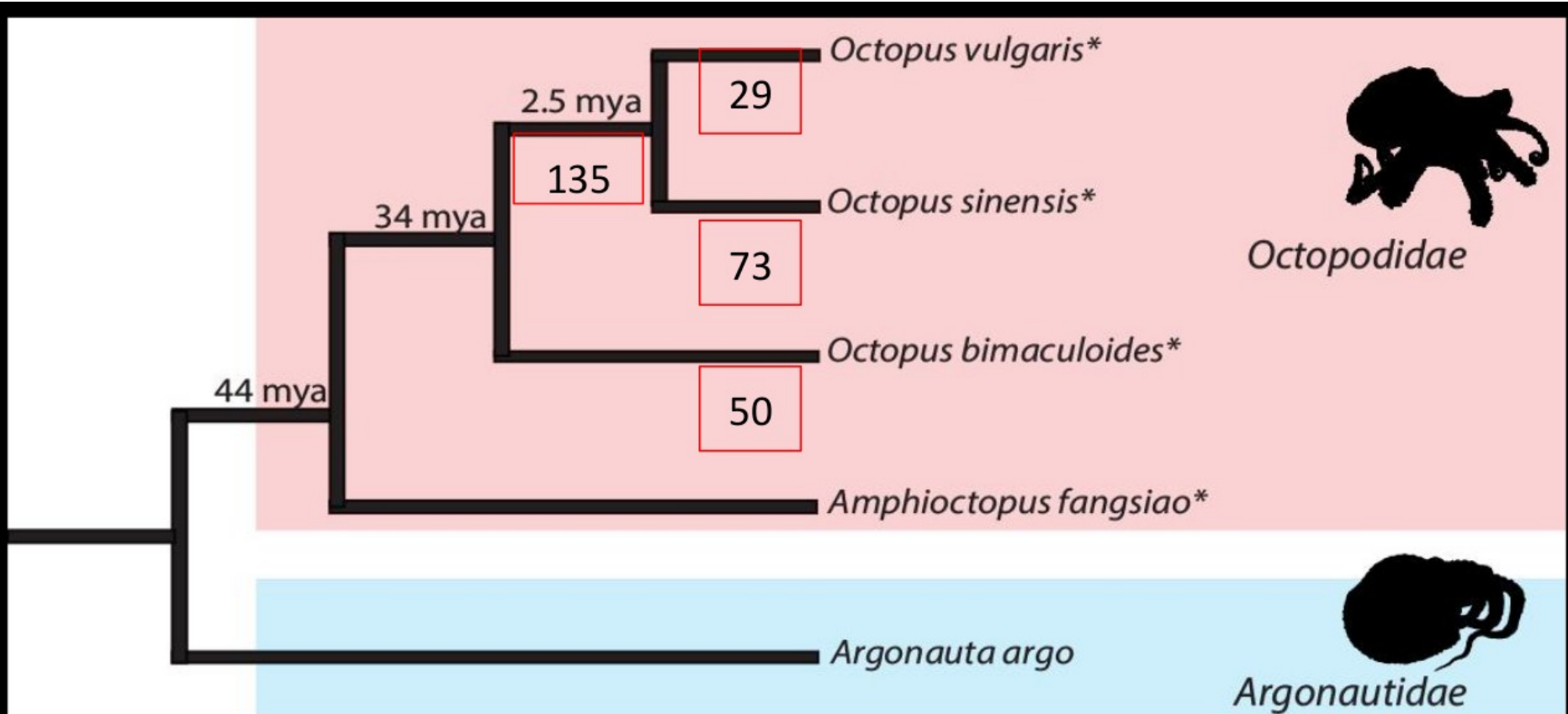
Rearrangements continue

$$\tau_e \ll \tau_{50}$$



Arno BluemeDarrin Sch

## $\tau_{50}$ for an “average” chromosome



- breaks occur at highly insulated regions (TAD boundaries)
- many neighborhoods still to be explored after 600 million years!



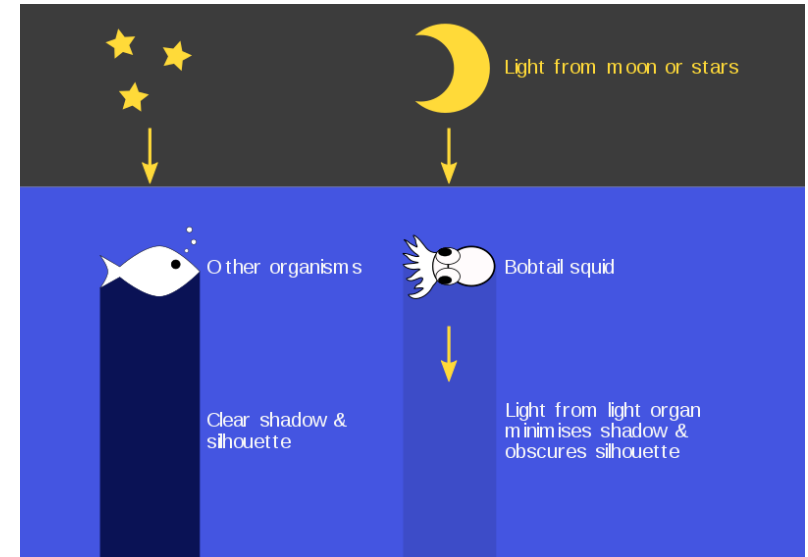
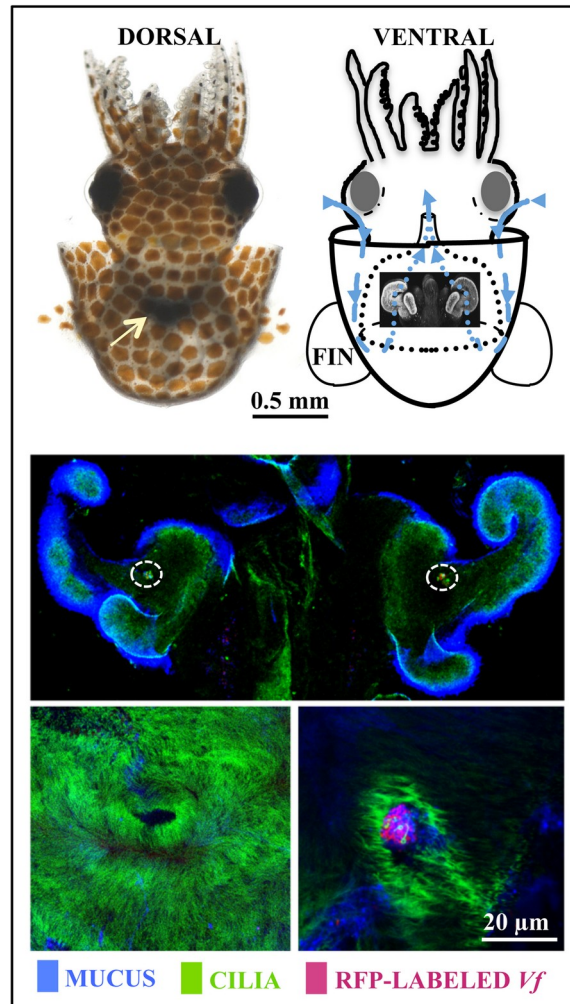
Dalila Destano



Hypothesis: (singular) ancient genomic events\* continue to shape clade-specific evolution

\* irreversible

# Light Organ (LO)



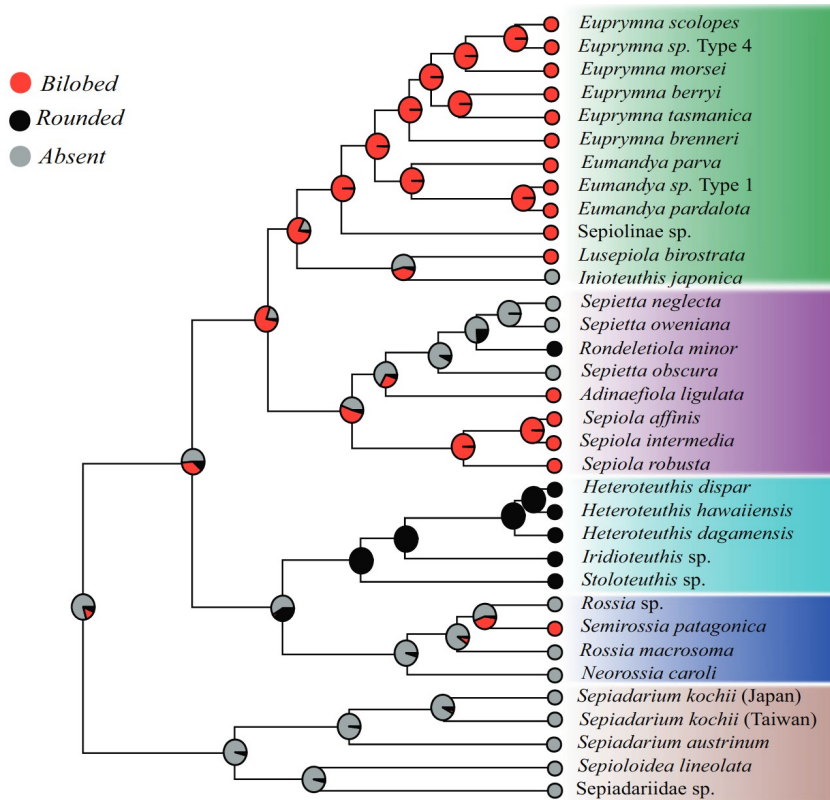
<http://manabu-biology.com>

McFall-Ngai, 2014

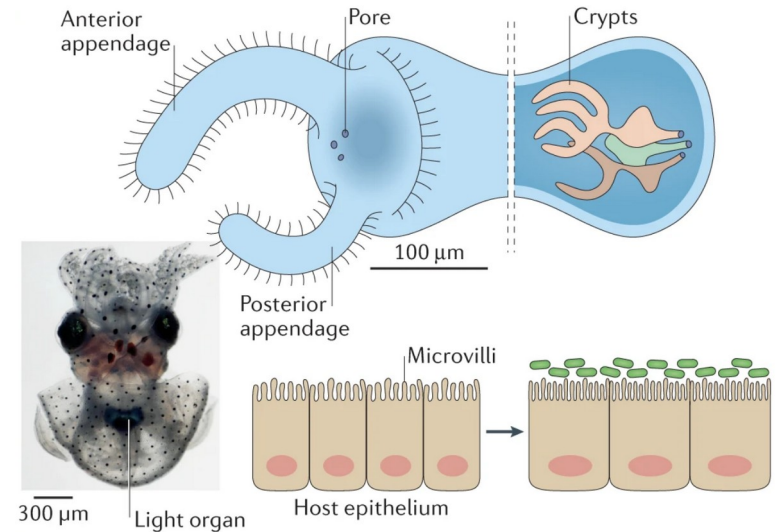
Apical epithelial surface

Symbiosis – light production (not nutritionally obligate, but key ecologically)

# Origin of novel organ (LO) in bobtail squids



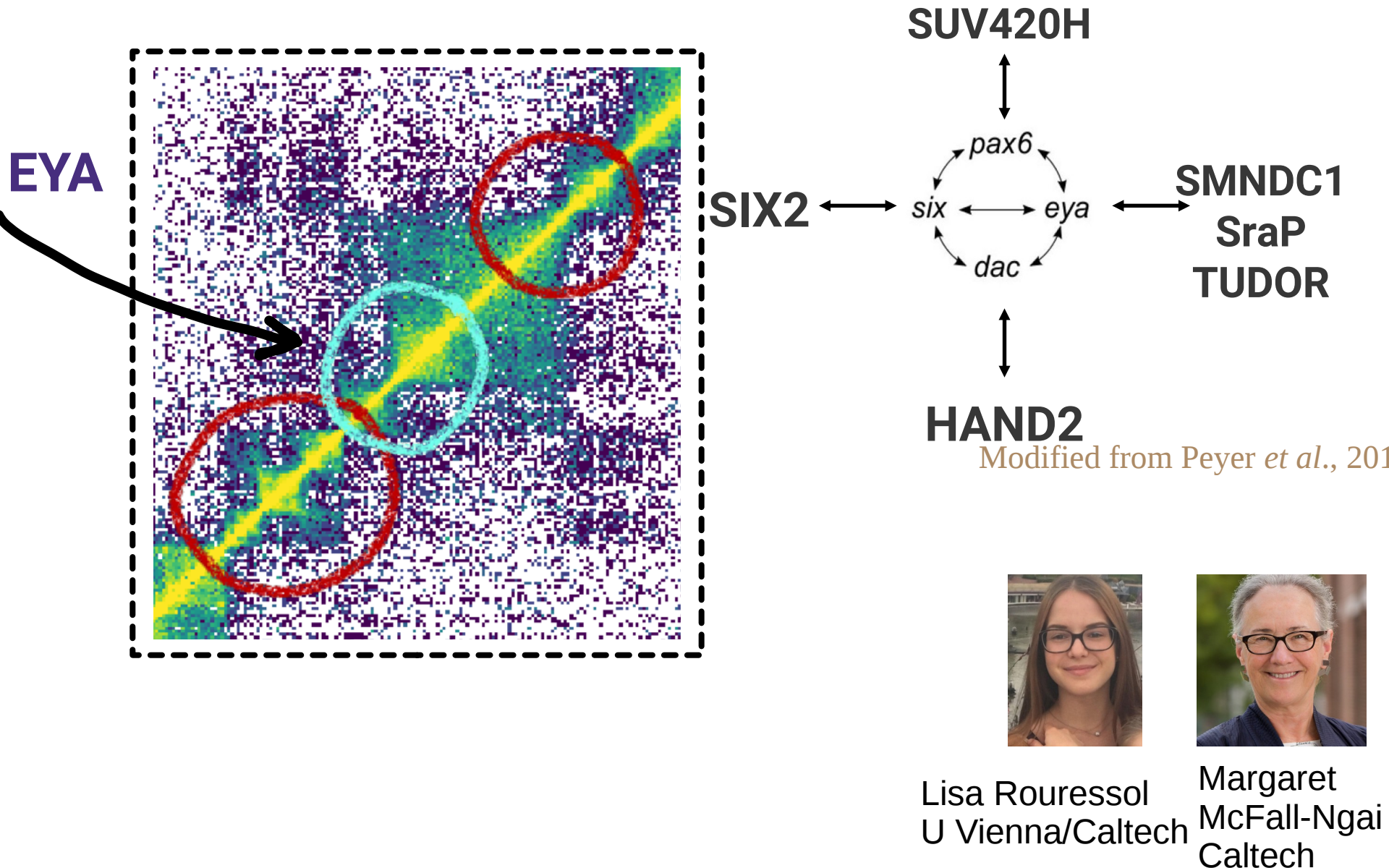
Sanchez, et al, 2021



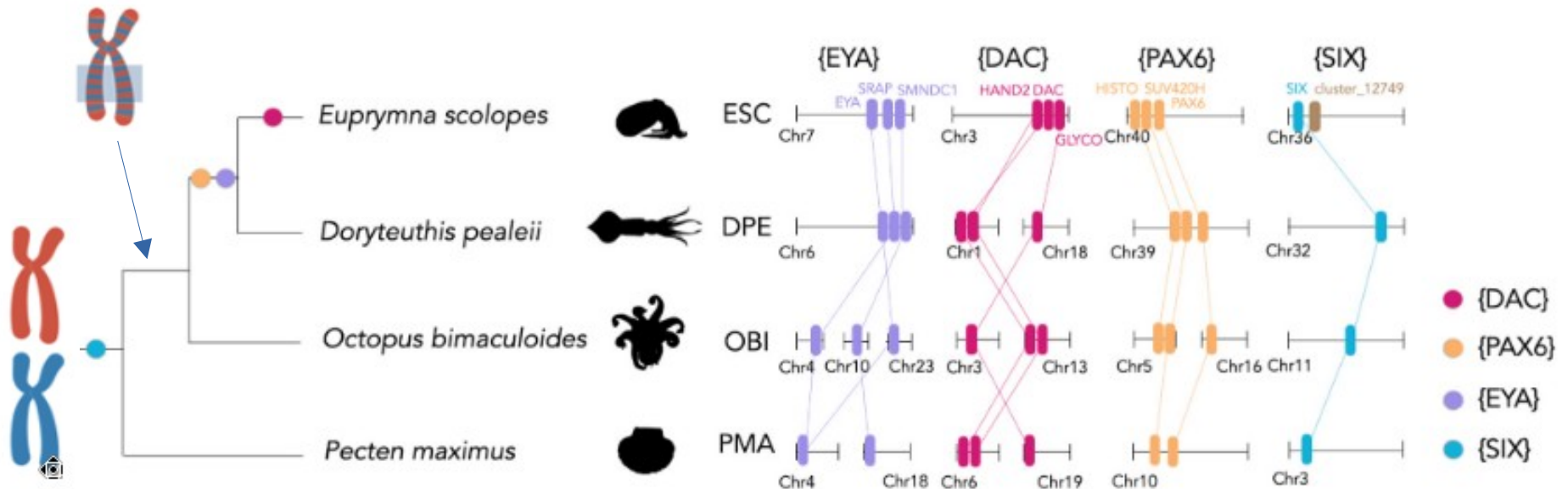
Nyholm, McFall-Ngai, 2021

Time-scale ~several 100 my

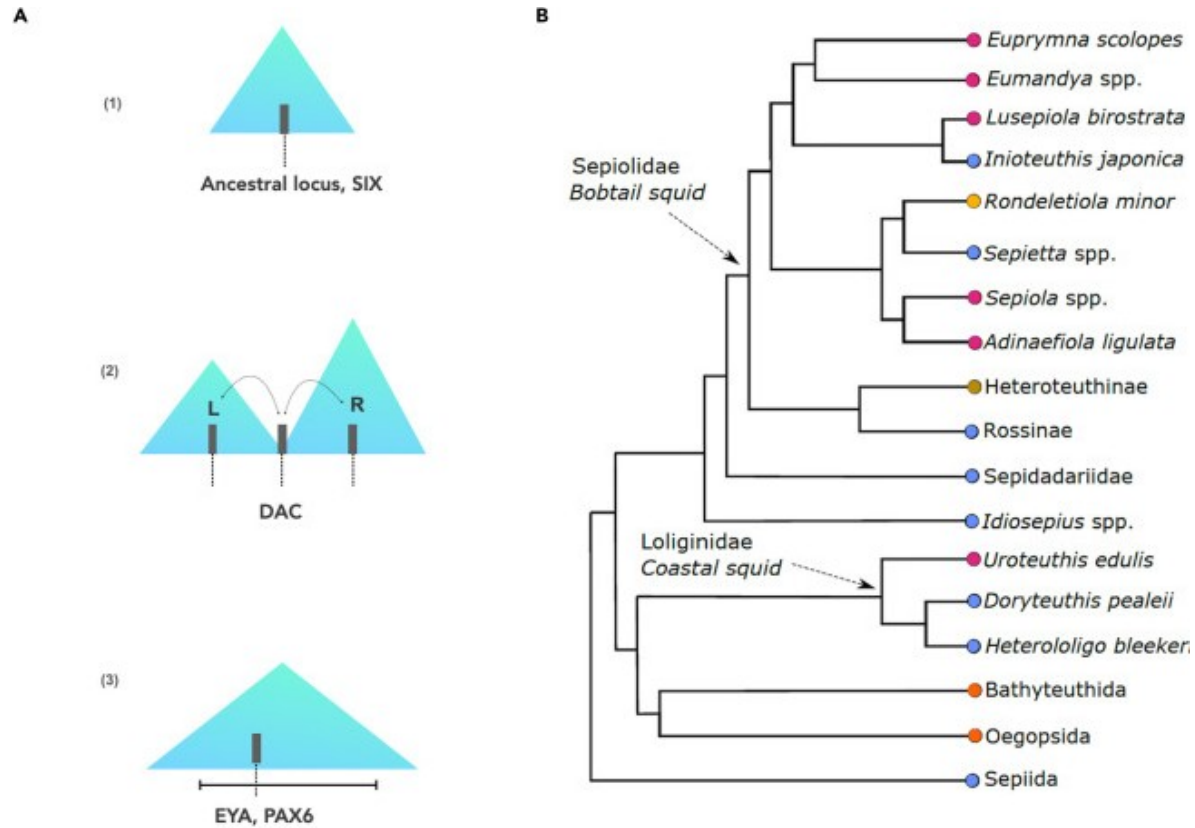
# Novel neighborhoods associated with LO development



# Continuous emergence of new interactions



# Continuous emergence of new interactions





# CephASG hub



Margaret McFall-Ngai,  
U Hawaii

AQUATIC  
SYMBIOSIS  
GENOMICS



Spencer Nyholm, U  
Connecticut



Elizabeth Heath-  
Heckman,  
Michigan State  
University



Raphael Lami,  
Sorbonne University and  
Marine station of  
Banyuls



Michele Nishiguchi, UC  
Merced

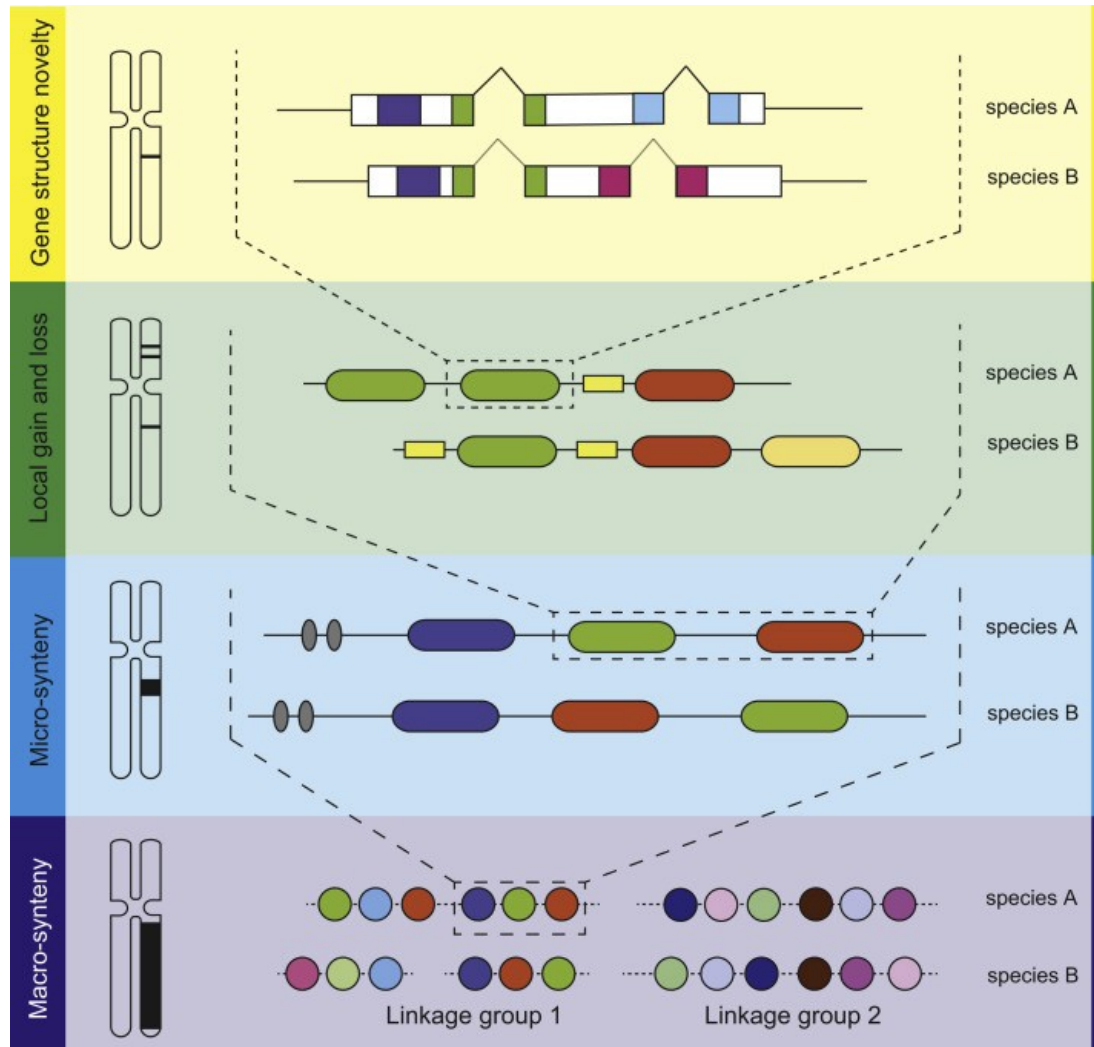


Gustavo  
Sanchez,  
U Hiroshima



Oleg Simakov, U Vienna

# Beyond chromosomal “algebra”: combine different level of orthologies and capture their evolutionary interaction properties



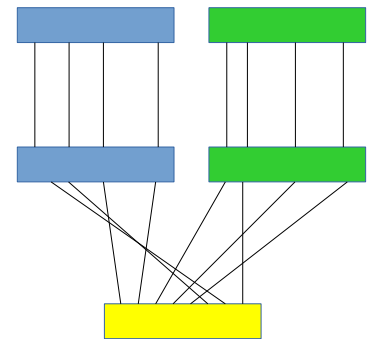
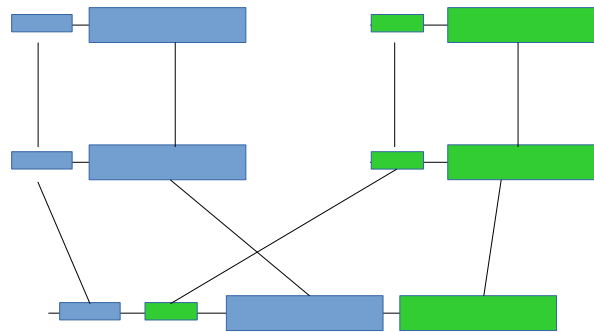
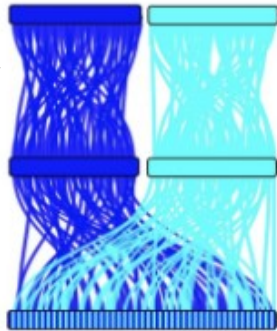
# Generalization of FWM

Chromosomes

Gene regulation

Protein “domains”

Homology



“New” chromosome

TAD

“New” domain

“New” linkage (micro-synteny)

Constraints:

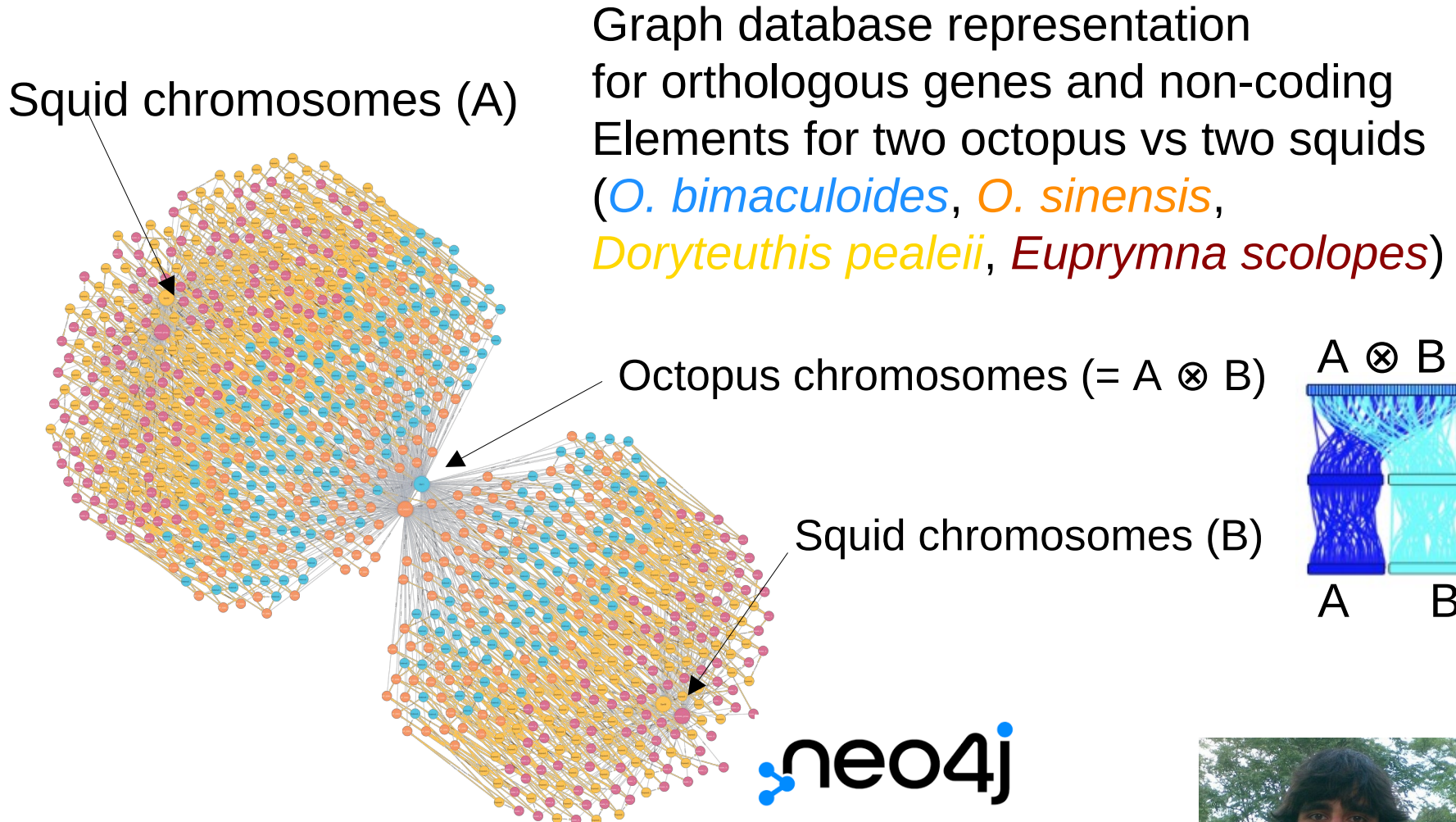
meiotic

regulatory linkage

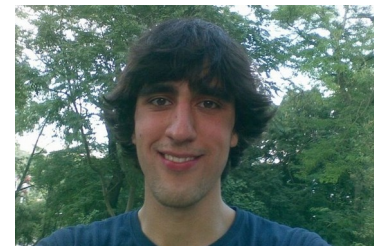
folding



# How to visualize orthologies at multiple levels?

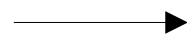
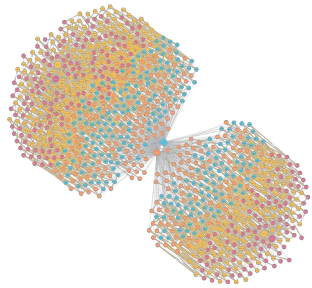


{A} = *Euprymna* LG35; *Doryteuthis* Dpe32; *Octopus* Obi/Osi11  
{B} = *Euprymna* LG31; *Doryteuthis* Dpe36; *Octopus* Obi/Osi11

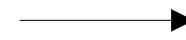


Fatih Sarigöl

# Manifold representation of distances – Evolutionary Topology

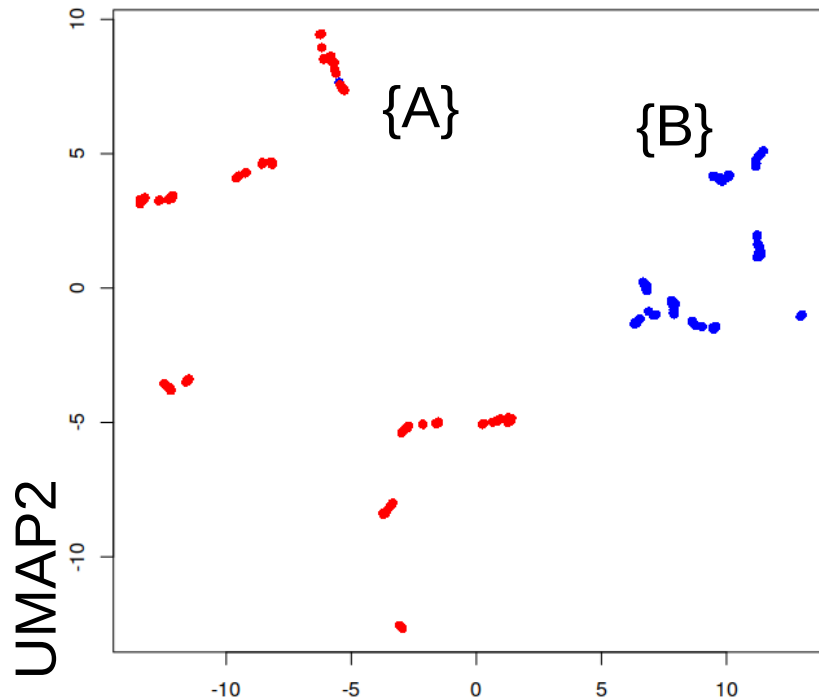


Averaged distances

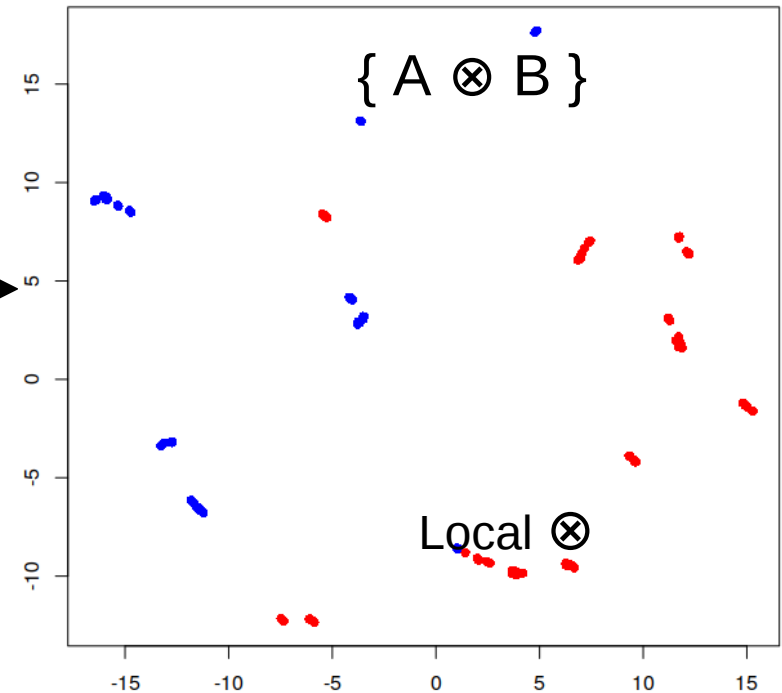


UMAP

squids

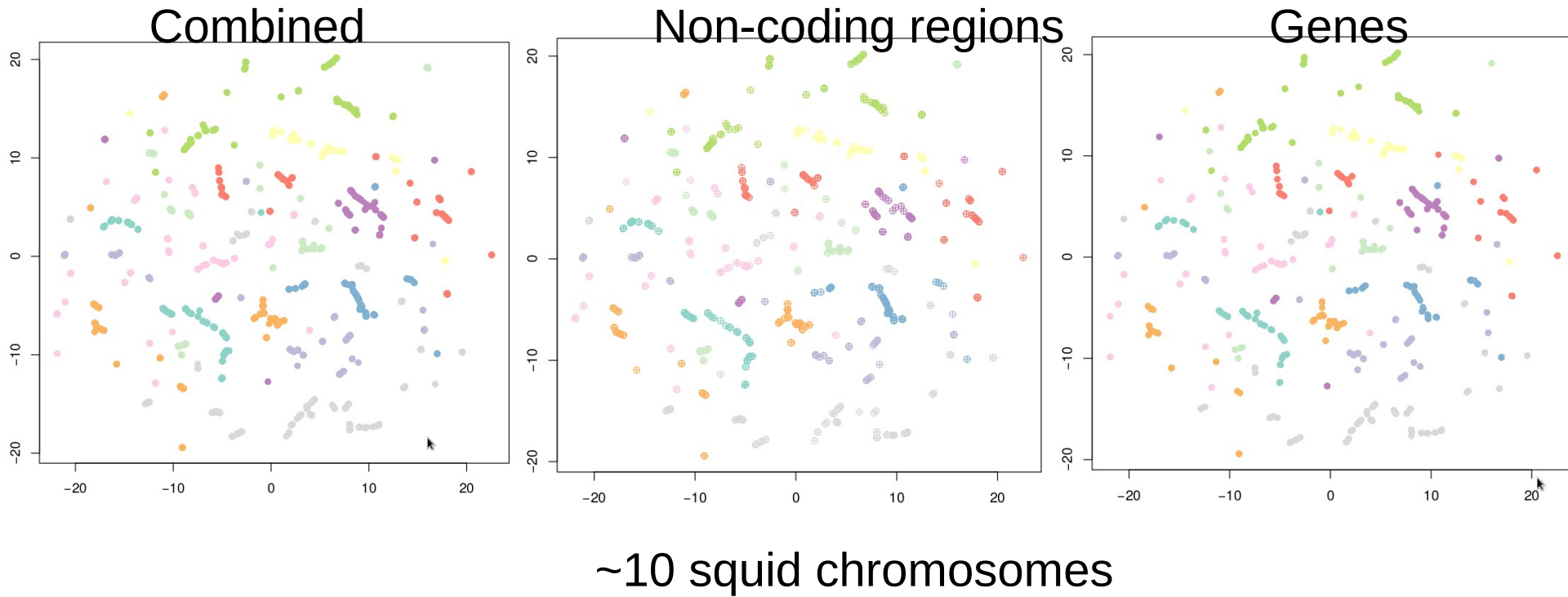


octonuses



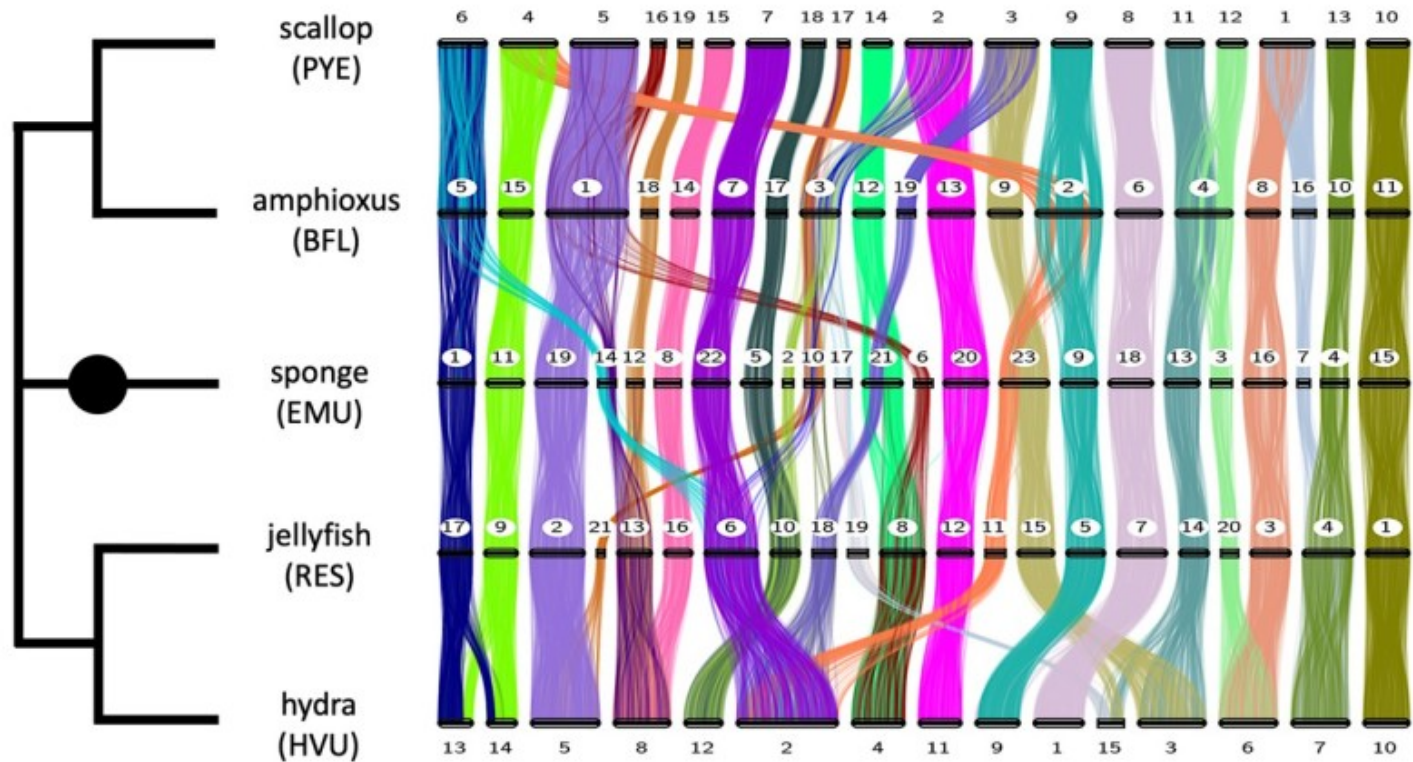
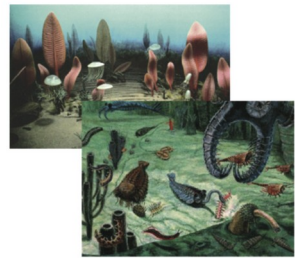
UMAP1 {A} = *Euprymna* LG35; *Doryteuthis* Dpe32; *Octopus* Obi/Osi11  
{B} = *Euprymna* LG31; *Doryteuthis* Dpe36; *Octopus* Obi/Osi11

# Multi-scale orthologies and paths through manifolds

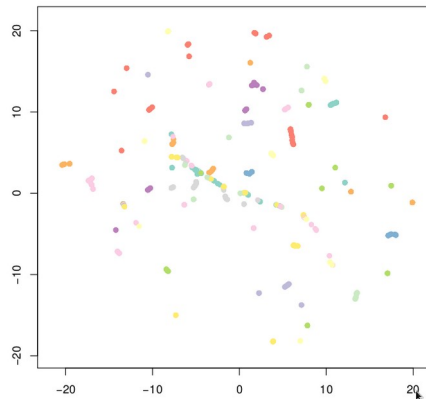
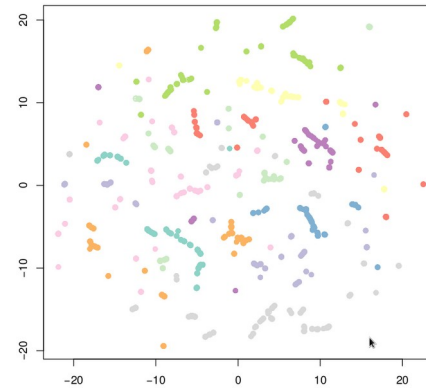
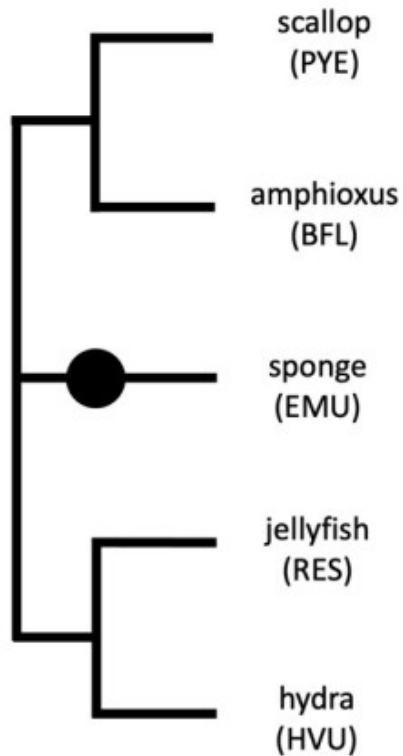




# Towards multi-scale orthologies and evolutionary topology



# Towards multi-scale orthologies and evolutionary topology



→ identify ⊗ at sub-chromosomal level, including non-coding regions (novel synapomorphic characters)

→ comparative evolutionary topology (detect orthology presence for faster evolving characters provided same topological context)

→ predict possible future interactions (paths through manifold space)

→ non-chromosomal context (FWM with transposon insertions)

# Recap: evolutionary topology of animal genomes?

How to quantify (macro-)evolutionary trajectories of genomes?

Do different trajectories contribute to diverging (regulatory) modes of genome evolution?

- *Genome “architecture” in evolution (synteny et al)*

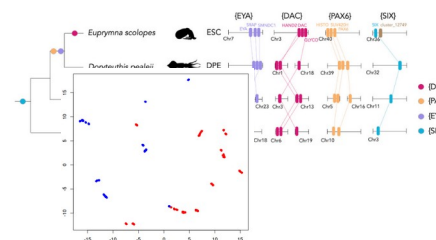
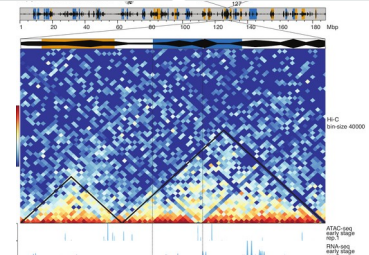
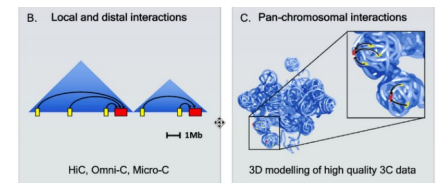
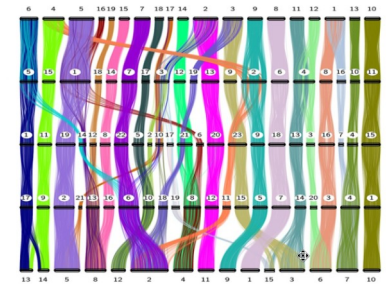
Syntenic elements are highly preserved (including some sub-chromosomal linkages)

- *Regulatory function vs meiotic constraints*  
Selective pressure to maintain (mostly local) chromosomal interactions

- *“Transitions” in genome organization onto novel regulation*

Genome-wide rearrangements create new regulatory neighborhoods to be explored

- *Evolutionary topology: emergence of novel (regulatory) gene neighborhoods*





# Thank you for your attention!

## Graduate students:

Lisa Rouressol  
Koto Kon

## Technician:

Fatih Sarigoel

## BSc students:

Arno Bluemel  
YehorTertyshnyk

## MSc students:

Laura Johanesova  
David Stohlmann  
George Efthymiadis

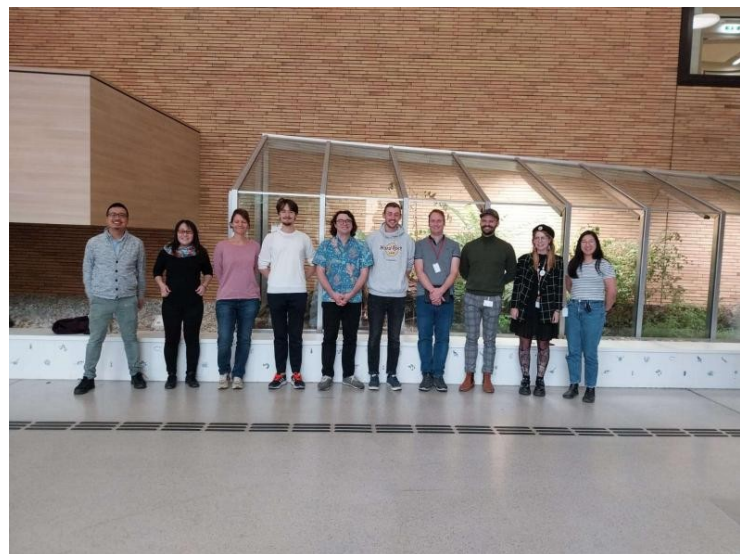
## Postdocs:

Thea Rogers  
Darrin Schultz  
Tetsuo Kon

## Admin: Nina Znidaric

Alumni: Nicola Wong, Hannah Schmidbaur, Nicolas Robert, Christina Holzinger, Elena Ritschard, Dalila Destanovic, Gozde Yalcin





(soon™ looking for postdocs)

I was thinking to talk along the lines of a historical-ish perspective on the (somewhat) early days of animal comparative genomics, the questions and early predictions (ancestral complexity of animal genomes, synteny retention etc), and their validation after the transition to the chromosomal-scale world.

This can be followed by new approaches and discussion if there are any new technical bottlenecks for comparative field beyond the current continuous haplotype-resolved chromosome-scale sequencing efforts (maybe along the lines of 3D genomics, single-cell/tissue resolved genomics etc).

I could end up by presenting some of the work we have been up to in the recent years and where we think it leads.

One potentially interesting and technical aspect is data exploration across different homologies in the genome (chromosome, genes, CNEs etc) for that we have been