

# Ancient DNA

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# Two parts

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1. Background and problems

2. Examples

# Part 1: What it is not about

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# What it is about: Genome sequencing

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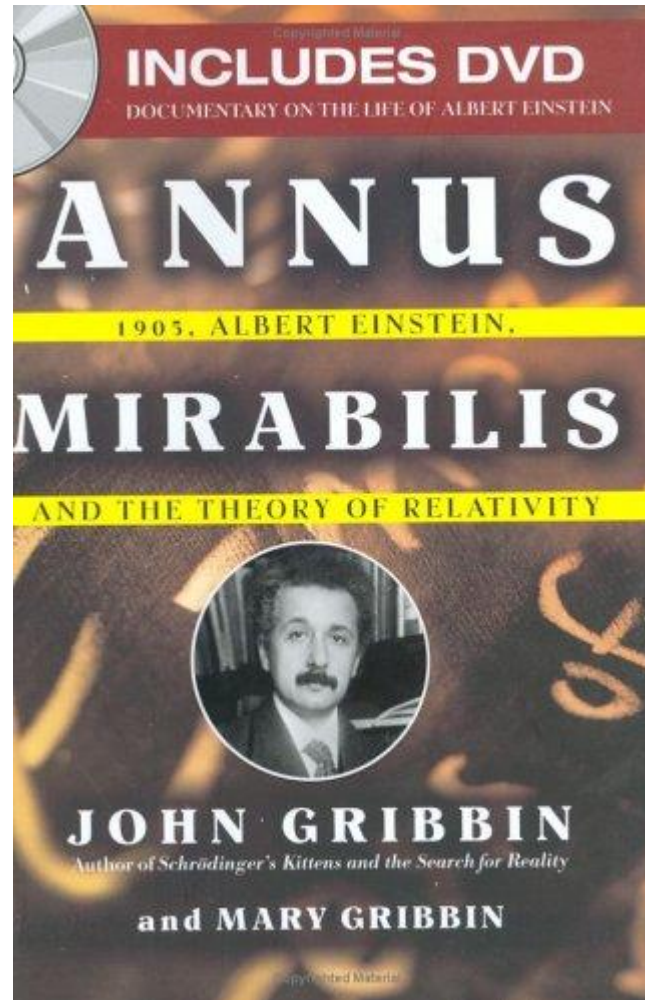
# Before 2005: small data sets, limited scope

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# Annus mirabilis 1905

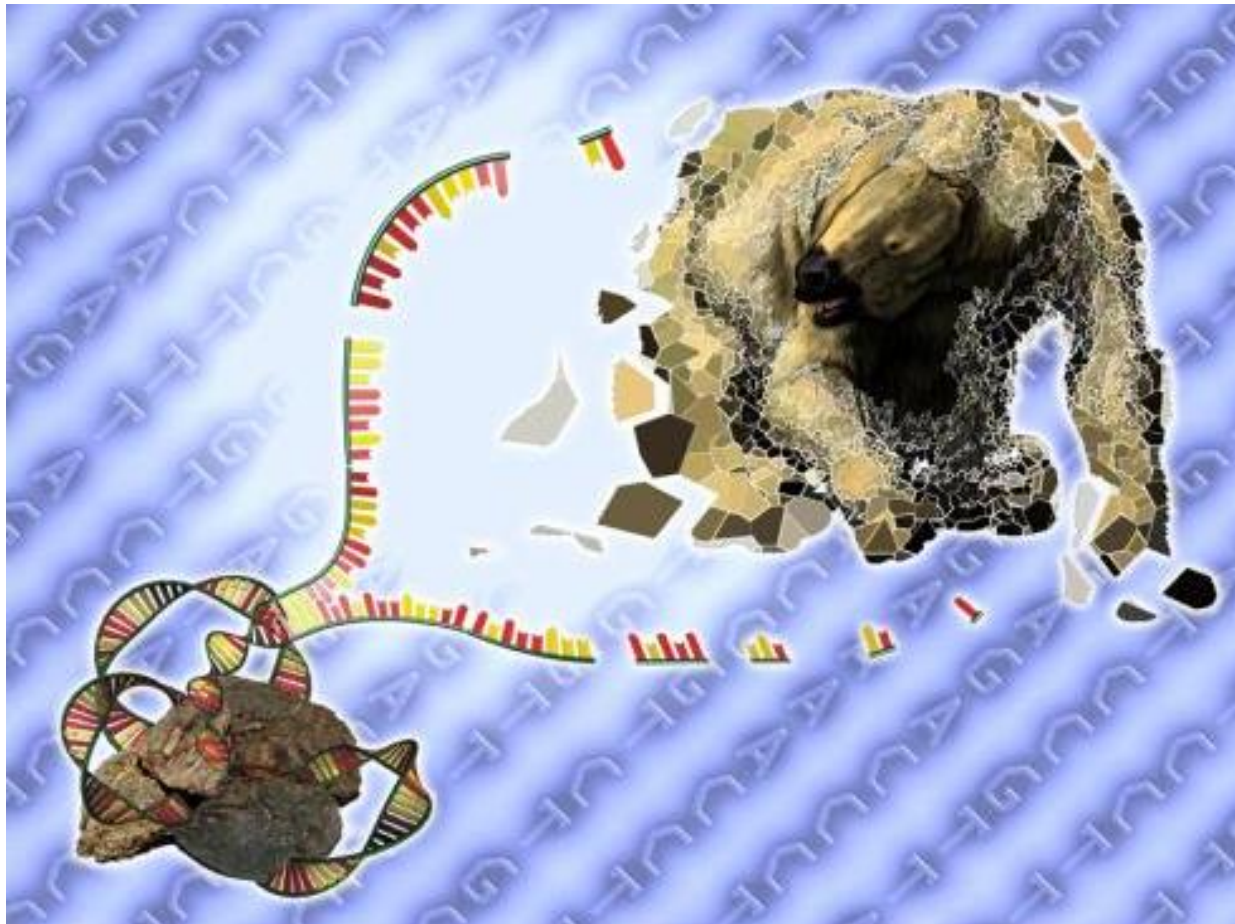
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# Annus mirabilis 2005: slightly less important

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Birth of paleogenomics



# Ancient DNA's annus mirabilis 2005

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2<sup>nd</sup> June 2005

## Genomic Sequencing of Pleistocene Cave Bears

**James P. Noonan,<sup>1,2</sup> Michael Hofreiter,<sup>3</sup> Doug Smith,<sup>1</sup>  
James R. Priest,<sup>2</sup> Nadin Rohland,<sup>3</sup> Gernot Rabeder,<sup>4</sup>  
Johannes Krause,<sup>3</sup> J. Chris Detter,<sup>1,5</sup> Svante Pääbo,<sup>3</sup>  
Edward M. Rubin<sup>1,2\*</sup>**

Despite the greater information content of genomic DNA, ancient DNA studies have largely been limited to the amplification of mitochondrial sequences. Here we describe metagenomic libraries constructed with unamplified DNA extracted from skeletal remains of two 40,000-year-old extinct cave bears. Analysis of ~1 megabase of sequence from each library showed that despite significant microbial contamination, 5.8 and 1.1% of clones contained cave bear inserts, yielding 26,861 base pairs of cave bear genome sequence. Comparison of cave bear and modern bear sequences revealed the evolutionary relationship of these lineages. The metagenomic approach used here establishes the feasibility of ancient DNA genome sequencing programs.



# Ancient DNA's annus mirabilis 2005

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21<sup>st</sup> July 2005



Opinion

*TRENDS in Ecology and Evolution* Vol.20 No.10 October 2005

Full text provided by [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



## Assessing ancient DNA studies

**M. Thomas P. Gilbert<sup>1</sup>, Hans-Jürgen Bandelt<sup>2</sup>, Michael Hofreiter<sup>3</sup> and Ian Barnes<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup>The Center for Genetic Anthropology, Department of Biology, Darwin Building, University College London, Gower Street, London, UK, WC1E 6BT

# Ancient DNA's annus mirabilis 2005

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31<sup>st</sup> July 2005

nature

Vol 437|15 September 2005|doi:10.1038/nature03959

## ARTICLES

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### Genome sequencing in microfabricated high-density picolitre reactors

Marcel Margulies<sup>1\*</sup>, Michael Egholm<sup>1\*</sup>, William E. Altman<sup>1</sup>, Said Attiya<sup>1</sup>, Joel S. Bader<sup>1</sup>, Lisa A. Bemben<sup>1</sup>, Jan Berka<sup>1</sup>, Michael S. Braverman<sup>1</sup>, Yi-Ju Chen<sup>1</sup>, Zhoutao Chen<sup>1</sup>, Scott B. Dewell<sup>1</sup>, Lei Du<sup>1</sup>, Joseph M. Fierro<sup>1</sup>, Xavier V. Gomes<sup>1</sup>, Brian C. Godwin<sup>1</sup>, Wen He<sup>1</sup>, Scott Helgesen<sup>1</sup>, Chun He Ho<sup>1</sup>, Gerard P. Irzyk<sup>1</sup>, Szilveszter C. Jando<sup>1</sup>, Maria L. I. Alenquer<sup>1</sup>, Thomas P. Jarvie<sup>1</sup>, Kshama B. Jirage<sup>1</sup>, Jong-Bum Kim<sup>1</sup>, James R. Knight<sup>1</sup>, Janna R. Lanza<sup>1</sup>, John H. Leamon<sup>1</sup>, Steven M. Lefkowitz<sup>1</sup>, Ming Lei<sup>1</sup>, Jing Li<sup>1</sup>, Kenton L. Lohman<sup>1</sup>, Hong Lu<sup>1</sup>, Vinod B. Makhijani<sup>1</sup>, Keith E. McDade<sup>1</sup>, Michael P. McKenna<sup>1</sup>, Eugene W. Myers<sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth Nickerson<sup>1</sup>, John R. Nobile<sup>1</sup>, Ramona Plant<sup>1</sup>, Bernard P. Puc<sup>1</sup>, Michael T. Ronan<sup>1</sup>, George T. Roth<sup>1</sup>, Gary J. Sarkis<sup>1</sup>, Jan Fredrik Simons<sup>1</sup>, John W. Simpson<sup>1</sup>, Maithreyan Srinivasan<sup>1</sup>, Karrie R. Tartaro<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Tomasz<sup>3</sup>, Kari A. Vogt<sup>1</sup>, Greg A. Volkmer<sup>1</sup>, Shally H. Wang<sup>1</sup>, Yong Wang<sup>1</sup>, Michael P. Weiner<sup>4</sup>, Pengguang Yu<sup>1</sup>, Richard F. Begley<sup>1</sup> & Jonathan M. Rothberg<sup>1</sup>

The proliferation of large-scale DNA-sequencing projects in recent years has driven a search for alternative methods to reduce time and cost. Here we describe a scalable, highly parallel sequencing system with raw throughput significantly greater than that of state-of-the-art capillary electrophoresis instruments. The apparatus uses a novel fibre-optic slide of individual wells and is able to sequence 25 million bases, at 99% or better accuracy, in one four-hour run. To achieve an approximately 100-fold increase in throughput over current Sanger sequencing technology, we have developed an emulsion method for DNA amplification and an instrument for sequencing by synthesis using a pyrosequencing protocol optimized for solid support and picolitre-scale volumes. Here we show the utility, throughput, accuracy and robustness of this system by shotgun sequencing and *de novo* assembly of the *Mycoplasma genitalium* genome with 96% coverage at 99.96% accuracy in one run of the machine.

# 454 Life Sciences: 20 Mb sequence data

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# Ancient DNA's annus mirabilis 2005

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11<sup>th</sup> November 2005

## Ancient DNA from the First European Farmers in 7500-Year-Old Neolithic Sites

**Wolfgang Haak,<sup>1\*</sup> Peter Forster,<sup>2</sup> Barbara Bramanti,<sup>1</sup>  
Shuichi Matsumura,<sup>2</sup> Guido Brandt,<sup>1</sup> Marc Tänzler,<sup>1</sup>  
Richard Villems,<sup>3</sup> Colin Renfrew,<sup>2</sup> Detlef Gronenborn,<sup>4</sup>  
Kurt Werner Alt,<sup>1</sup> Joachim Burger<sup>1</sup>**

The ancestry of modern Europeans is a subject of debate among geneticists, archaeologists, and anthropologists. A crucial question is the extent to which Europeans are descended from the first European farmers in the Neolithic Age 7500 years ago or from Paleolithic hunter-gatherers who were present in Europe since 40,000 years ago. Here we present an analysis of ancient DNA from early European farmers. We successfully extracted and sequenced intact stretches of maternally inherited mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) from 24 out of 57 Neolithic skeletons from various locations in Germany, Austria, and Hungary. We found that 25% of the Neolithic farmers had one characteristic mtDNA type and that this type formerly was widespread among Neolithic farmers in Central Europe. Europeans today have a 150-times lower frequency (0.2%) of this mtDNA type, revealing that these first Neolithic farmers did not have a strong genetic influence on modern European female lineages. Our finding lends weight to a proposed Paleolithic ancestry for modern Europeans.

# Ancient DNA's annus mirabilis 2005

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18<sup>th</sup> December 2005



# Ancient DNA's annus mirabilis 2005

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20<sup>th</sup> December 2005

REPORTS

## Metagenomics to Paleogenomics: Large-Scale Sequencing of Mammoth DNA

Hendrik N. Poinar,<sup>1,2,3\*</sup> Carsten Schwarz,<sup>1,2</sup> Ji Qi,<sup>4</sup> Beth Shapiro,<sup>5</sup> Ross D. E. MacPhee,<sup>6</sup> Bernard Buigues,<sup>7</sup> Alexei Tikhonov,<sup>8</sup> Daniel H. Huson,<sup>9</sup> Lynn P. Tomsho,<sup>4</sup> Alexander Auch,<sup>9</sup> Markus Rampp,<sup>10</sup> Webb Miller,<sup>4</sup> Stephan C. Schuster<sup>4\*</sup>

We sequenced 28 million base pairs of DNA in a metagenomics approach, using a woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) sample from Siberia. As a result of exceptional sample preservation and the use of a recently developed emulsion polymerase chain reaction and pyrosequencing technique, 13 million base pairs (45.4%) of the sequencing reads were identified as mammoth DNA. Sequence identity between our data and African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) was 98.55%, consistent with a paleontologically based divergence date of 5 to 6 million years. The sample includes a surprisingly small diversity of environmental DNAs. The high percentage of endogenous DNA recoverable from this single mammoth would allow for completion of its genome, unleashing the field of paleogenomics.

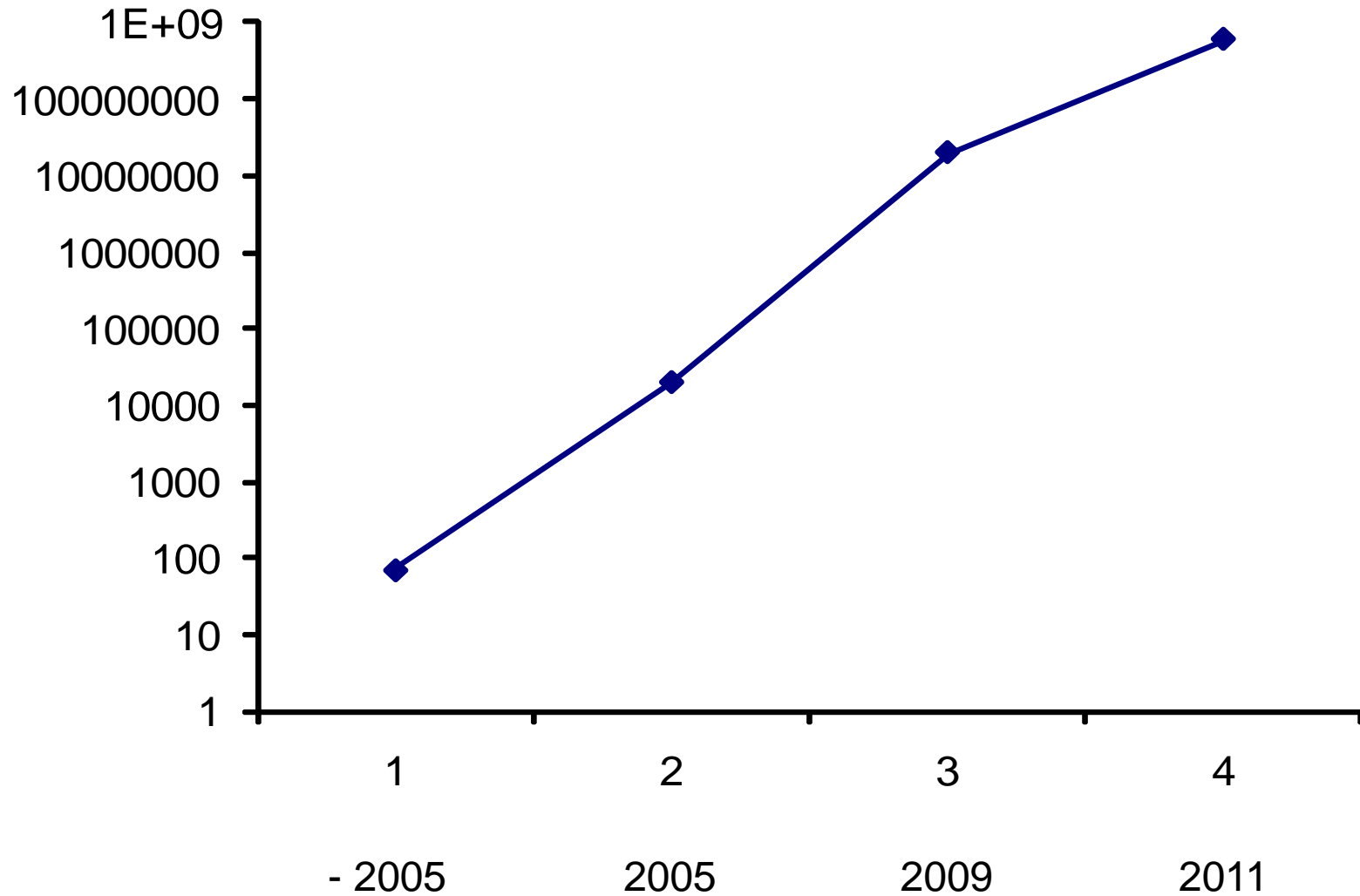
# From 454 to Illumina sequencing

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# Sequencing yield per machine run in kilobases

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# Sequencing yield per machine run in kilobases

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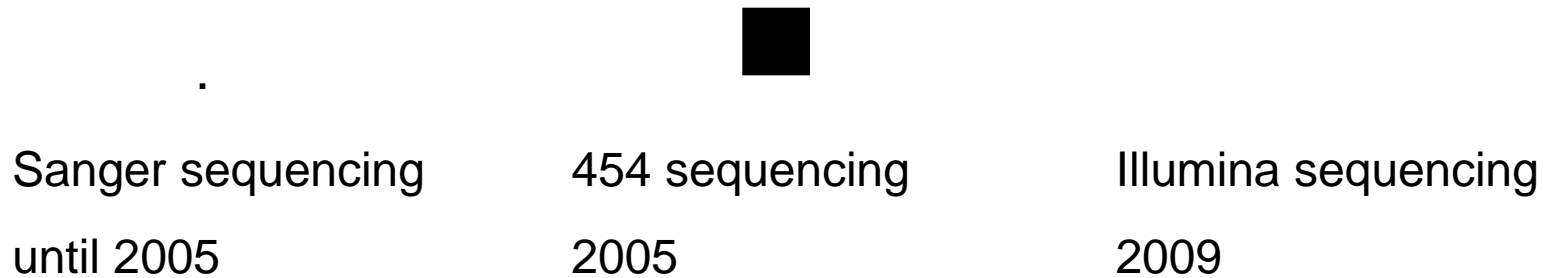
Sanger sequencing  
until 2005

454 sequencing  
2005

Illumina sequencing  
2009

# Sequencing yield per machine run in kilobases

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# Paleogenomics: Neanderthals and human evolution

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But I won't talk about this

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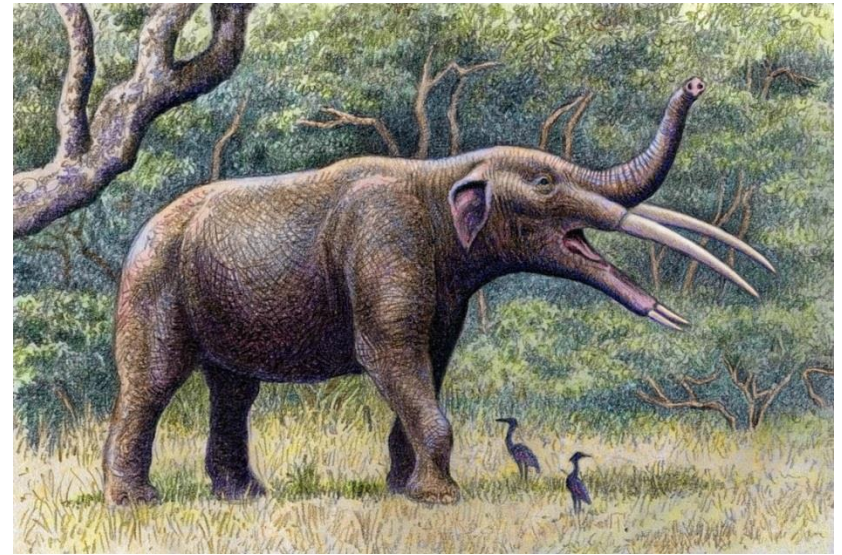
It's not my job

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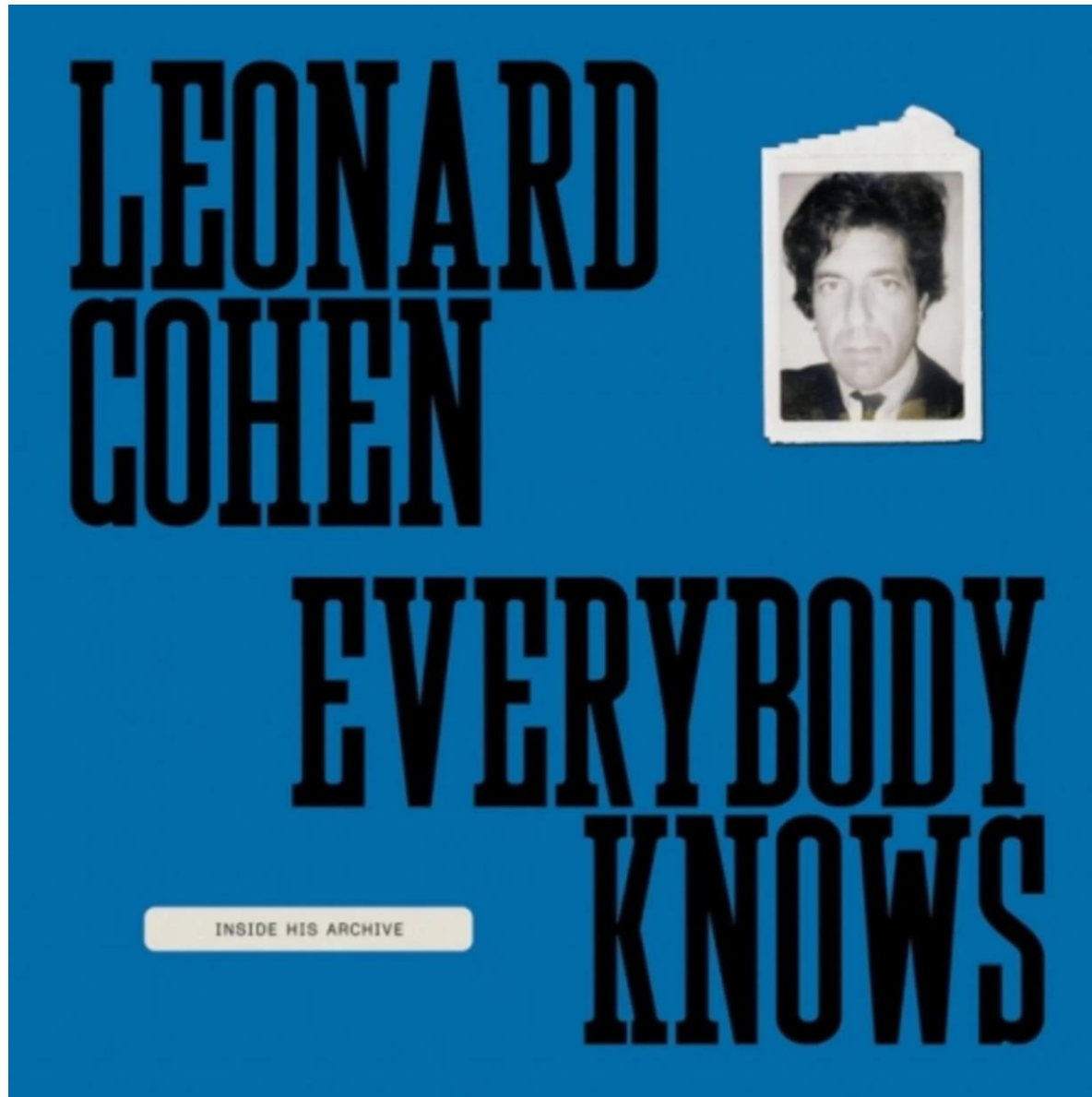
There are much more exciting species!

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And anyway

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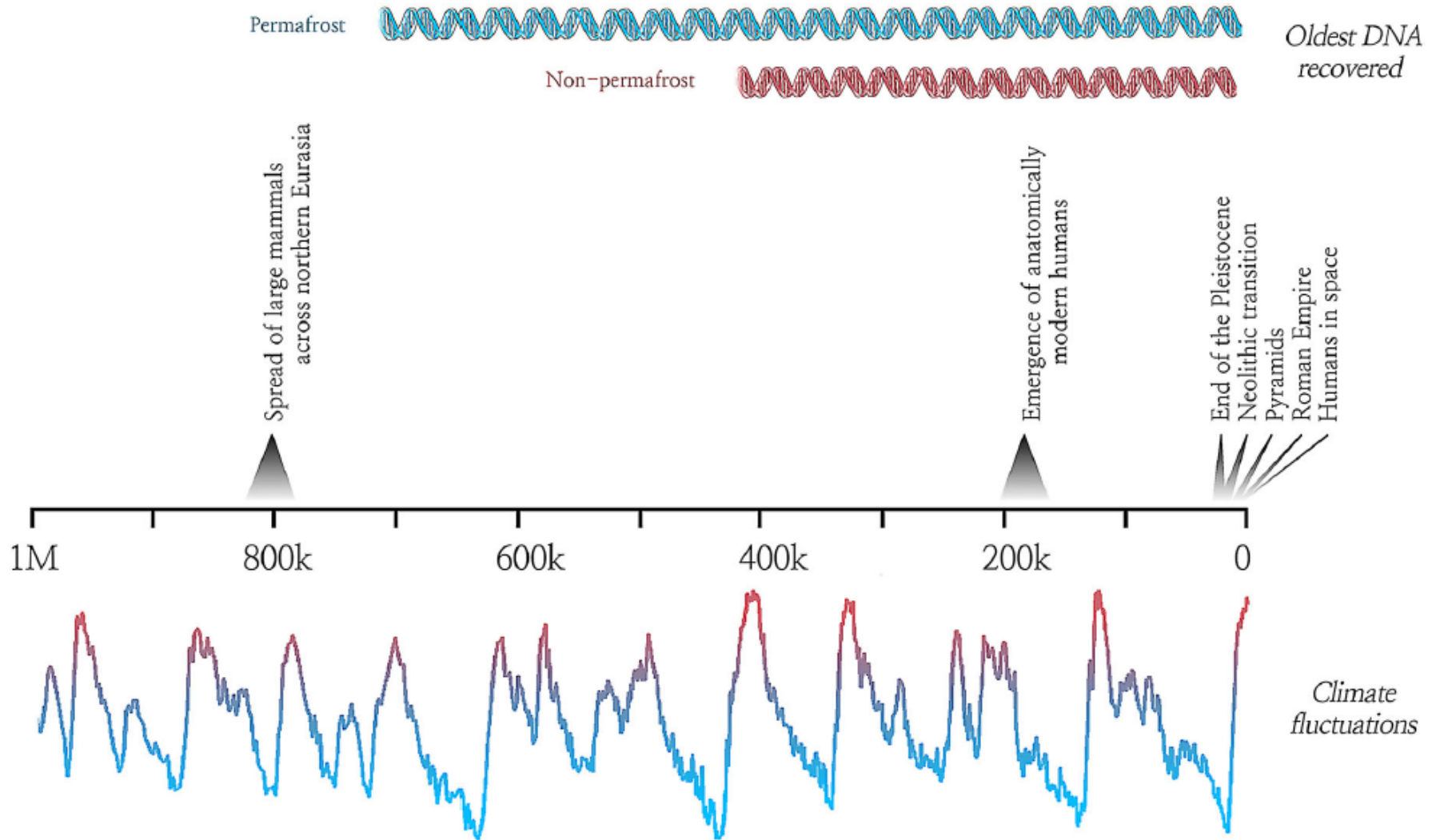


# So, what is ancient DNA?

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1. No clear definition or age limit.
2. Broadly speaking, DNA from samples that have not been stored with the explicit aim of preserving DNA.
3. Sometimes distinction between museum (< 200 years), historical (< 500 years) and “true” ancient DNA (> 500 years).

# And how old does it get??



## Article

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# Million-year-old DNA sheds light on the genomic history of mammoths

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<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03224-9>

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Accepted: 11 January 2021

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Published online: 17 February 2021

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 Check for updates

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Tom van der Valk<sup>1,2,3,17</sup>✉, Patricia Pečnerová<sup>2,4,5,17</sup>, David Díez-del-Molino<sup>1,2,4,17</sup>, Anders Bergström<sup>6</sup>, Jonas Oppenheimer<sup>7</sup>, Stefanie Hartmann<sup>8</sup>, Georgios Xenikoudakis<sup>8</sup>, Jessica A. Thomas<sup>8</sup>, Marianne Dehasque<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Ekin Saǧlıcan<sup>9</sup>, Fatma Rabia Fidan<sup>9</sup>, Ian Barnes<sup>10</sup>, Shanlin Liu<sup>11</sup>, Mehmet Somel<sup>9</sup>, Peter D. Heintzman<sup>12</sup>, Pavel Nikolskiy<sup>13</sup>, Beth Shapiro<sup>14,15</sup>, Pontus Skoglund<sup>6</sup>, Michael Hofreiter<sup>8</sup>, Adrian M. Lister<sup>10</sup>, Anders Götherström<sup>1,16,18</sup> & Love Dalén<sup>1,2,4,18</sup>✉

Article

# A 2-million-year-old ecosystem in Greenland uncovered by environmental DNA

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-05453-y>

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Check for updates

Kurt H. Kjær<sup>1,27</sup>✉, Mikkel Winther Pedersen<sup>1,27</sup>, Bianca De Sanctis<sup>2,3</sup>, Binia De Cahsan<sup>4</sup>, Thorfinn S. Korneliussen<sup>1</sup>, Christian S. Michelsen<sup>1,5</sup>, Karina K. Sand<sup>1</sup>, Stanislav Jelavić<sup>1,6</sup>, Anthony H. Ruter<sup>1</sup>, Astrid M. A. Schmidt<sup>7,8</sup>, Kristian K. Kjeldsen<sup>9</sup>, Alexey S. Tesakov<sup>10</sup>, Ian Snowball<sup>11</sup>, John C. Gosse<sup>12</sup>, Inger G. Alsos<sup>13</sup>, Yucheng Wang<sup>1,2</sup>, Christoph Dockter<sup>14</sup>, Magnus Rasmussen<sup>14</sup>, Morten E. Jørgensen<sup>14</sup>, Birgitte Skadhauge<sup>14</sup>, Ana Prohaska<sup>1,2</sup>, Jeppe Å. Kristensen<sup>15,16</sup>, Morten Bjerager<sup>17</sup>, Morten E. Allentoft<sup>1,18</sup>, Eric Coissac<sup>13,19</sup>, PhyloNorway Consortium<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>, Alexandra Rouillard<sup>1,21</sup>, Alexandra Simakova<sup>10</sup>, Antonio Fernandez-Guerra<sup>1</sup>, Chris Bowler<sup>20</sup>, Marc Macias-Fauria<sup>22</sup>, Lasse Vinner<sup>1</sup>, John J. Welch<sup>3</sup>, Alan J. Hidy<sup>23</sup>, Martin Sikora<sup>1</sup>, Matthew J. Collins<sup>24,25</sup>, Richard Durbin<sup>3</sup>, Nicolaj K. Larsen<sup>1</sup> & Eske Willerslev<sup>1,2,26</sup>✉

Late Pliocene and Early Pleistocene epochs 3.6 to 0.8 million years ago<sup>1</sup> had climates resembling those forecasted under future warming<sup>2</sup>. Palaeoclimatic records show strong polar amplification with mean annual temperatures of 11–19 °C above contemporary values<sup>3,4</sup>. The biological communities inhabiting the Arctic during this time remain poorly known because fossils are rare<sup>5</sup>. Here we report an ancient environmental DNA<sup>6</sup> (eDNA) record describing the rich plant and animal assemblages of the Kap København Formation in North Greenland, dated to around two million years ago. The record shows an open boreal forest ecosystem with mixed vegetation

# What characterizes ancient DNA?

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1. Generally small amounts of DNA – kind of
2. Contamination – sometimes
3. Short fragments – largely true
4. Miscoding lesions – generally true

# Properties of DNA

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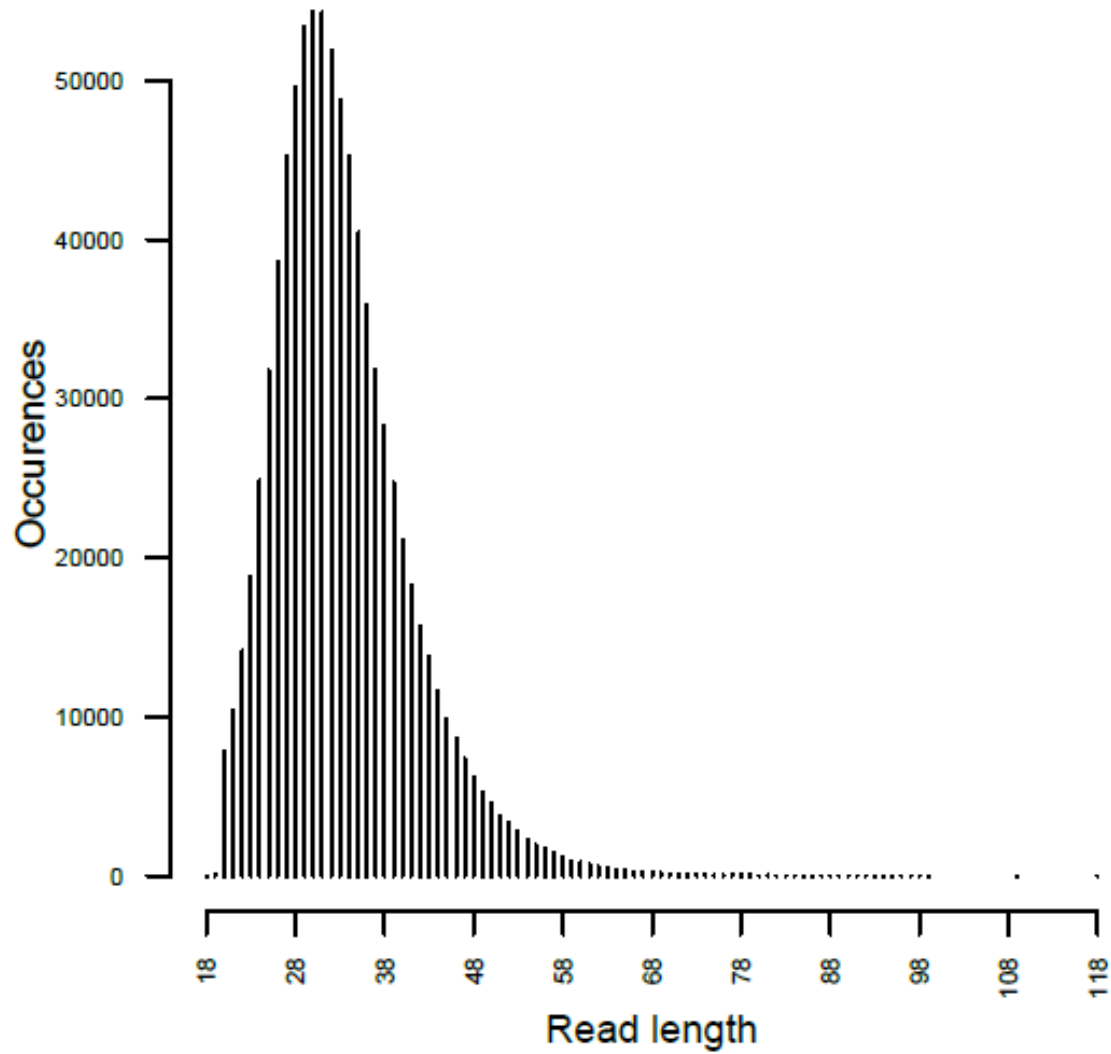
# Properties of ancient DNA

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# Thus, ancient DNA is short

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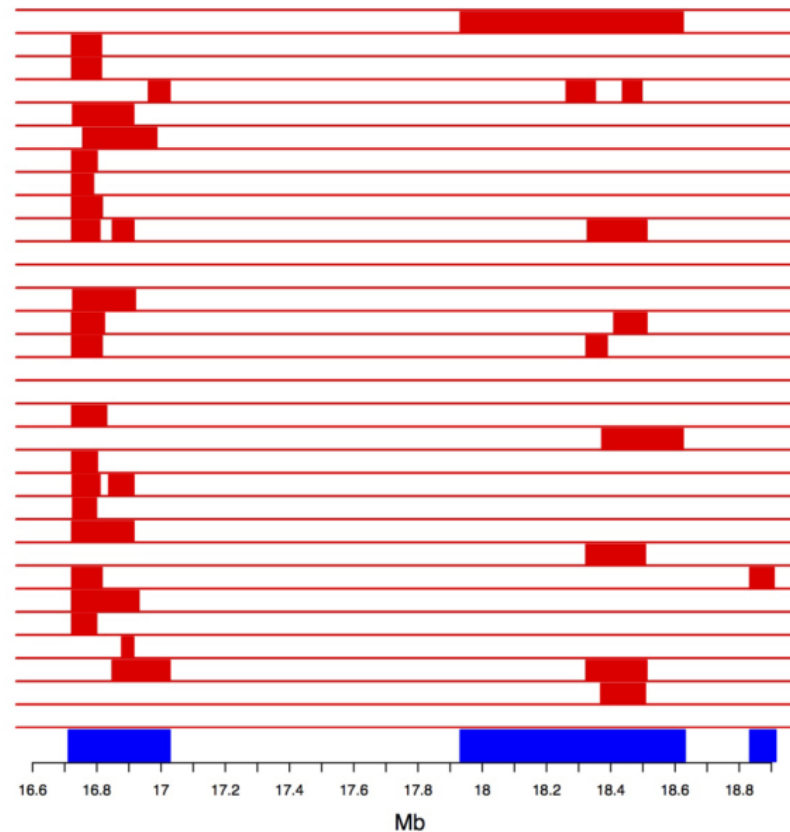
# Unless it's found in modern species

## LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature12961

### The genomic landscape of Neanderthal ancestry in present-day humans

Sriram Sankararaman<sup>1,2</sup>, Swapan Mallick<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael Dannemann<sup>3</sup>, Kay Prüfer<sup>3</sup>, Janet Kelso<sup>3</sup>, Svante Pääbo<sup>3</sup>, Nick Patterson<sup>1,2</sup> & David Reich<sup>1,2,4</sup>



# 1. Present in low amounts?

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material was digested (2 h at 50 °C), the fine powder only yielded **trace amounts** of DNA. In contrast, the coarse powder

Even in a well-preserved sample, aDNA is generally only present in **small amounts**, and the number of samples available for destructive sampling is often limited. Therefore

Rohland & Hofreiter 2007a

Hofreiter et al 2013

of ancient DNA. It accounts for the fact that ancient DNA is usually **highly fragmented and present only in trace amounts**.

Gansauge & Meyer 2013

DNA sequences to be determined (3). Third, because ancient DNA is **present in low amounts** or absent in many specimens,

Briggs et al. 2007

**General considerations about handling** The samples used for extraction will usually contain only **trace amounts** of DNA. To avoid cross-contamination

Stiller et al. 2009

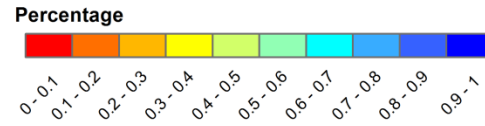
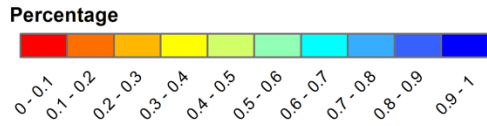
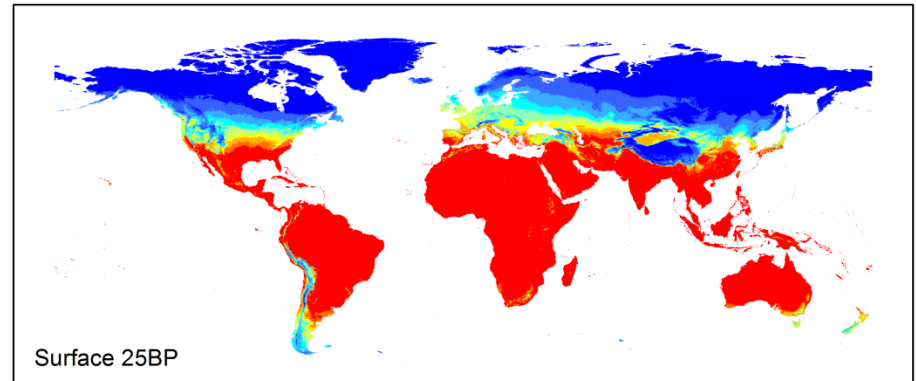
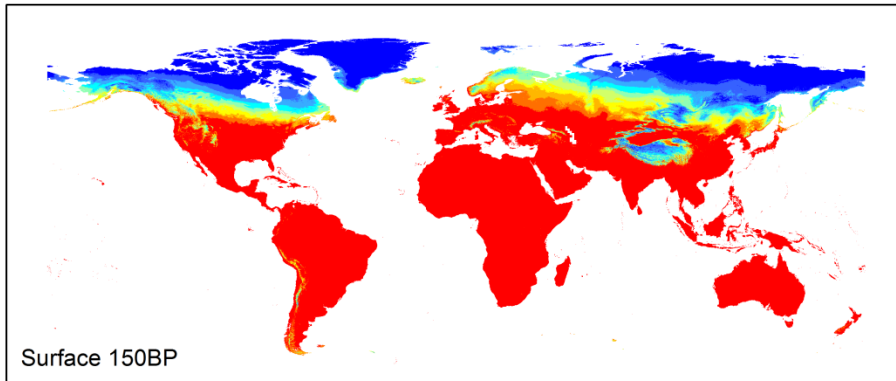
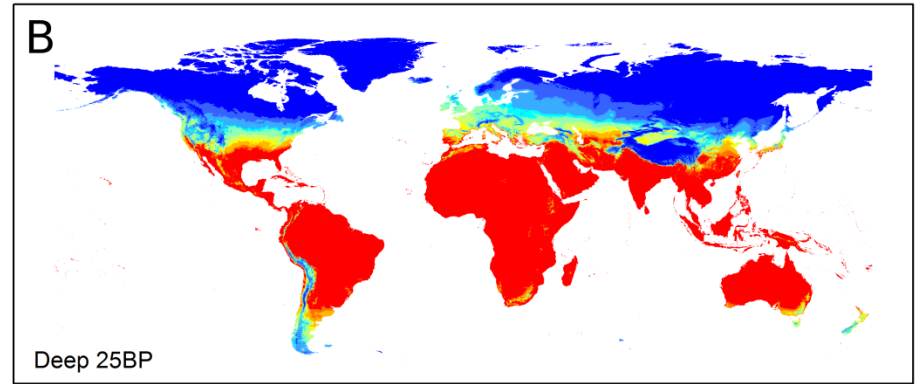
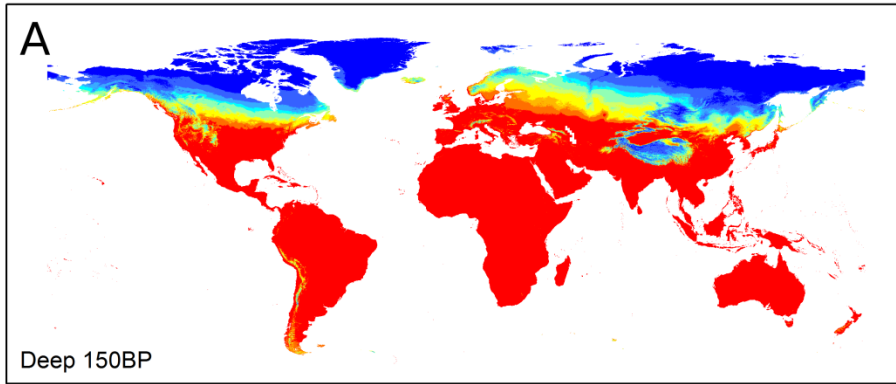
to observe evolution in “real time.” However, the DNA isolated from such material, commonly referred to as “ancient DNA,” is typically present in **low amounts**, heavily fragmented, chemically

Rohland & Hofreiter 2007b

Despite these advances, sequencing ancient human DNA continues to be challenging for several reasons. First, only **trace amounts** of highly fragmented DNA are usually preserved in an-

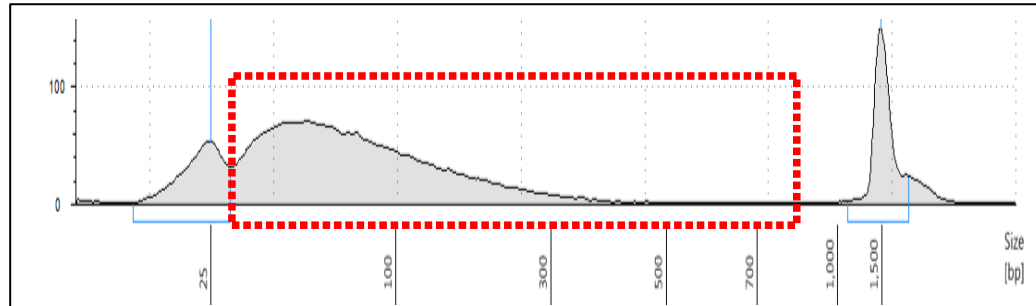
Gansauge & Meyer 2014

# Temperature and DNA preservation

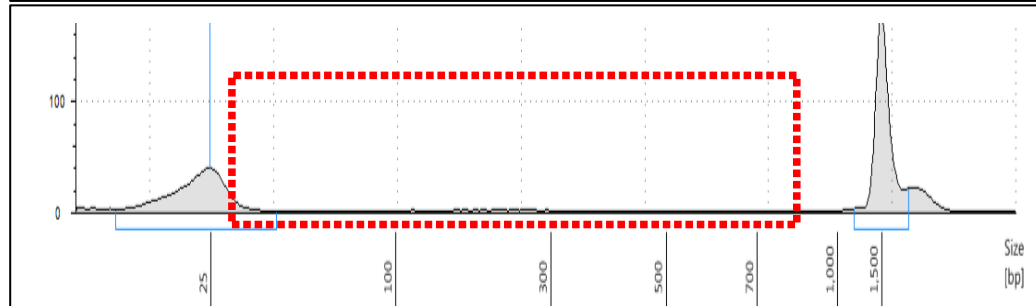


# Partially a problem of DNA extraction

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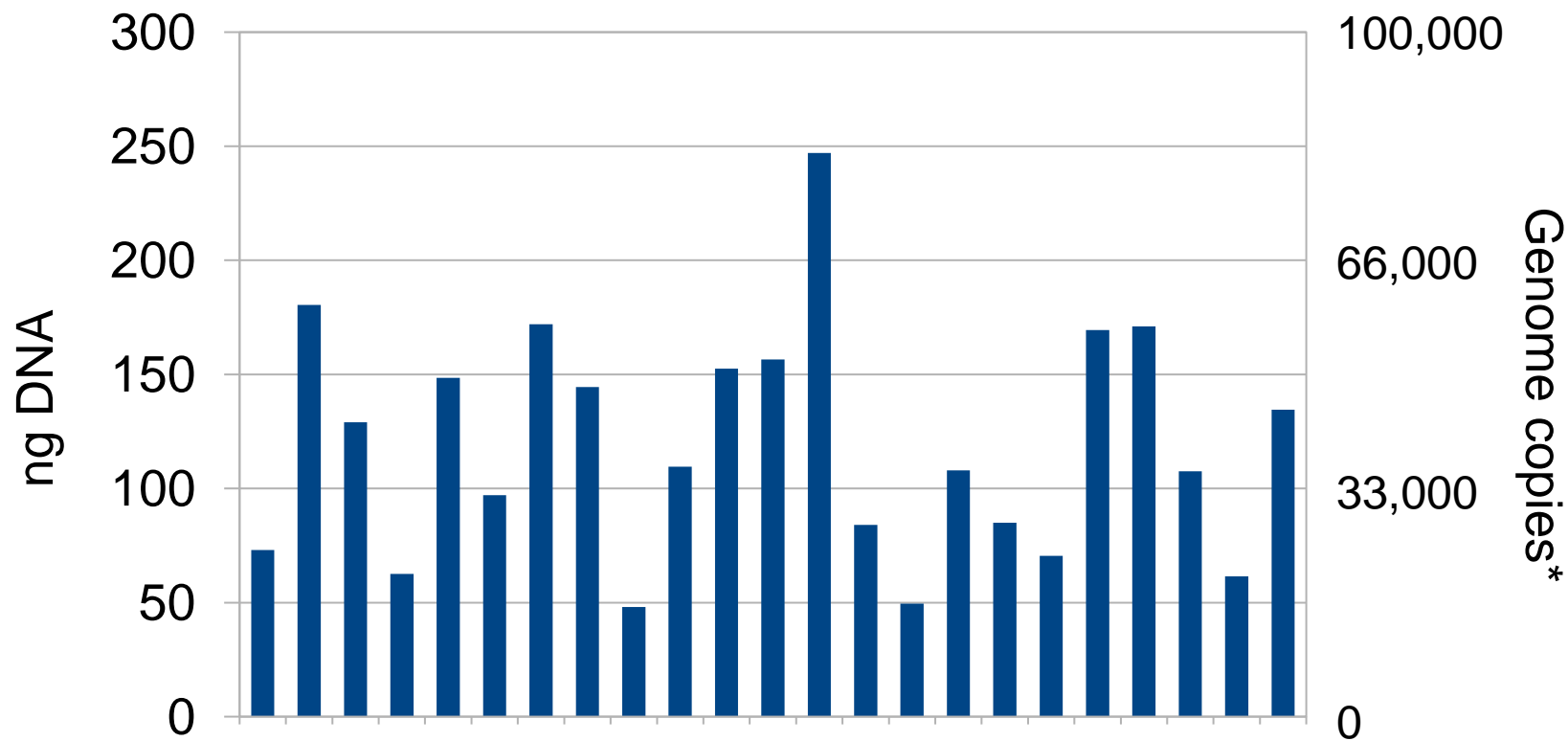
**Dabney et al. 2013: 132ng DNA**



**Rohland et al. 2010: 3.5ng DNA**

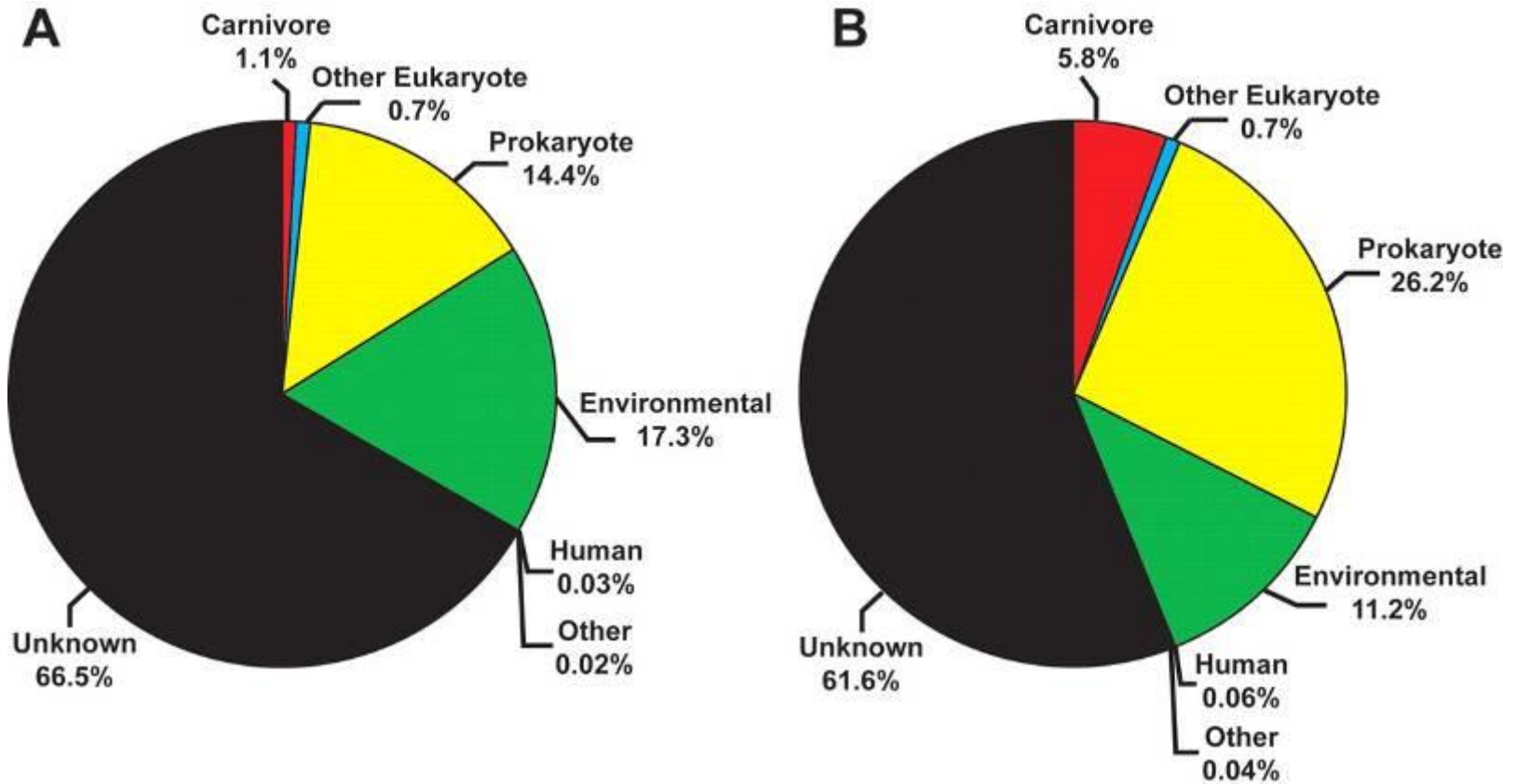
# DNA from 50 mg cave bear bone powder

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\* assuming 100% cave bear DNA

# But often little endogenous DNA



What  
Do I Do  
Now



# Solution 1: Get rich

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# Solution 2: Bleach your samples

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# Solution 3: Target your DNA

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# Solution 4: Luck

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

### A High-Coverage Genome Sequence from an Archaic Denisovan Individual

Matthias Meyer,<sup>1\*‡</sup> Martin Kircher,<sup>1\*†</sup> Marie-Theres Gansauge,<sup>1</sup> Heng Li,<sup>2</sup> Fernando Racimo,<sup>1</sup> Swapan Mallick,<sup>2,3</sup> Joshua G. Schraiber,<sup>4</sup> Flora Jay,<sup>4</sup> Kay Prüfer,<sup>1</sup> Cesare de Filippo,<sup>1</sup> Peter H. Sudmant,<sup>6</sup> Can Alkan,<sup>5,6</sup> Qiaomei Fu,<sup>1,7</sup> Ron Do,<sup>2</sup> Nadin Rohland,<sup>2,3</sup> Arti Tandon,<sup>2,3</sup> Michael Siebauer,<sup>1</sup> Richard E. Green,<sup>8</sup> Katarzyna Bryc,<sup>3</sup> Adrian W. Briggs,<sup>3</sup> Udo Stenzel,<sup>1</sup> Jesse Dabney,<sup>1</sup> Jay Shendure,<sup>6</sup> Jacob Kitzman,<sup>6</sup> Michael F. Hammer,<sup>9</sup> Michael V. Shunkov,<sup>10</sup> Anatoli P. Derevianko,<sup>10</sup> Nick Patterson,<sup>2</sup> Aida M. Andrés,<sup>1</sup> Evan E. Eichler,<sup>6,11</sup> Montgomery Slatkin,<sup>4</sup> David Reich,<sup>2,3‡</sup> Janet Kelso,<sup>1</sup> Svante Pääbo<sup>1‡</sup>



contamination. The fraction of hominin endogenous DNA is commonly smaller than 1% and rarely approaches 5% (1, 7), which makes shotgun sequencing of the entire genome economically and logistically impractical. The only known exception is the Denisovan phalanx, which contains ~70% endogenous DNA. However, an

## Solution 5:

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# Solution 5: choose wisely

## ARTICLE

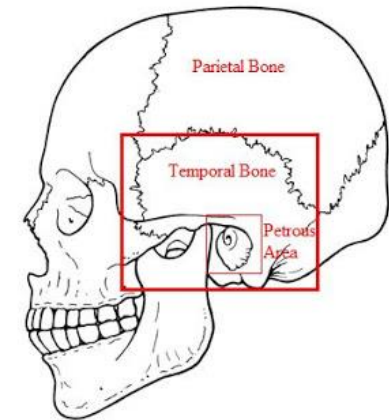
Received 4 Apr 2014 | Accepted 11 Sep 2014 | Published 21 Oct 2014

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms6257

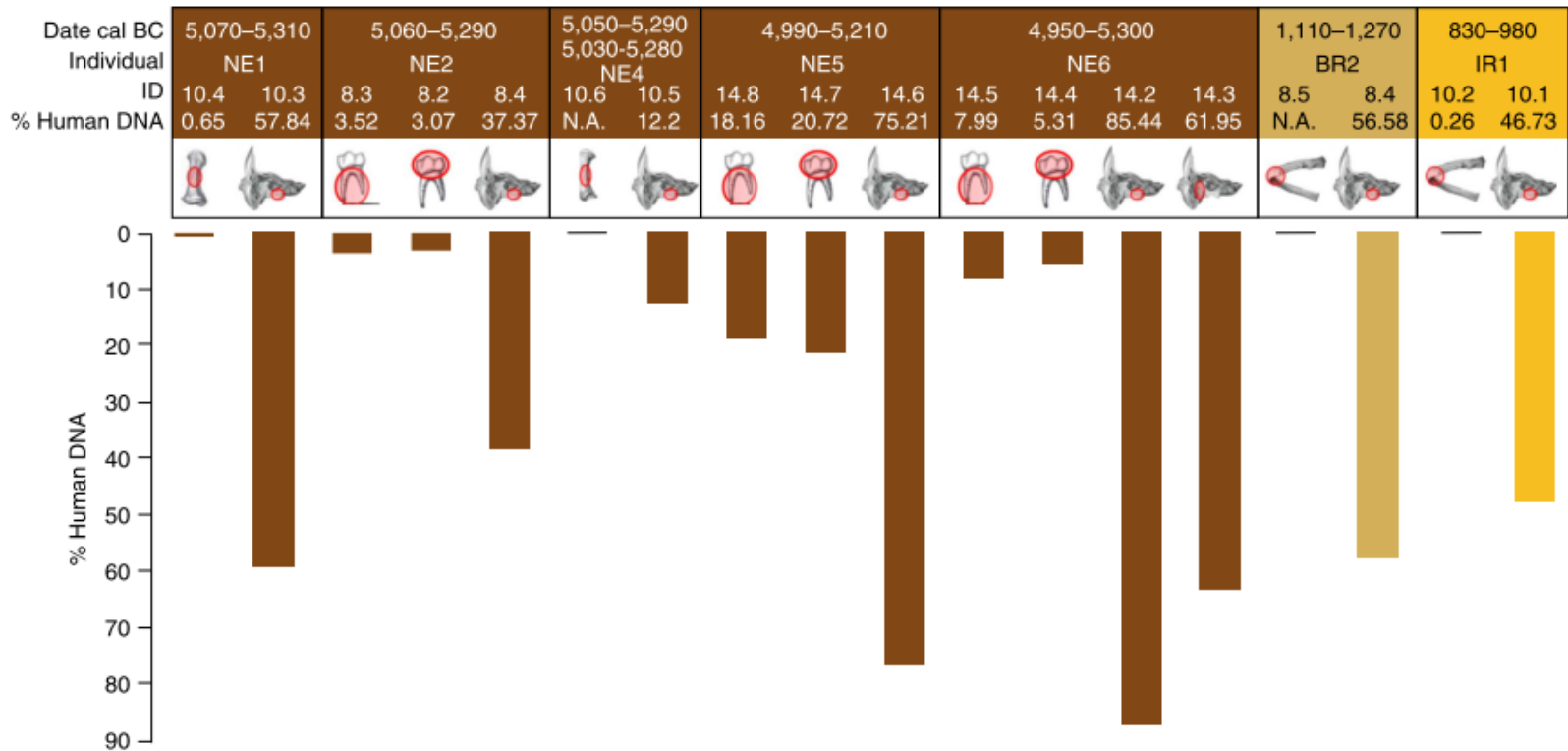
OPEN

## Genome flux and stasis in a five millennium transect of European prehistory

Cristina Gamba<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Eppie R. Jones<sup>3</sup>, Matthew D. Teasdale<sup>3</sup>, Russell L. McLaughlin<sup>3</sup>, Gloria Gonzalez-Fortes<sup>4</sup>, Valeria Mattiangeli<sup>3</sup>, László Domboróczki<sup>5</sup>, Ivett Kővári<sup>6</sup>, Ildikó Pap<sup>7</sup>, Alexandra Anders<sup>8</sup>, Alasdair Whittle<sup>9</sup>, János Dani<sup>10</sup>, Pál Raczky<sup>8</sup>, Thomas F.G. Higham<sup>11</sup>, Michael Hofreiter<sup>4</sup>, Daniel G. Bradley<sup>3,\*</sup> & Ron Pinhasi<sup>1,2,3,12,\*</sup>

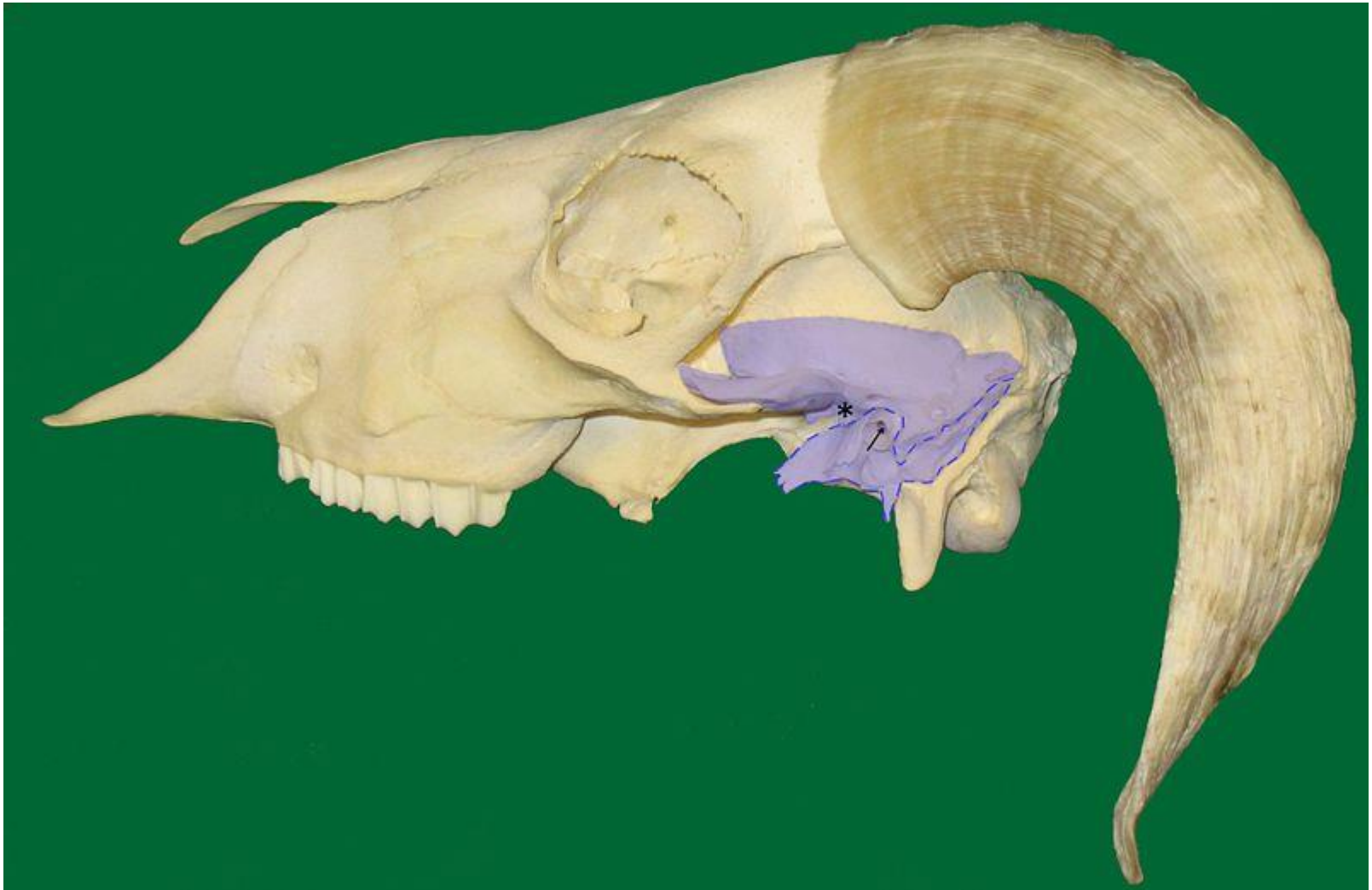


# Choose the right bones



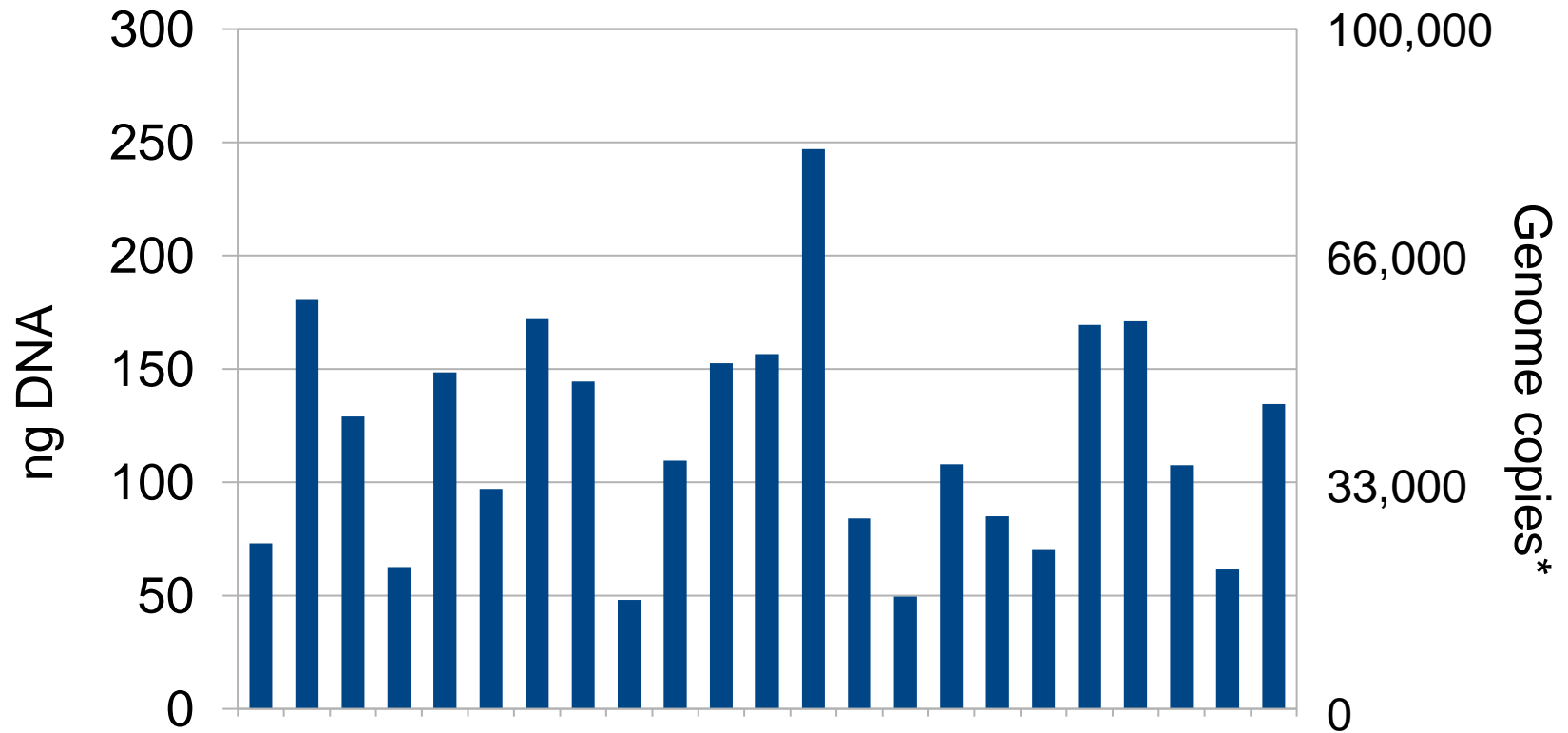
# The petrous bone

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# DNA from 50 mg cave bear **petrous** bone powder

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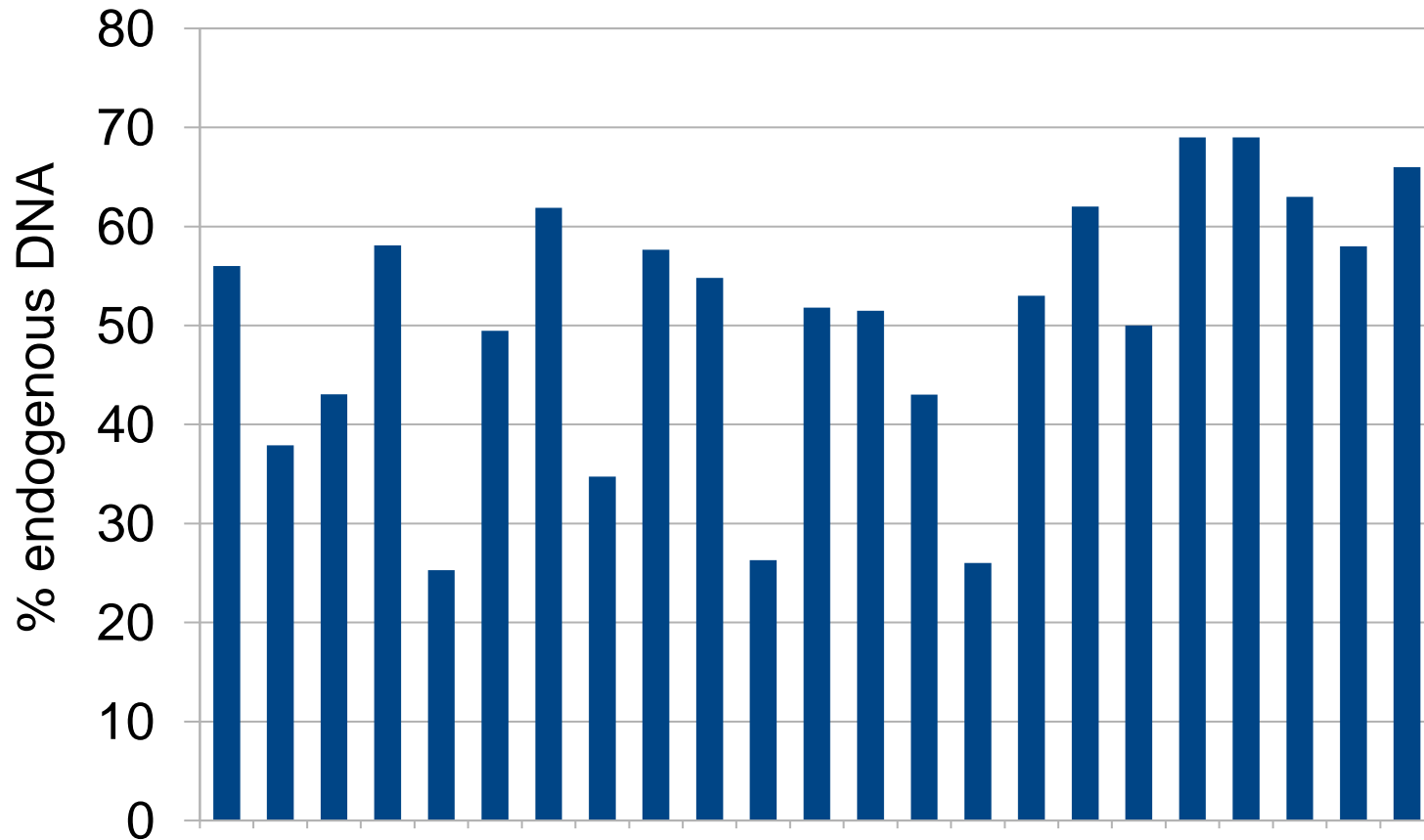


\* assuming 100% cave bear DNA



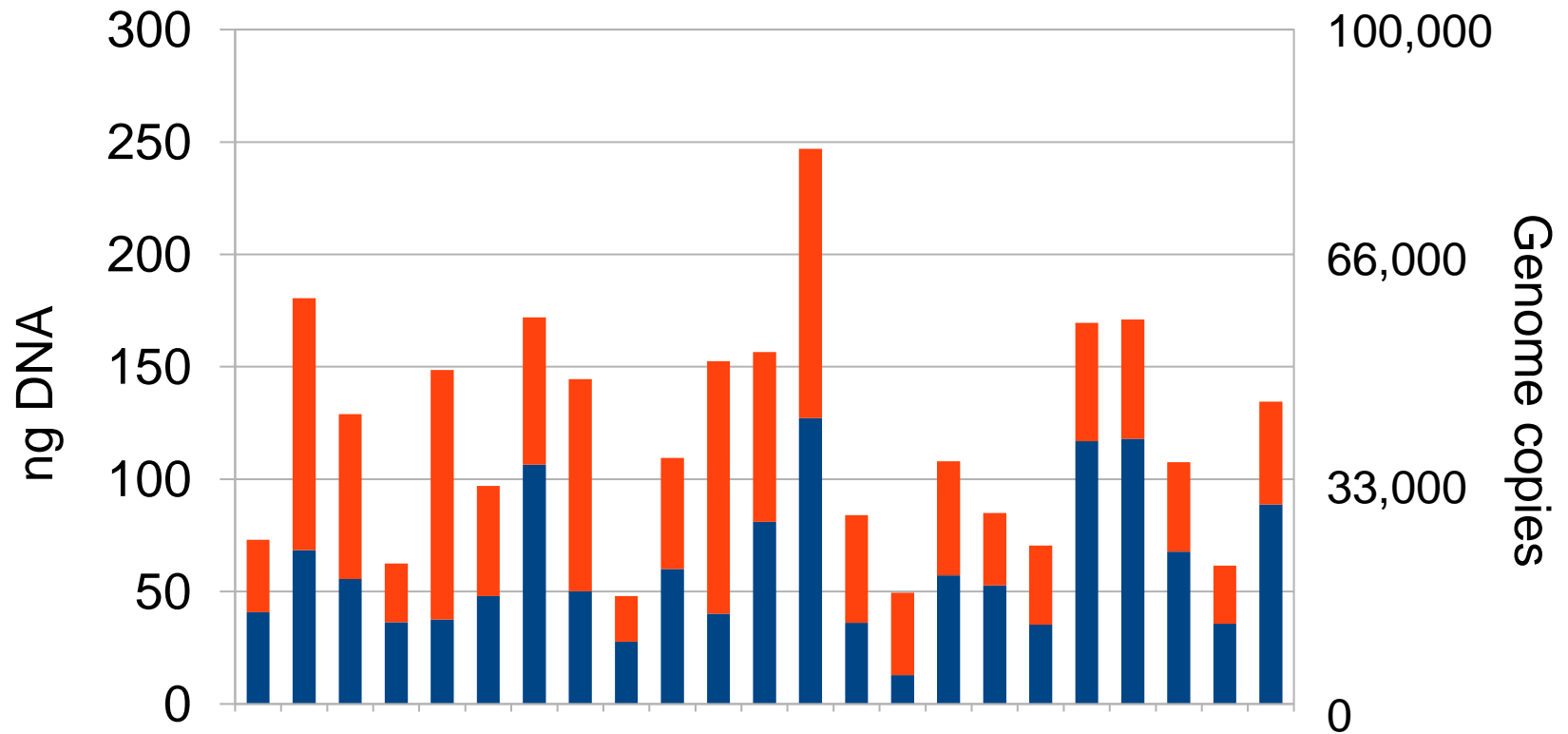
# Endogenous content

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# Real genome copies from 50 mg bone powder

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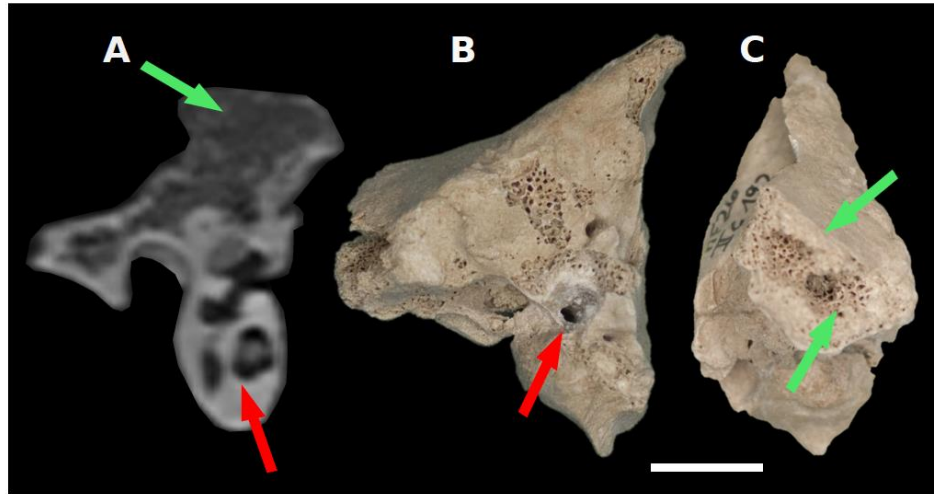
# Low amounts of DNA?

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Often correct.....

But you can obtain large amounts of DNA from some ancient samples.


# Improve your choice



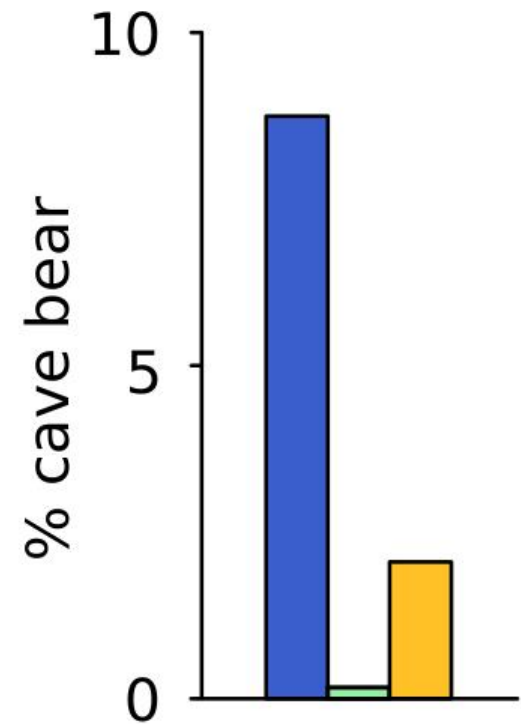
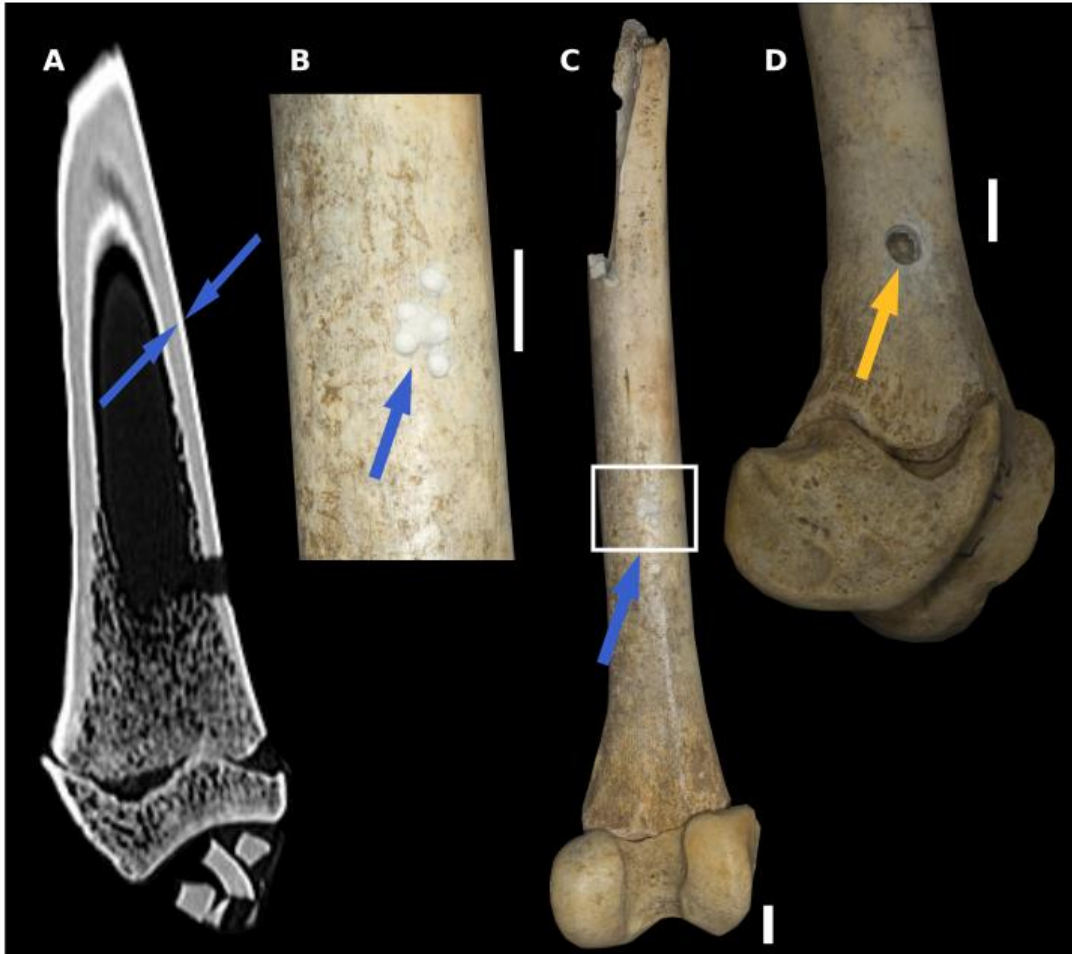
FROM THE COVER

WILEY **MOLECULAR ECOLOGY  
RESOURCES**

## Optimized DNA sampling of ancient bones using Computed Tomography scans

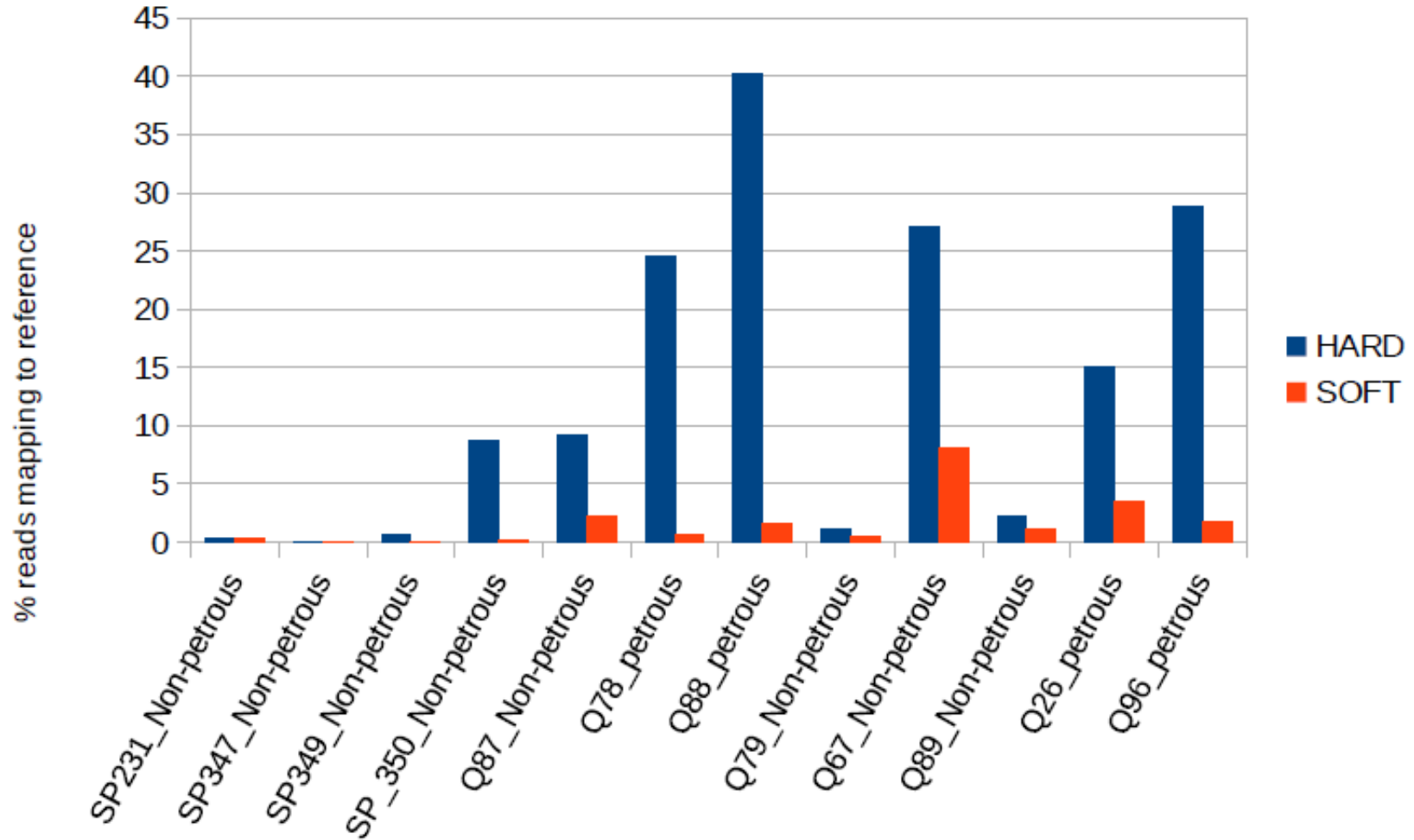
Federica Alberti<sup>1</sup>  | Javier Gonzalez<sup>1</sup> | Johanna L. A. Paijmans<sup>1</sup> | Nikolas Basler<sup>1</sup> |  
Michaela Preick<sup>1</sup> | Kirstin Henneberger<sup>1</sup> | Alexandra Trinks<sup>1,2</sup> | Gernot Rabeder<sup>3</sup> |  
Nicholas J. Conard<sup>4</sup> | Susanne C. Münzel<sup>4</sup> | Ulrich Joger<sup>5</sup> | Guido Fritsch<sup>6</sup> |  
Thomas Hildebrandt<sup>6</sup> | Michael Hofreiter<sup>1</sup> | Axel Barlow<sup>1</sup>

# Works also with other bones



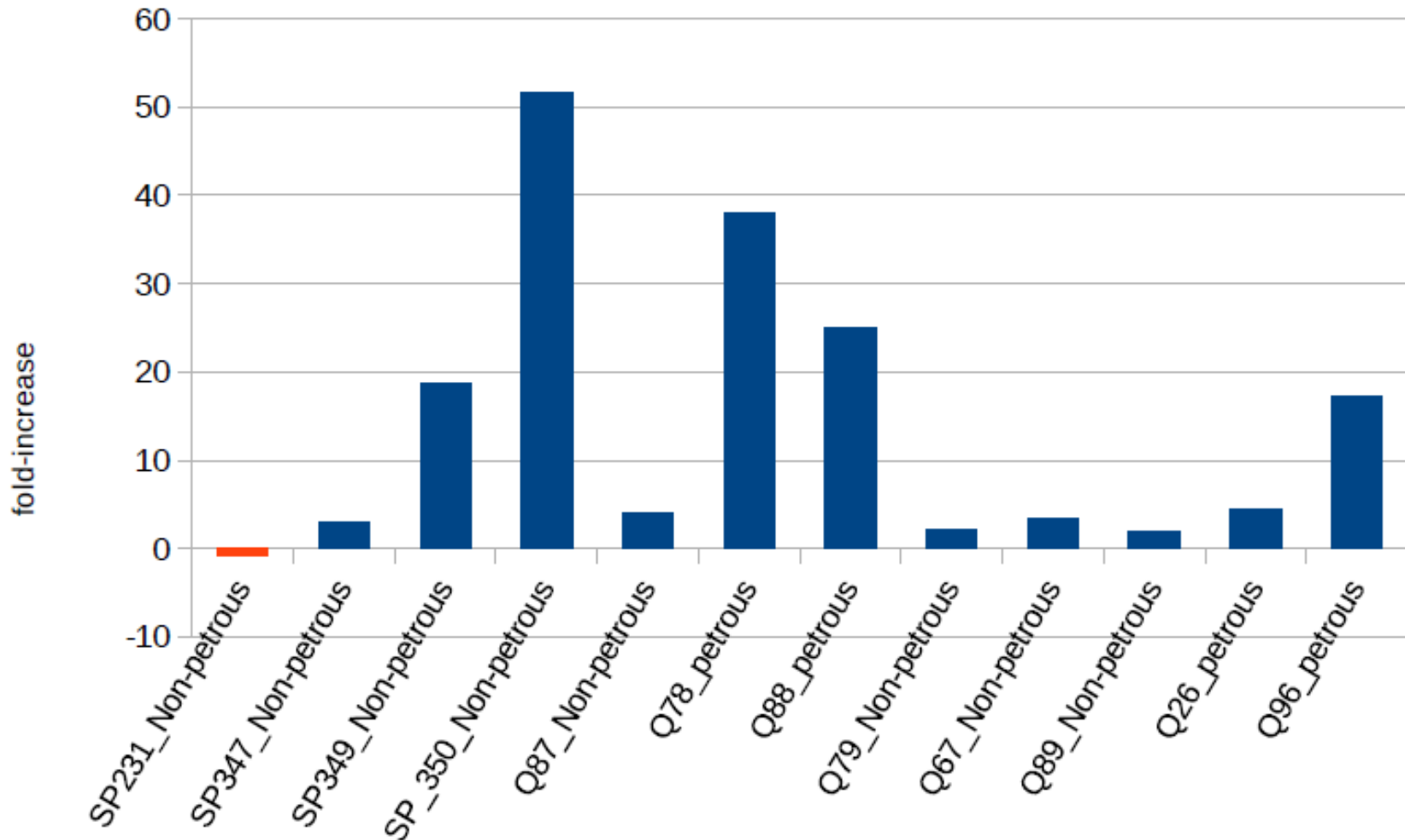
# So, if you do not have a petrous – use a CT-scan

Endogenous contents for hard and soft parts of 12 cave bear bones



# Relative increase in endogenous DNA

Fold increases in endogenous content for hard part relative to soft  
(note first sample gave a reduction)



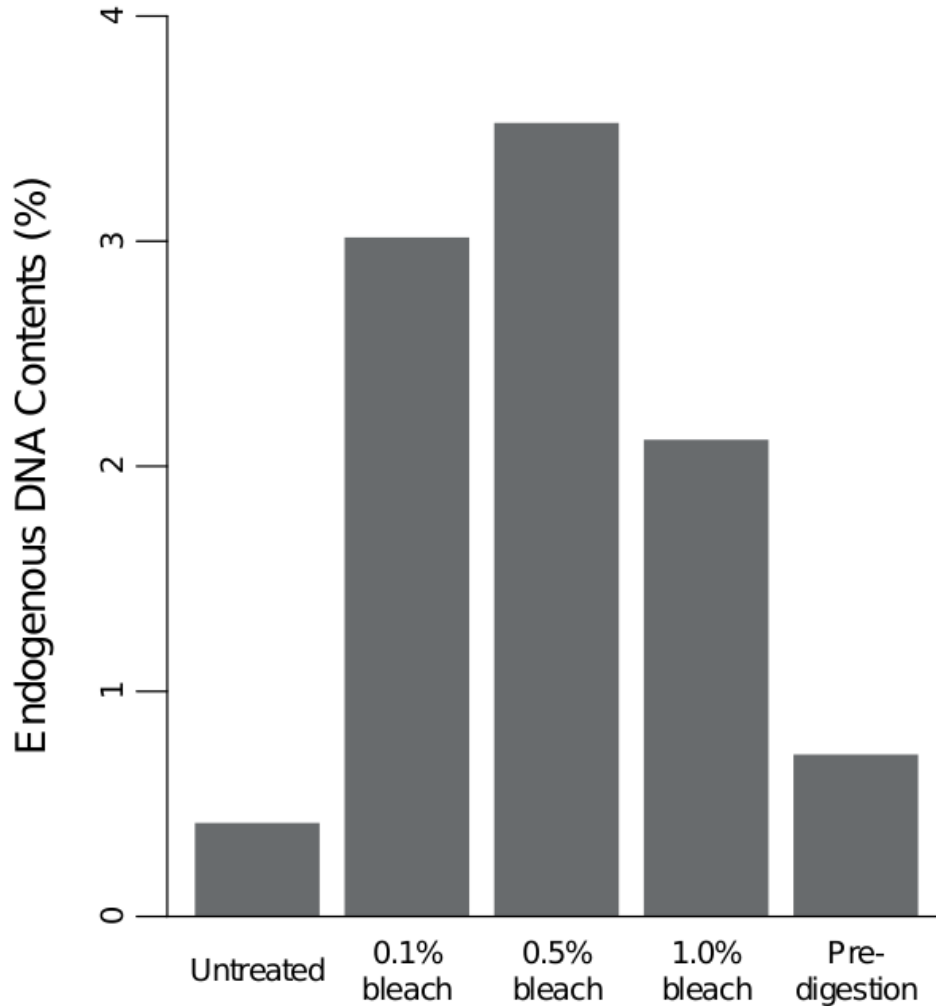
# Solution 2: Bleach your samples

---





# At least it helps to some extent



Basler et al. *BMC Res Notes* (2017) 10:754  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-017-3061-3>

BMC Research Notes

RESEARCH NOTE

Open Access

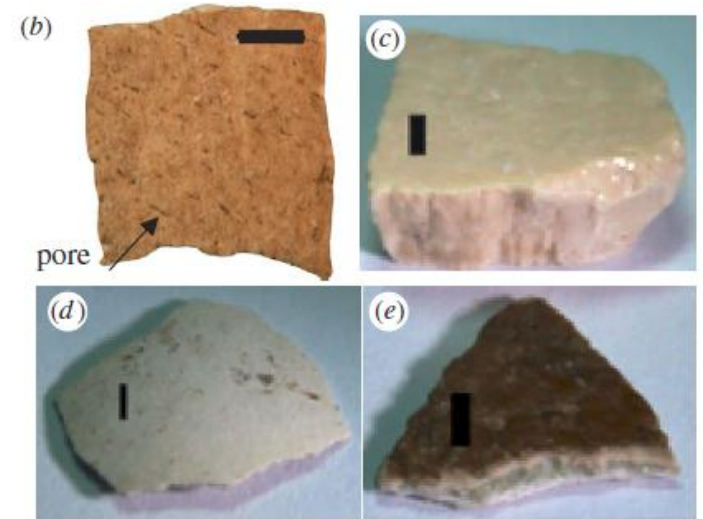


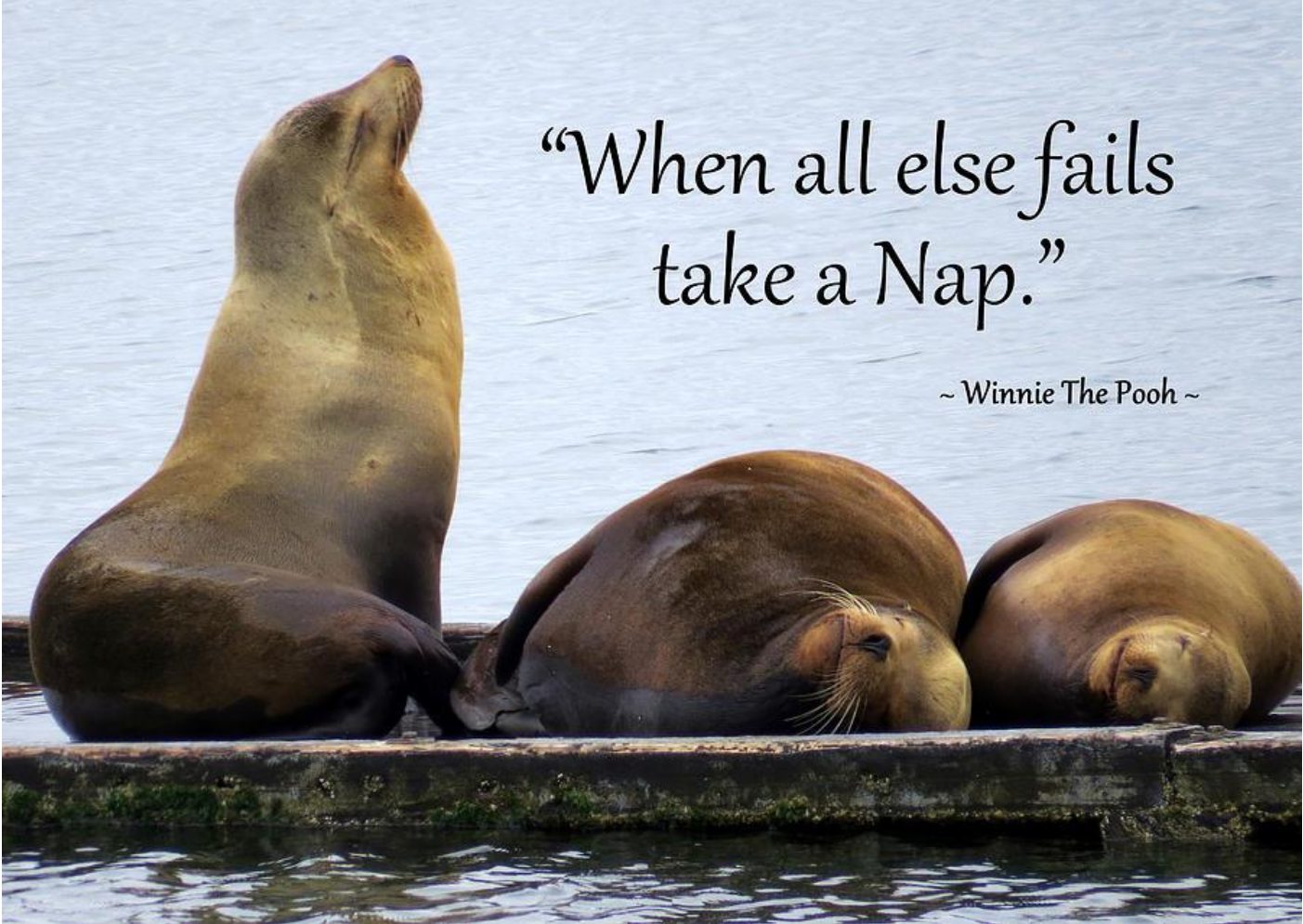
## Reduction of the contaminant fraction of DNA obtained from an ancient giant panda bone

Nikolas Basler<sup>1</sup>, Georgios Xenikoudakis<sup>1</sup>, Michael V. Westbury<sup>1</sup>, Lingfeng Song<sup>2</sup>, Guilian Sheng<sup>2\*</sup> and Axel Barlow<sup>1\*</sup>

# How about other aDNA substrates?

---



A photograph of three seals resting on a concrete pier. The seal on the left is sitting upright, looking towards the sky. The two seals on the right are lying down, appearing to be asleep. The background is a calm body of water under a clear sky.

“When all else fails  
take a Nap.”

~ Winnie The Pooh ~

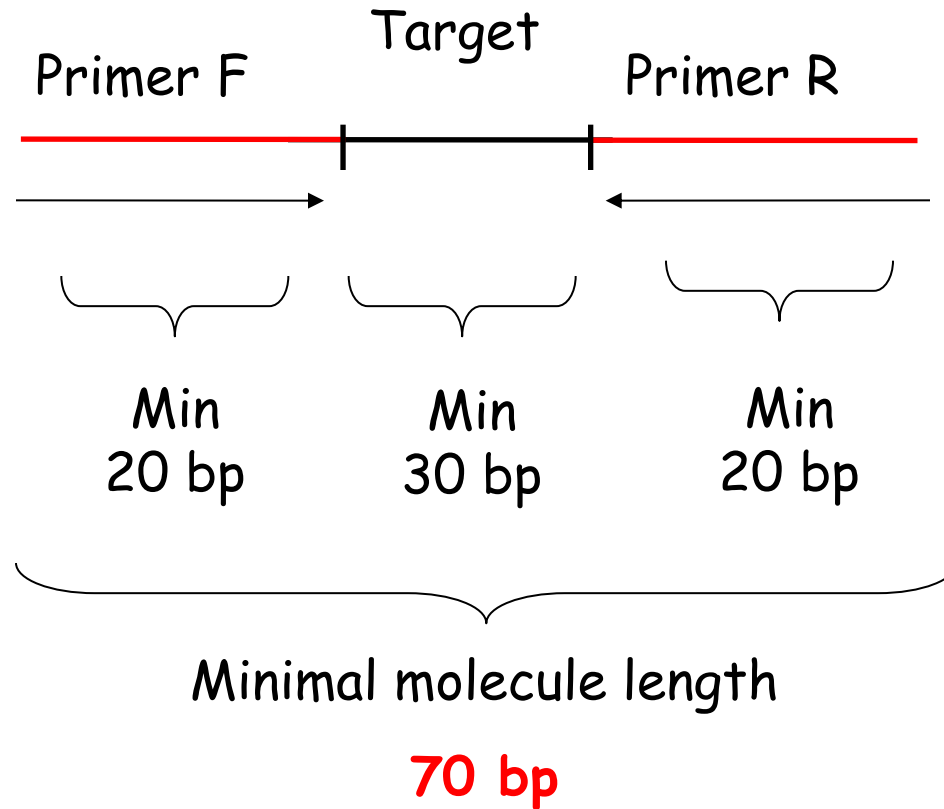
# Solution 3: Target your DNA

---

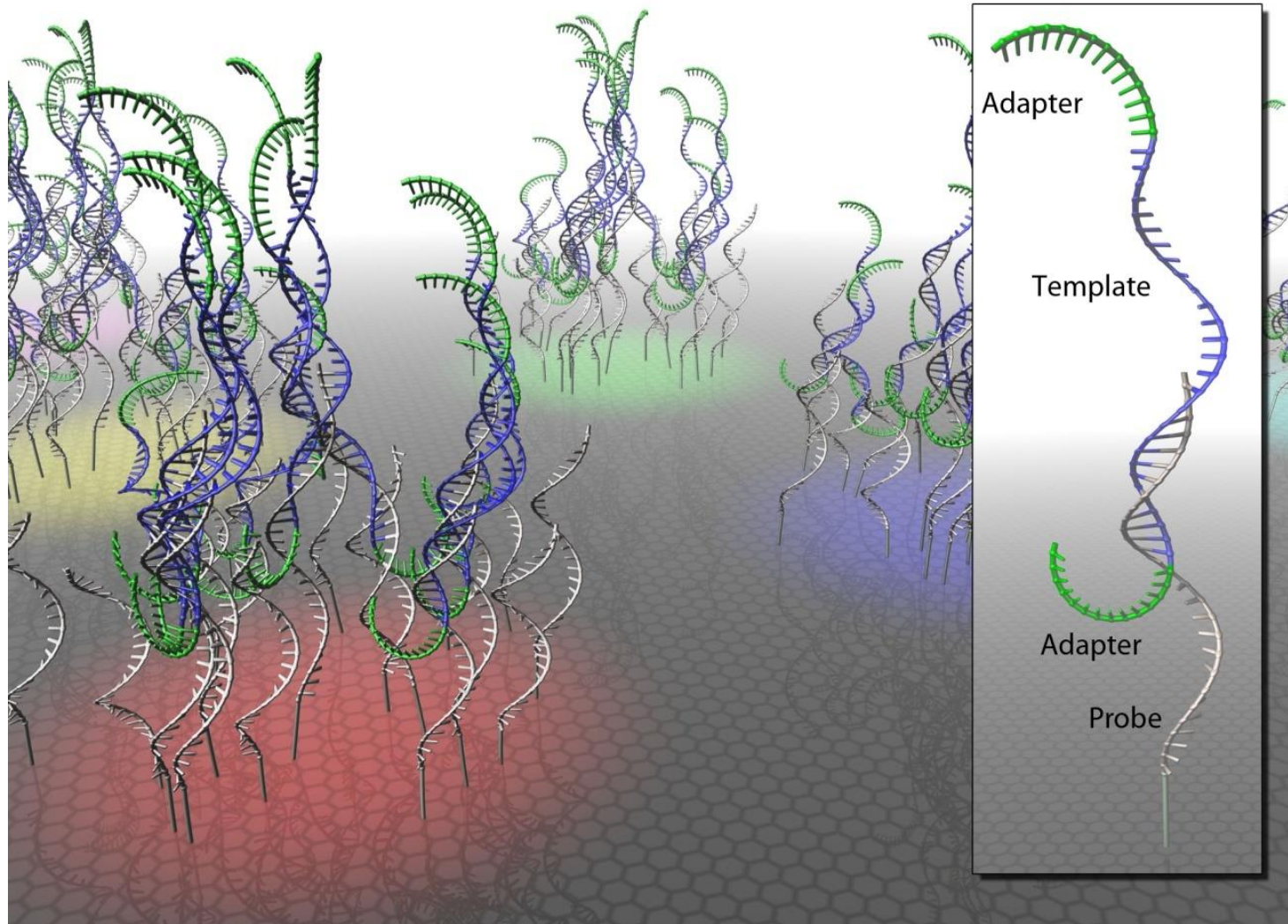


# Limitations inherent to PCR

---



# DNA hybridization capture



# Nice but.....

Sample ID	Location	Mitochondrial reference					
		Mappable reads	Mapped reads	unique mapped read	Mapped bp	Depth	Read length
510	NE China(Zhaodong)	9073046	1054870	26968	1883592	<b>114.21</b>	16492
1017	NE China(SonghuaRiver)	3066021	1413536	26647	1779650	<b>107.9</b>	16499
696	NE China(Qinggang)	2209143	1137192	24730	1587582	<b>96.6</b>	16443
564	NE China(Qinggang)	2693221	761104	24049	1454268	<b>88.2</b>	16489
508	NE China(Zhaodong)	2767554	616556	18687	1088019	<b>66.79</b>	16290
539	NE China(Daqing)	3454017	811496	19121	989439	<b>60.5</b>	16367
1016	NE China(Qinggang)	2799561	515682	13214	720338	<b>44.1</b>	16327
1011	NE China(Qinggang)	3072086	555920	12465	676867	<b>41.6</b>	16275
565	NE China(SonghuaRiver)	3160689	215725	5260	261276	<b>16.5</b>	15855
1099	S China(Fuyuan, Yunan)	2313878	29494	224	11487	<b>7.1</b>	1625
1093	S China(Fuyuan, Yunan)	2553691	1263	57	2957	<b>4.2</b>	708
15	N China(Qinhuangdao, Linxian cave)	2042719	10585	33	1937	<b>3.65</b>	531
8	N China(Liaoning Pigeon cave)	2915876	6715	56	3211	<b>2.53</b>	1269
7	N China(Liaoning Pigeon cave)	1375153	349	30	1740	<b>2.3</b>	747
1092	S China(Fuyuan, Yunan)	1827333	740	13	499	<b>1.4</b>	365
22	N China(Qinhuangdao, Linxian cave)	2375921	222	14	550	<b>1.11</b>	495
19	N China(Qinhuangdao, Linxian cave)	2118585	518	21	741	<b>1.08</b>	686

## 2. Contamination, after all?

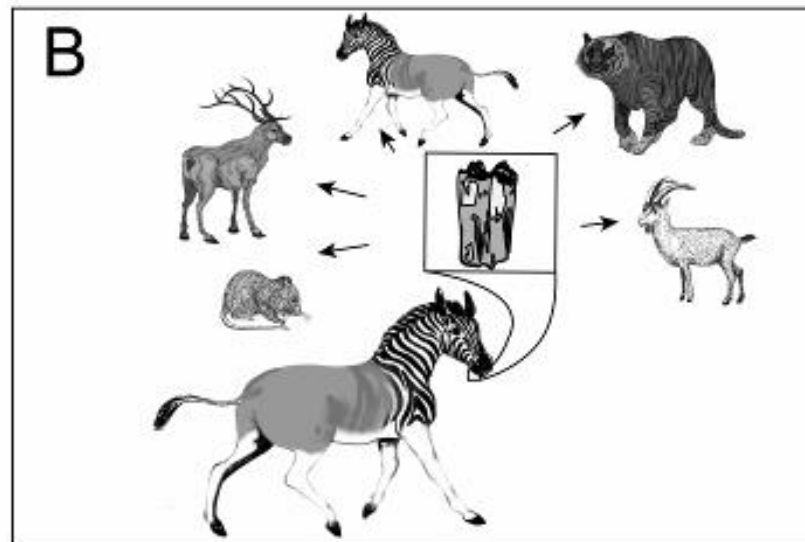
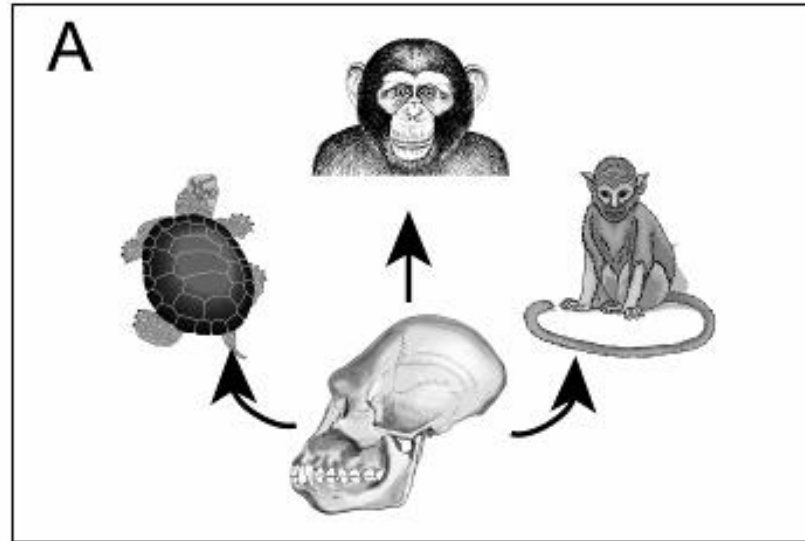
---





# Well, it does exist

---



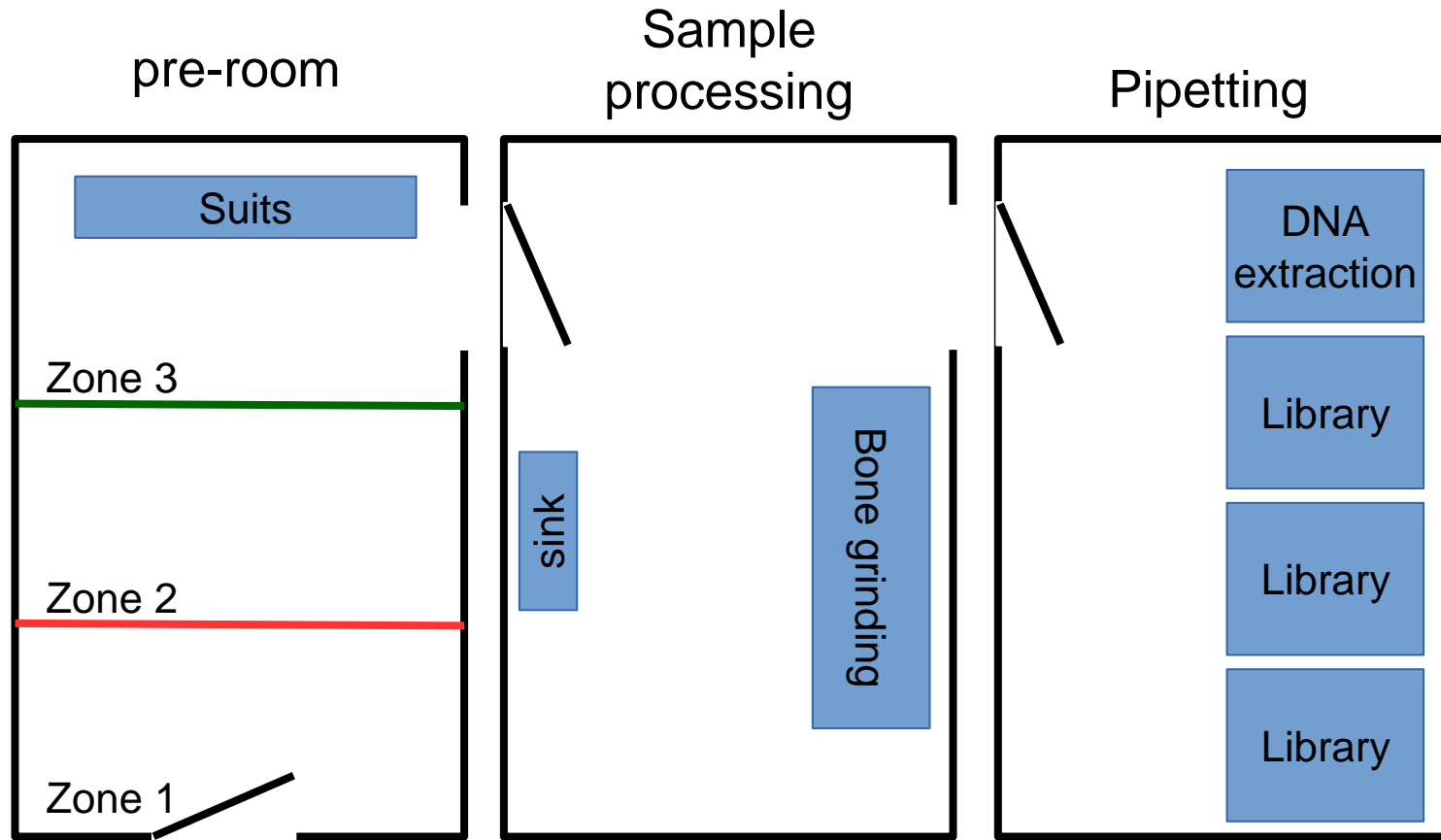
But it tends to be exaggerated

---



# Ancient DNA lab

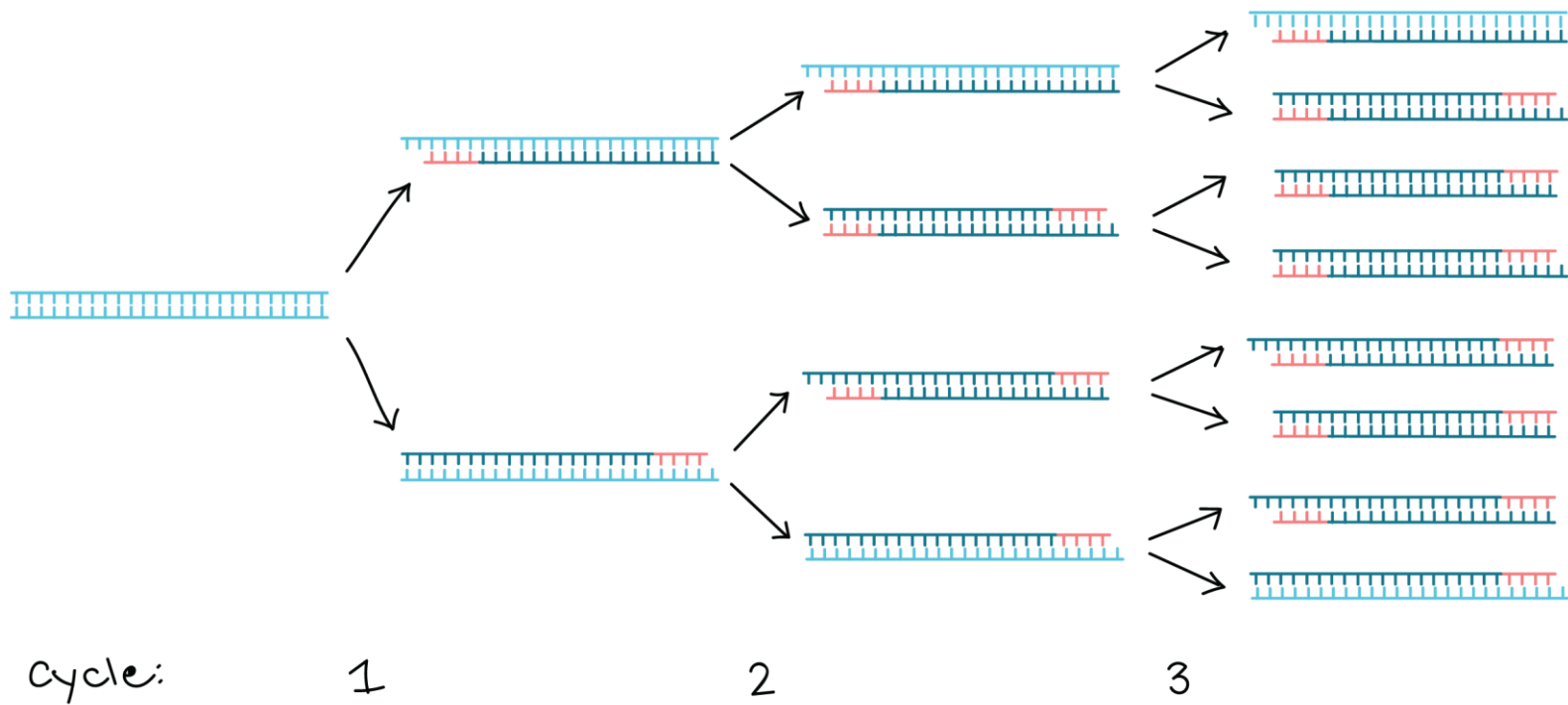
---



← The outside world... →

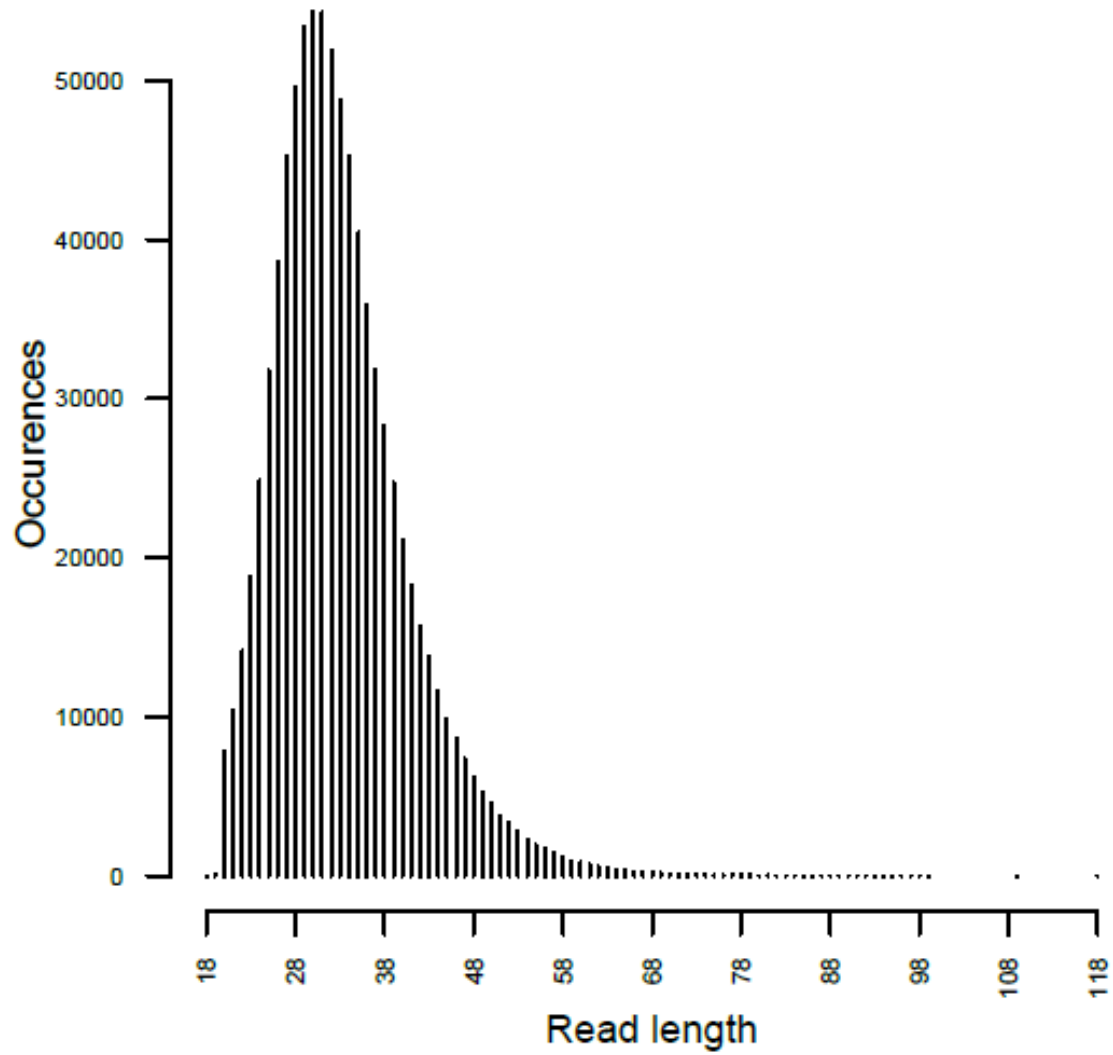
# The real problem: amplified DNA

---



### 3. Ancient DNA is short

---



Ancient DNA fragment length: Rollo et al. 1988

---

# Short but faithful pieces of ancient DNA

FRANCO ROLLO  
AUGUSTO AMICI  
ROBERTO SALVI

ANNAROSA GARBUGLIA

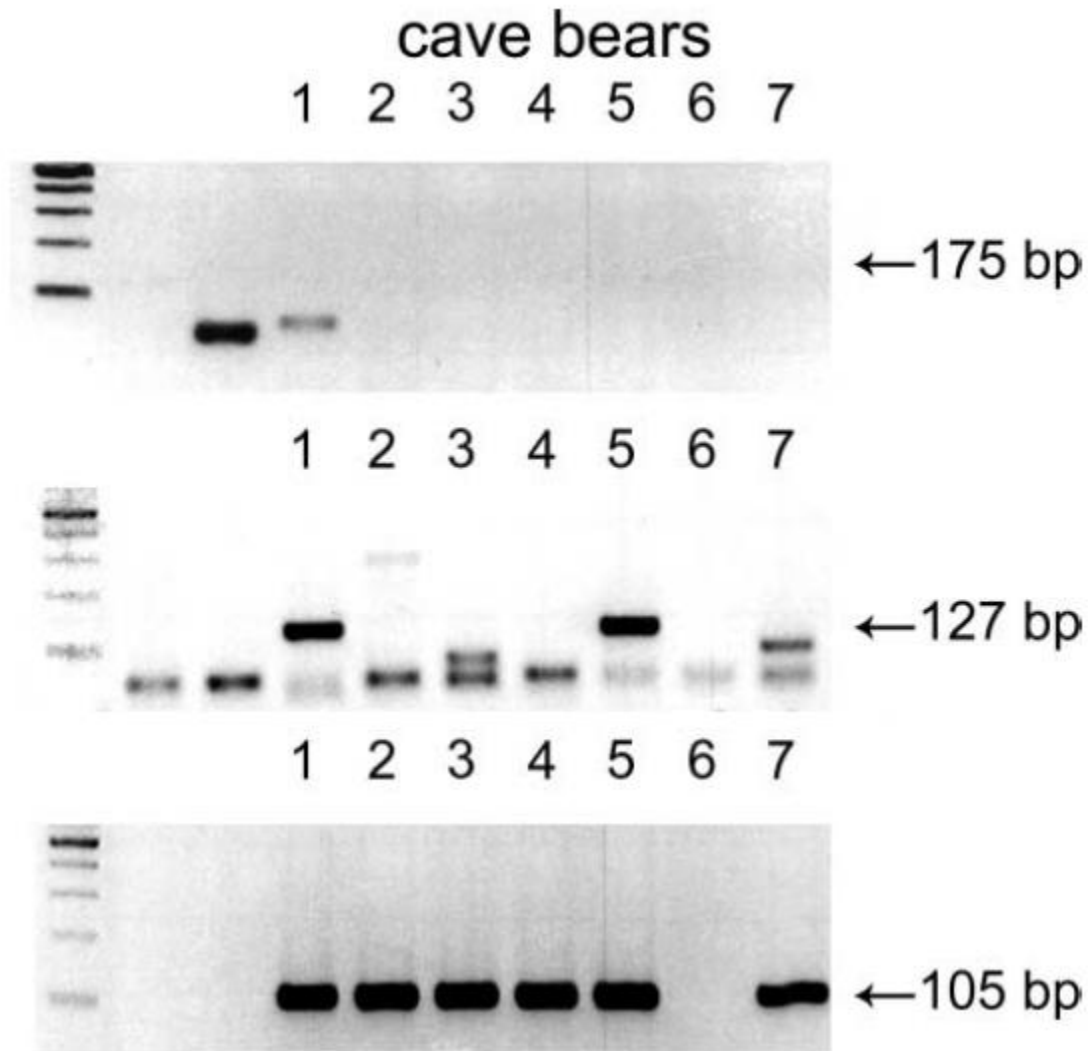
*Dipartimento di Biologia Cellulare,  
via F. Camerini 2,  
I-62032 Camerino,  
Italy*

NATURE VOL. 335 27 OCTOBER 1988

---

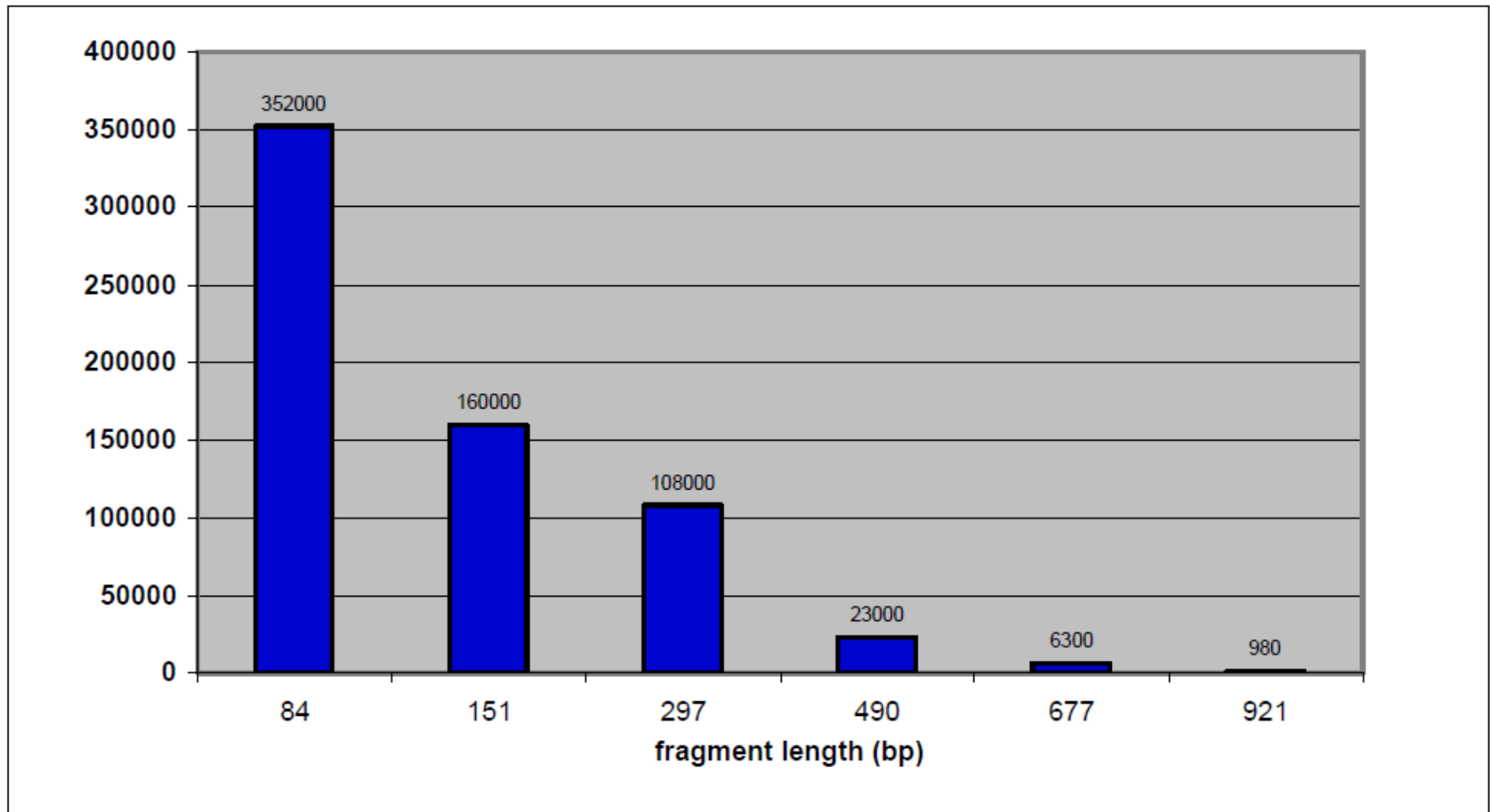
# Ancient DNA fragment length: Pääbo et al. 2004

---



# Ancient DNA fragment length: Poinar et al. 2006

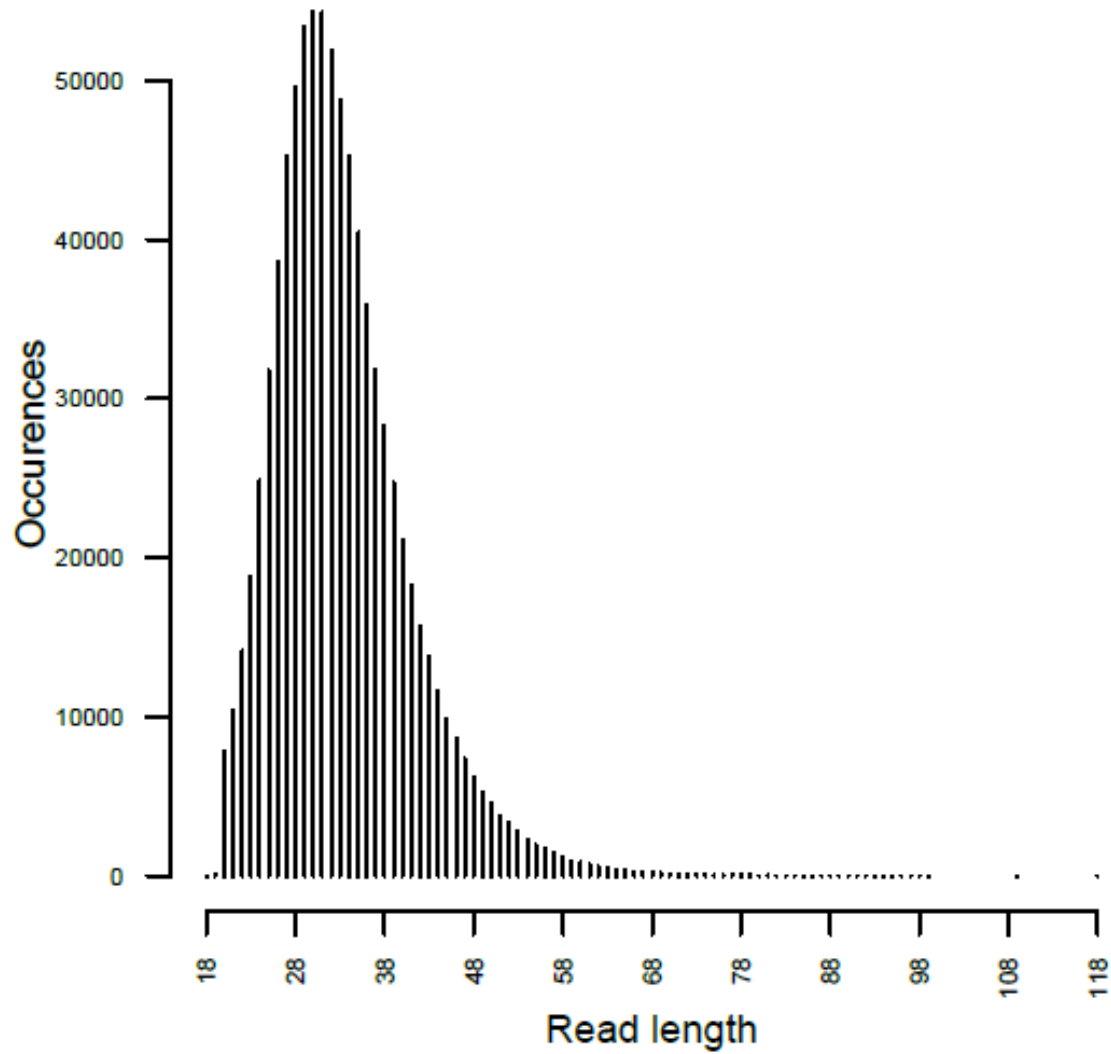
---





# Very old DNA: $\sim 120,000$ years

---



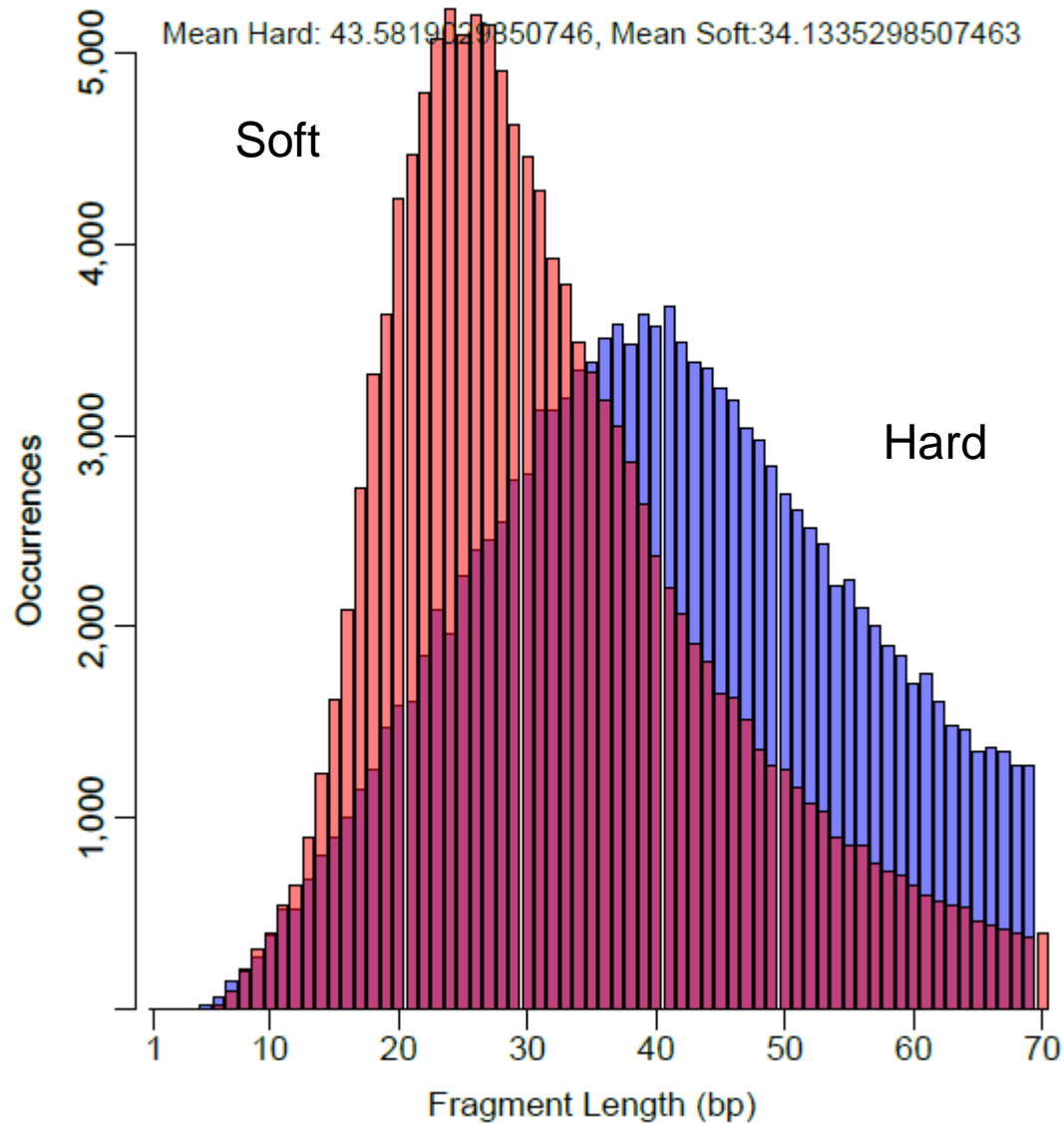
But to be fair.....

---



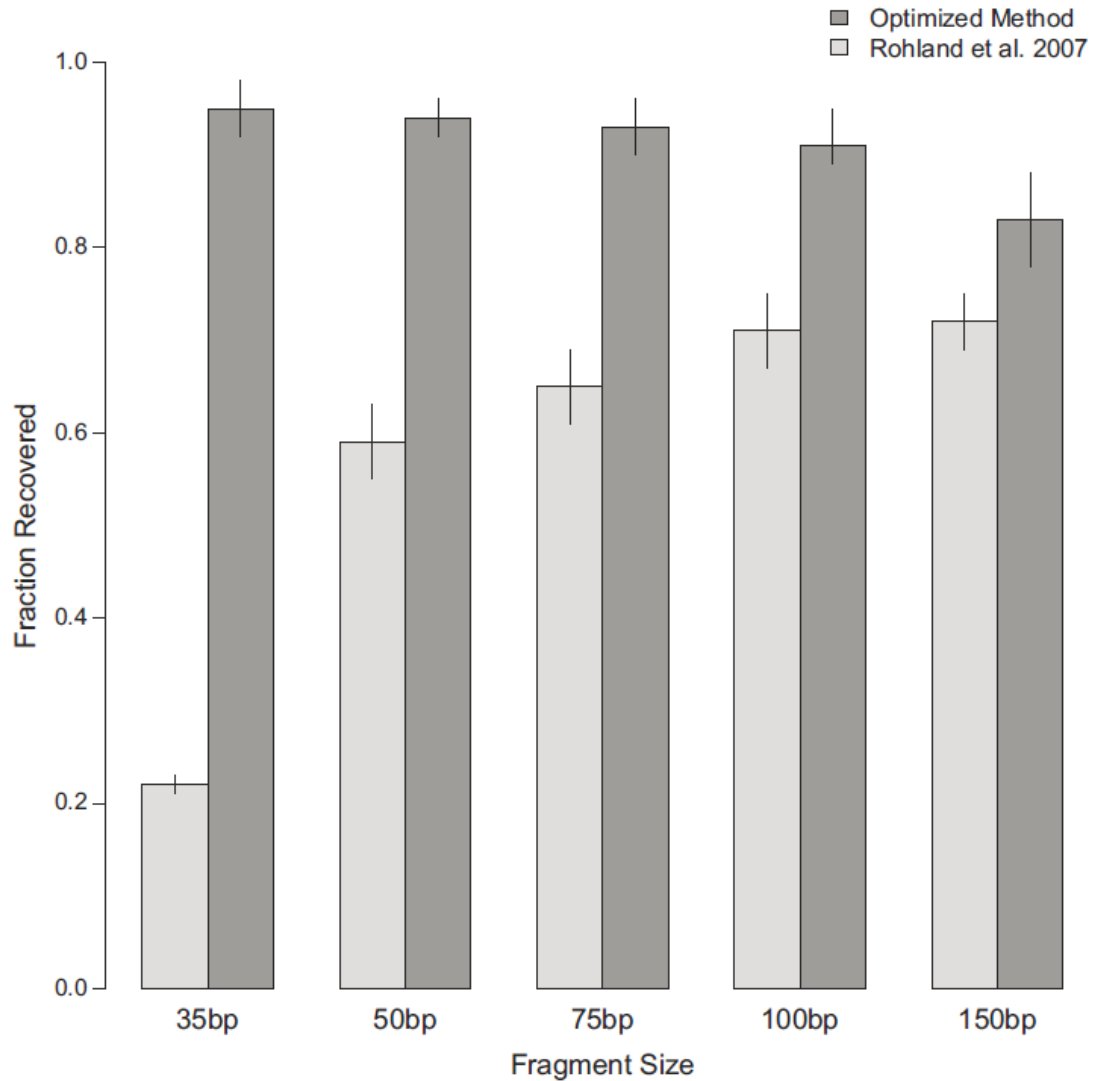
# Because it depends a bit – on the bone chosen

---



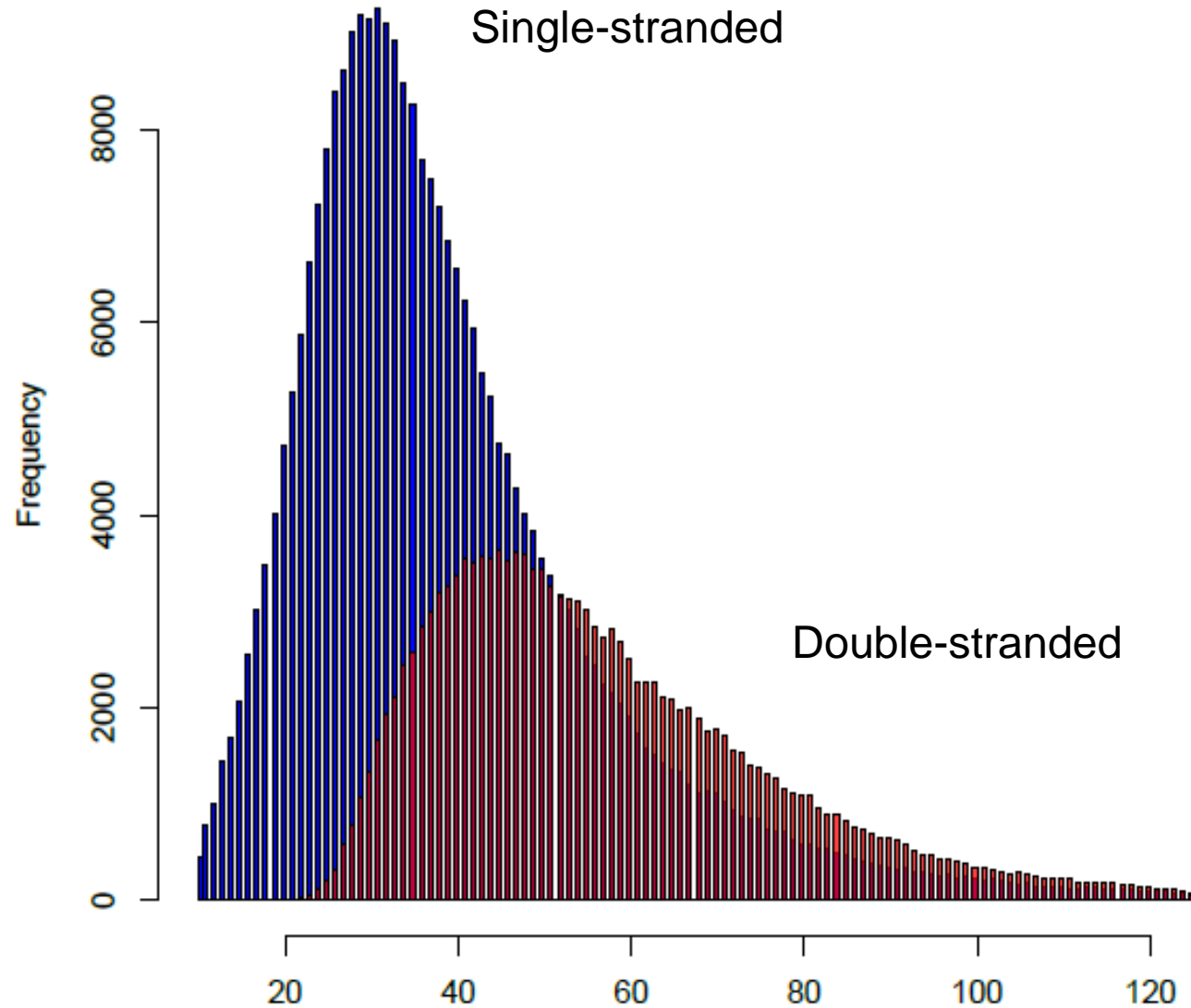
# On the DNA extraction used

---

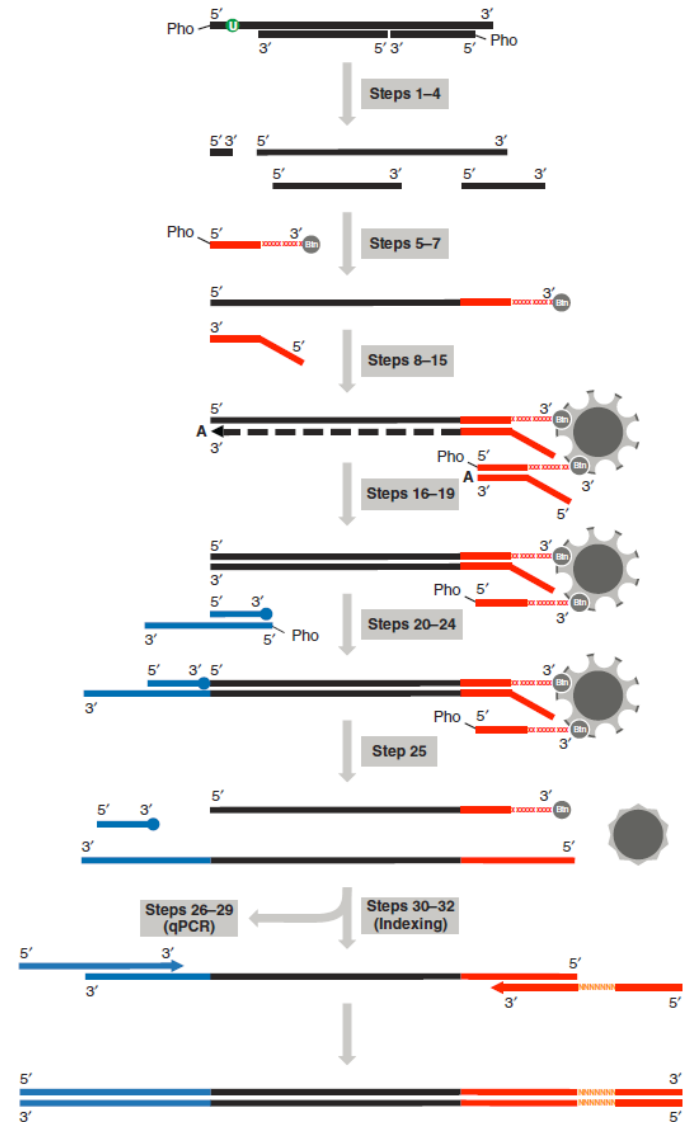
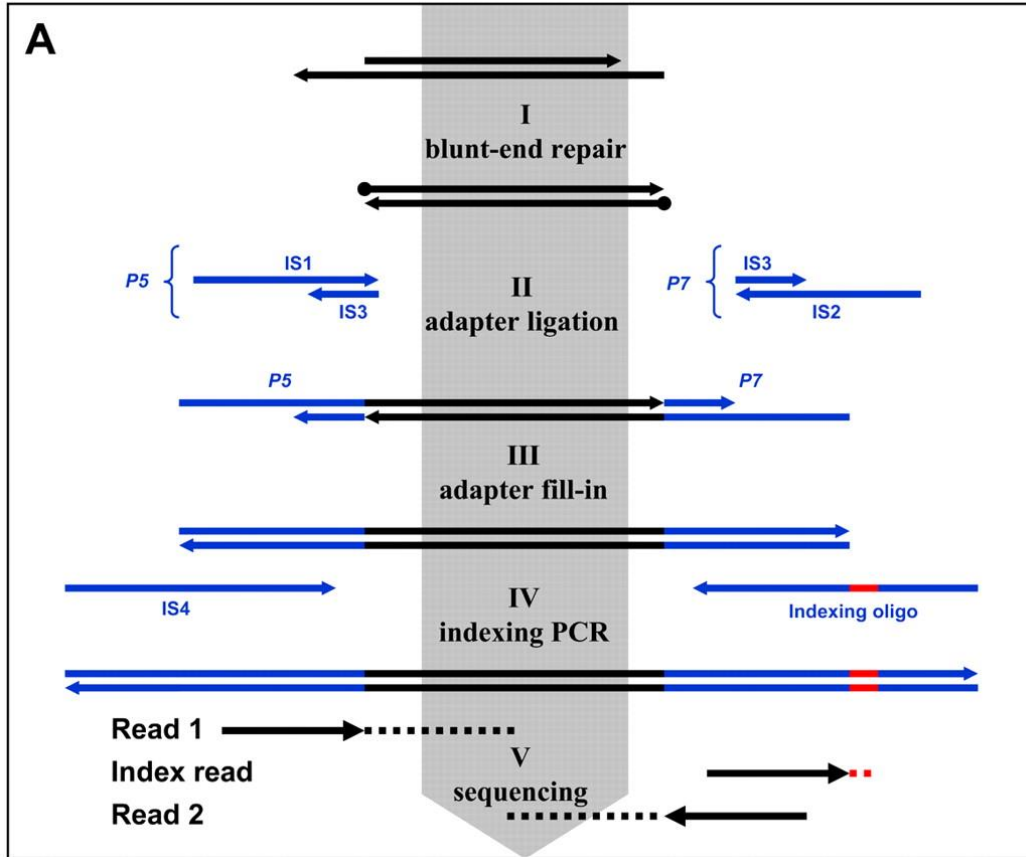


# And on the library construction method used

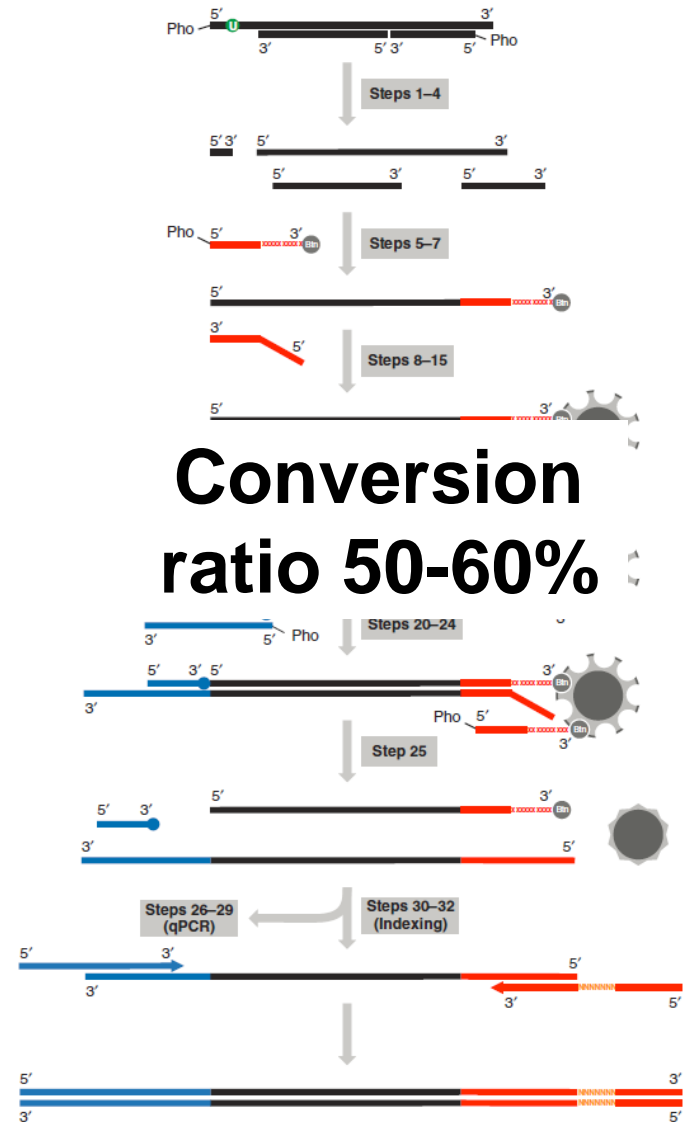
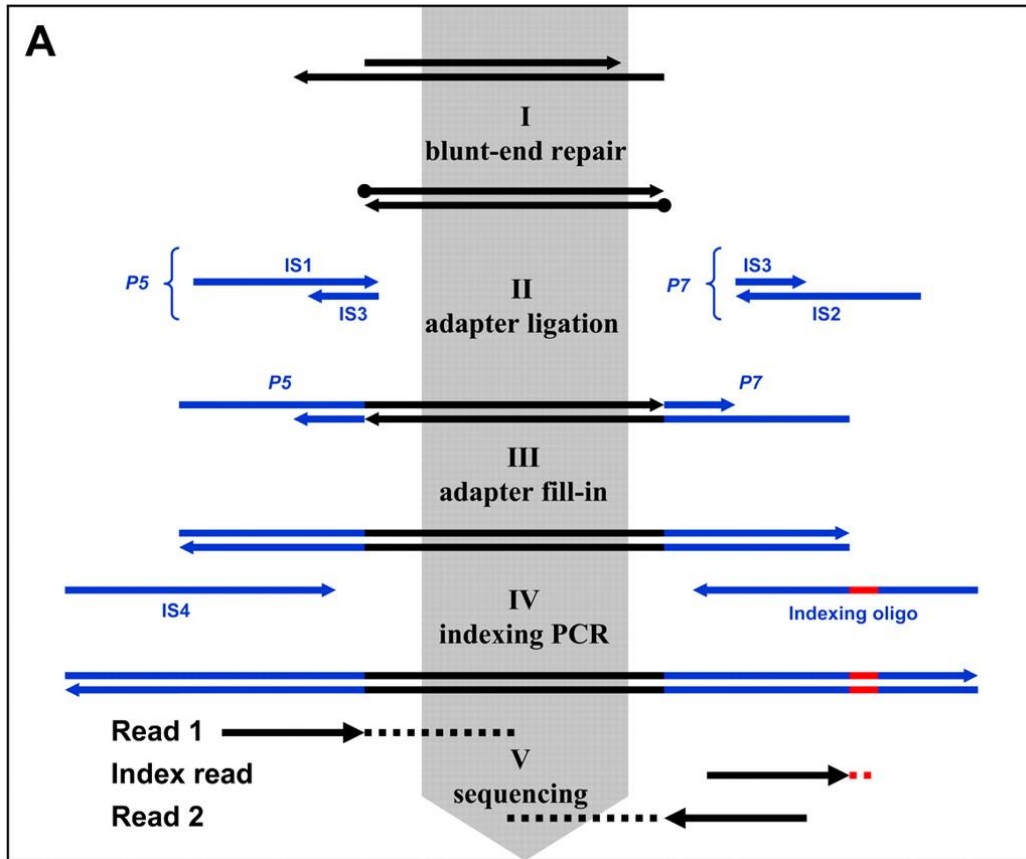
---



# Double-stranded vs. single-stranded



# Double-stranded vs. single-stranded



**Conversion  
ratio 50-60%**

# Problems of short fragments: mismapping

---

Sample	L=10 bp	L=15 bp	L=20 bp	L=30 bp
Ancient Samples				
KG5	22	9	9	9
874/11	5			
874/6	45	26	24	24
752/63	25			
1137/16	5			
1427/41	47	26	26	26
1427/59	1			
MAY10	7			
Modern Reference Horses				
M3160 ( <i>LP/LP</i> )	375	370	370	293
M3252 ( <i>LP/lp</i> )	44	44	44	44

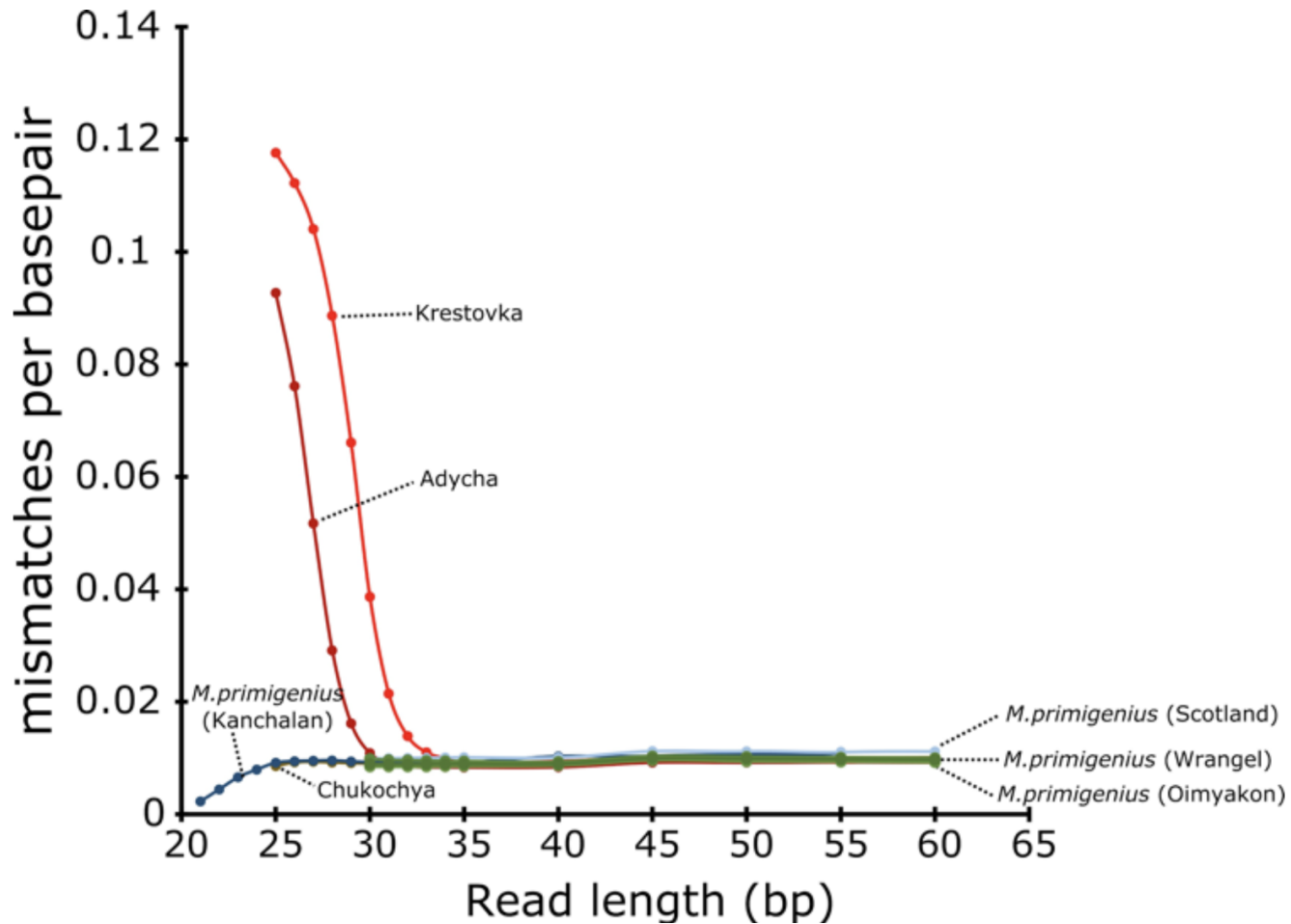


# Problems of short fragments: mismapping

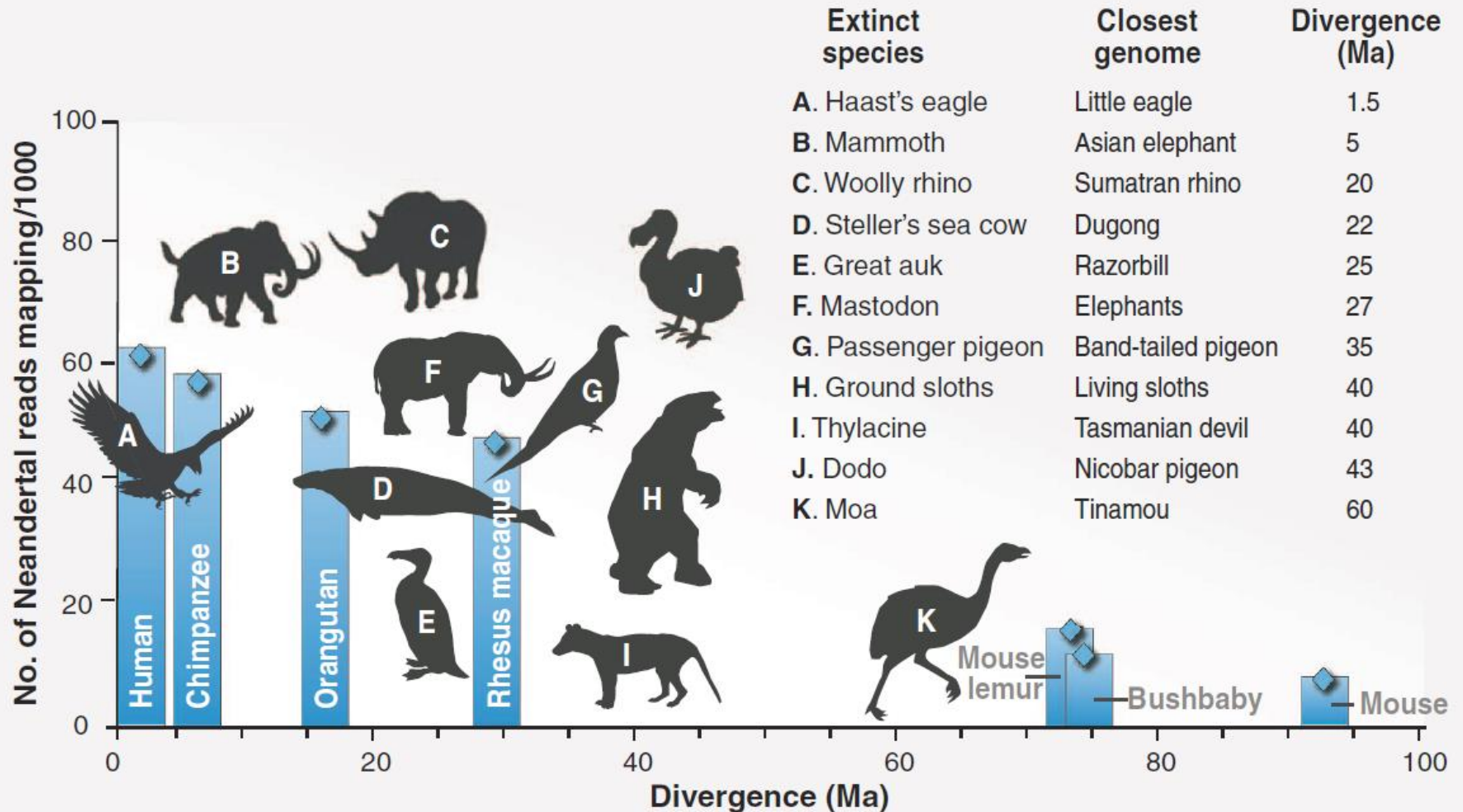
---

r110 0 0  
r111 0 0  
r112 0 0  
r113 0 0  
r114 0 0  
r115 195 10  
r116 208 0  
r117 1156 2  
r118 2610 61  
r119 14573 1108  
r120 25000 2165  
r121 25011 2090  
r122 25014 1901  
r123 25001 1677  
r124 25008 1277  
r125 25000 758  
r126 25012 411  
r127 25002 215  
r128 25004 142  
r129 25027 124  
r130 25020 109  
r131 25017 106  
r132 25024 103  
r133 25014 115  
r134 25024 109  
r135 25025 111  
r140 25000 118  
r145 25020 102  
r150 25000 110  
r155 25025 110  
r160 25020 91

# Problems of short fragments: mismapping

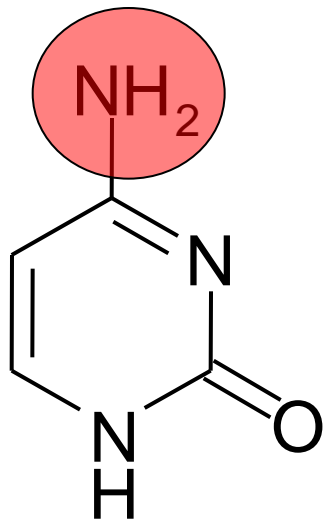


# Problems of short fragments: no mapping at all

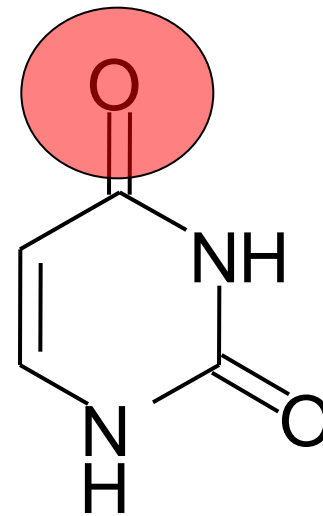


## 4. Miscoding lesions

---



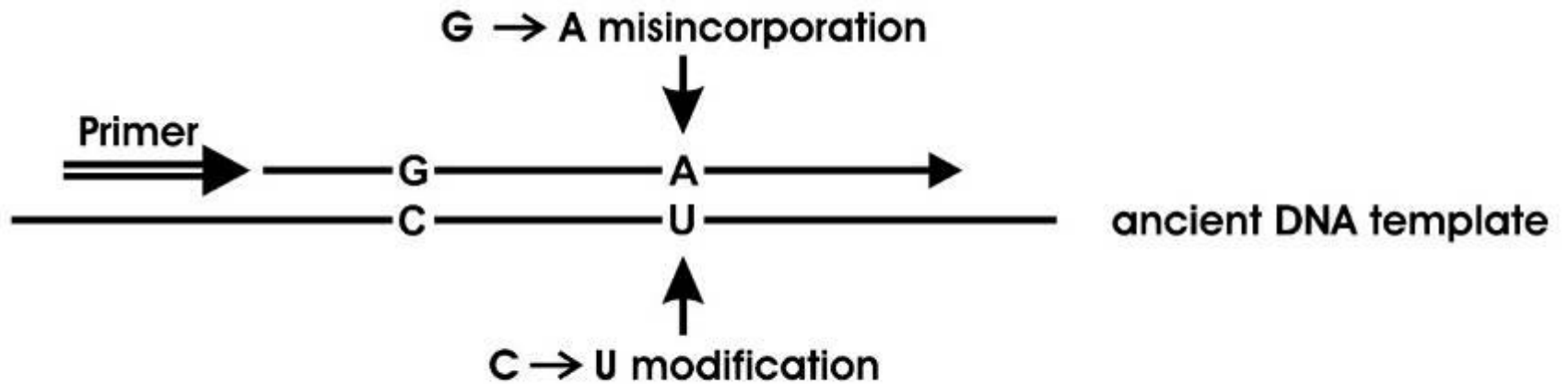
Cytosine



Uracil

# Miscoding lesions

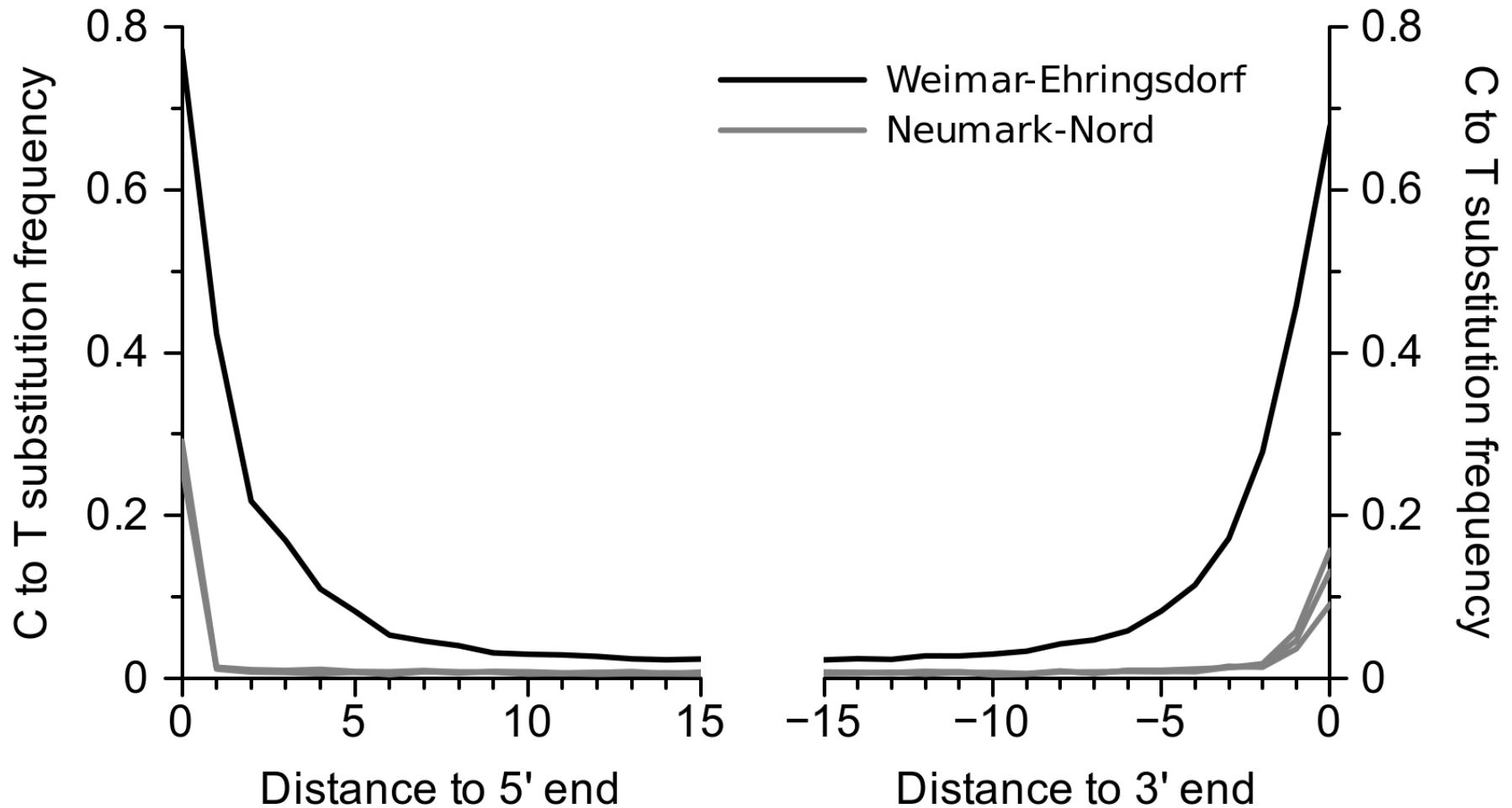
---



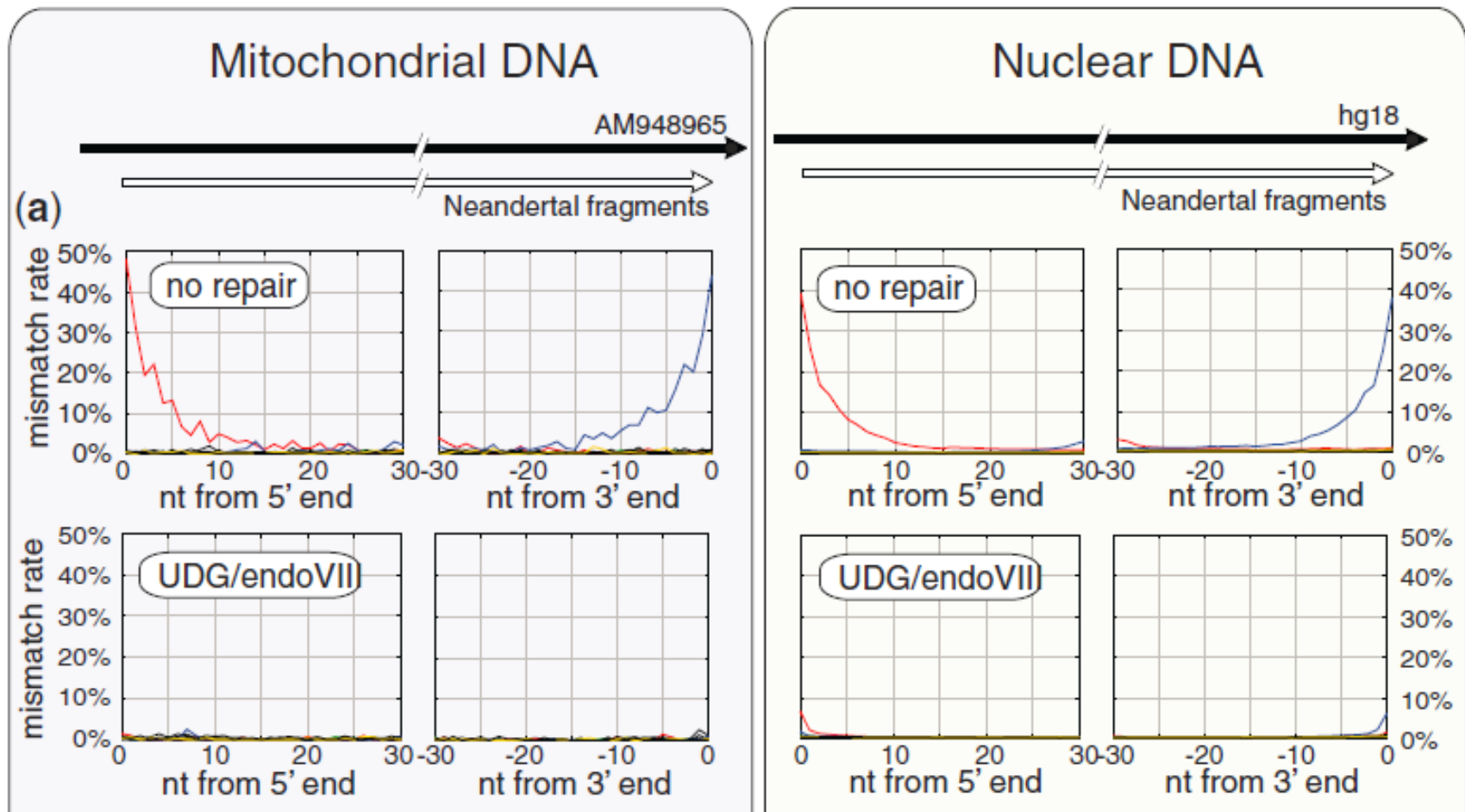
# Miscoding lesions in PCR data

	*	*	*
cons.	TACATATTATGCTTGATCTTGCATGAGGACCTACATTTCAAAGTTTATTTC	AAGCGTATAGTCTGTAAGCATGTATTTCACTTAGTCCGGGAGCTTAATCACCAGGCCTCGAGAAACC	AGCAACCCTTGCGAGT
2-1	.....	.....	.....
2-2	.....	.....	.....T.....
2-3	.....	.....	.....
2-4	.....	.....	.....
2-5	.....	.....	.....
2-6	.....	.....	.....
3-1	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-2	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-3	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-4	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-5	.T.....	.T.G.....	.....G.....
3-6	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-7	.T.....C.....	.T.....	.....
3-8	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-9	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-10	.T.....	.T.....	.....
3-11	.T.....	.T.....	.....G.....C.....
5-1	.....	.....C.....	.....T.....
5-2	.....	.....	.....T.....
5-3	.....	.....	.....T.....
5-4	.....	.....	.....T.....
5-5	.....	.....	.....T.....
5-6	.....	.....	.....T.....
5-7	.....	.....C.....	.....T.....

# High frequency at fragment ends



# And enzymatic removal



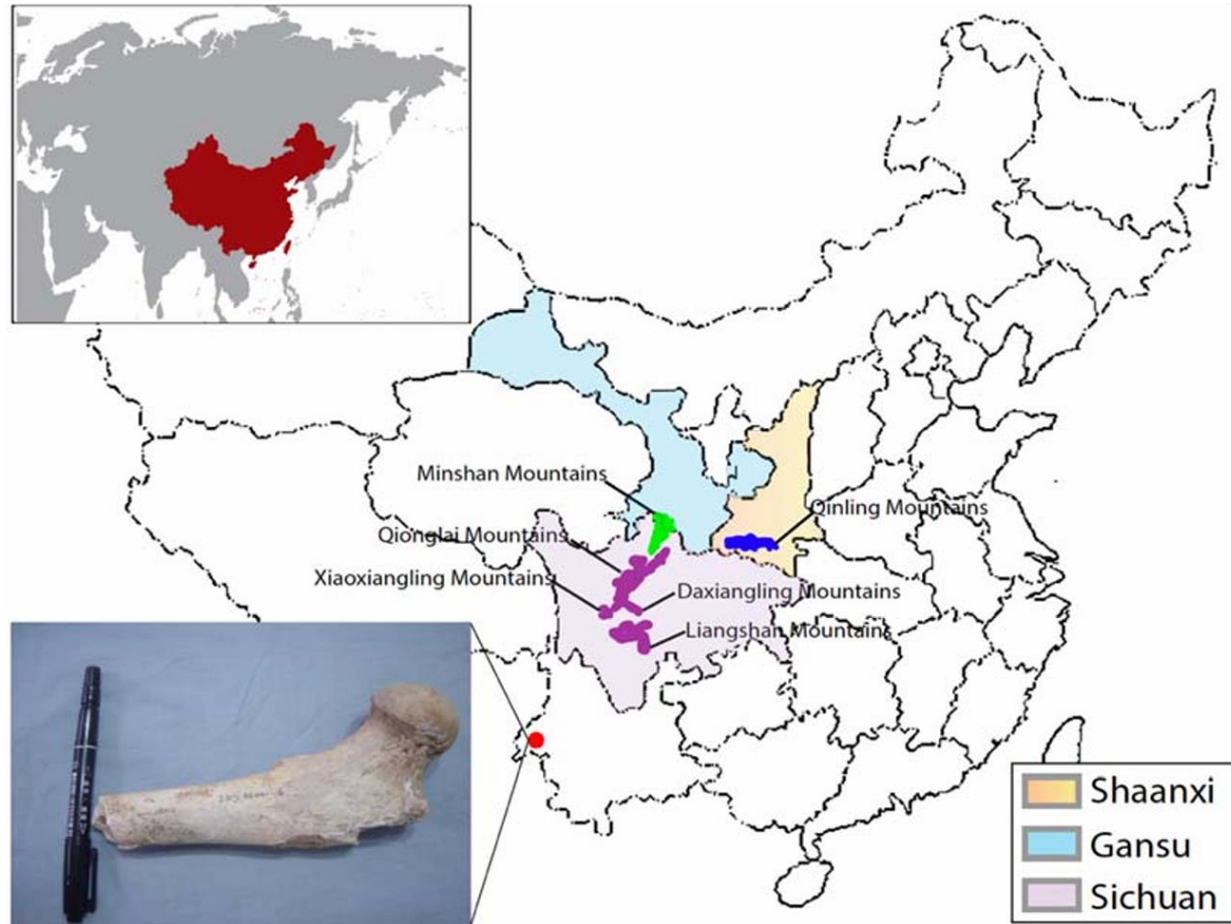


# Mapping bias

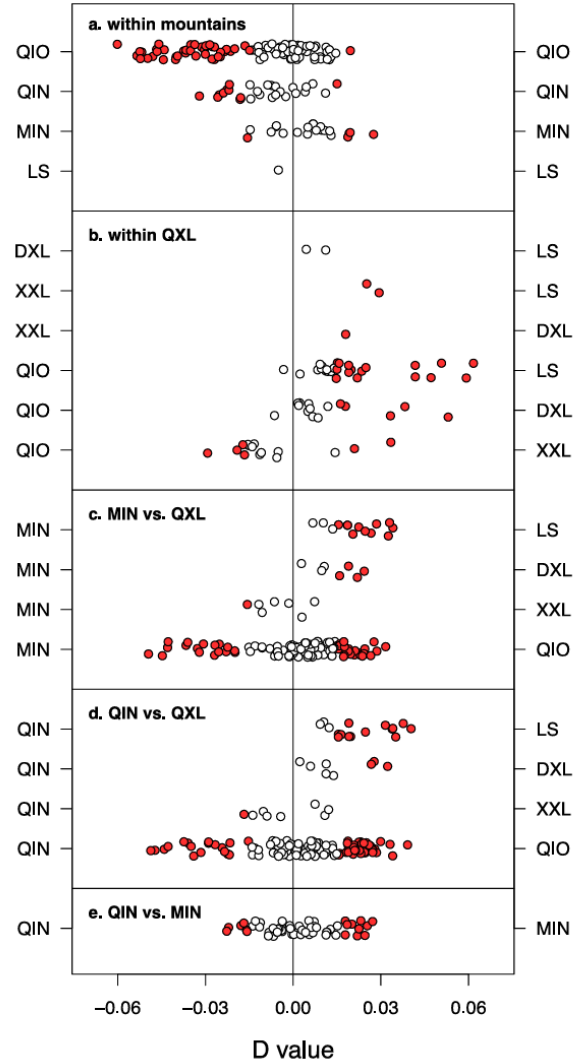
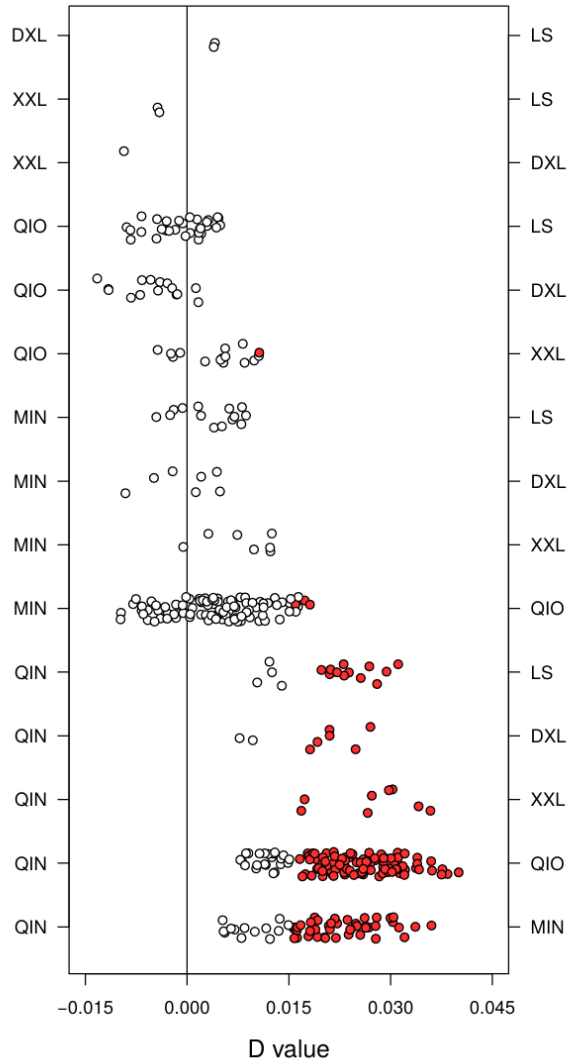
---



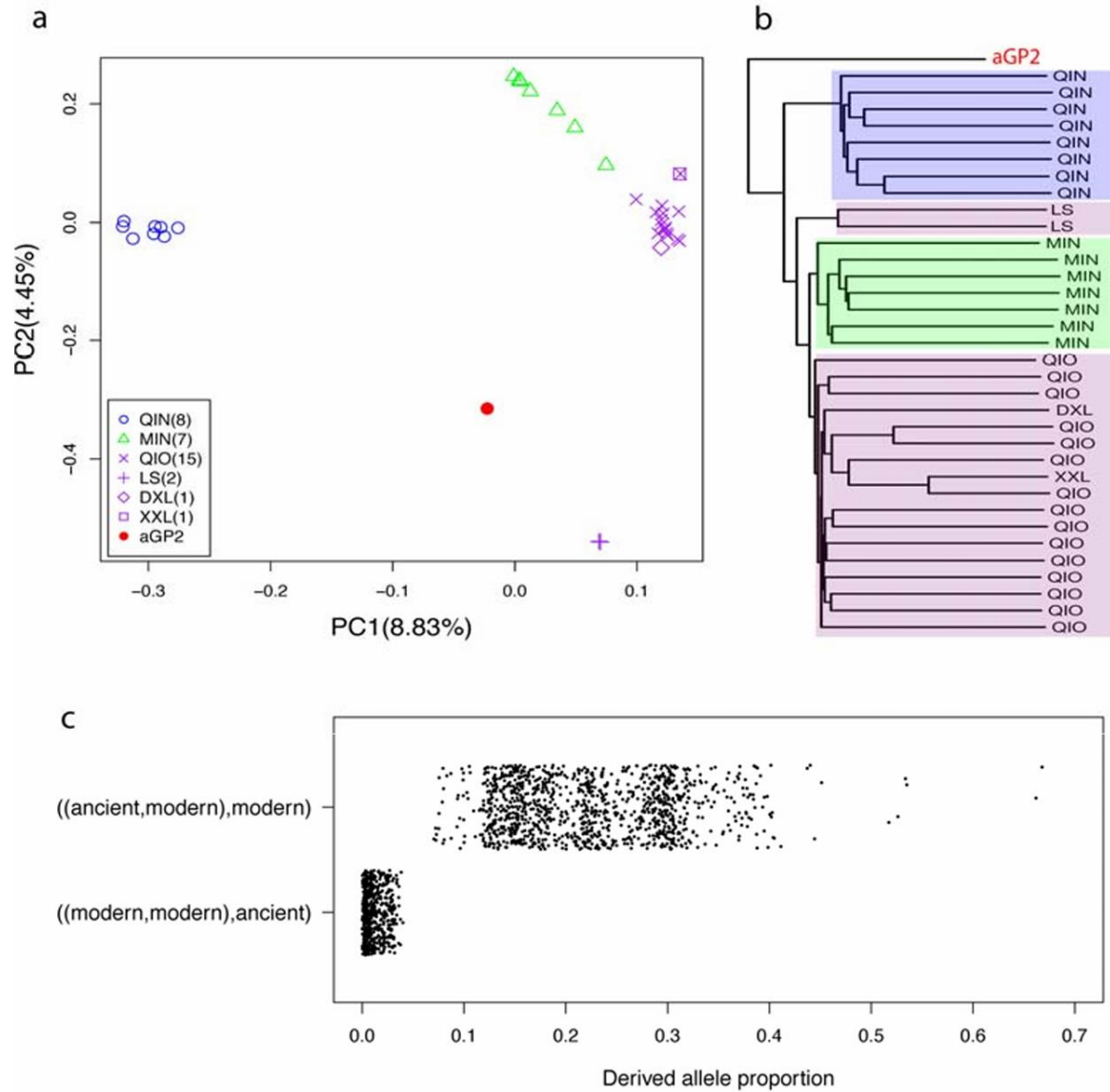
# Fossil giant panda



# Ingroup bias



# Outgroup bias?

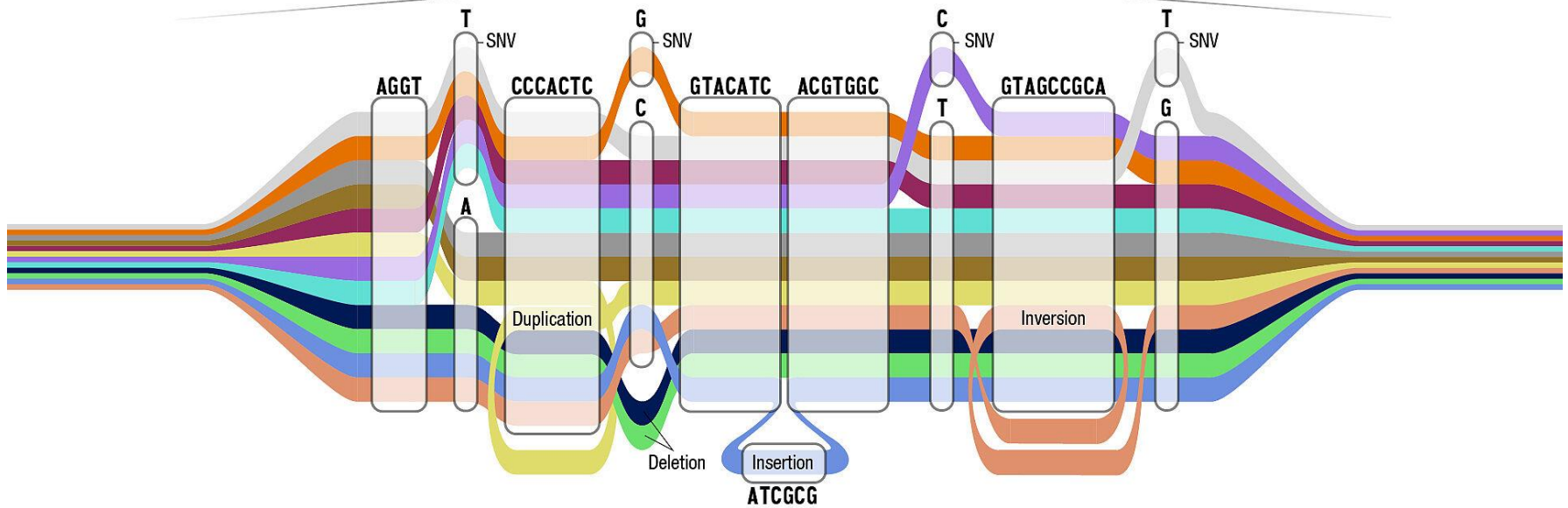
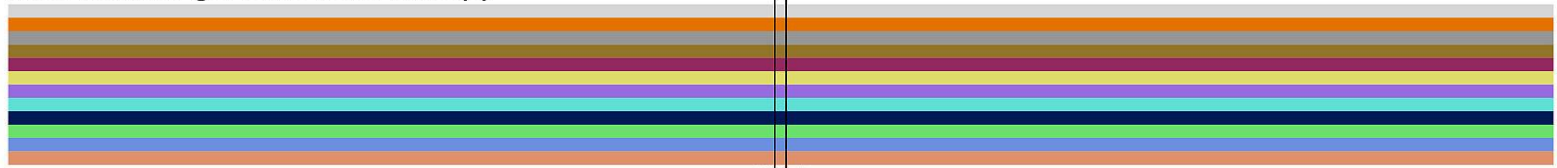


# Solution: pangenome mapping?

Previous human genome reference



New human genome reference(s)

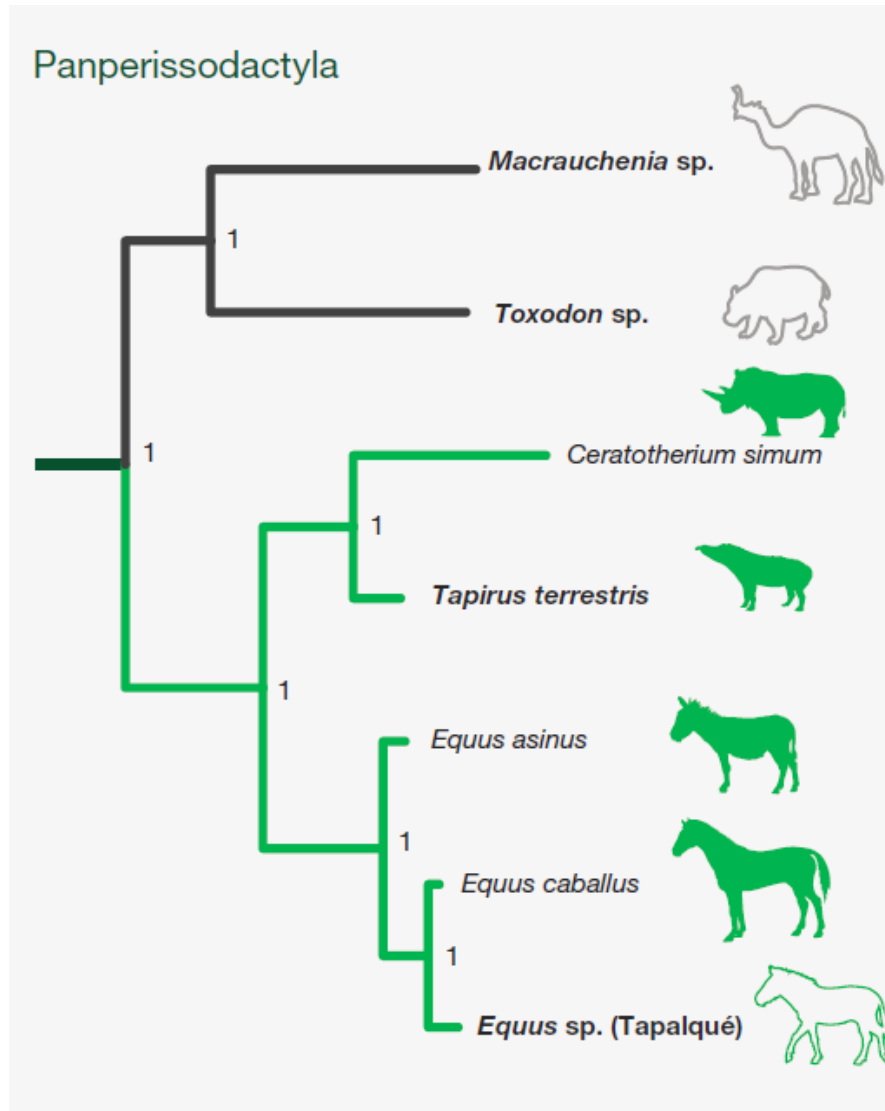


# Projects on the edge of the possible

---



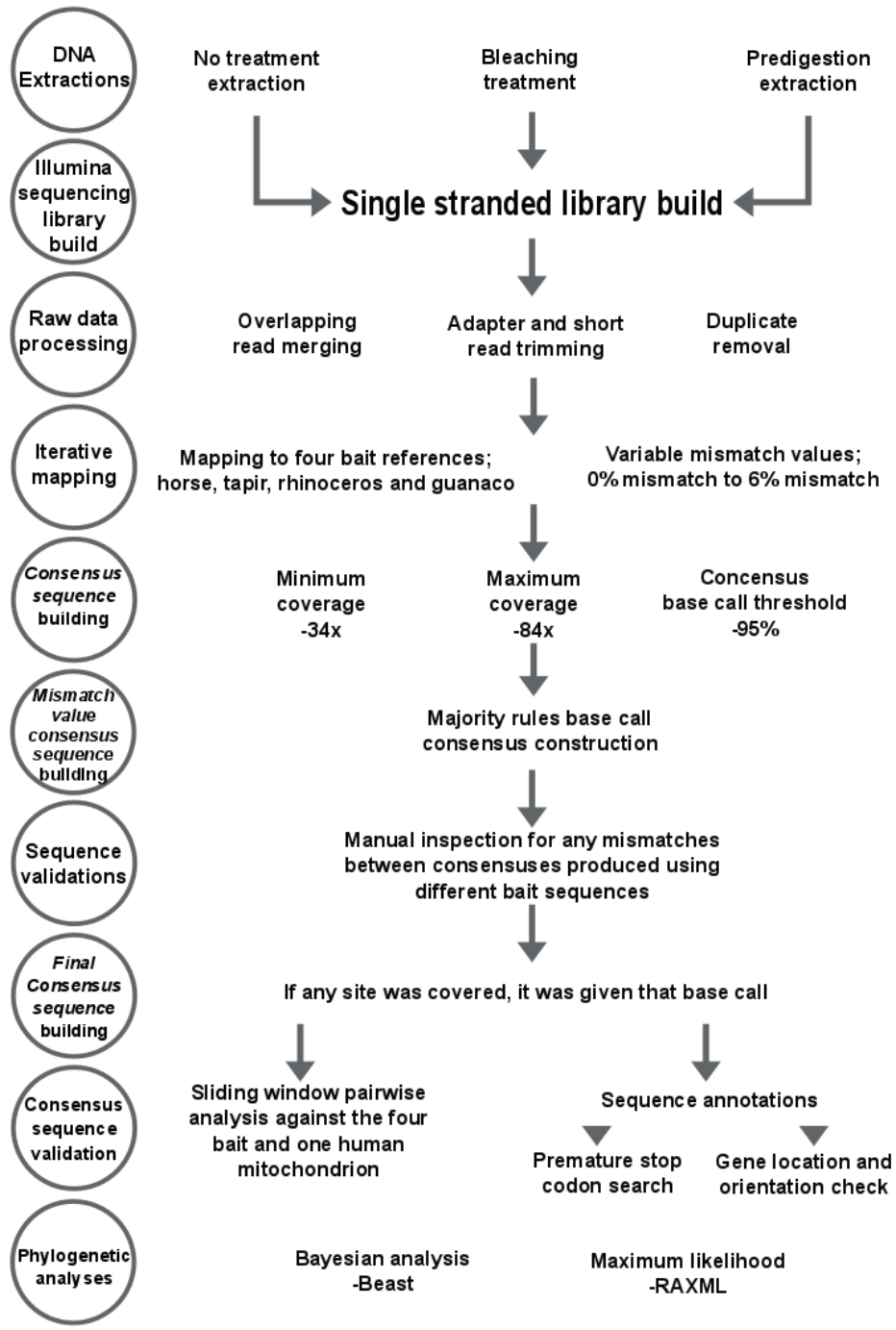
# Phylogenetic distance



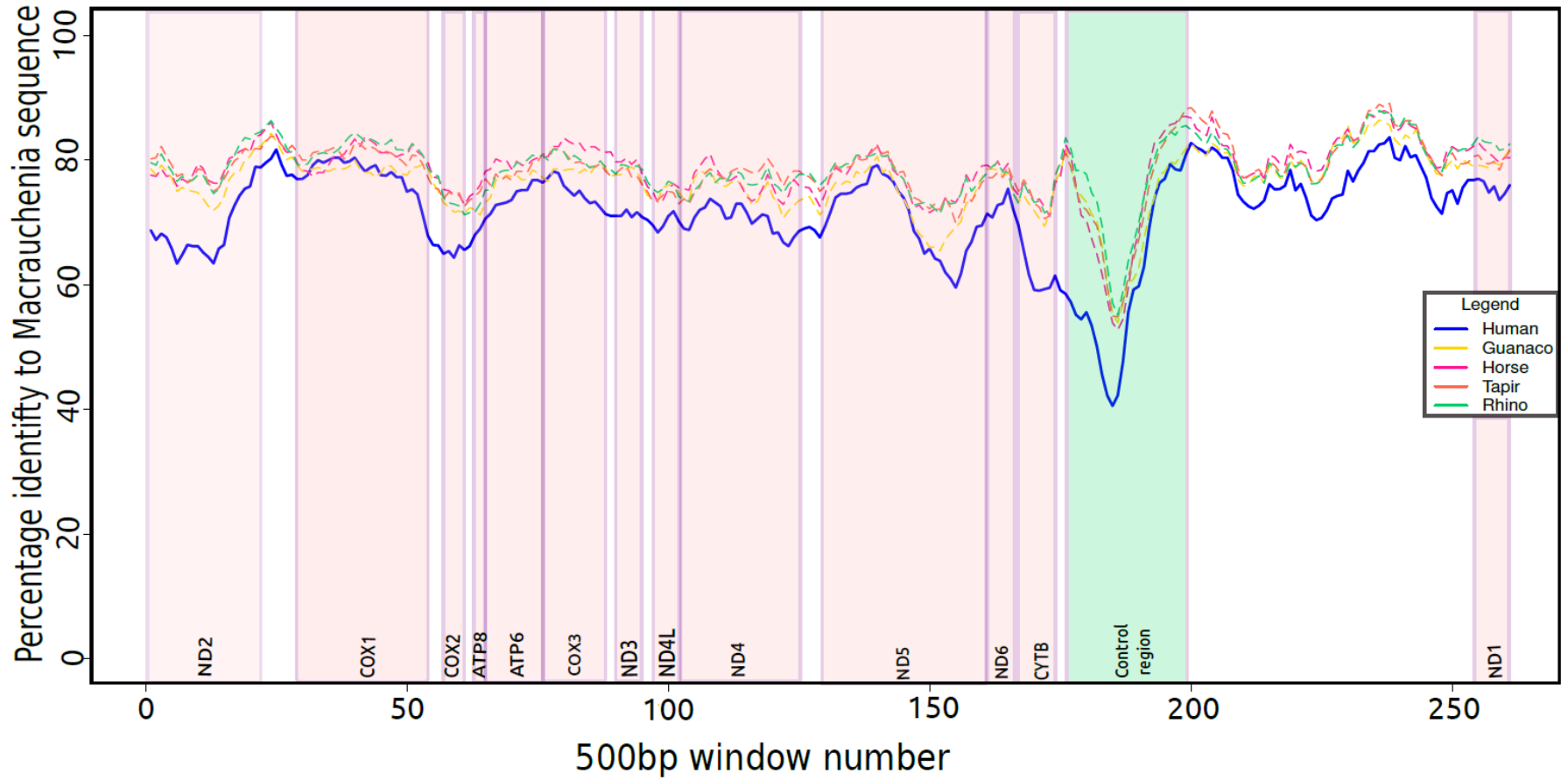
# Mostly from warm to hot climate



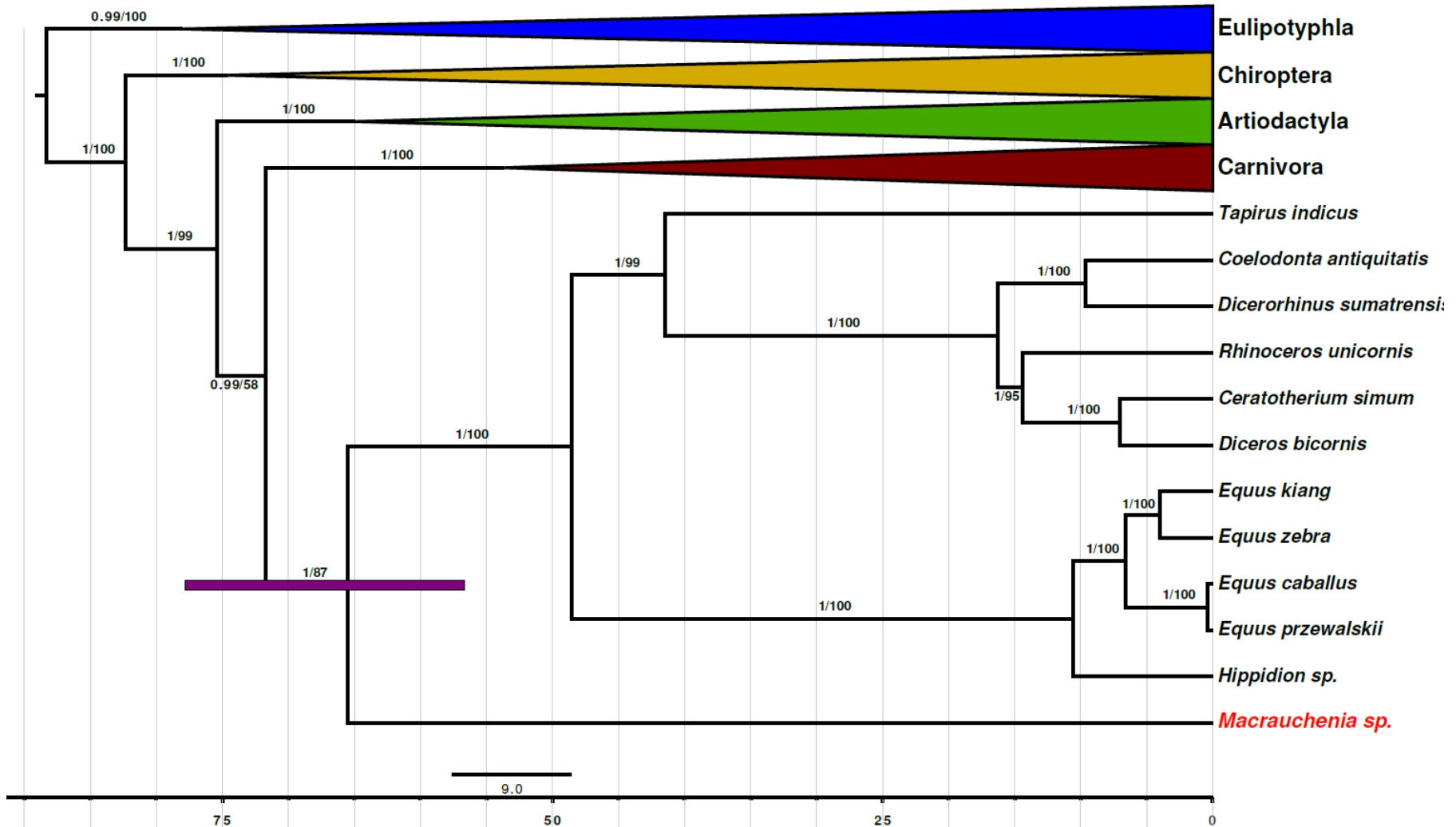




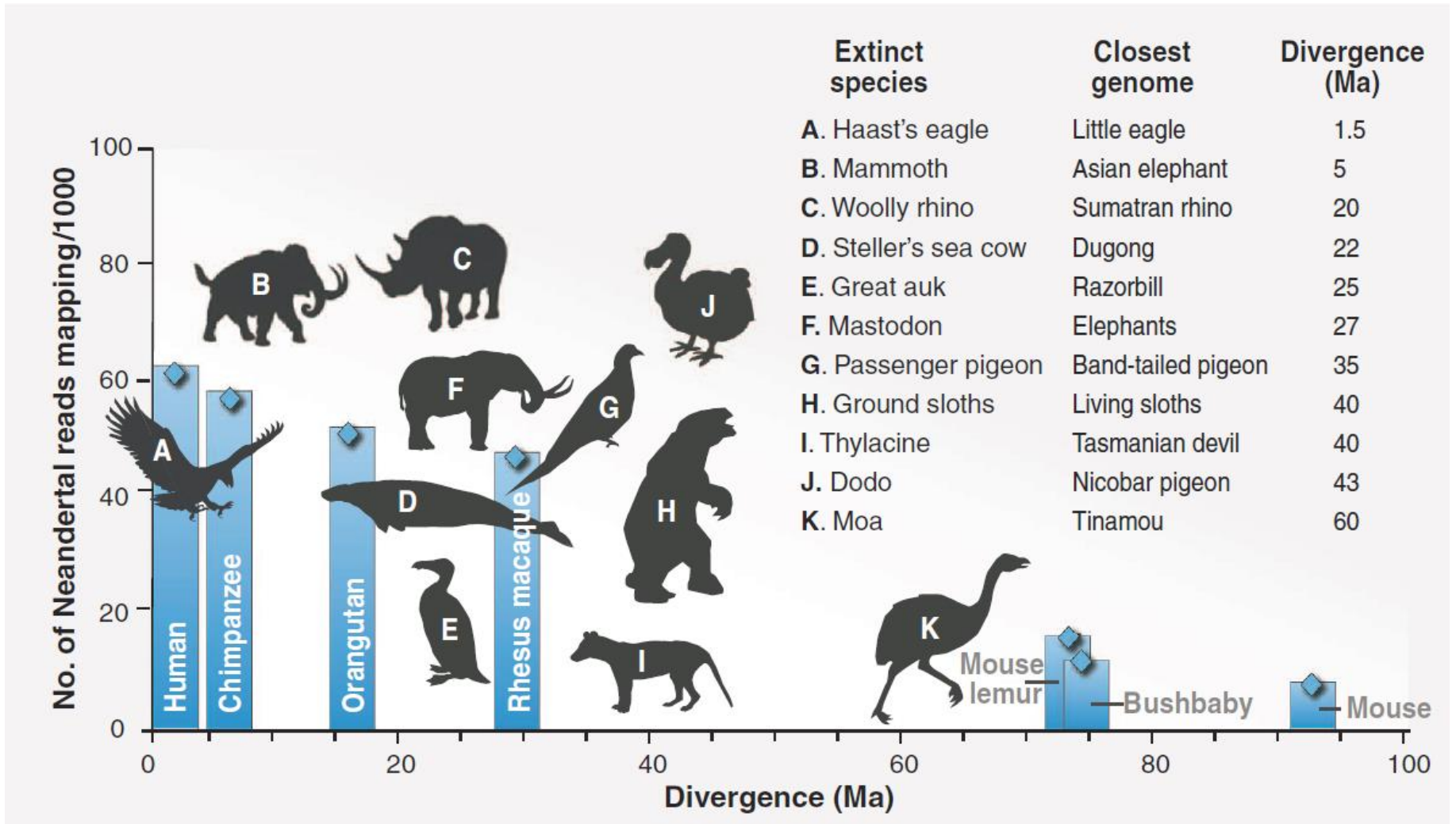
# Quality check



# Phylogeny makes sense (whatever that means)



# Would a nuclear genome be possible?



Thanks.....

.....for listening so far

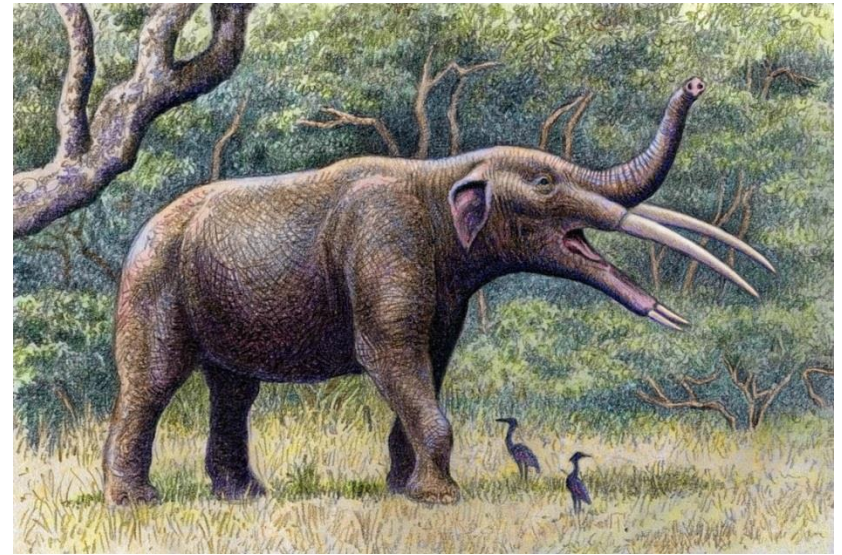


@omgseba



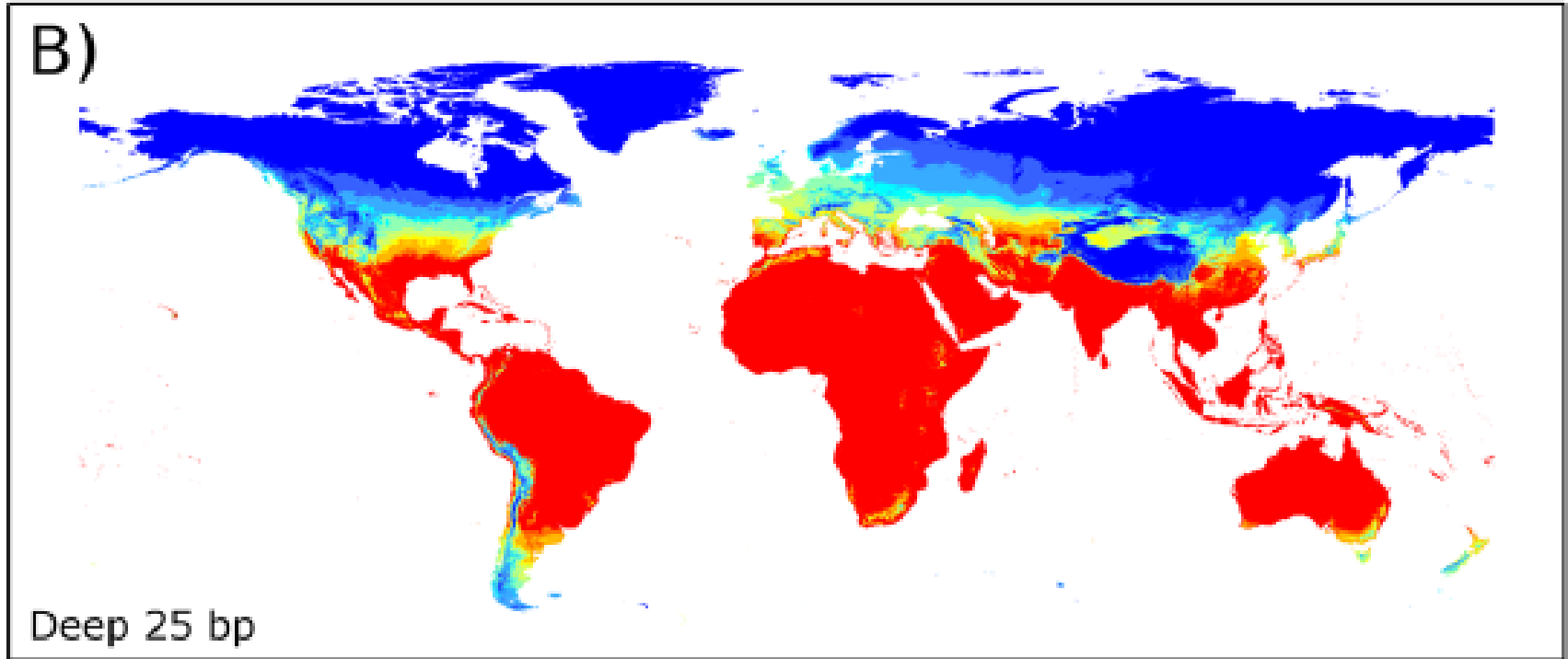
## Part 2: What to do with ancient DNA

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# Choose samples from colder regions

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# Cave bears

---



# Bear evolution

---



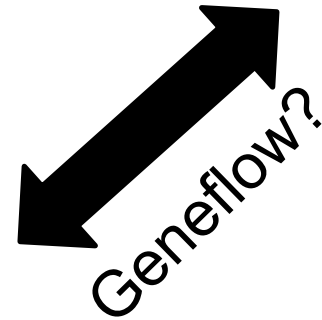
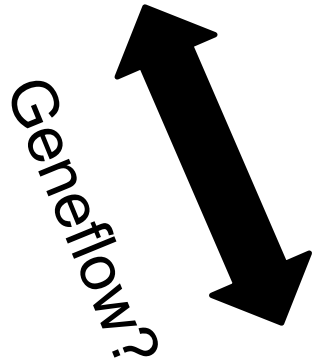
# Bear evolution and gene flow

---

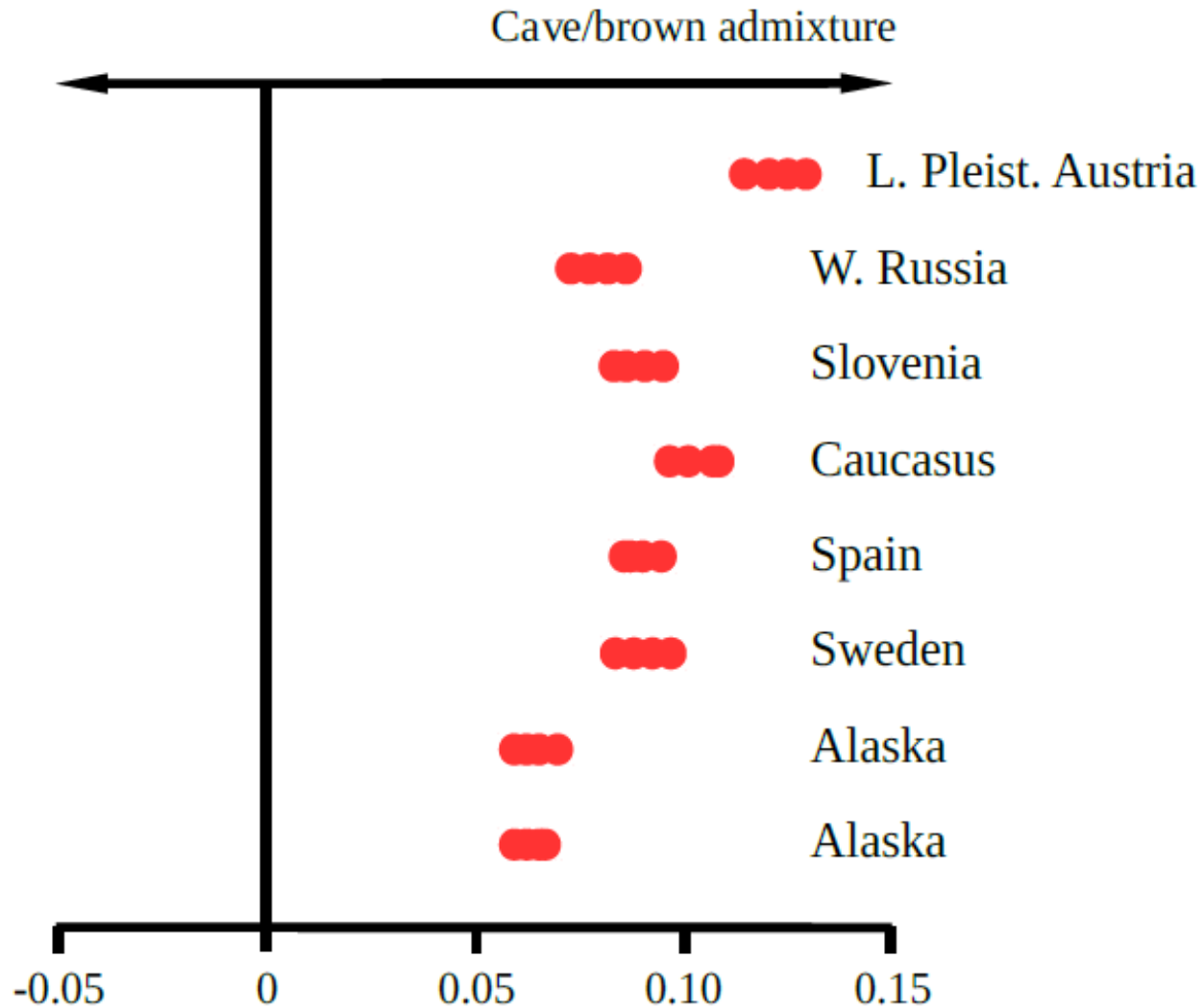


# Gene flow among species

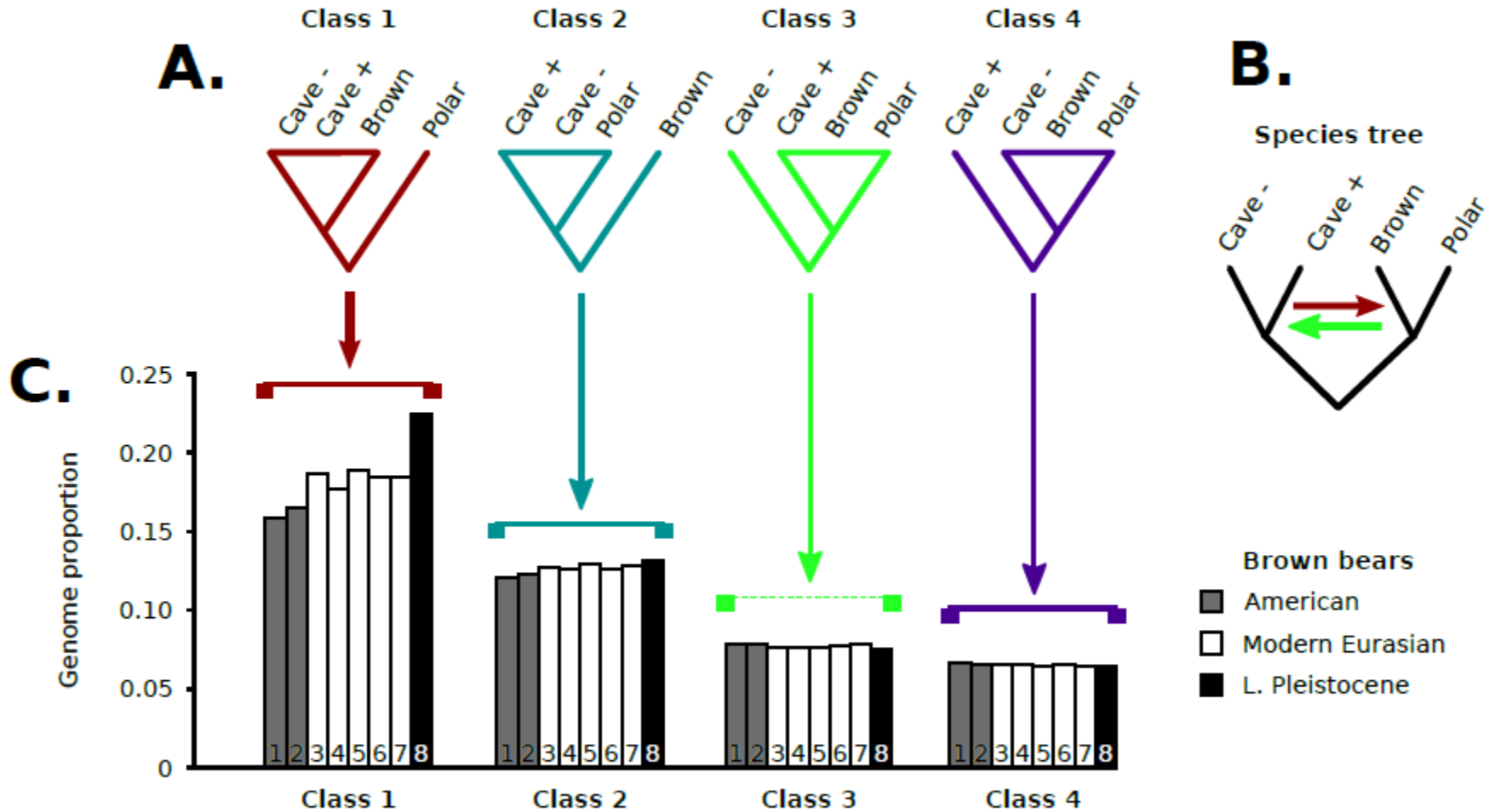
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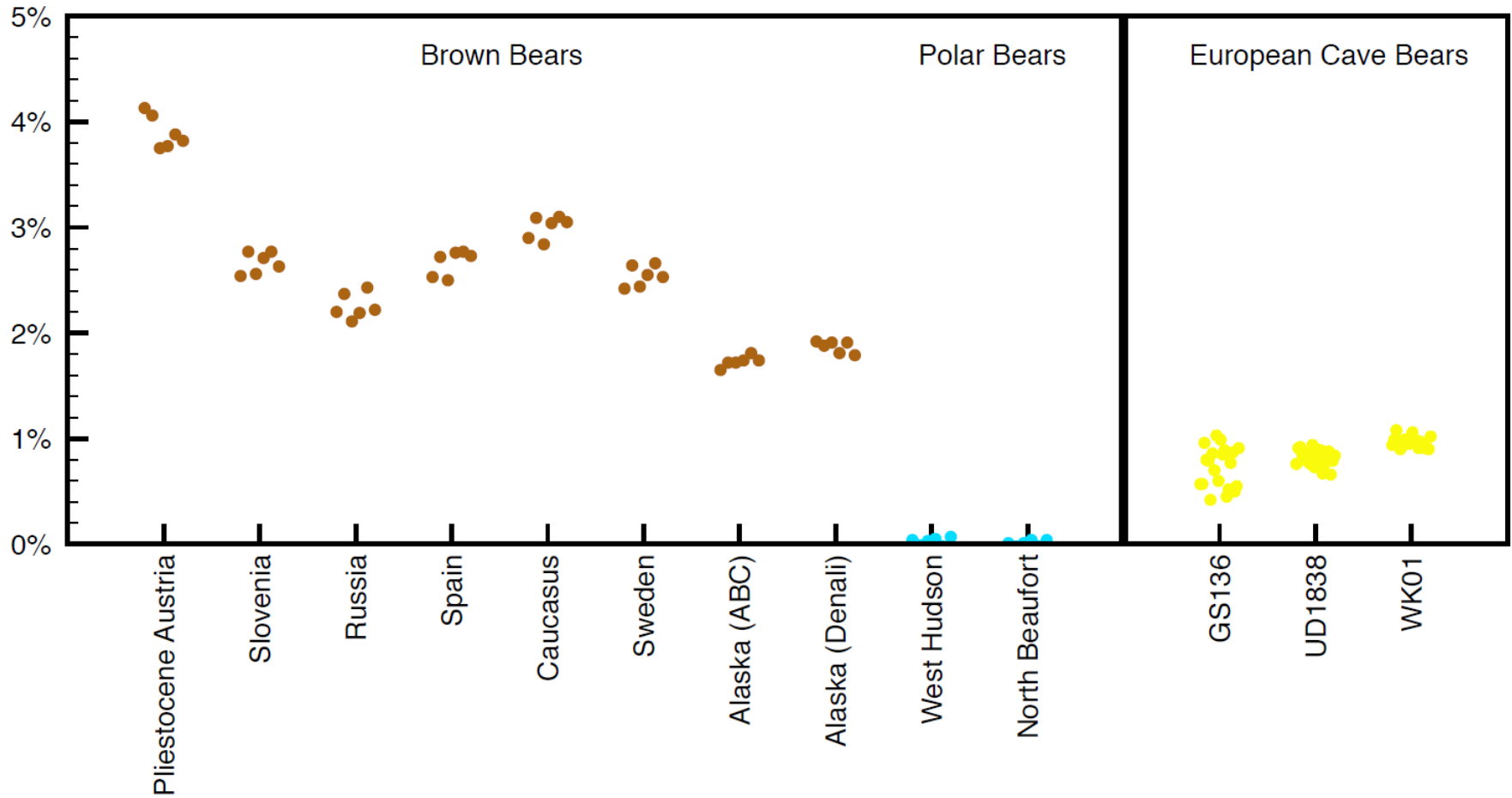
# D-statistics



# Phylogenetic admixture analysis



# Percentage of admixture



# Caucasus

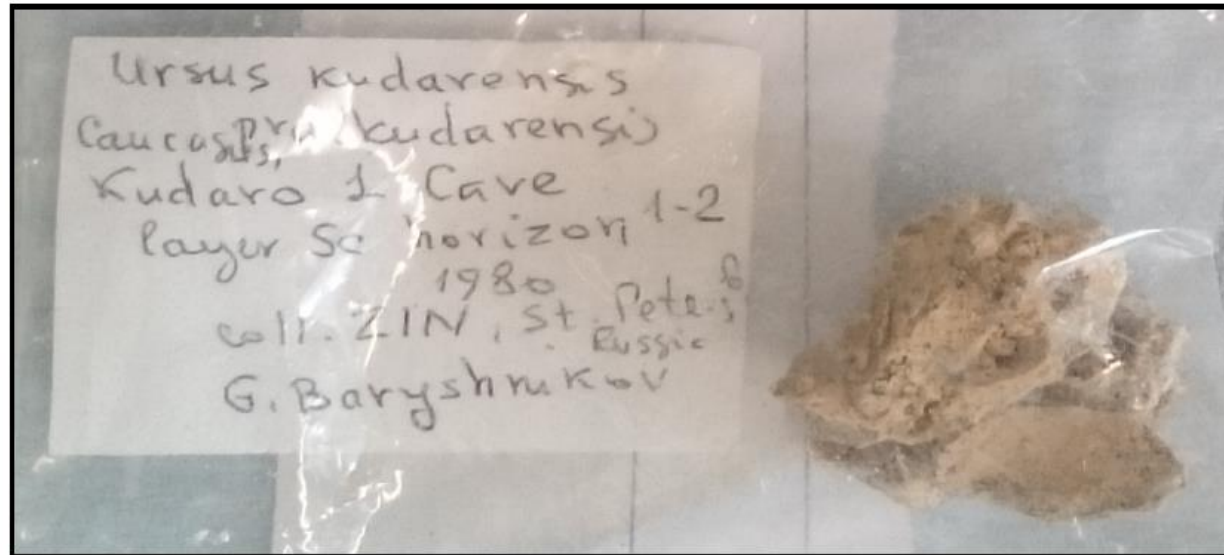
---





# Caucasus cave bears

---



## ***U. kudarensis praekudarensis***

Kudaro 1 cave, Caucasus

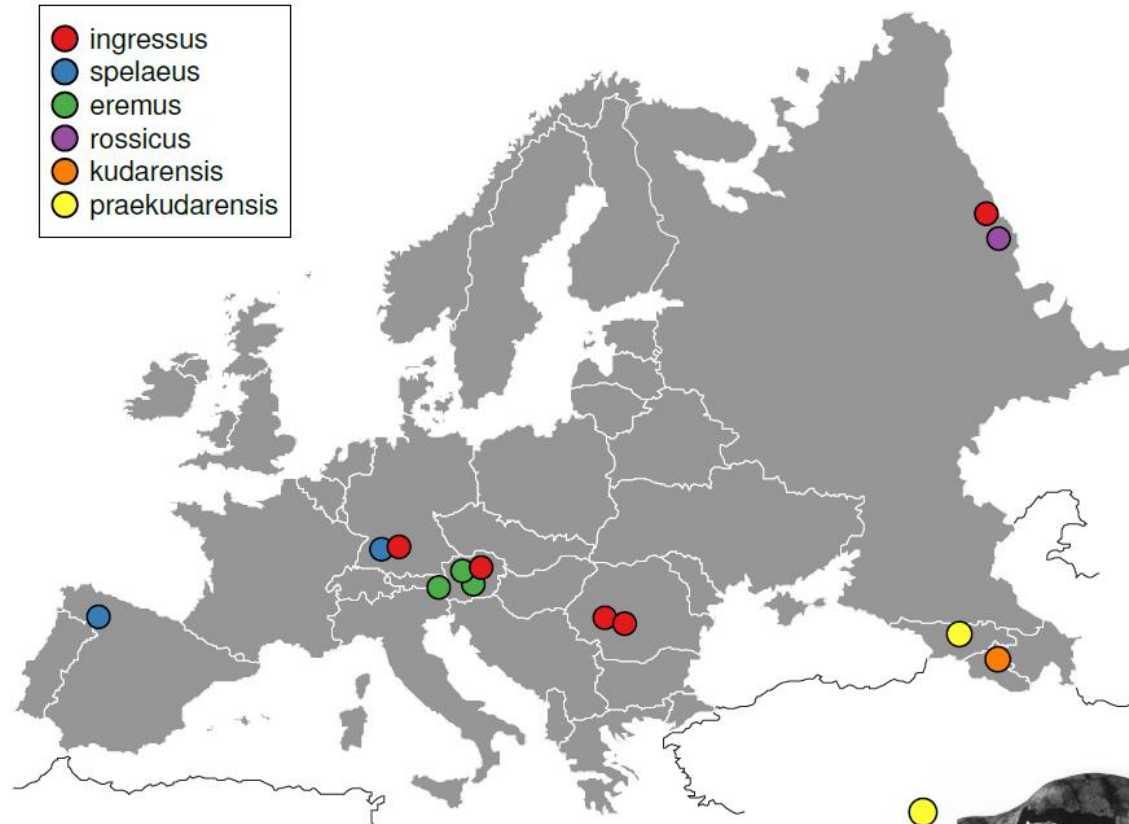
Layer 5c, horizon 1-2

Oxygen-Isotope Stage 10

360,000 ± 90,000 years

# European cave bears

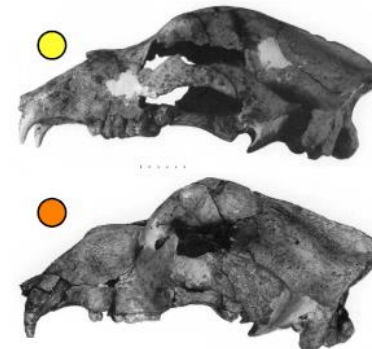
---



## Cave Bears from the Paleolithic of the Greater Caucasus

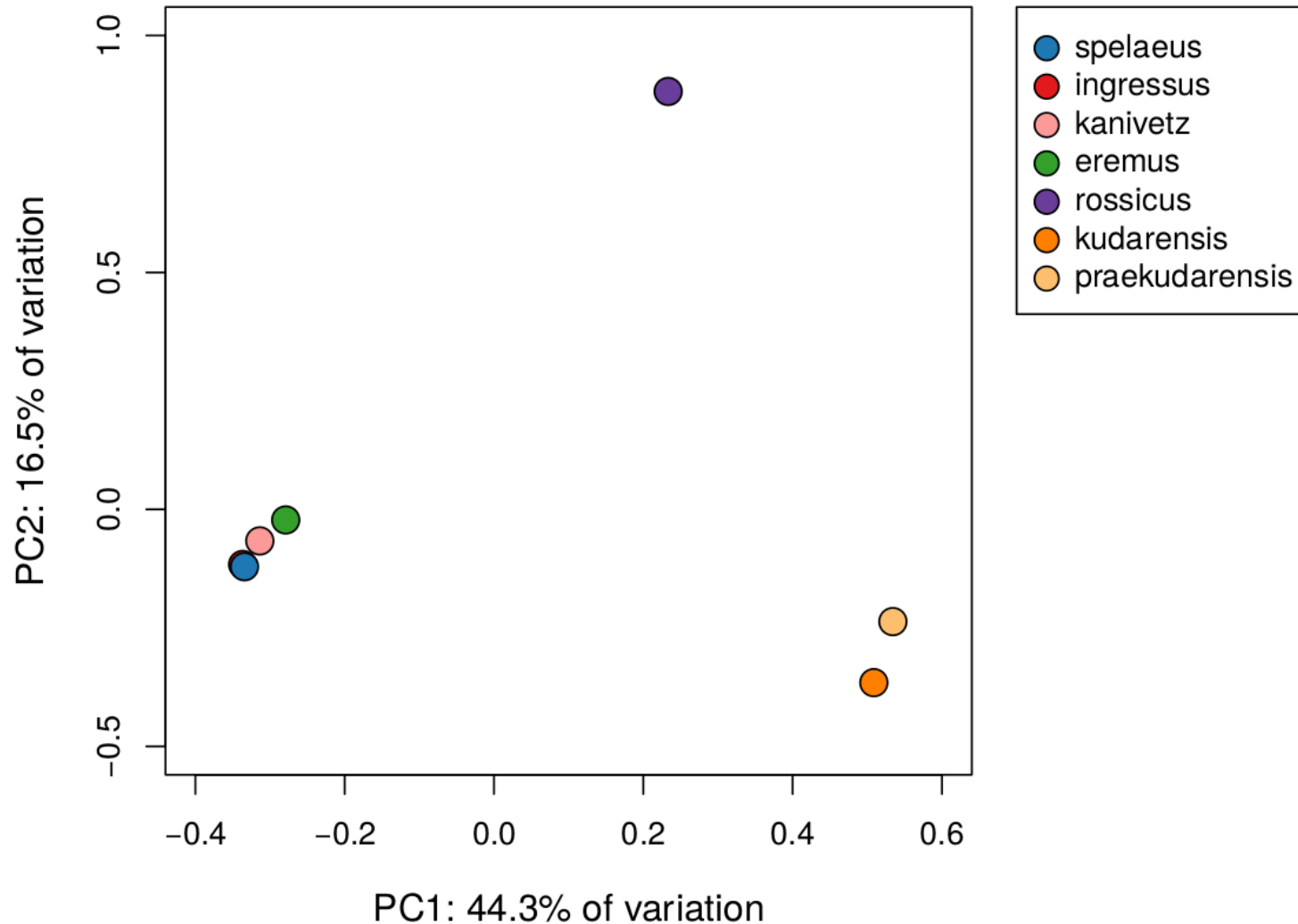
---

**Gennady F. Baryshnikov**  
Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg

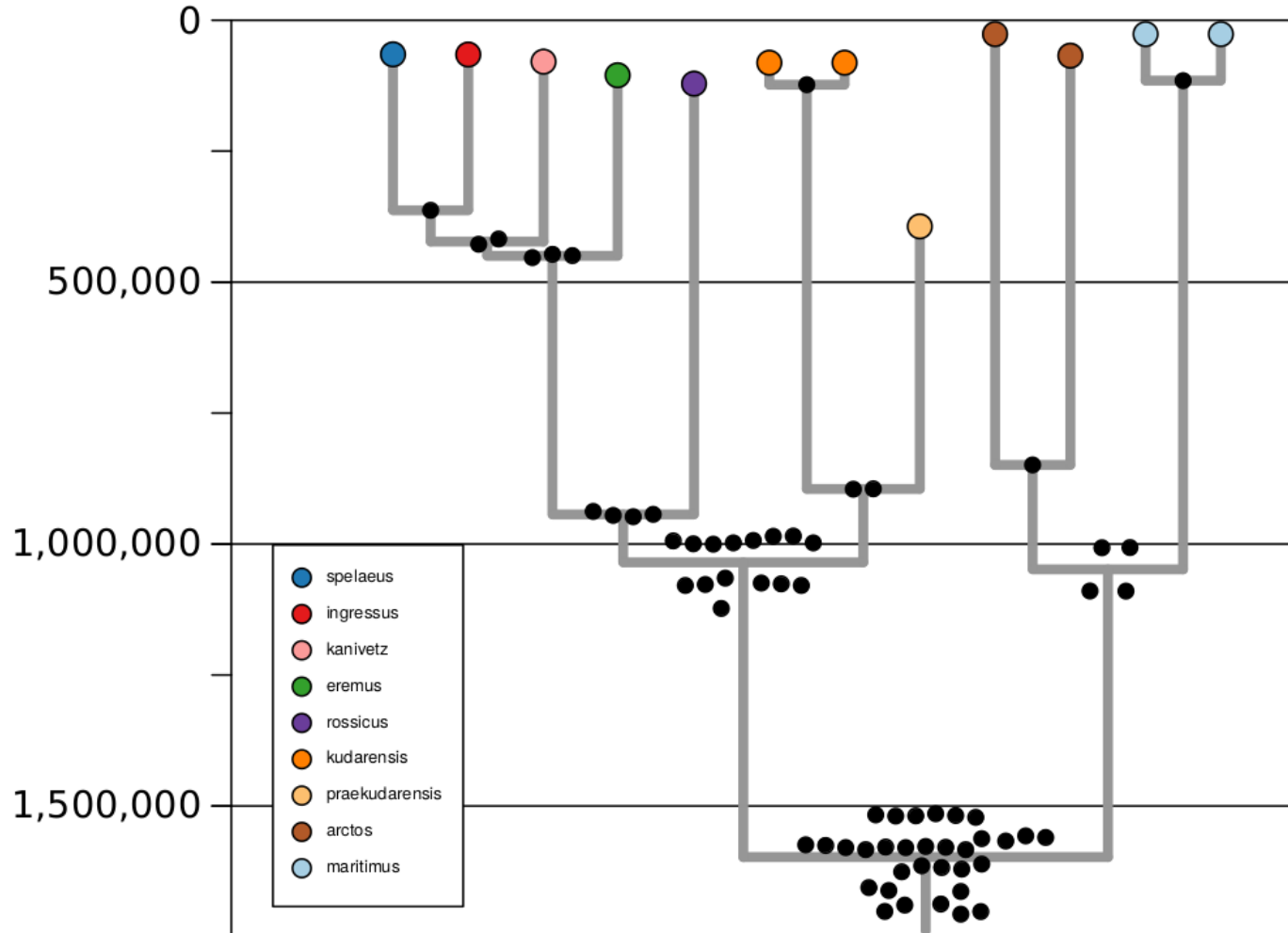


# Cave bear nuclear relationships.....

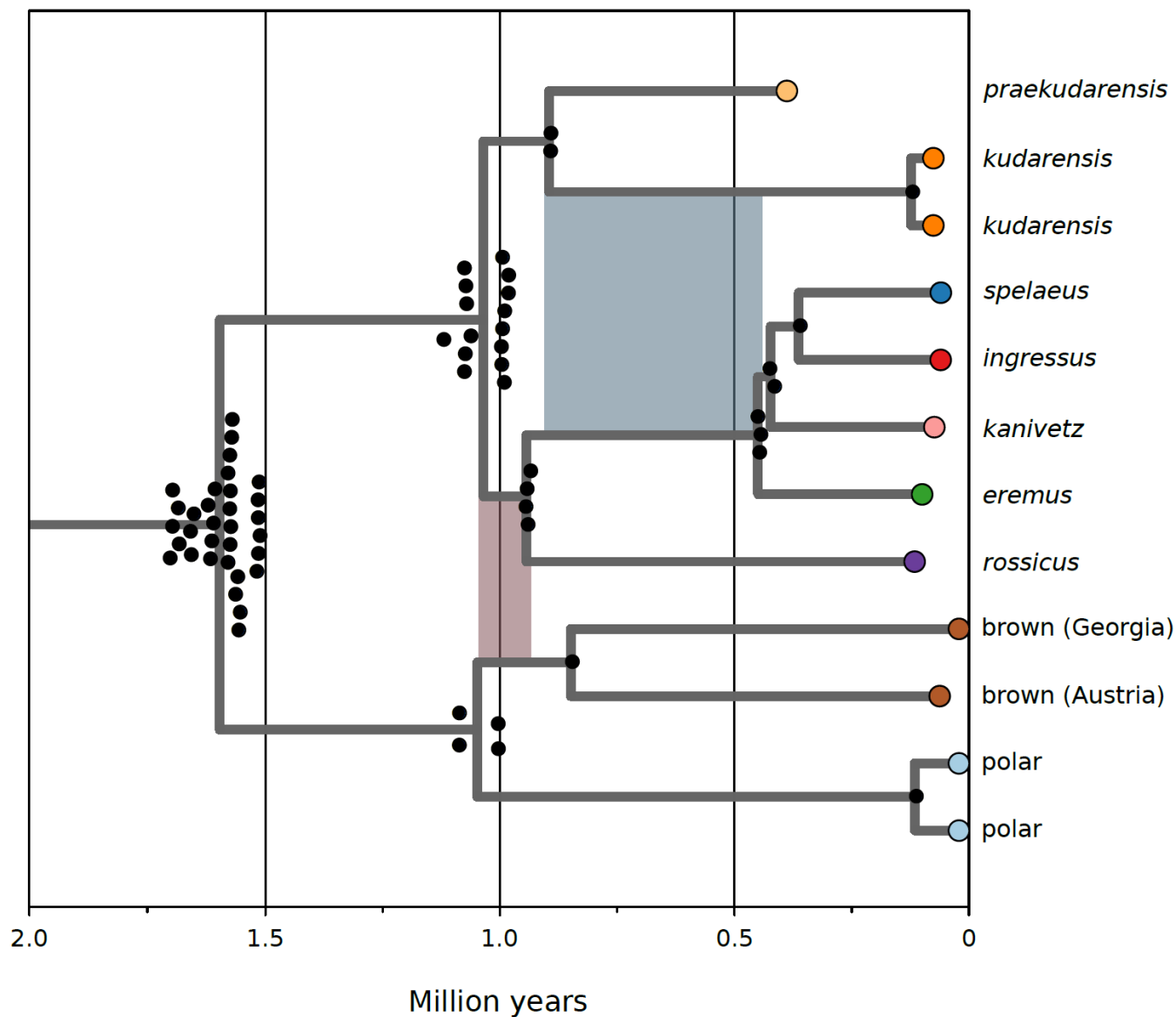
PCA of 487,747 filtered transversion sites



# .....and bear evolution from a temporal perspective

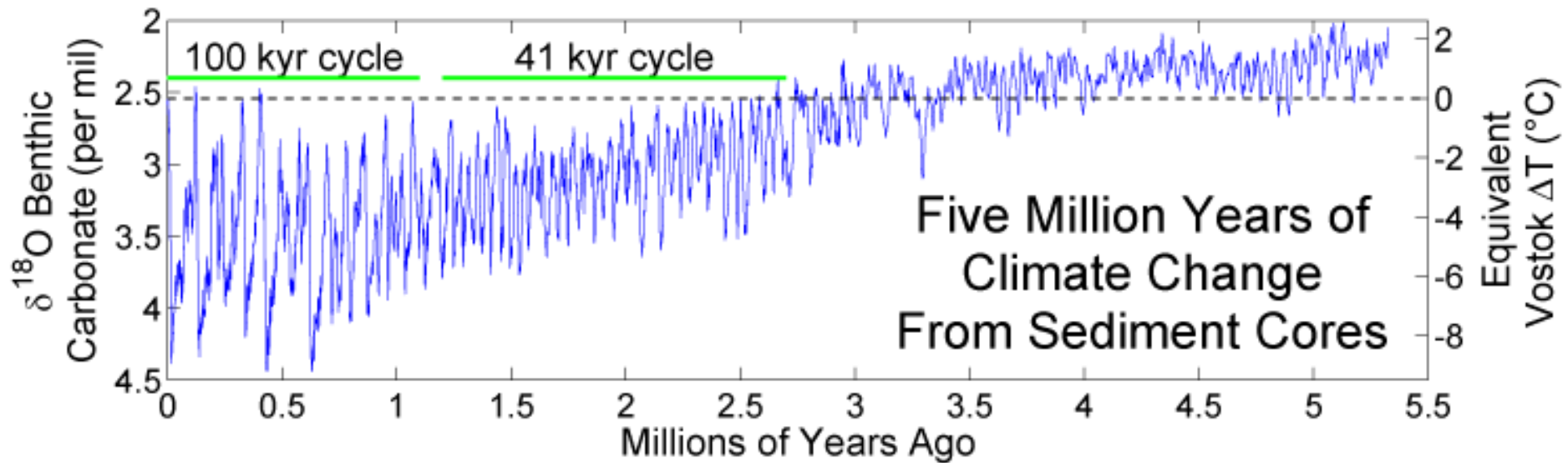


# Dating admixture – 500,000 years after divergence

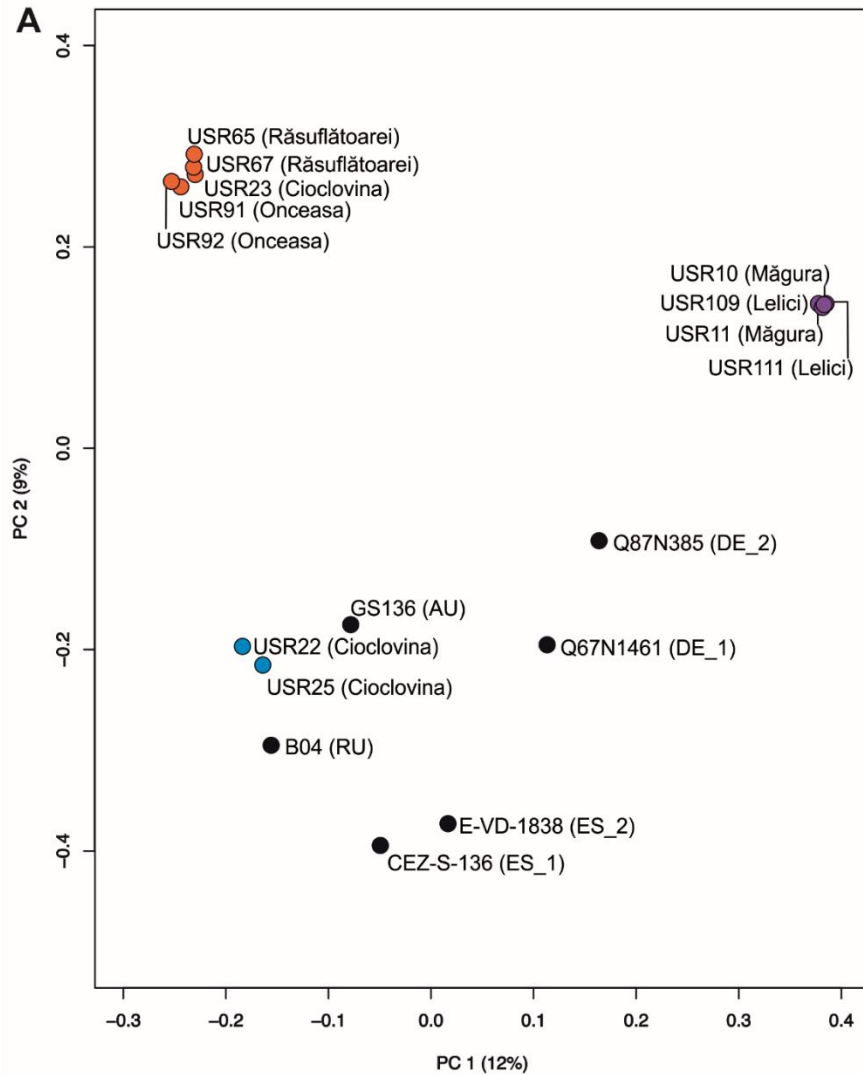


# Natural climate change causing divergence?

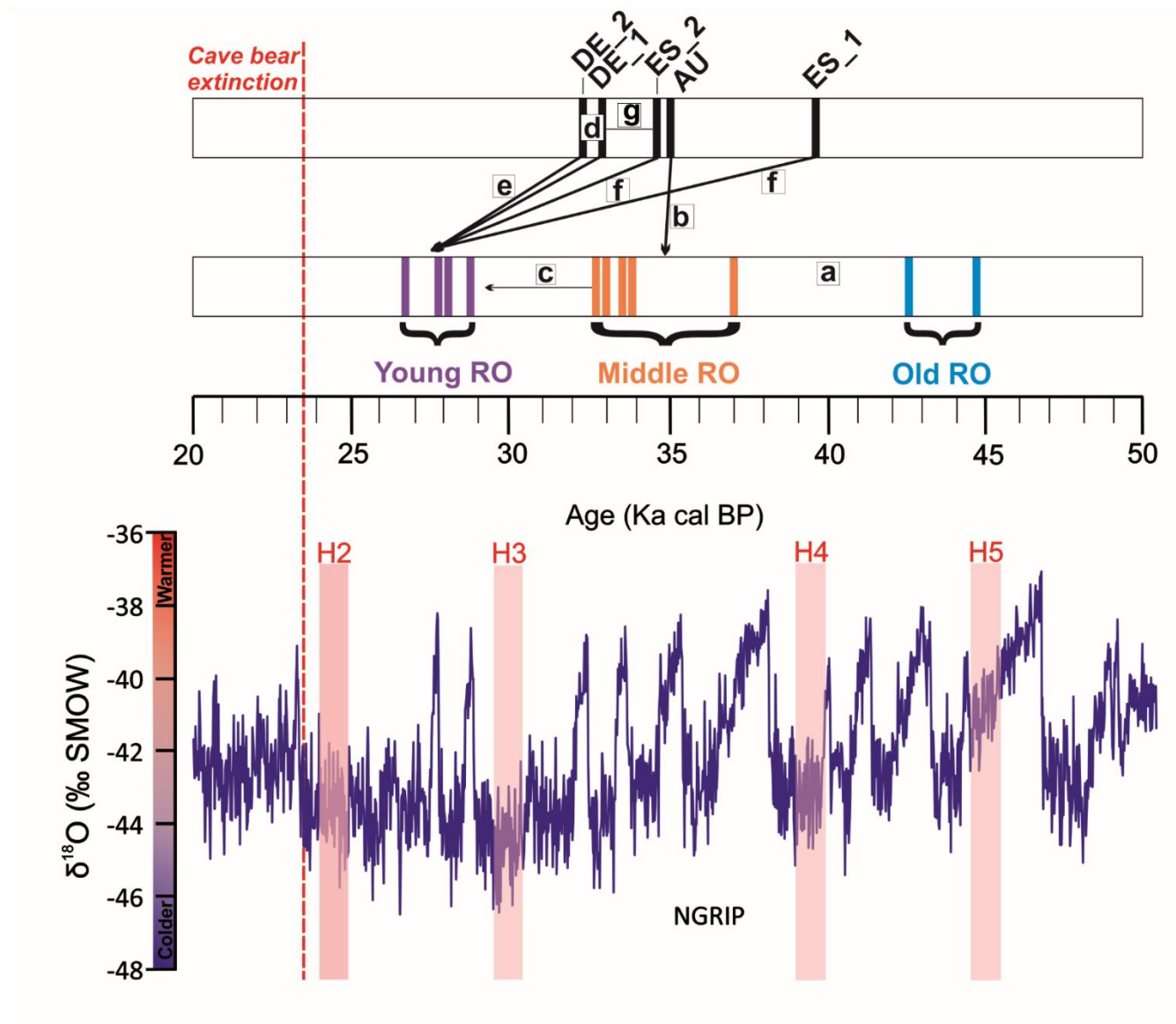
---



# Temporal genomic differentiation in Romania



# And cave bear population dynamics





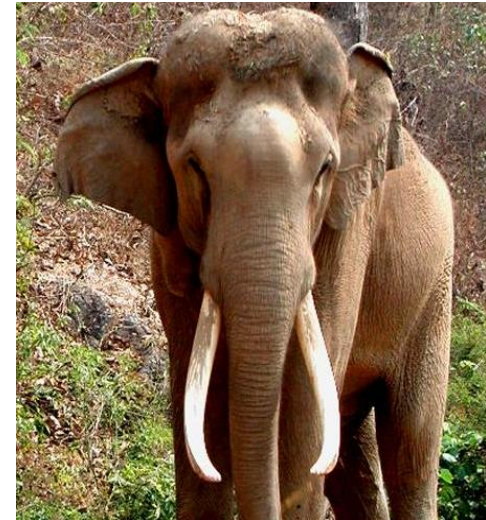
# Summary cave bears

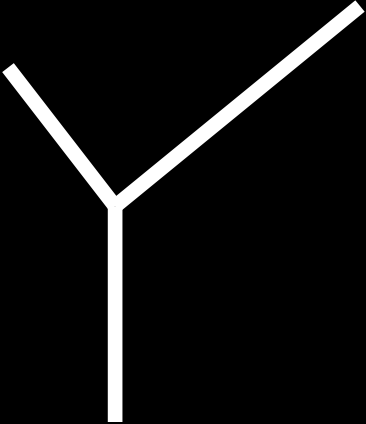
---

- Gene flow within and between species is an important factor in bear evolution
- The European cave bear has partially survived in the brown bear, at least on the genomic level
- Genomes from very old fossils can be used to calibrate phylogenetic trees
- Cave bears did not like cold climate phases

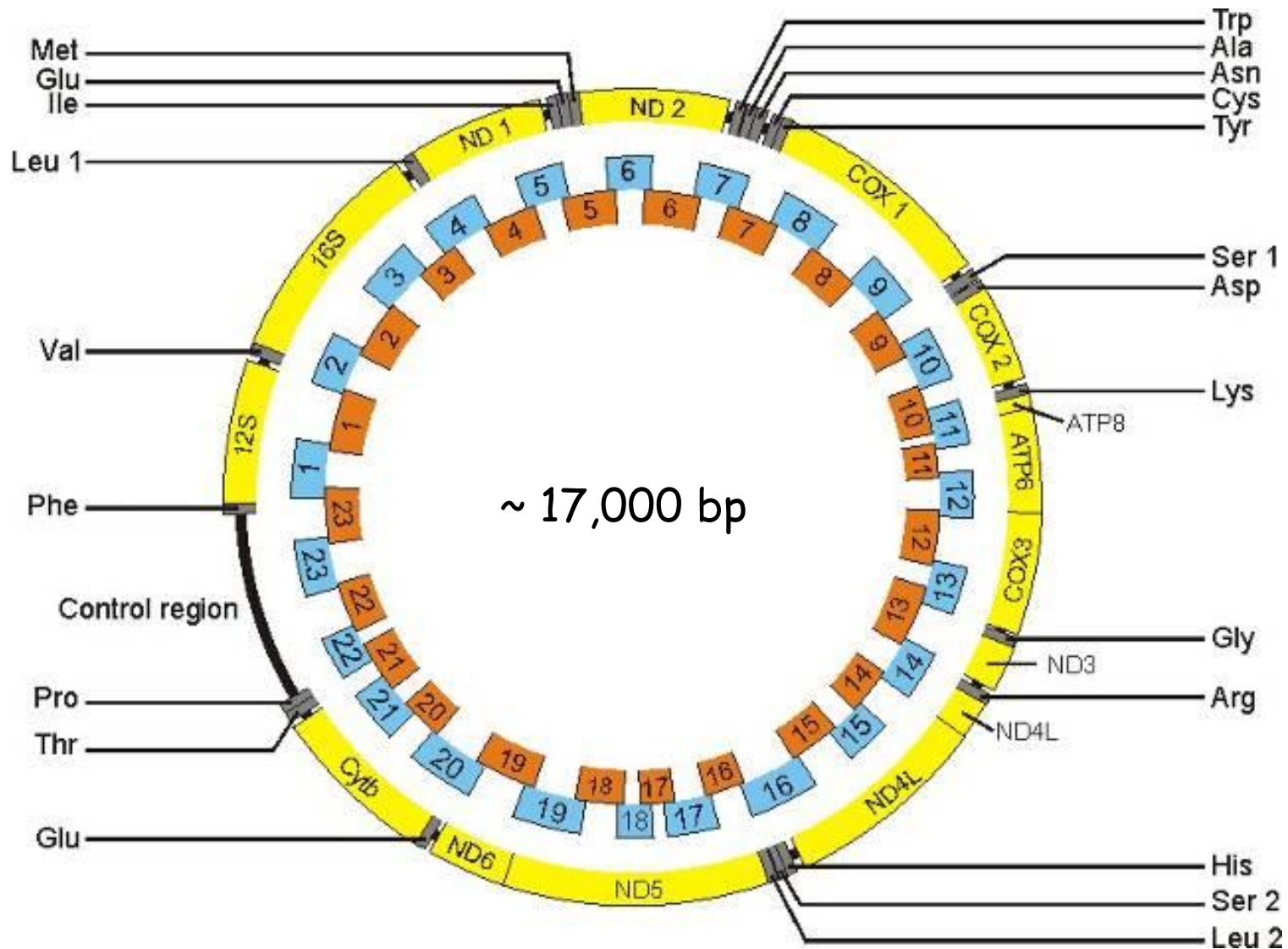
# Elephant evolution

---





# The mitochondrial genome

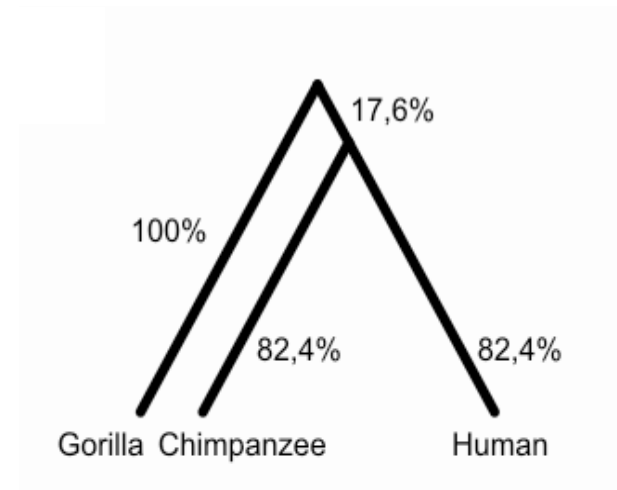
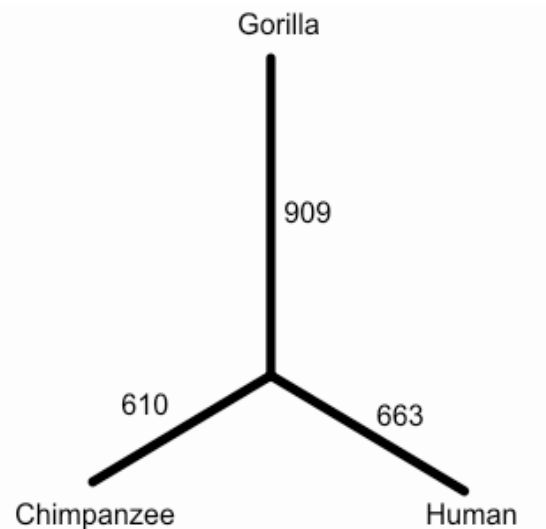
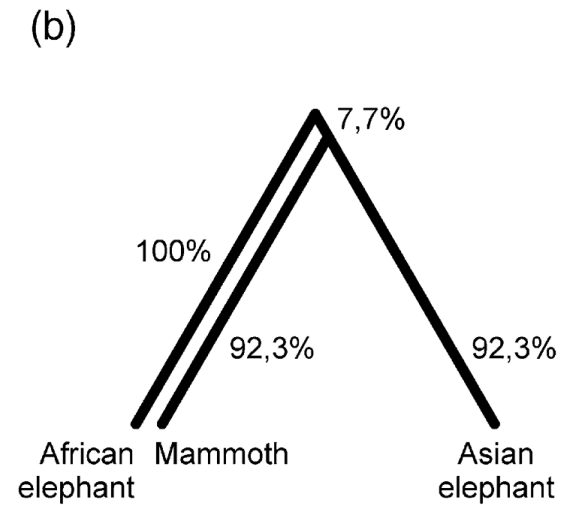
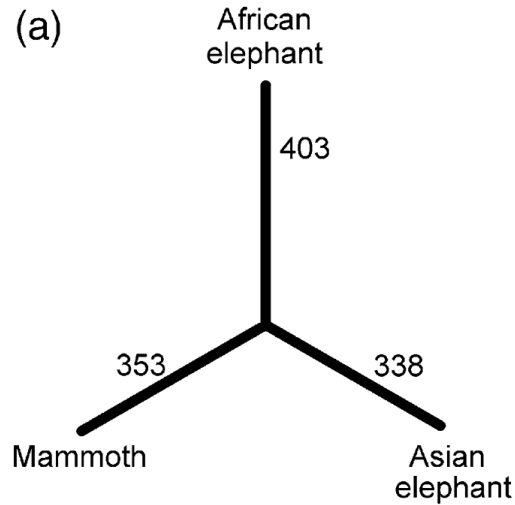


# The choice of outgroup - living relatives

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# Phylogeny without outgroup

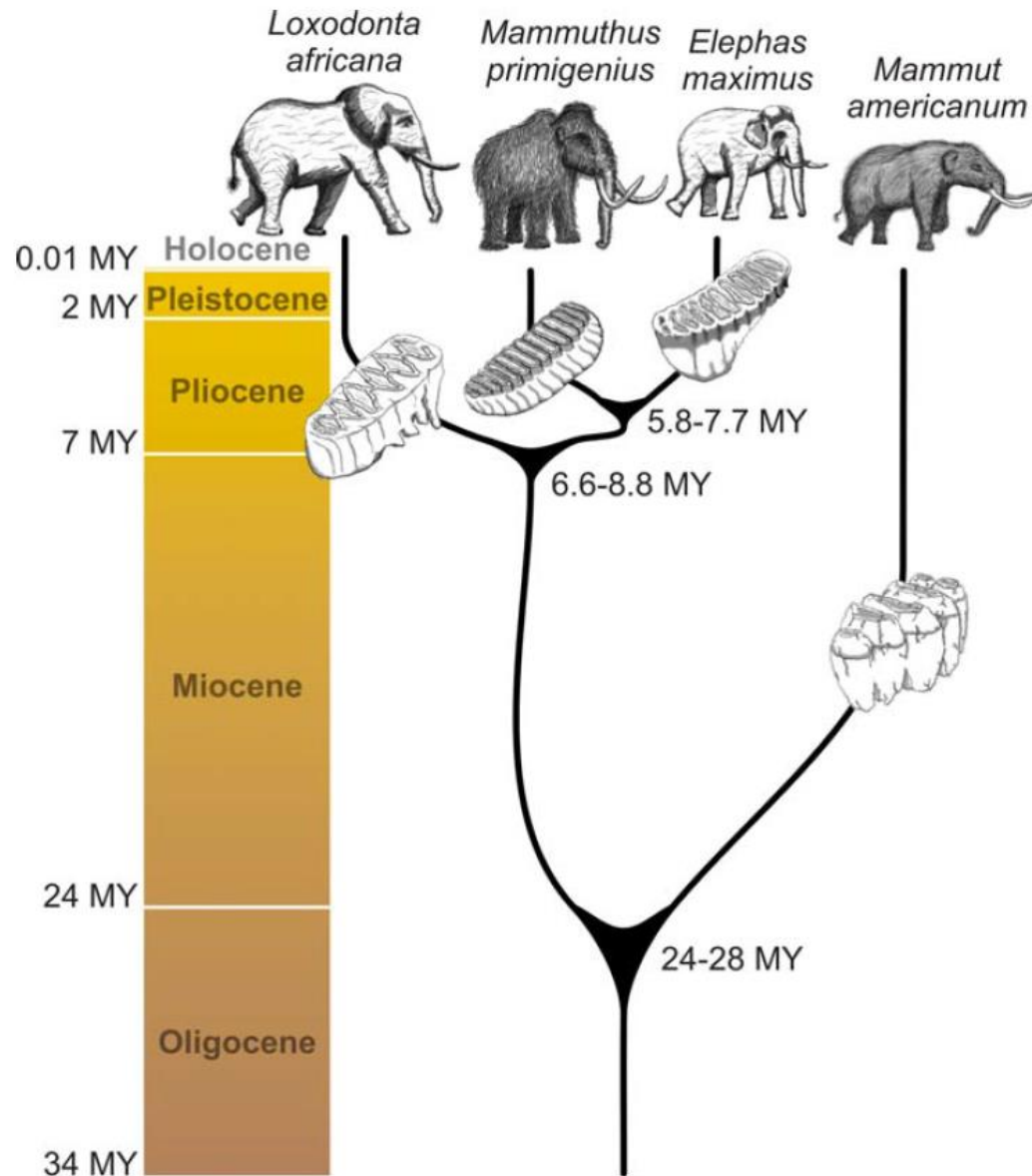


# The choice of outgroup – extinct relatives

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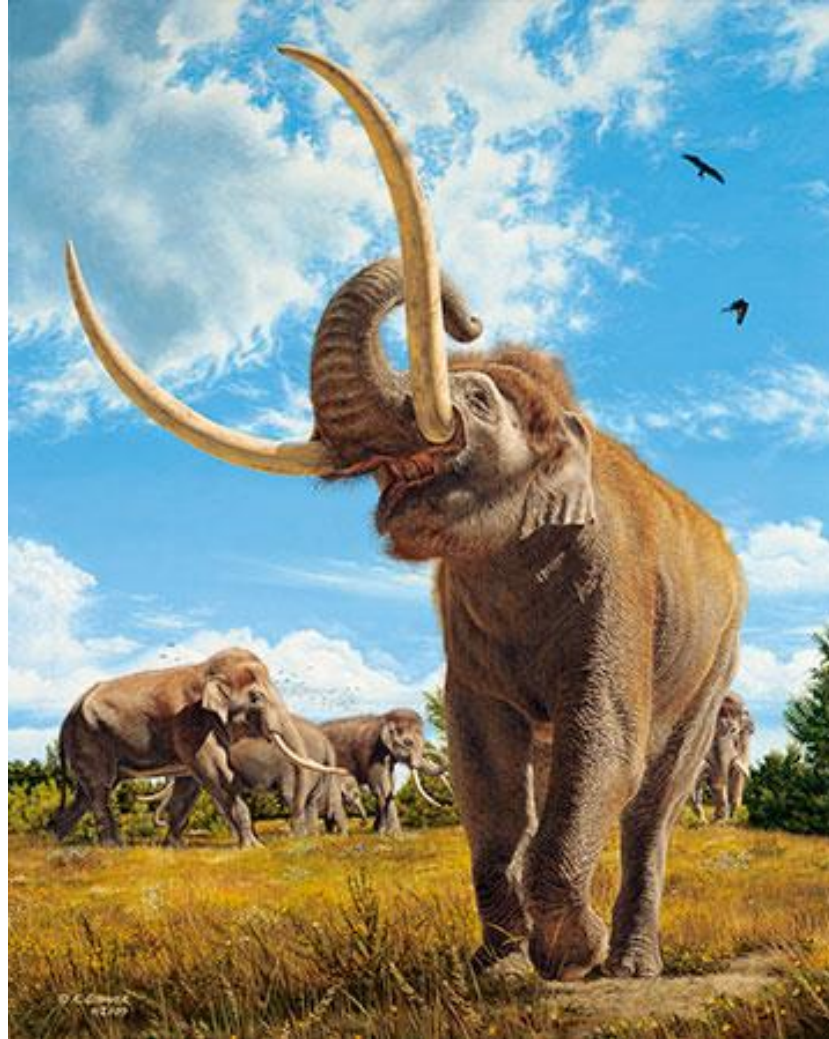
# Phylogenetics





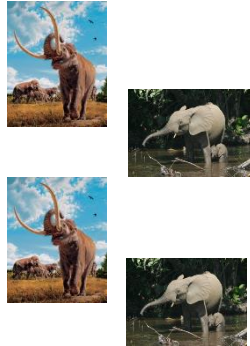
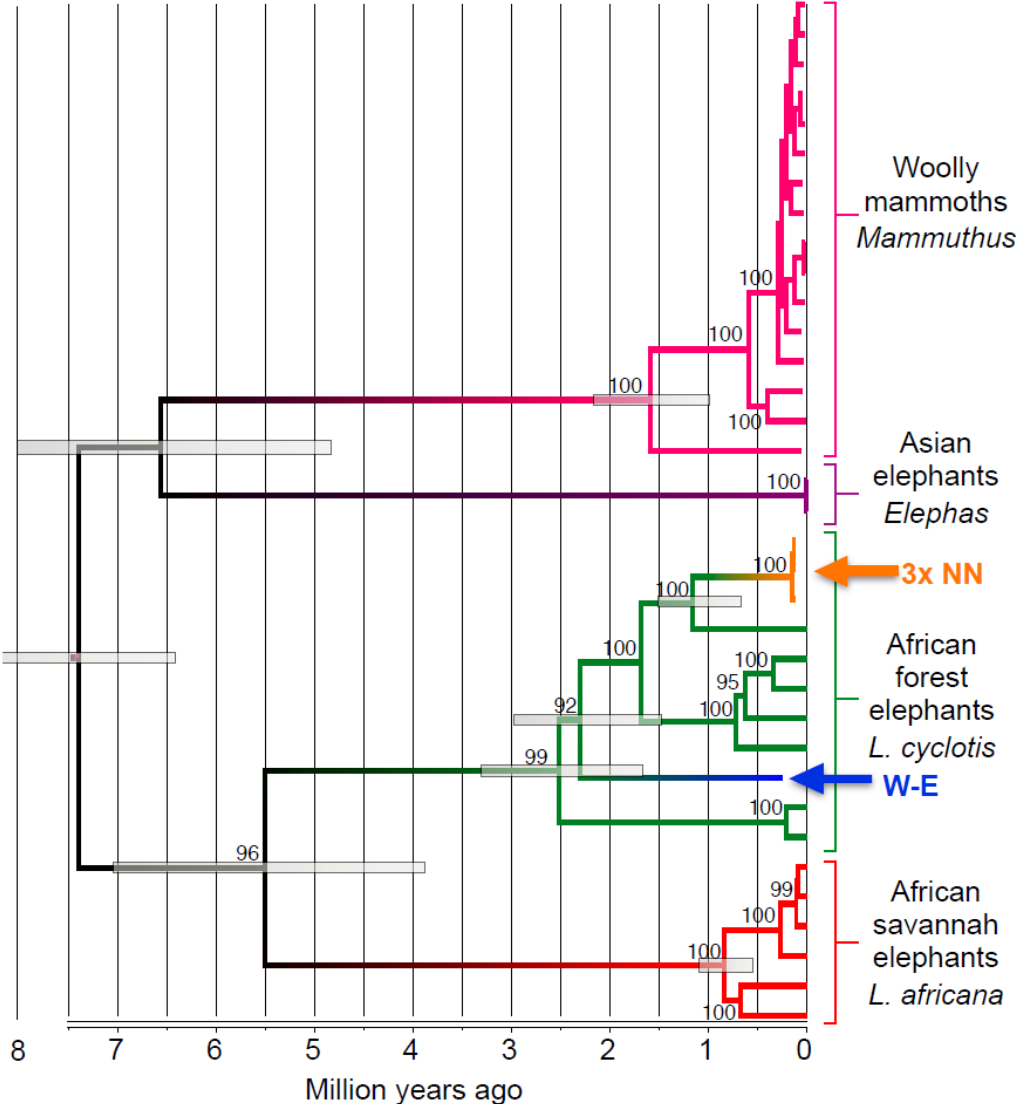
# *Palaeoloxodon antiquus*

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~120,000 years old

# Mitogenome tree



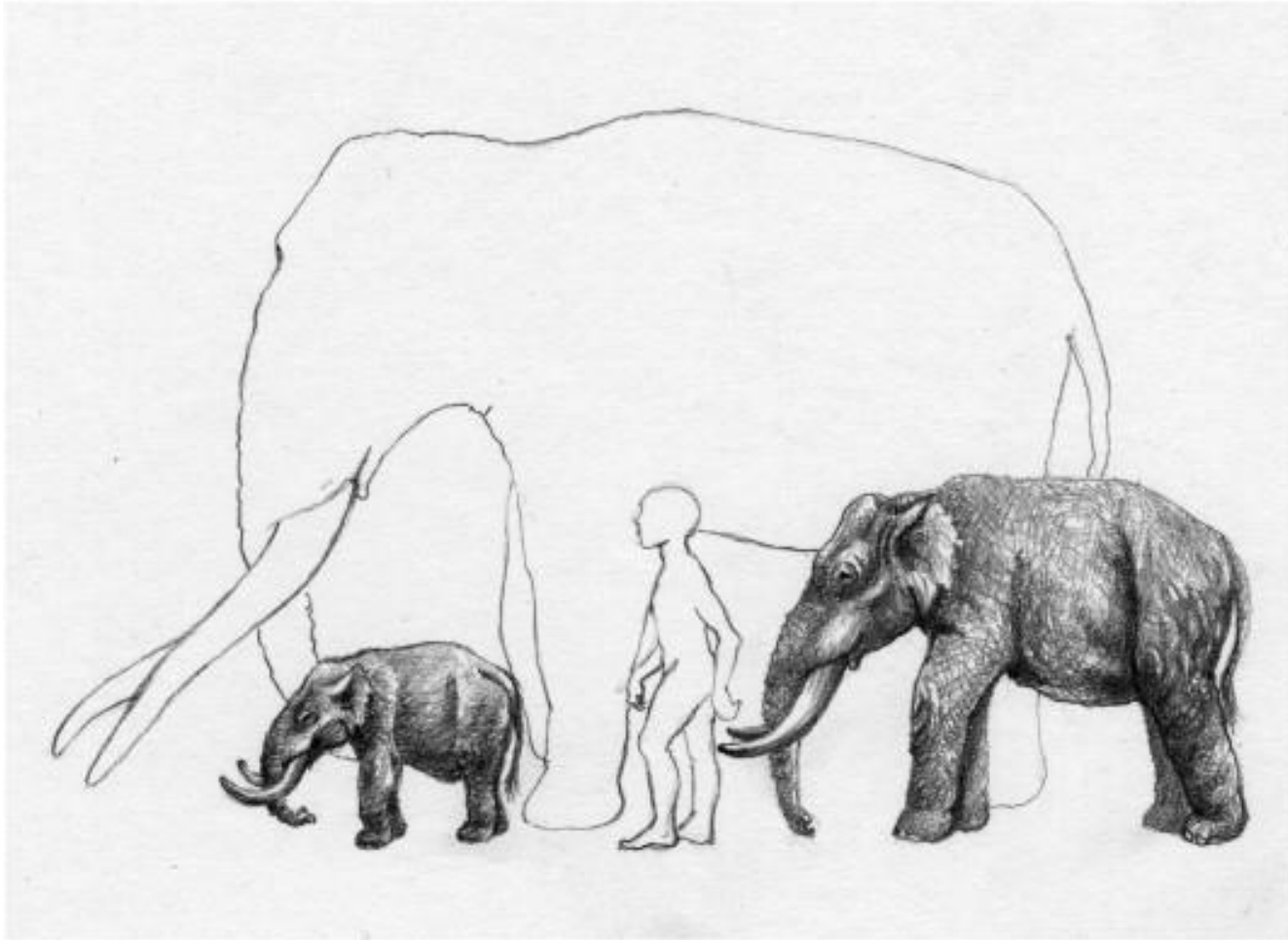
# Sicily

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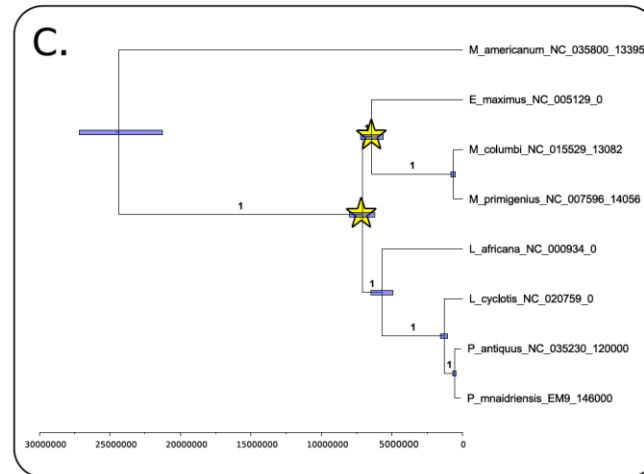
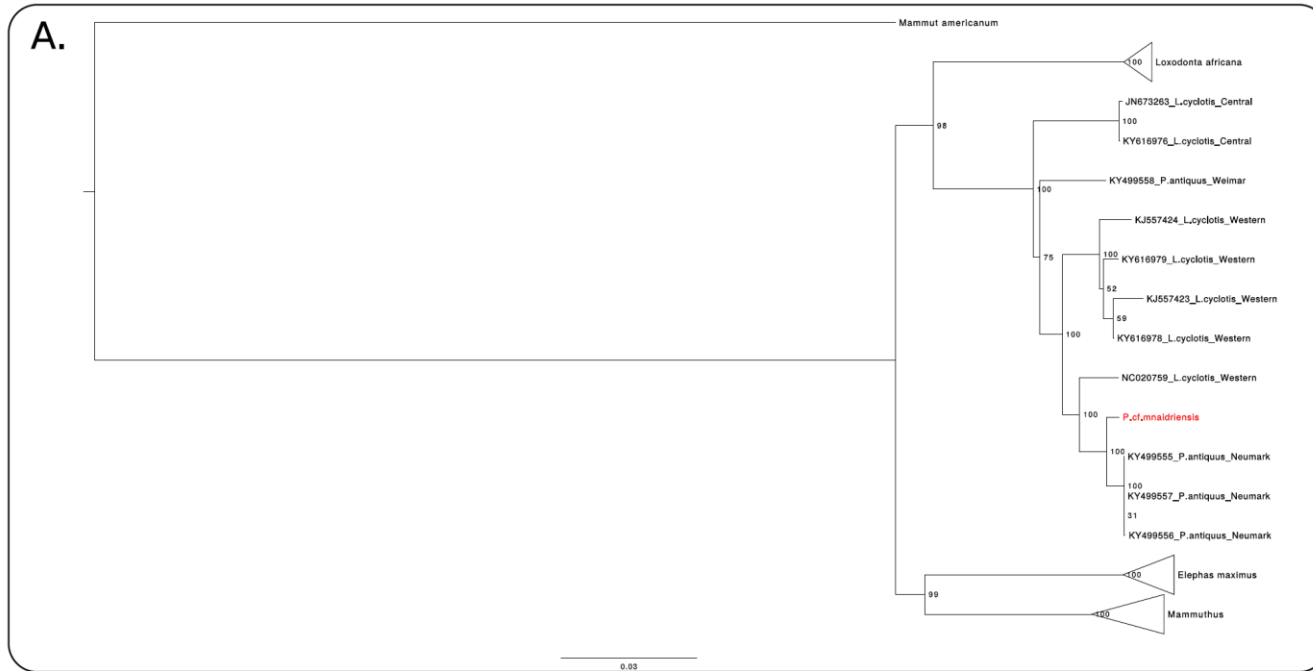


# *Palaeoloxodon mnaidriensis*

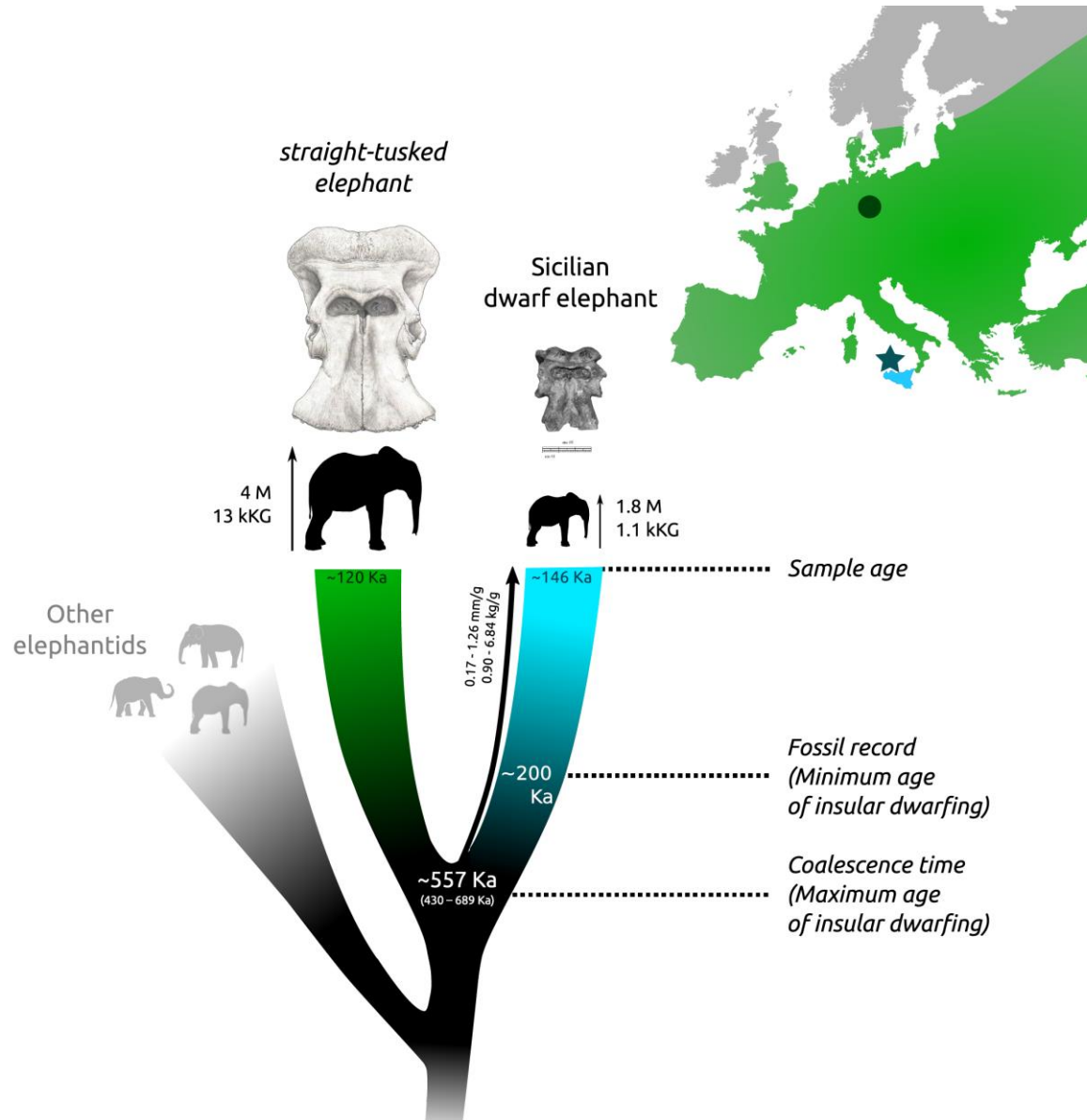
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# Geographical origin and mitogenome phylogeny



# Insular dwarfing



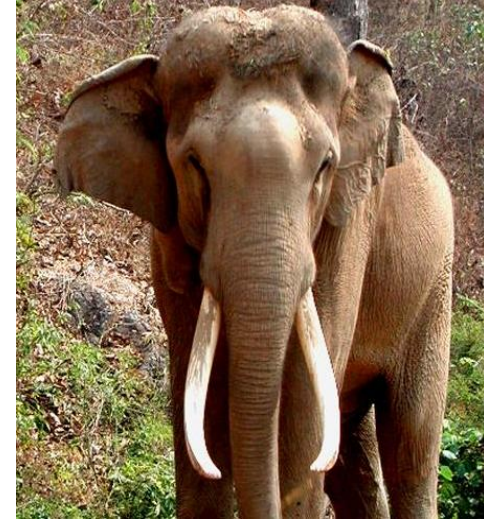
# African forest elephant

---



# How are these related?

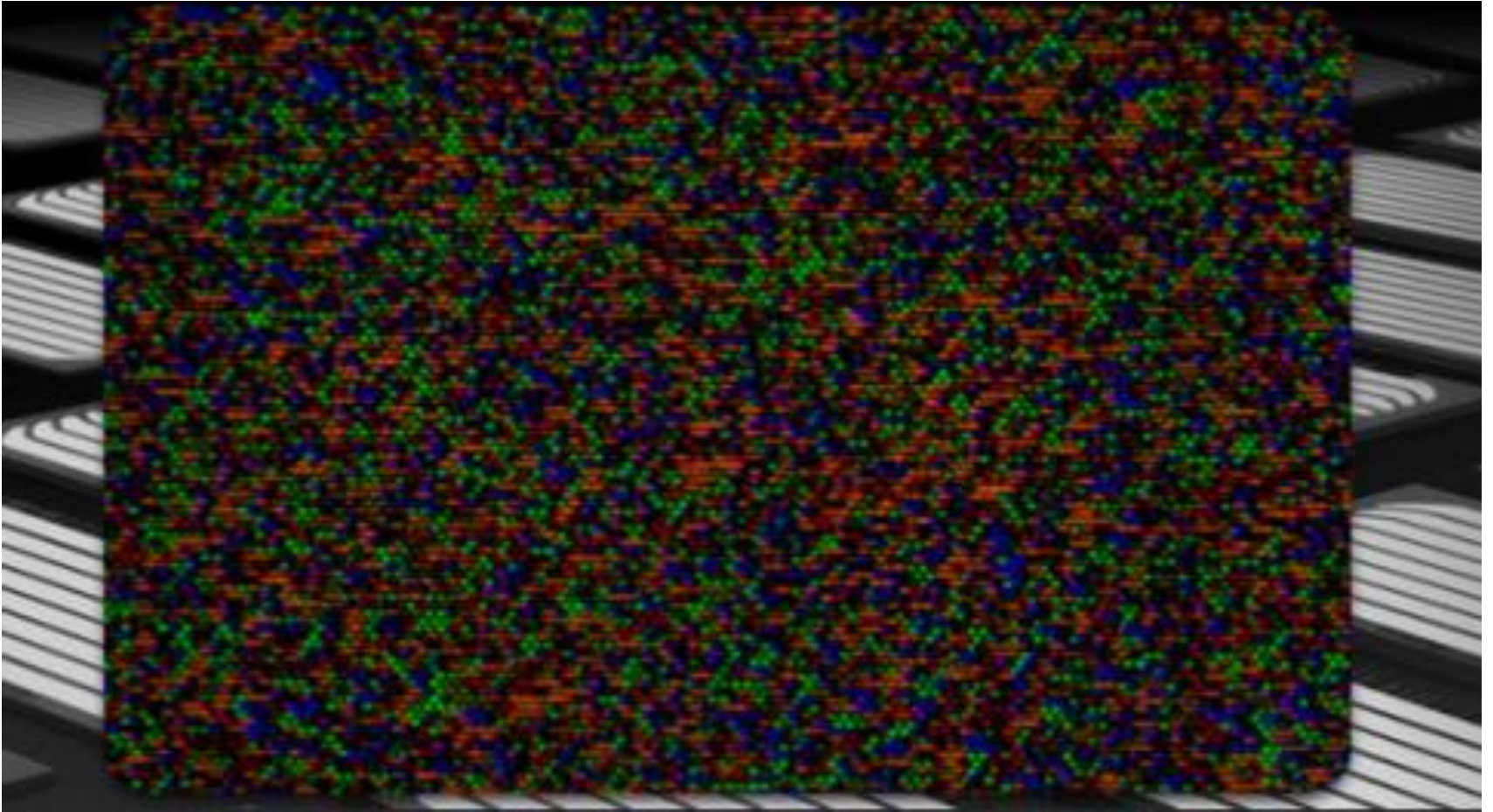
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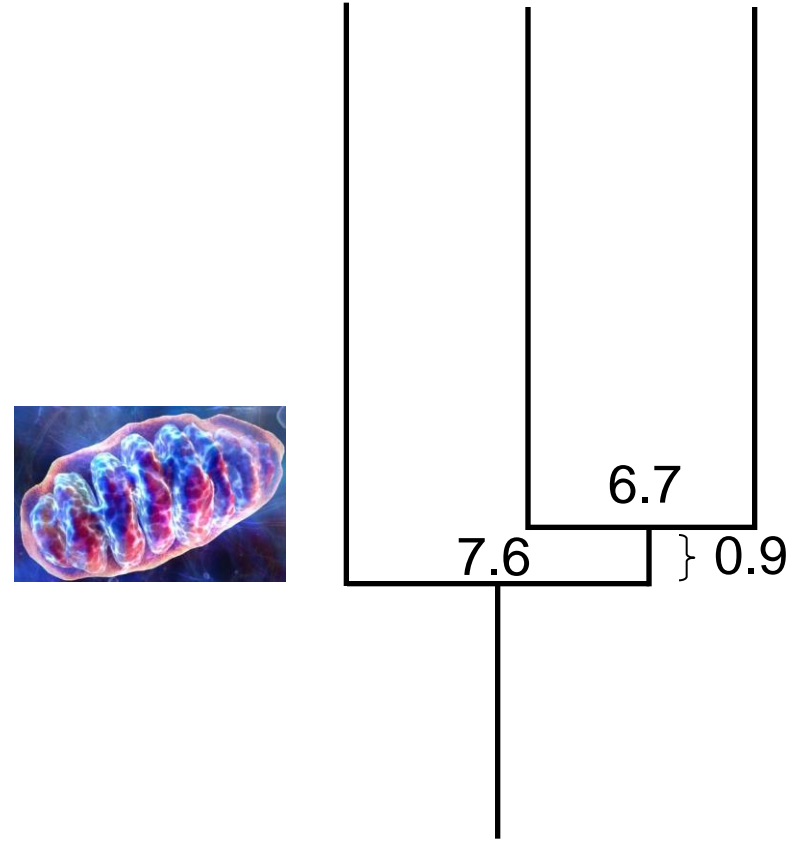
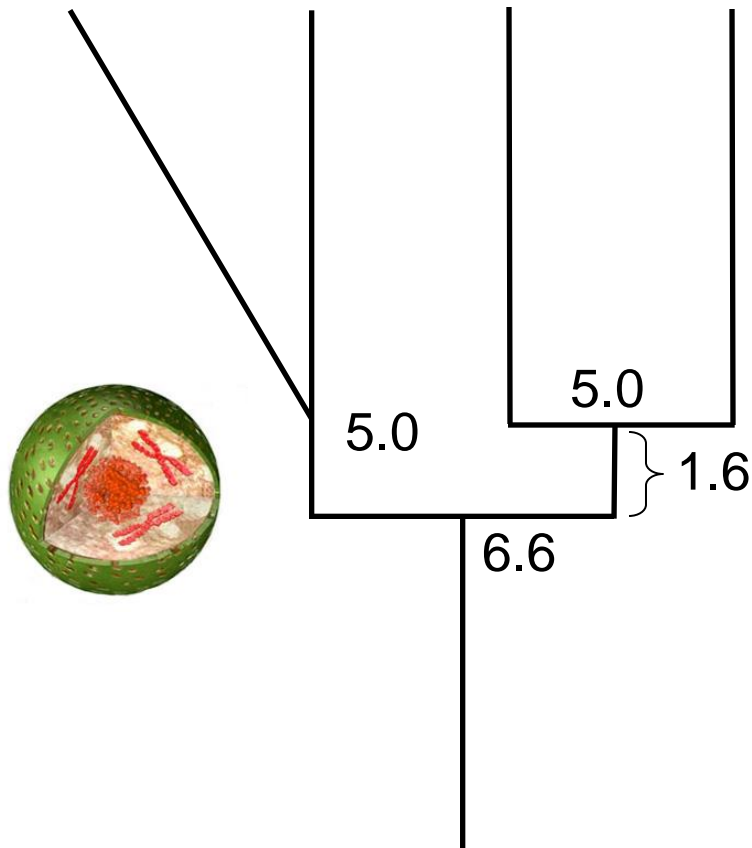


# Nuclear DNA sequencing

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# Mitochondrial vs. nuclear phylogenies



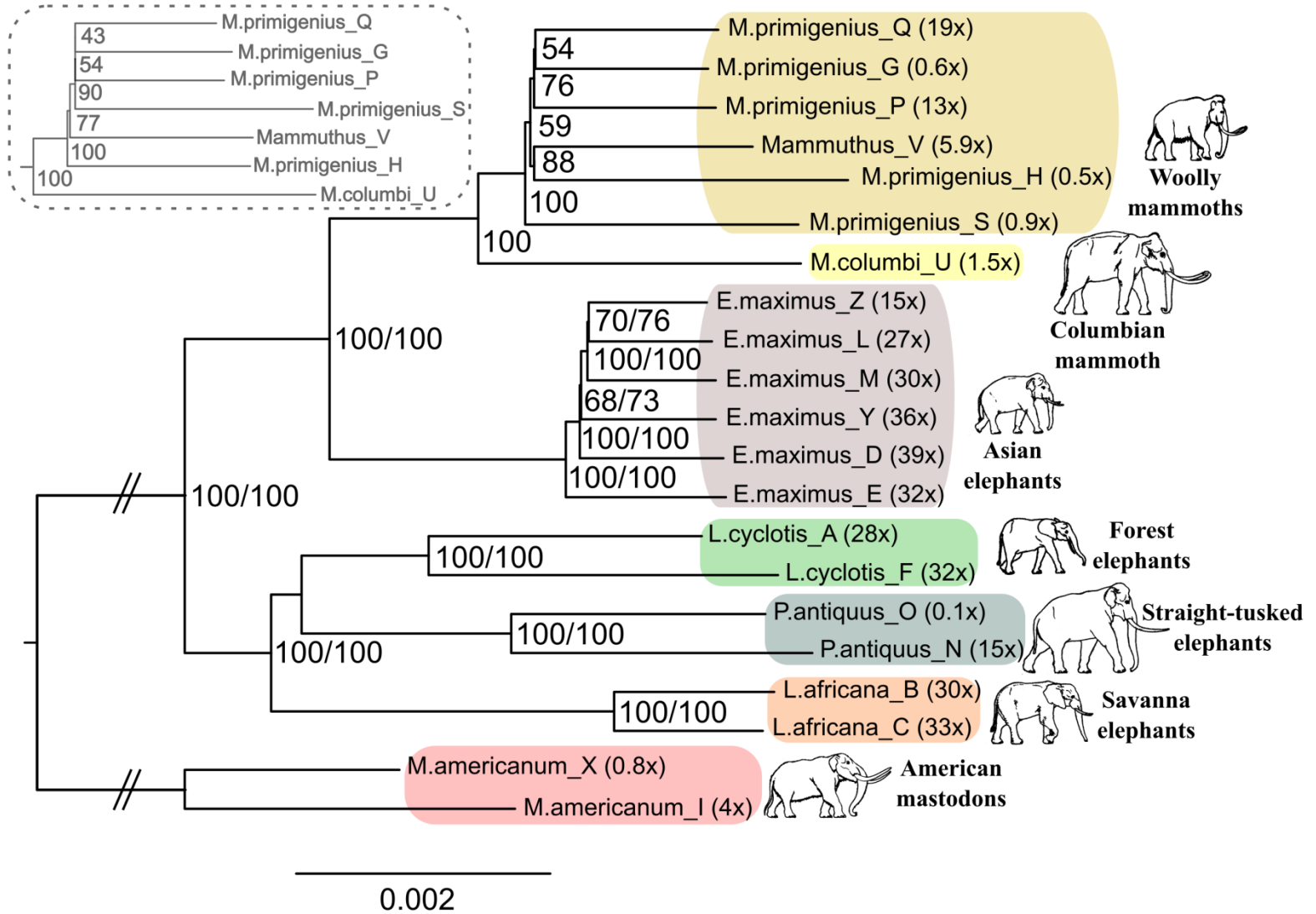
# *Palaeoloxodon antiquus*

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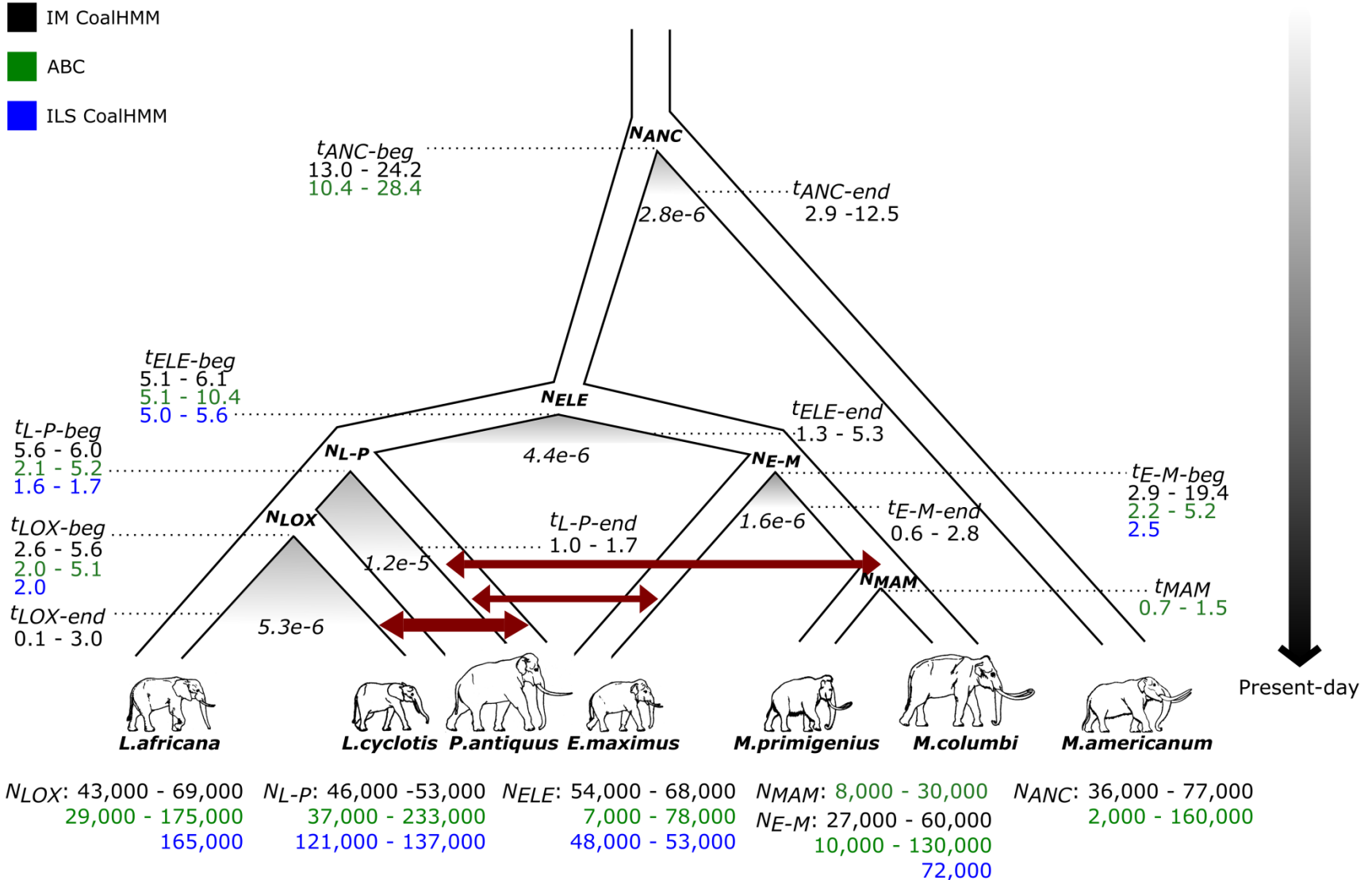


~120,000 years old

# *Palaeoloxodon antiquus* – nuclear tree



# *Palaeoloxodon antiquus* – an extinct hybrid species

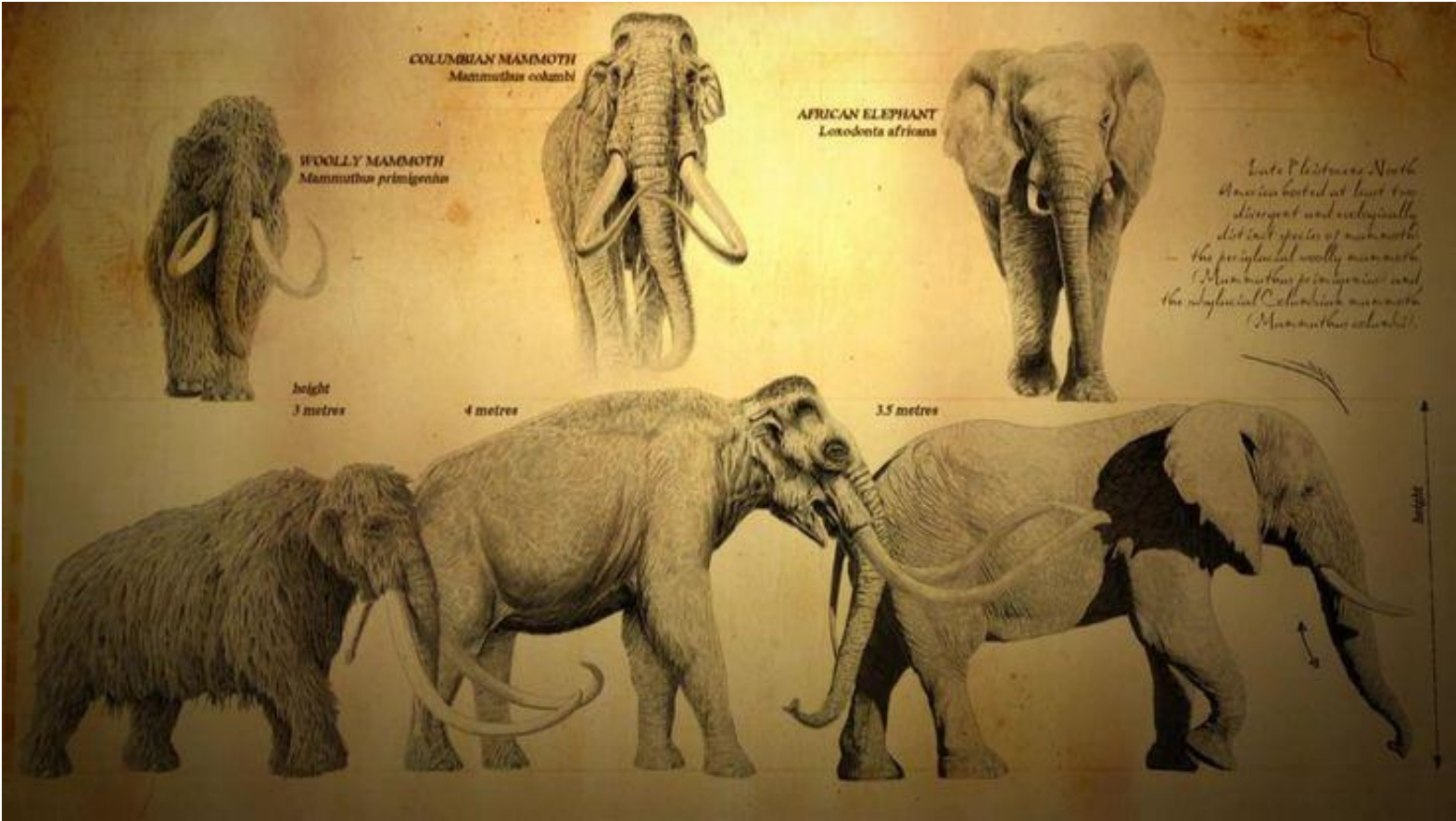


# Mammoths

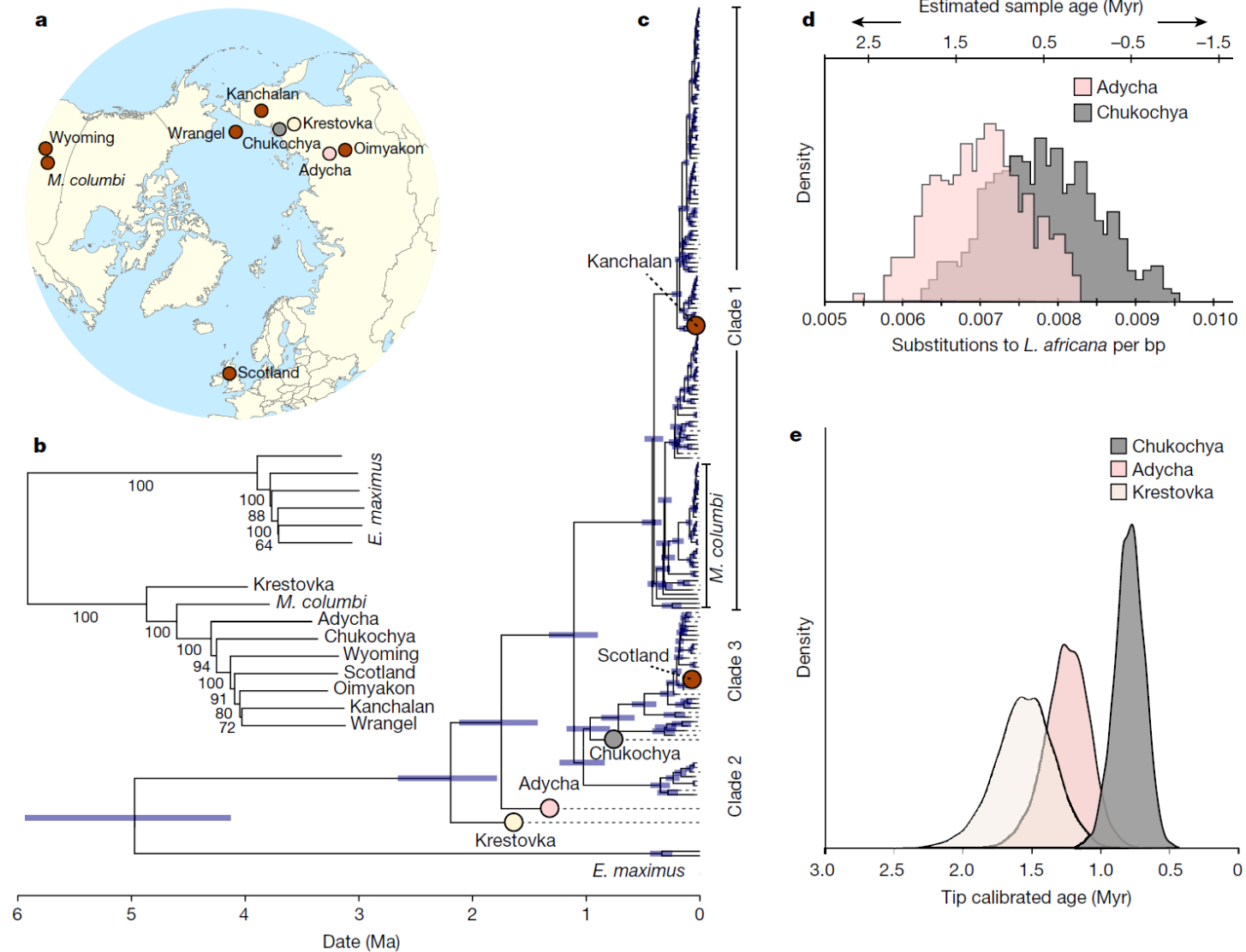
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# Mammoths

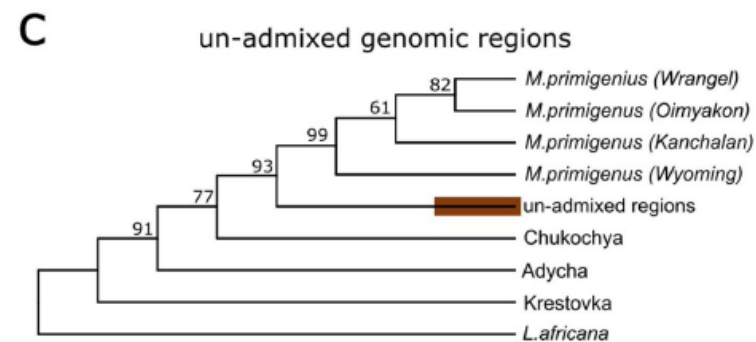
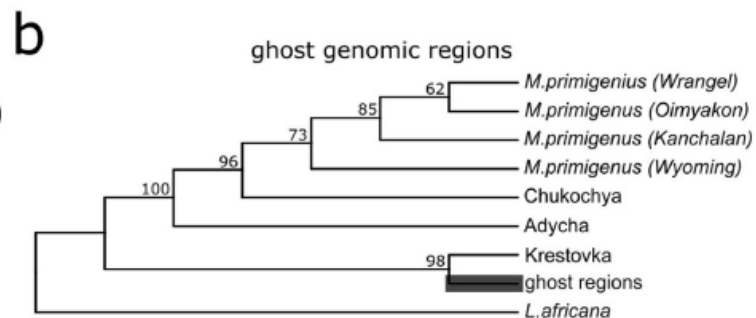
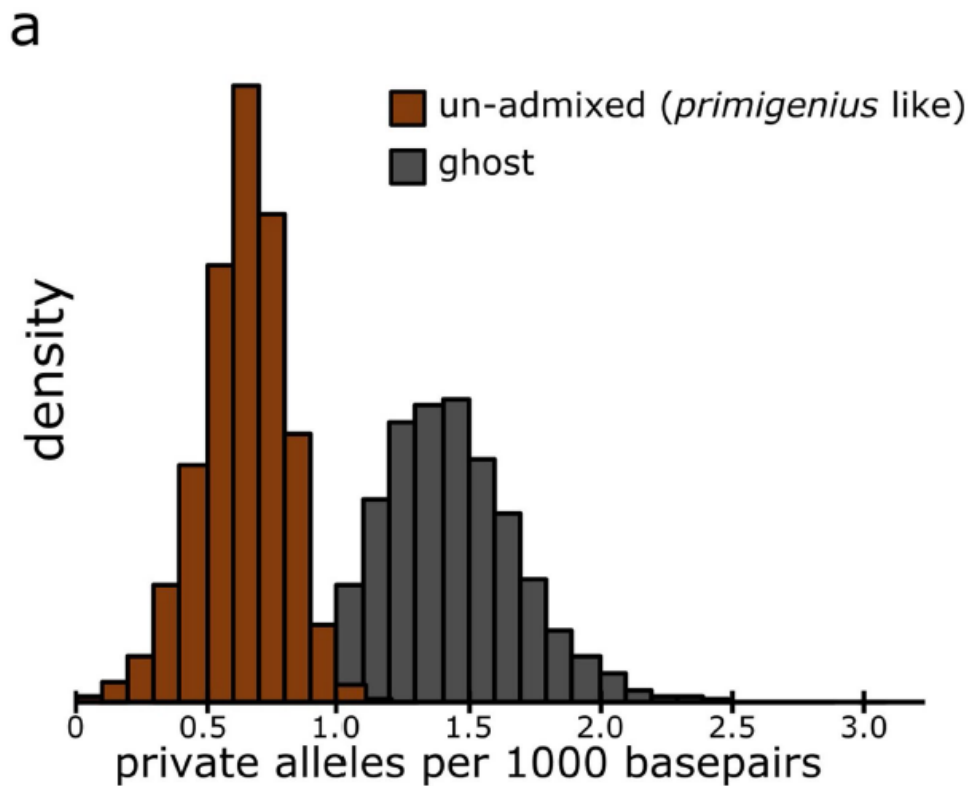


# Mammoths – samples, age and phylogeny

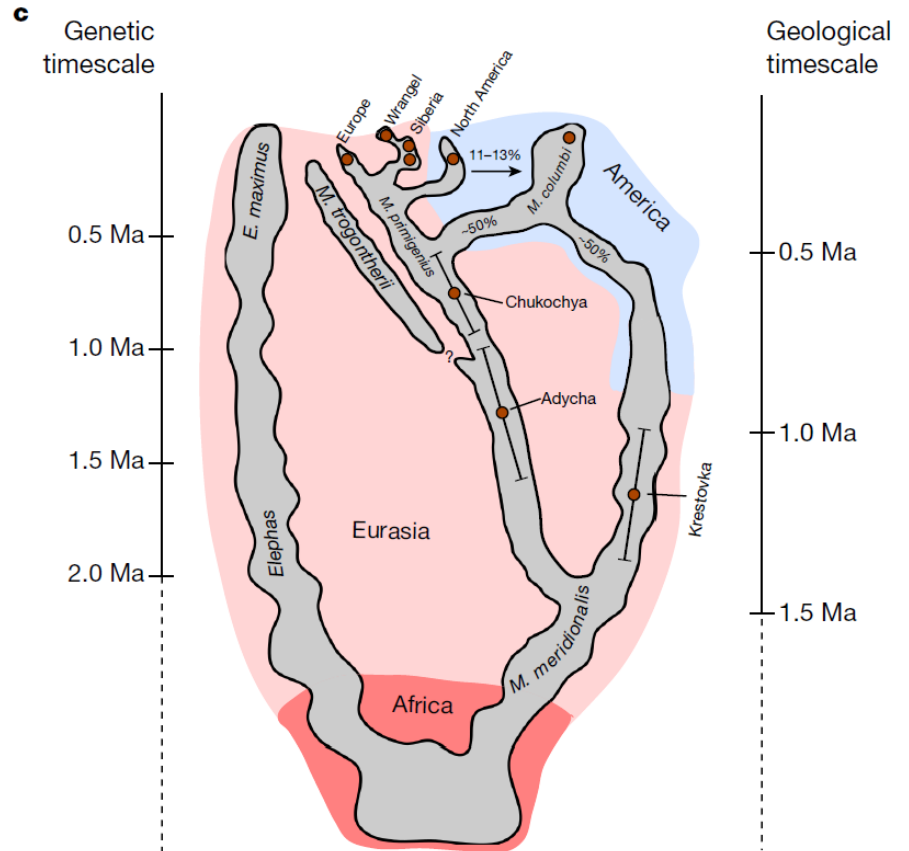
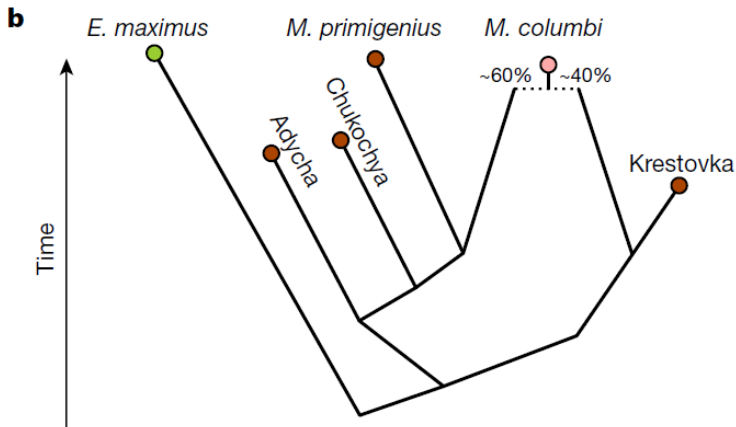
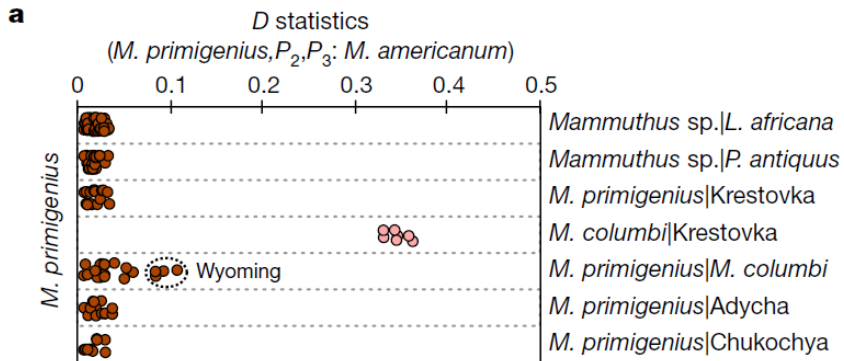




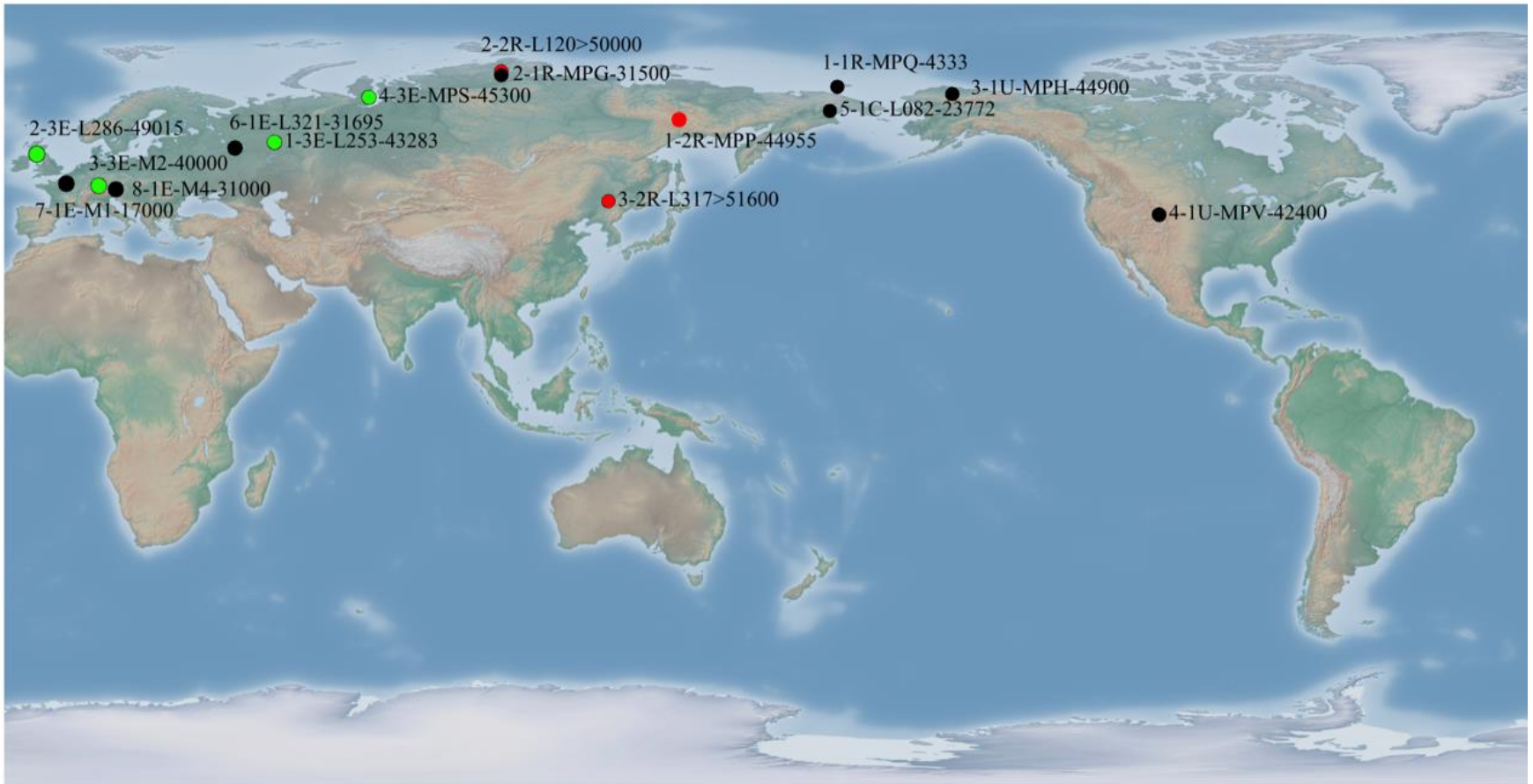
# Columbian mammoth – ghost ancestry



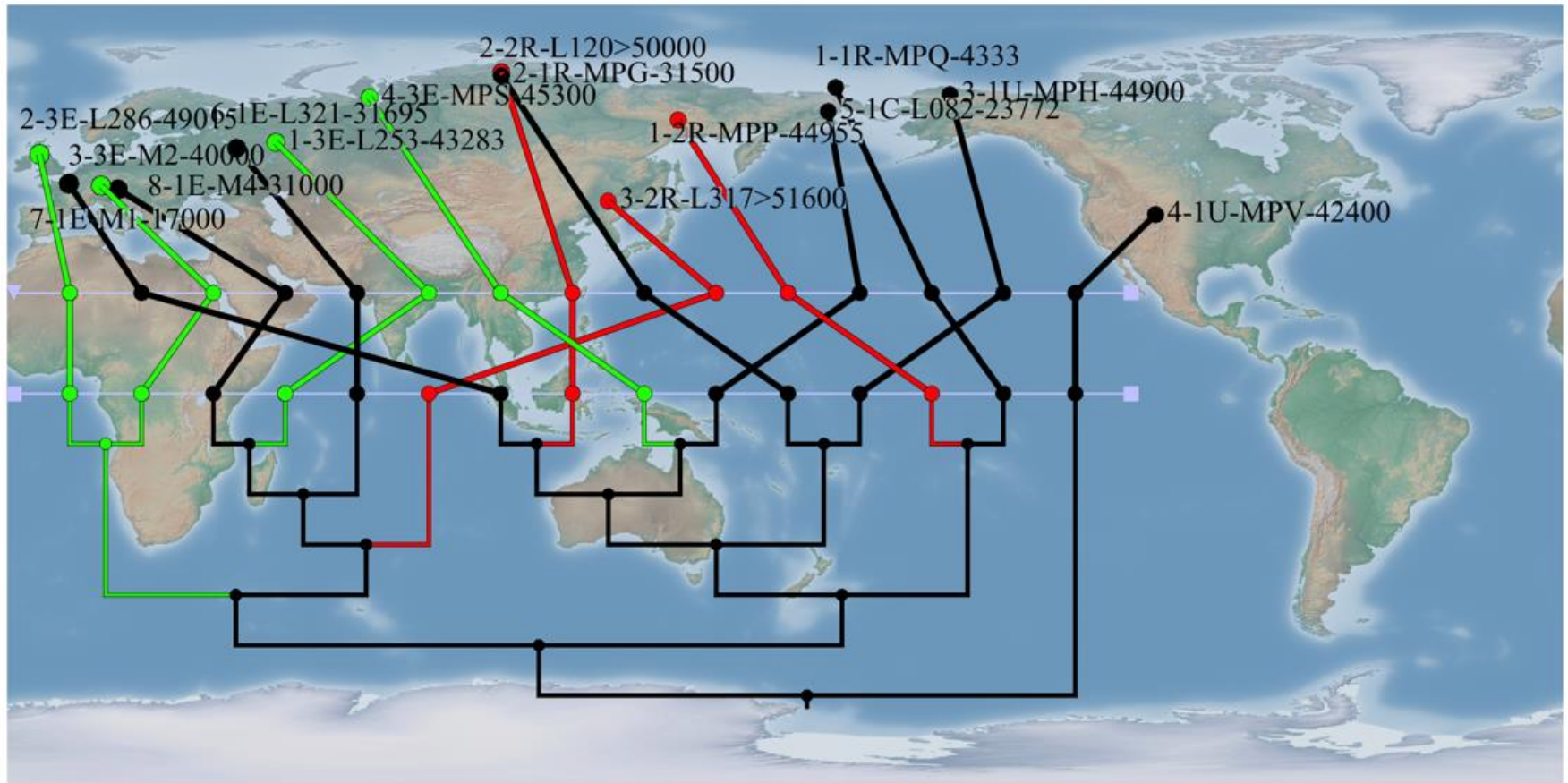
# Mammoths – population history



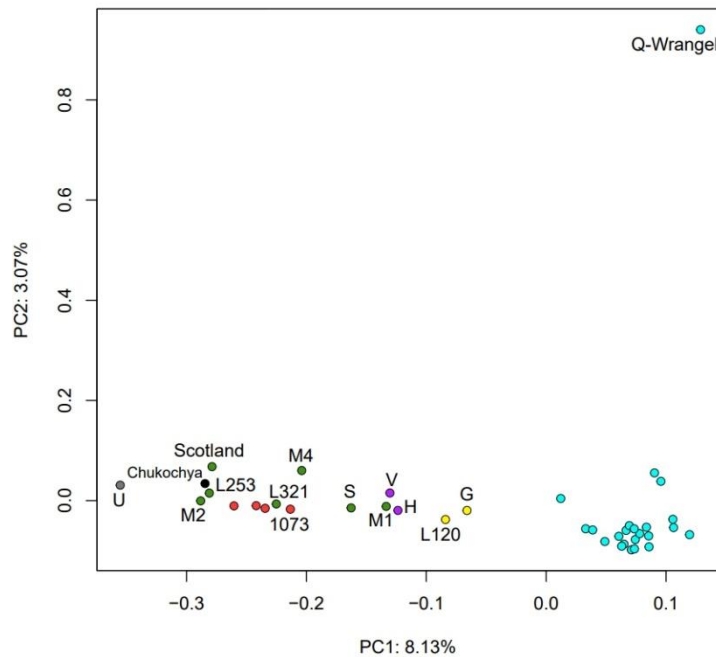
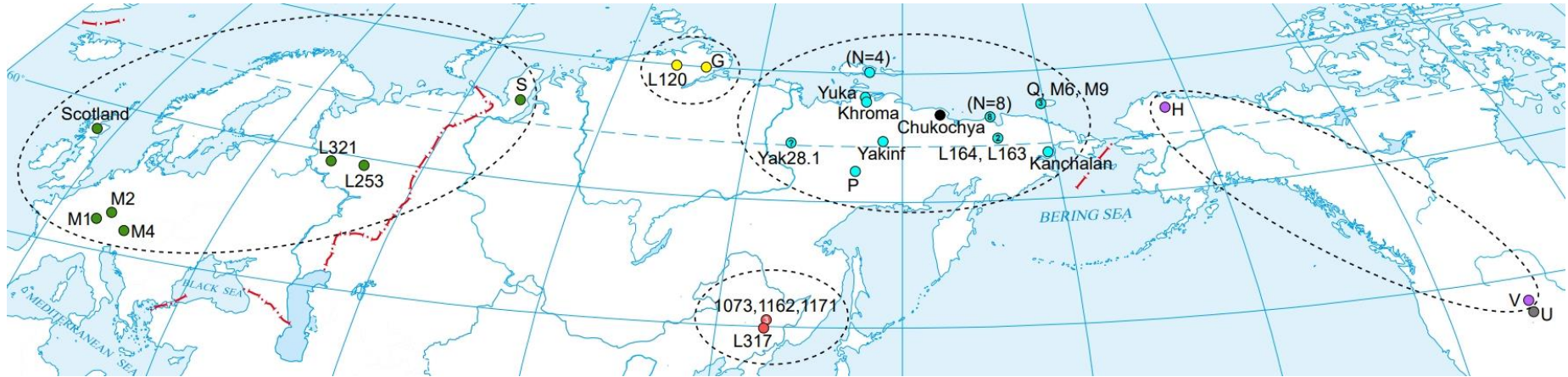
# More mammoths



# Mitochondrial haplogroups vs. nuclear tree

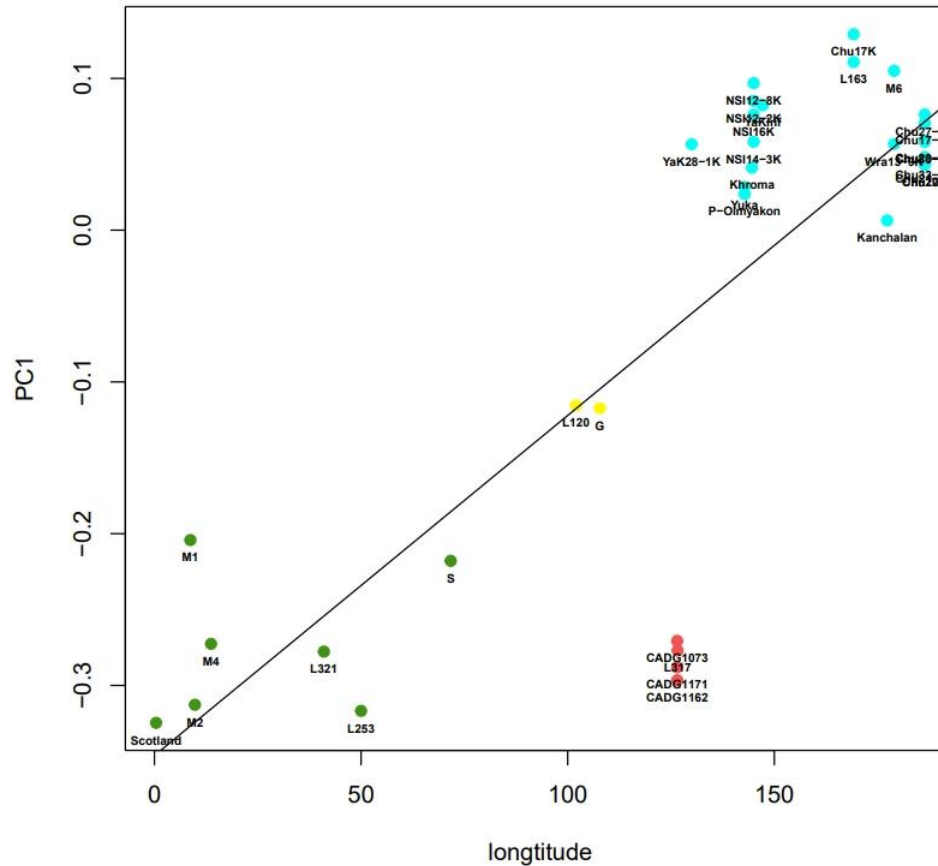


# Even more mammoths



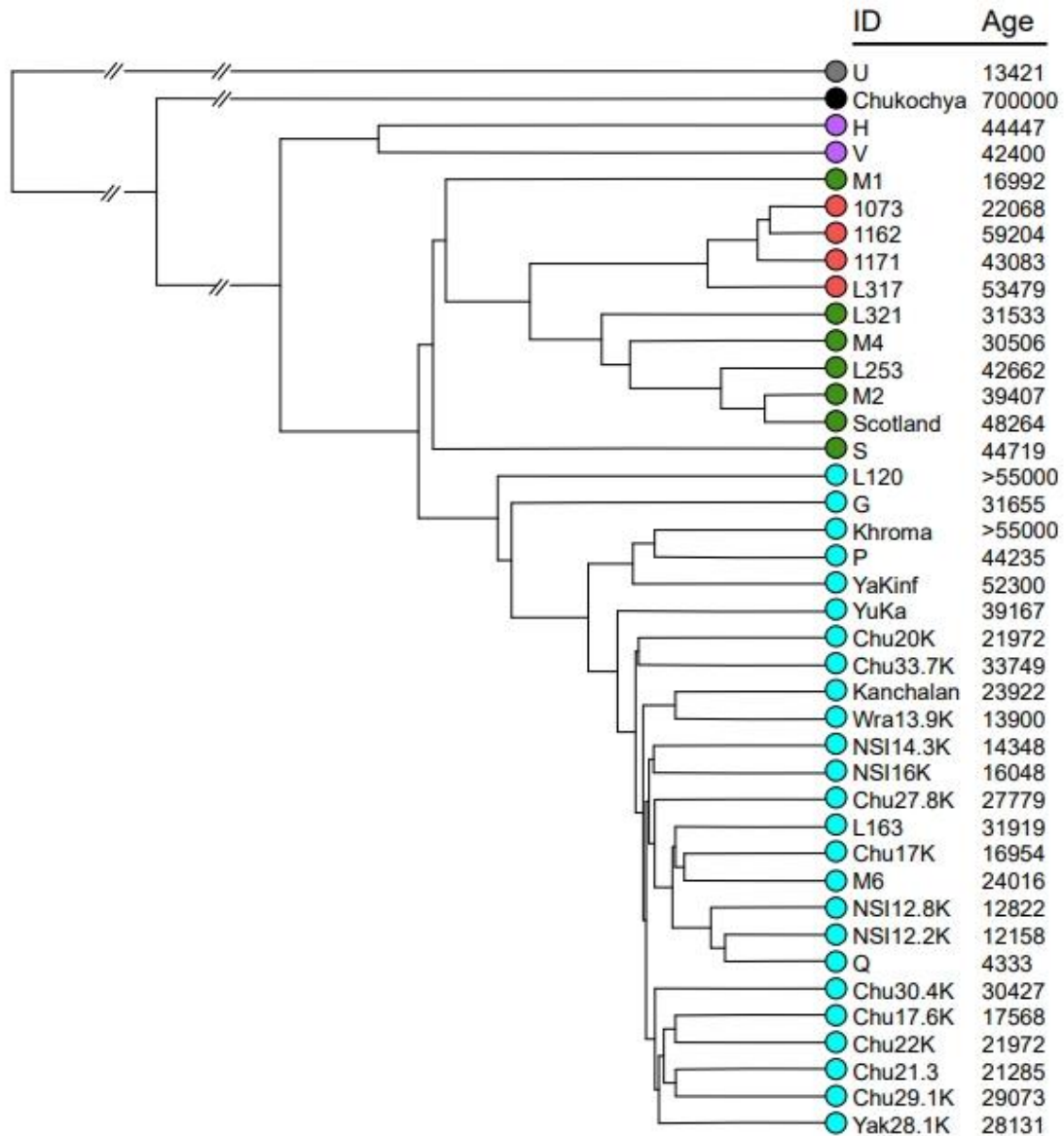
# Geographical vs. genetic structure

## PC1 vs longitude

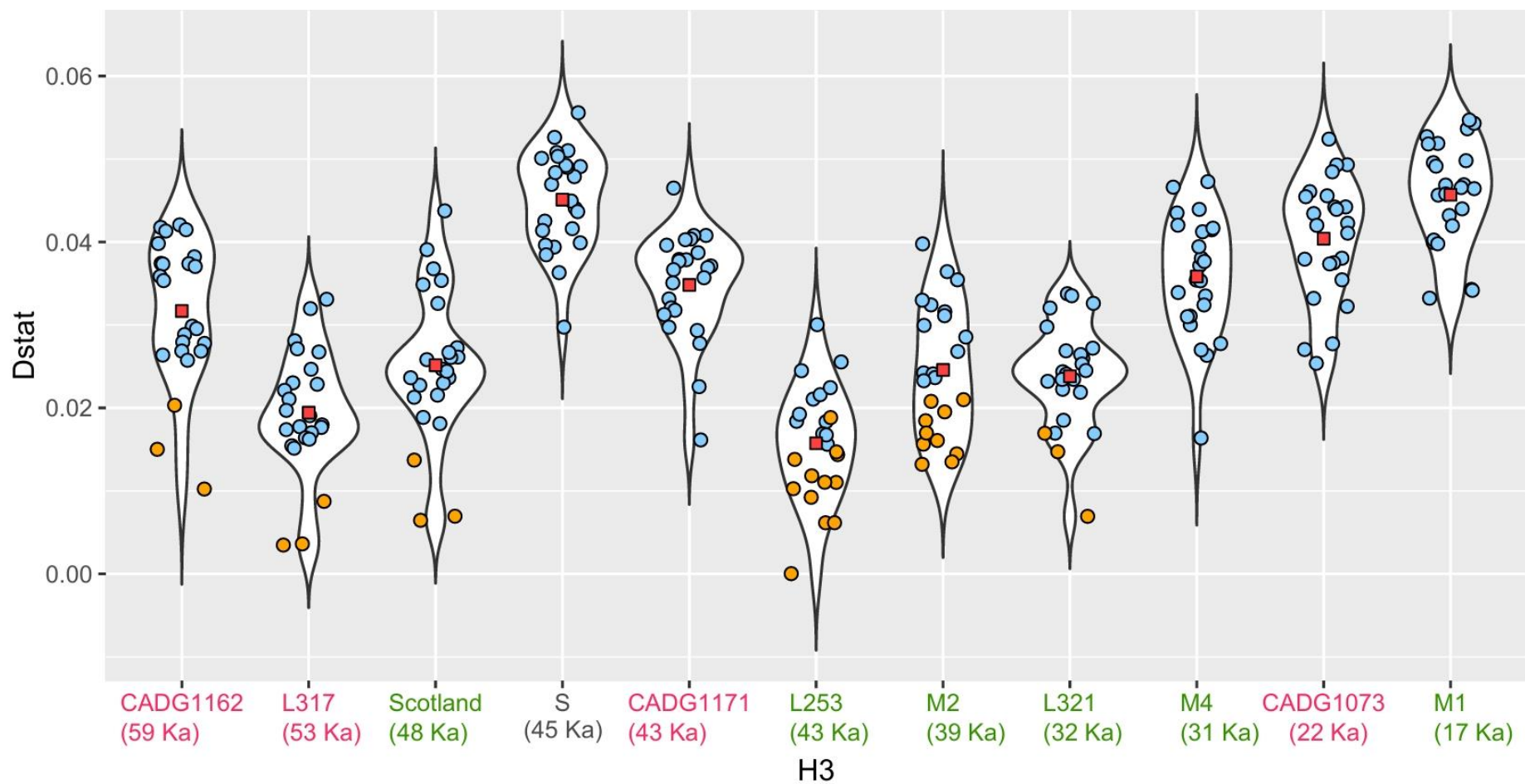


P value: **5.65e-09** Adjusted R-squared: **0.637**

# NJ-tree using all samples



# Siberian admixture over time and space





# Summary elephants

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- Gene flow within and between species is an important factor in elephant evolution
- The European straight-tusked elephant was a three-way hybrid
- Chinese and European mammoth are more closely related than either to Siberian ones
- Siberian influence increases over time

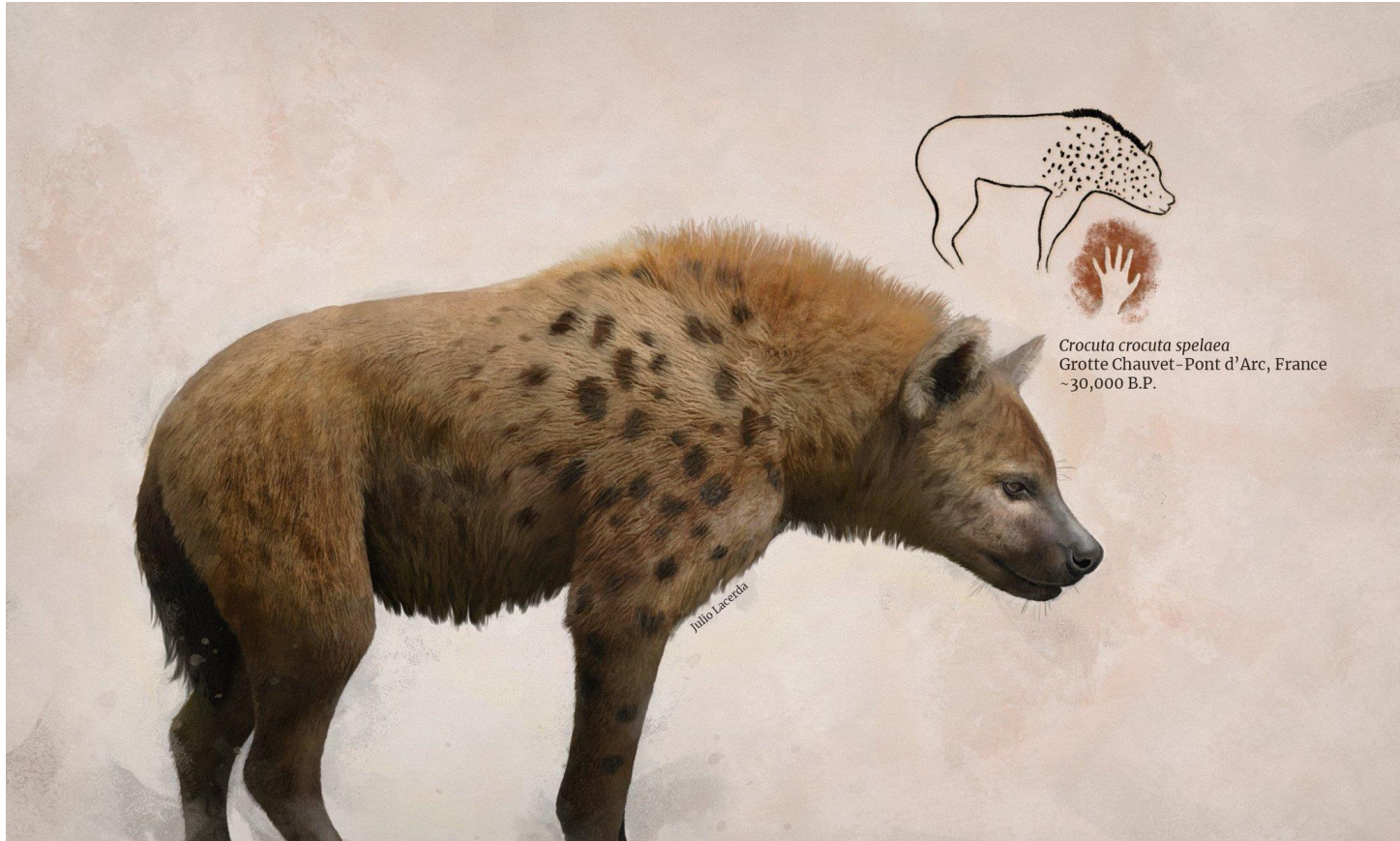
# Cave hyenas

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# „Real“ cave hyena

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# As seen by stone age artists

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# *Crocota* - distribution

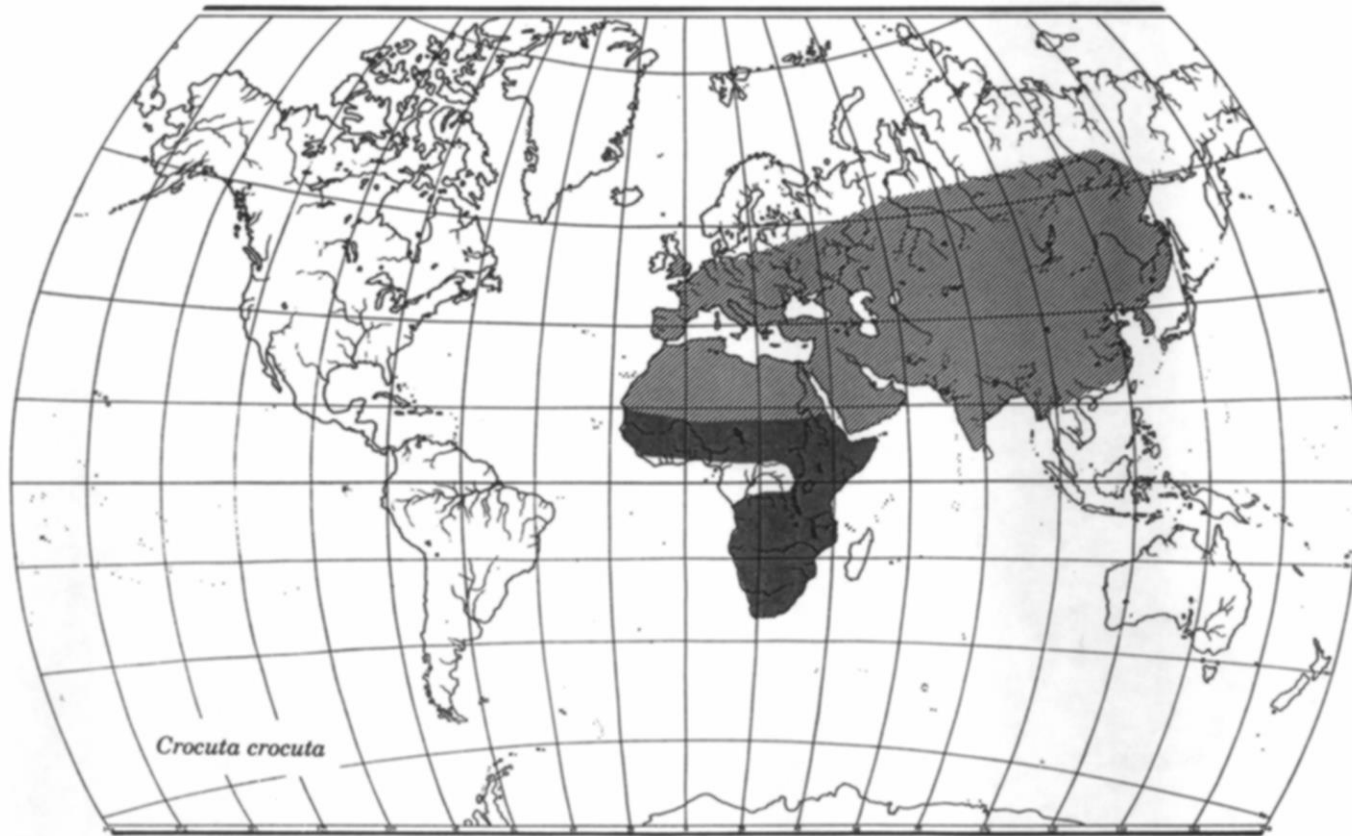
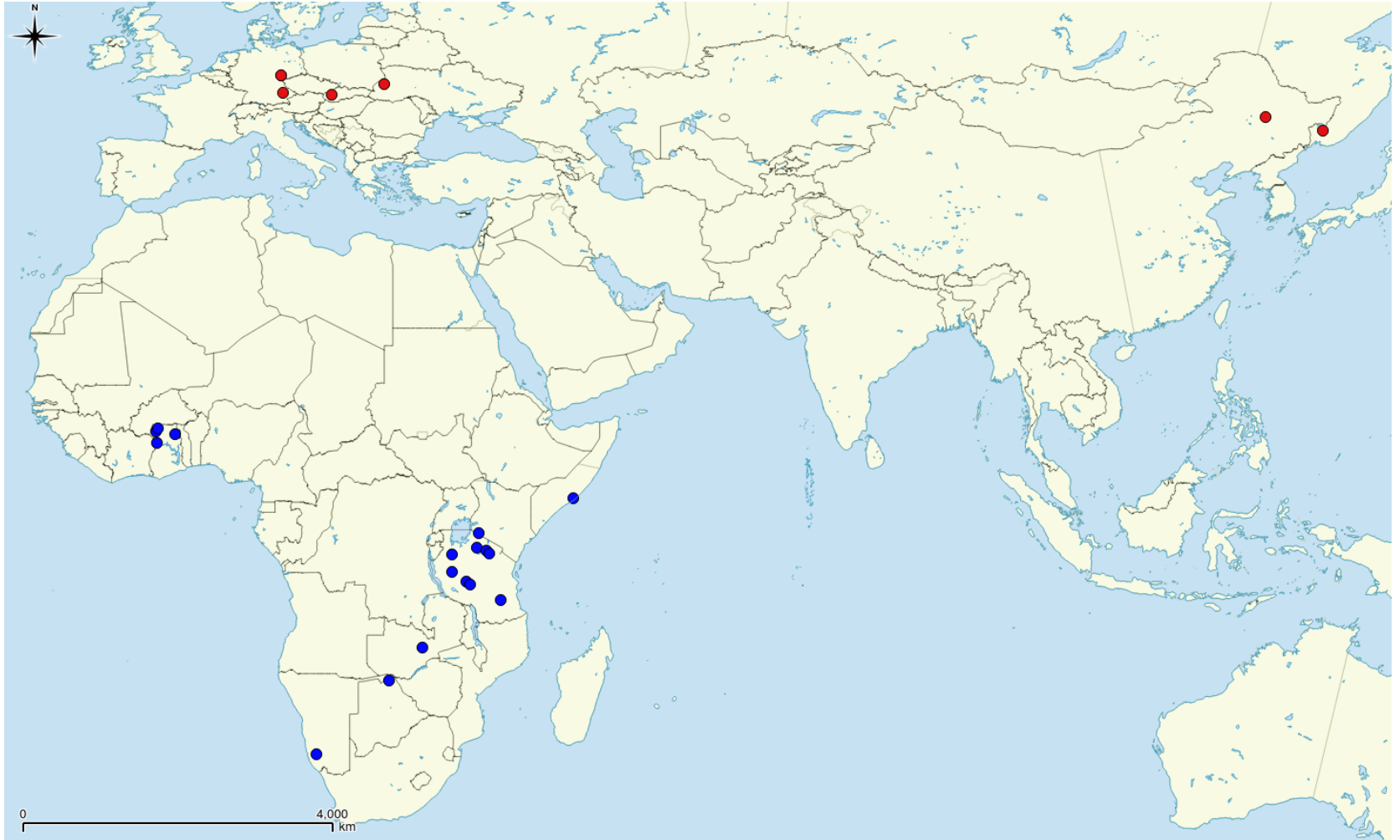


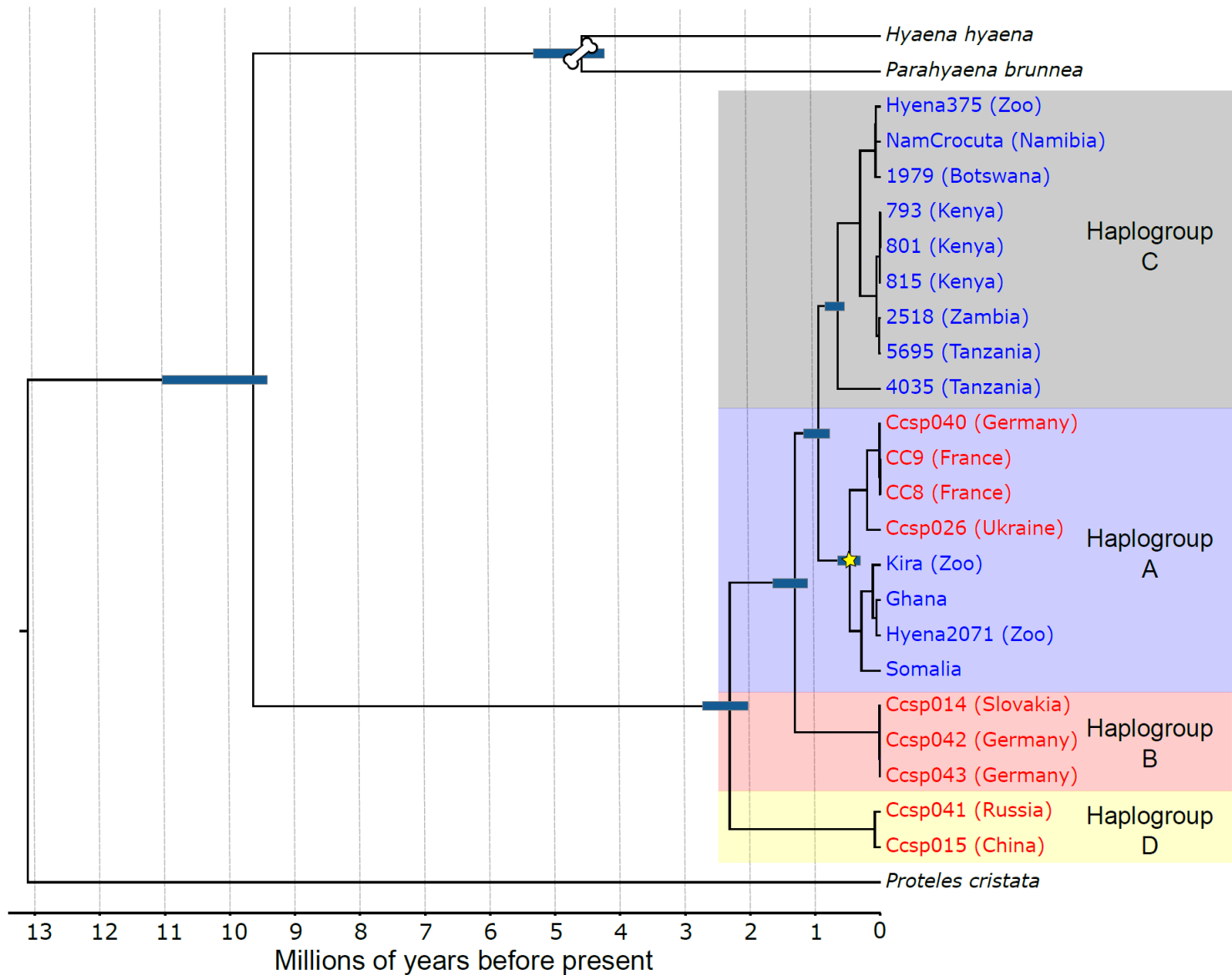
Fig. 8. Map showing (stippled) current range of *C. crocuta* and (shaded) maximum range in the Pleistocene.

# Sampling

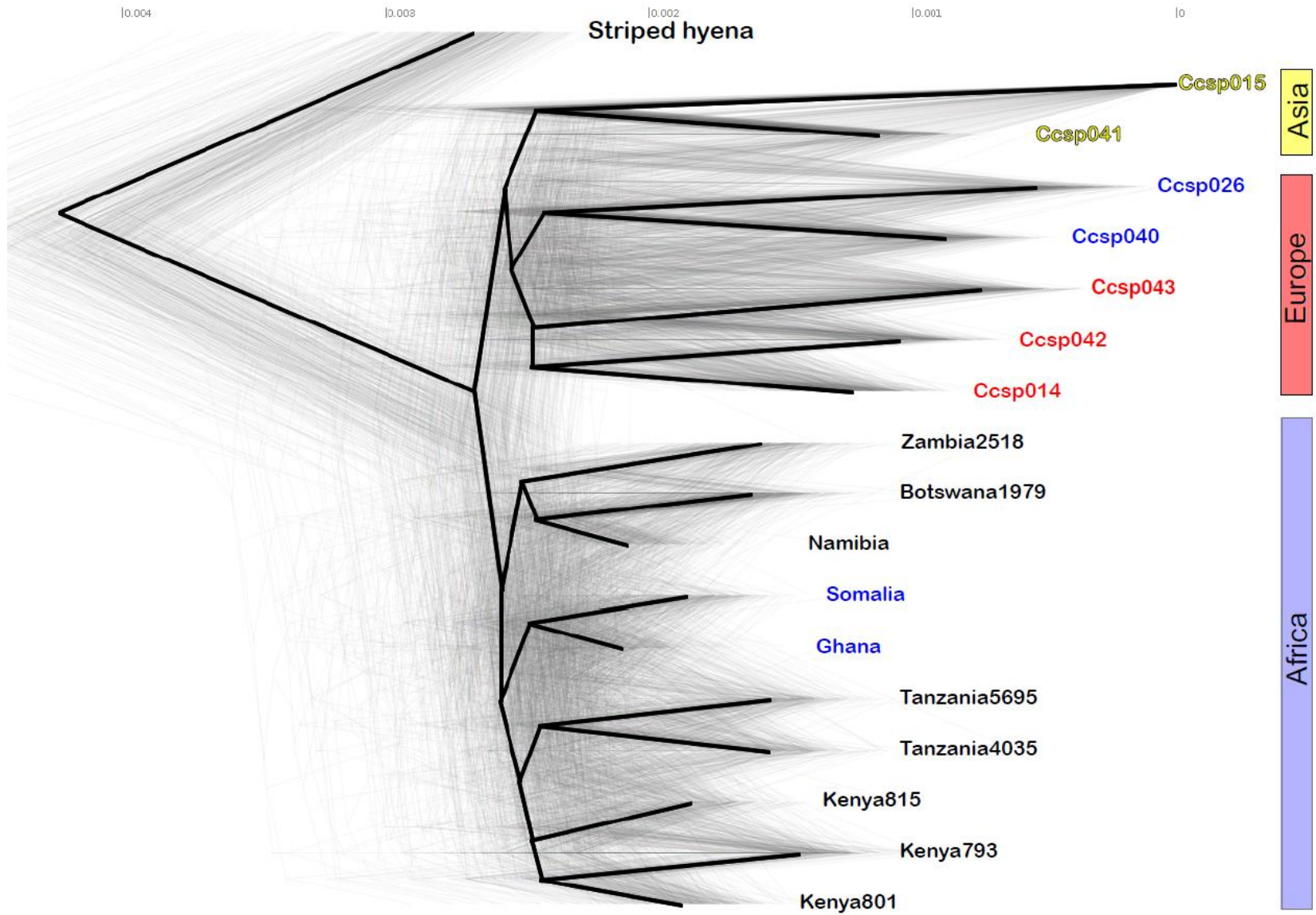
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# Mitogenome tree

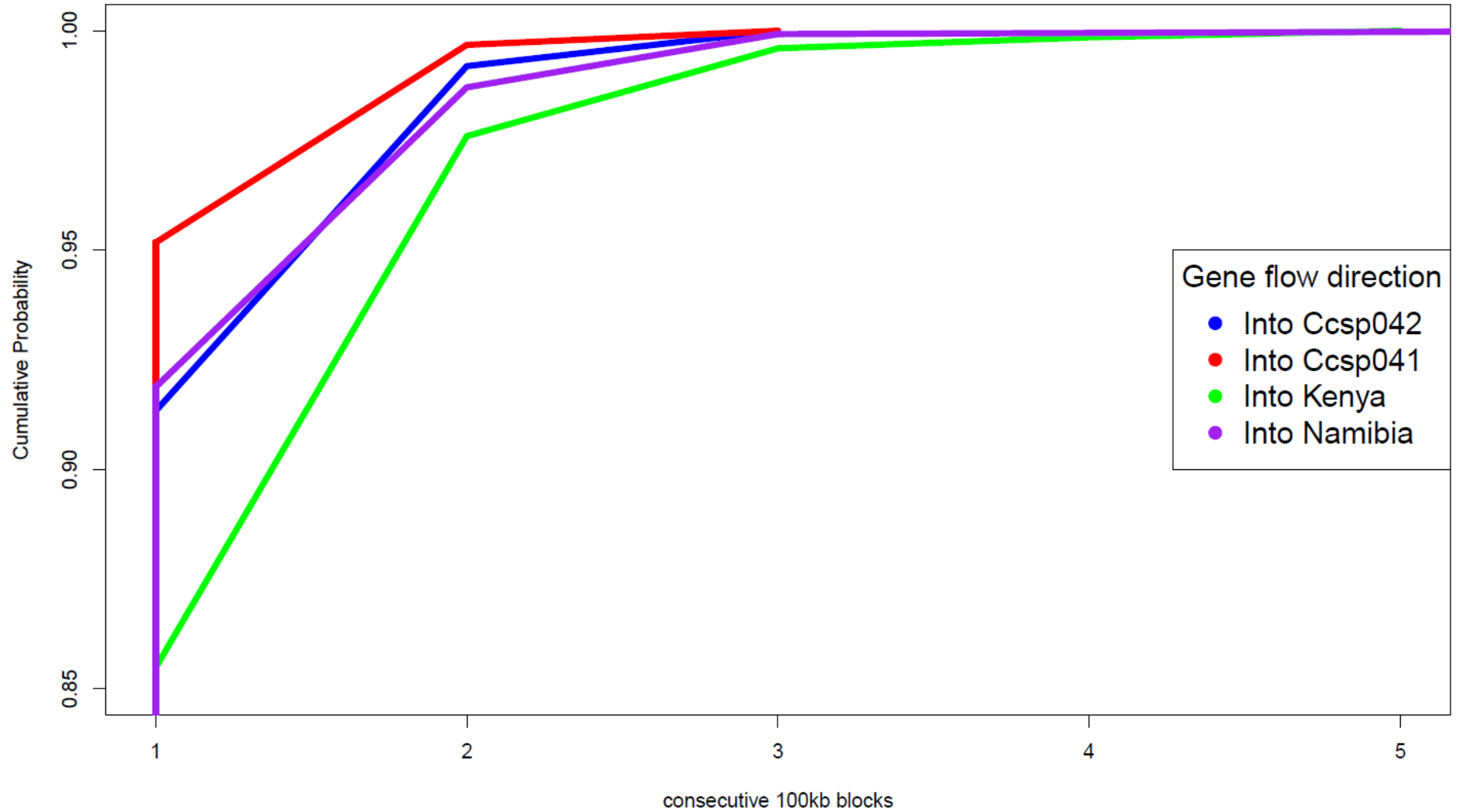


# Nuclear tree



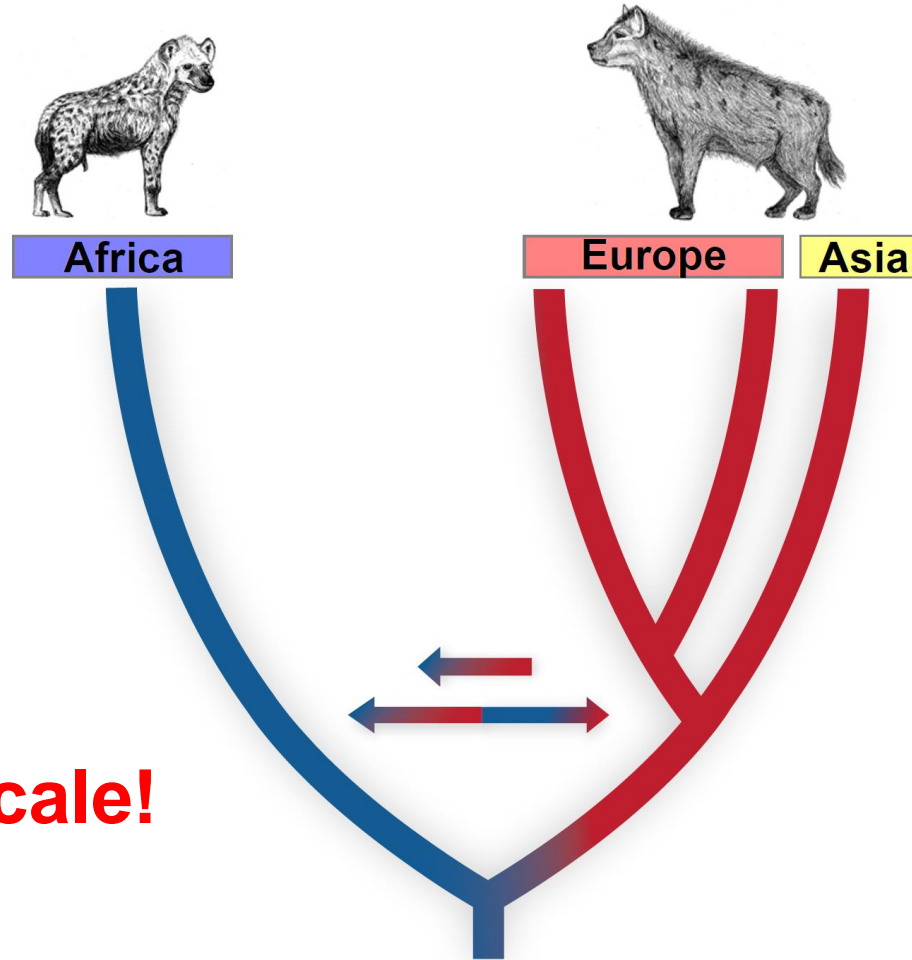


# *Crocuta* gene flow



# Hyena dated tree and admixture 2 my after divergence

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**Tree not to scale!**

**2.52 Ma**  
(CI 2.21-2.83 Ma)

# Spotted hyenas are different

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# Conclusions

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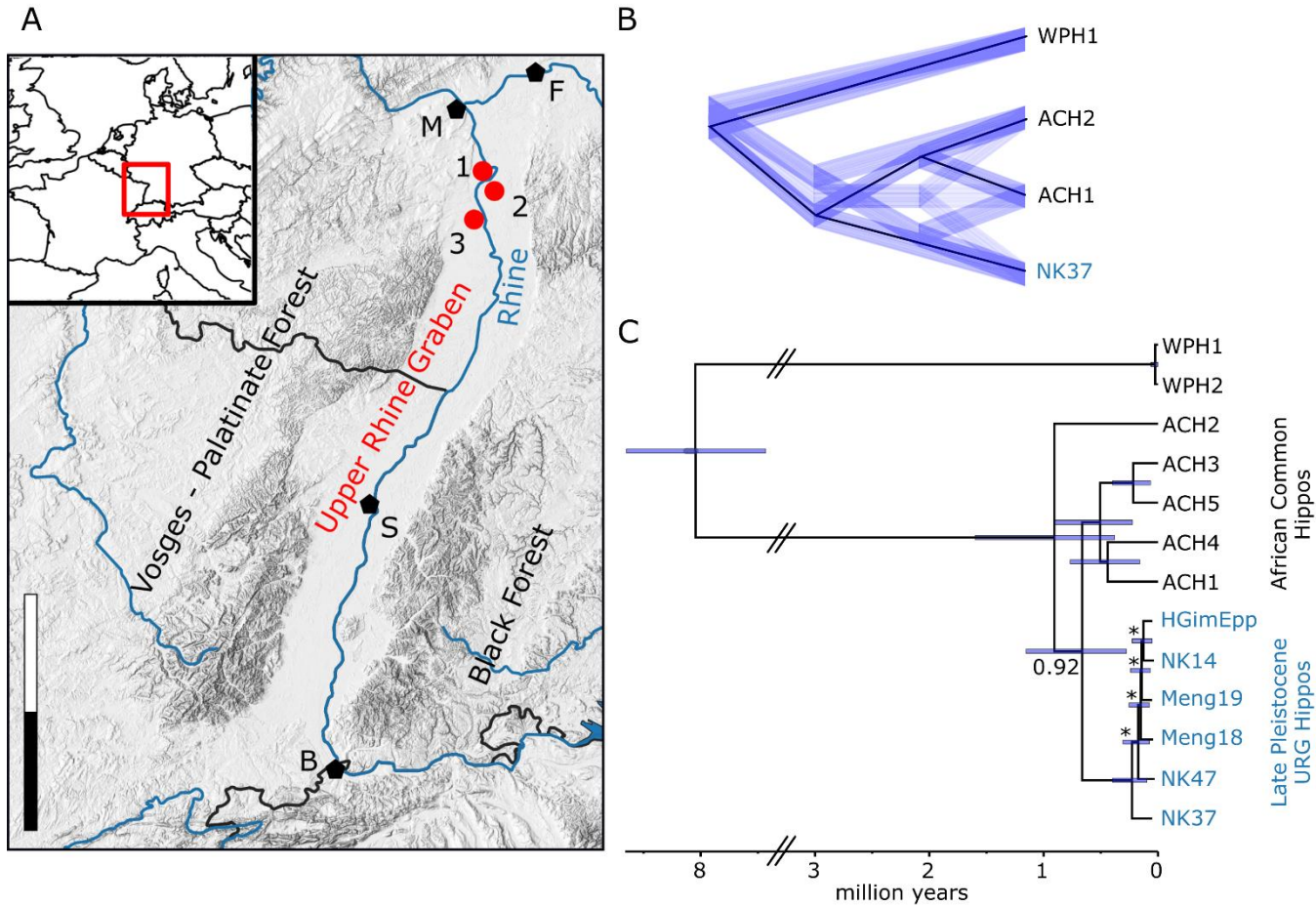
- Spotted and cave hyenas diverged a long time (2.5 my) ago
- There is a discordance between mitochondrial and nuclear tree similar to humans, Neanderthals and Denisovans
- We find evidence for multiple gene flow events between Africa and Eurasia, until almost 2 my after the initial divergence

# Pleistocene hippos

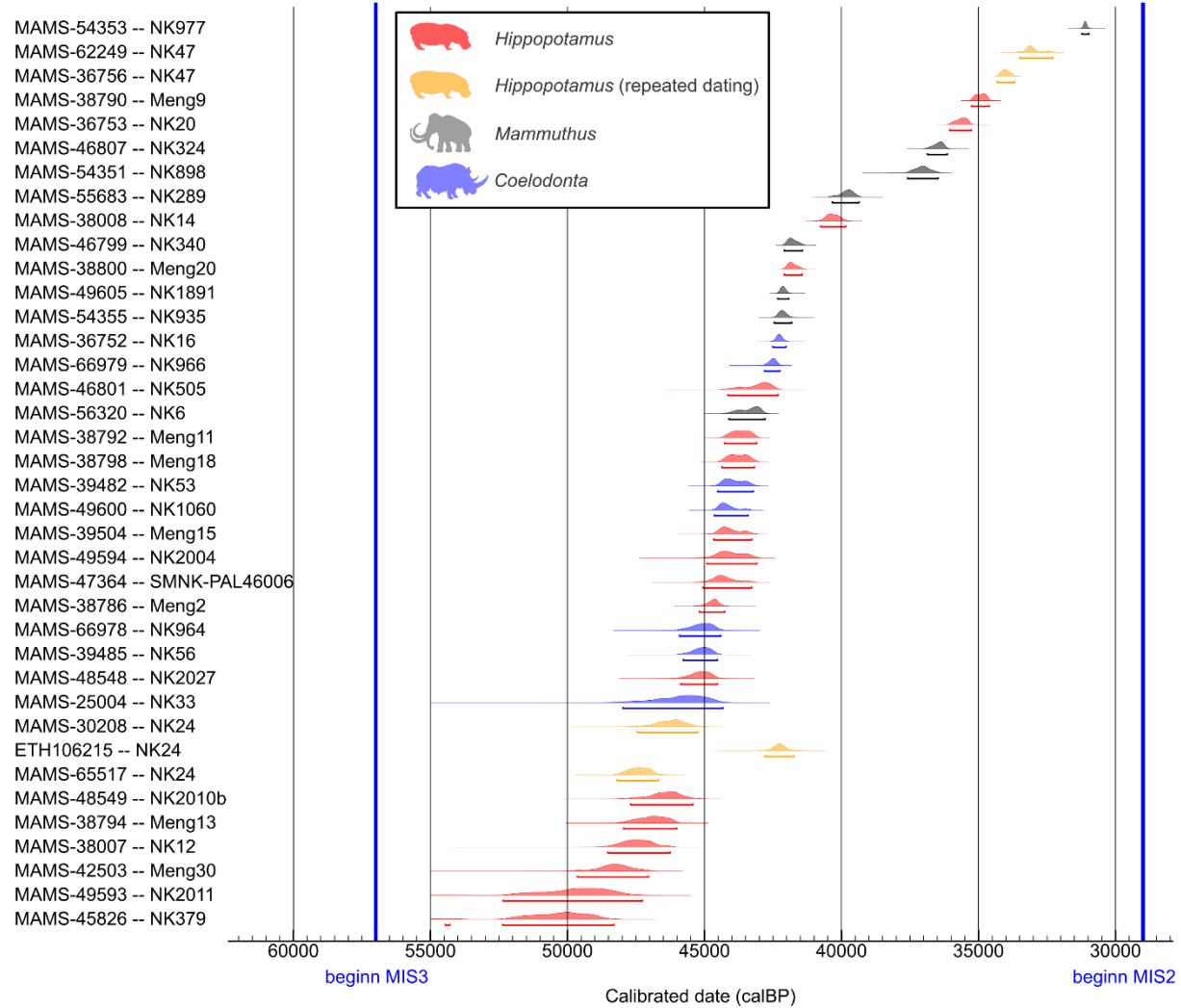
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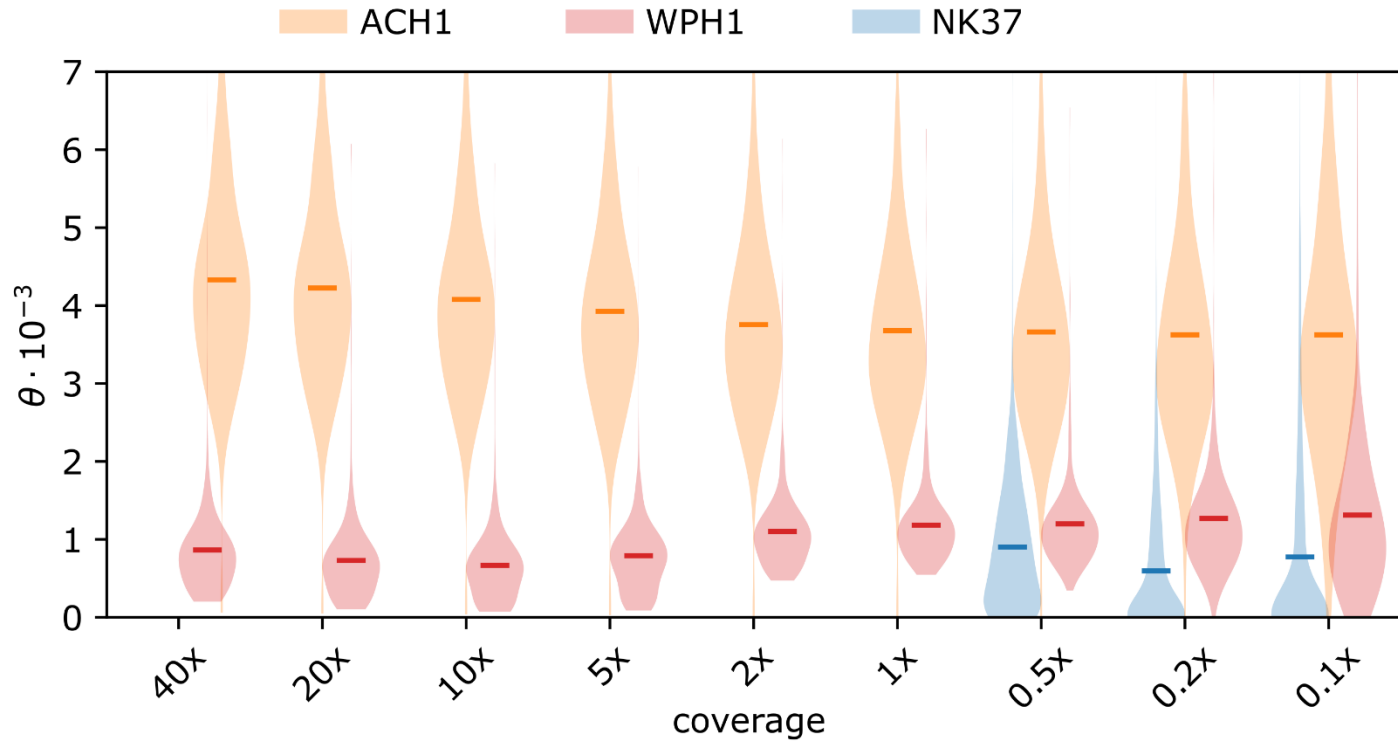
# Sampling and phylogenetic trees



# Sample ages



# Low genetic diversity





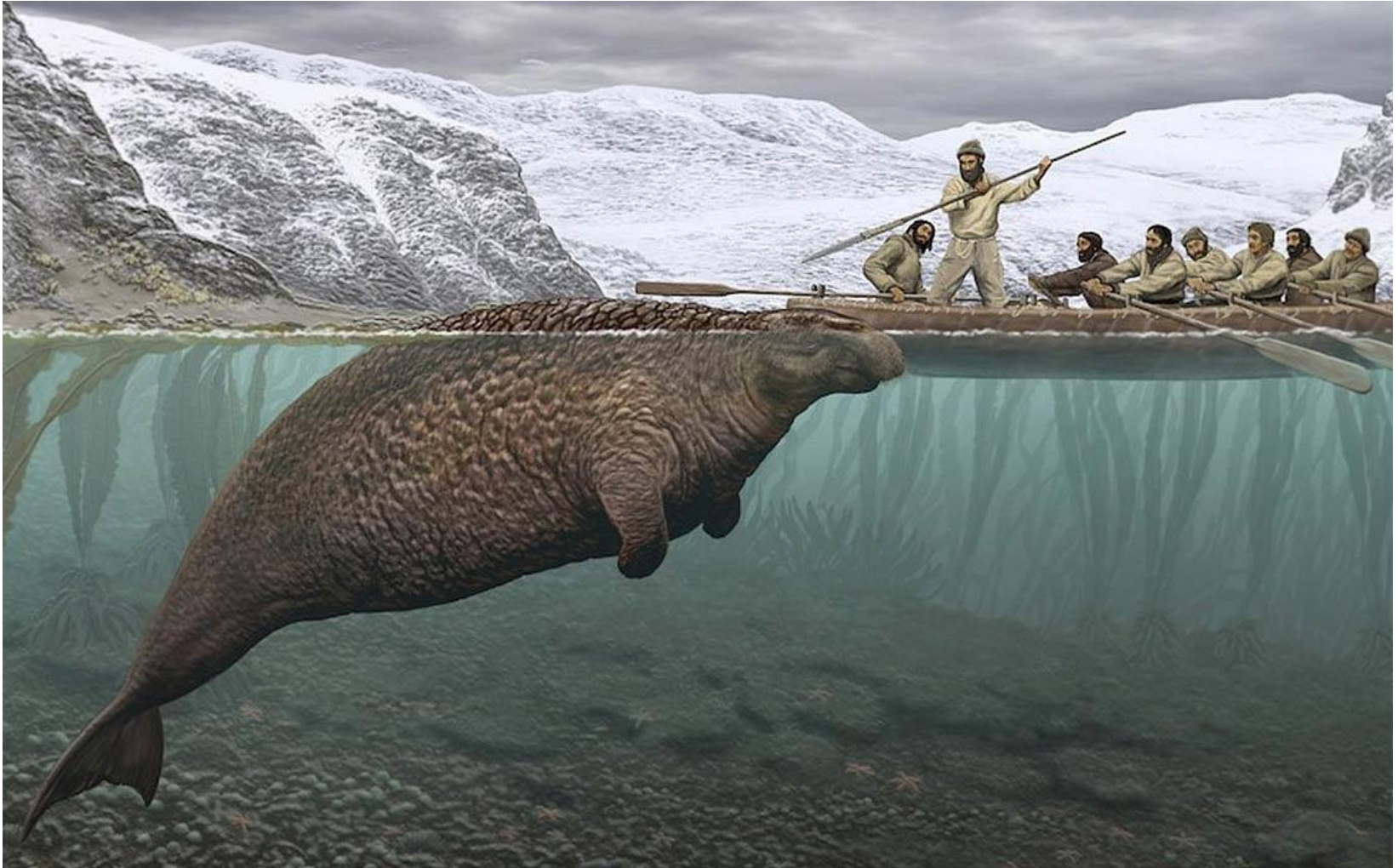
# Summary hippos

---

- Late Pleistocene European hippos were closely related to extant African ones
- The Rhine valley hippos are not Eemian in age
- Pleistocene ecosystems were not analogous to modern ones
- The Rhine valley hippos were a relict population

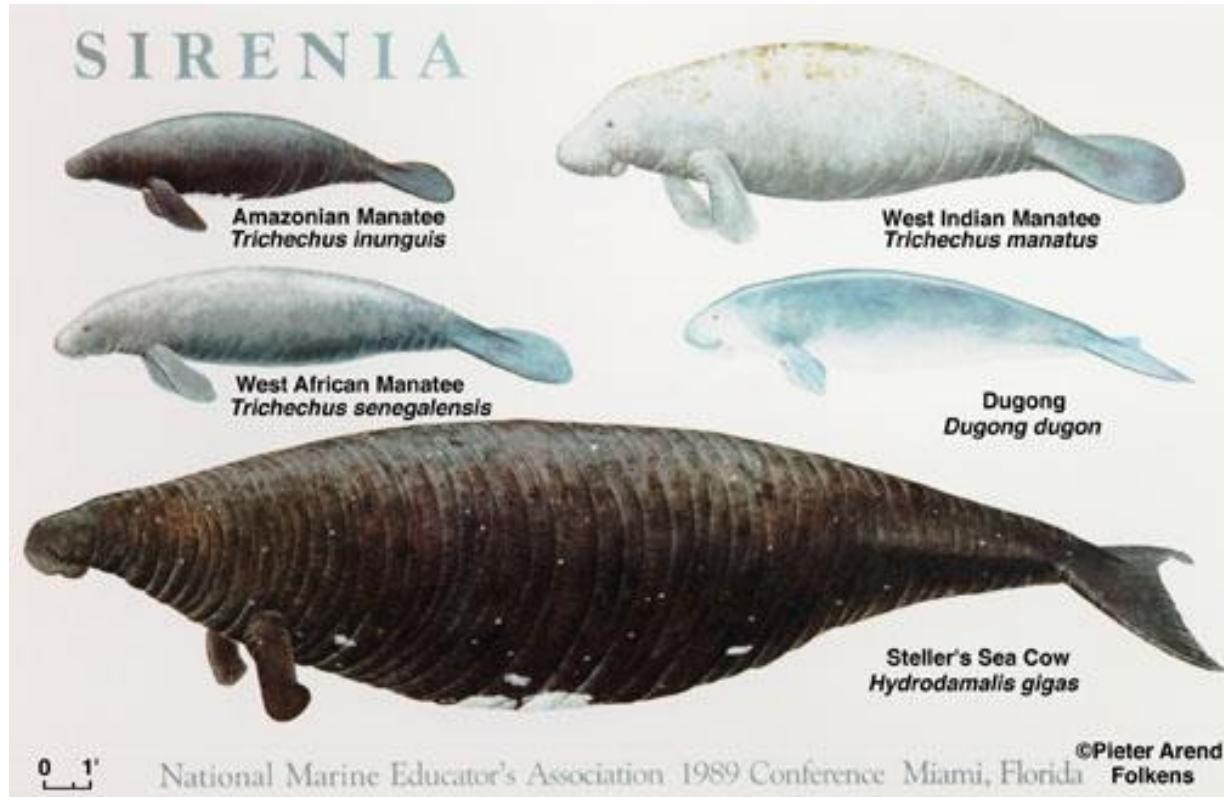
# Steller's sea cow: † 1768

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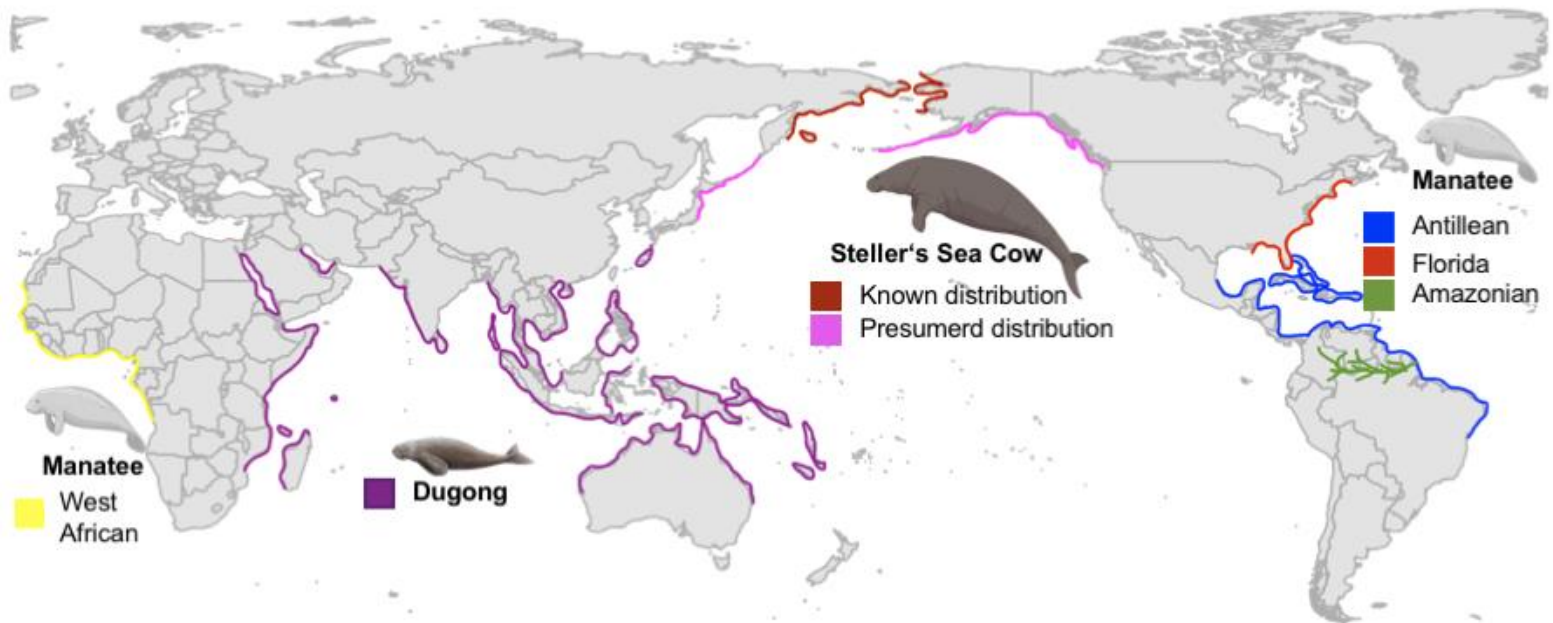
# Size comparison

---



# Distribution

A



# Steller's sea cow skin

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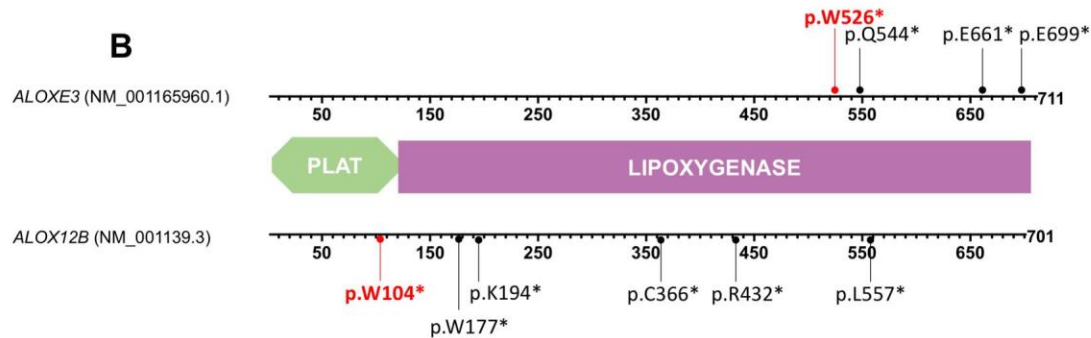


# Functional analysis

**A**

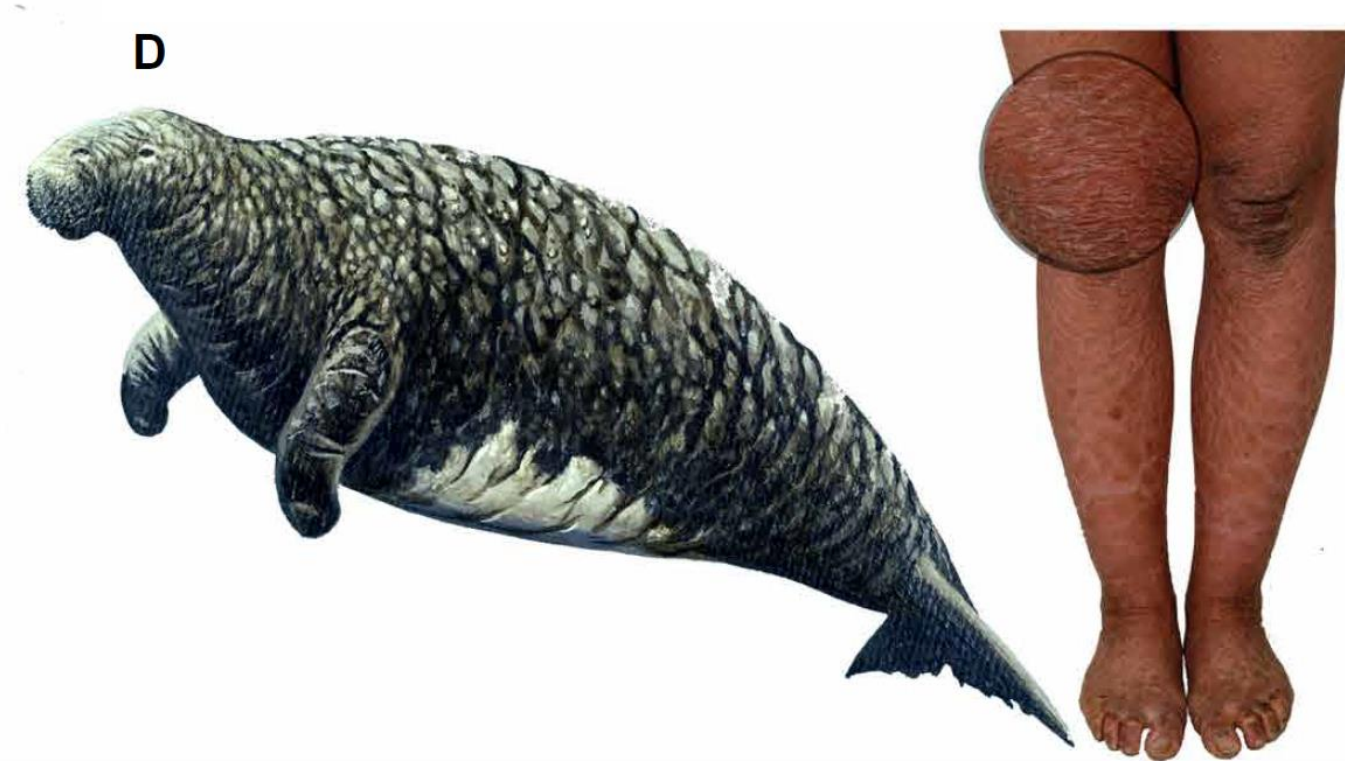
	ALOXE3 (NM_001165960.1)	ALOX12B (NM_001139.3)
Human	EWDWLLAKT WVRNSEF	R I YHFPAYQWMDGYE T
Chimp	EWDWLLAKT WVRNSEF	R I YHFPAYQWMDGYE T
Rat	EL DWLLAKT WVRNSEF	RVYHFPAYQWMDGYE T
Mouse	EL DWLLAKT WVRNSEF	RVYHFPAYQWMDGYE T
Dog	YWDWLLAKT WVRNSEF	R I YHFPAYRWMDGYE T
Dugong	YWDWLLAKT WVRNAEF	R I YHFPAYQWMDGYKT
<b>Steller's sea cow</b>	<b>YWDWLLAKT * VRNAEF</b>	<b>R I YHFPAYQ * MDGYKT</b>
Manatee	YWDWLLAKT WVRNAEF	R I YHFPAYQWMDGYKT
Elephant	DWDWLLAKT WVRNAEF	RTYHFPAYQWMDGYE T
Frog	EWDWTLAKL WVRSEF	E TAQFPLFL W I SDYGT
Tetraodon	ET DWLLAKF Y LKNAYA	DTYHFP I YRW I DDTKV
Zebrafish	PP DWLLAKMWVRNSDF	EMEVFPCNKW I AADGH

**B**



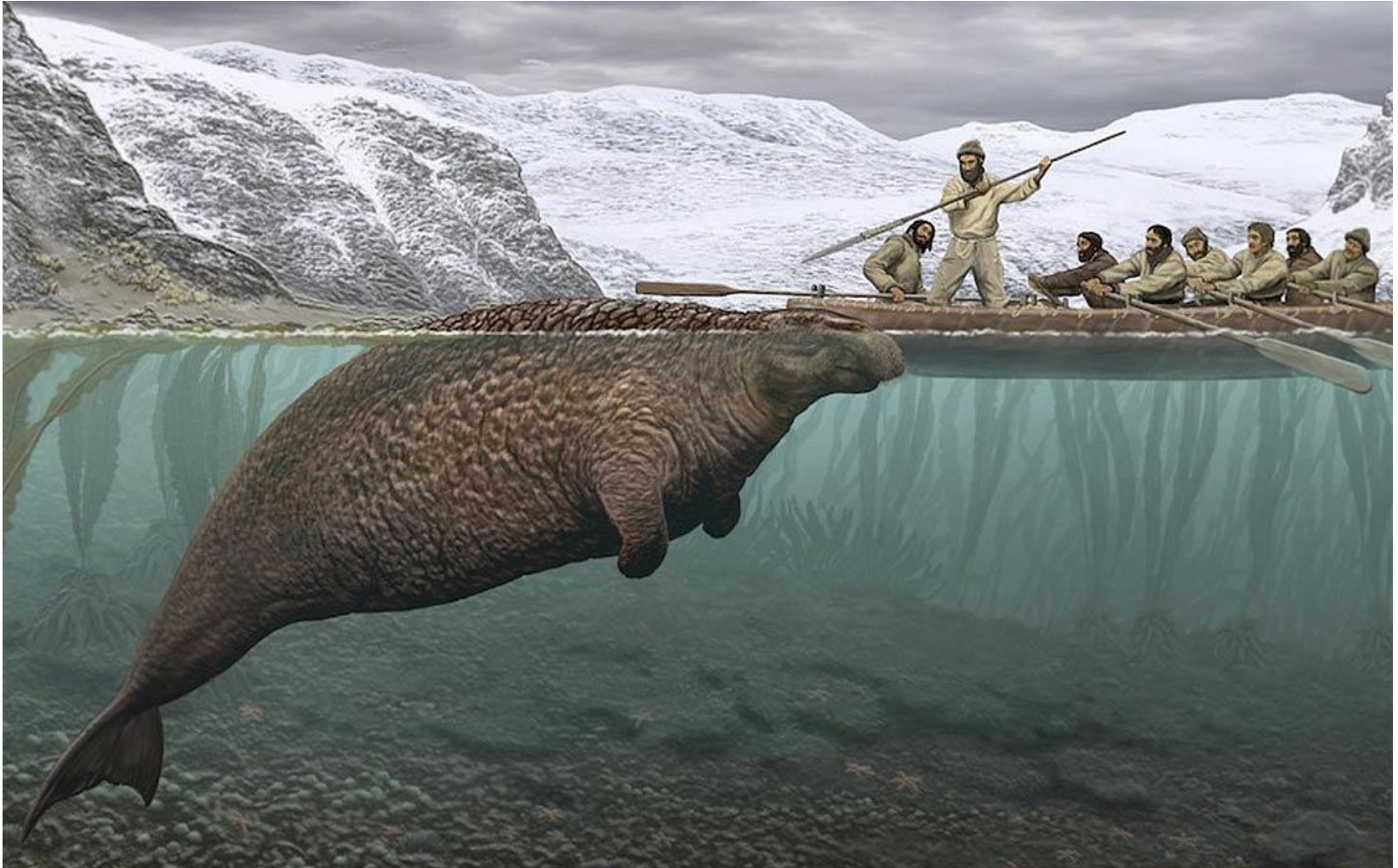
# Explaining the phenotype

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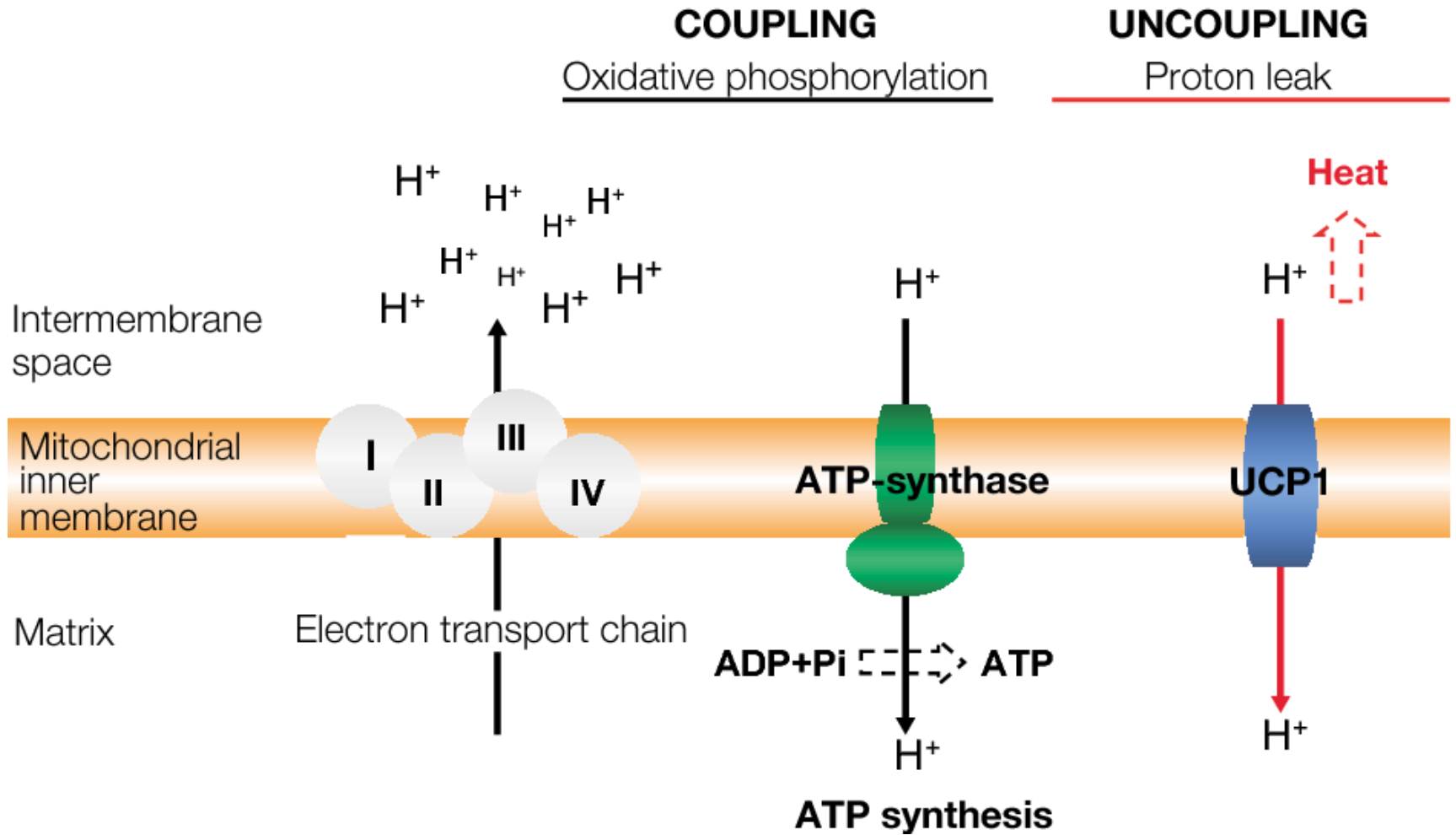
# Steller's sea cow: habitat

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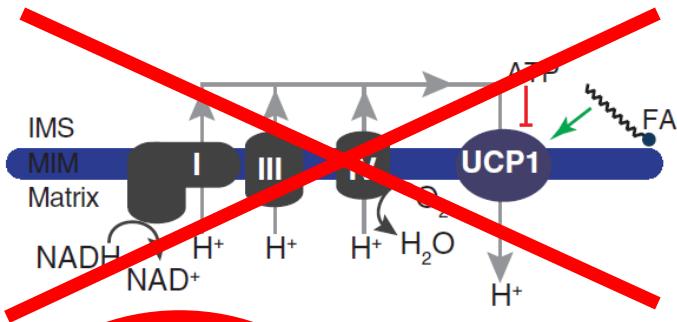


# Non-shivering thermogenesis: UCP1

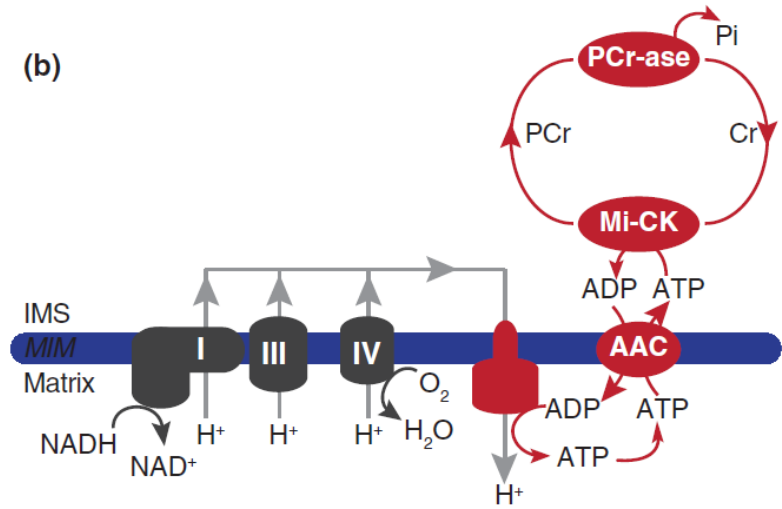


# Thermogenic futile cycles

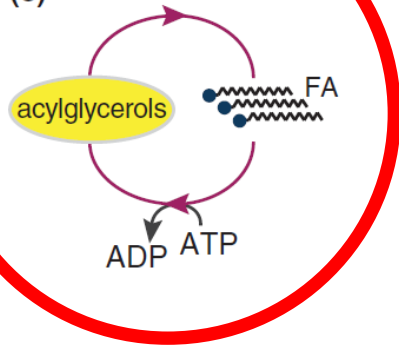
(a)



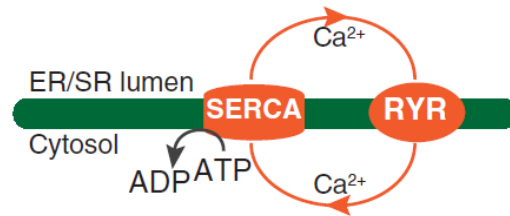
(b)



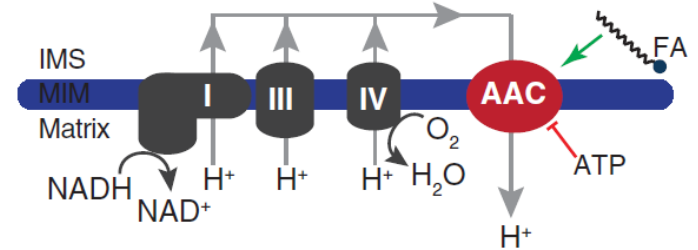
(c)



(d)



(e)



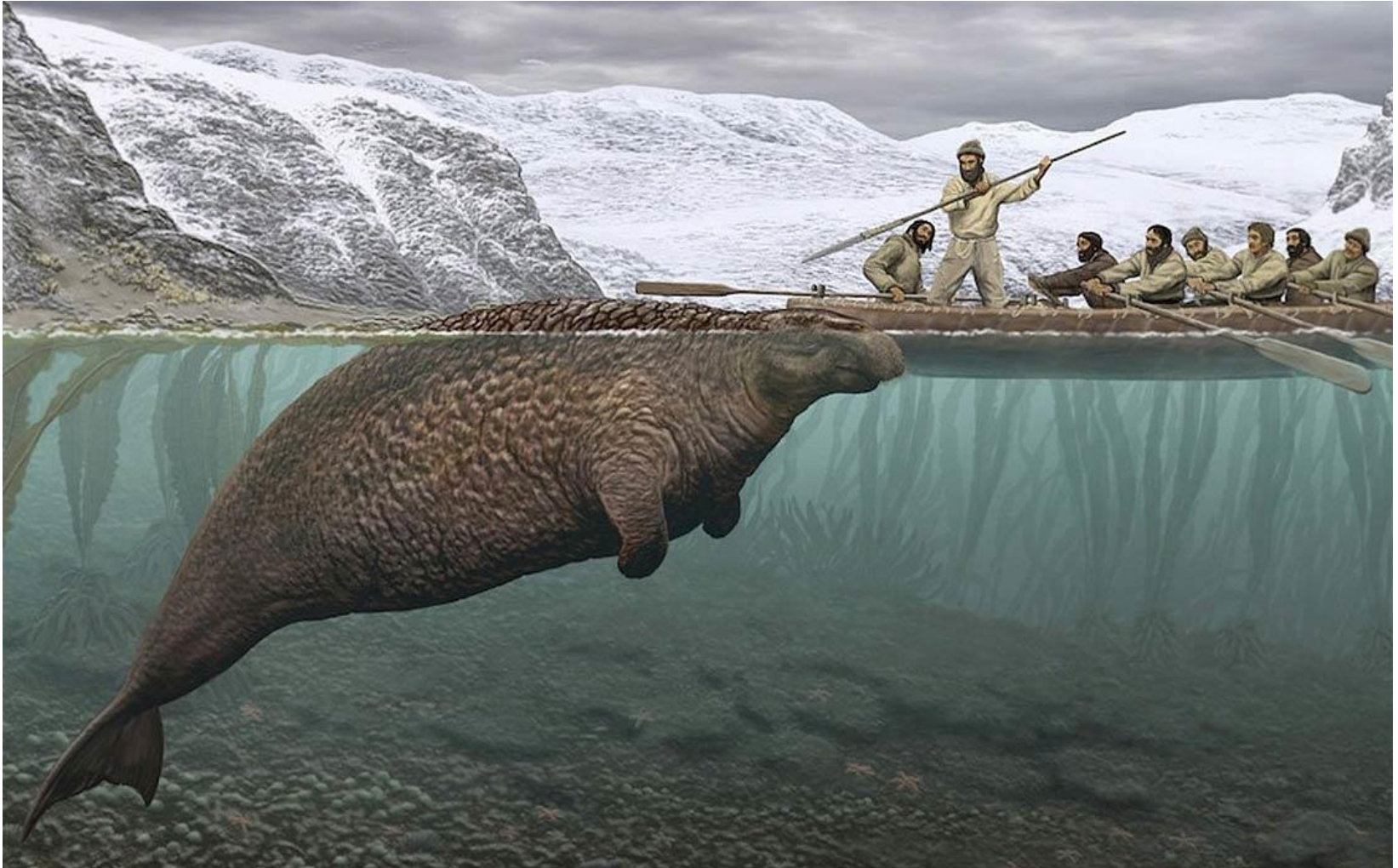
# Steller's sea cow fat deposits

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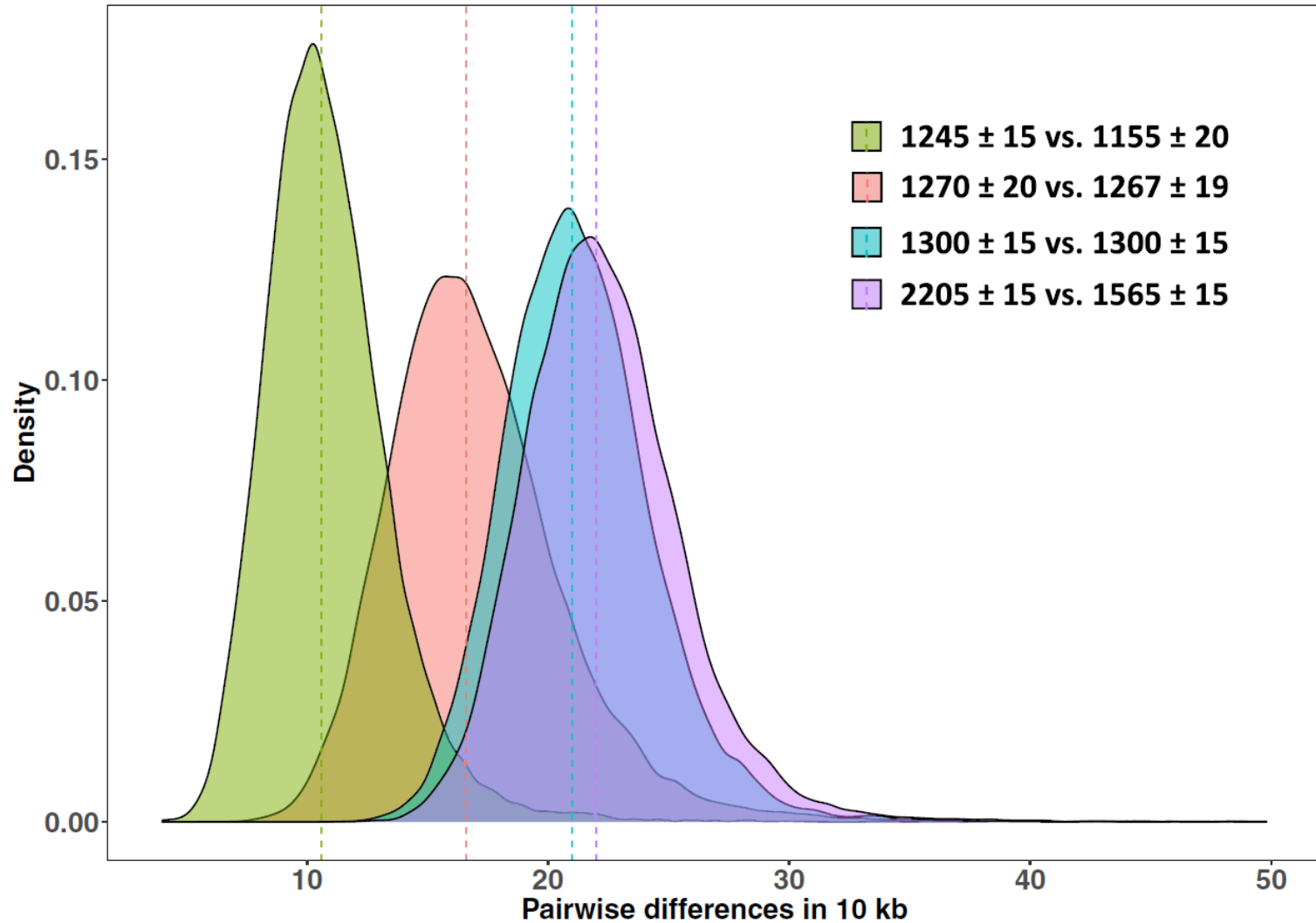
# Steller's sea cow: † 1768

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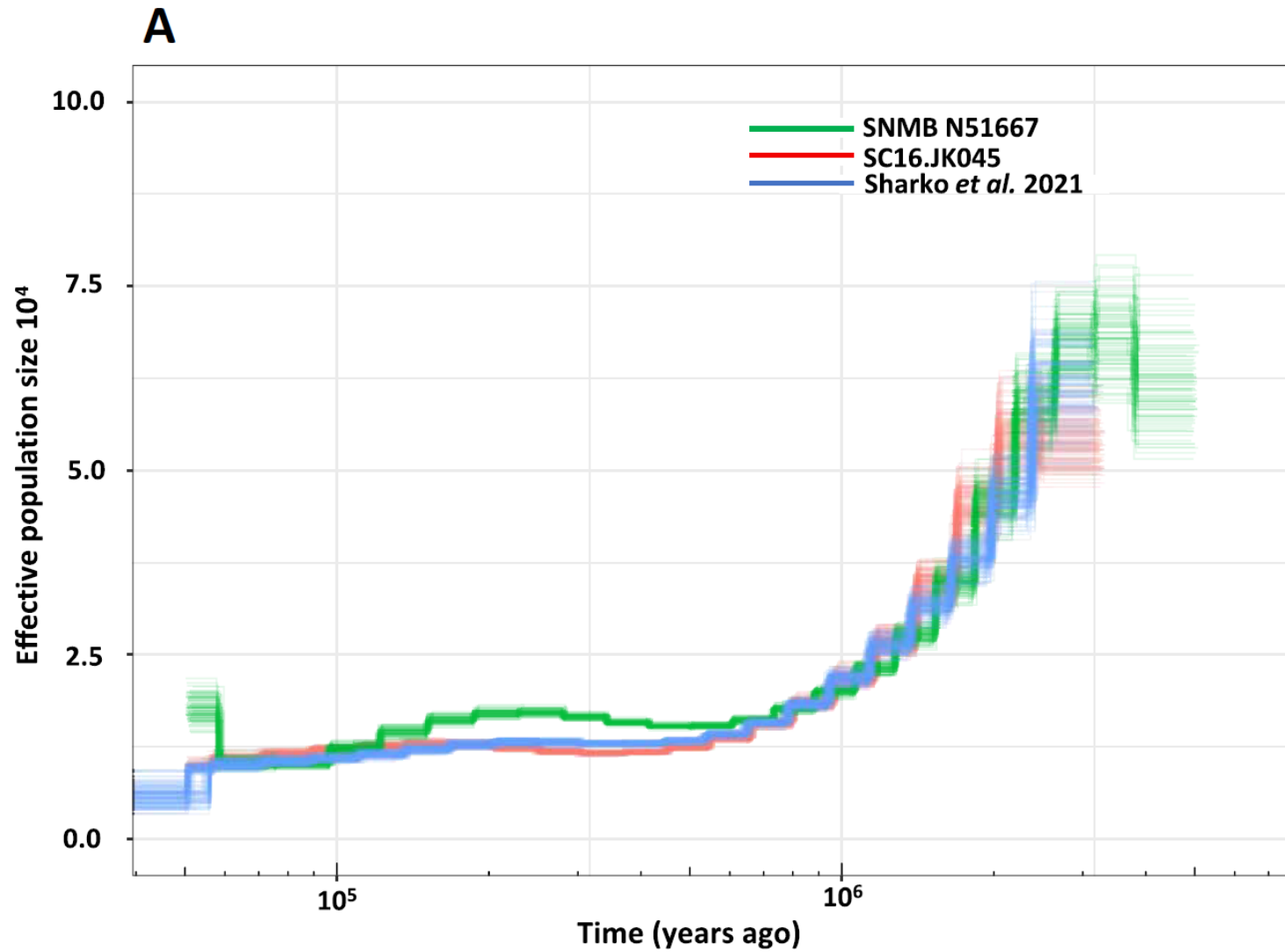


# Genetic diversity over time

**B**



# Population size over time



# Summary Steller's sea cow

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- Low population size for the last 1,000,000 years
- Further loss of genetic diversity between 2,000 and 1,000 years ago
- Genetic cause for skin phenotype and probably cold-adaptation revealed

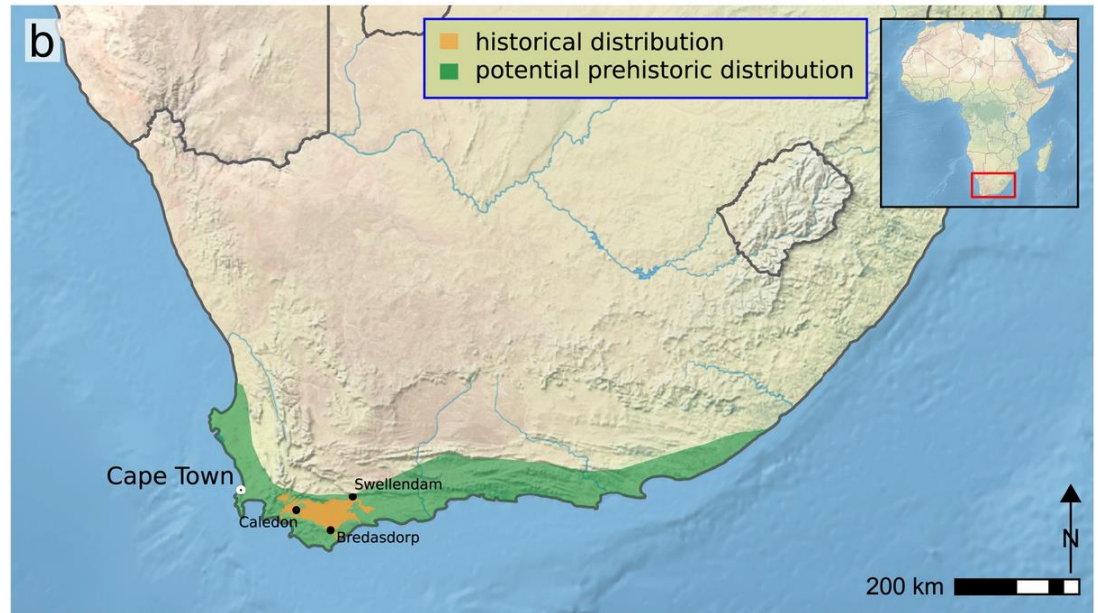
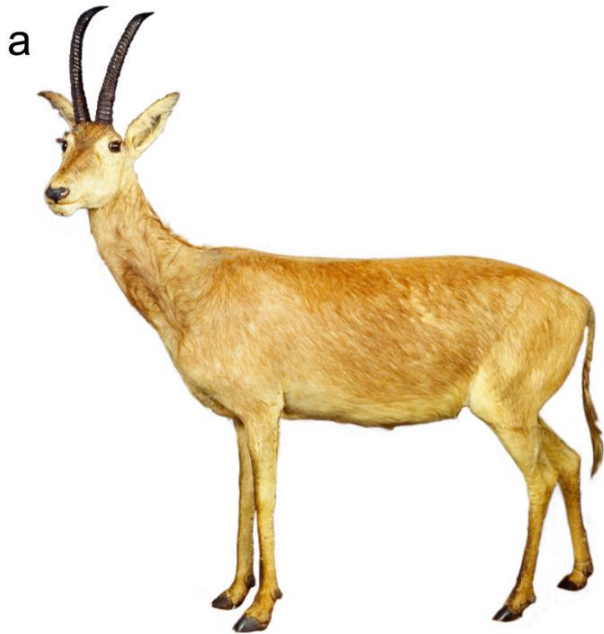
# South-African bluebuck † ~1800

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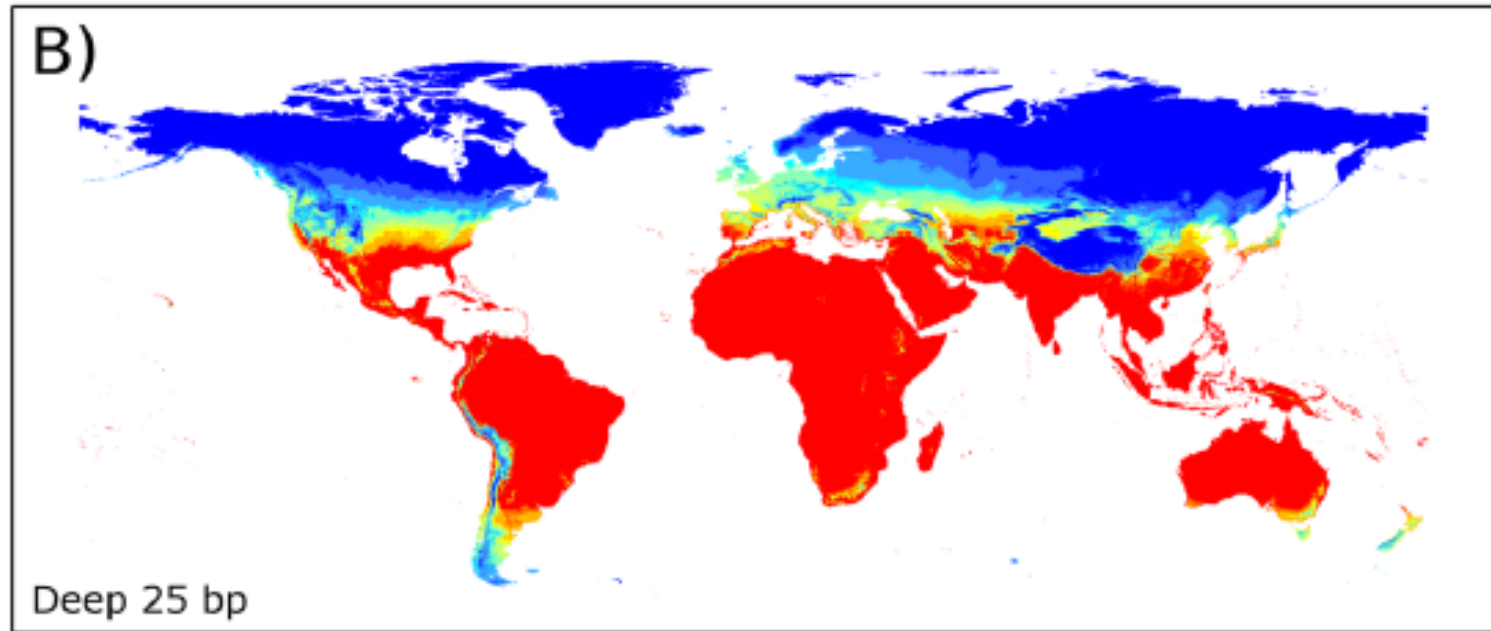


# Distribution

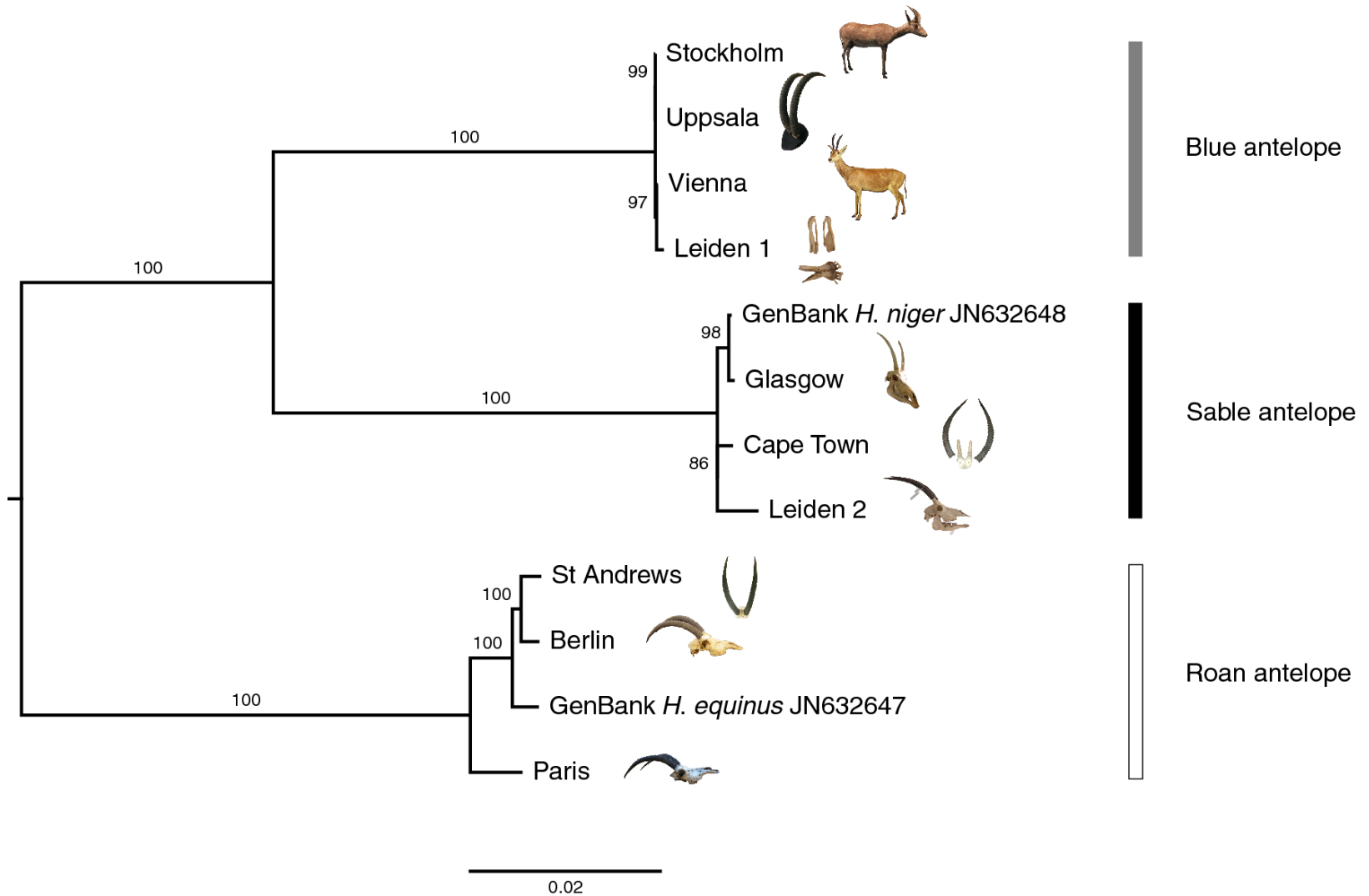


# Problem 1: Poor DNA preservation

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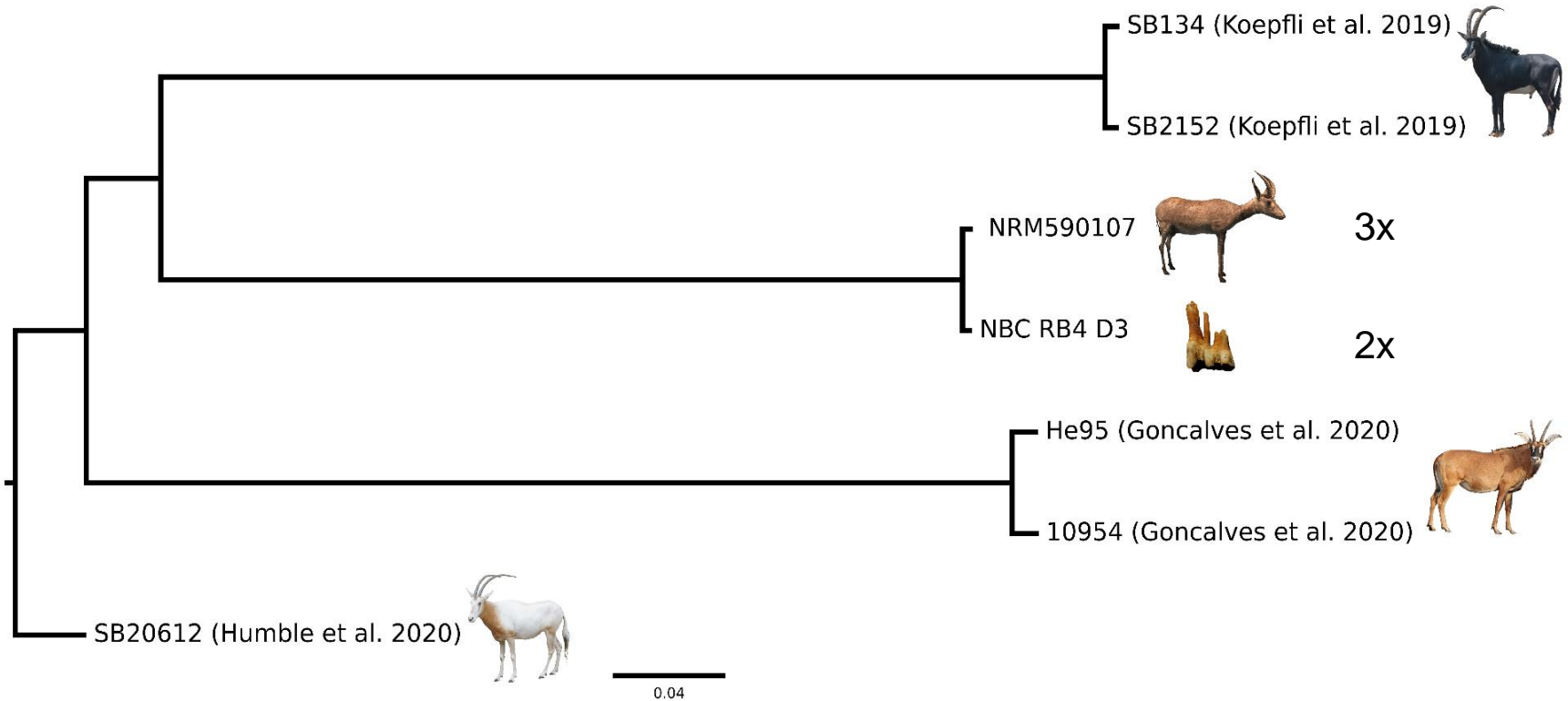


# Problem 2: Few museum samples

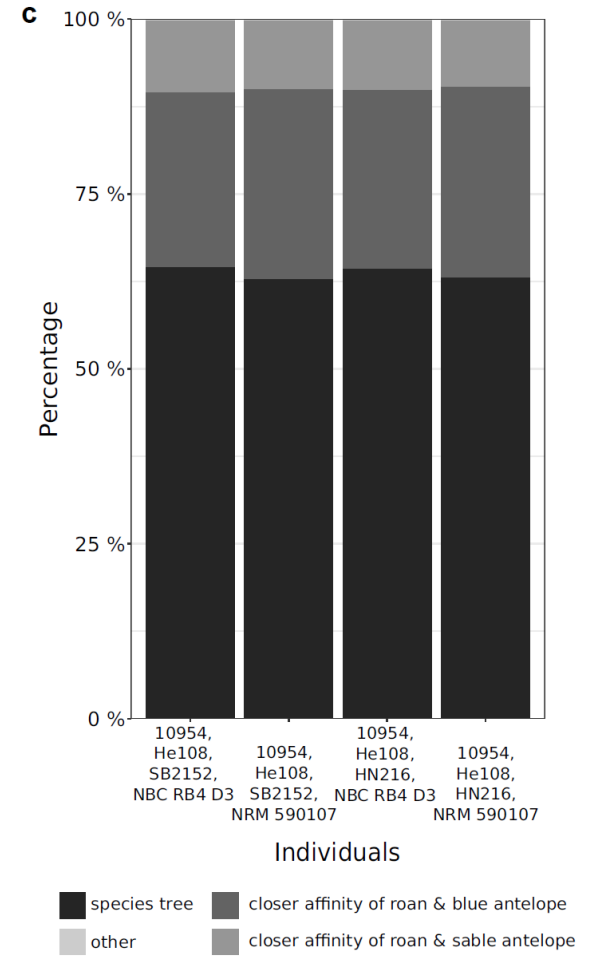
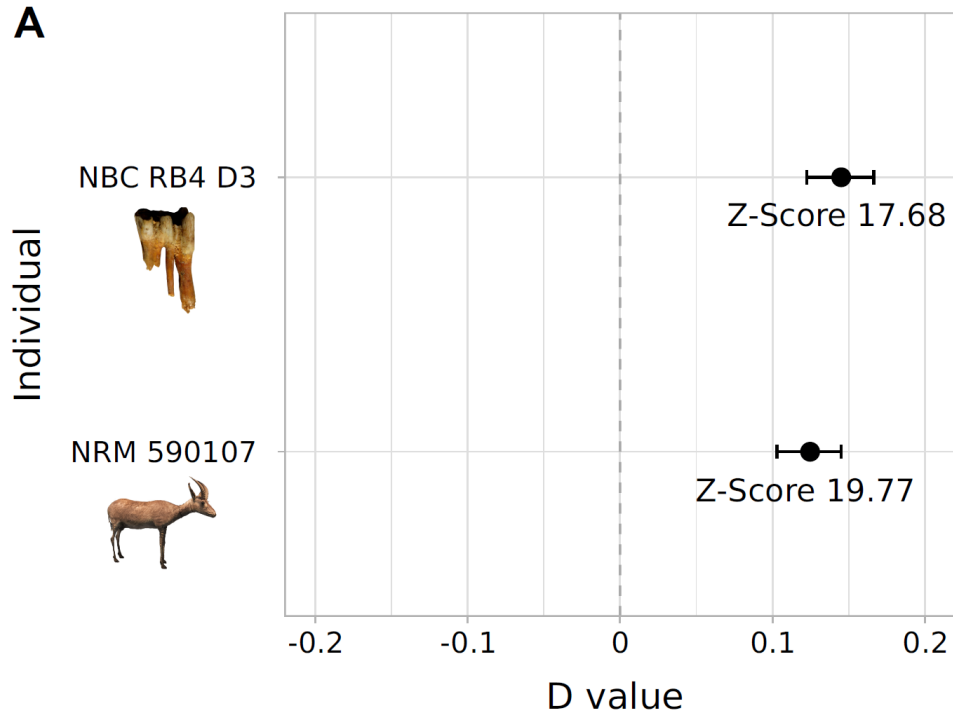


# Initial nuclear sequencing at low coverage

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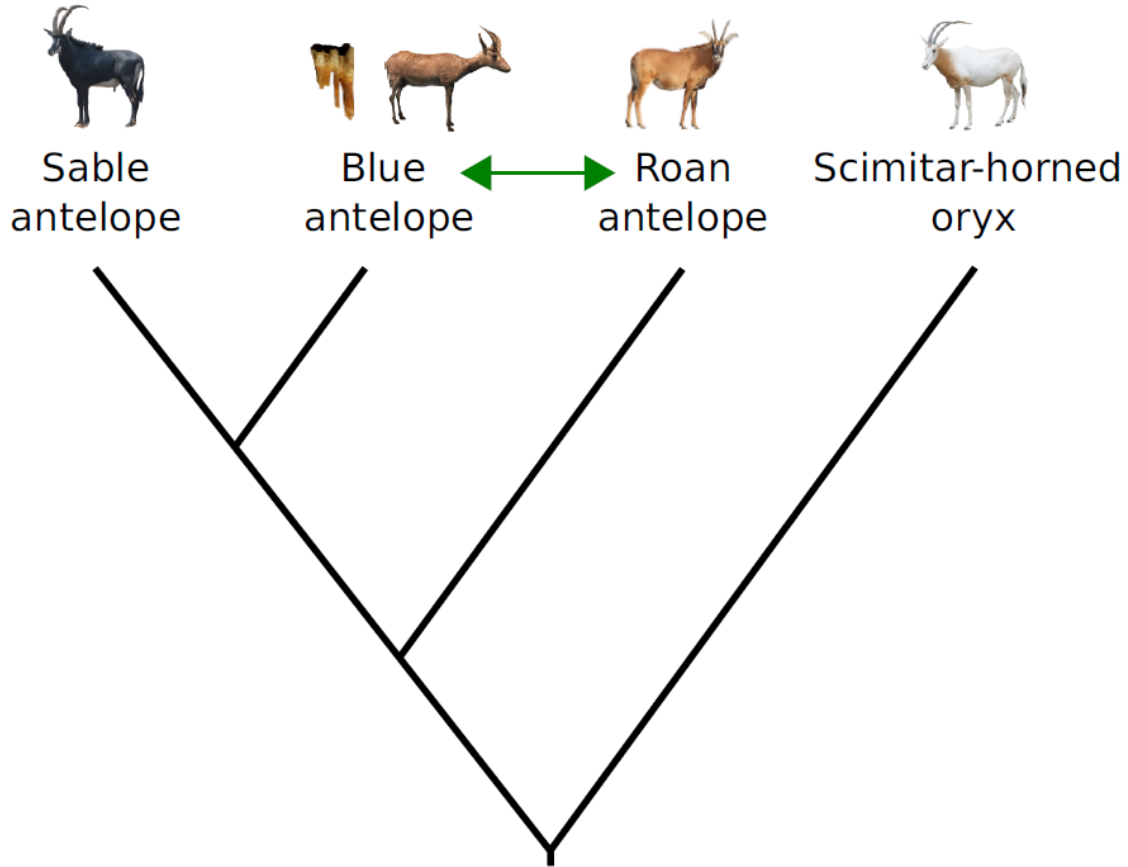
# Evidence for post-divergence gene flow



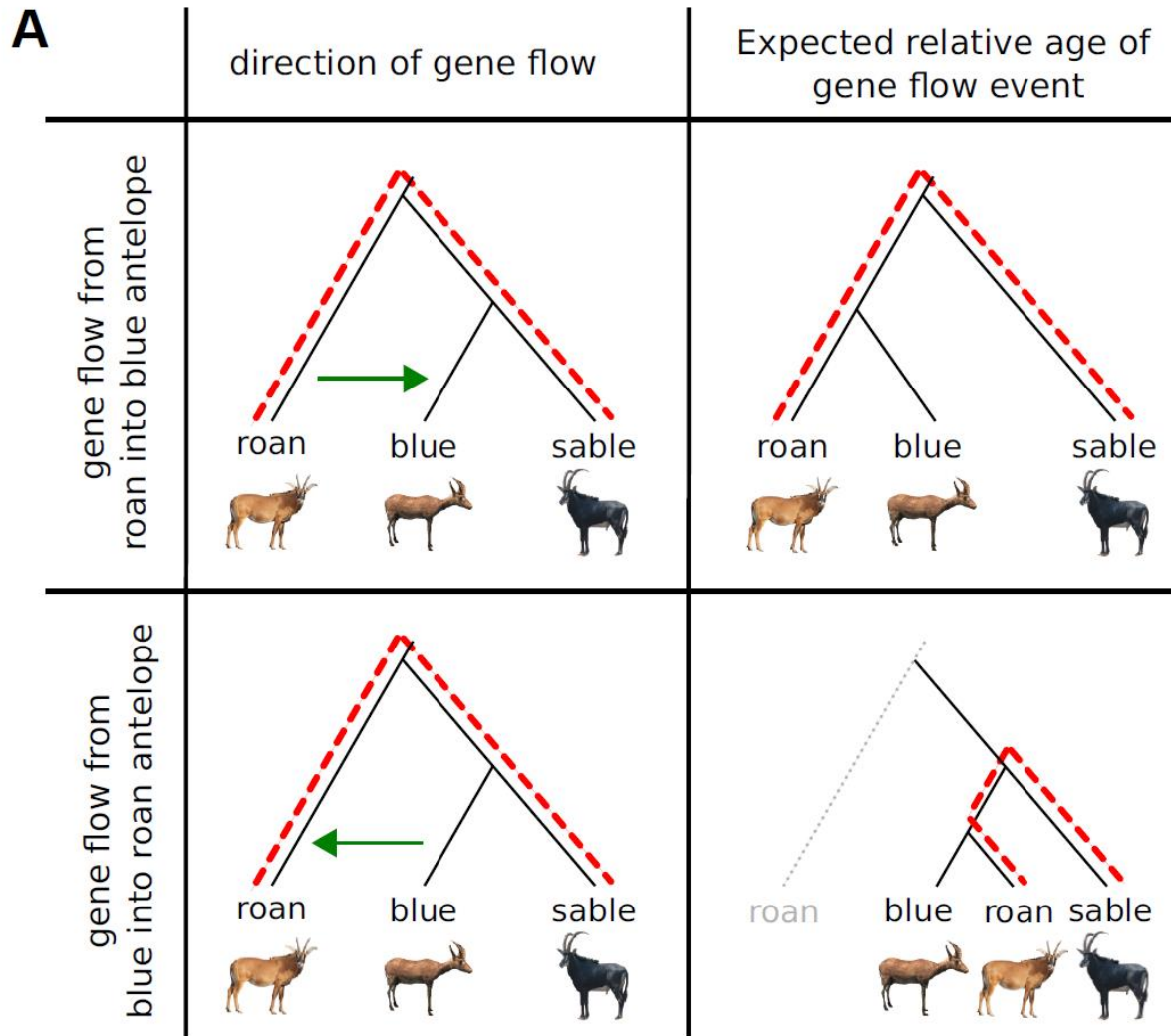
# How to determine its direction?

---

**B**



# How to determine its direction?

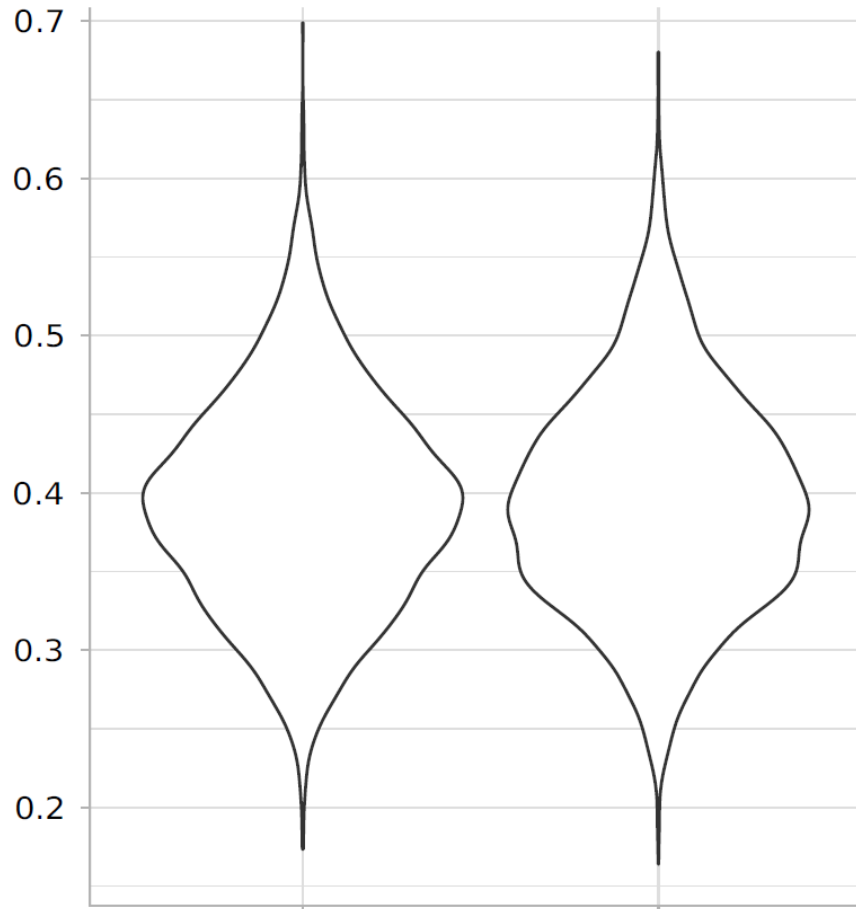


# How to determine its direction?

---

**B**

Observed distance between roan and sable  
antelope as a proportion of tree length

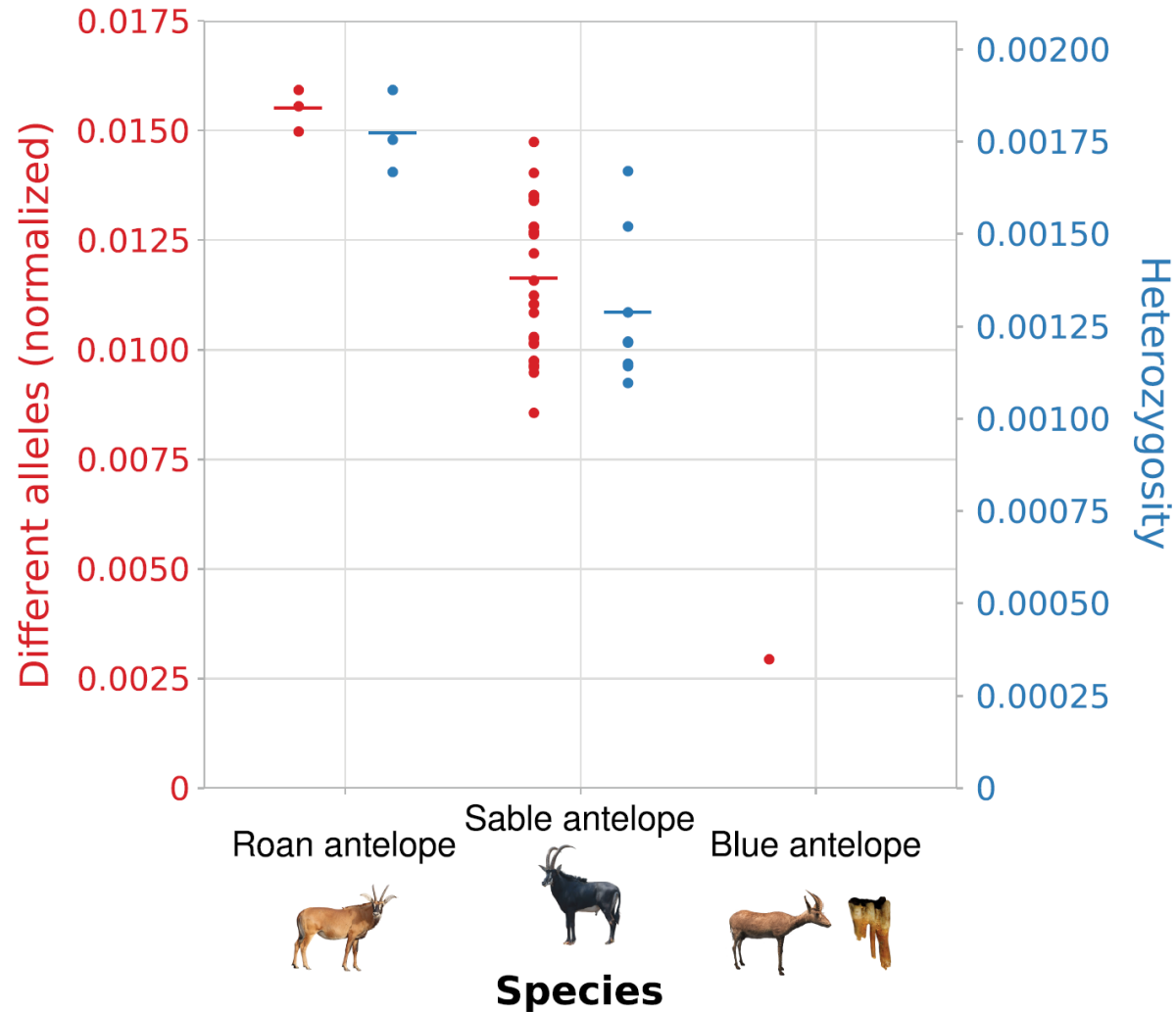


((blue, roan), sable); ((blue, sable), roan);  
species tree

Tree topology



# Low genetic diversity

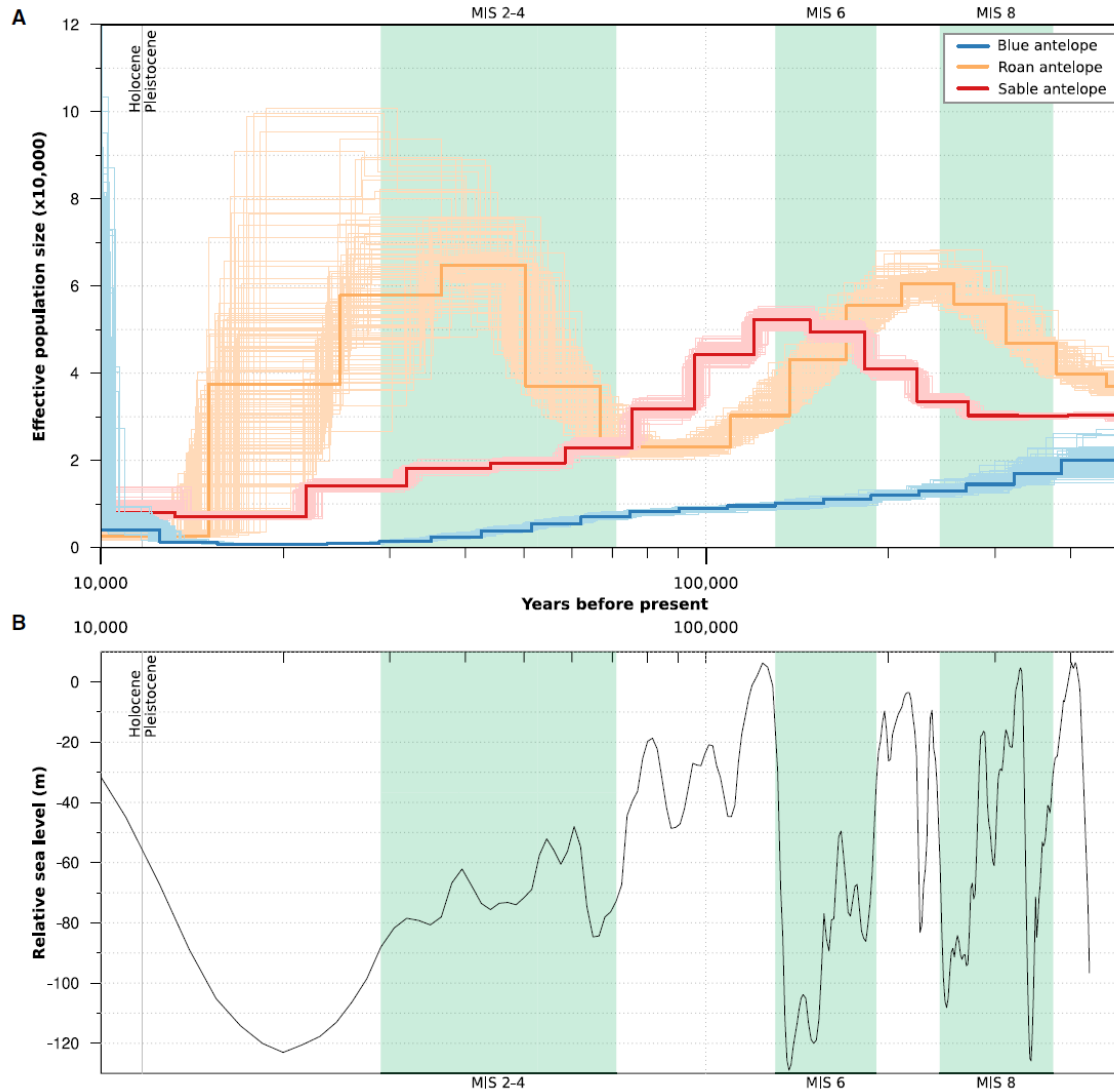


Coverage improved to 40x

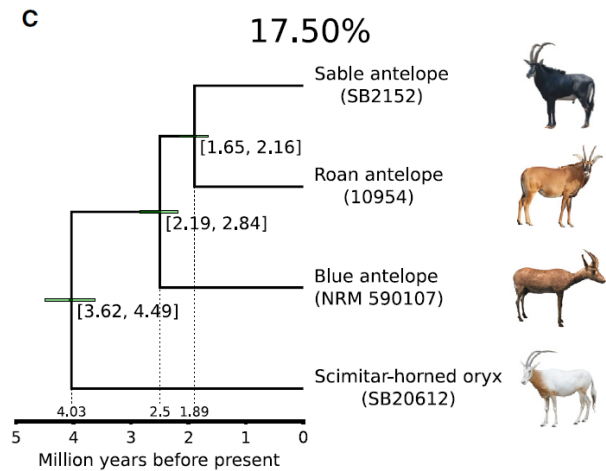
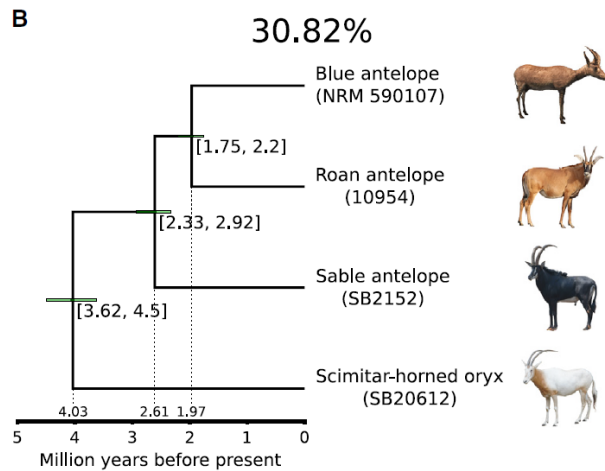
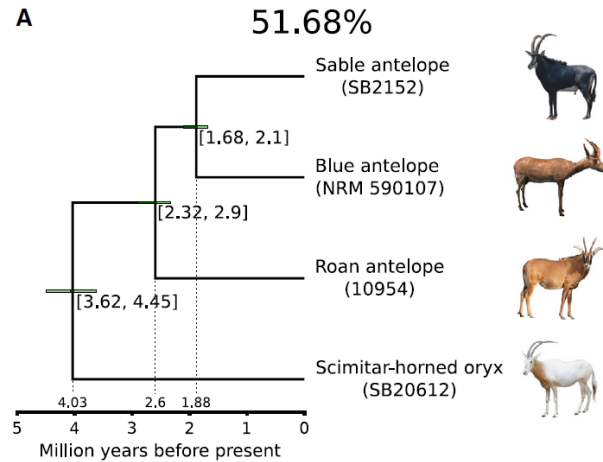
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# Long-term low population size



# Dating alternative topologies

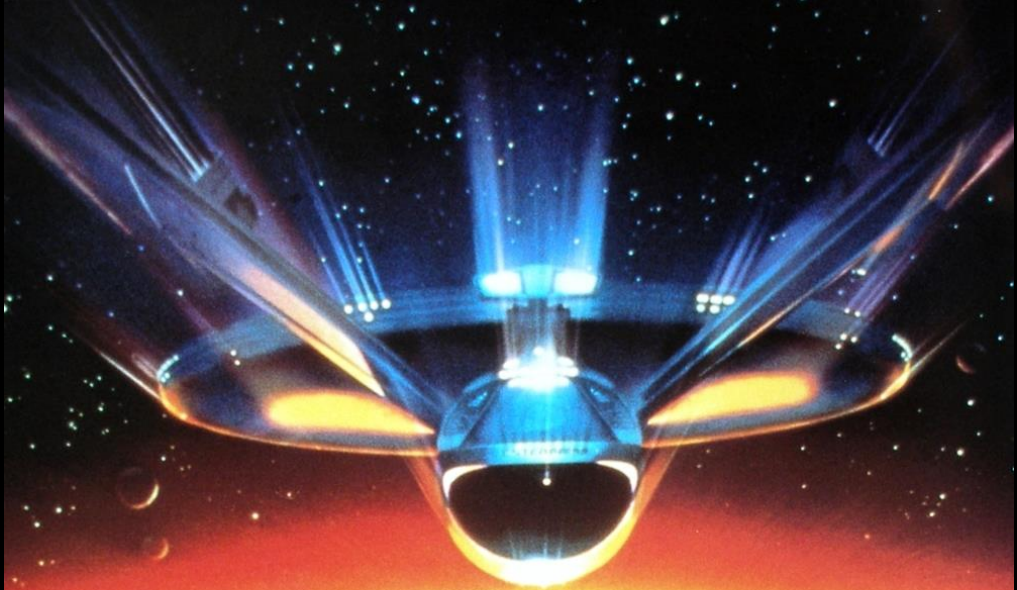


# Summary bluebuck

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- Low population size for the last 500,000 years
- No connection between population size and climatic fluctuations
- Asymmetric gene flow happened during second speciation

=> not really secondary gene flow



STAR TREK VI  
THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY



# Can de-extinction become real?

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Phenotype reconstruction based on mammoth mtDNA (possibly contaminated)

Jurassic Park? No





Mammoth safari?

Maybe....



# De-extinction: 3 possibilities

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# 1. Backbreeding

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## 2. Cloning

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# 3. Genome-modification

## Creating a “mammophant”

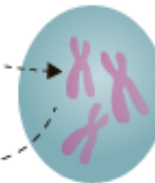
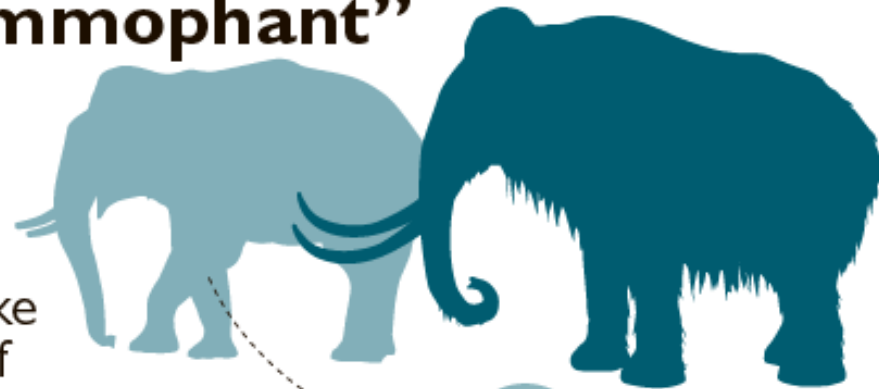
1 Most mammoth DNA is shared by elephants

2 Gene editing allows the addition of mammoth-like traits into the genome of an elephant



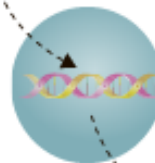
3 An elephant cell is reprogrammed to become an embryonic cell

5 The embryo is then cultivated in an artificial womb



Cell from elephant

4 The modified genome is introduced into the cell




# Colossal Biosciences

A stylized illustration of a mammoth's head and tusk, rendered in a vibrant purple and blue color palette. The mammoth is facing right, with its tusk curving downwards. The background is a solid purple color.

# BACK THE WOOLLY

# MAMMOTH

In the minds of many, this creature is gone forever. But not in the minds of our scientists, nor the labs of our company. We're already in the process of the de-extinction of the Woolly Mammoth. Our teams have collected viable DNA samples, and are editing the genes that will allow this wonderful megafauna to once again thunder through the Arctic.

Discover the Science &  
Technologies that will revive   
the Mammoth

# Mammoths are iconic

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# Cloned animals

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No elephants.....

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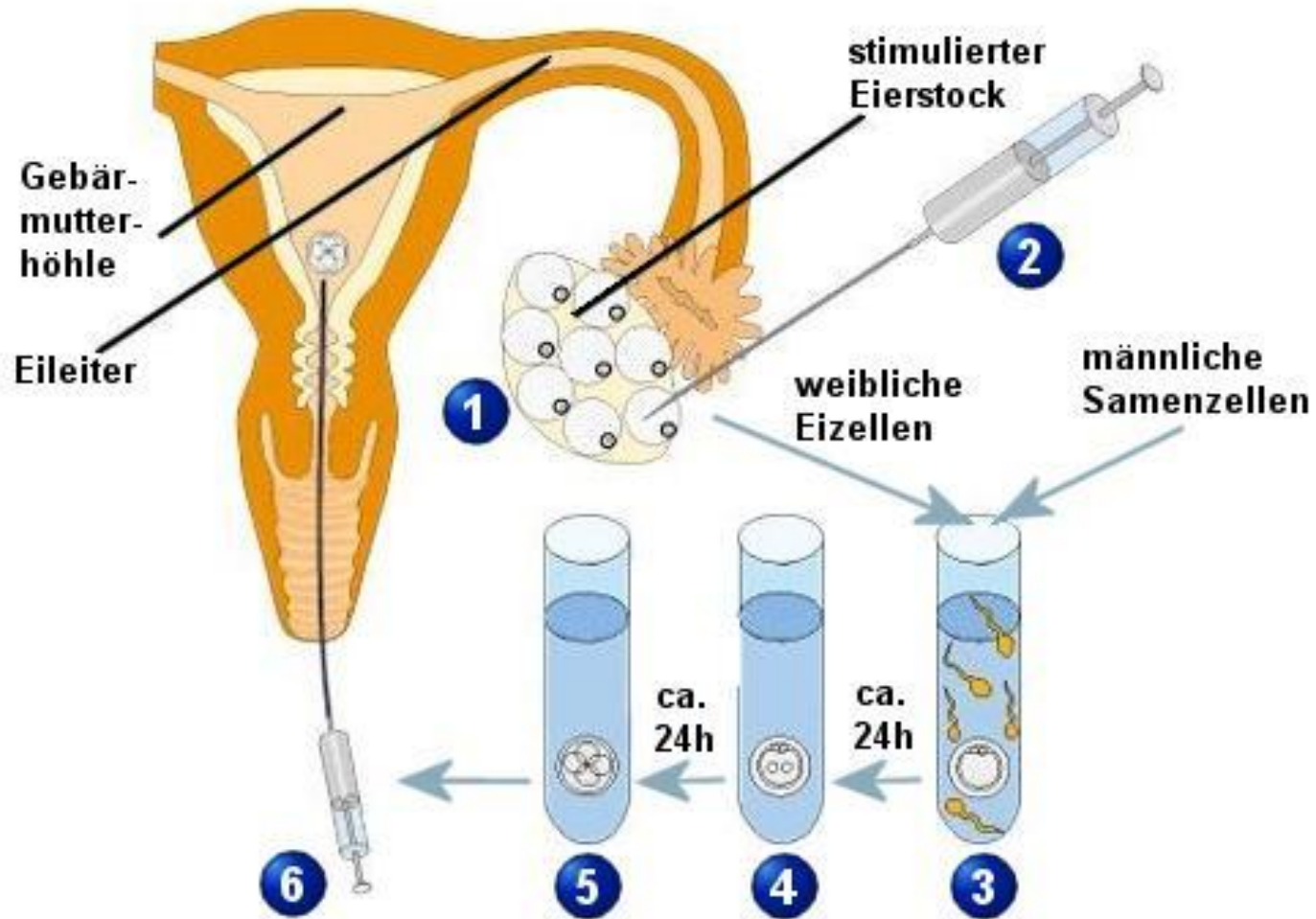


# Problem 1: breeding elephants

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# Problem 2: reproductive biology



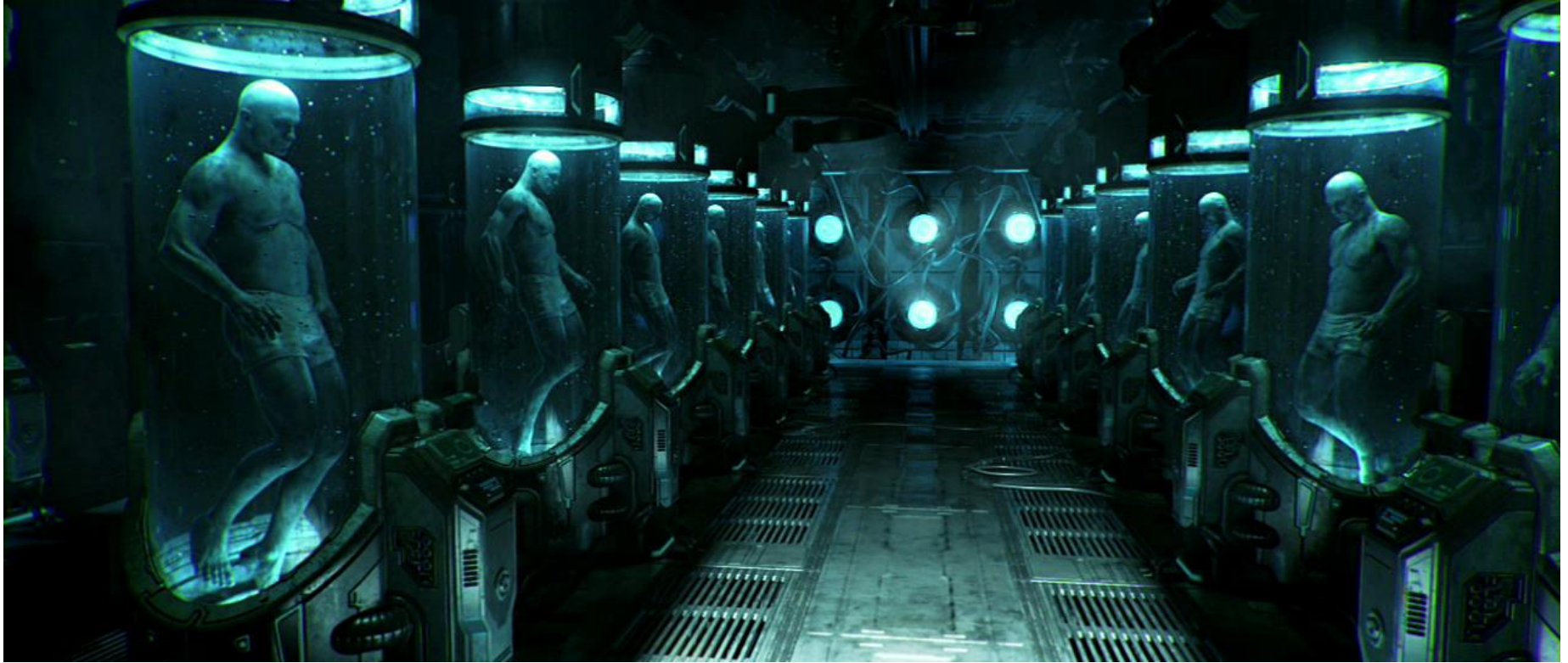
# Problem 3: generation time

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# Artificial womb?

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# Better candidates: lava mouse

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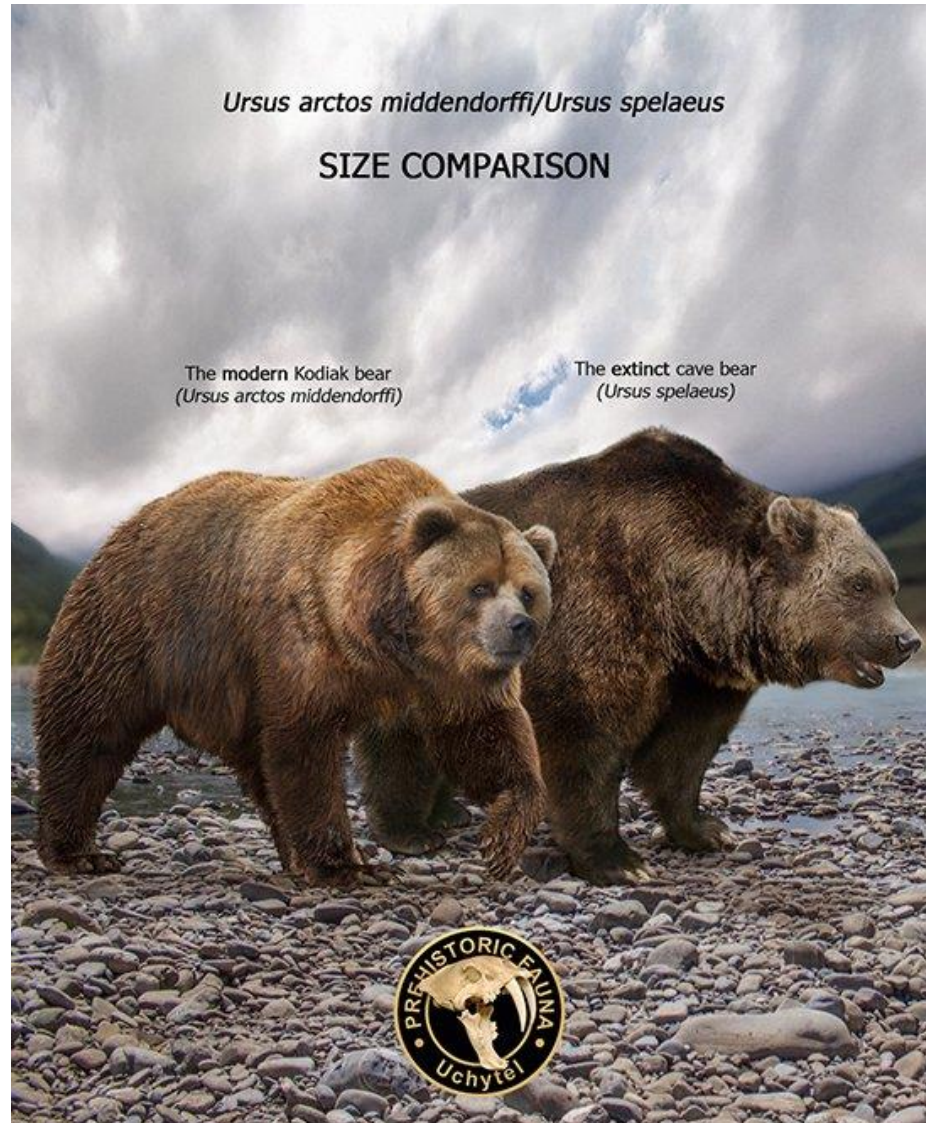
# Better candidates: cave bear

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# In theory.....

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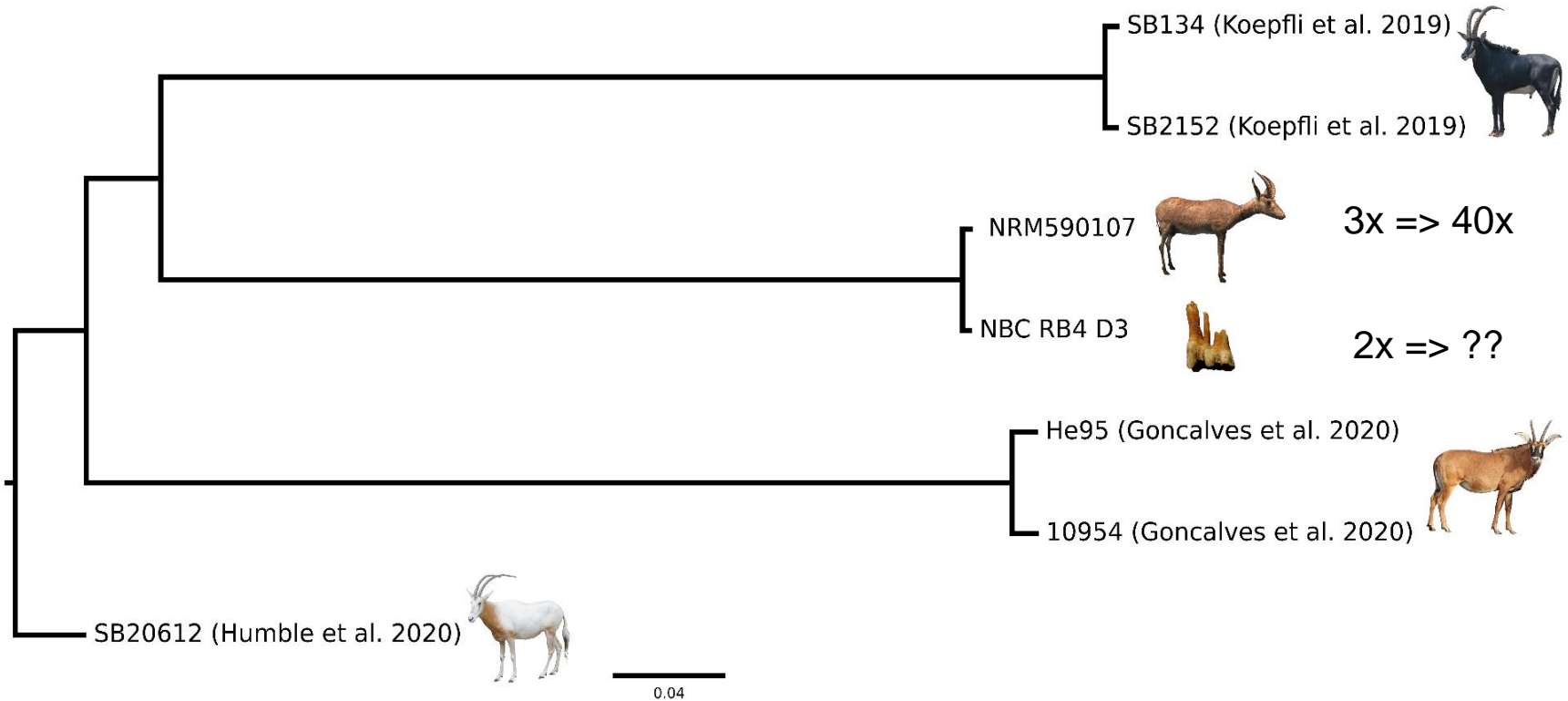
In practice: South-African bluebuck ~1800 †

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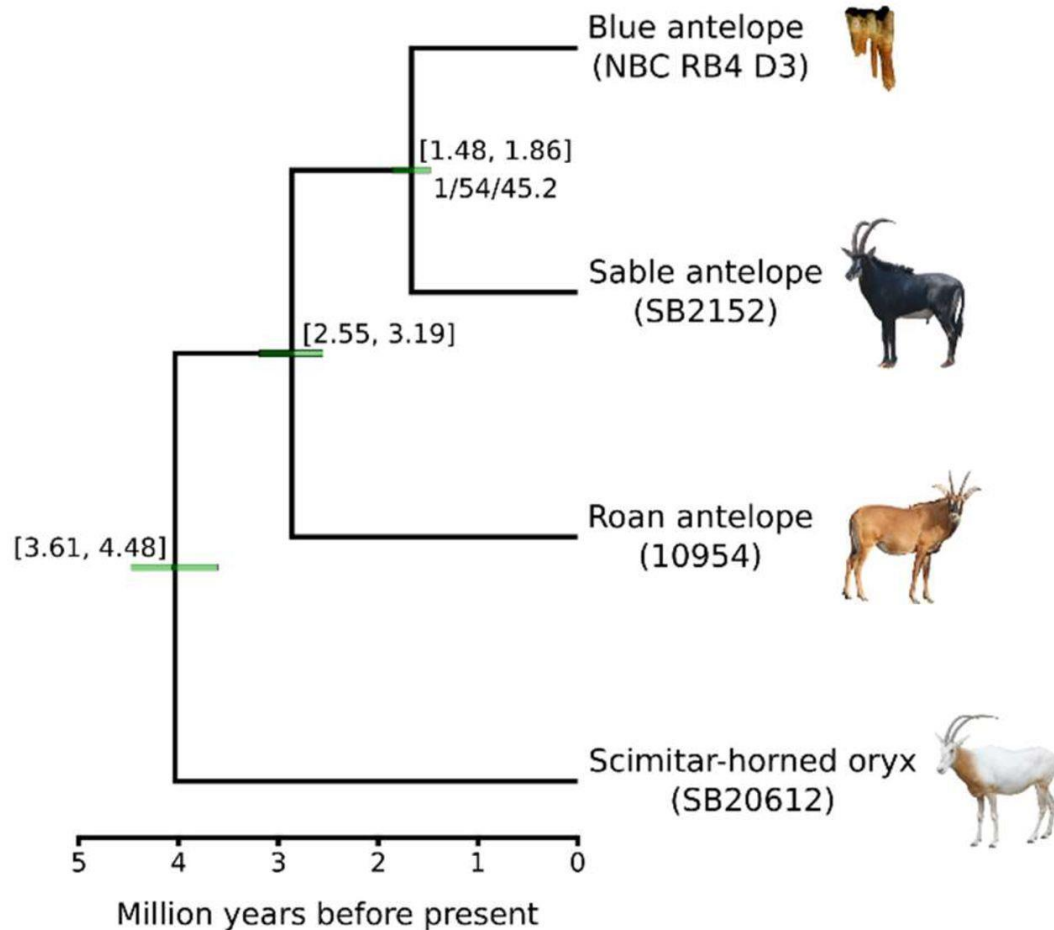
# Advantages: 1) first genomes available

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# Advantages: 2) Very close extant relative

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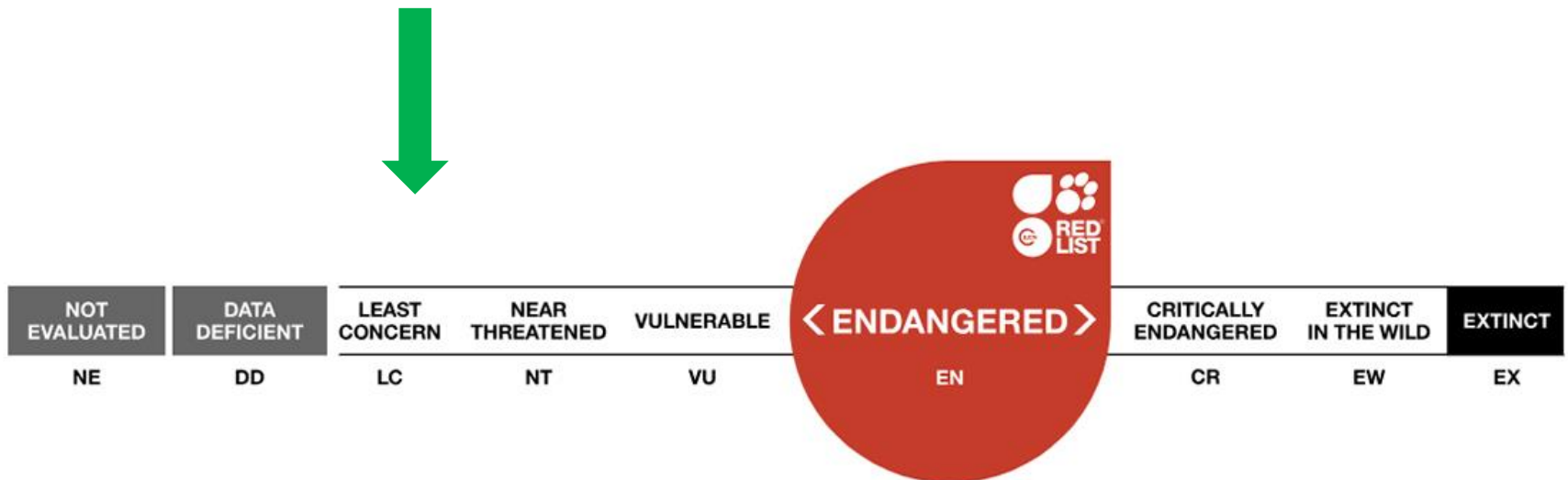
Advantages: 3) Also easy to breed

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# Advantages: 4) No conservation concern

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Advantages: 5) It's almost a cow (or a goat)

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# De-extinction? Maybe.....

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Ende