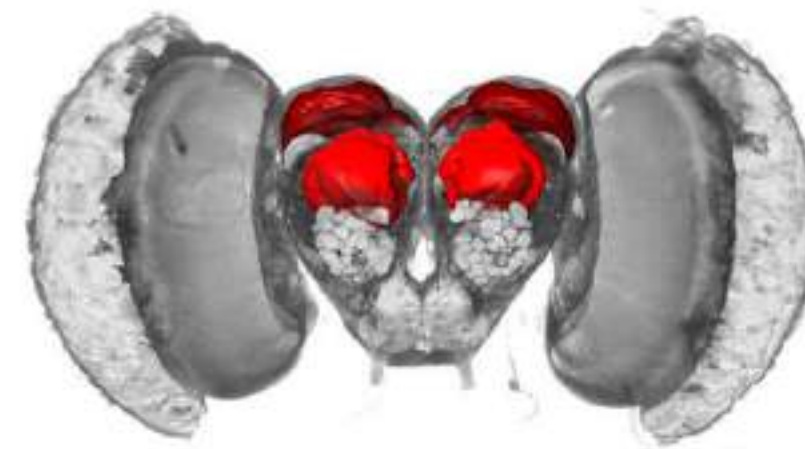




Day 9 - Comparative Genomics

Attempting to make sense of how evolution works

E. Cicconardi, PhD



EBaB lab

2025 WORKSHOP ON GENOMICS, CESKY KRUMLOV

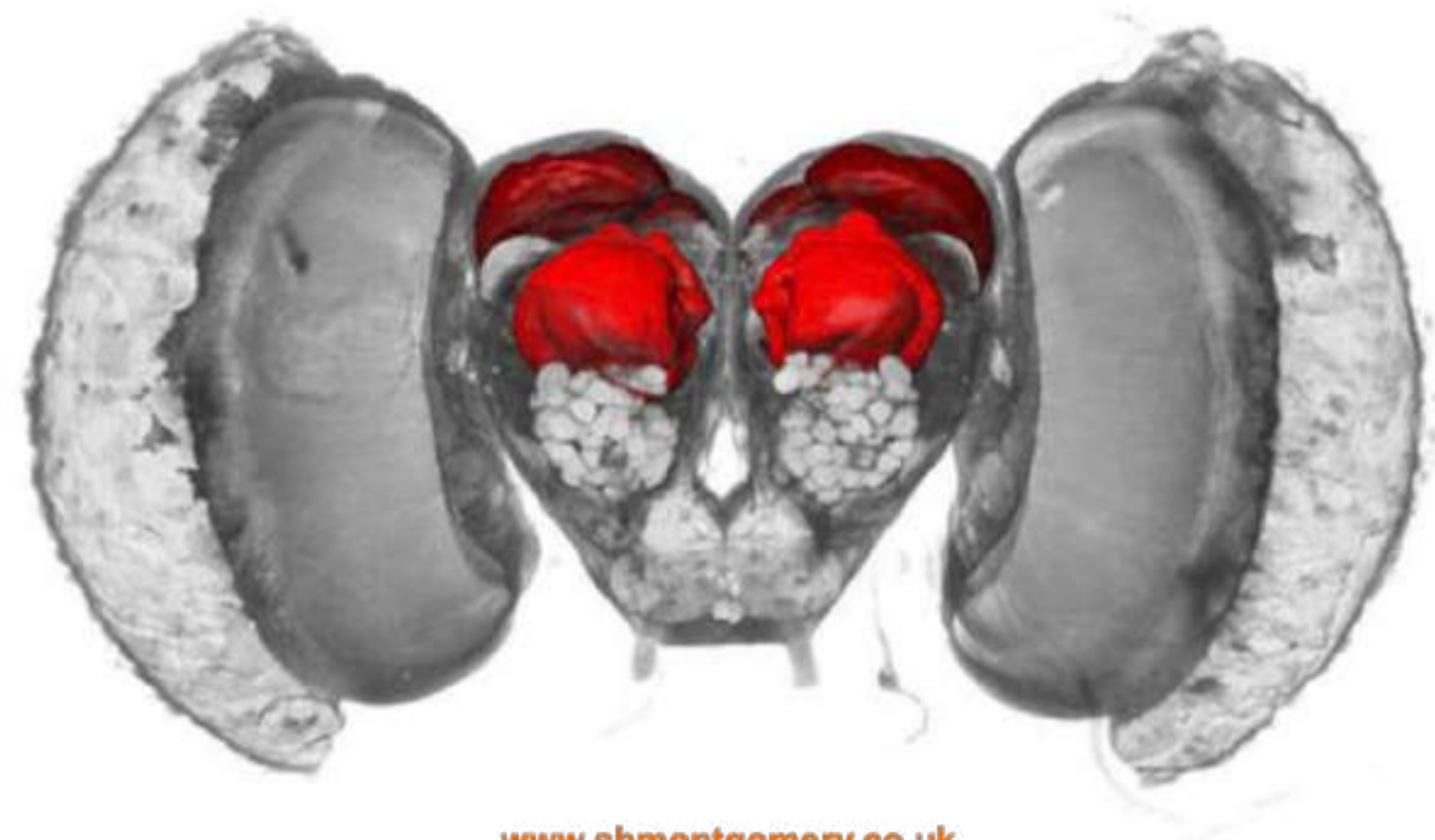
Evolution of Brain and Behaviour Lab



Dr. Stephen Montgomery

EBAB LAB

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www.shmontgomery.co.uk



Adaptive Radiation of Heliconiini (Family: Nymphalidae)

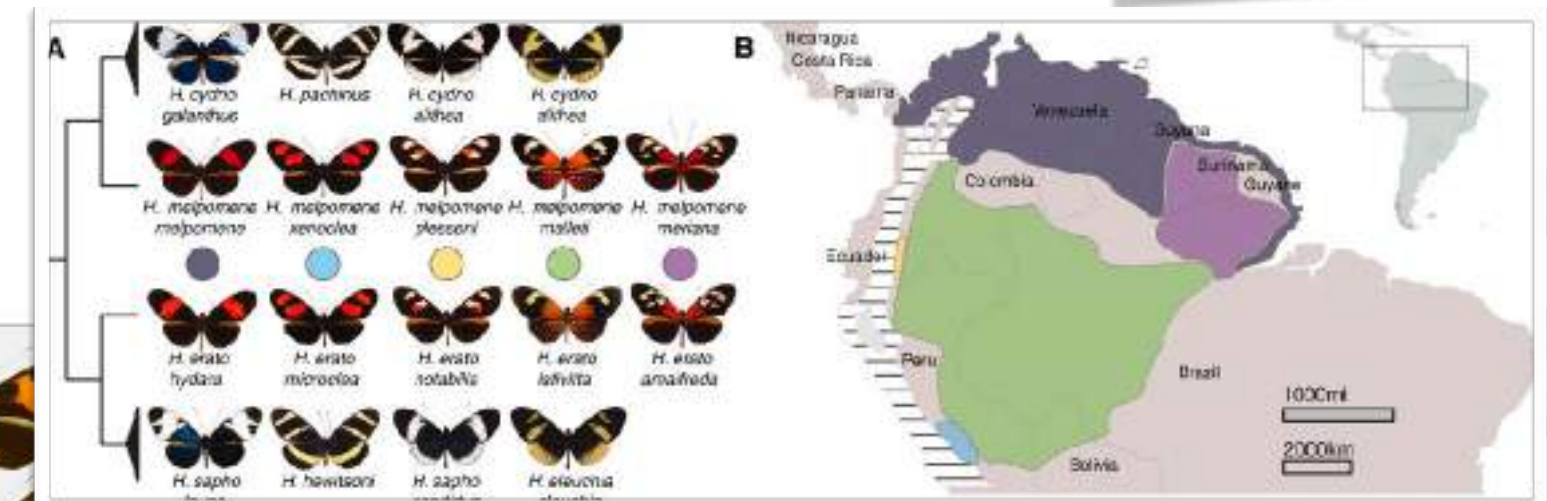
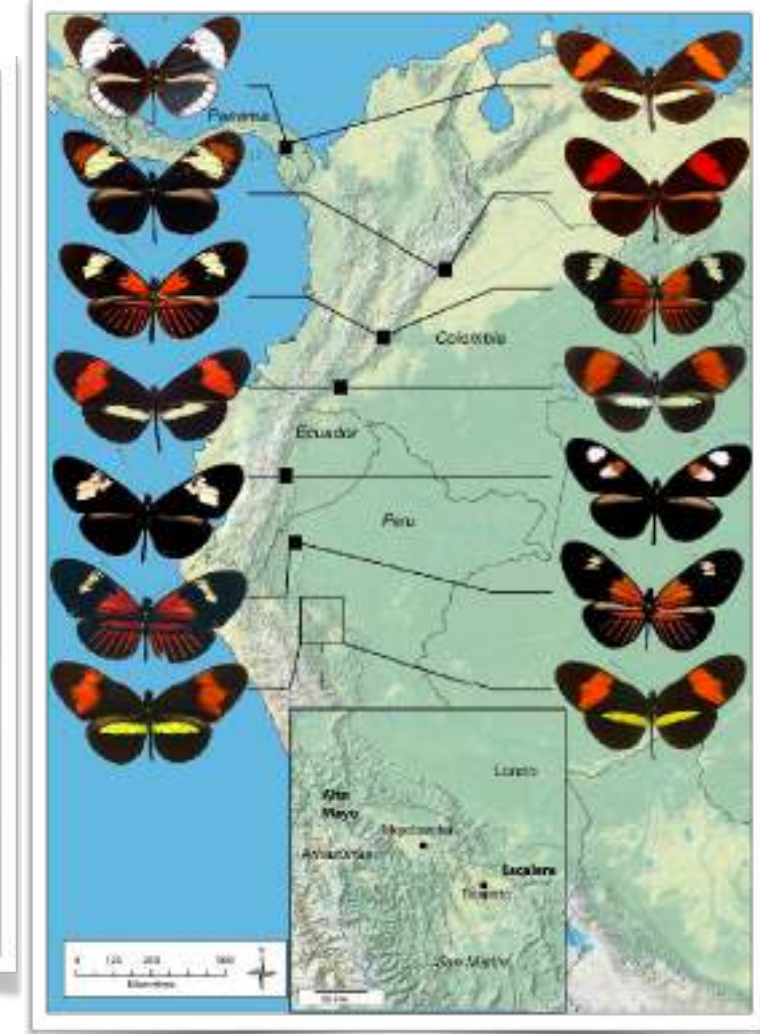
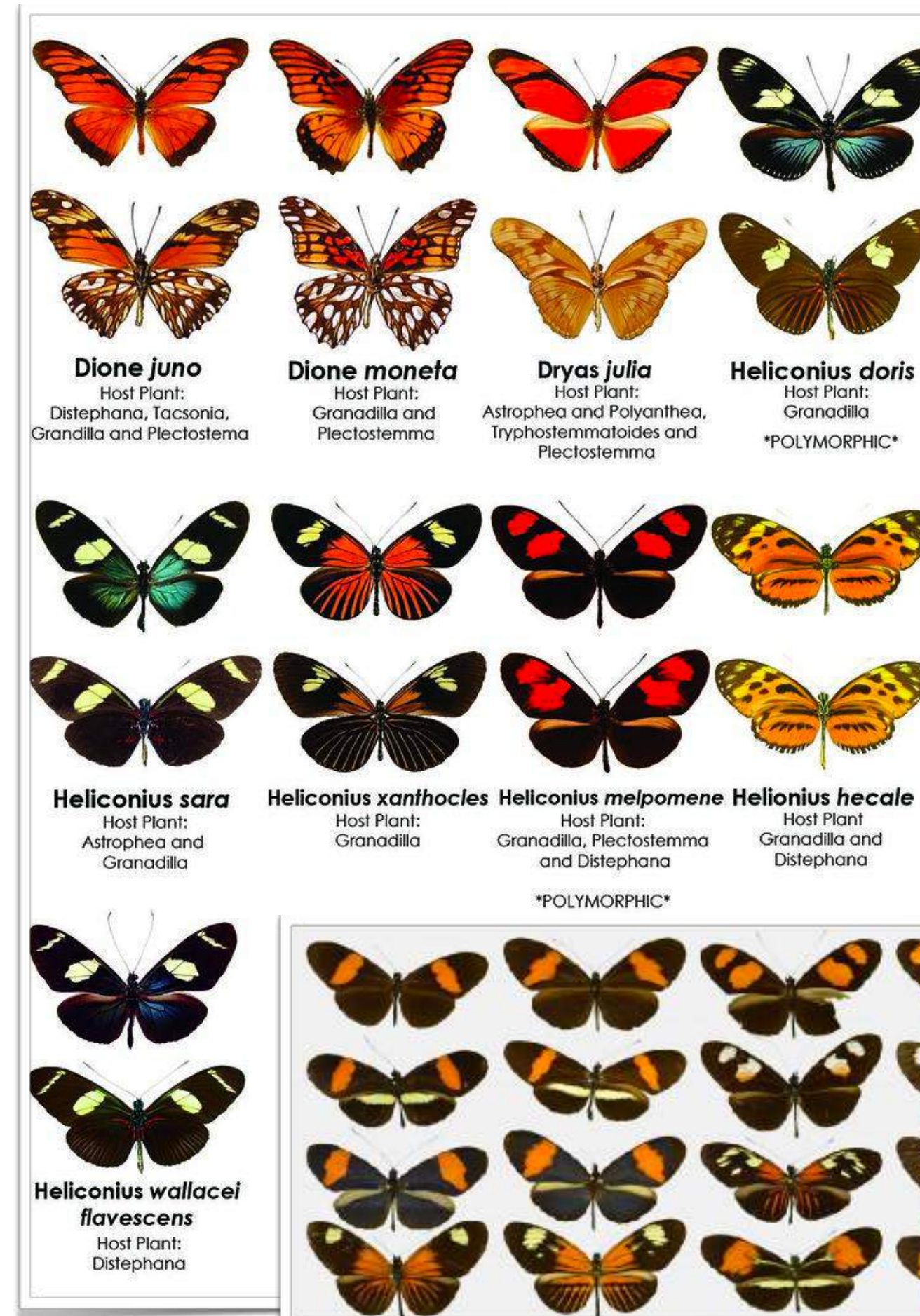
Photo credit: @mena_sebas

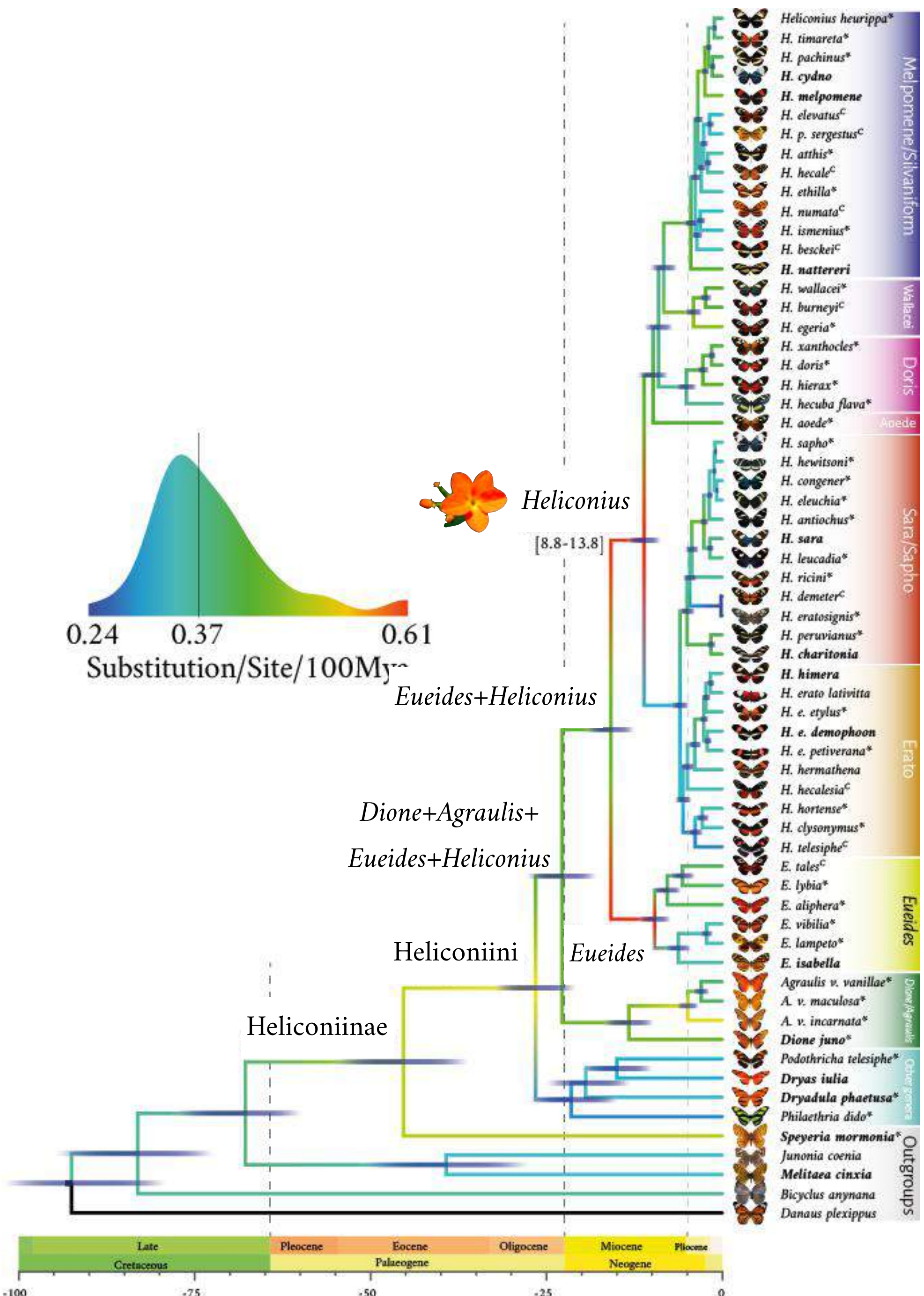


- 8 Genera

- 87 Species

- ~440 sub-species

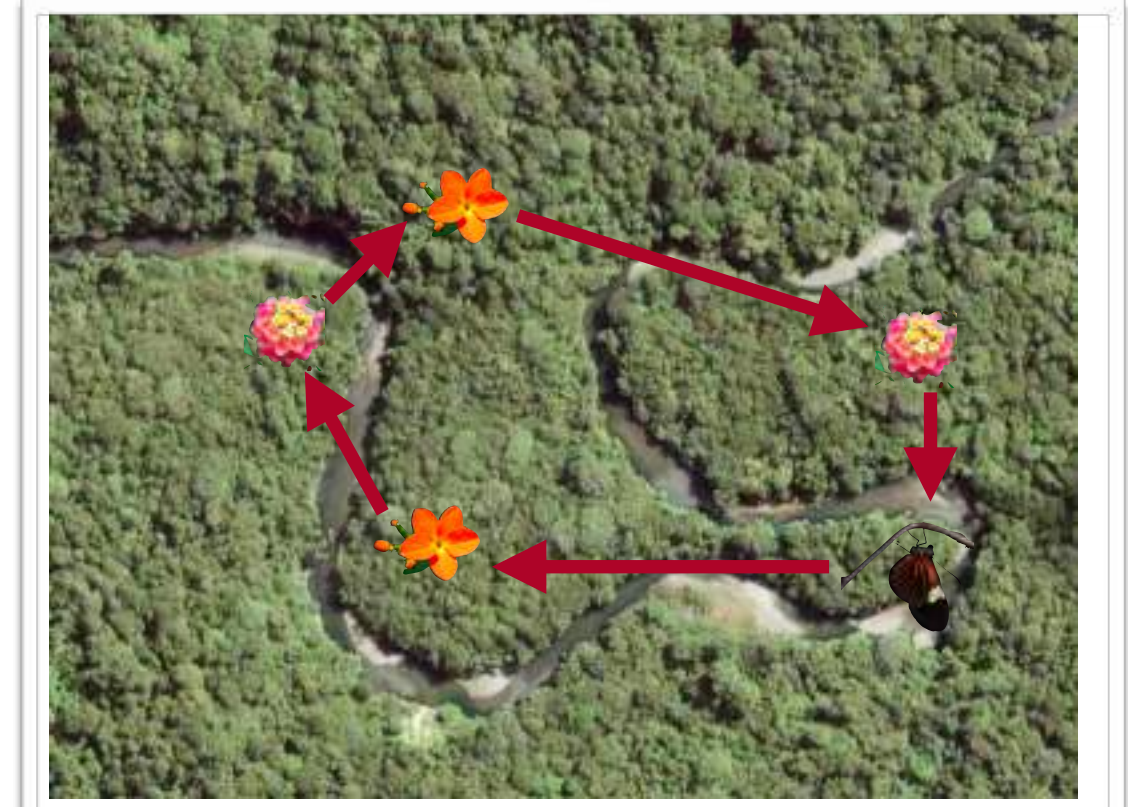




» Pollen-feeding



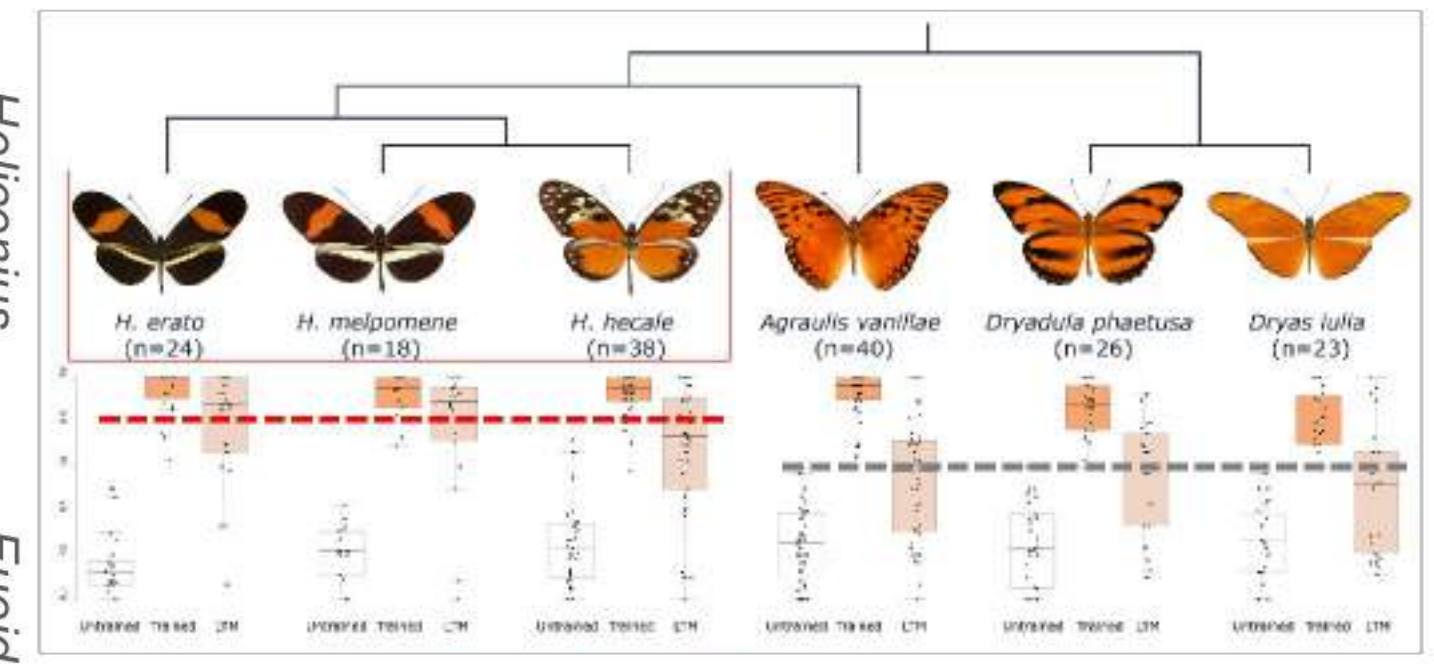
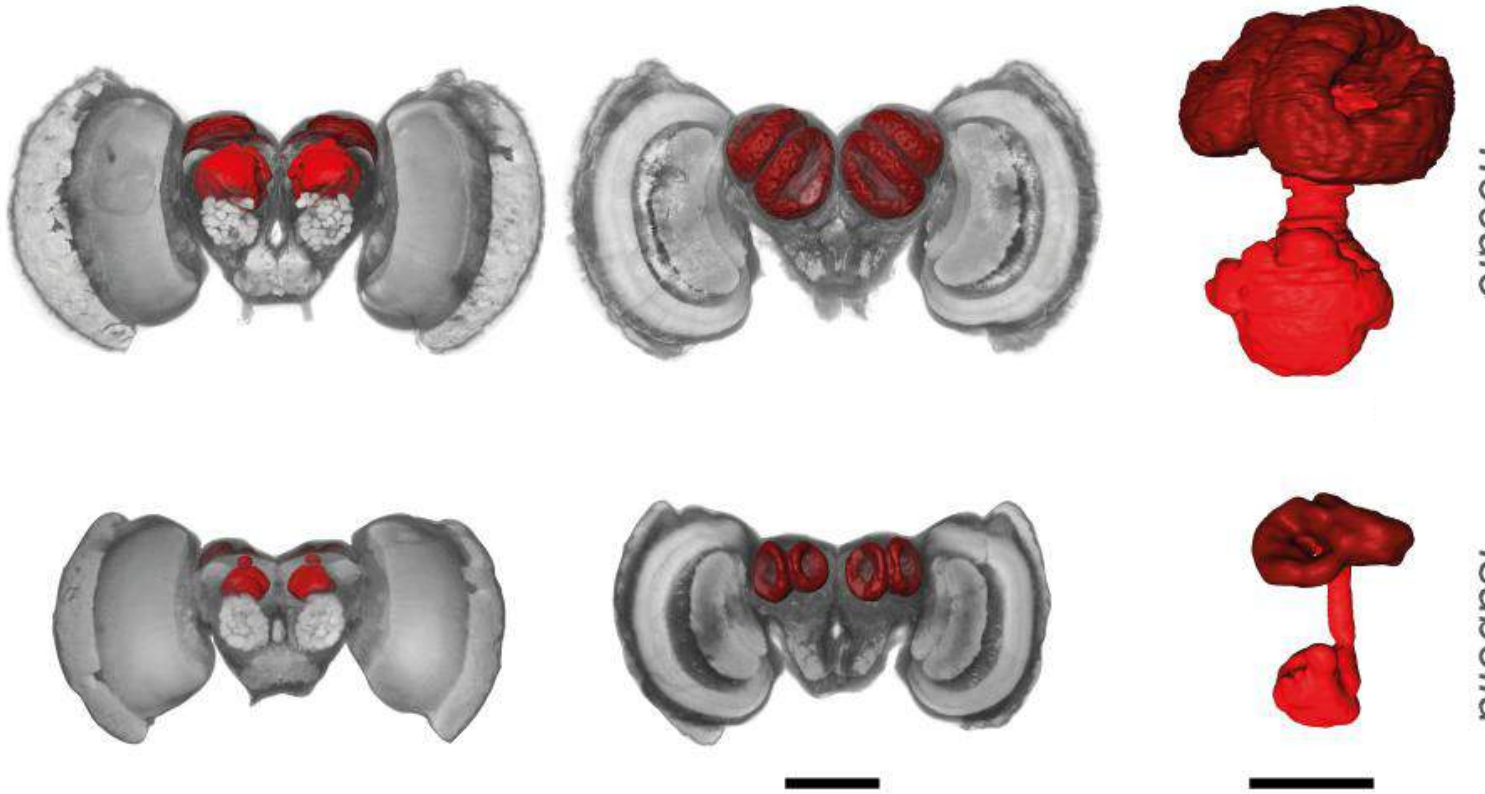
» Trap-lining behaviour



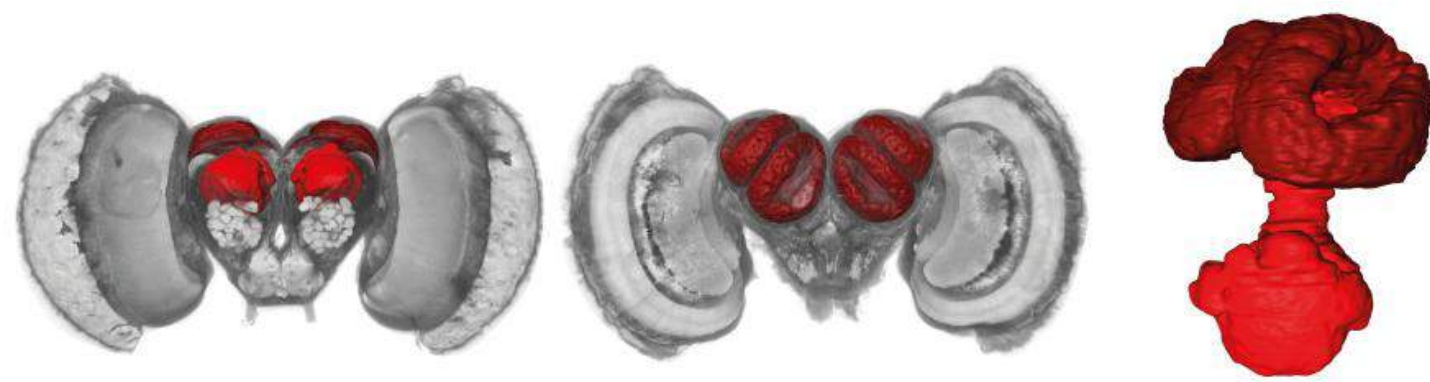
Allocentric trap-lining in home ranges up to 1 km²

Moura et al., 2021. *Functional Ecology*.

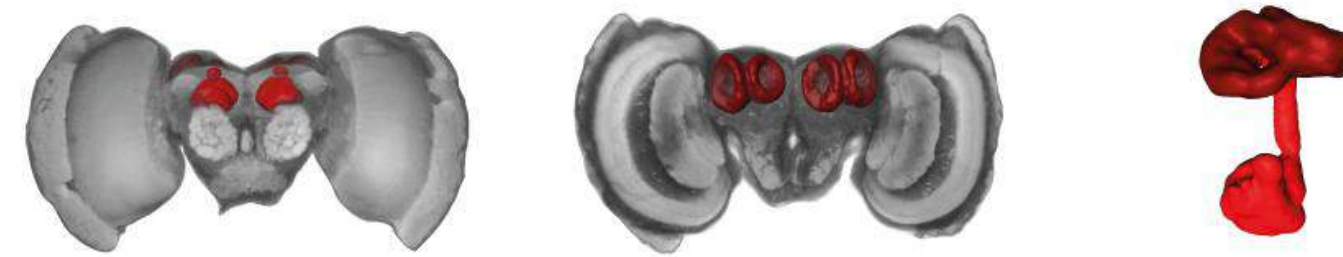
» Mushroom body expansion (Brain)



Interspecific variation: $X^2 = 76.2, p < 0.001$
 Small vs. big MBs: $X^2 = 182.8, p < 0.001$



Heliconius



non-*Heliconius*



H. melpomene



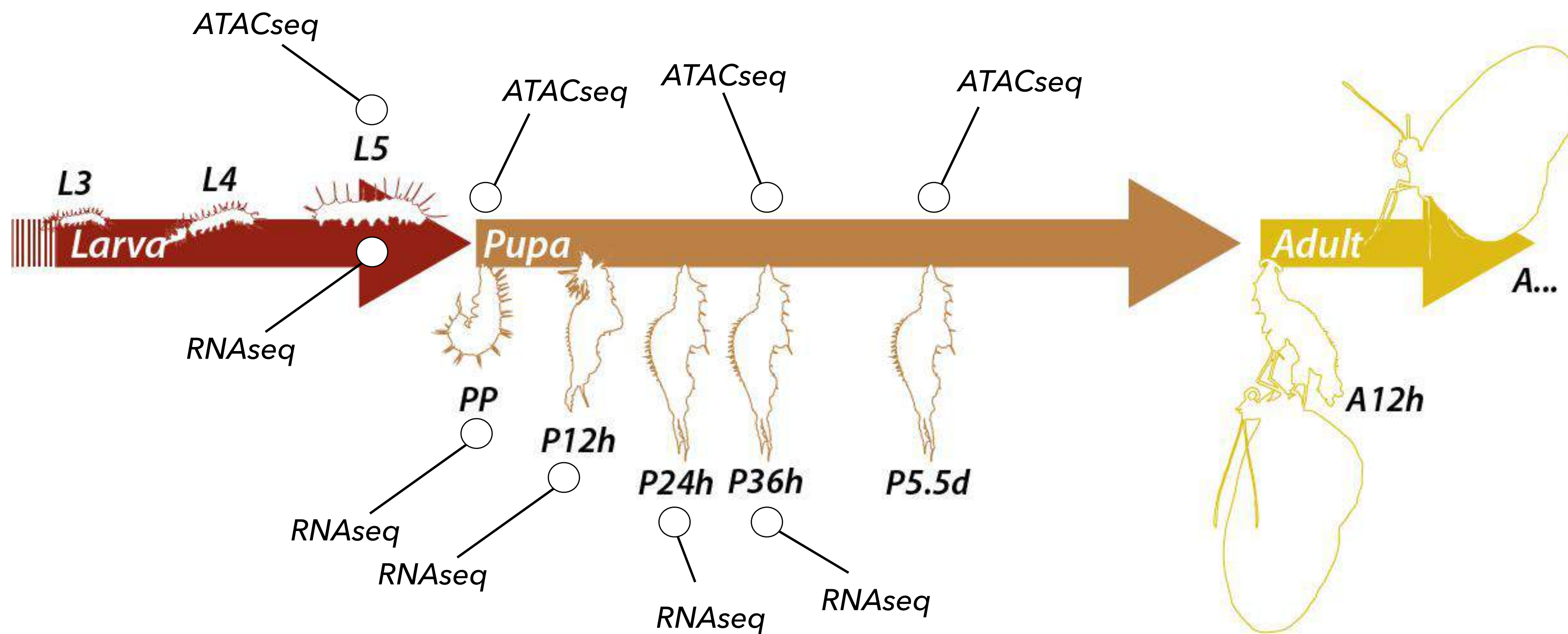
H. e. demophoon



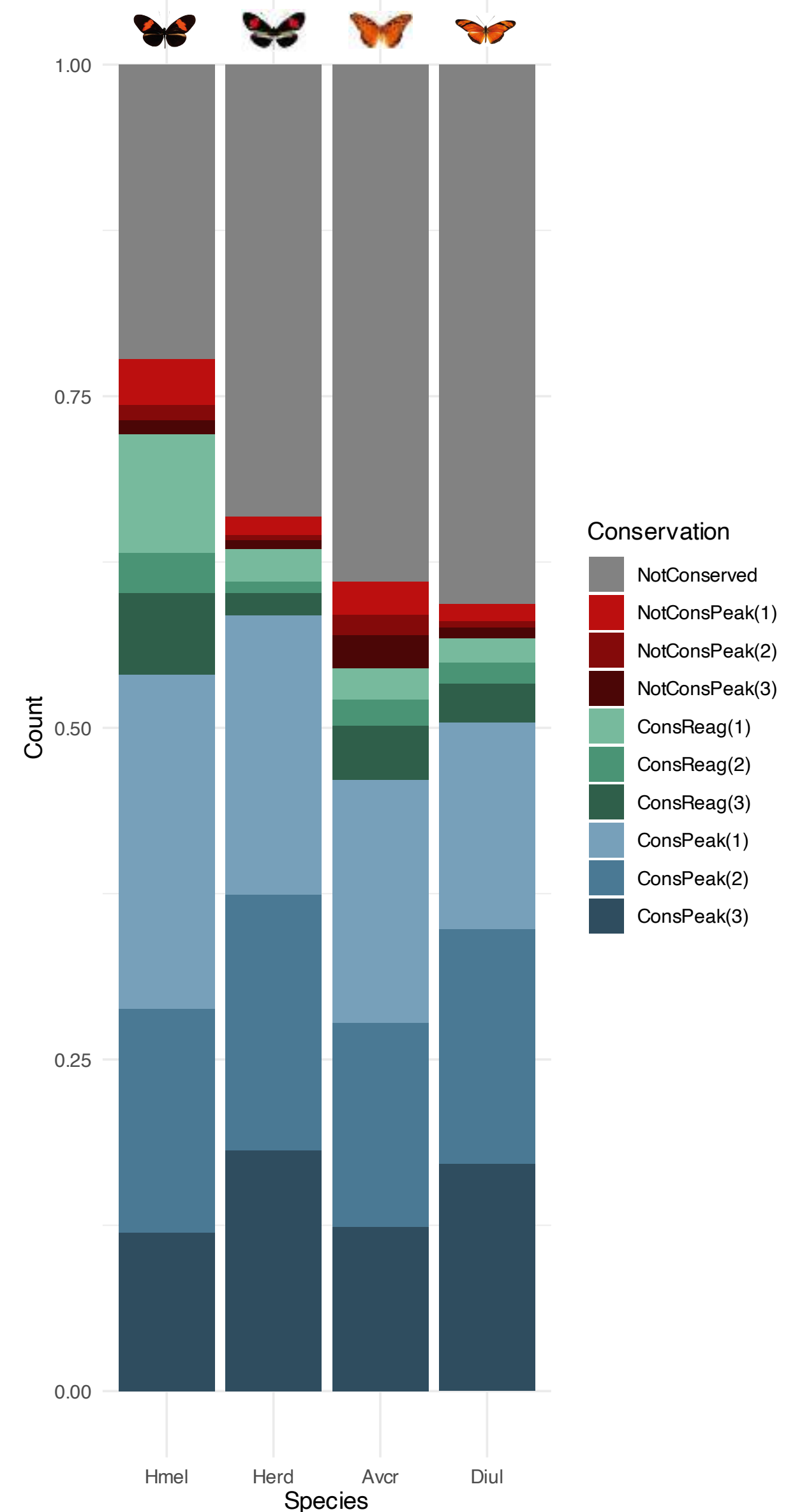
Agraaulis v. vanillae



Dryas iulia



Stacked Histogram of Conservation Levels by Species



Heliconius

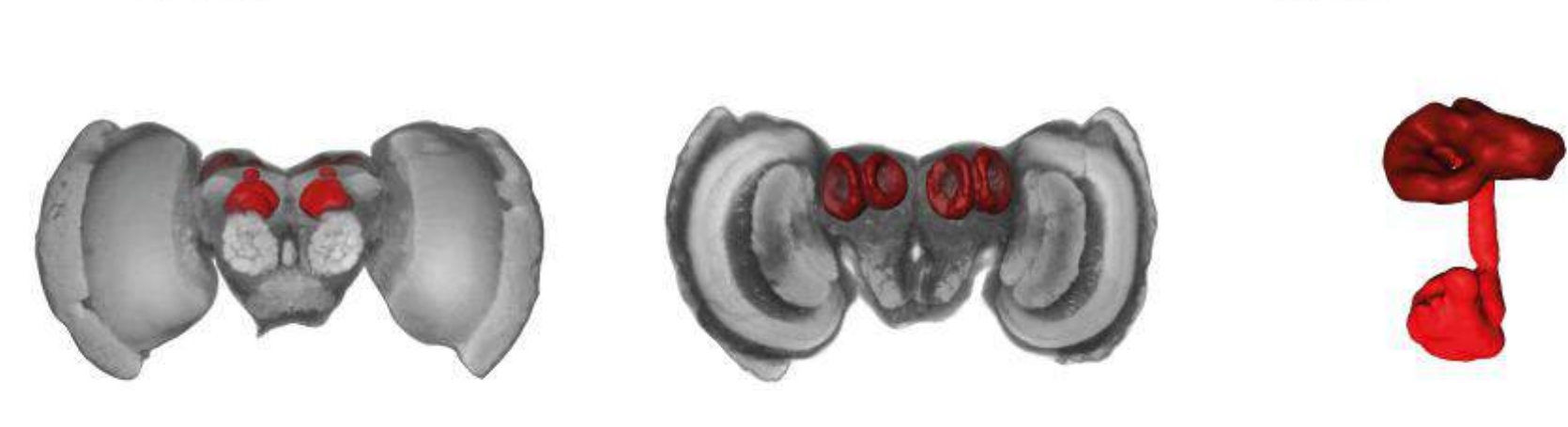
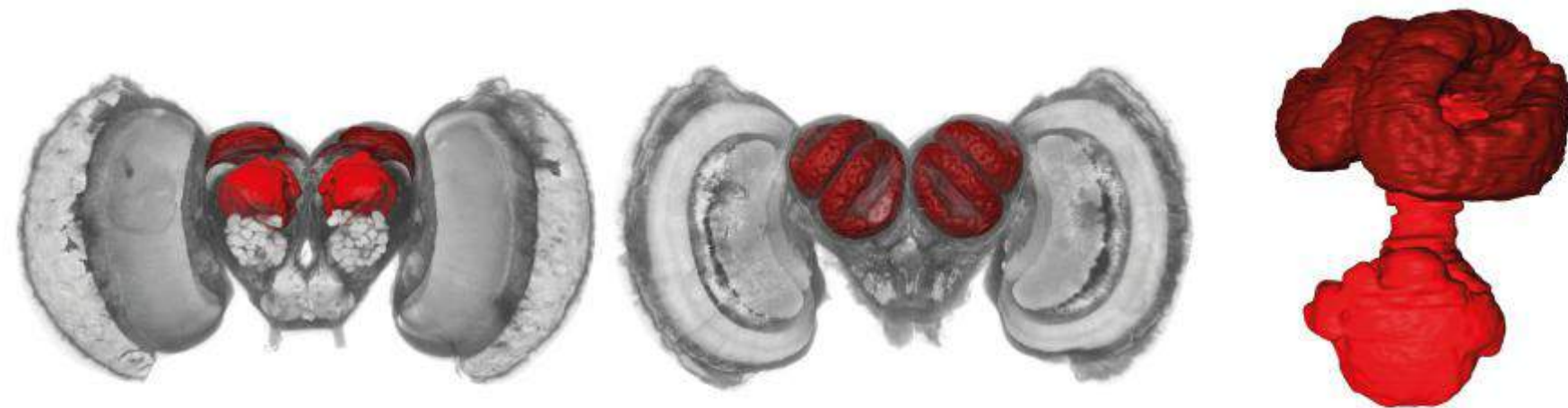
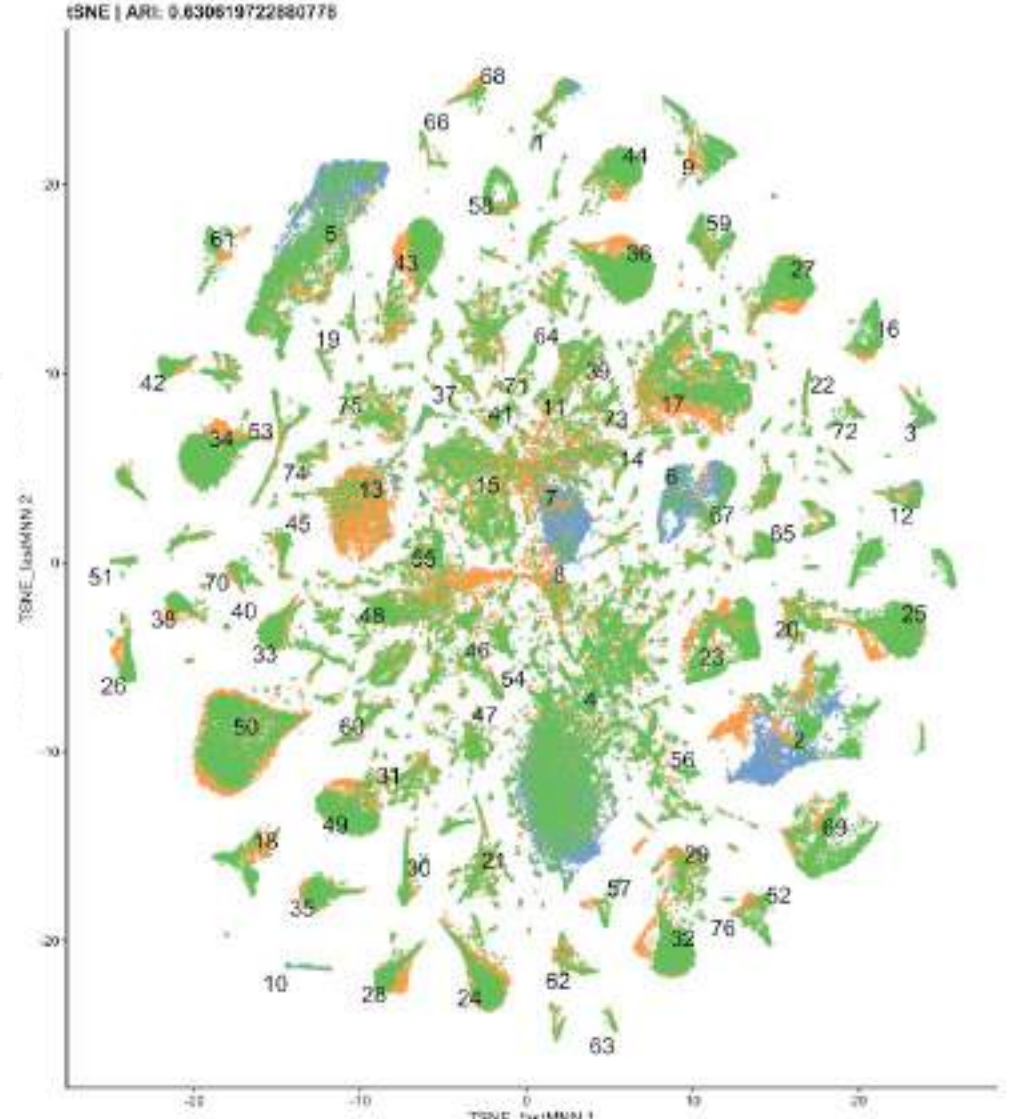
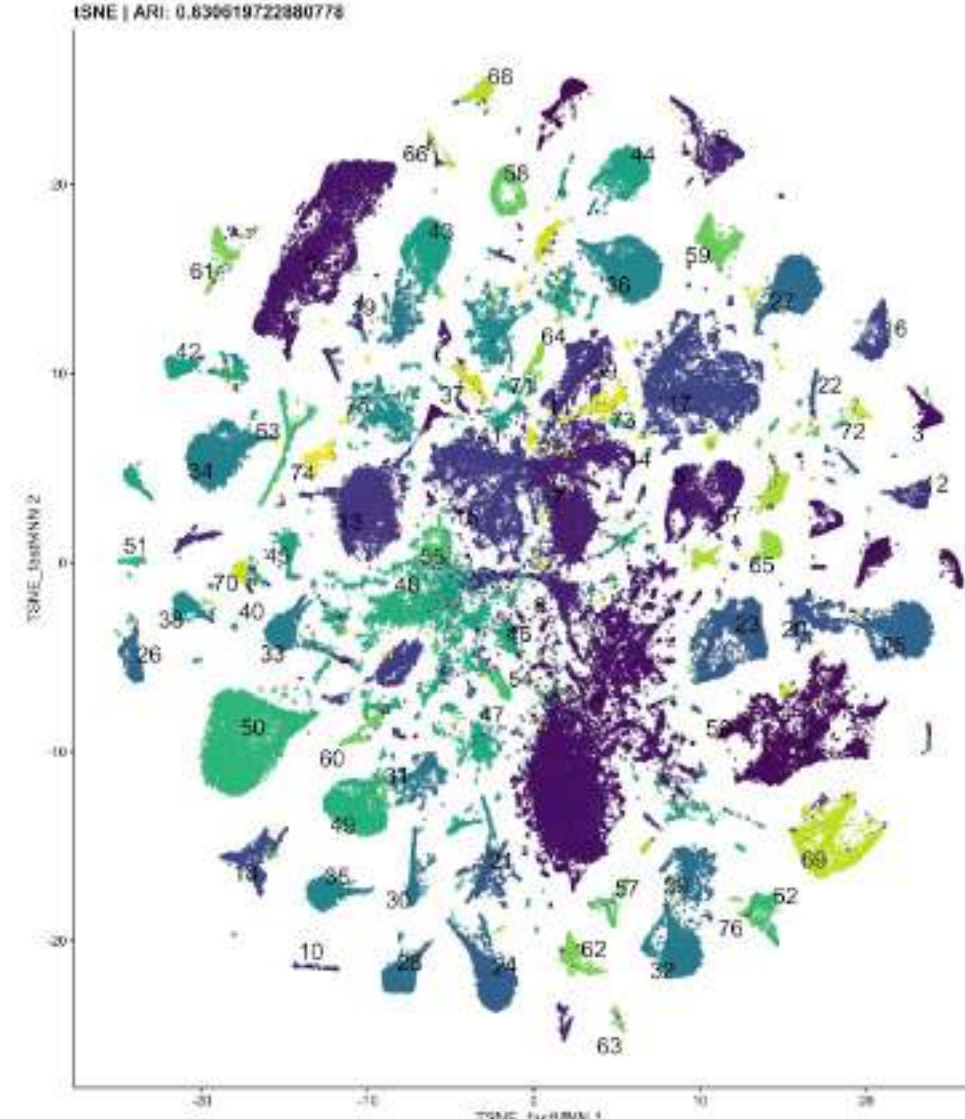
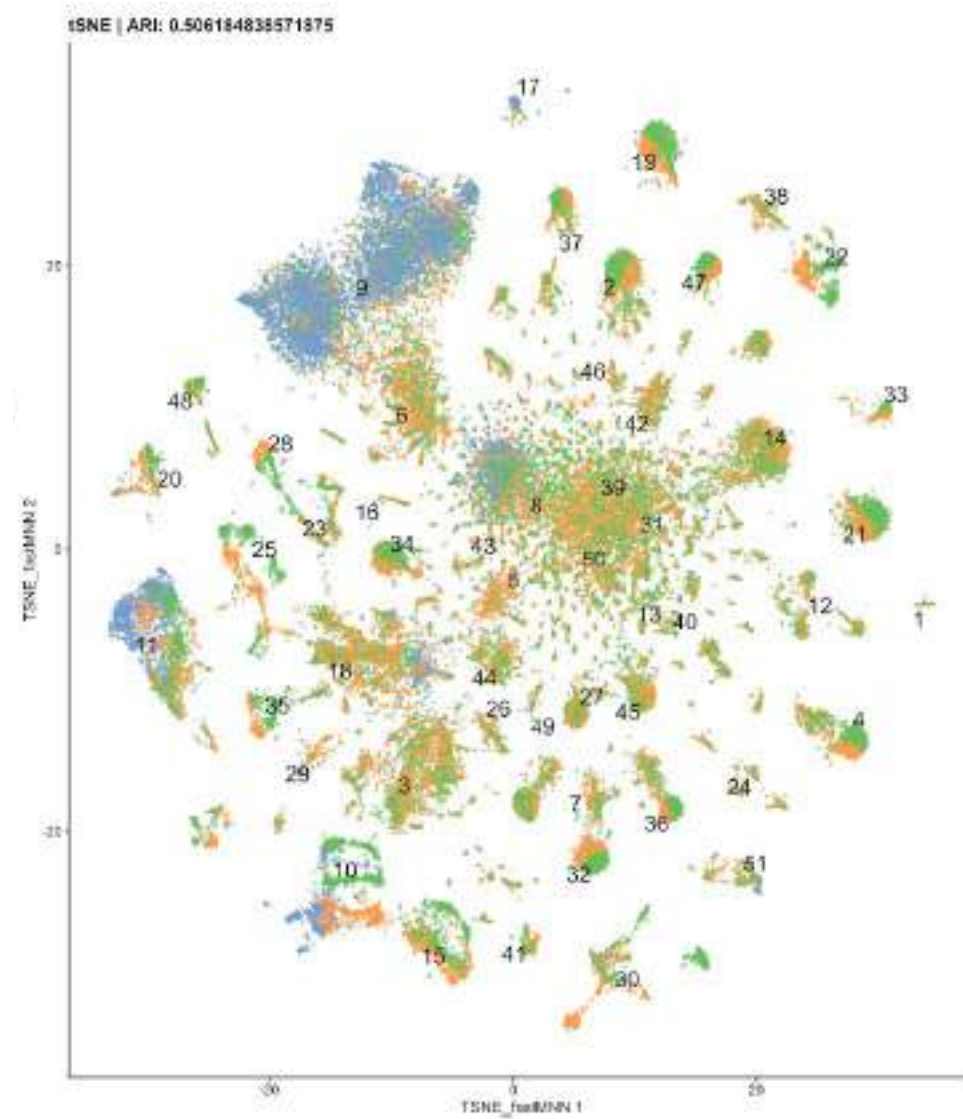
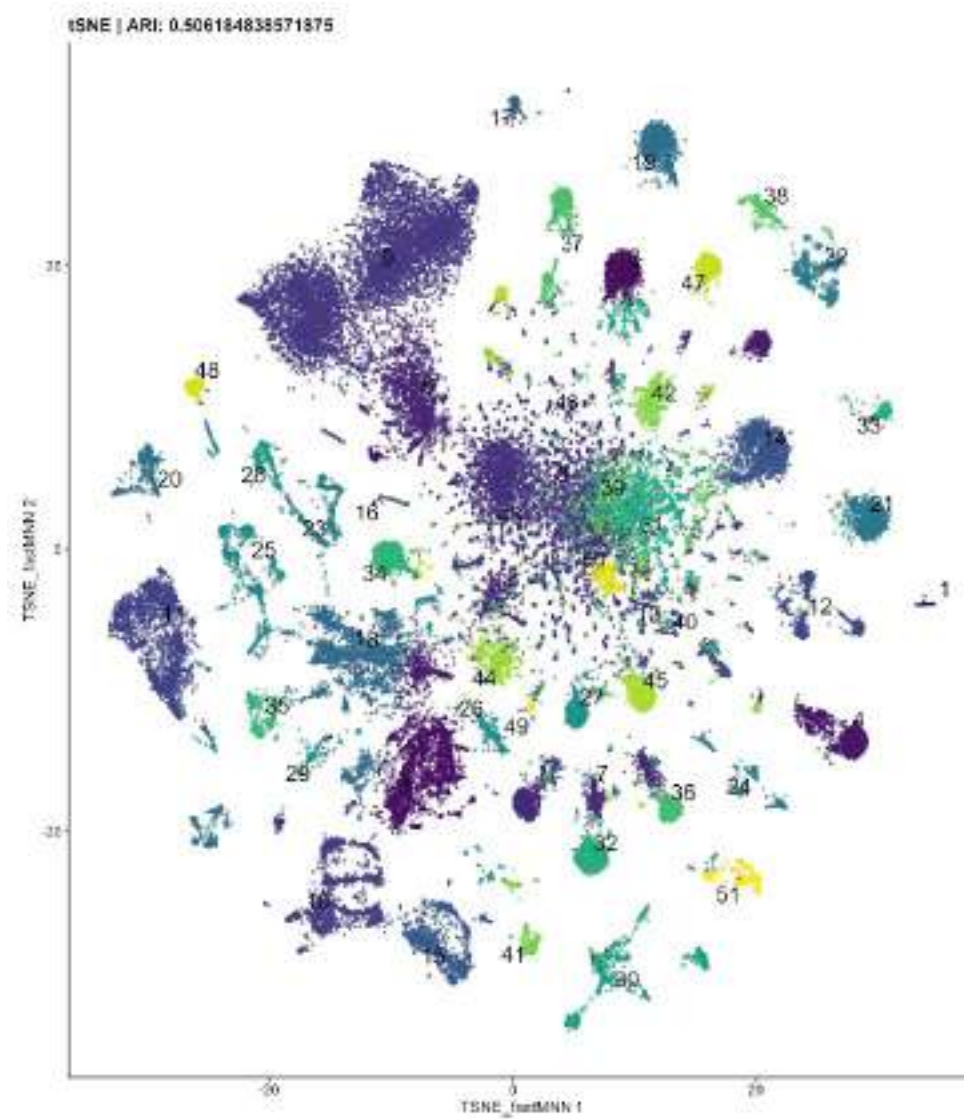


225,859 nuclei of *H. melpomene* brains

non-Heliconius



176,804 nuclei of *D. iulia* brains



» But how do you tackle these problems? »

» How do we make sense of how evolution works? »

» But how do you tackle these problems? »

» How do we make sense of how evolution works? »

» **Comparing “things”!** »

Comparative Genomics

NHGRI FACT SHEETS
genome.gov

Researchers choose the appropriate time-scale of evolutionary conservation for the question being addressed.

Common features of different organisms such as humans and fish are often encoded within the DNA evolutionarily conserved between them.

Looking at **closely related species** such as humans and chimpanzees shows which genomic elements are unique to each.

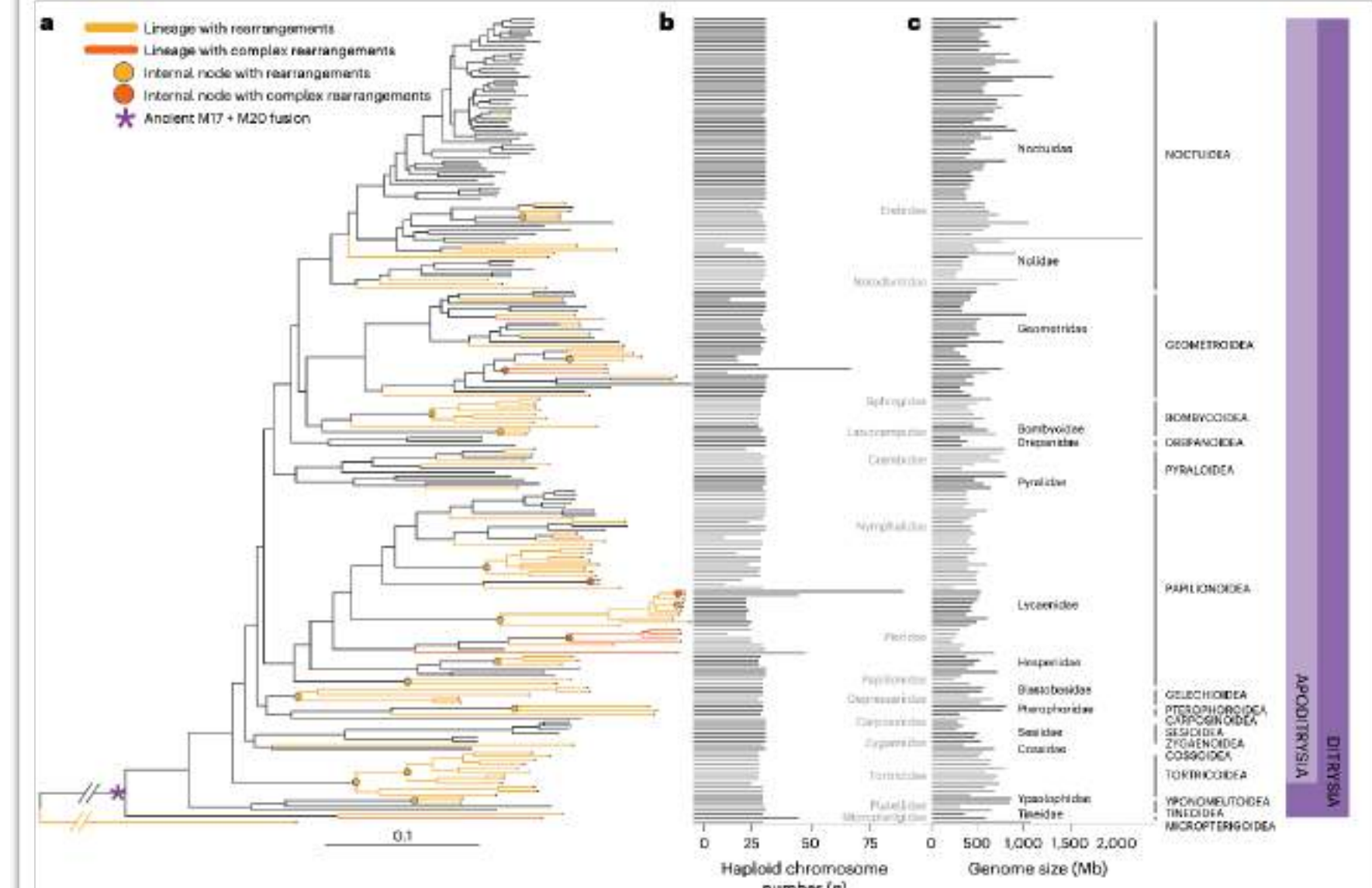
Genetic differences **within one species** such as our own can reveal variants with a role in disease.

Comparative genomics reveals the dynamics of chromosome evolution in Lepidoptera

Received: 9 October 2023 Accepted: 12 January 2024 Published online: 21 February 2024

Charlotte J. Wright¹, Lewis Stevens¹, Alexander Mackintosh², Mara Lawnczak¹ & Mark Blaxter¹

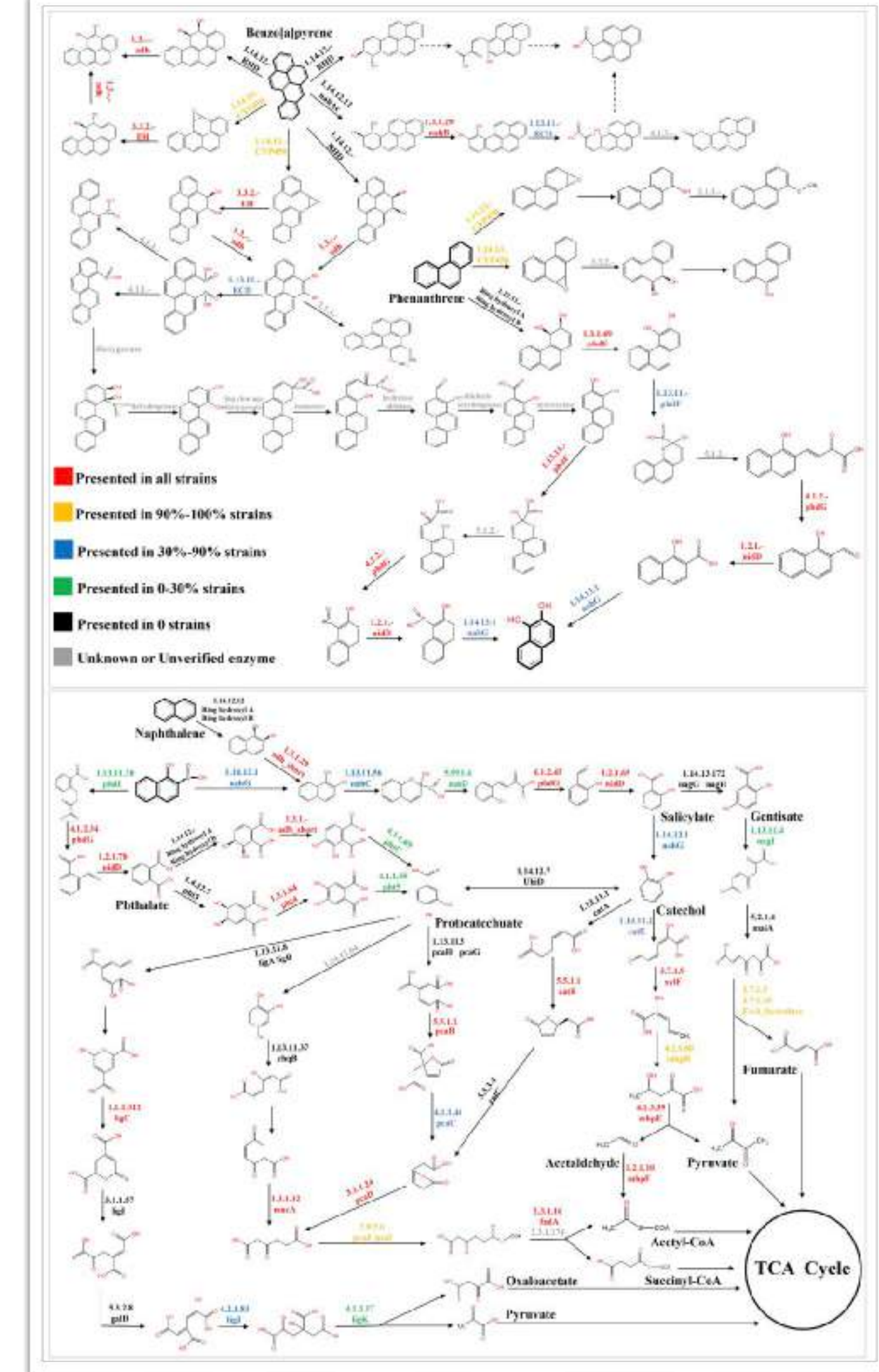
Check for updates



Comparative genomics reveals evidence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon degradation in the moderately halophilic genus *Pontibacillus*

Haichen Yang², Zhihui Qian², Yongjin Liu², Fei Yu², Tongwang Huang², Bing Zhang², Tao Peng^{2,*}, Zhong Hu^{2,b,*}

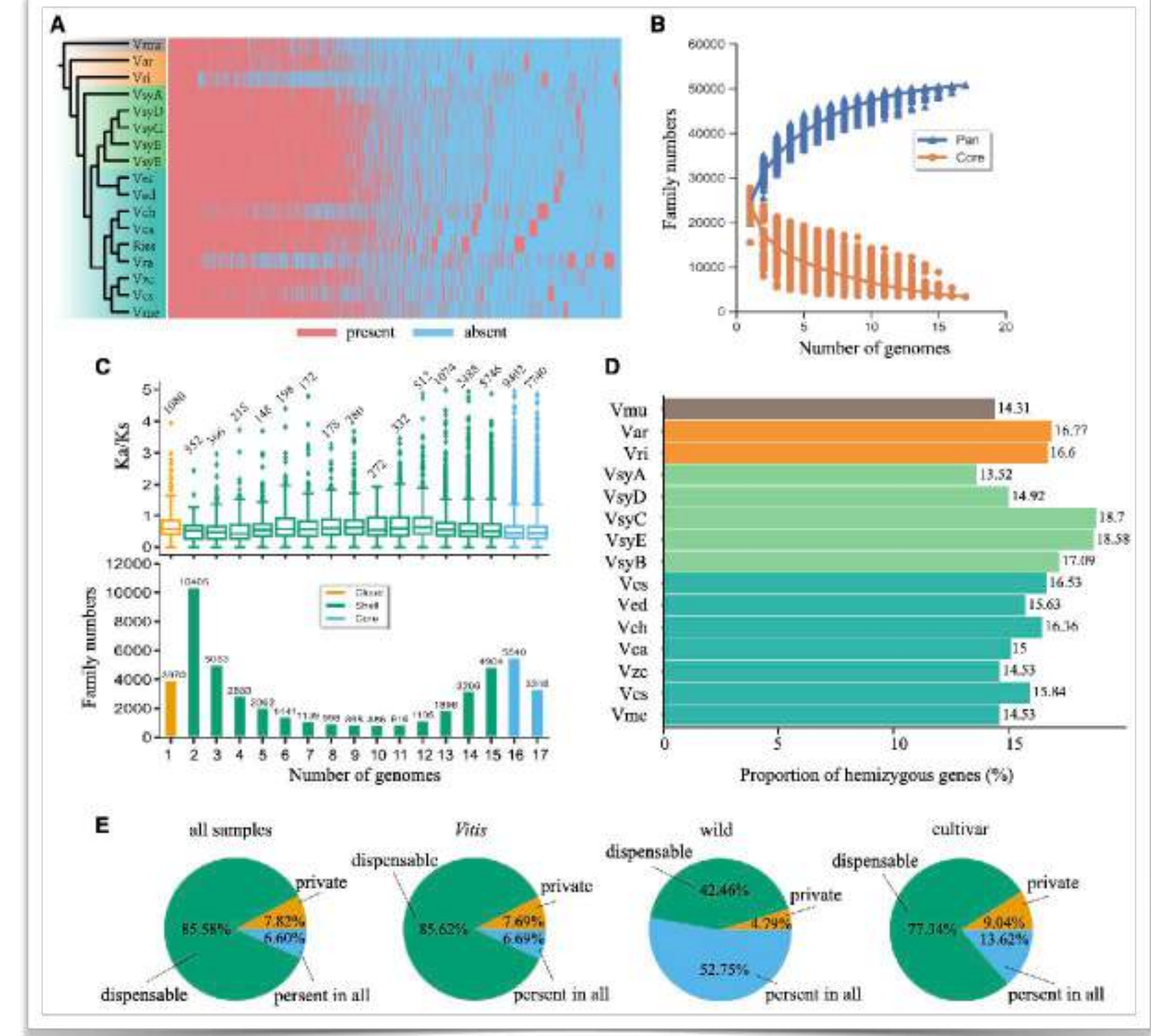
^a Department of Biology, Shantou University, Shantou, Guangdong 515063, PR China
^b Guangdong Research Center of Offshore Environmental Pollution Control Engineering, Shantou University, Shantou 515063, Guangdong, PR China



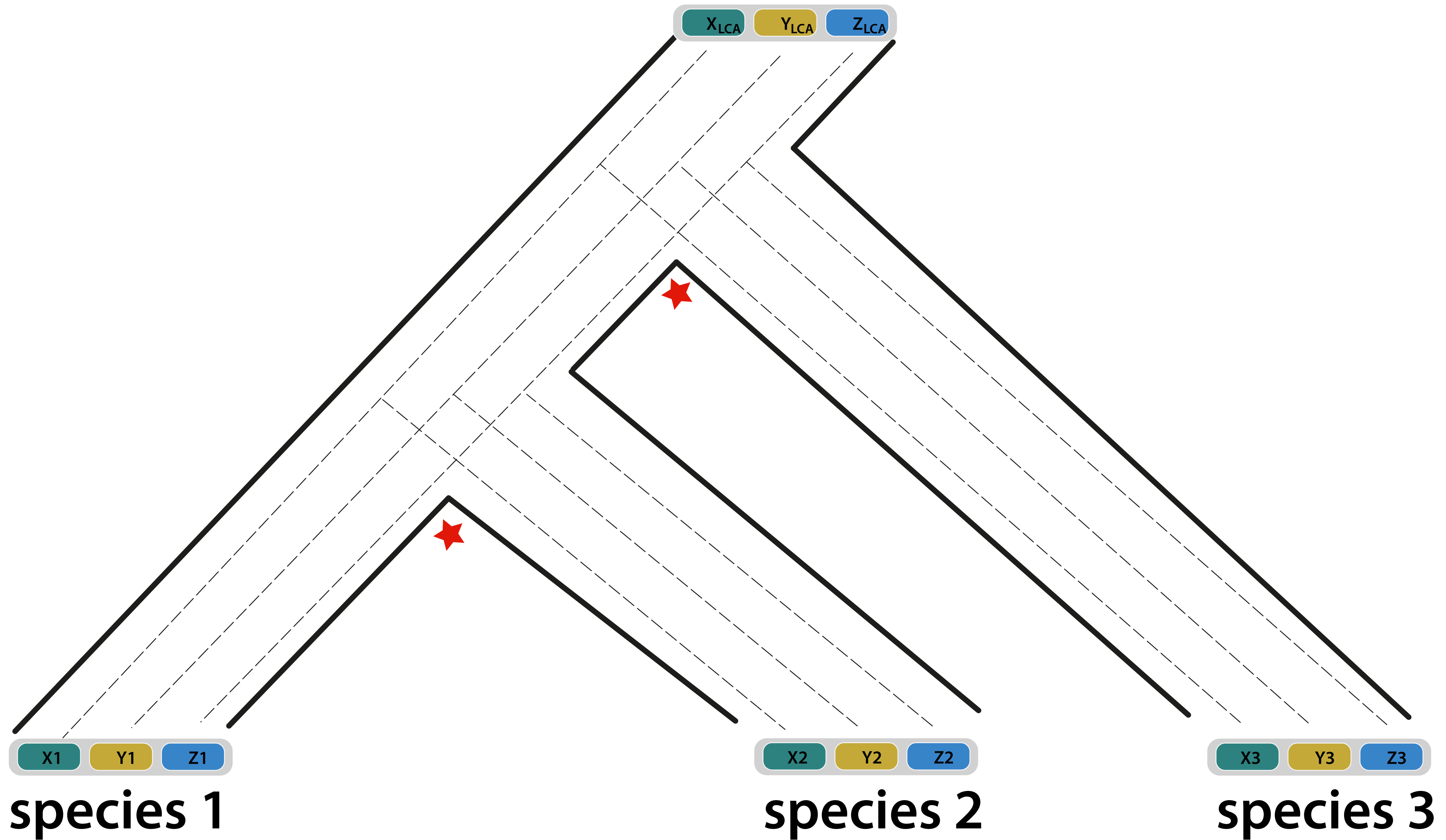
Plant Physiology

Population comparative genomics discovers gene gain and loss during grapevine domestication

Qiming Long^{1,†}, Shuo Cao^{1,2,†}, Guizhou Huang¹, Xu Wang^{1,3}, Zhongjie Liu¹, Wenwen Liu¹, Yiwen Wang¹, Hua Xiao¹, Yanling Peng^{1,*} and Yongfeng Zhou^{1,4,*}

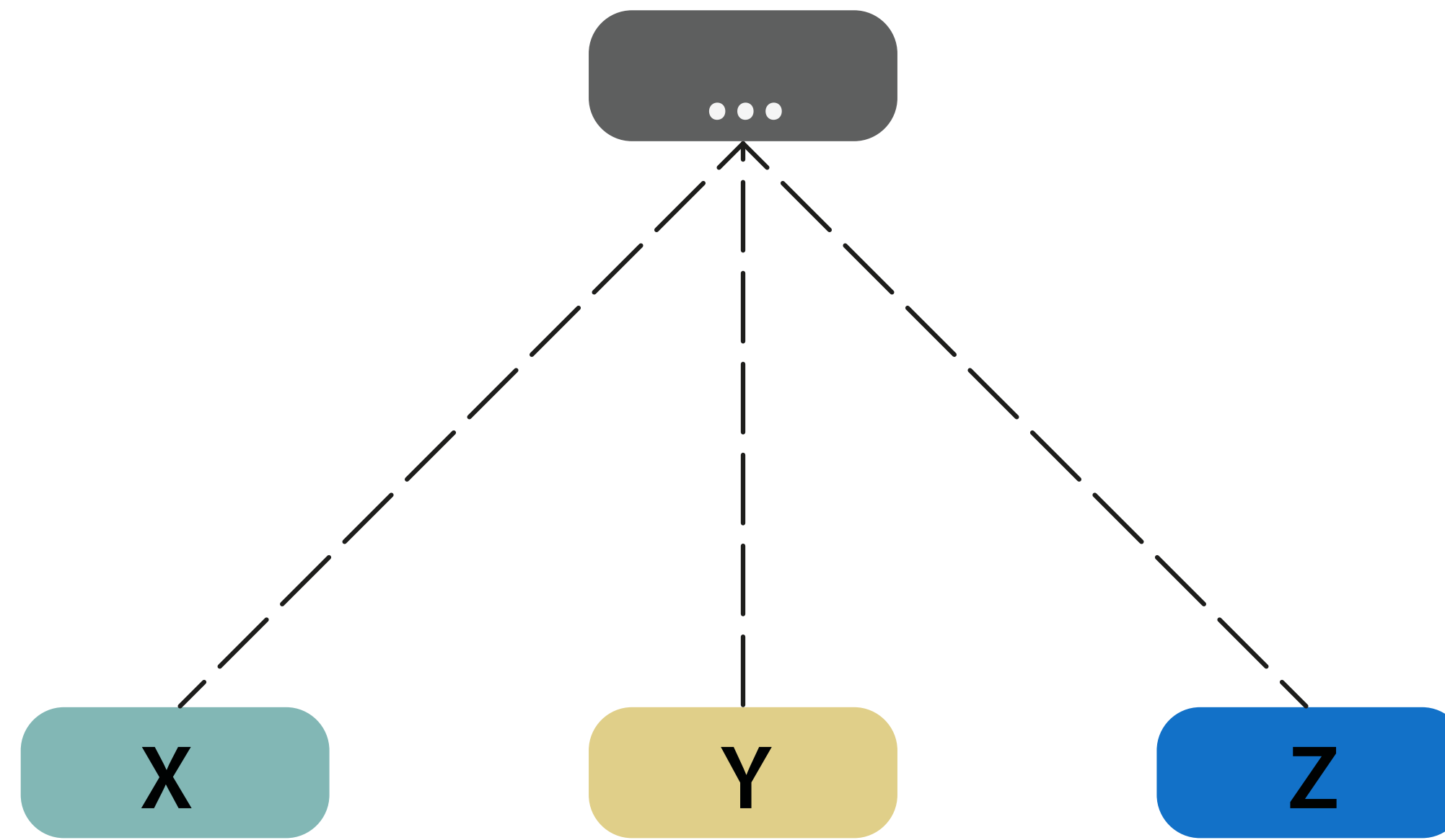


» ... Some definitions ... »



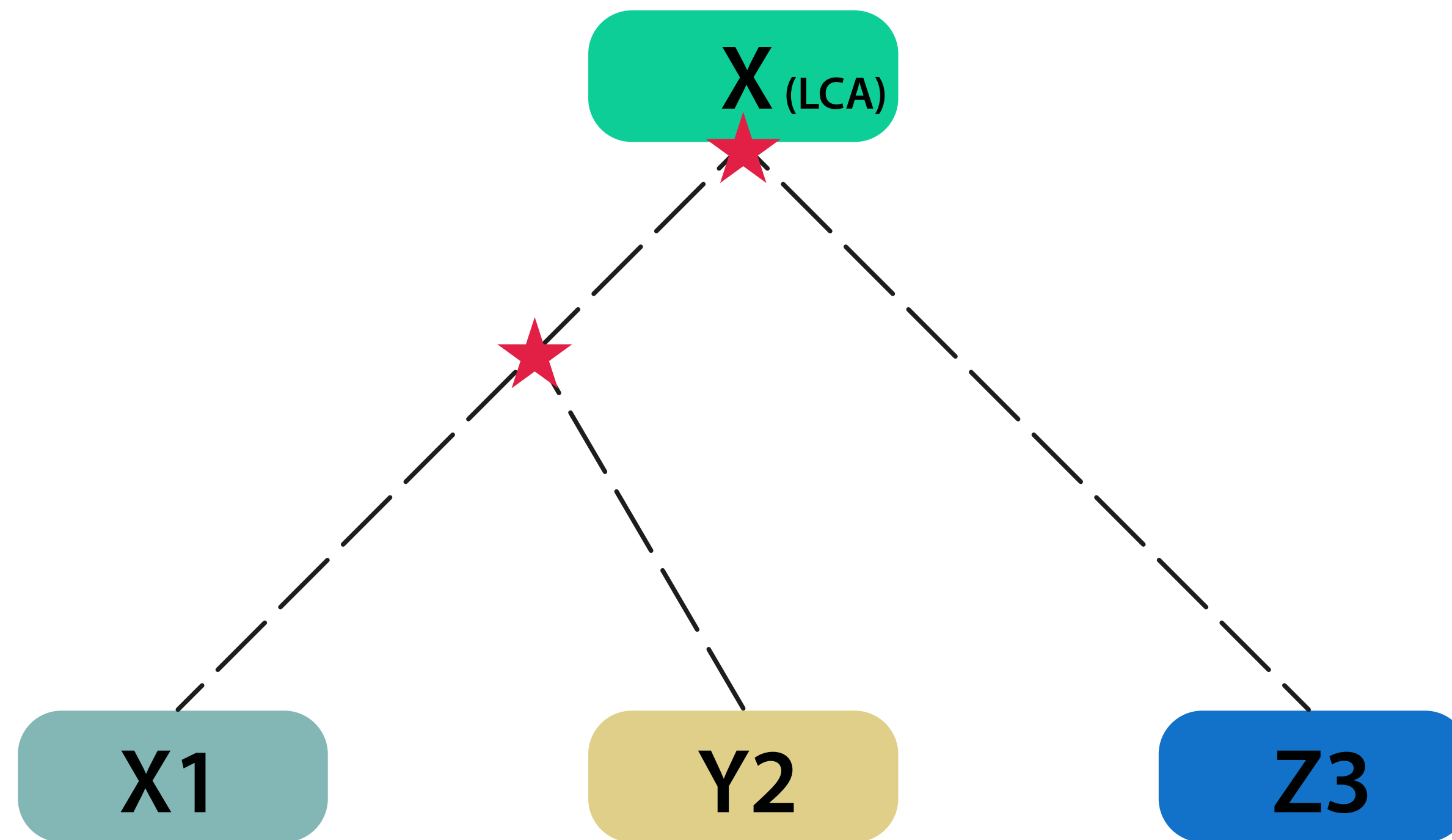
» Homology/Orthology definition »

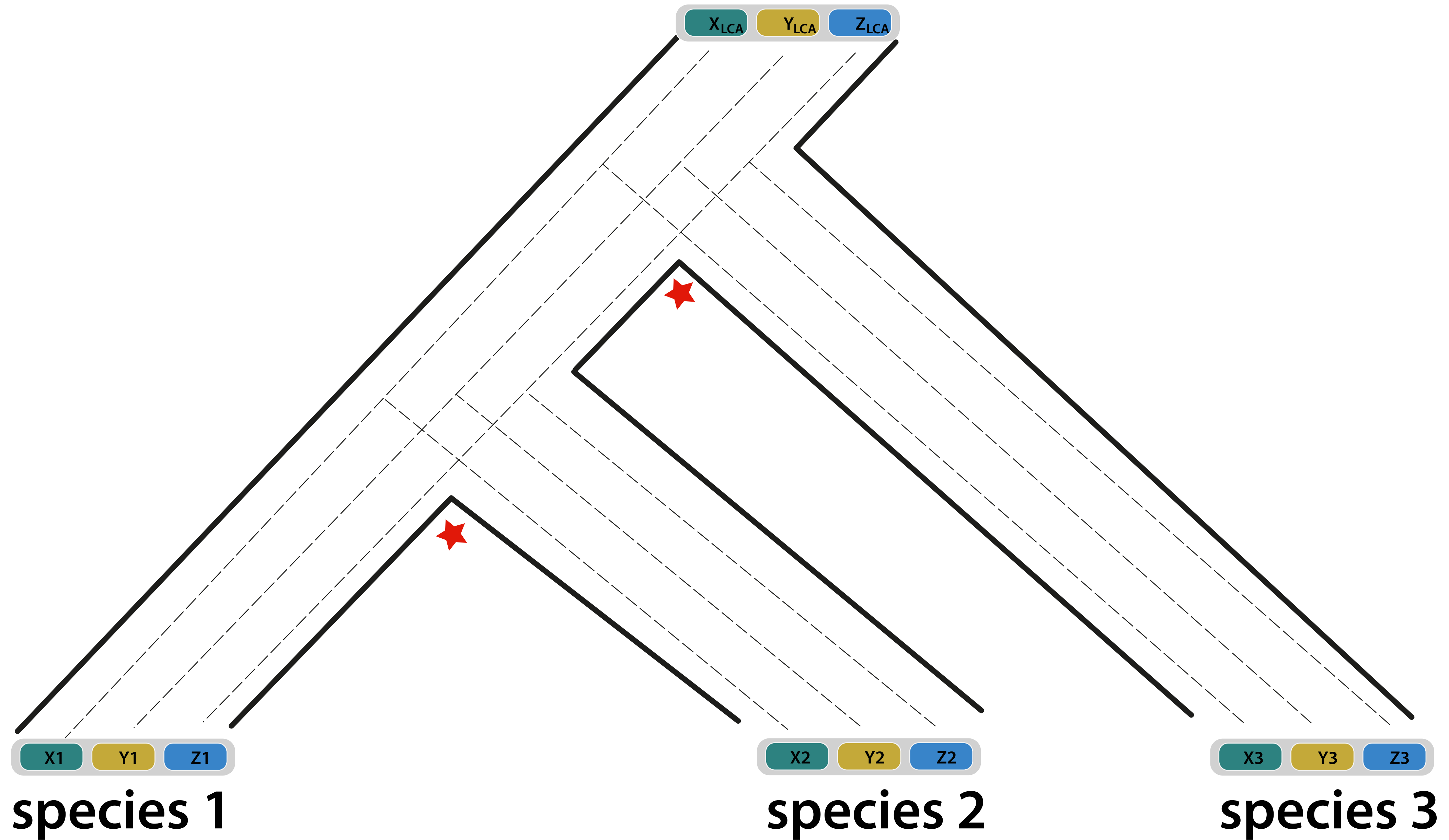
Homology: it describes descent from a common evolutionary origin: *two loci (genes) are homologous if they derive from the same ancestral locus (gene).*

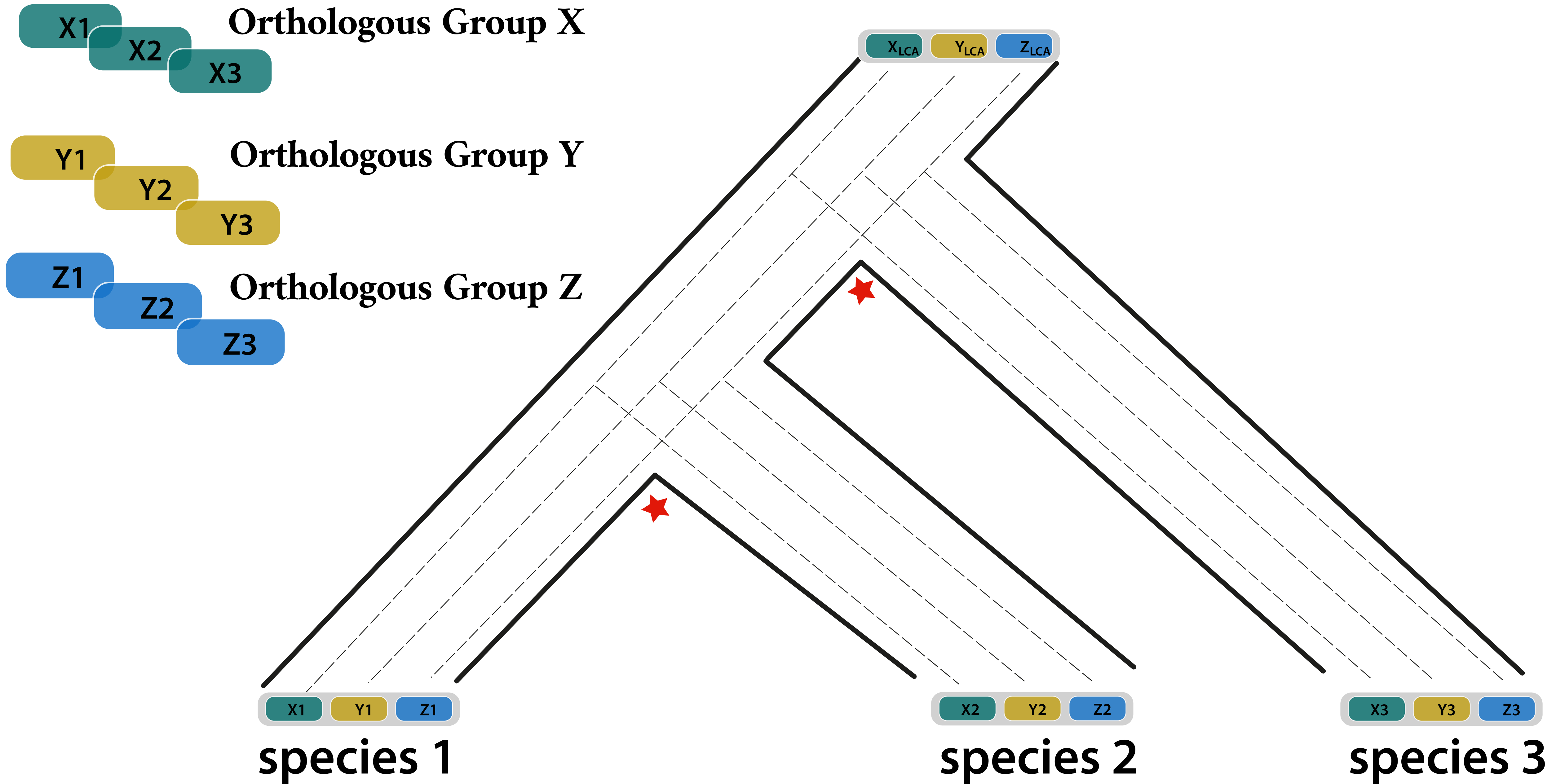


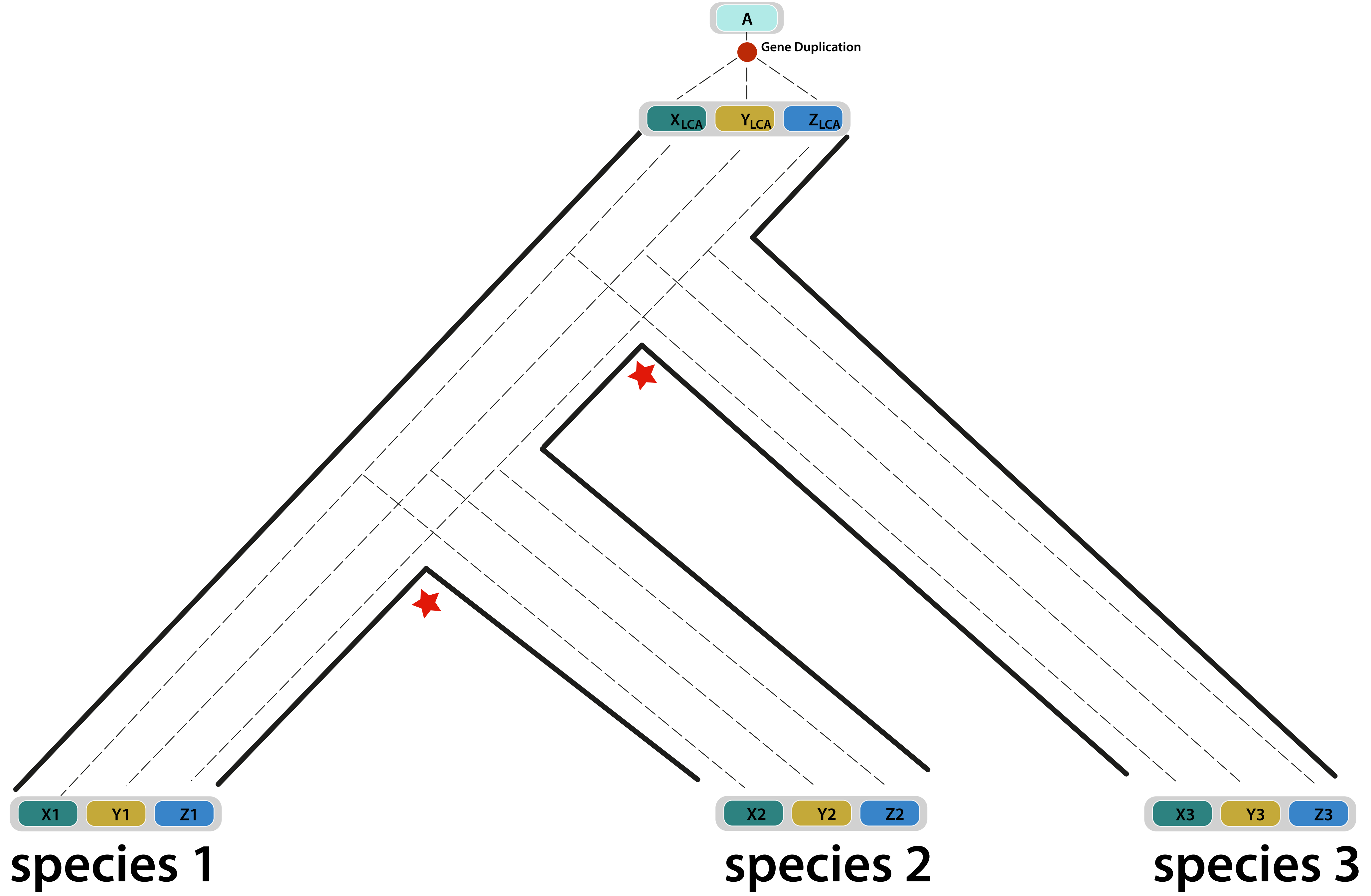
» Homology/Orthology definition »

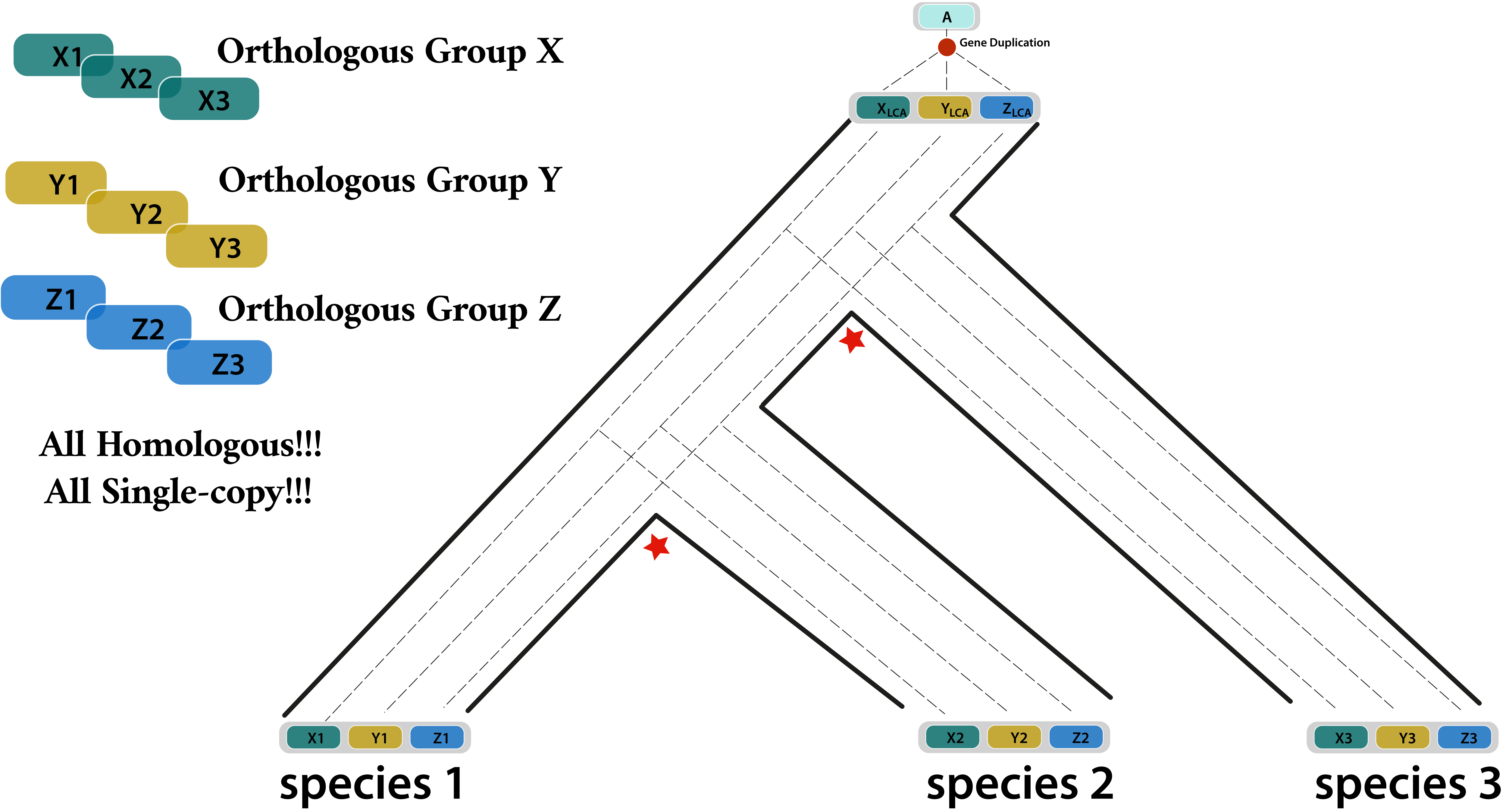
Orthology: it describes a relationship due to a speciation event:
two loci (genes) are orthologous if they derive from speciation.







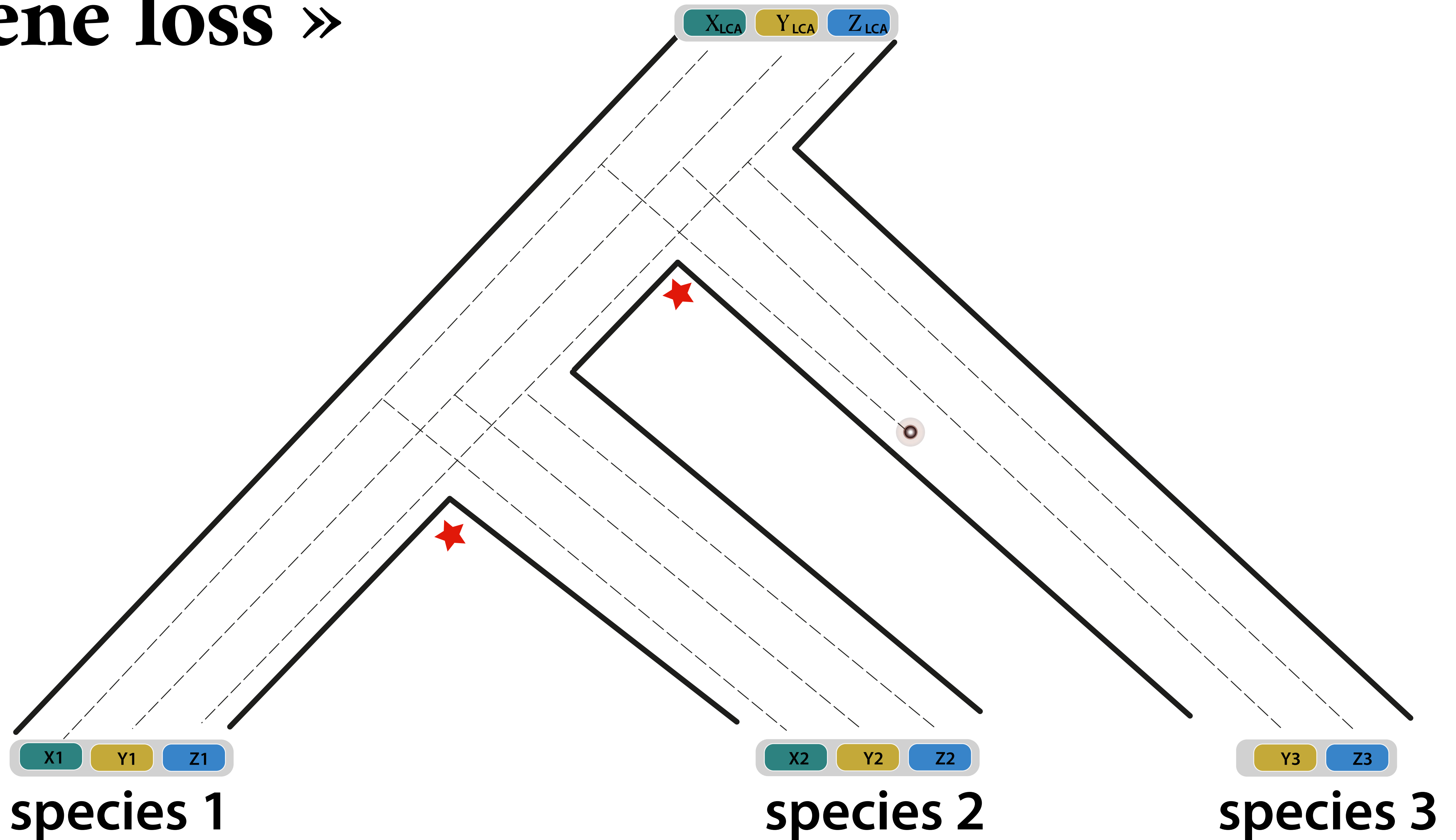




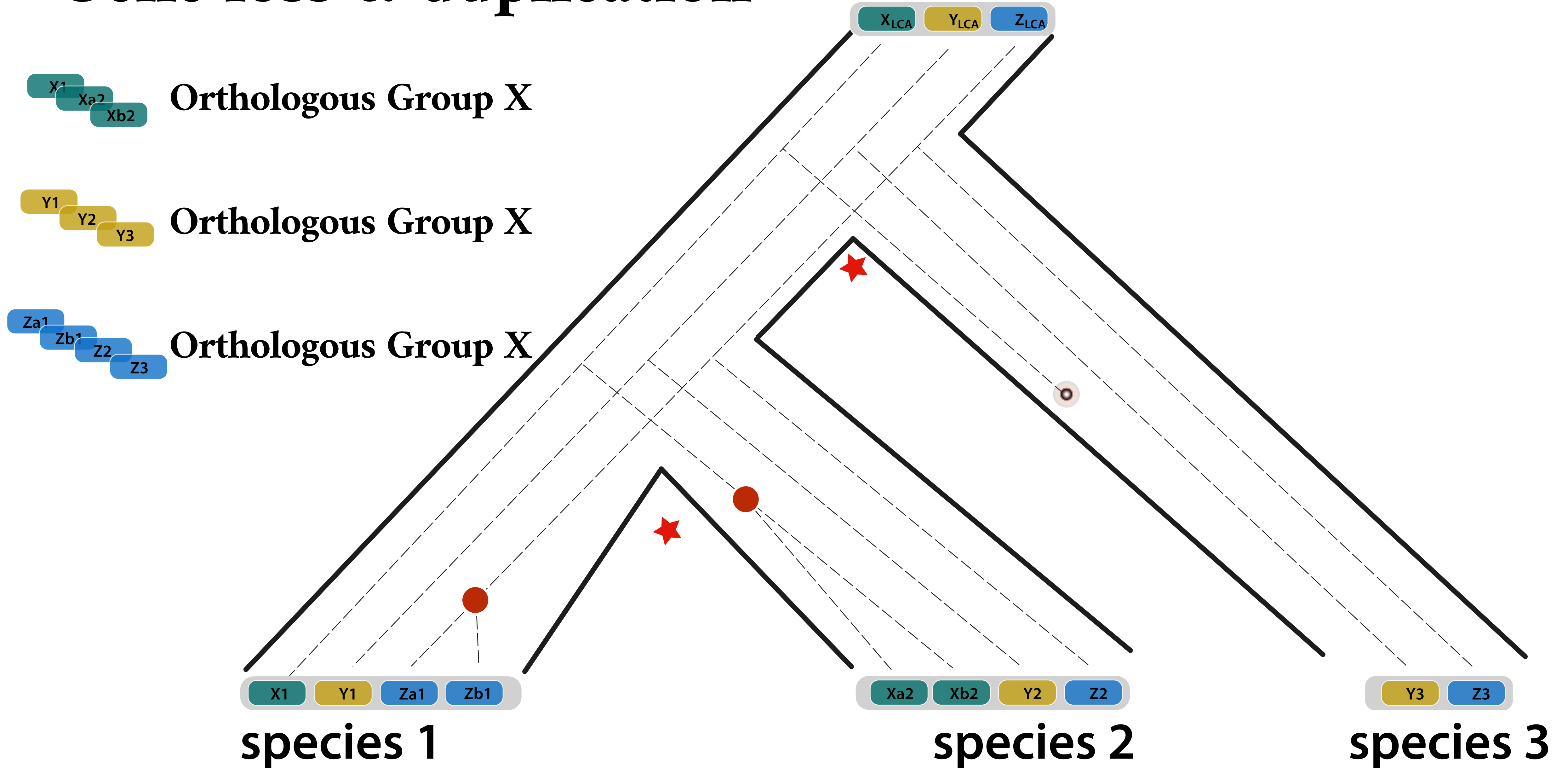
Orthologs, Paralogs, and Evolutionary Genomics | <https://www.annualreviews.org/content/journals/10.1146/annurev.genet.39.073003.114725>

Functional and evolutionary implications of gene orthology | <https://www.nature.com/articles/nrg3456>

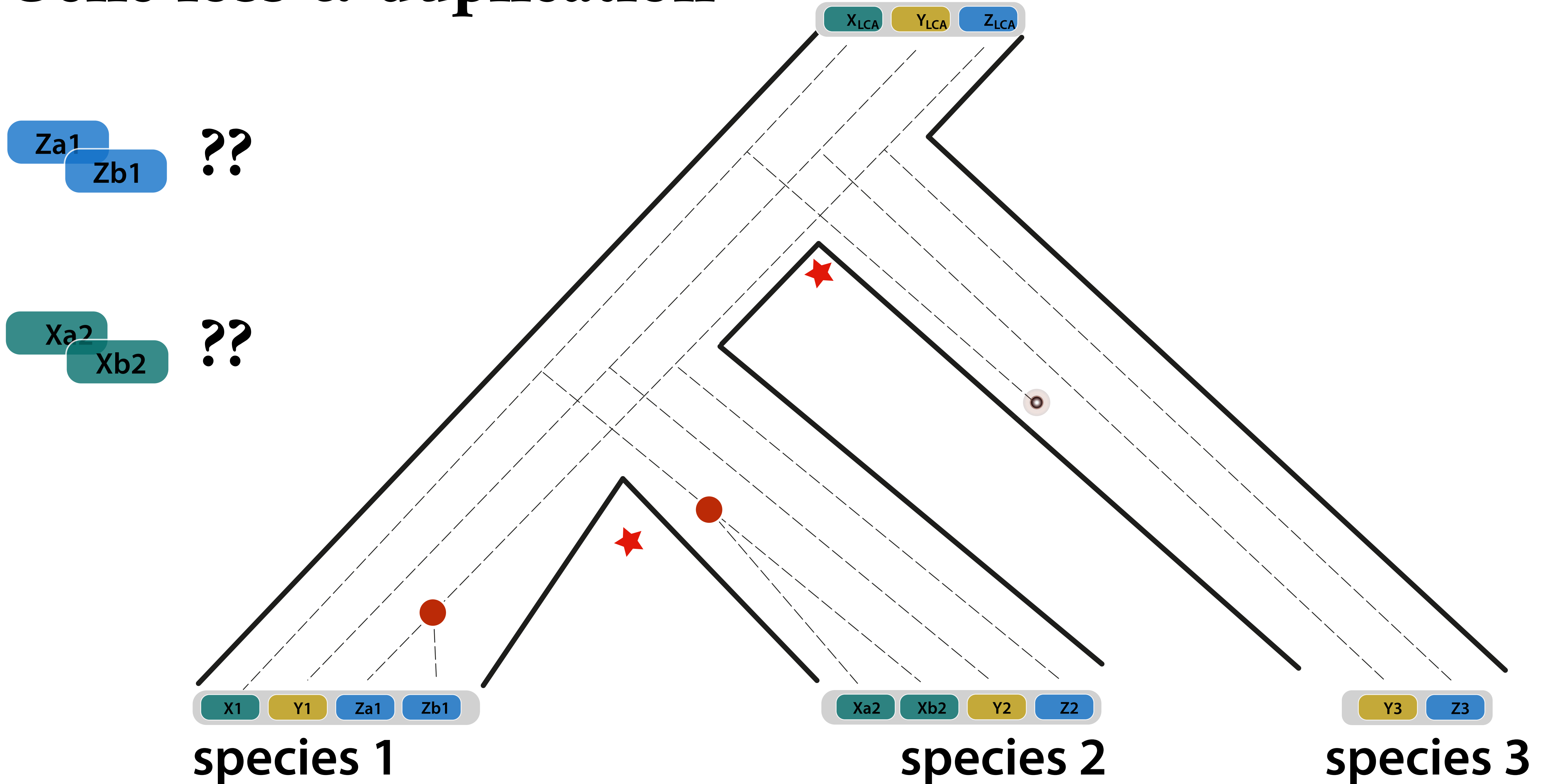
» Gene loss »



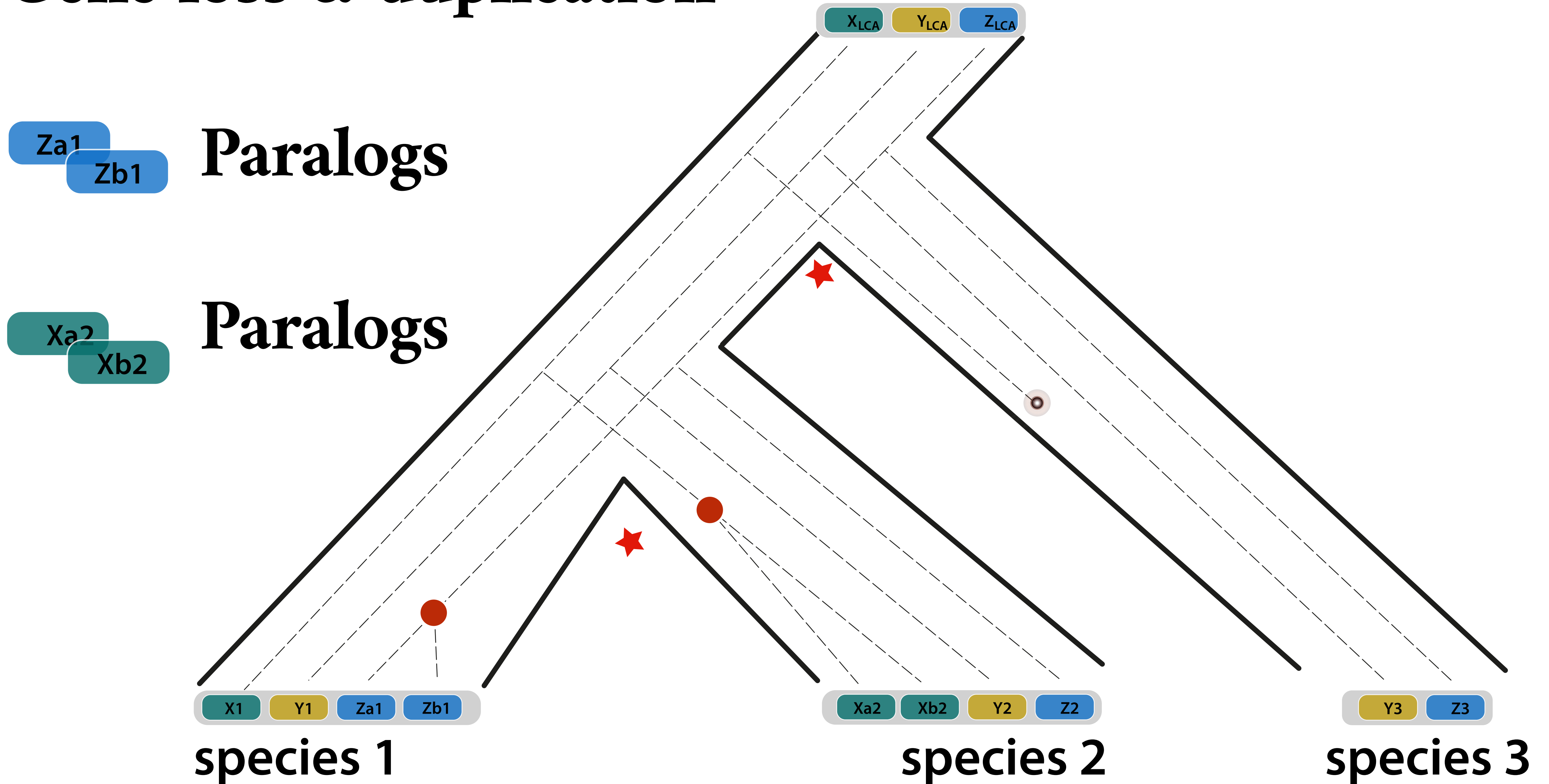
» Gene loss & duplication »



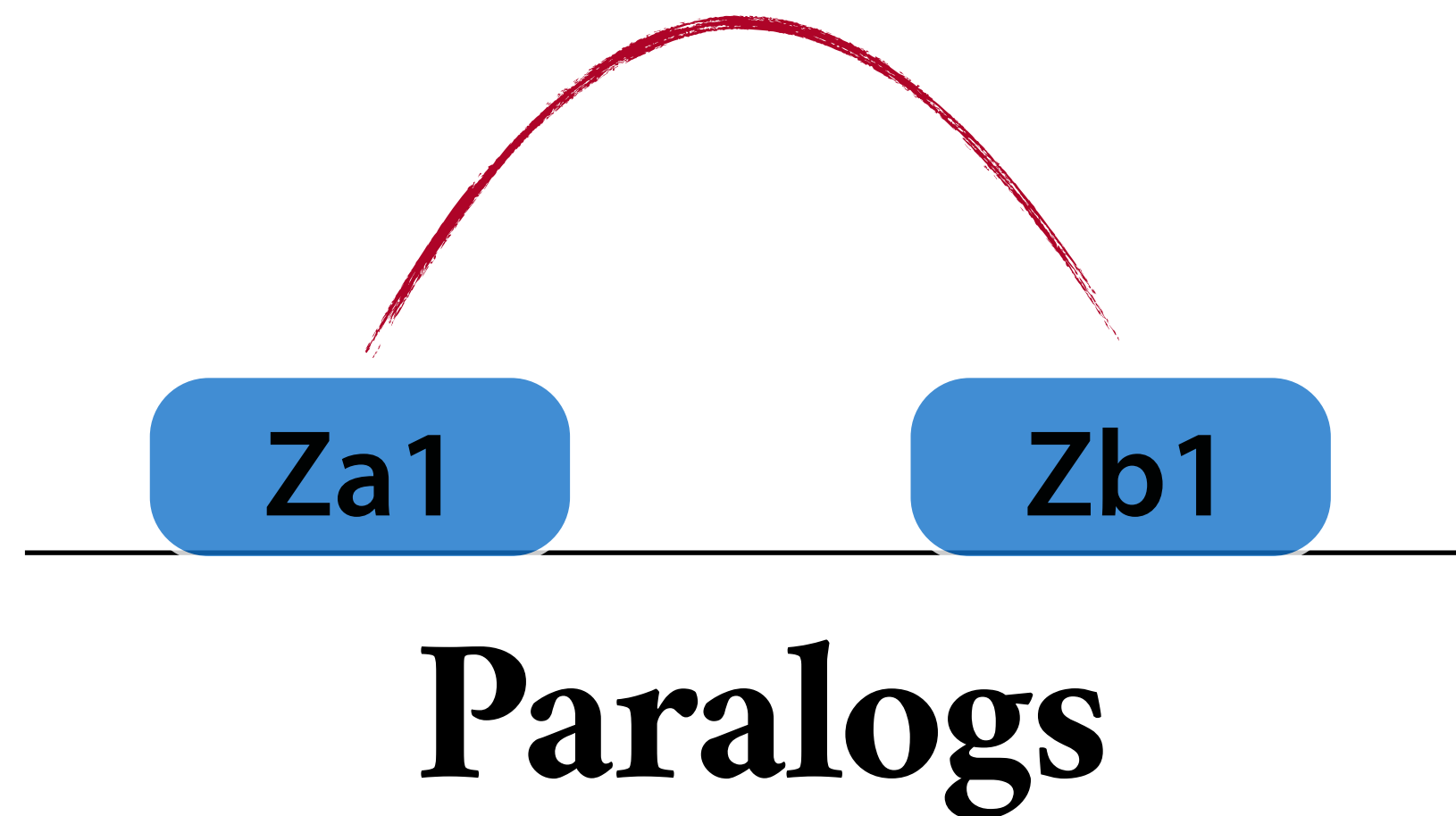
» Gene loss & duplication »



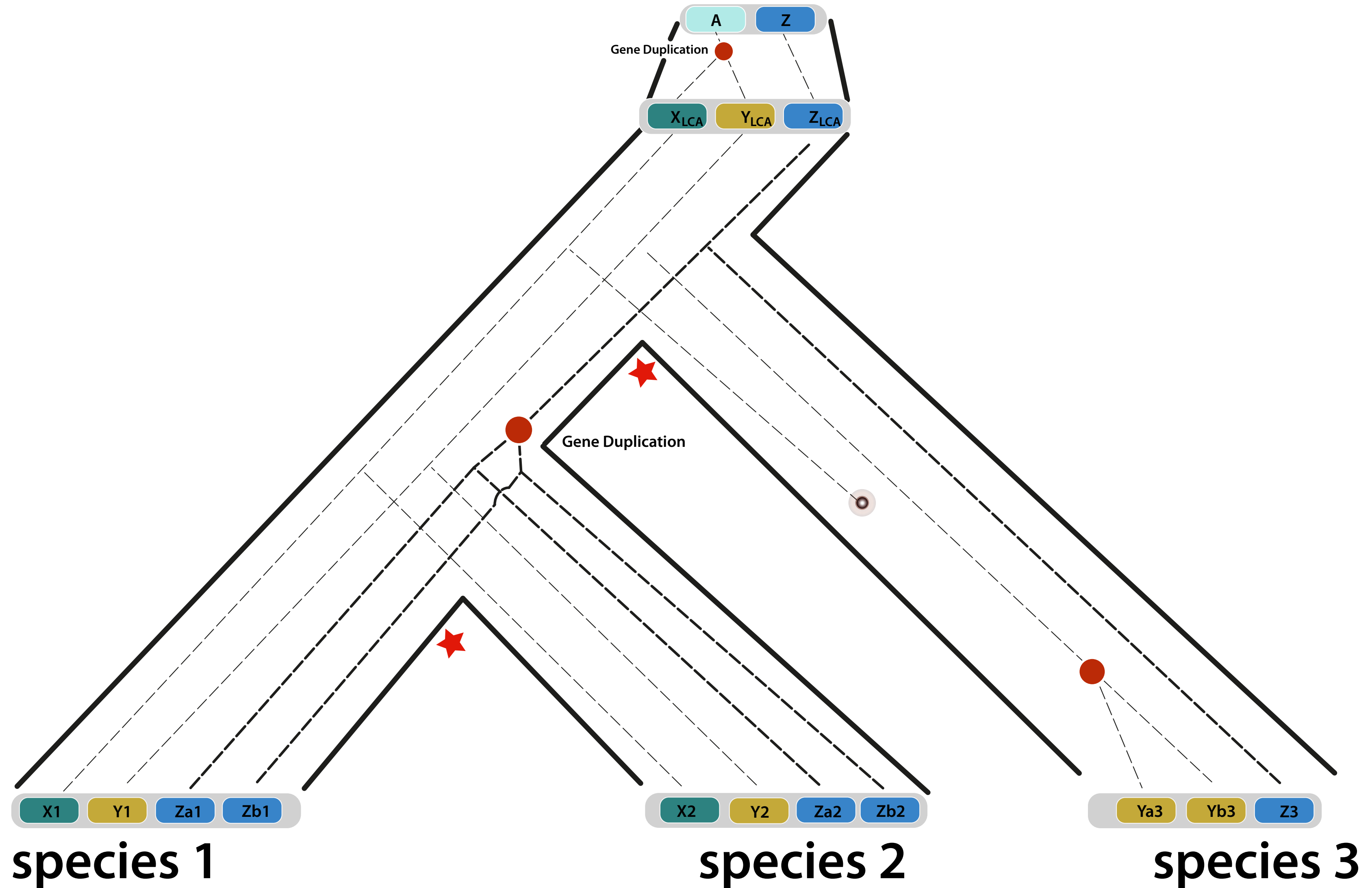
» Gene loss & duplication »



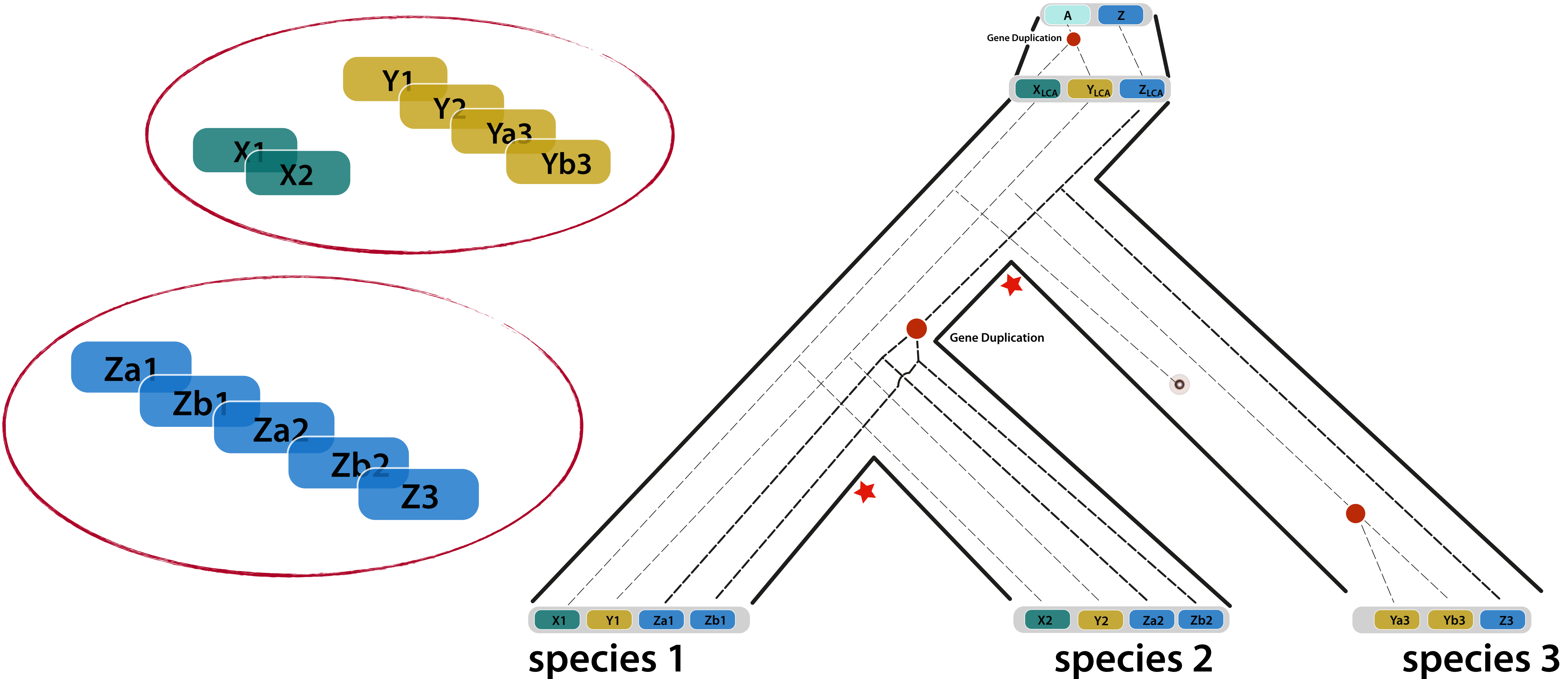
Paralogy: it describes a relationship that involve a duplication:
if a locus (gene) is generated by an event of tandem duplication.



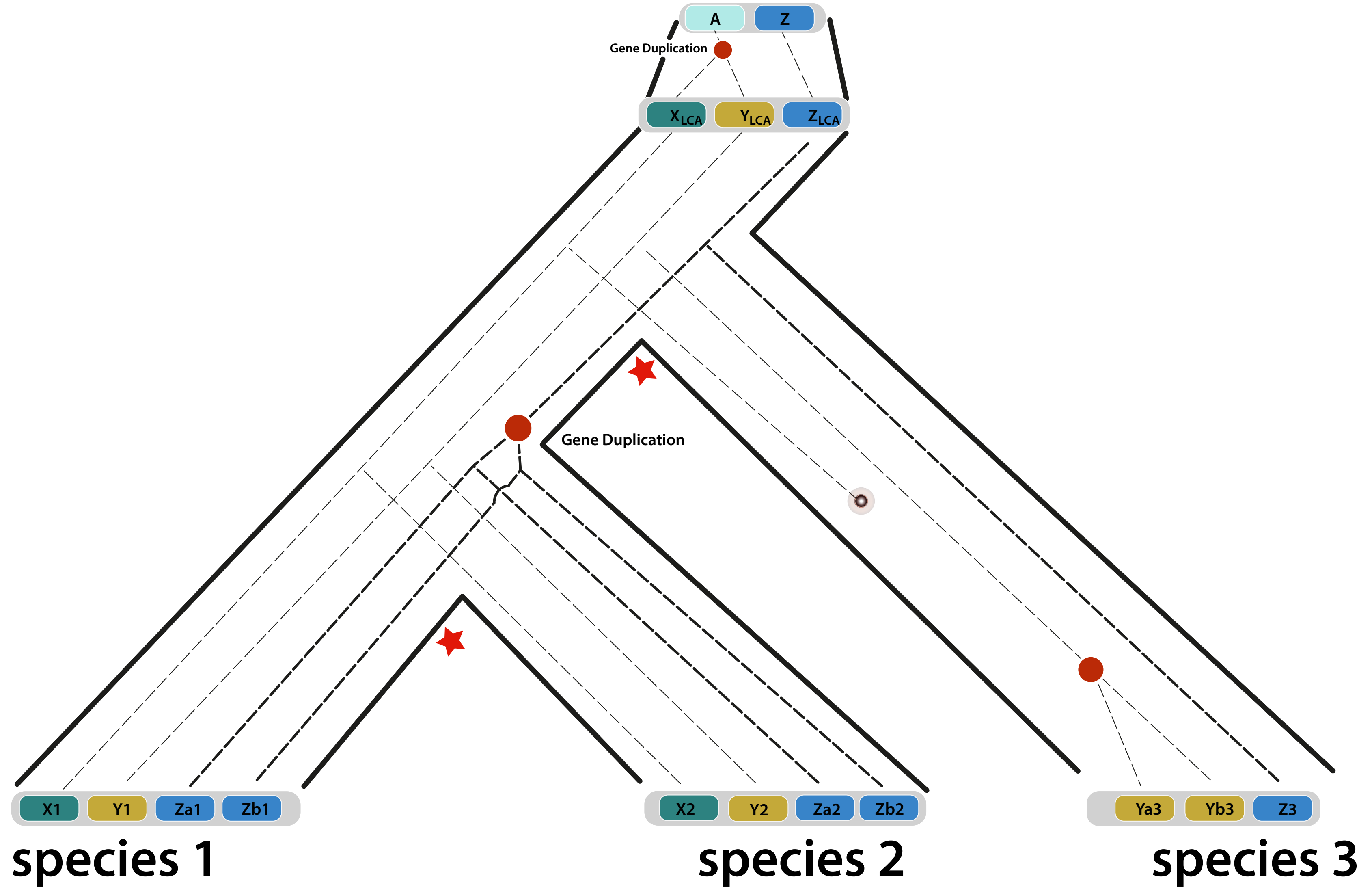
» Homologs ? »



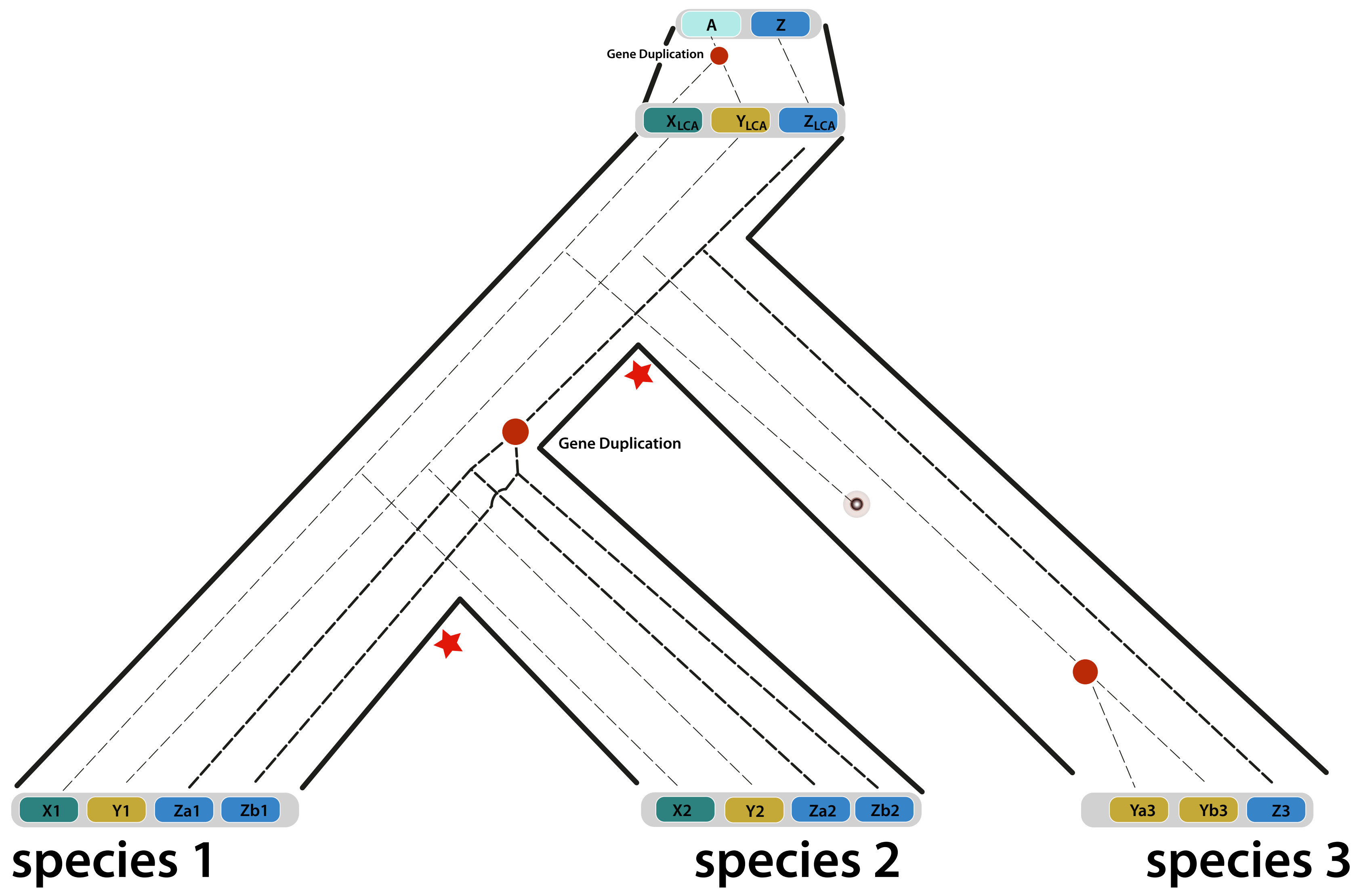
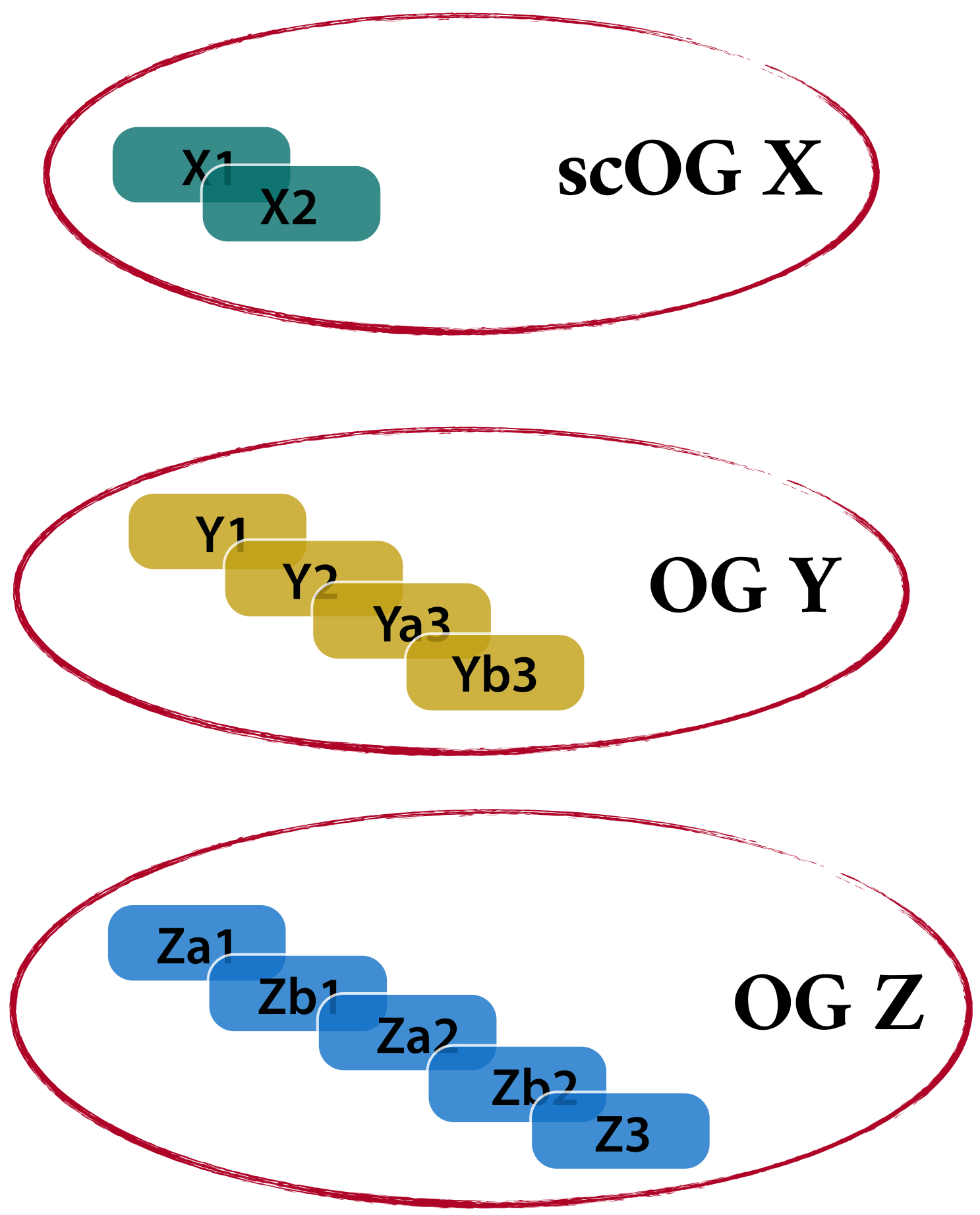
» Homologs ? »



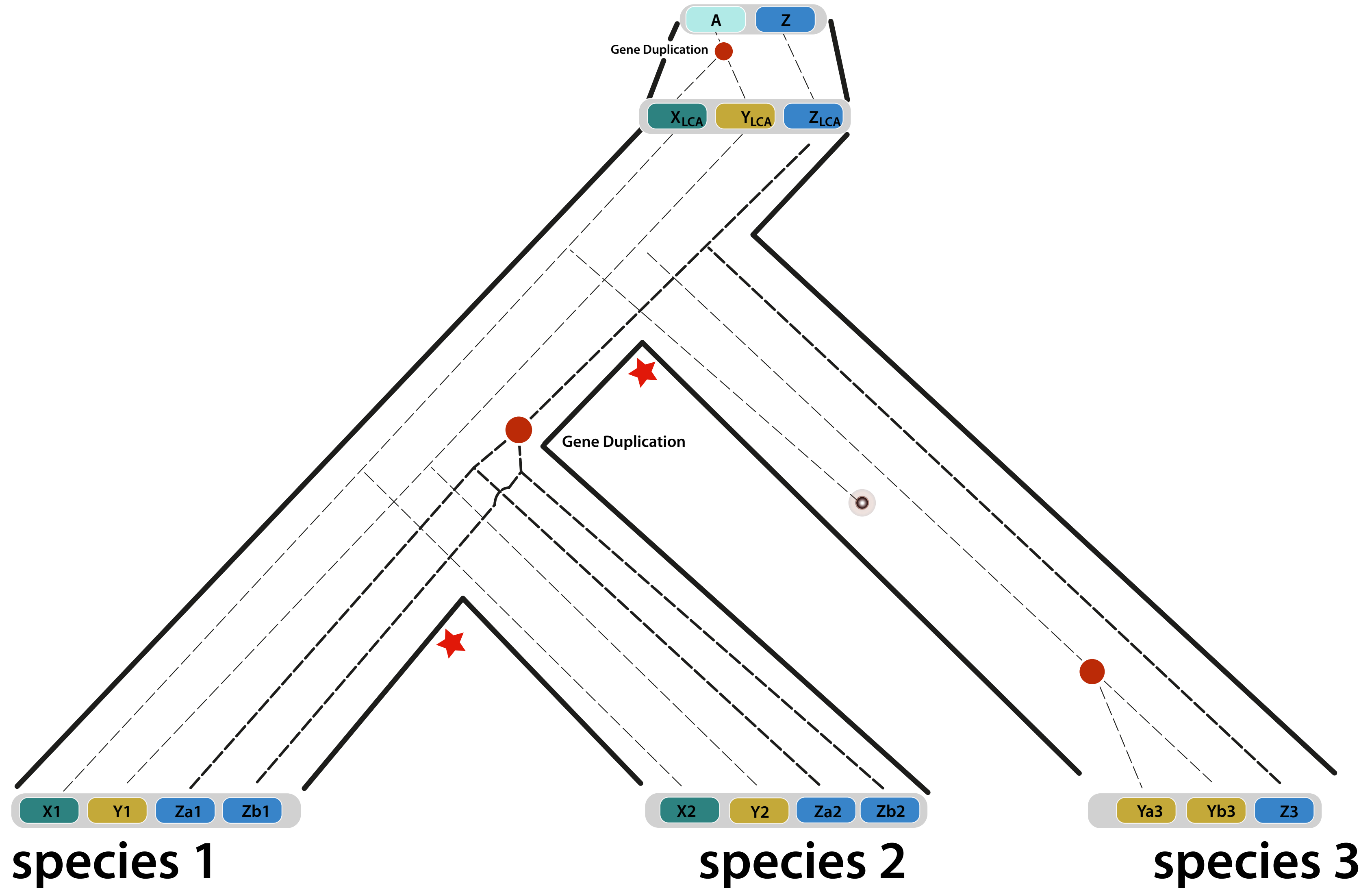
» Orthologs ? »



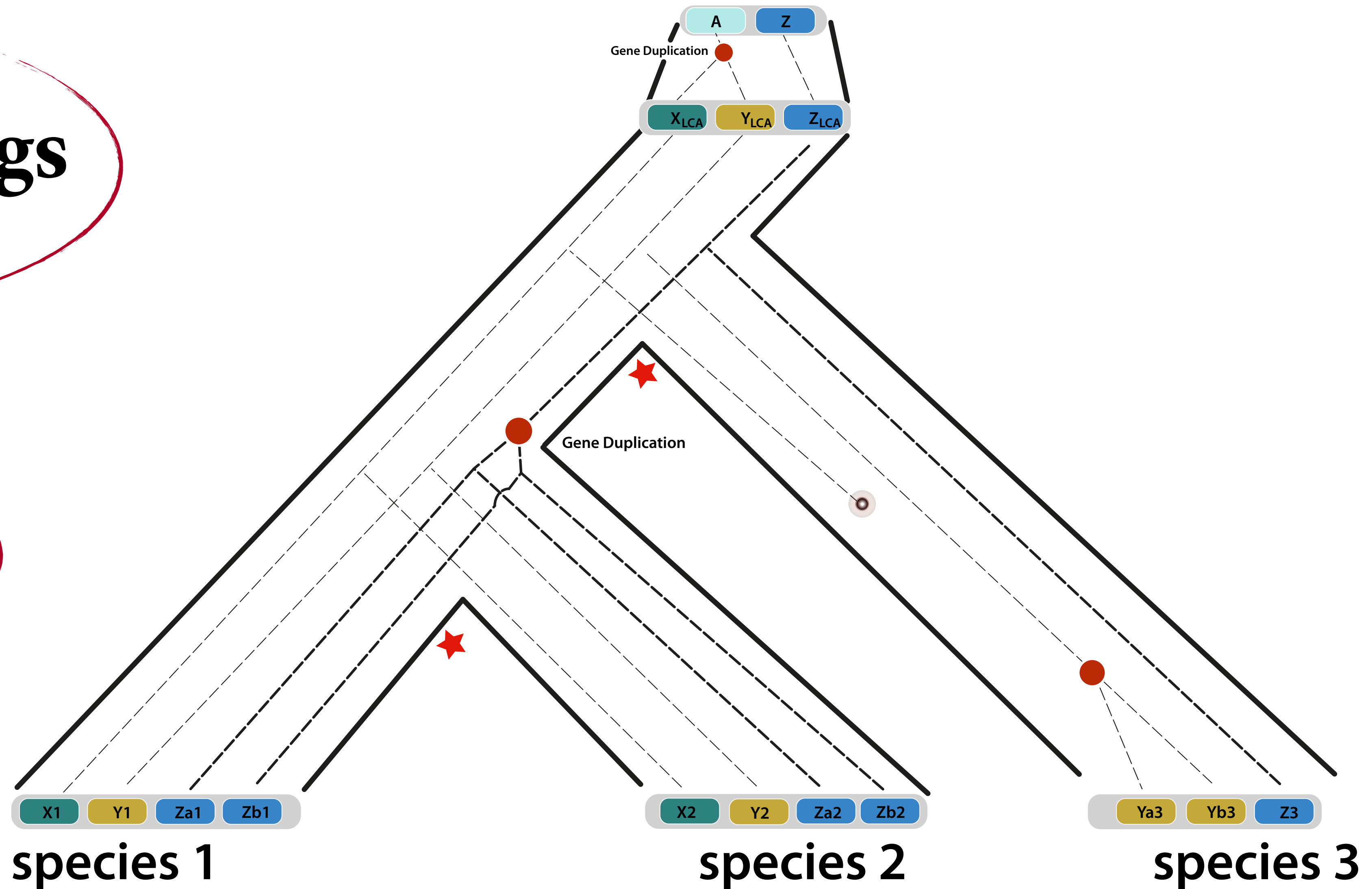
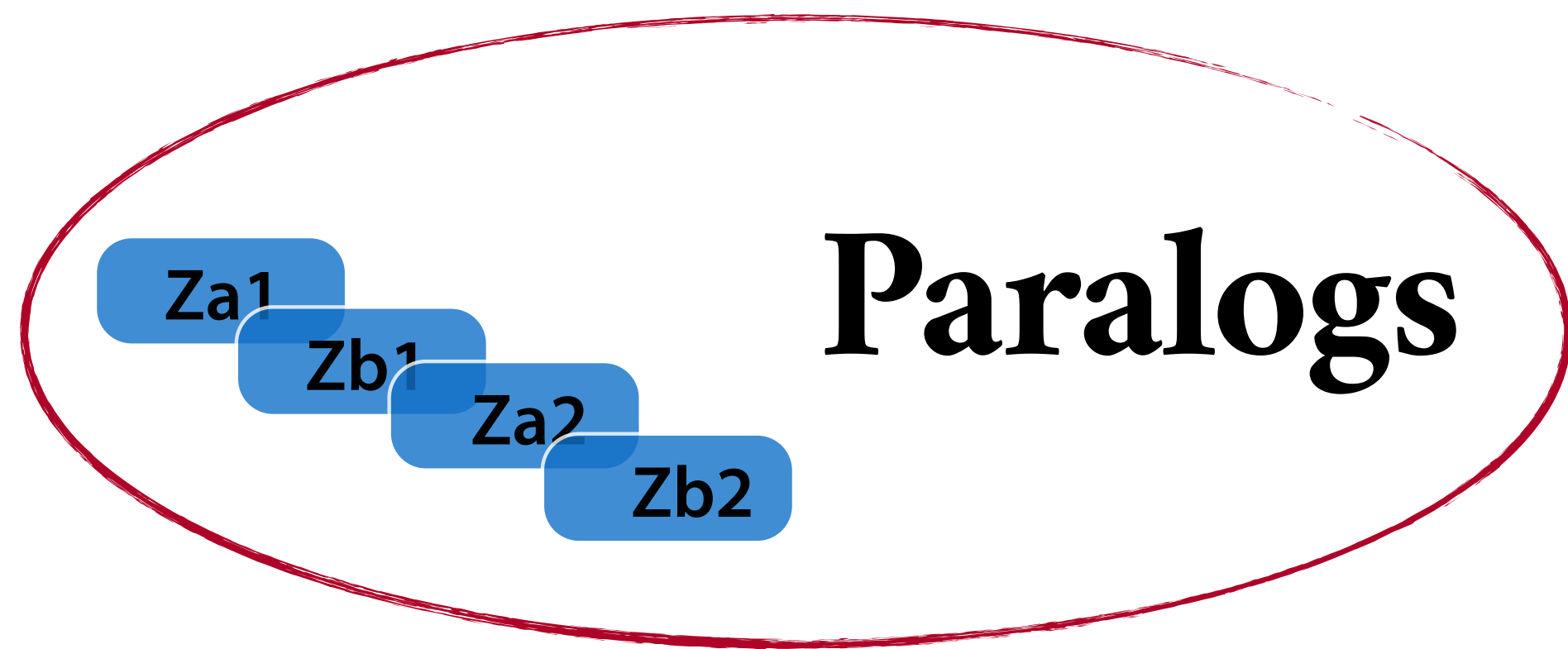
» Orthologs ? »



» Paralogous ? »



» Paralogous ? »



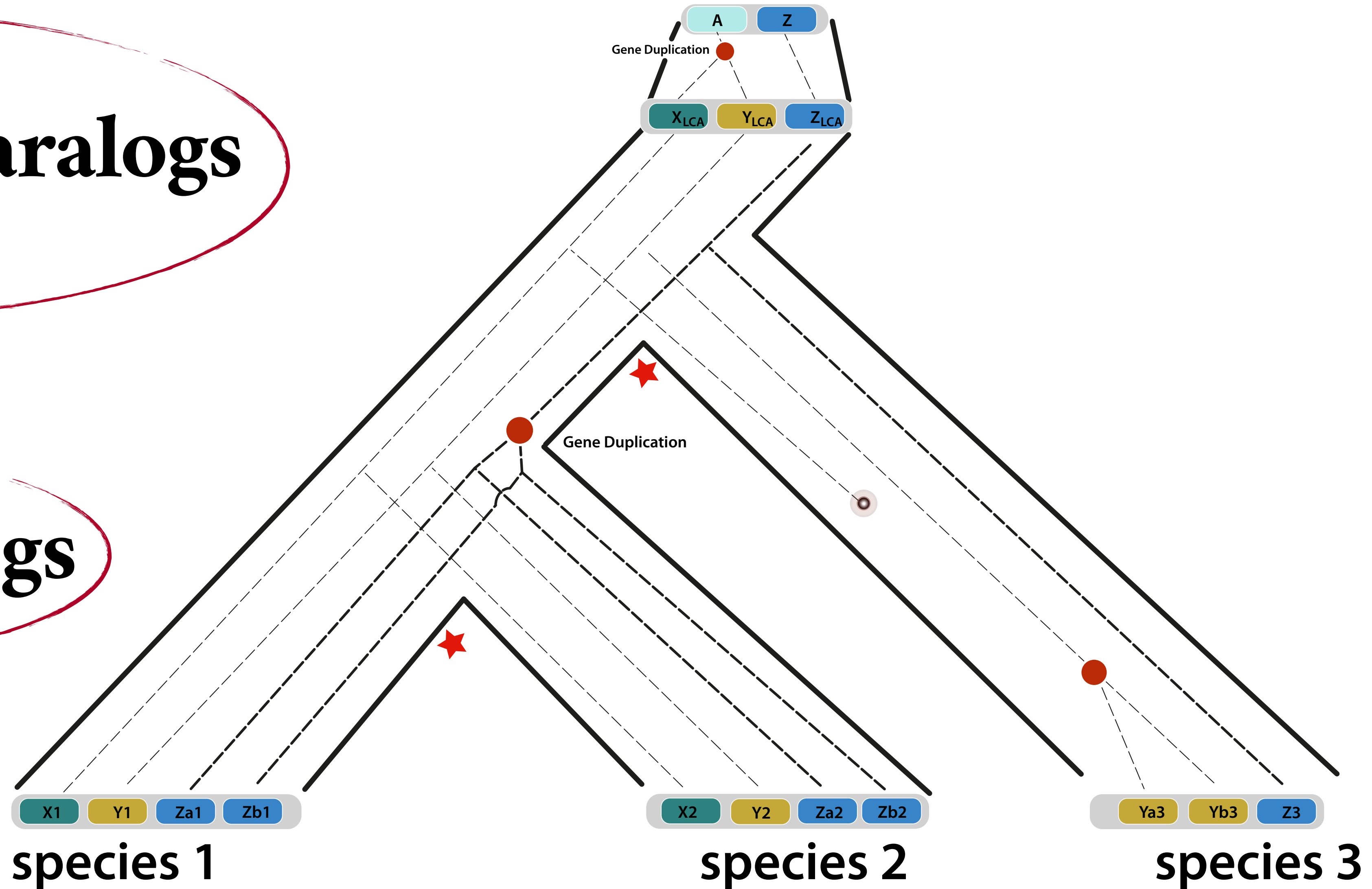
» Paralogous ? »

Out-Paralogs

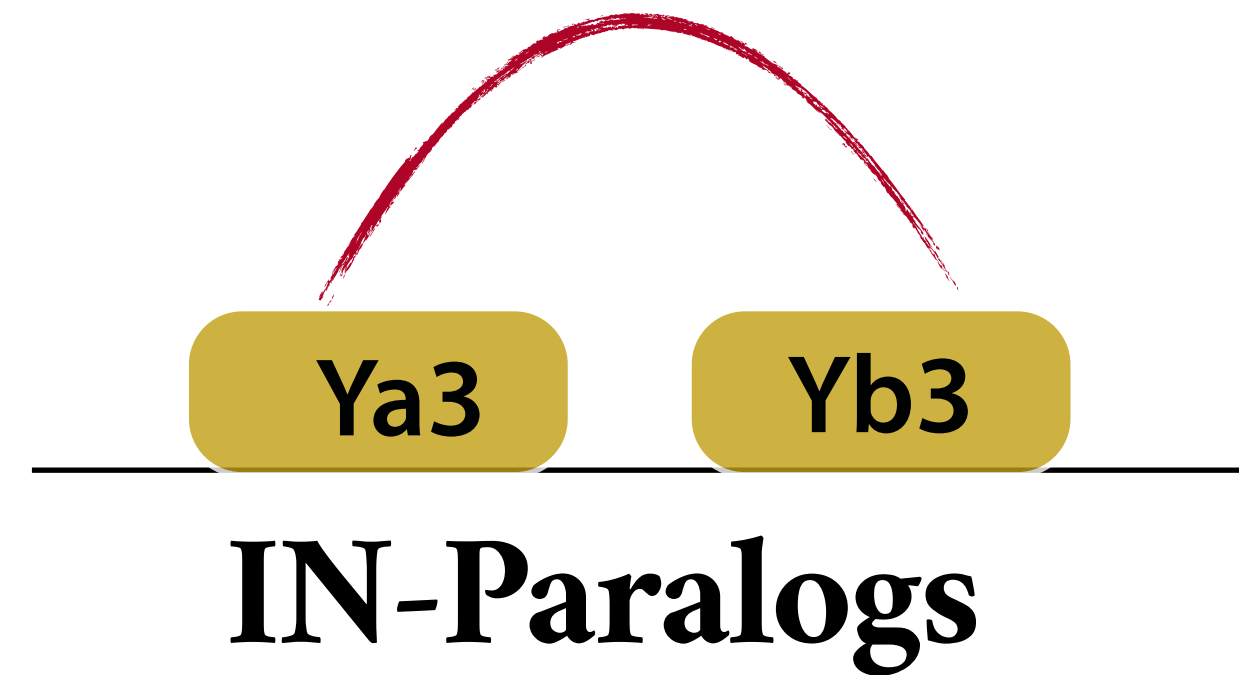
Za1
Zb1
Za2
Zb2

In-Paralogs

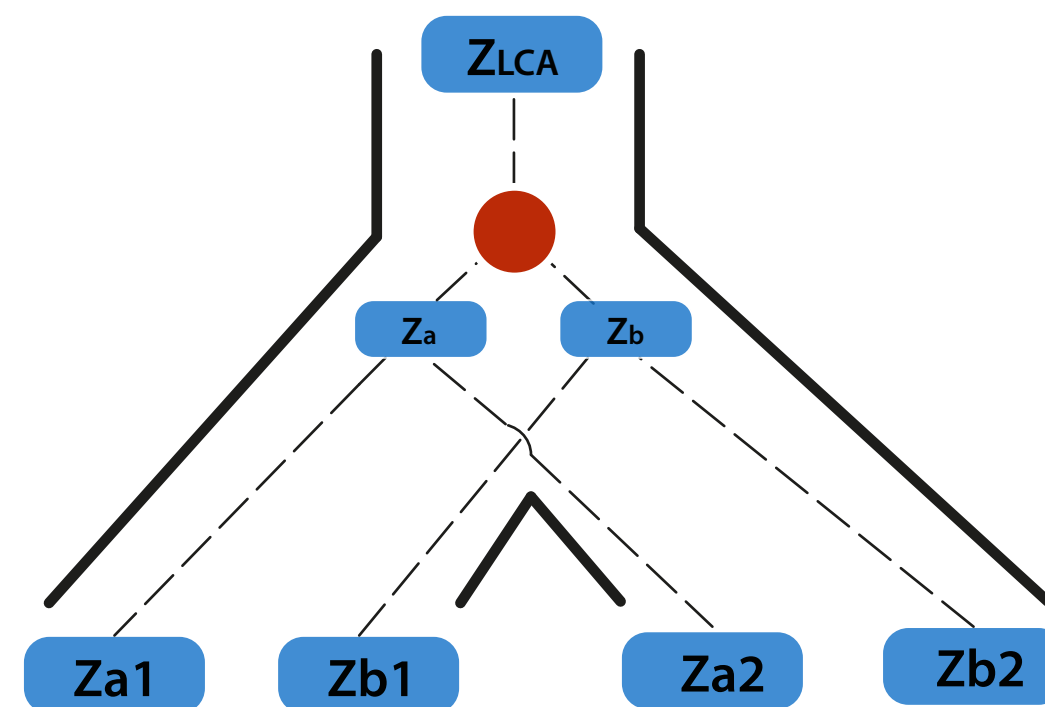
Ya3
Yb3



IN-Paralogy: it describes a relationship that involve a duplication occurred within a species

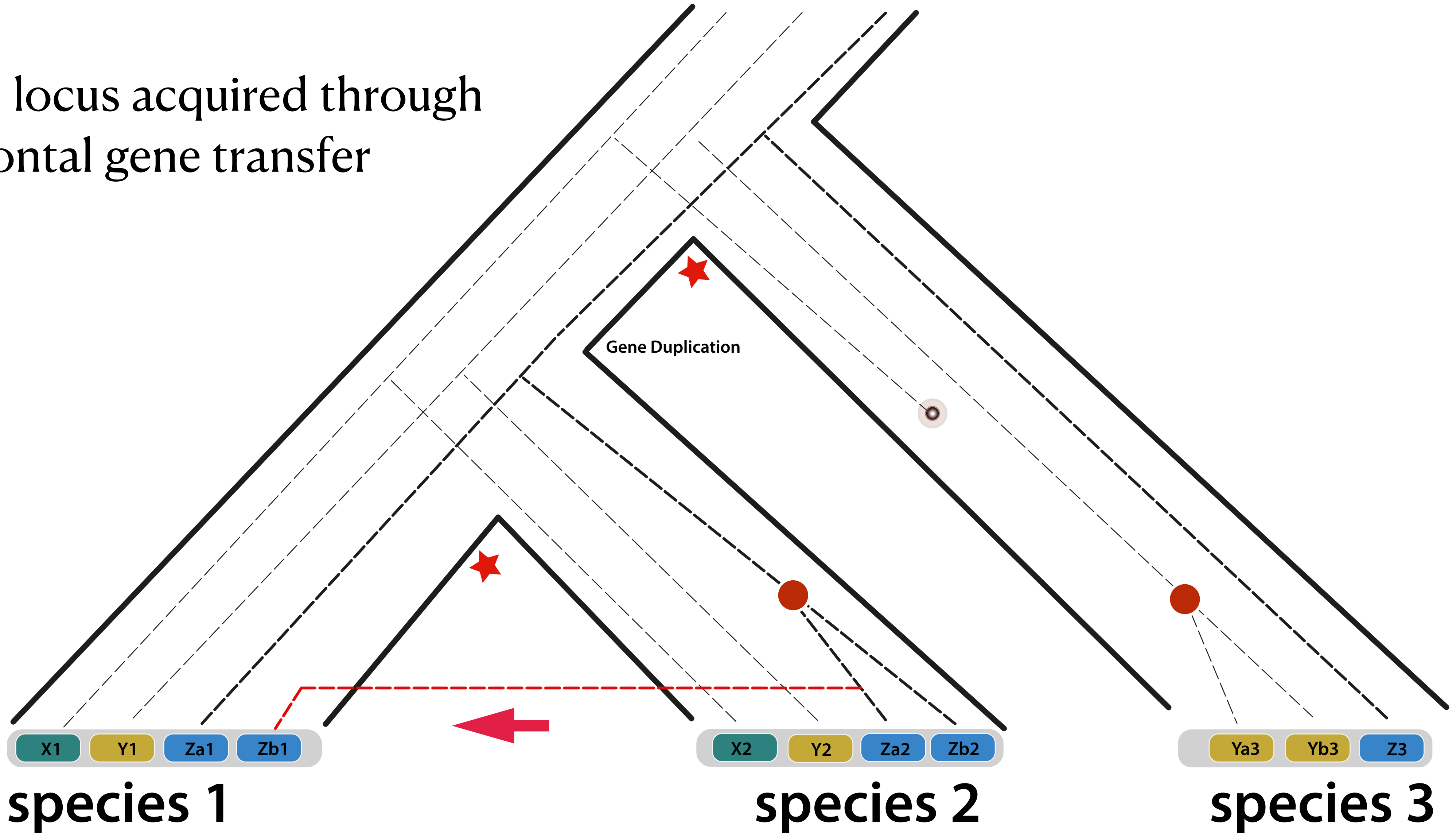


OUT-Paralogy: it describes a relationship that involve a duplication occurred in one of the ancestor

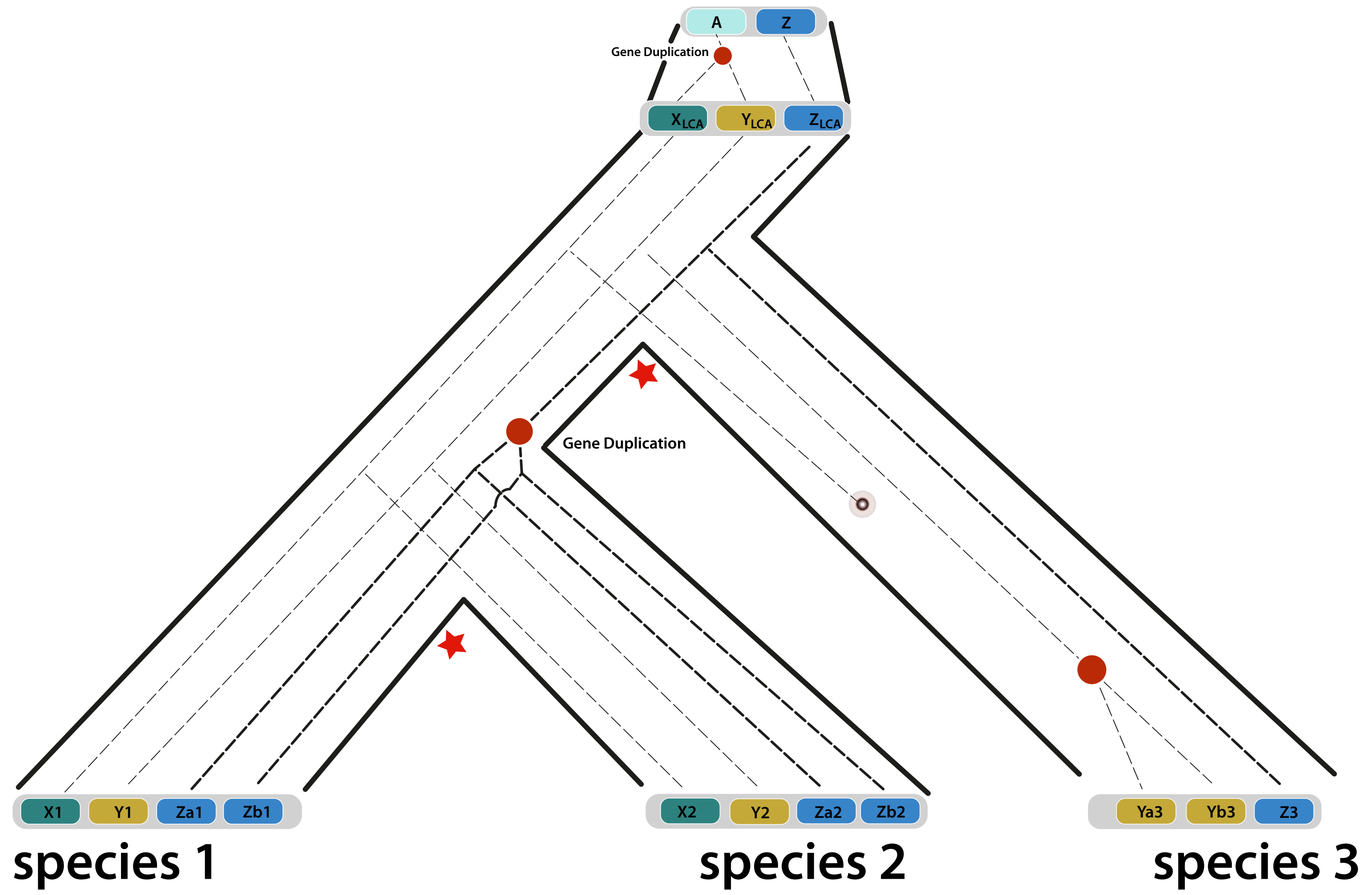


» Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT) »

Xenologs: locus acquired through horizontal gene transfer

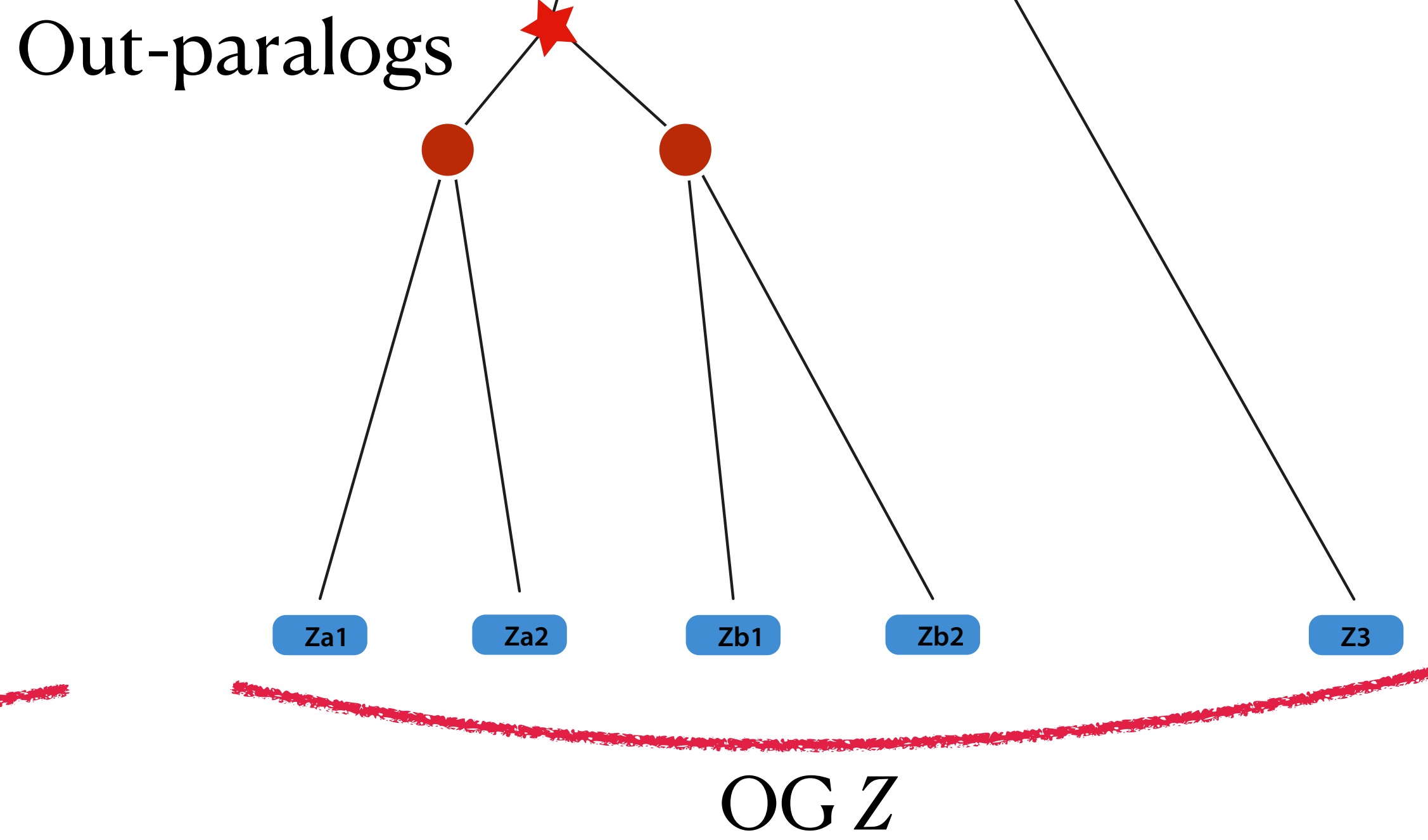
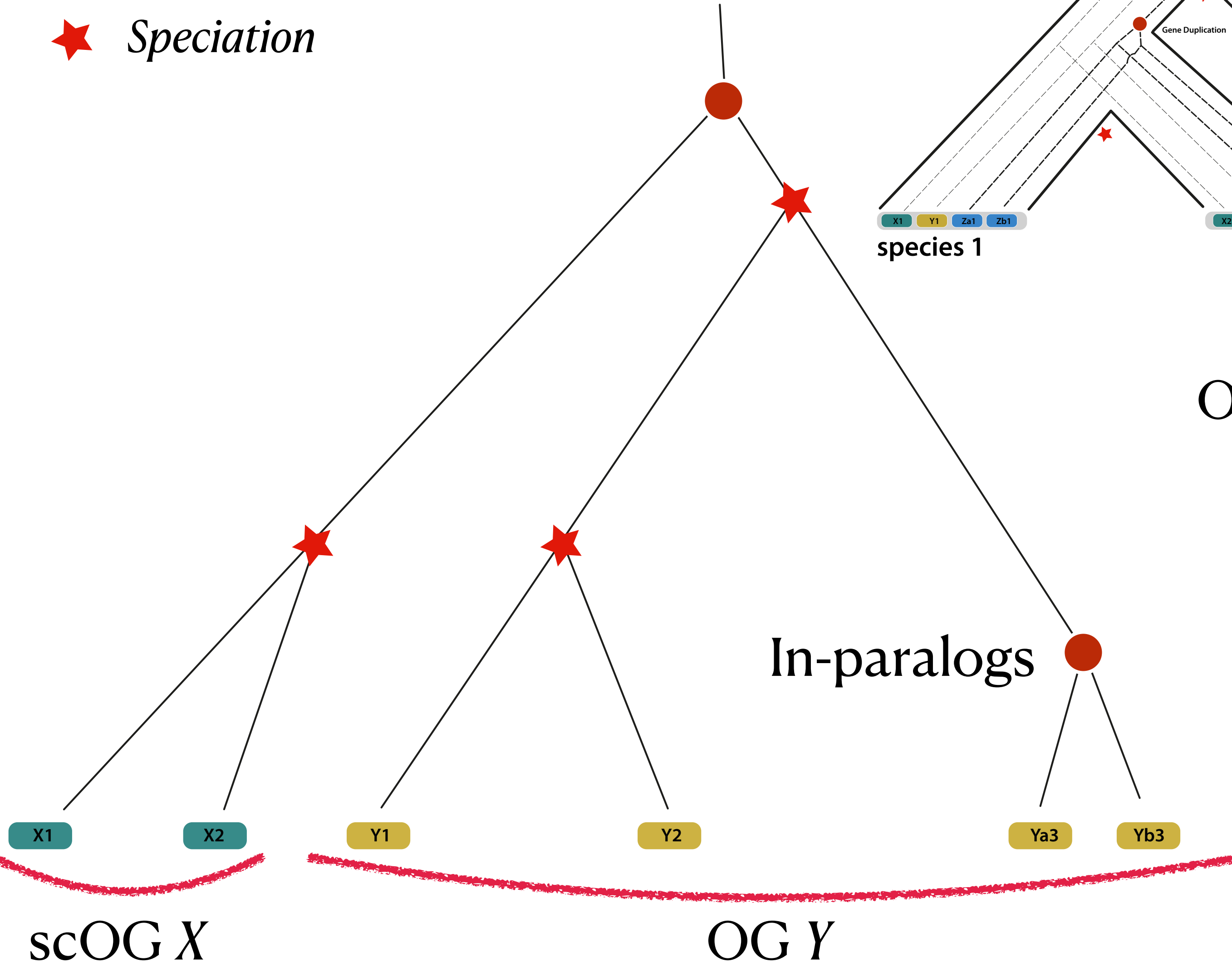
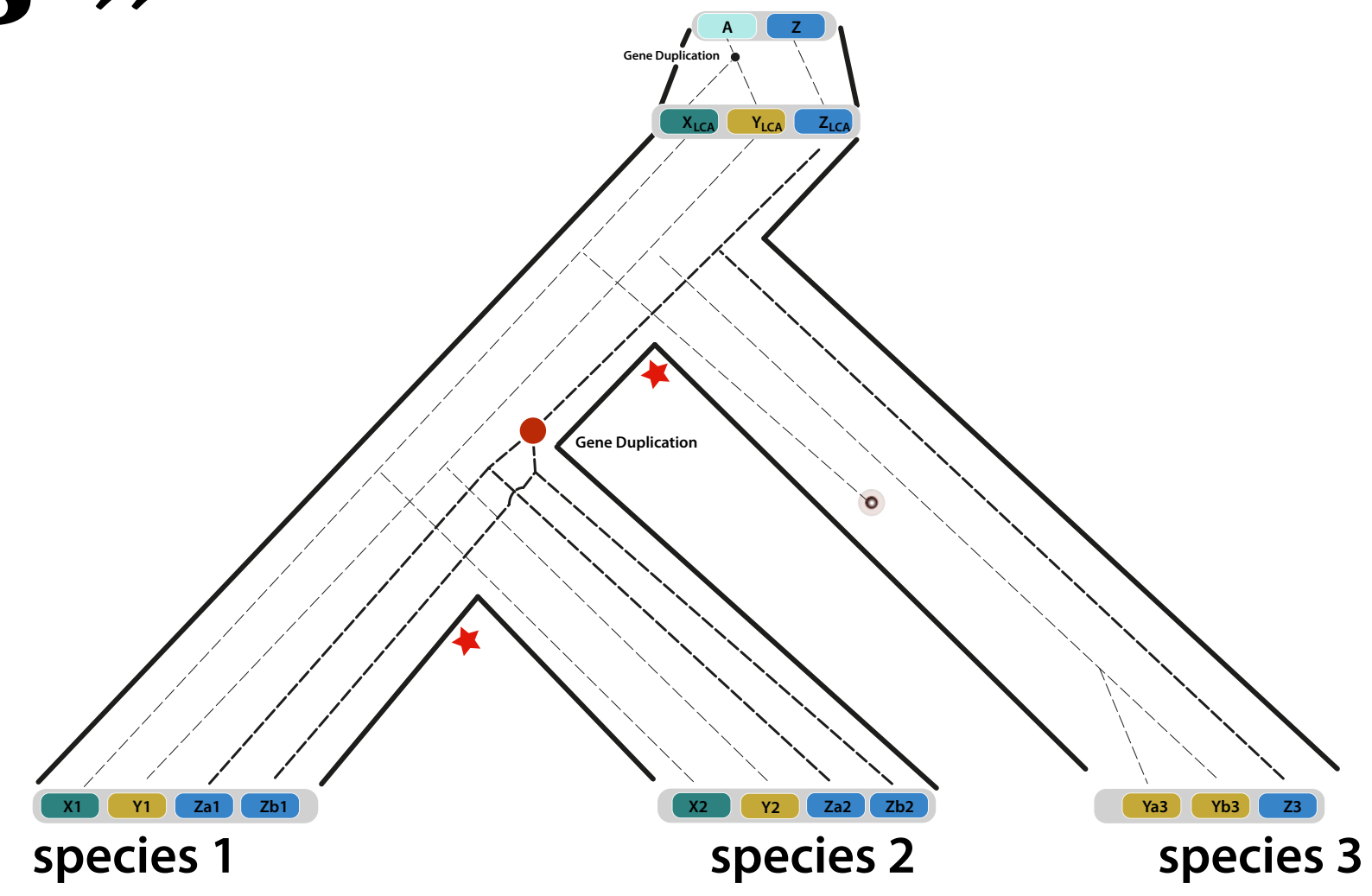


» Gene Family Tree »

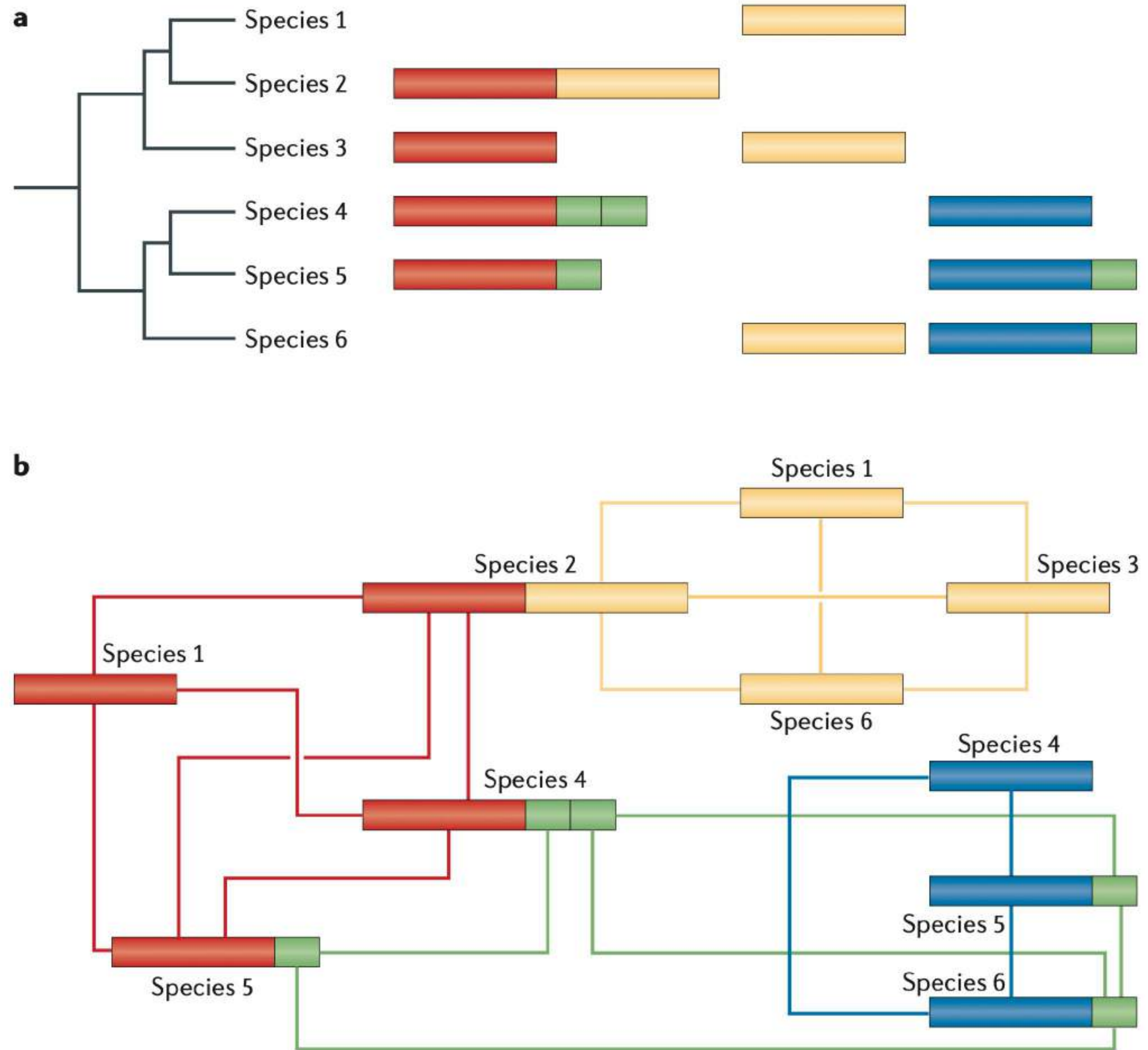


» Gene Family Trees »

- *Gene duplication*
- ★ *Speciation*

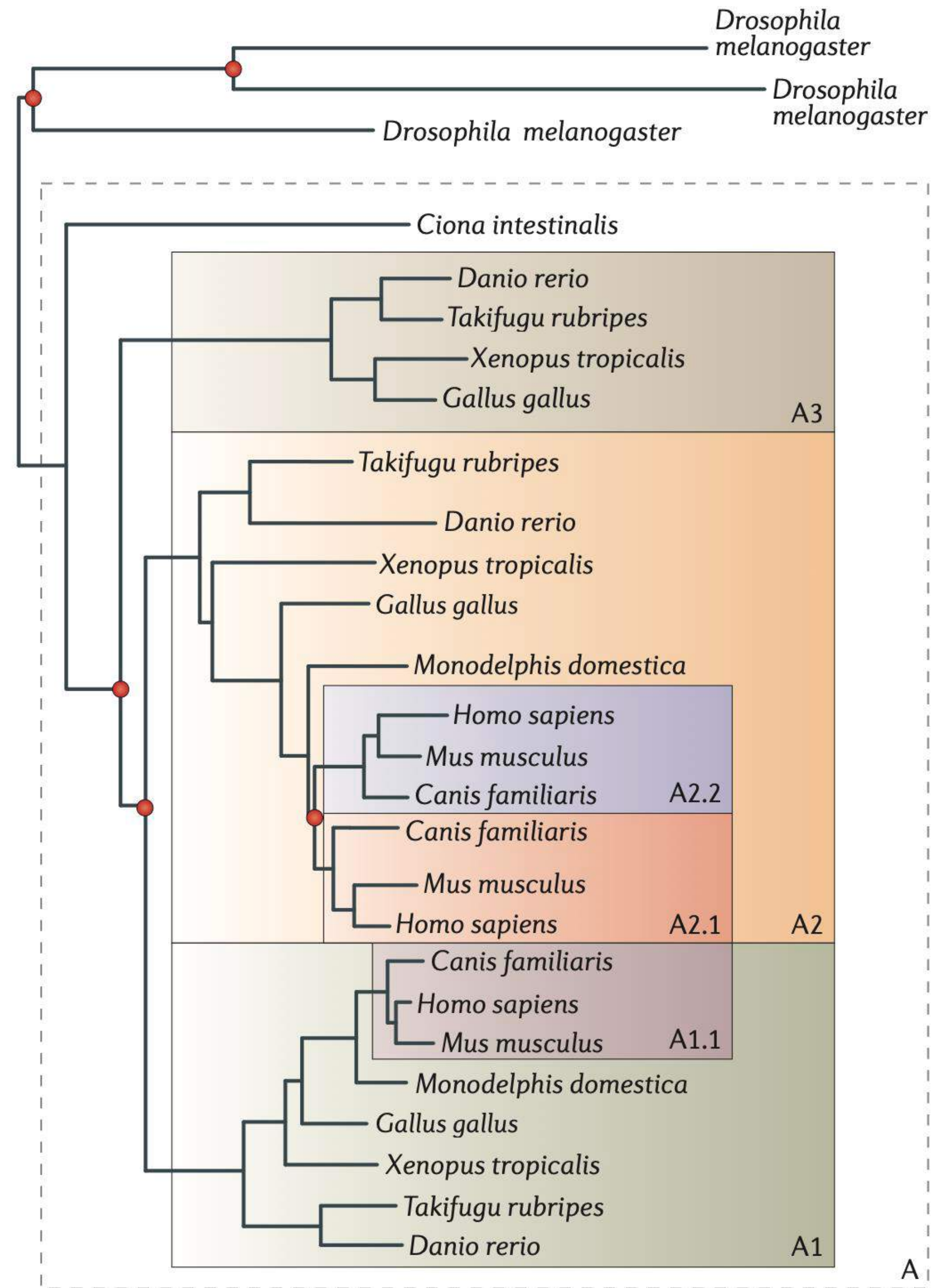


» Units of orthology »



» Real examples »

Transferrin family

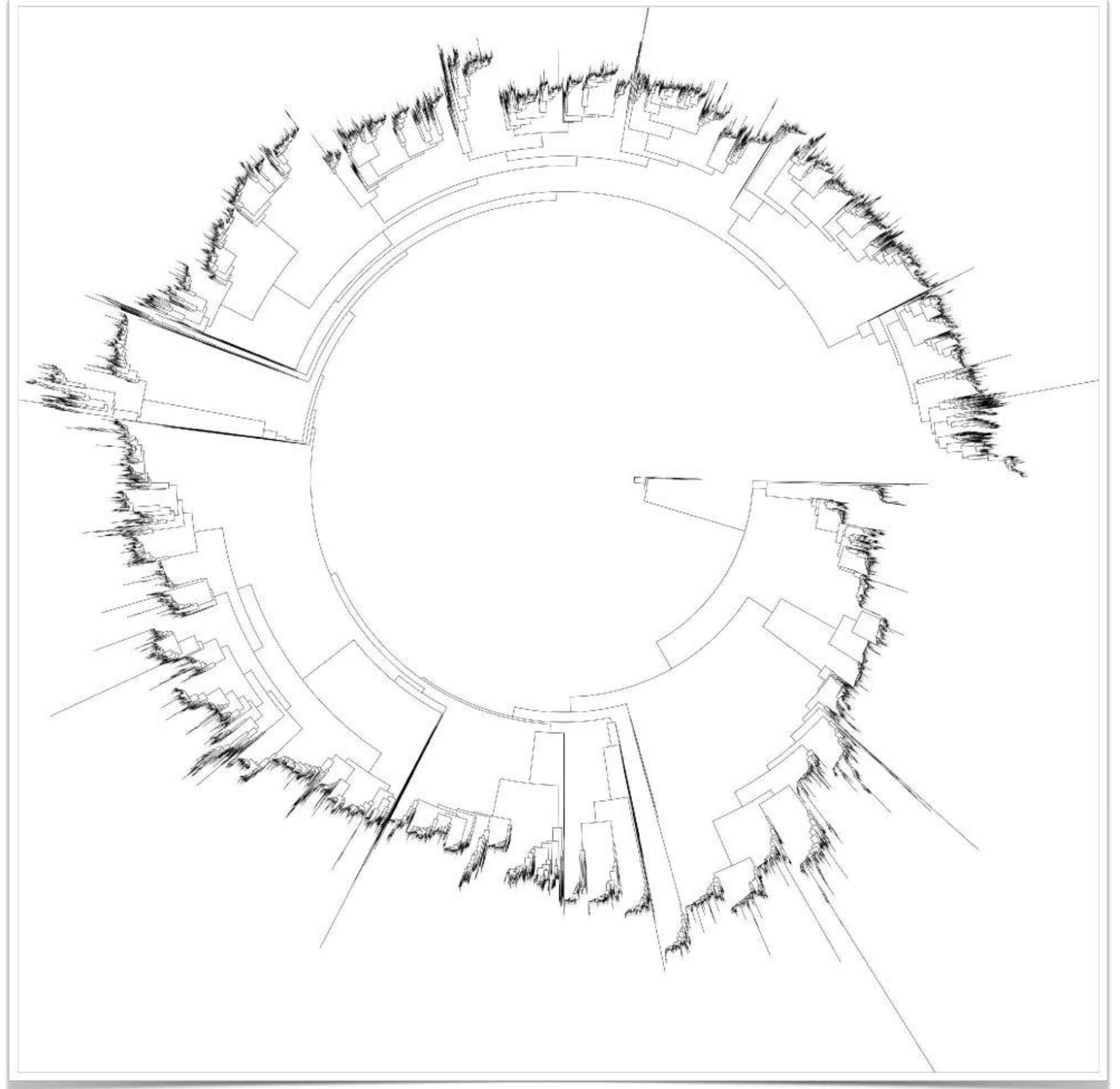


» Real examples »

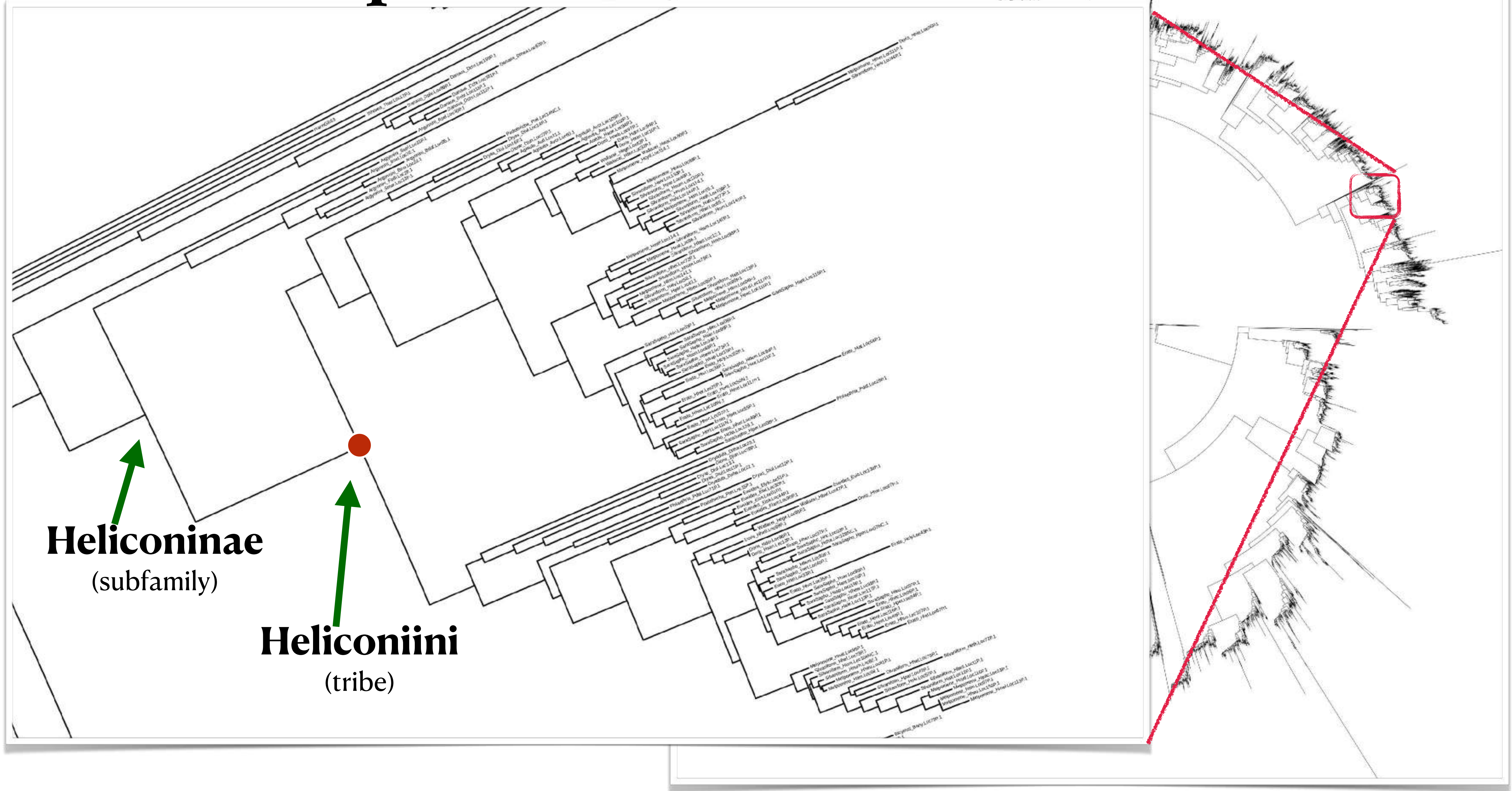
Gustatory receptors

8,320 tips

16,638 nodes



» Real examples »

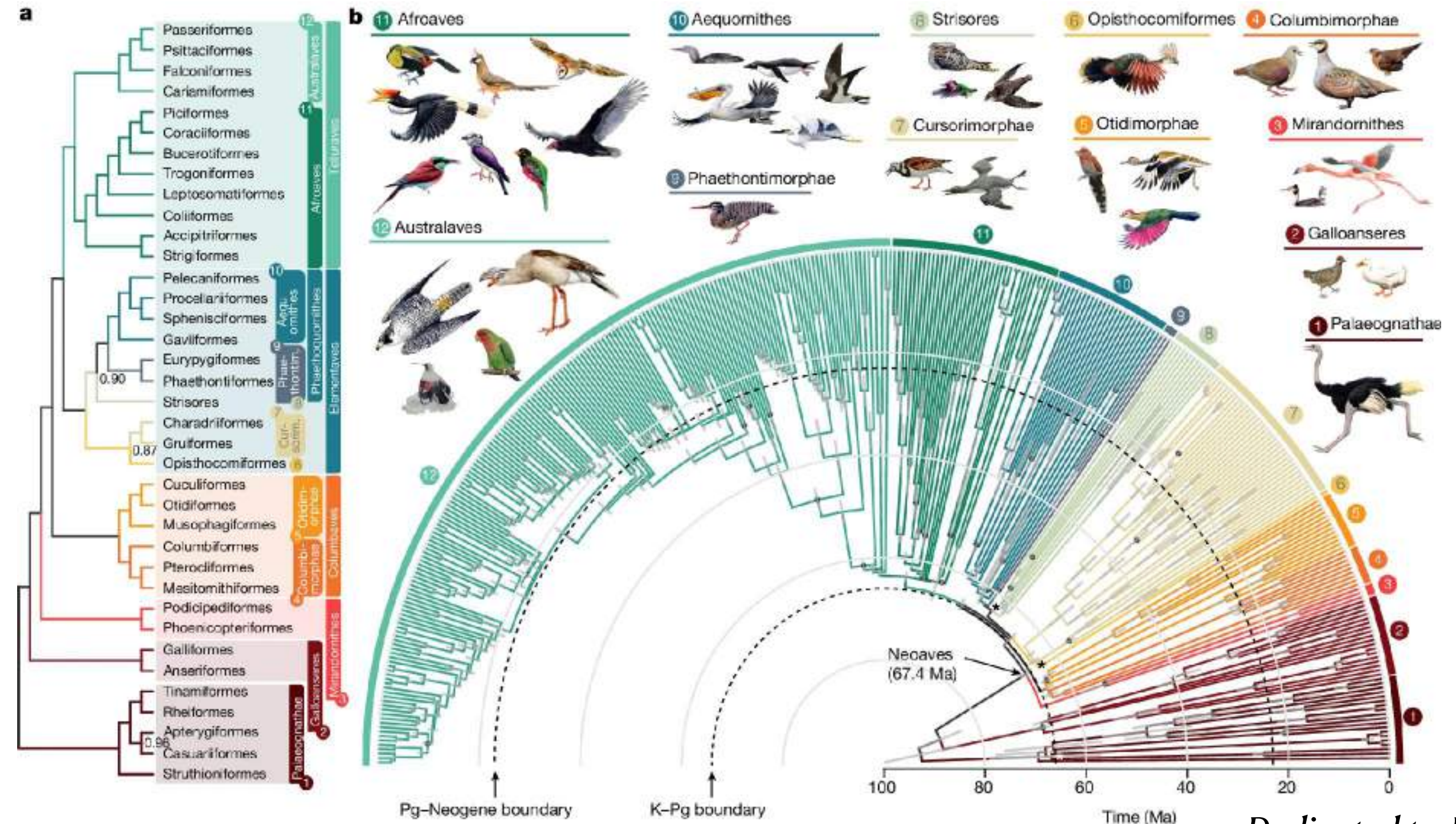
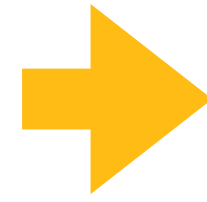
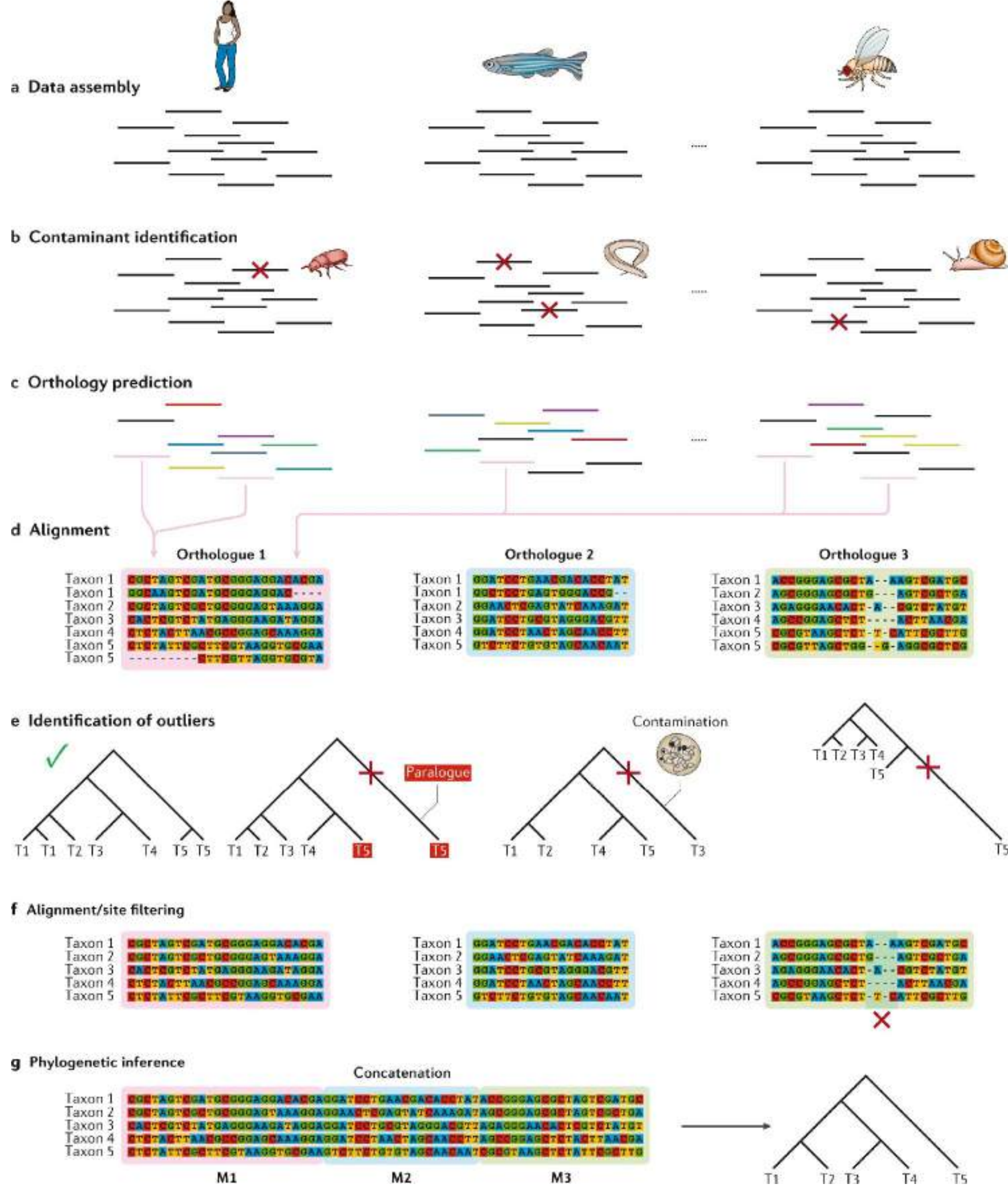


Heliconinae
(subfamily)

Heliconini
(tribe)

» **Why this is relevant ?** »

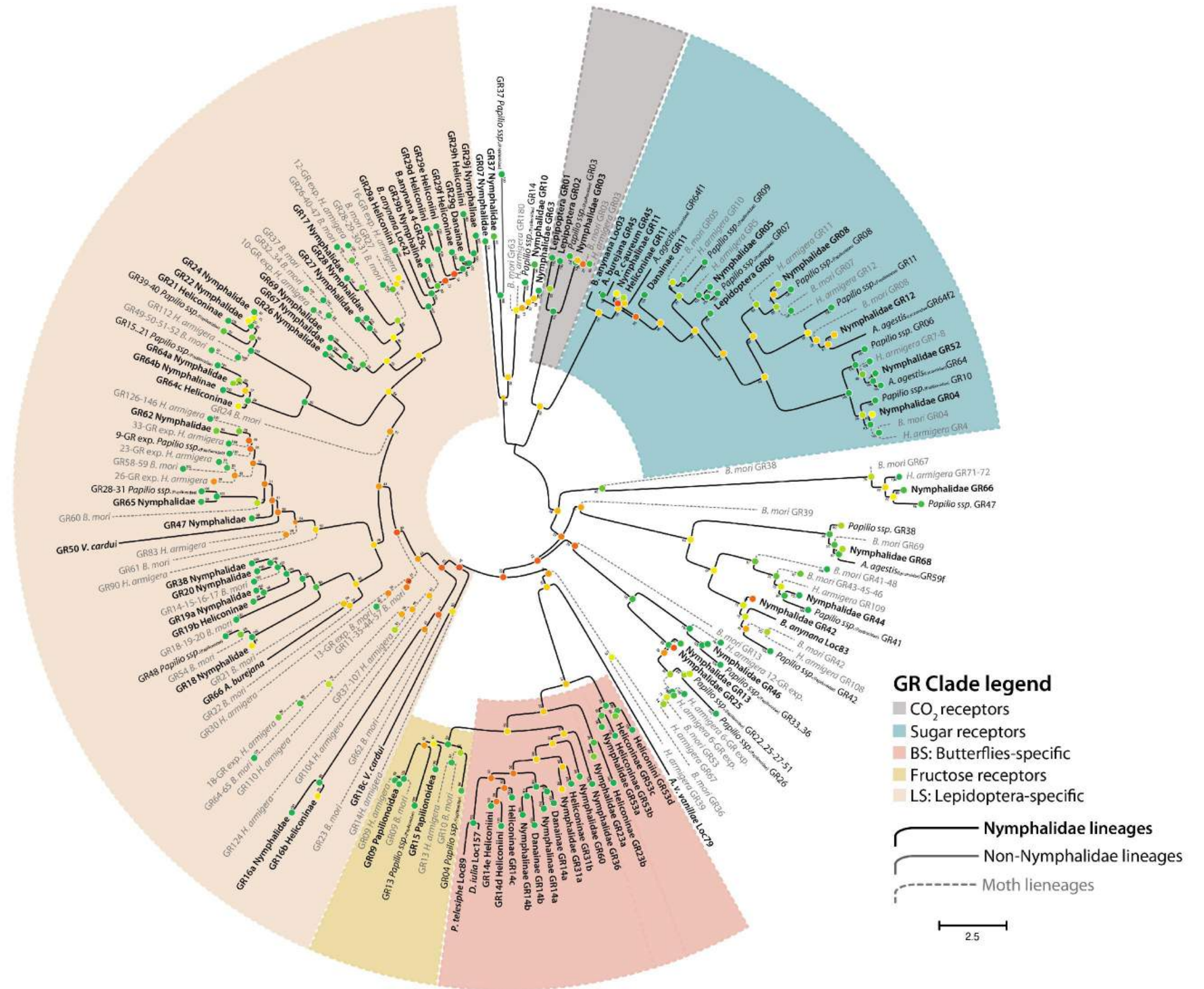
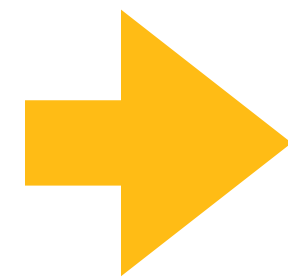
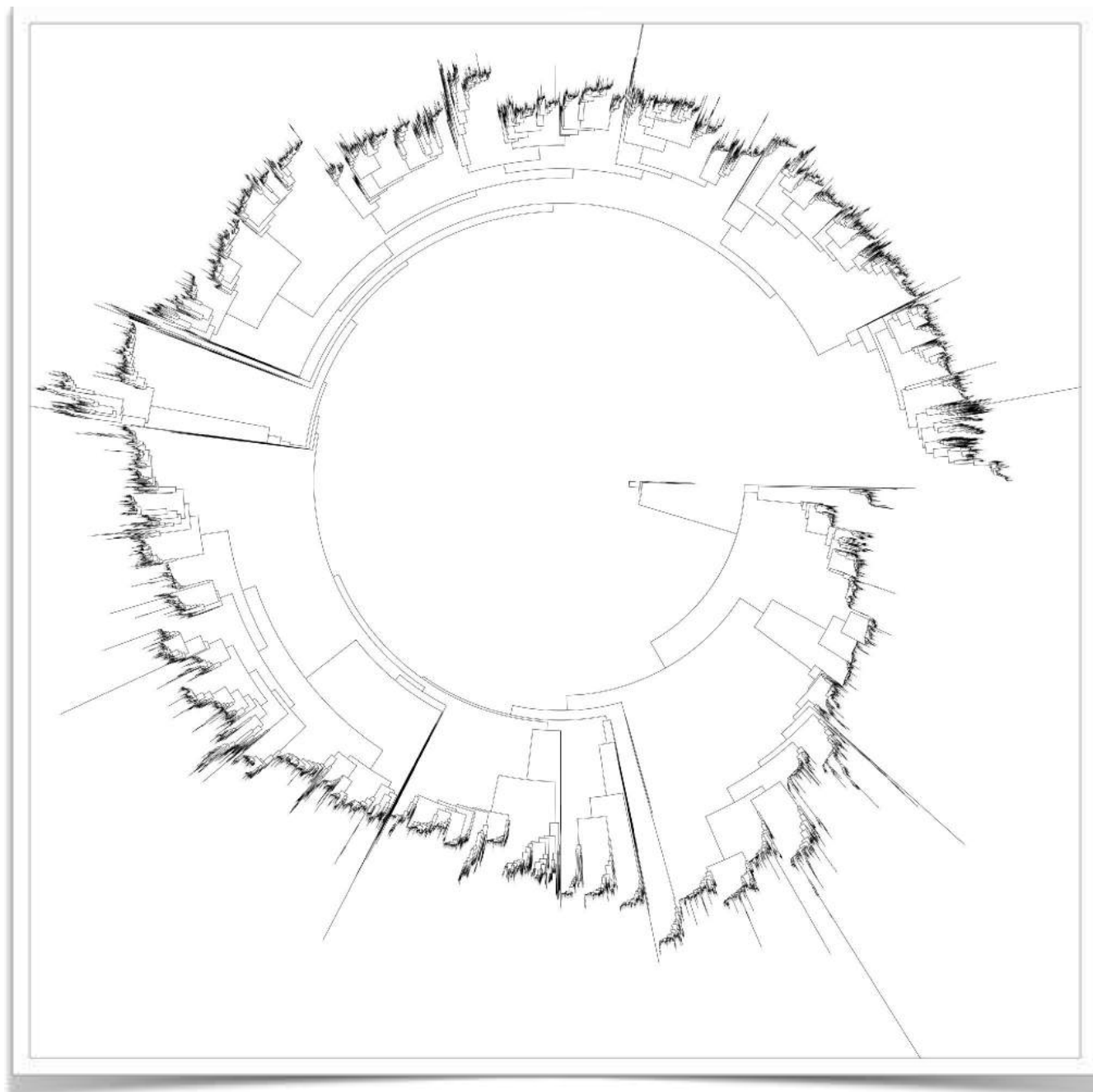
» Species Tree Estimation »



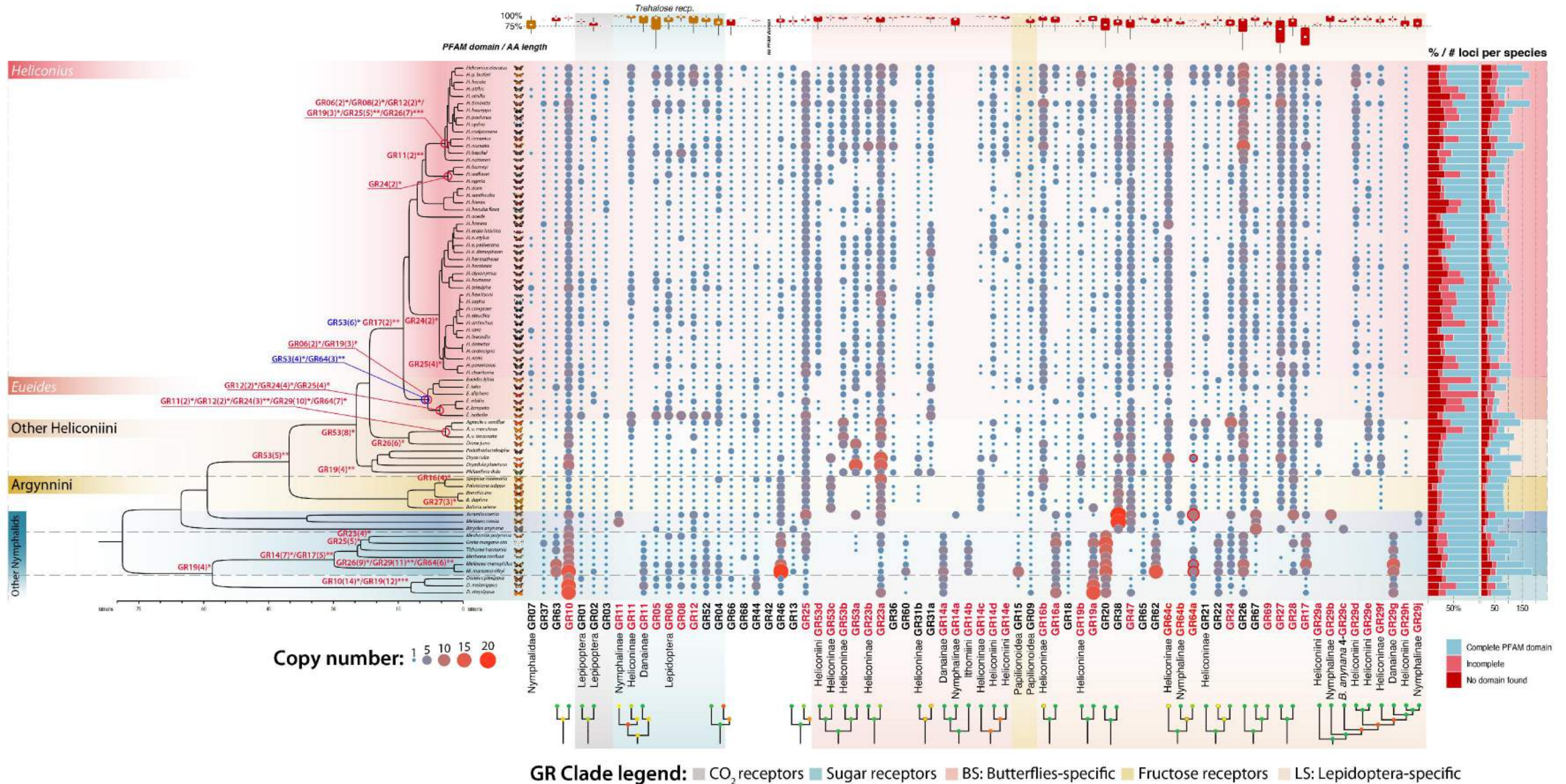
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-024-07323-1>

Dedicated to Joan

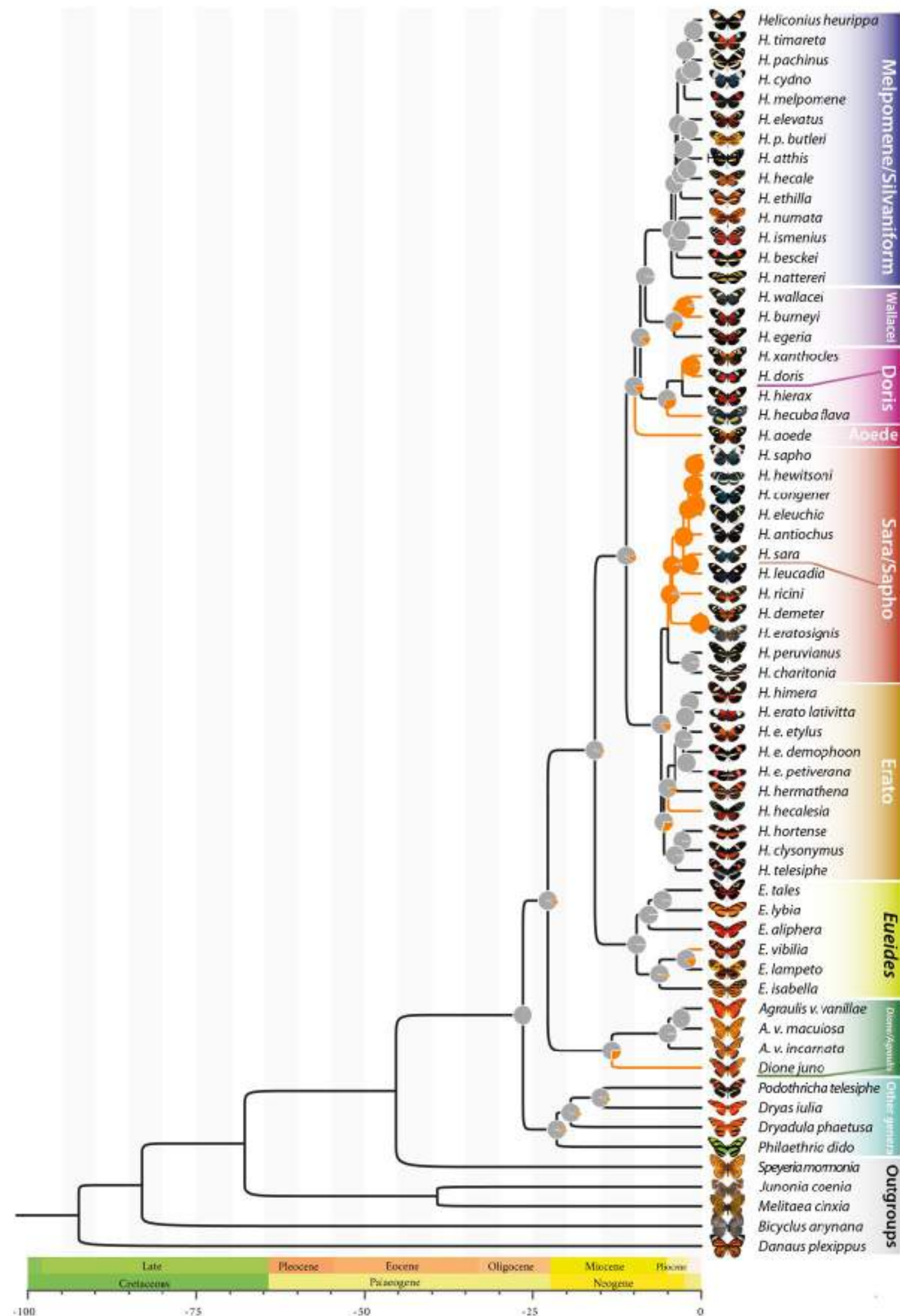
» Gene family reconstruction | expansions/contractions »



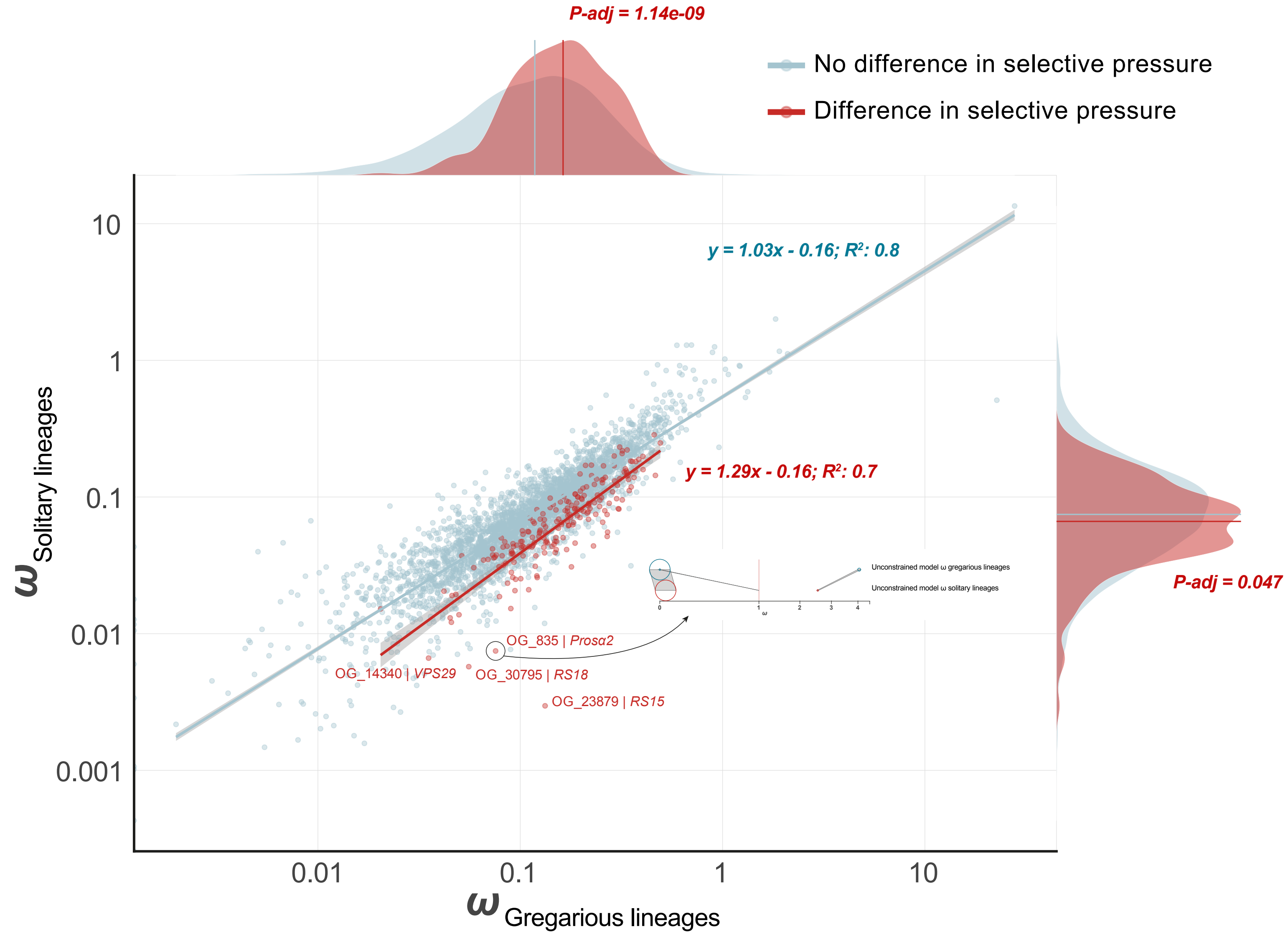
» Gene family reconstruction | expansions/contractions »



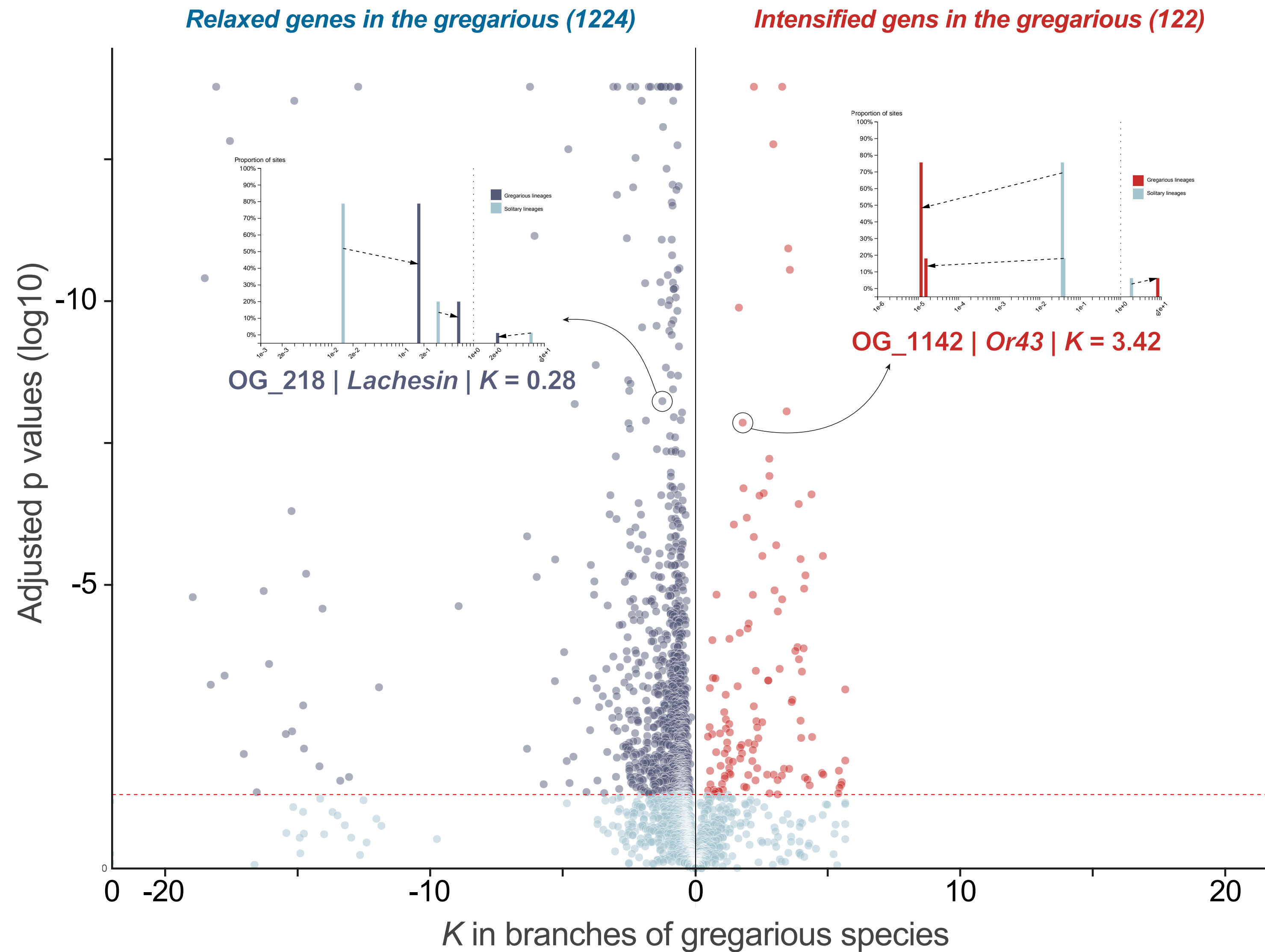
» Selecting pressures: Positive/Purifying/Convergence »



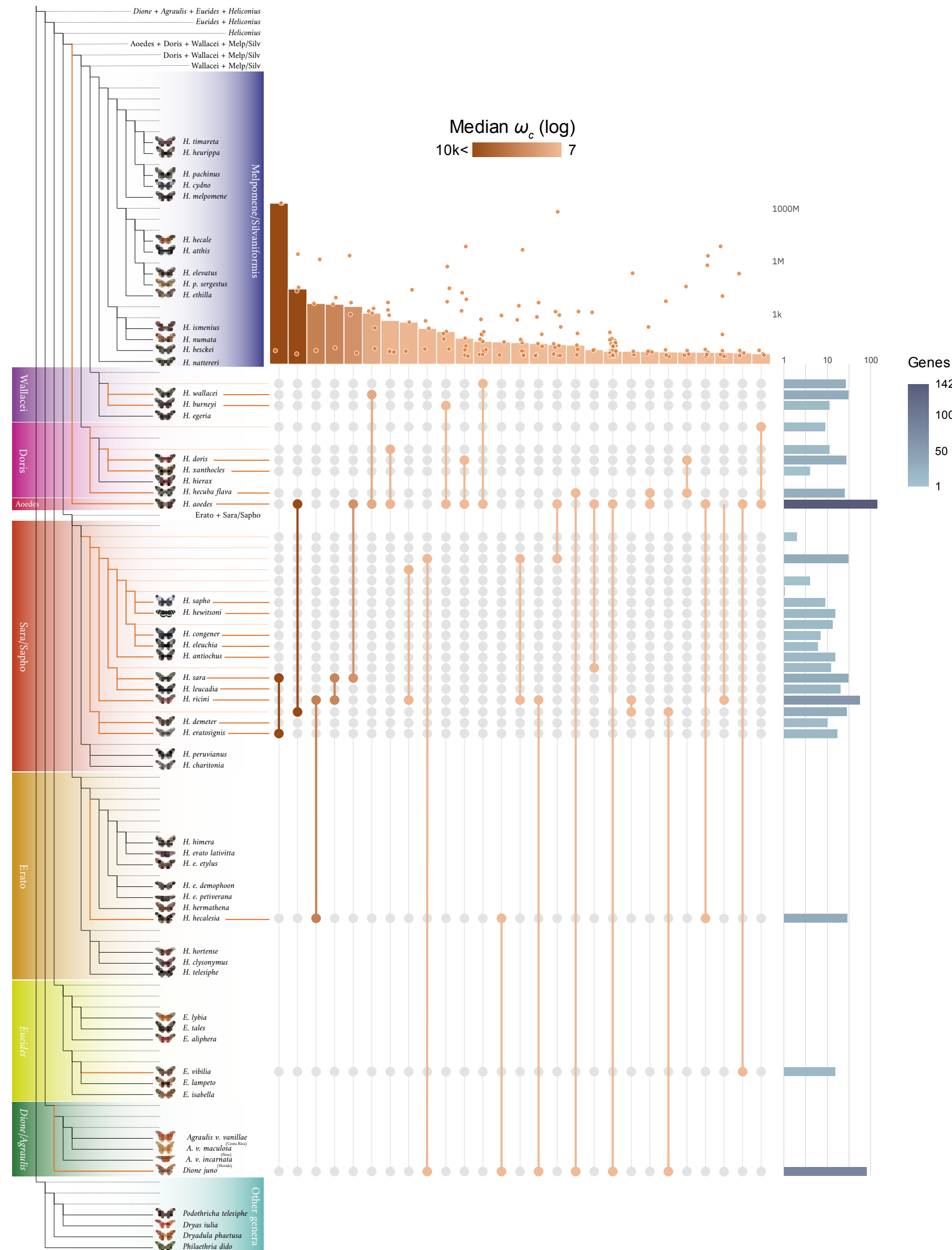
» Selecting pressures: Positive/Purifying/Convergence »



» Selecting pressures: Positive/Purifying/Convergence »

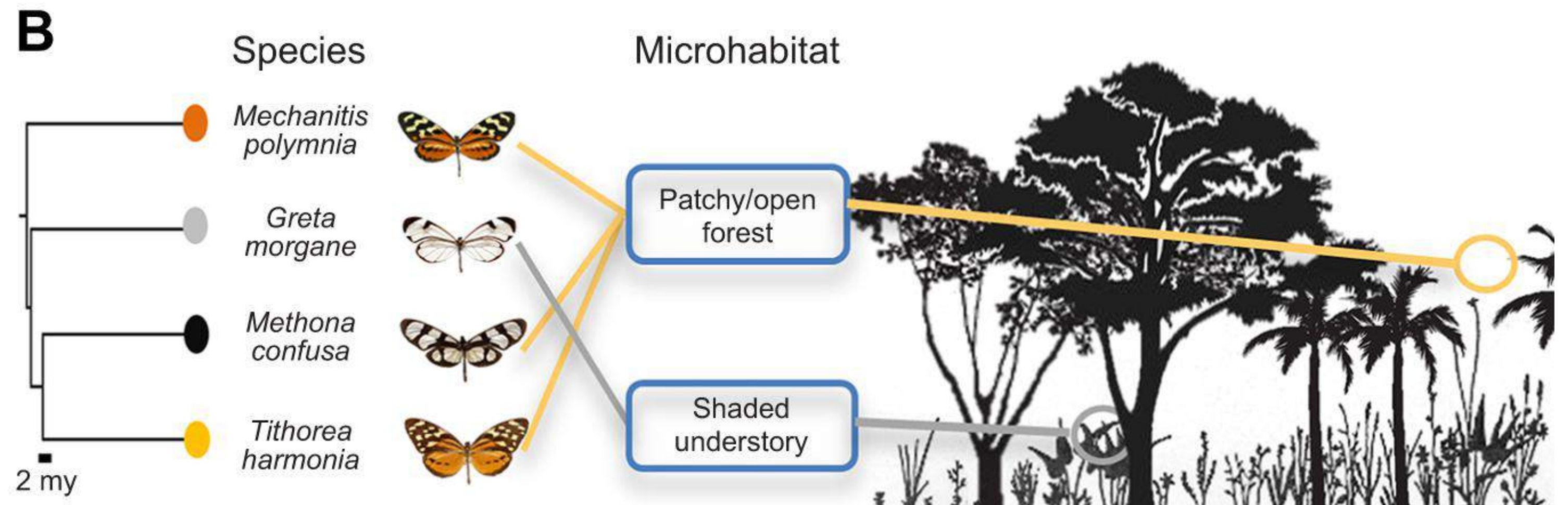
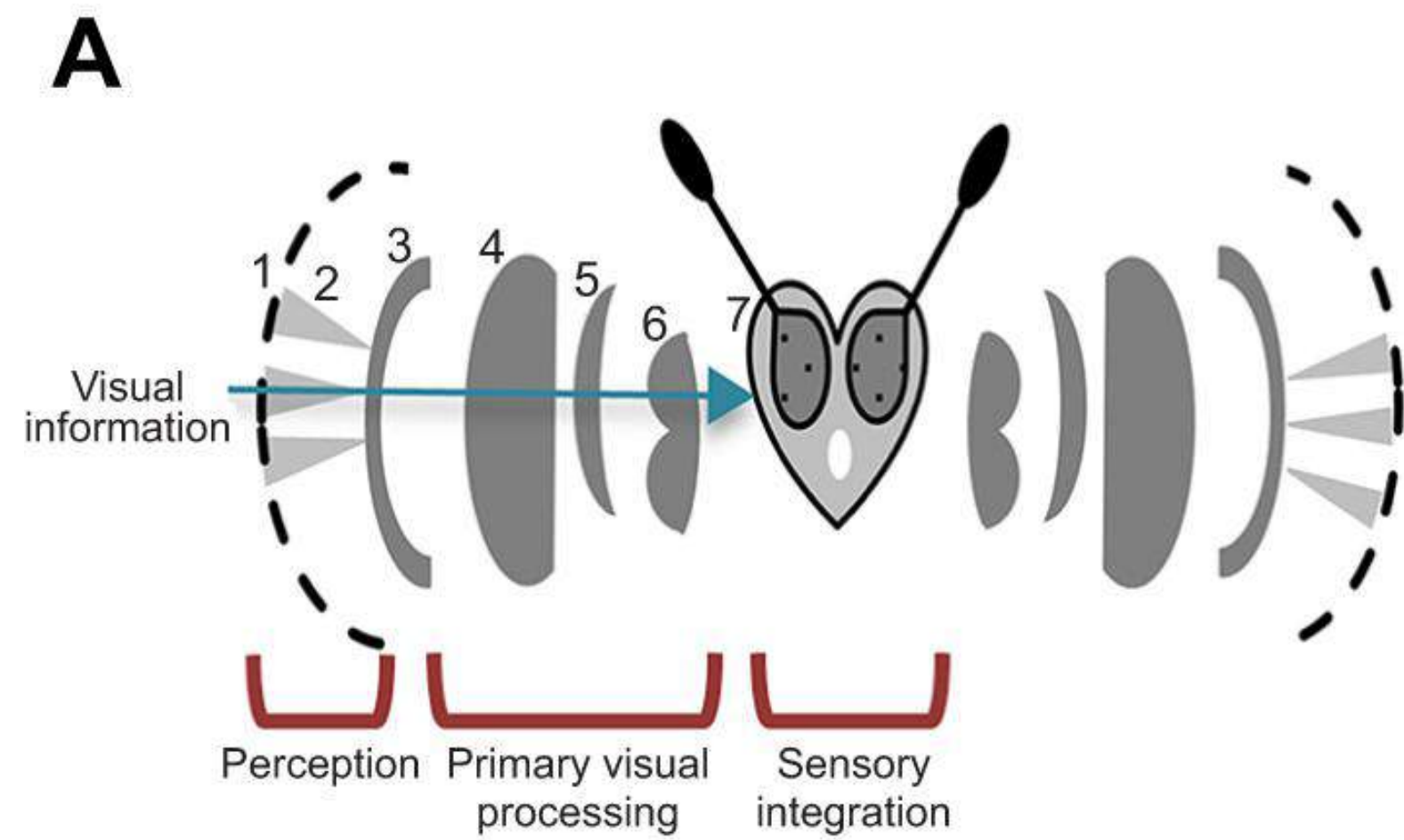


» Selecting pressures: Positive/Purifying/Convergence »

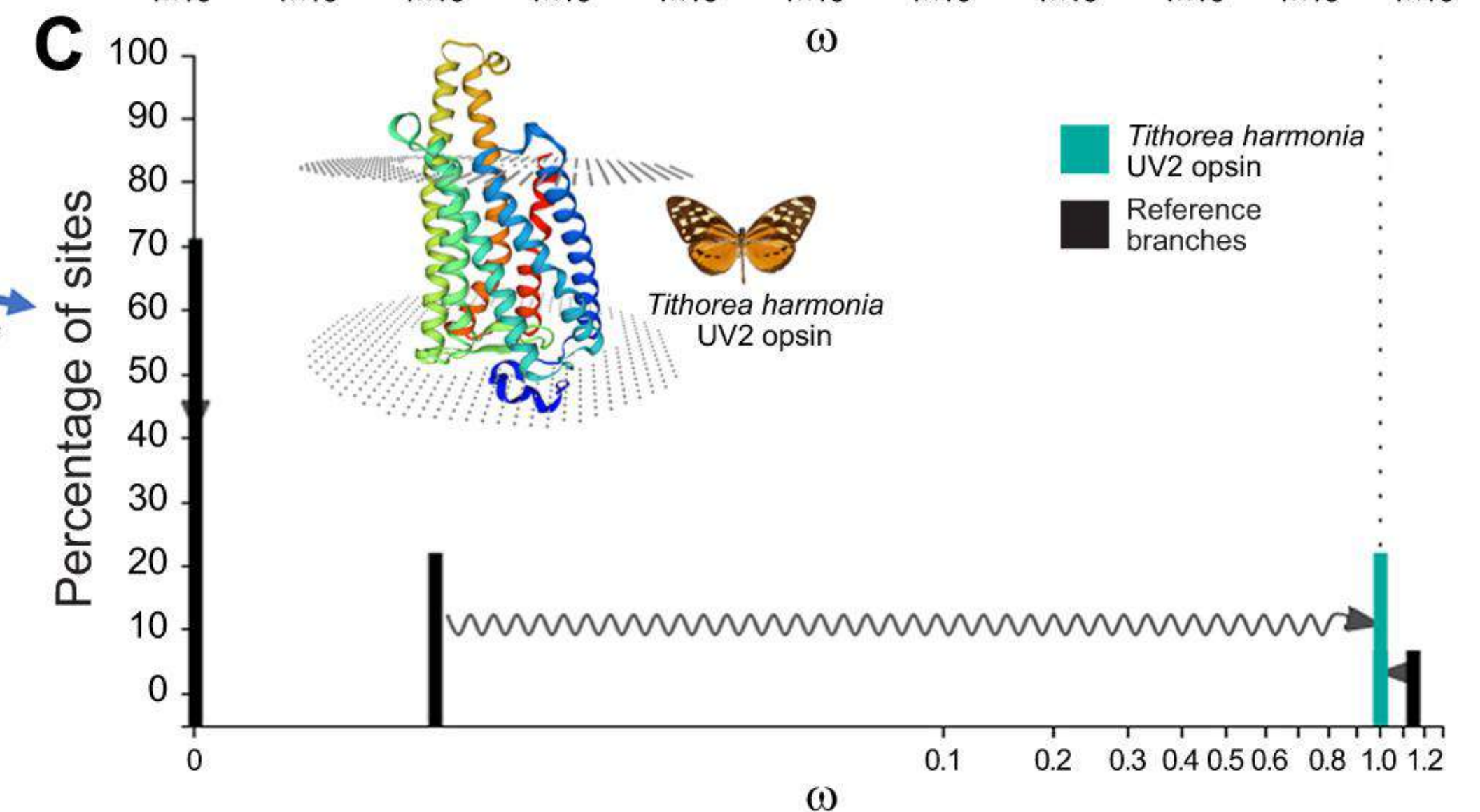
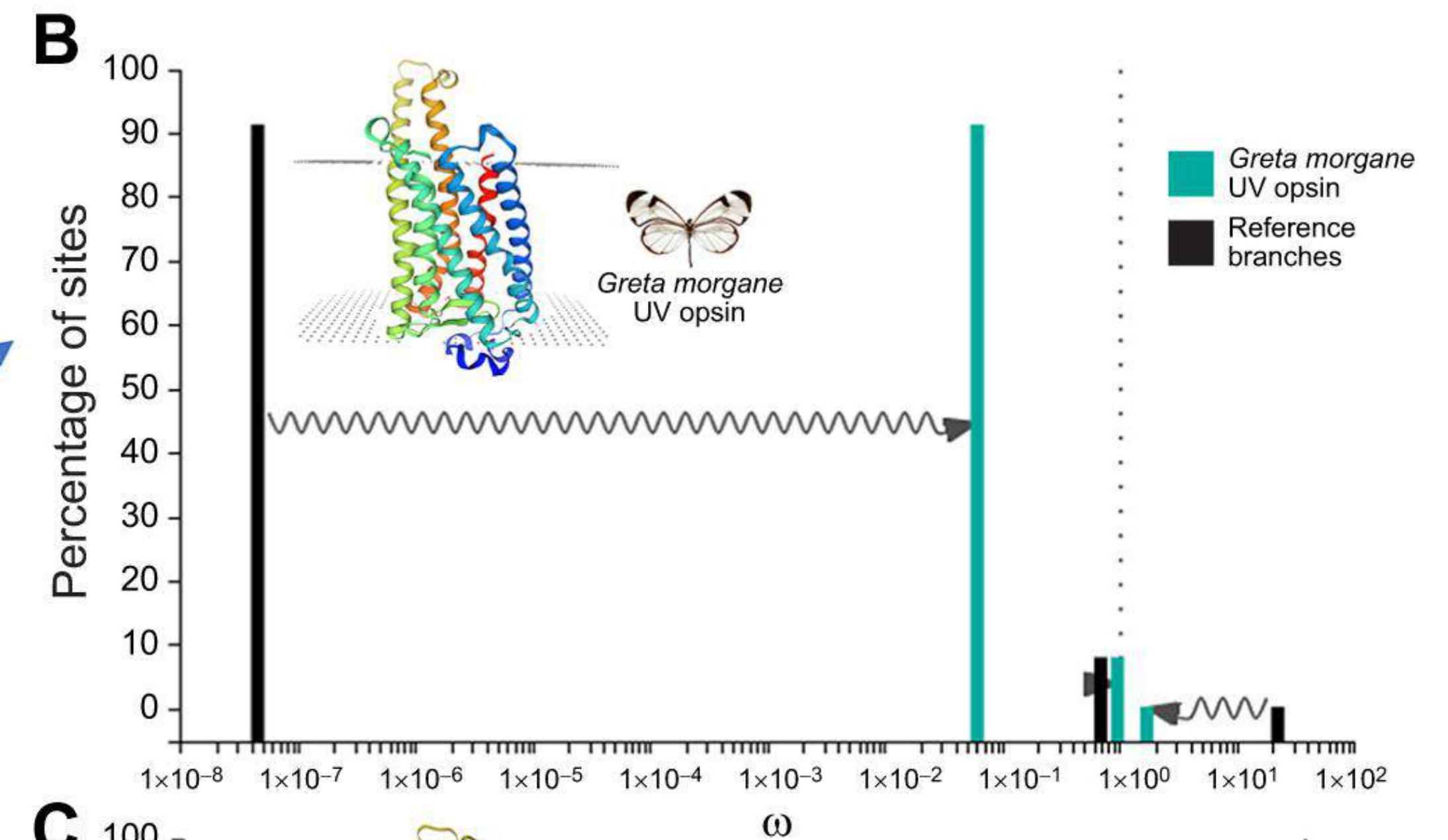
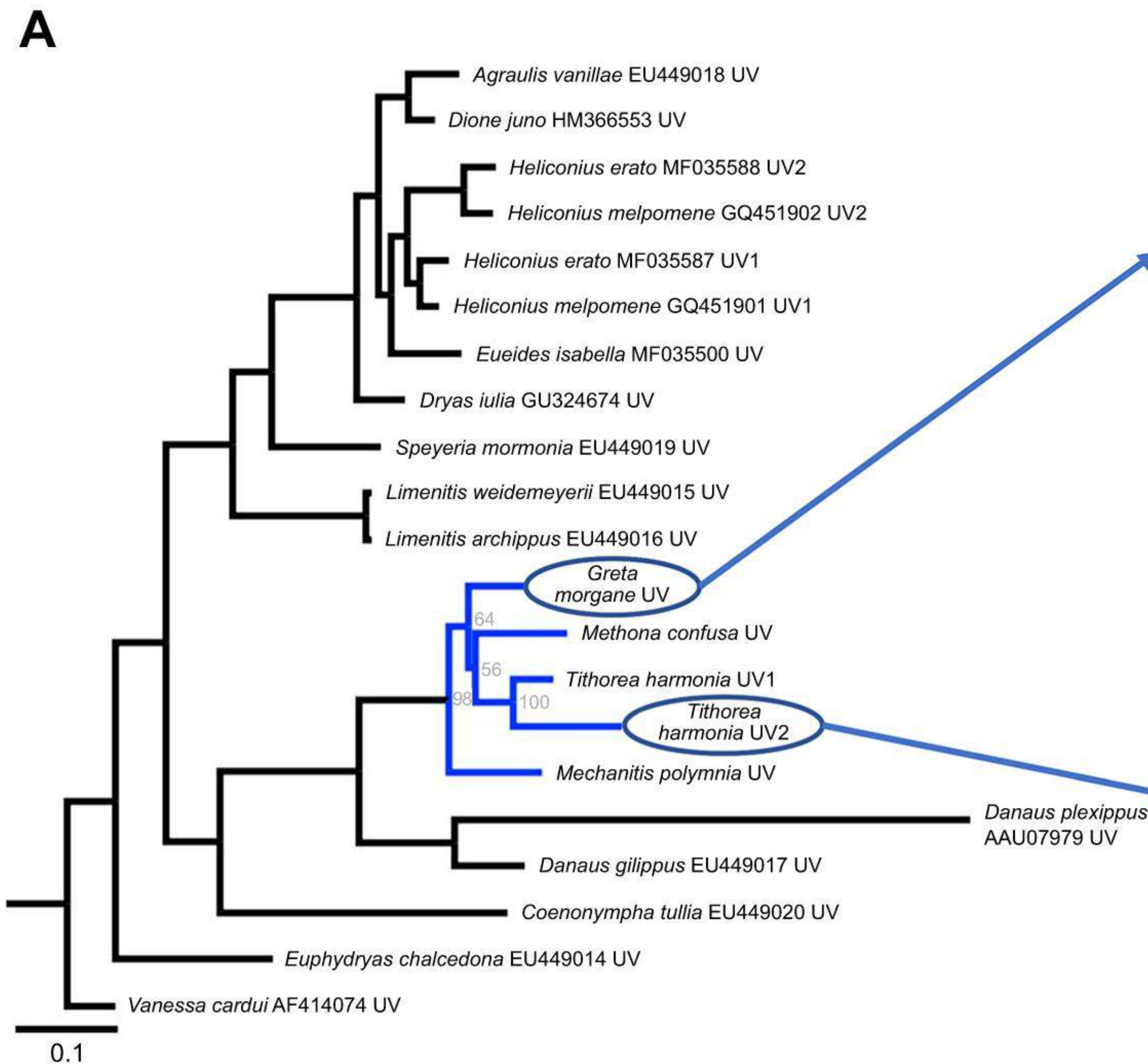


» **Loss / Gain of function** »

» Loss of function »



» Loss of function »

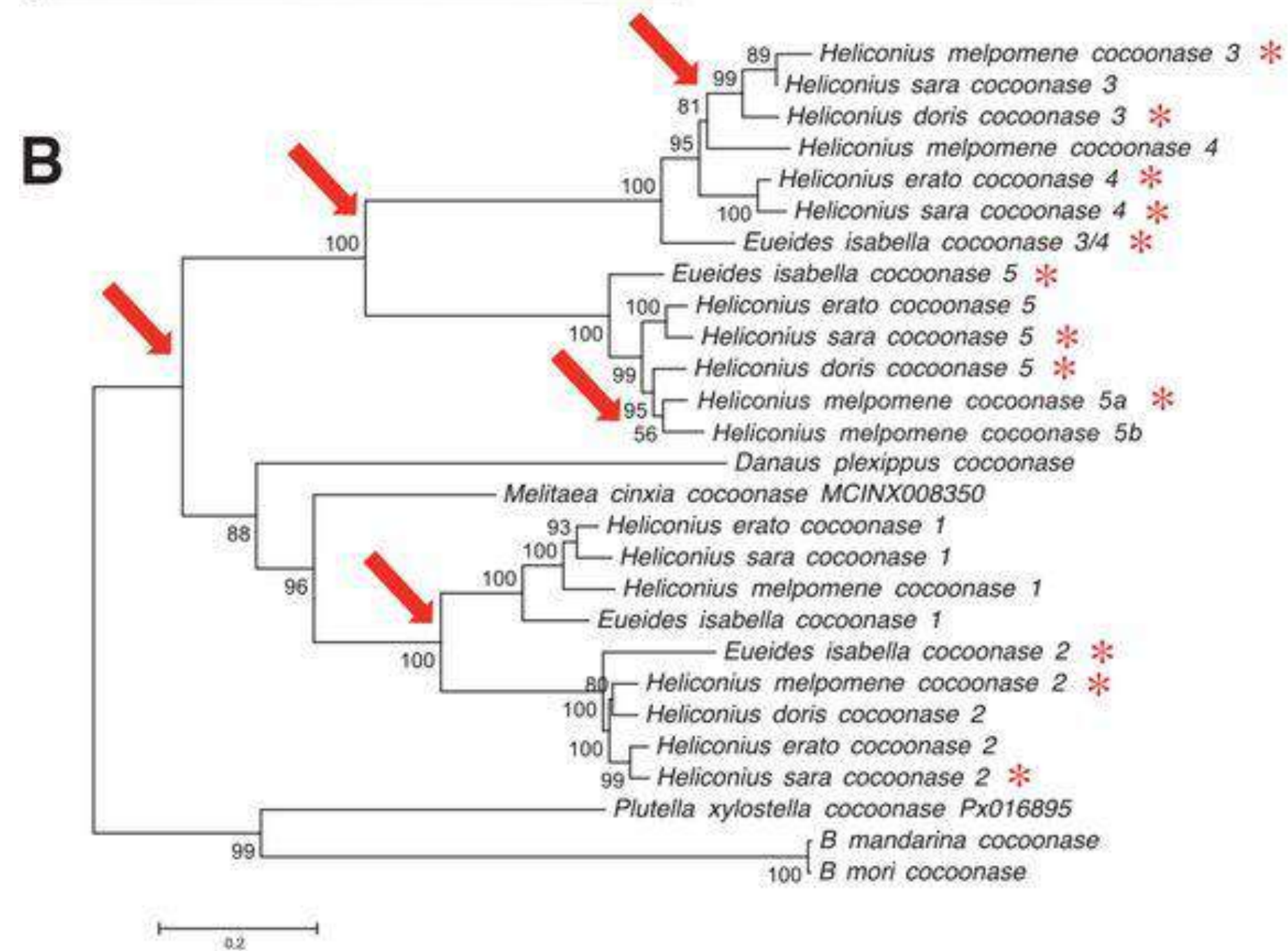
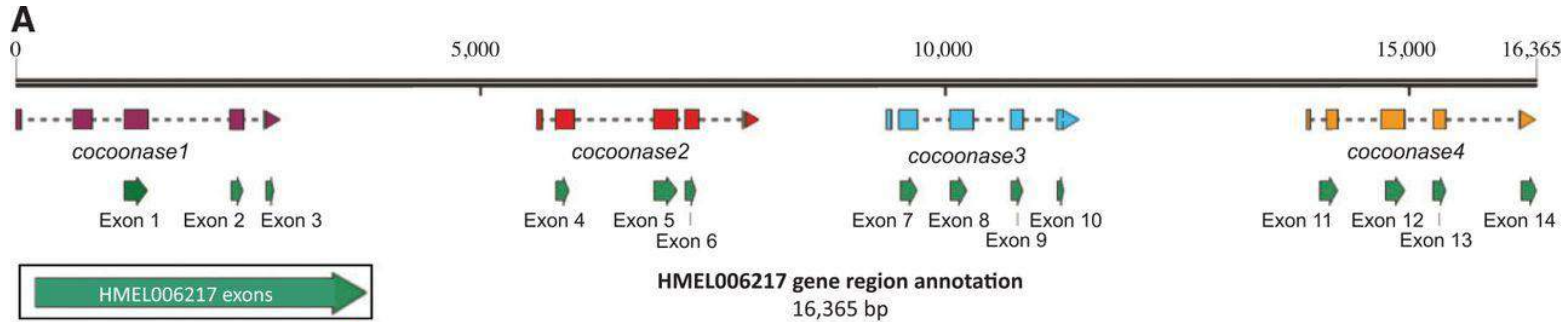


» *(Putative)* Gain of function »

Cocoonase: a protease secreted during the emergence of silk moths



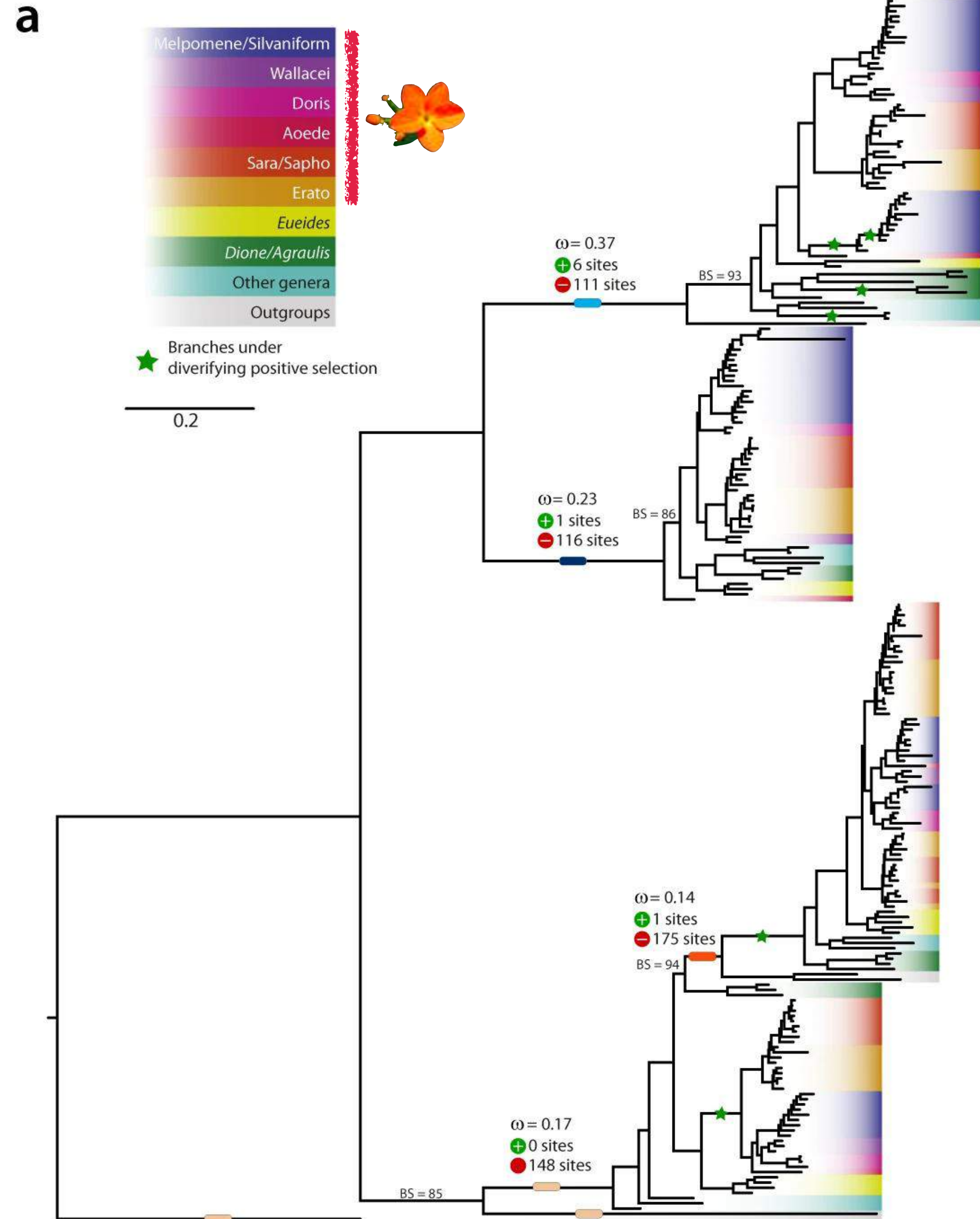
» (Putative) Gain of function »



C

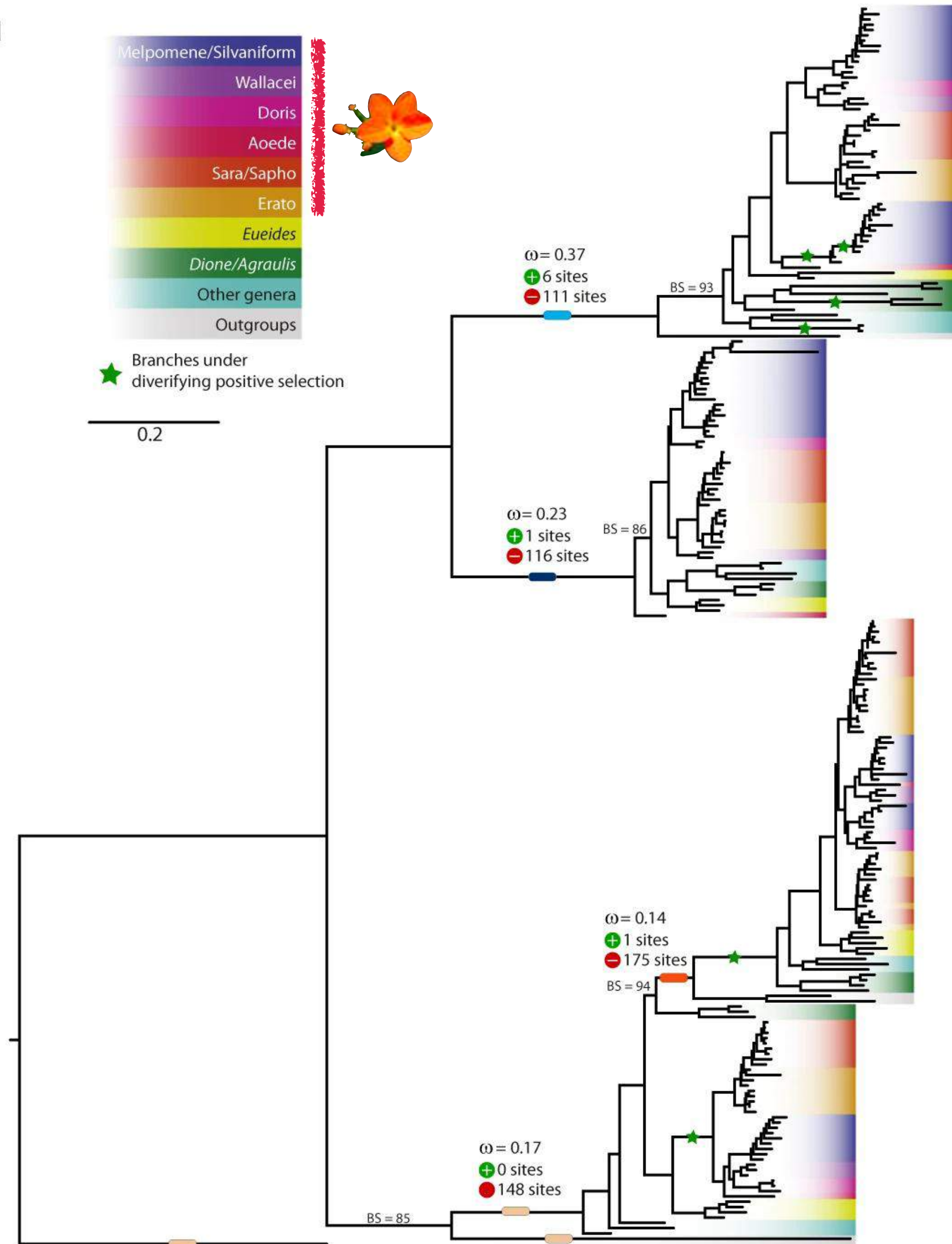
Gene name	Length (aa)
<i>cocoonase</i> (Coc; <i>B. mori</i>)	260
<i>cocoonase 1</i> (Coc1; <i>H. melpomene</i>)	262
<i>cocoonase 2</i> (Coc2; <i>H. melpomene</i>)	262
<i>cocoonase 3</i> (Coc3; <i>H. melpomene</i>)	264
<i>cocoonase 4</i> (Coc4; <i>H. melpomene</i>)	263
<i>cocoonase 5</i> (Coc5a; <i>H. melpomene</i>)	259

» (Putative) Gain of function »

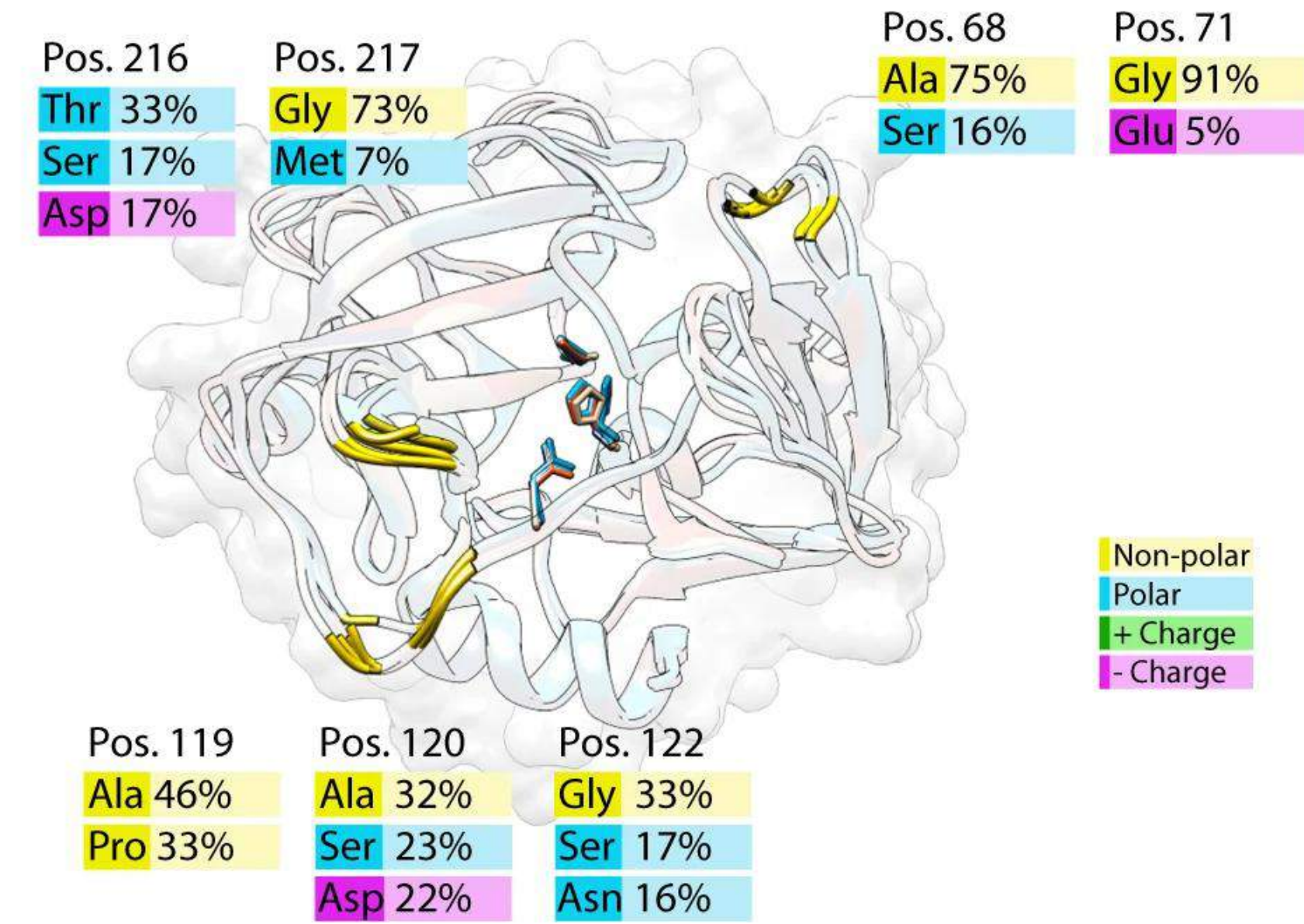
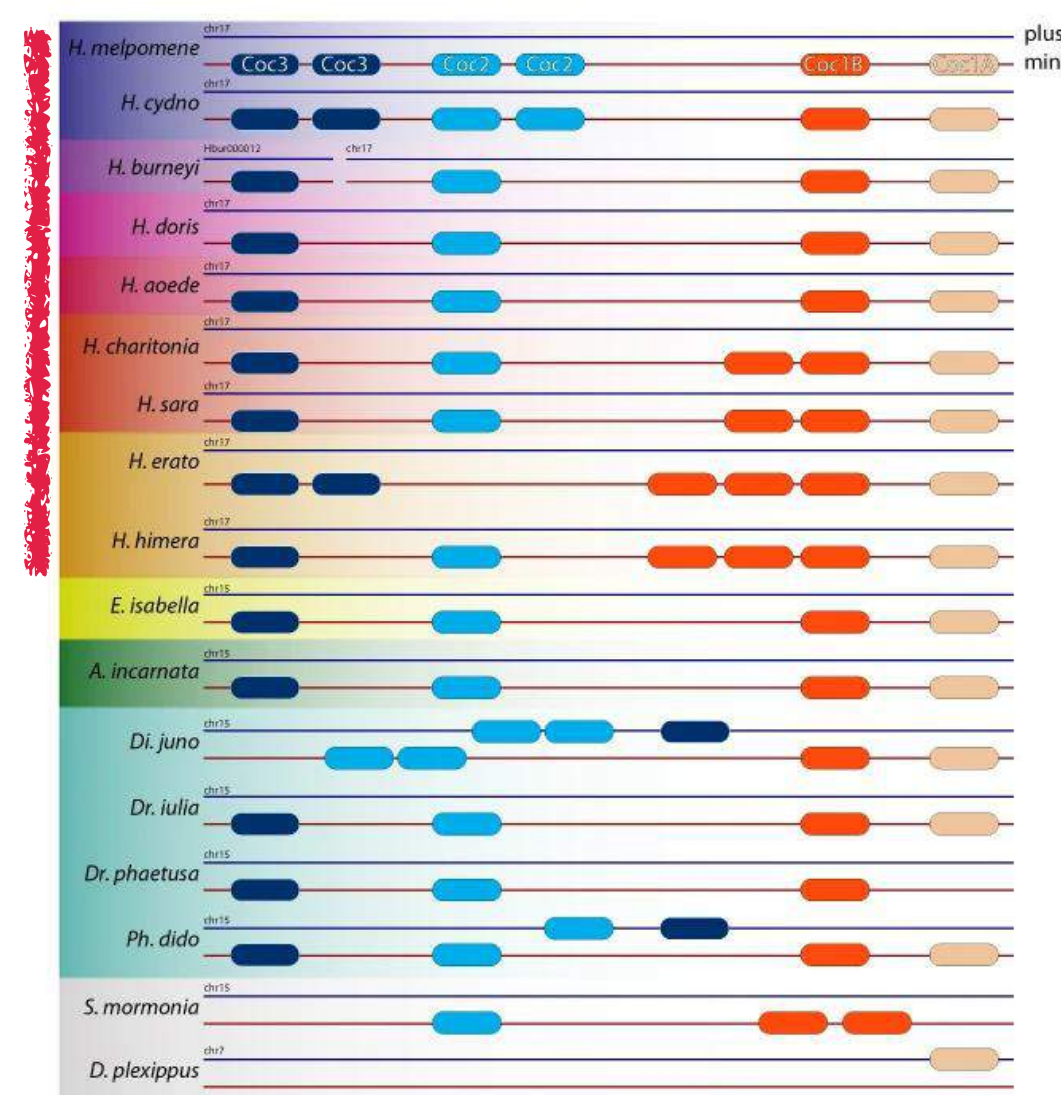


» (Putative) Gain of function »

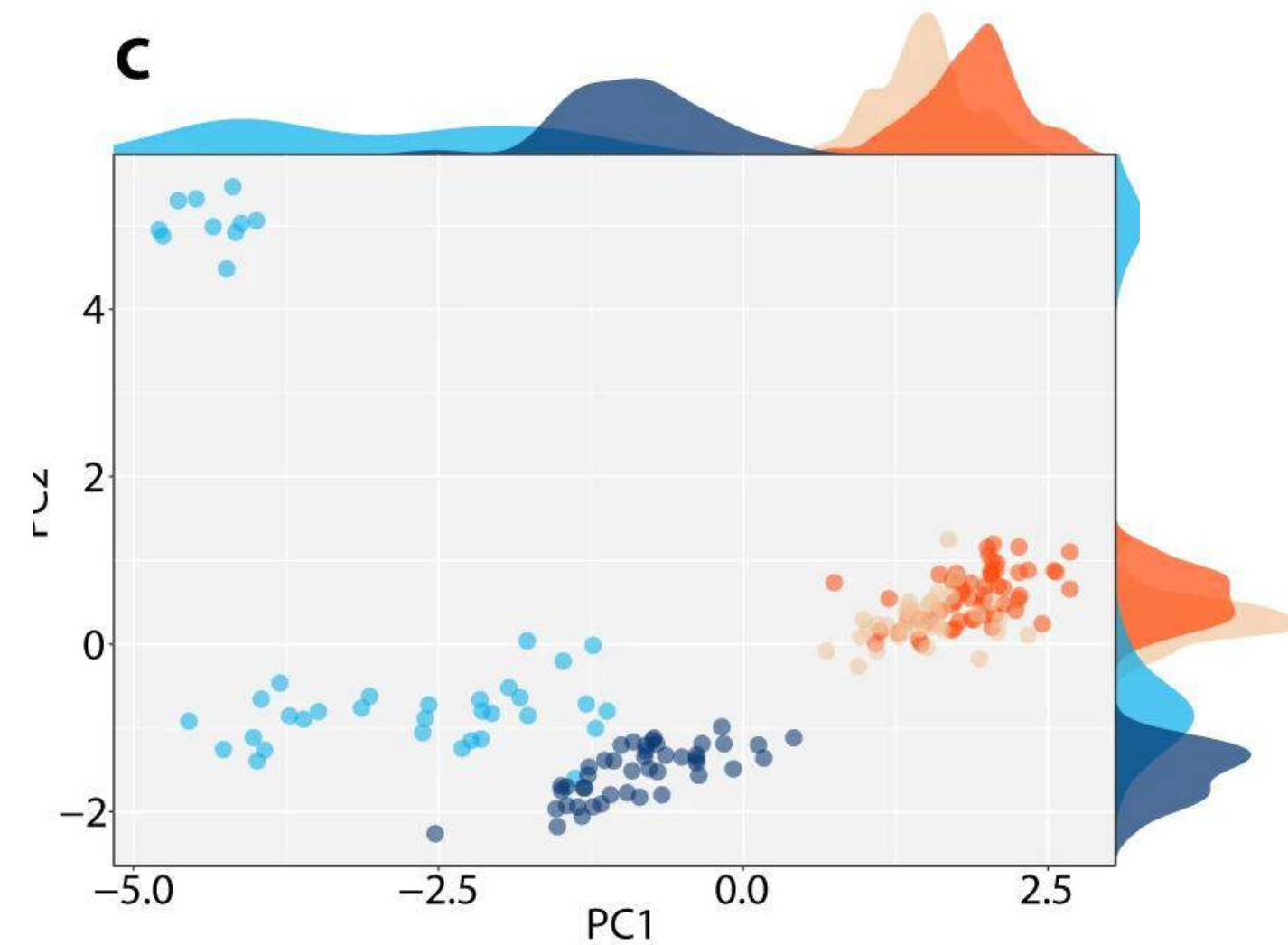
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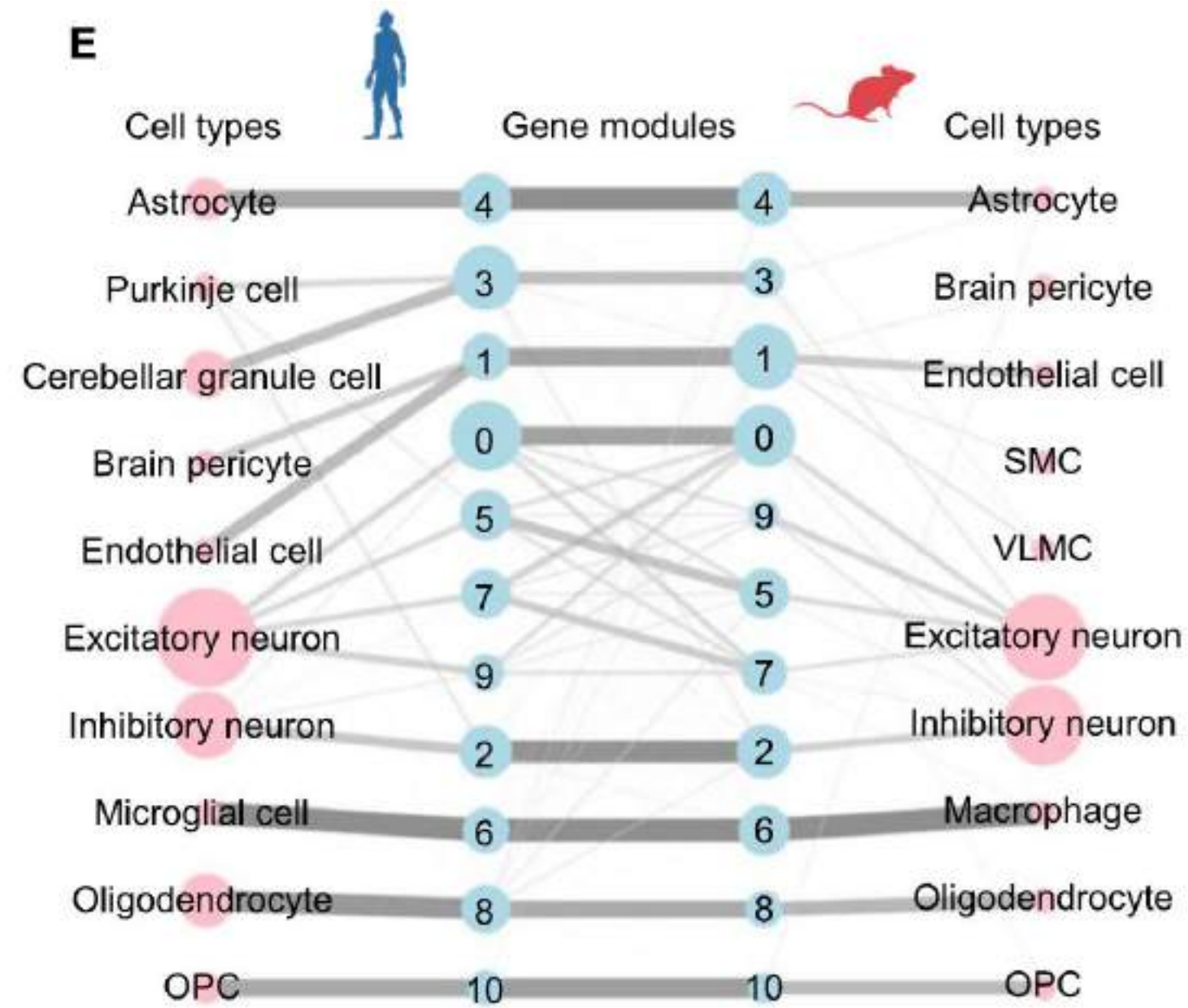
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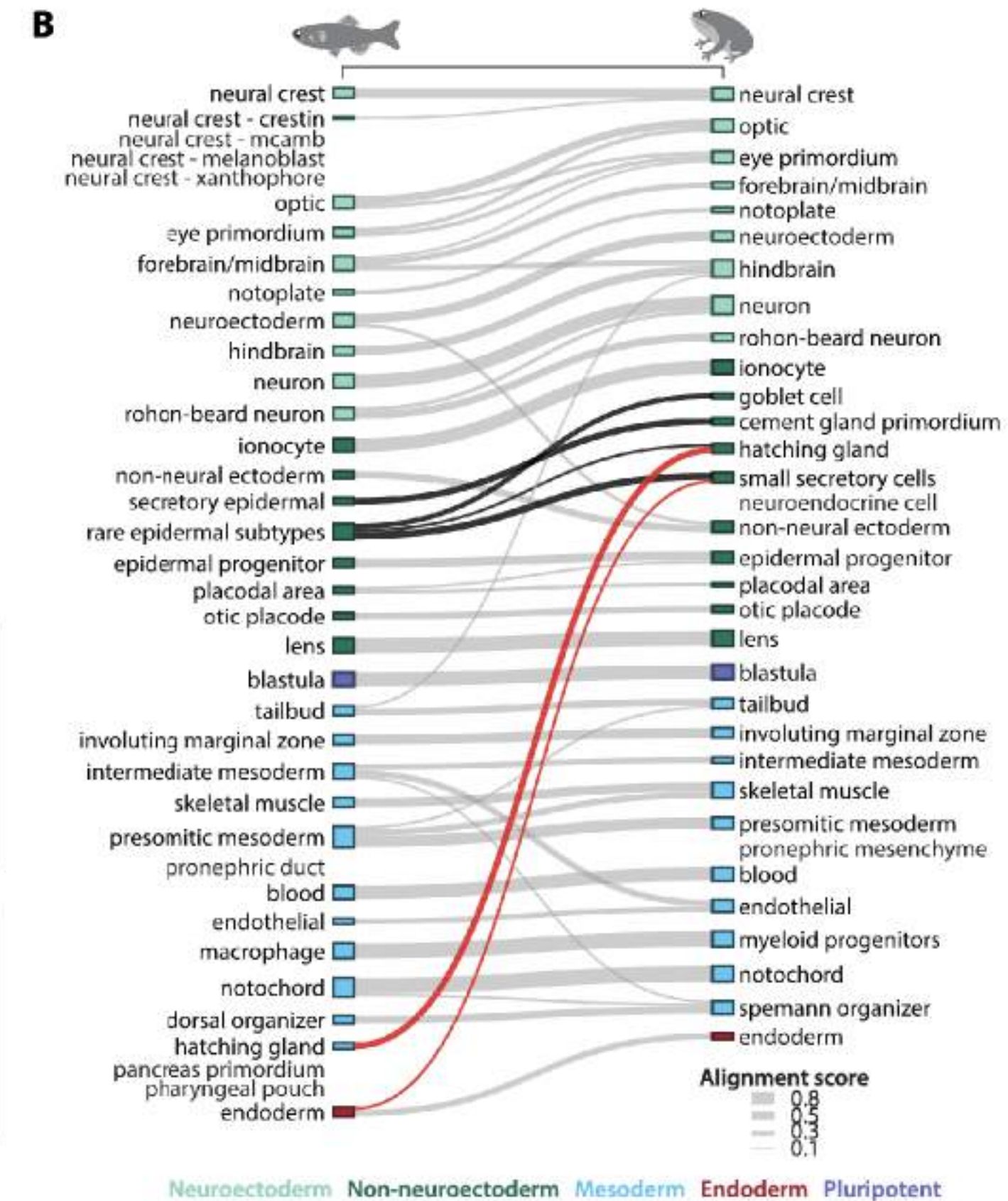
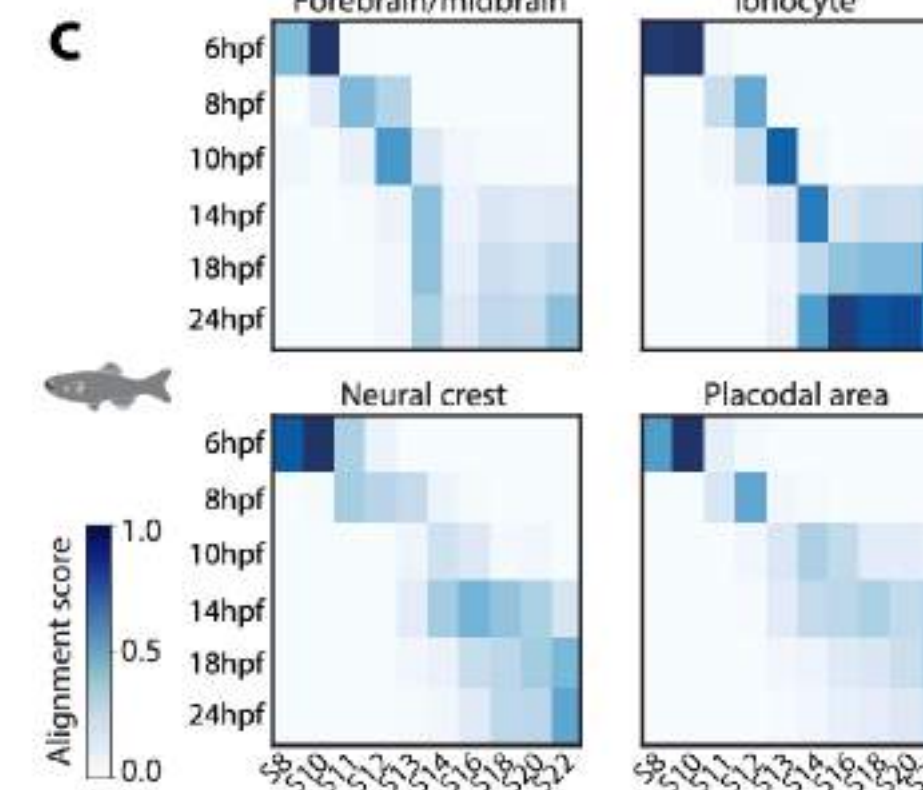
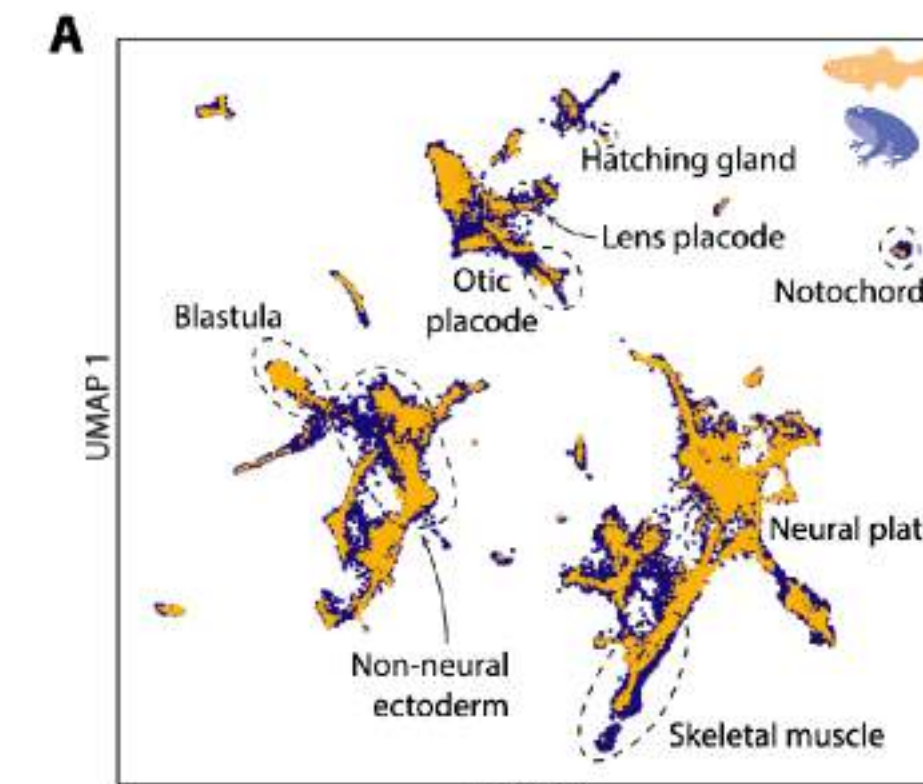
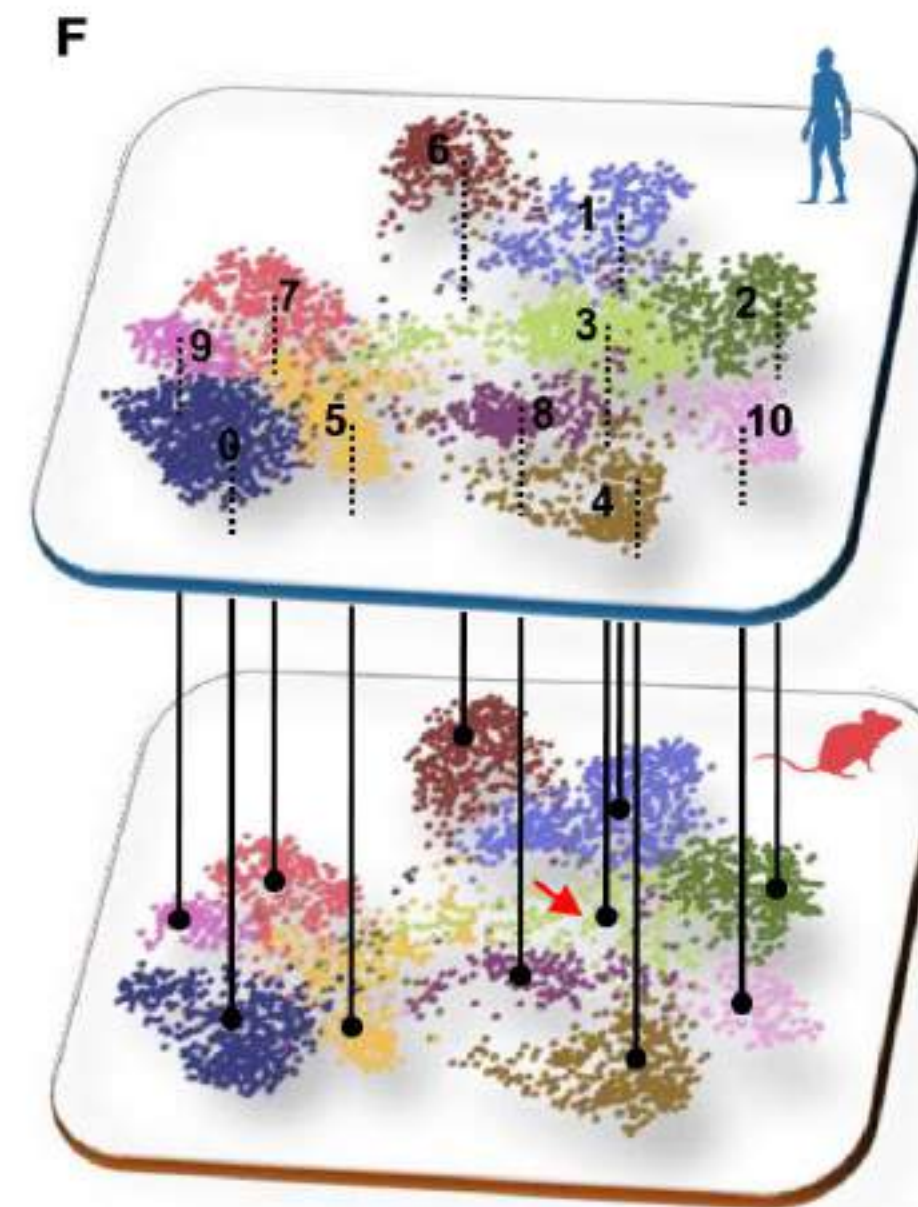
c



» Single cell RNA data integration »



<https://genome.cshlp.org/content/33/1/96>



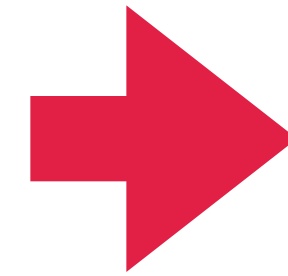
<https://elifesciences.org/articles/66747>

» **Questions ?** »

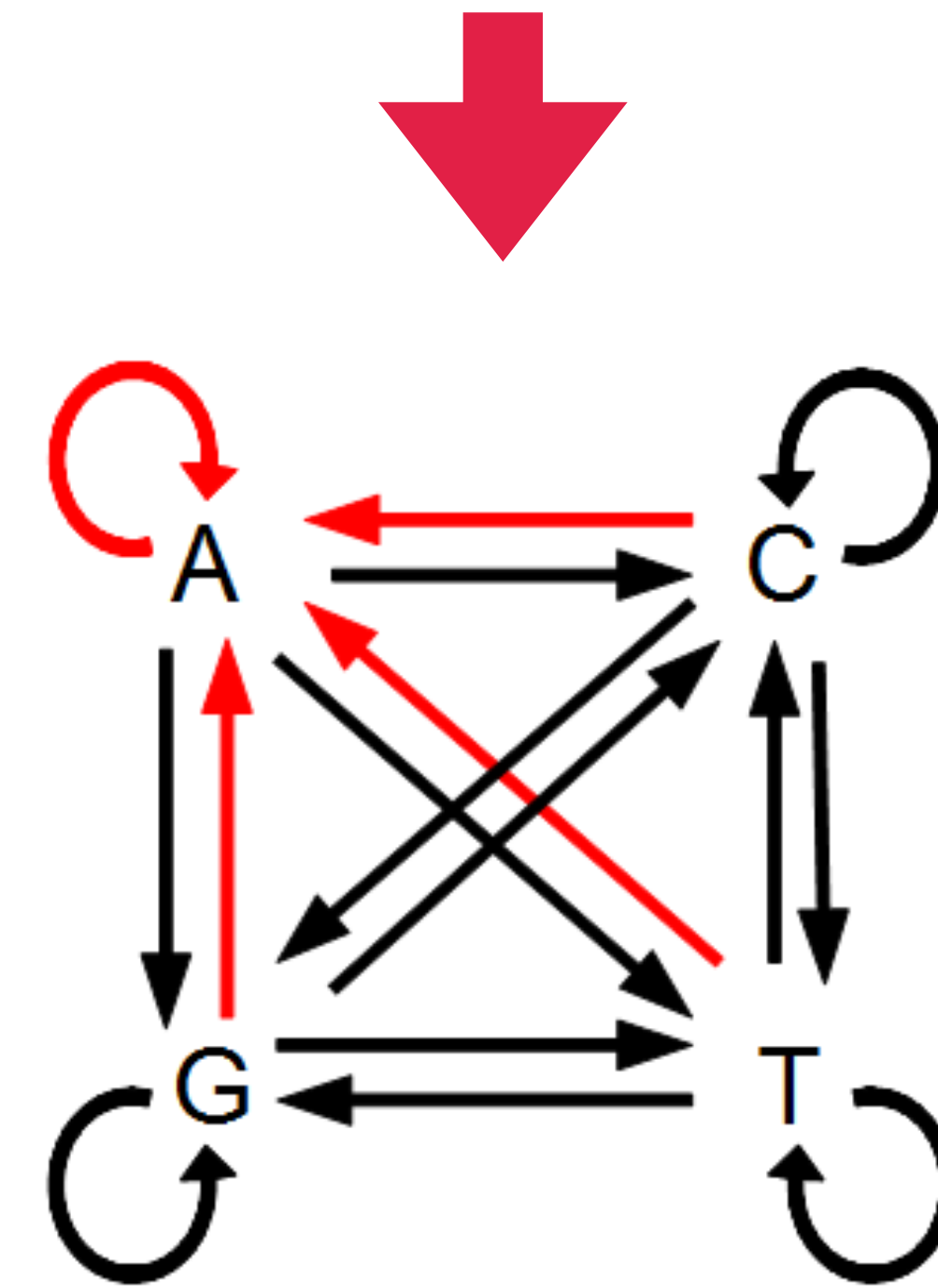
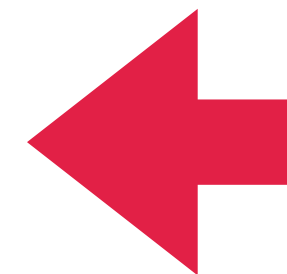
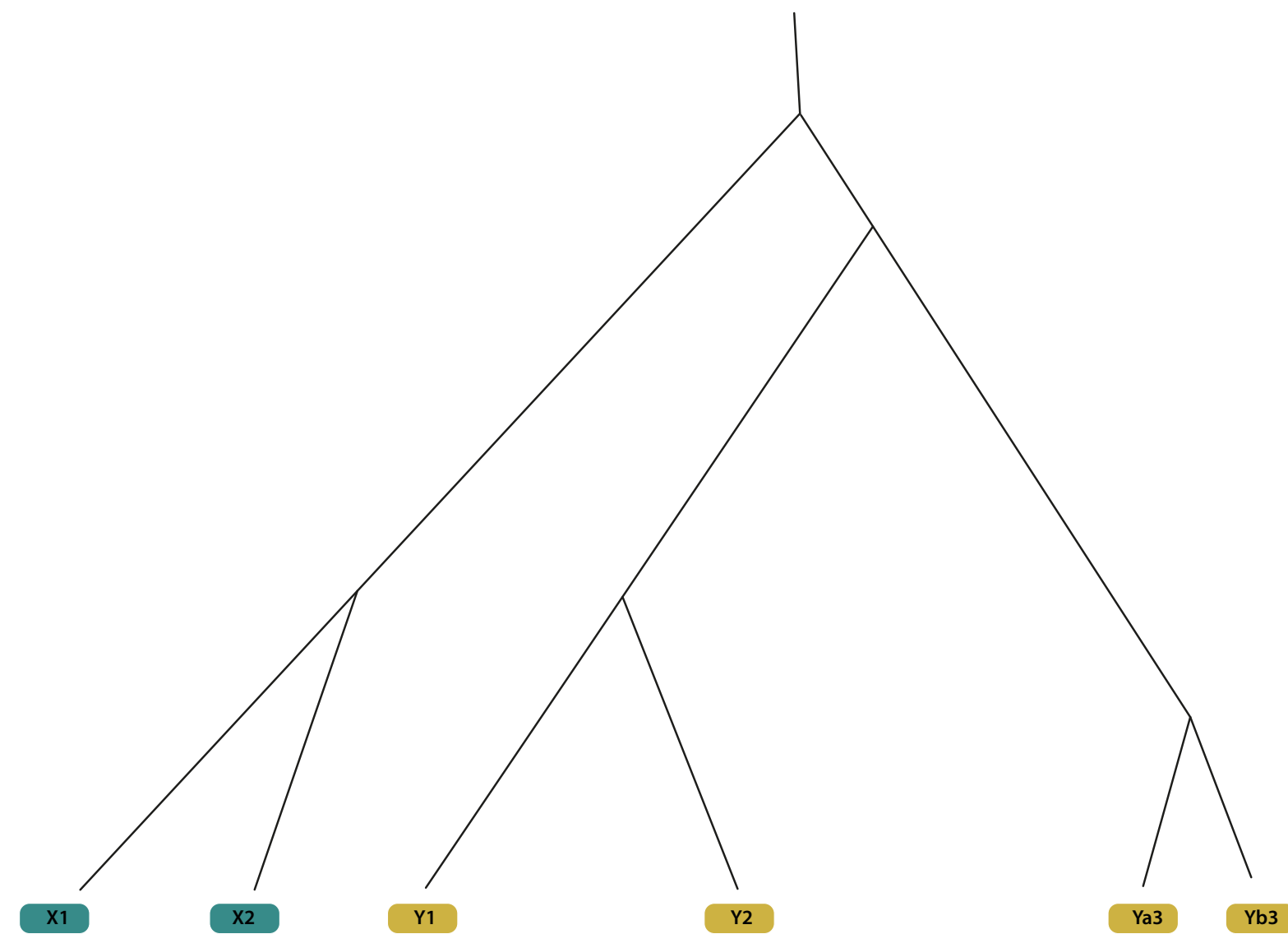
» **Methods** »

» Phylogeny on Homologous loci (Tree-based) »

X1 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCTAGATAGTGGCTAATACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Y1 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCATAGTGGCTAATACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
X2 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCTAGATAGTGGCTAATACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Y2 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCATAGTGGCTAGTACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Ya3 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCTAGATAGTGGCTAATACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Yb3 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCATAGTGGCTAATACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA



X1 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCTAGATAGTGGCTAA---TACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Y1 ATGCTTAGGTCAGC---ATAGTGGCTAA---TACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
X2 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCTAGATAGTGGCTAA---TACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Y2 ATGCTTAGGTCAGC---ATAGTGGCTAG---TACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Ya3 ATGCTTAGGTCAGCTAGATAGTGGCTAA---TACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA
Yb3 ATGCTTAGGTCAGC---ATAGTGGCTAA---TACCTAGCAGTTGAGTAA



Substitution model

» Homology based-methods »

BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool) is a widely used algorithm for comparing biological sequences.

Basic Local Alignment Search Tool

BLAST finds regions of similarity between biological sequences. The program compares nucleotide or protein sequences to sequence databases and calculates the statistical significance. [Learn more](#)

NEWS

A new feature was added to Primer-BLAST. We now offer the ability for user to run primer-blast from NCBI assembly page..

Tue, 23 Feb 2021 12:00:00 EST [More BLAST news...](#)

Web BLAST

Nucleotide BLAST
nucleotide ► nucleotide

blastx
translated nucleotide ► protein

tblastn
protein ► translated nucleotide

Protein BLAST
protein ► protein

» Homology based-methods »

BLAST identifies regions of *local similarity* between sequences by breaking the query and database sequences into smaller segments (called words) and then aligning these segments.

It does not identify ORTHOLOGY *per se*!!!

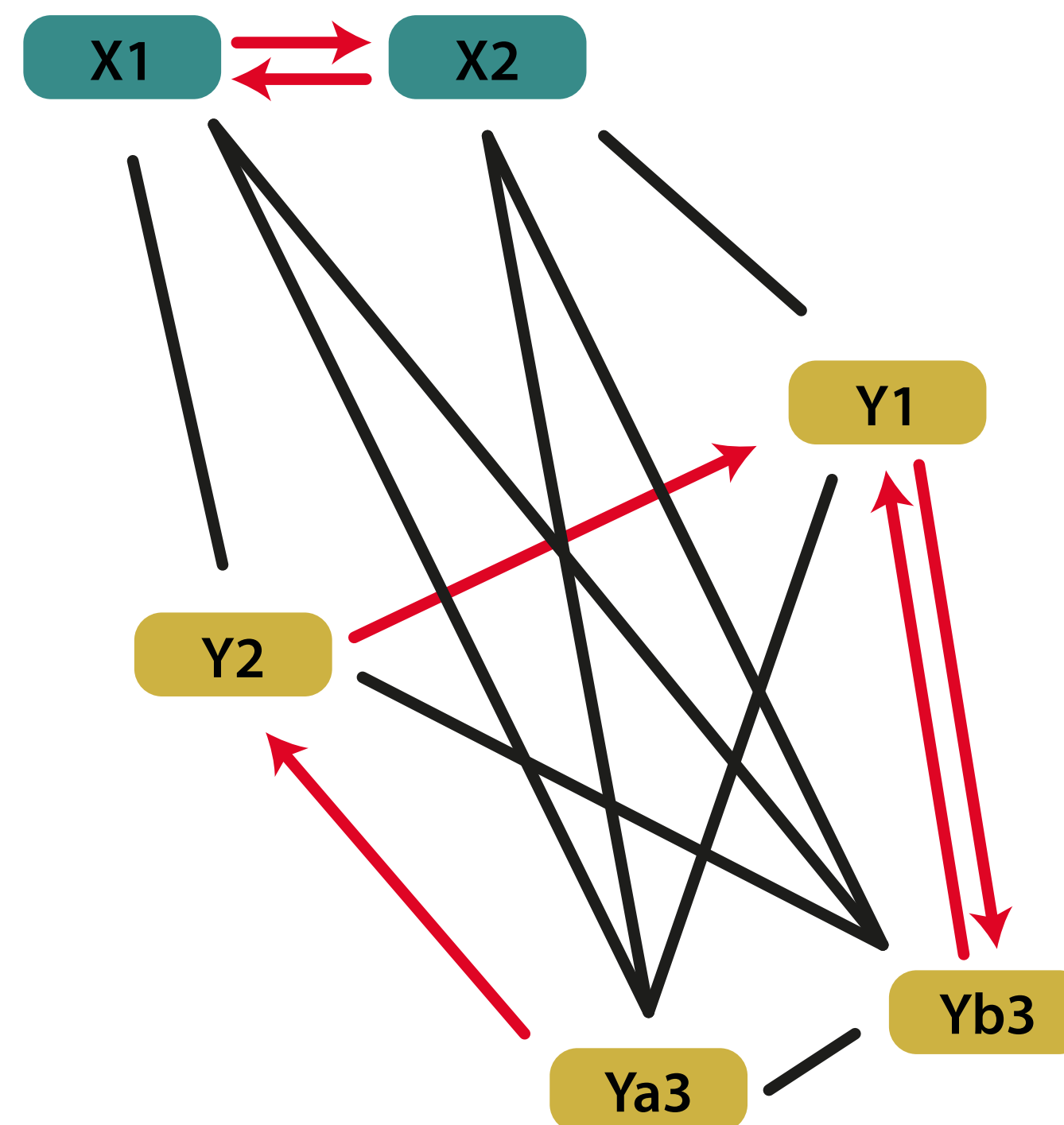
It is a **sequence similarity search tool**, and while it can help identify genes with similar sequences, it does not directly determine **orthology**



» Homology based-methods »

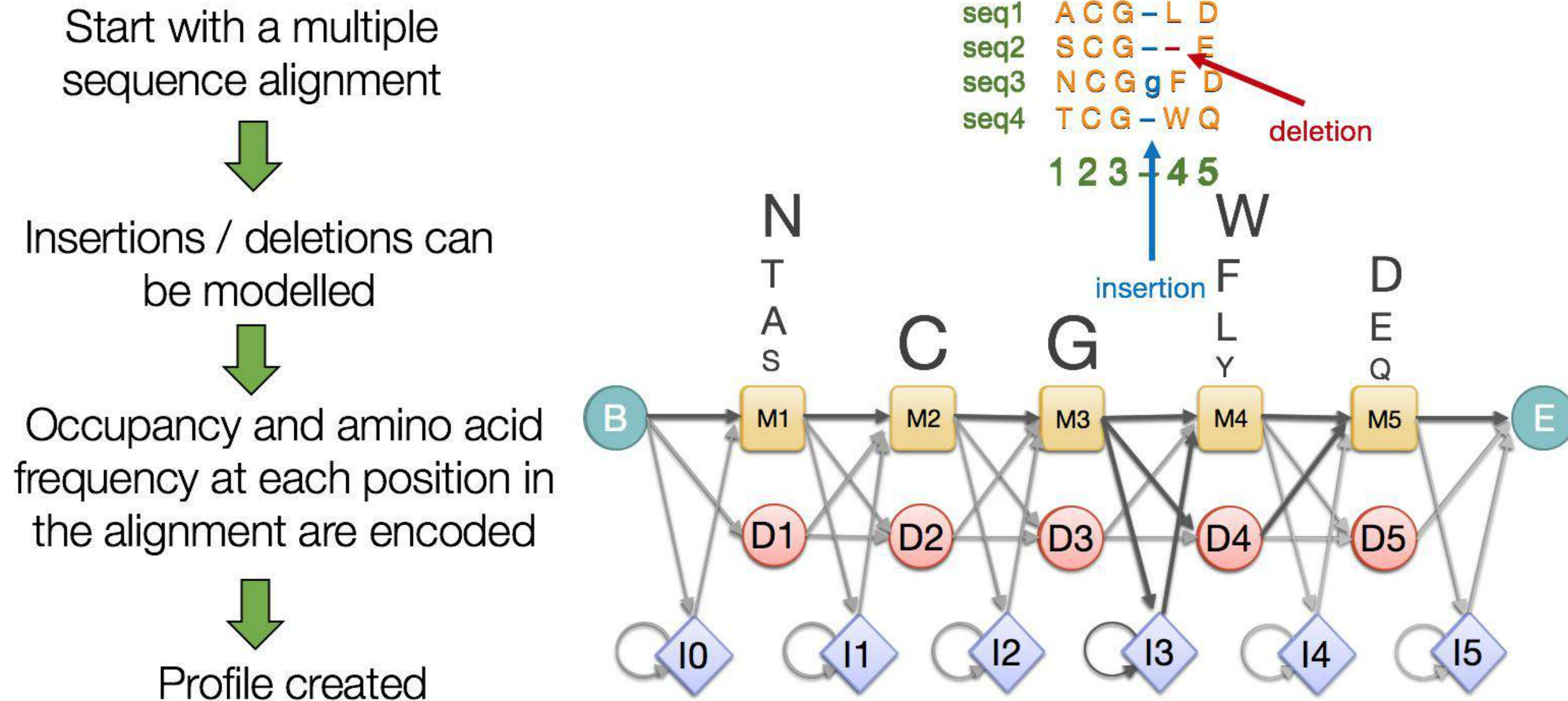
You can implement a **reciprocal Best Hits (RBH)** to identify two genes which are each other's best hits across species, but this is an approximation and not proof.

It can fail in cases like gene duplication, loss, or incomplete genomes.



» Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) »

It's a *probabilistic model* used to describe sequences (DNA, RNA, or proteins) based on their underlying statistical properties.



» Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) »

NCBI

HOME SEARCH GUIDE NewSearch Structure Home 3D Macromolecular Structures Conserved Domains Pubchem BioSystems

Conserved domains on [lcl|seqsig_MMSLI_a8758a59b876fb7a7f8919e9245a7018] View Full Results

Local query sequence

Graphical summary Zoom to residue level show extra options »

Query seq. Non-specific hits Superfamilies

7tm_6
7tm_6 superfamily

Search for similar domain architectures Refine search

List of domain hits

Name	Accession	Description	Interval	E-value
7tm_6	pfam02949	7tm Odorant receptor; This family is composed of 7 transmembrane receptors, that are probably drosophila odorant receptors.	71-393	3.46e-30

Pssm-ID: 251636 Cd Length: 313 Bit Score: 116.62 E-value: 3.46e-30

```

      10      20      30      40      50      60      70      80
lcl|seqsig_MMSLI_a8758a59b876fb7a7f8919e9245a7018 71 NIVKFLRNLYVLMSTIVAKVSSYMLWQEKWEDI IQYVNGVSIERLKTNDE ISIKINKNLYKYCKIVTYIYIYLTSTA 150
Cdd:pfam02949 1 NLTEALTNLQVLVTSIVCLFKLLILKRKEIVELISLLRELDPRCL EEEEEERIFERL VATASRVRFLFIYIYLAYALF 80

      90     100     110     120     130     140     150     160
lcl|seqsig_MMSLI_a8758a59b876fb7a7f8919e9245a7018 151 LLVFLQPIIYCLRKYSsleddldkyiPITNTWVPFDKNDLTV-YVPSLIYQTYATLYSVLYIVAFDSNAVSTMVFFRGE 229
Cdd:pfam02949 81 CISALVSMVLSLERGLP-----LPYYLPFPDWEASRPpYYIAYIQVLGMTVTLQNIQSLSLFCFLLFLVLH 150

      170     180     190     200     210     220     230     240
lcl|seqsig_MMSLI_a8758a59b876fb7a7f8919e9245a7018 230 LE-LIRRDSQLFGANTLWEEETARmnLIKQKRHQDLVKYVKLFDSCSPIMLYVIVCSVMLCATAYQLTVETNAMQK 308
Cdd:pfam02949 151 LRLLQLRLERLGLDPELSEEEYQE--LRECVRDHQRLRLVDELNRIFSVPIILVQFLLSGLVICFLLFNLLFFSGPLQG 228

      250     260     270     280     290     300     310     320
lcl|seqsig_MMSLI_a8758a59b876fb7a7f8919e9245a7018 309 FITAEYLIFGVSQLFMFCWHSNEVLVYVKD LTLGPYESMwWTRSVSEQKD ISILIDQFNKQIVFSAGPFTSITVATFISI 388
Cdd:pfam02949 229 IYYVLYLLAMLILQFPYCYGNELTEASEELANAIYSNNWYDASRRYRRTLLIFIMRAQRPIITIKAGGFFPISLPTFISI 308

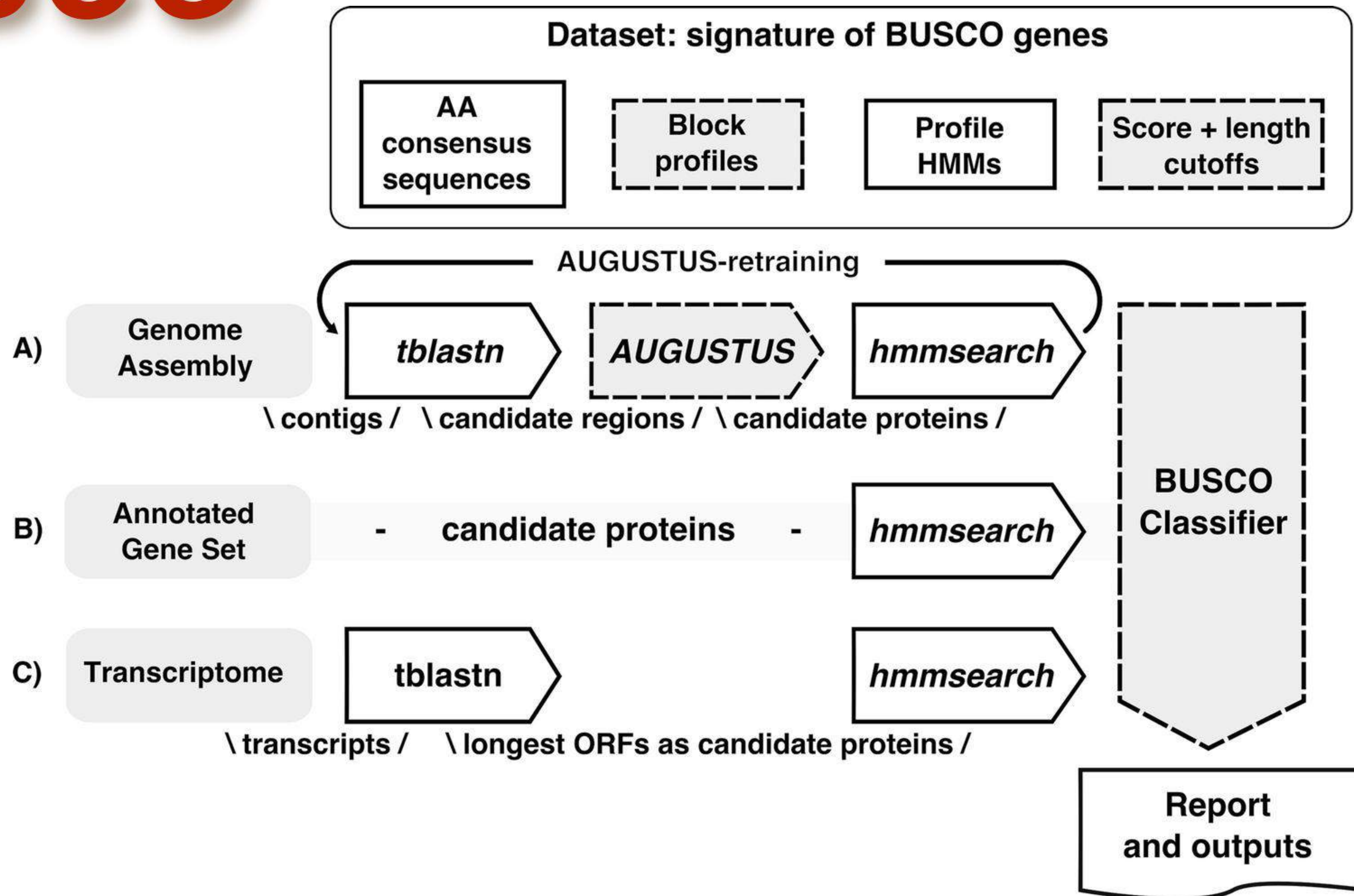
lcl|seqsig_MMSLI_a8758a59b876fb7a7f8919e9245a7018 389 LKGAY 393
Cdd:pfam02949 309 LKFAY 313
  
```

Blast search parameters

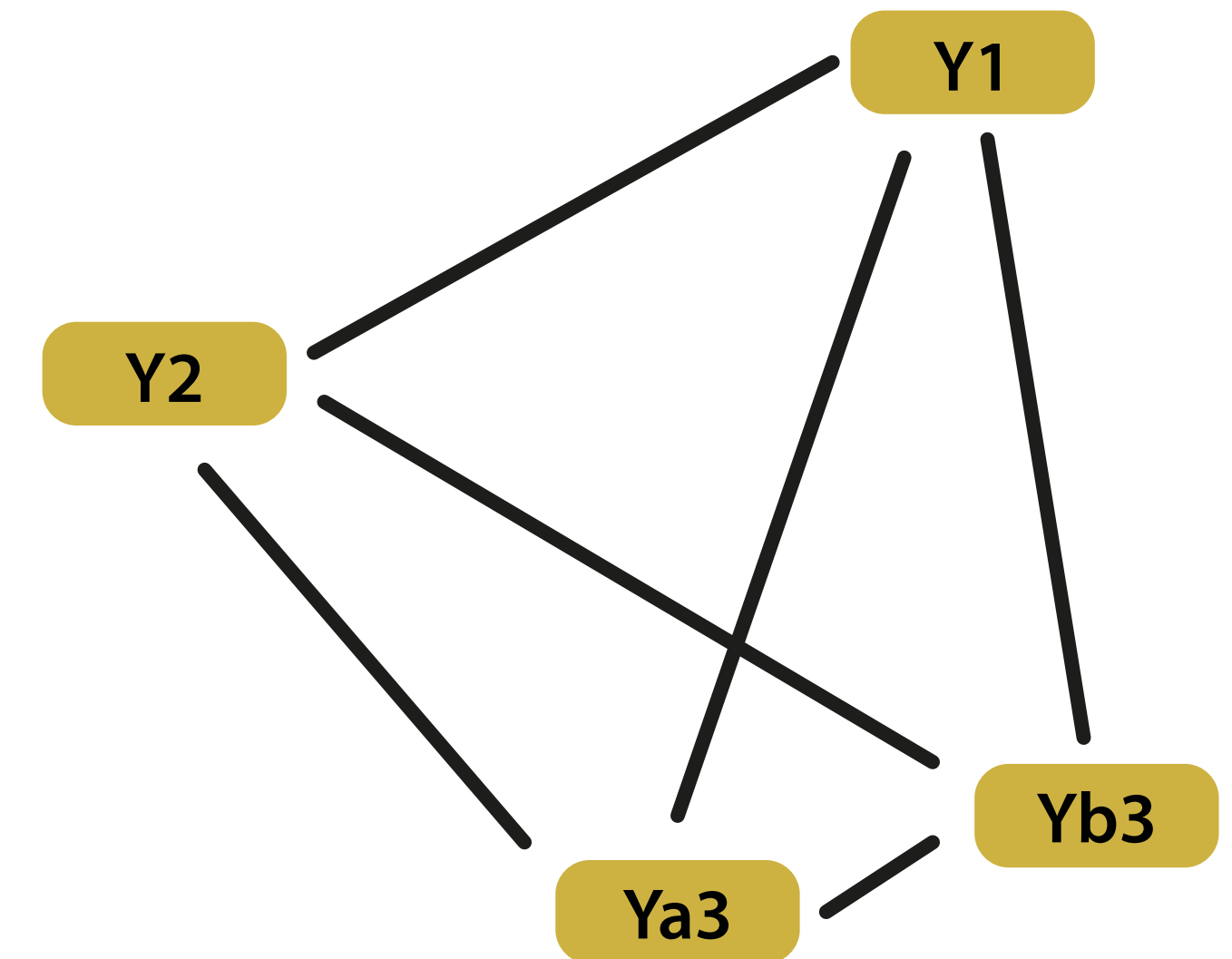
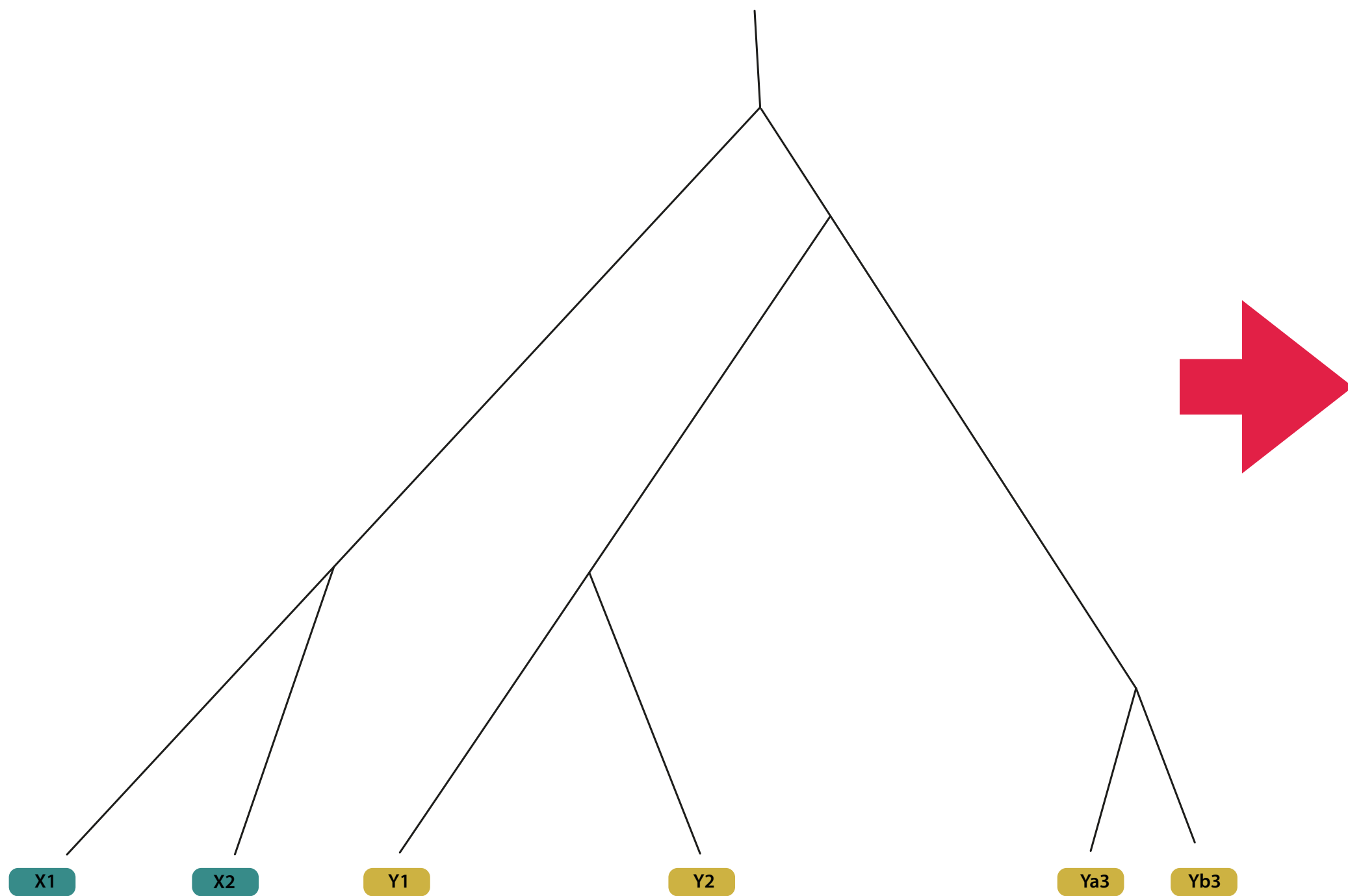
Data Source: Live blast search RID = SCZD6J5N016

User Options: Database: CDSEARCH/oasis_pfam Low complexity filter: no Composition Based Adjustment: yes E-value threshold: 0.01 Maximum number of hits: 500

BUSCO



» Methods | Network based (with some integration of the phylogeny) »



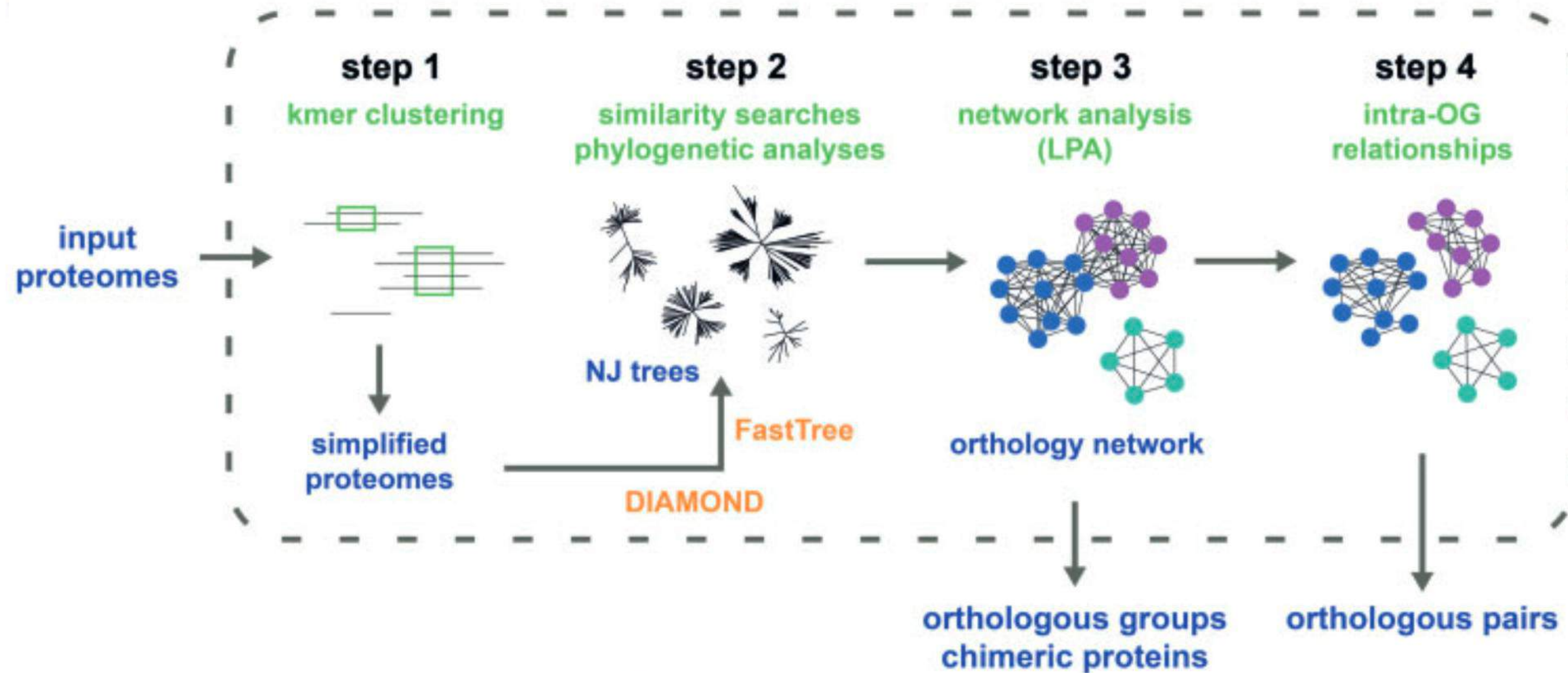
Pairwise generated metric

E-value: the number of alignments you would expect to find by chance in a database of a given size.

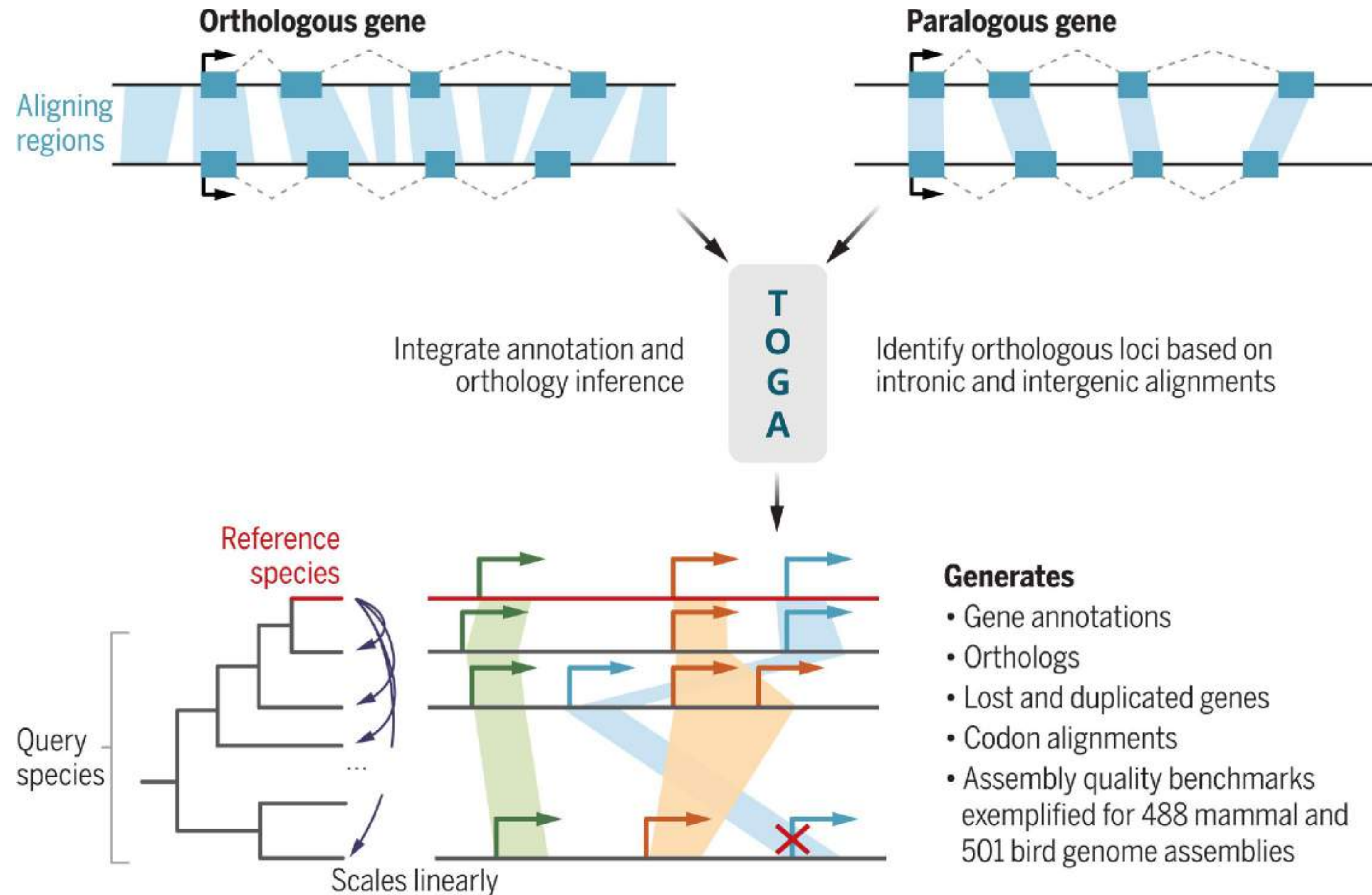
Bitscore: a normalized score that represents the quality of the alignment. It's independent of the database size.

» Methods | Network based (with some integration of the phylogeny) »

<https://academic.oup.com/mbe/article/37/11/3389/5865275>



» Methods | Whole-genome alignment based »



Box 3 | **Genuine and false implications of orthology and paralogy relationships**

- Orthologues form a clade (that is, they are monophyletic) in an accurate phylogenetic tree. This is a necessary corollary of the orthology definition (BOX 1).
- Orthology does not imply a one-to-one relationship between genes from different organisms. Lineage-specific gene duplications often lead to one-to-many and many-to-many co-orthology relationships (BOX 1).
- The molecular clock is not implicit in the definition of orthology: orthologues in different lineages may evolve at different (in principle, arbitrarily different) rates (BOX 1).
- Conservation of sequence, structure or genomic context is not implicit in the definition of orthology.
- Given the above, orthology does not necessarily imply that orthologous genes (even in the absence of lineage-specific duplications) are the most similar sequences or structures in compared genomes.
- The converse is not necessarily true either: genes that are most similar to each other in compared genomes (often denoted bidirectional best hits (BBHs)) might not be orthologous. The BBHs may represent cryptic paralogy after differential loss of ancestral paralogues in compared lineages or xenologues, whereby one of the genes in a BBH pair was acquired by horizontal gene transfer.
- Orthology does not necessarily imply conservation of gene function.
- The converse is not necessarily true either: genes with equivalent functions are not necessarily orthologous.
- All of the above caveats notwithstanding, the generalized orthology conjecture predicts that, as a genome-wide statistical trend, orthologues are the most similar genes in different species, in terms of sequence, structure and function.
- Paralogy applies to genes not only within species (as often assumed) but also between species; in cases of differential gene loss and complex evolutionary scenarios, distinguishing orthology and paralogy may be non-trivial (BOX 1).
- Paralogy does not necessarily imply functional divergence (as is often assumed): for instance, paralogy may contribute to protein dosage modulation.
- Nevertheless, the generalized orthology conjecture implies that, as a general trend, paralogues are more functionally different than orthologues at the same level of sequence divergence.

» **Questions ? / Break ?** »

» Whole Genome alignment »

» Conserved non-coding Elements (CNEs) »

» CNEs enrichment (extra) »

» Whole Genome alignment »

» Conserved non-coding Elements (CNEs) »

» CNEEs enrichment (extra) »

» Whole Genome alignment »



» Whole Genome alignment »

- > **Deeper Species-tree inference**
- > **Comparative gene annotation**
- > **Detection of selection / Conservation**

- **Multi-species map of genomic regions to a corresponding region in each other genome.**
- **Taking into account complex rearrangements and copy number changes.**

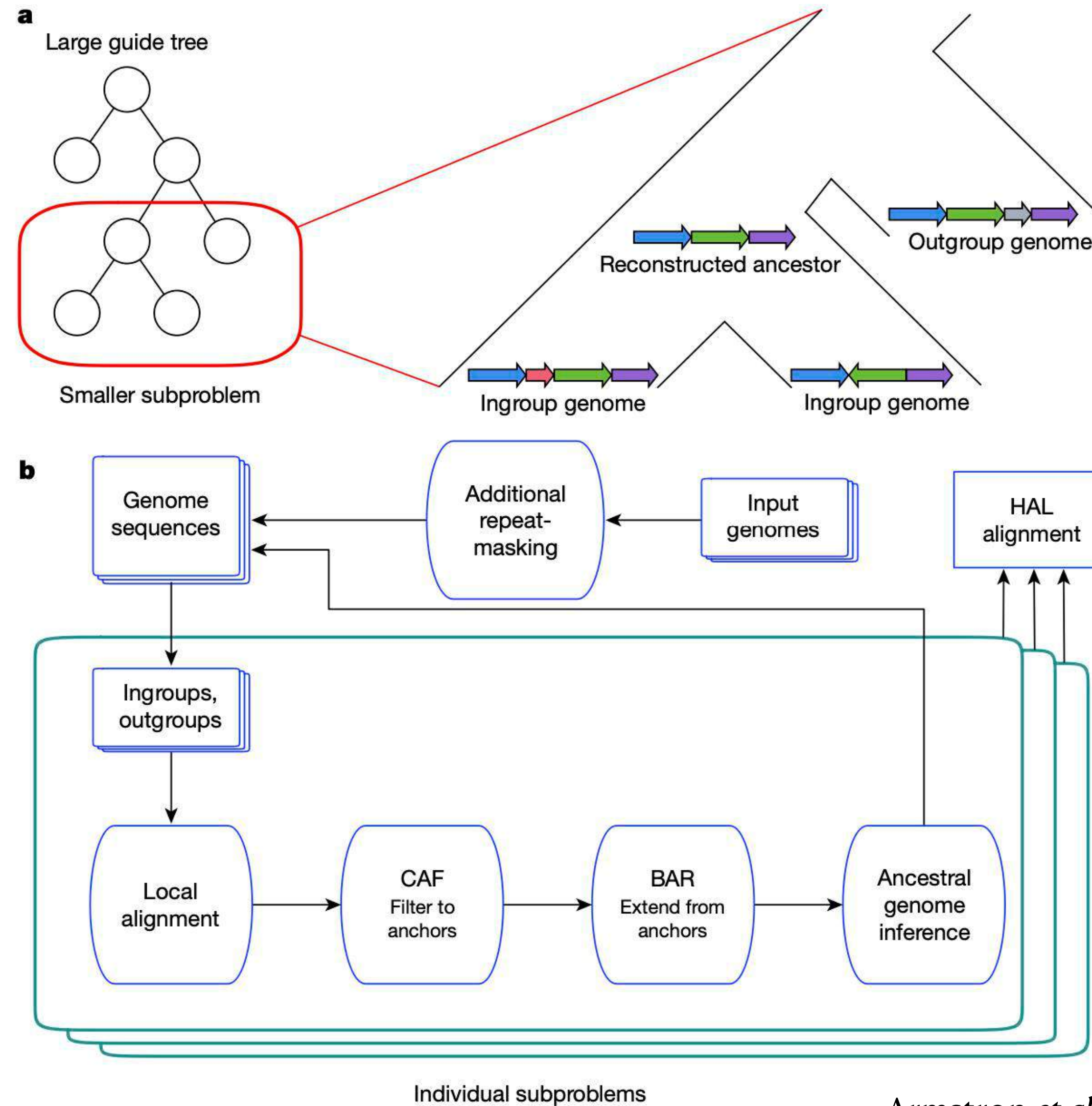
Common limitations are ‘reference bias’:

- Constrains a multiple alignment to only regions present in reference genome.
- Restricting the alignment to be ‘single-copy’, determining miss multiple-orthology relationships.

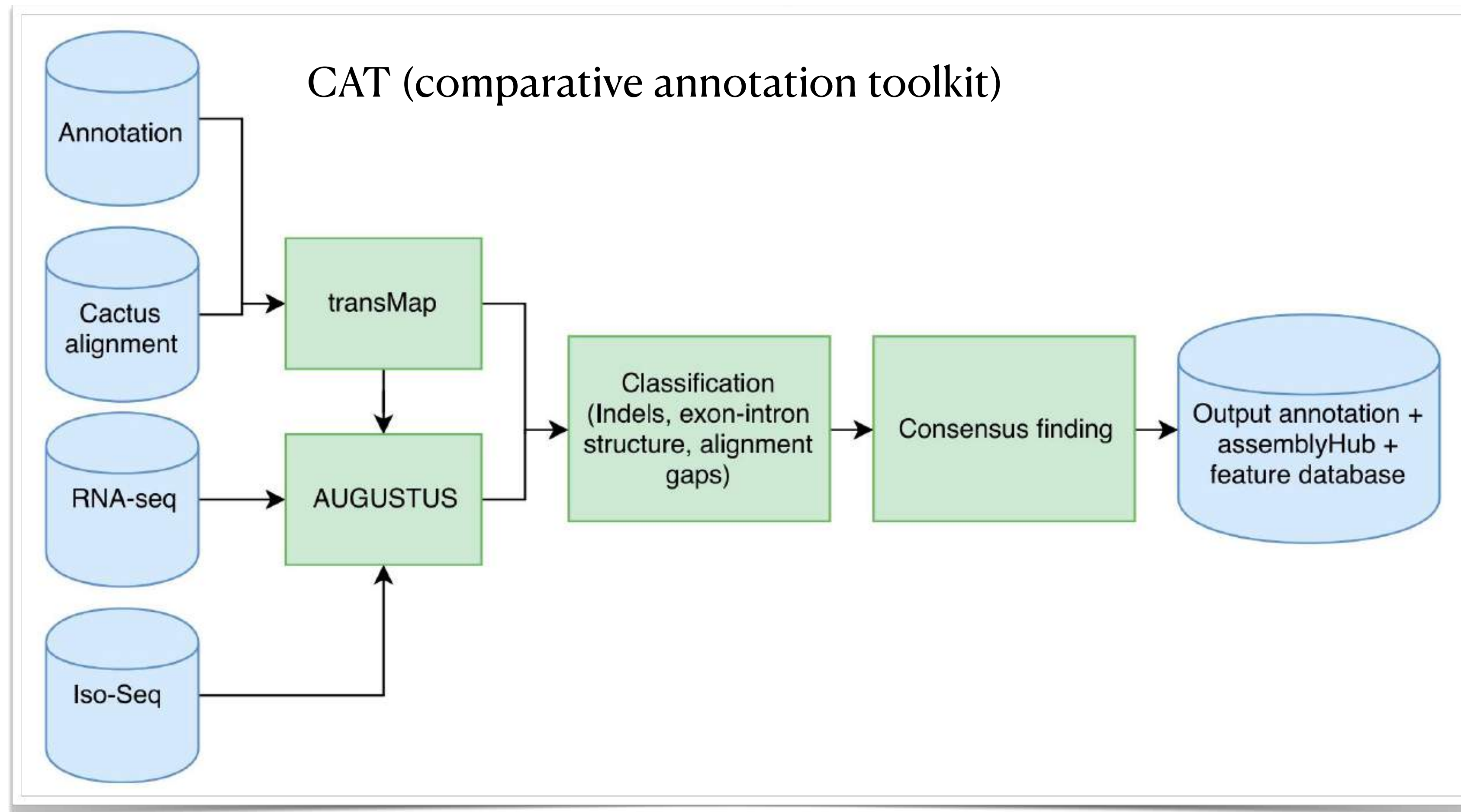
Cactus (ProgressiveCactus) is a “reference free” whole genome aligner.



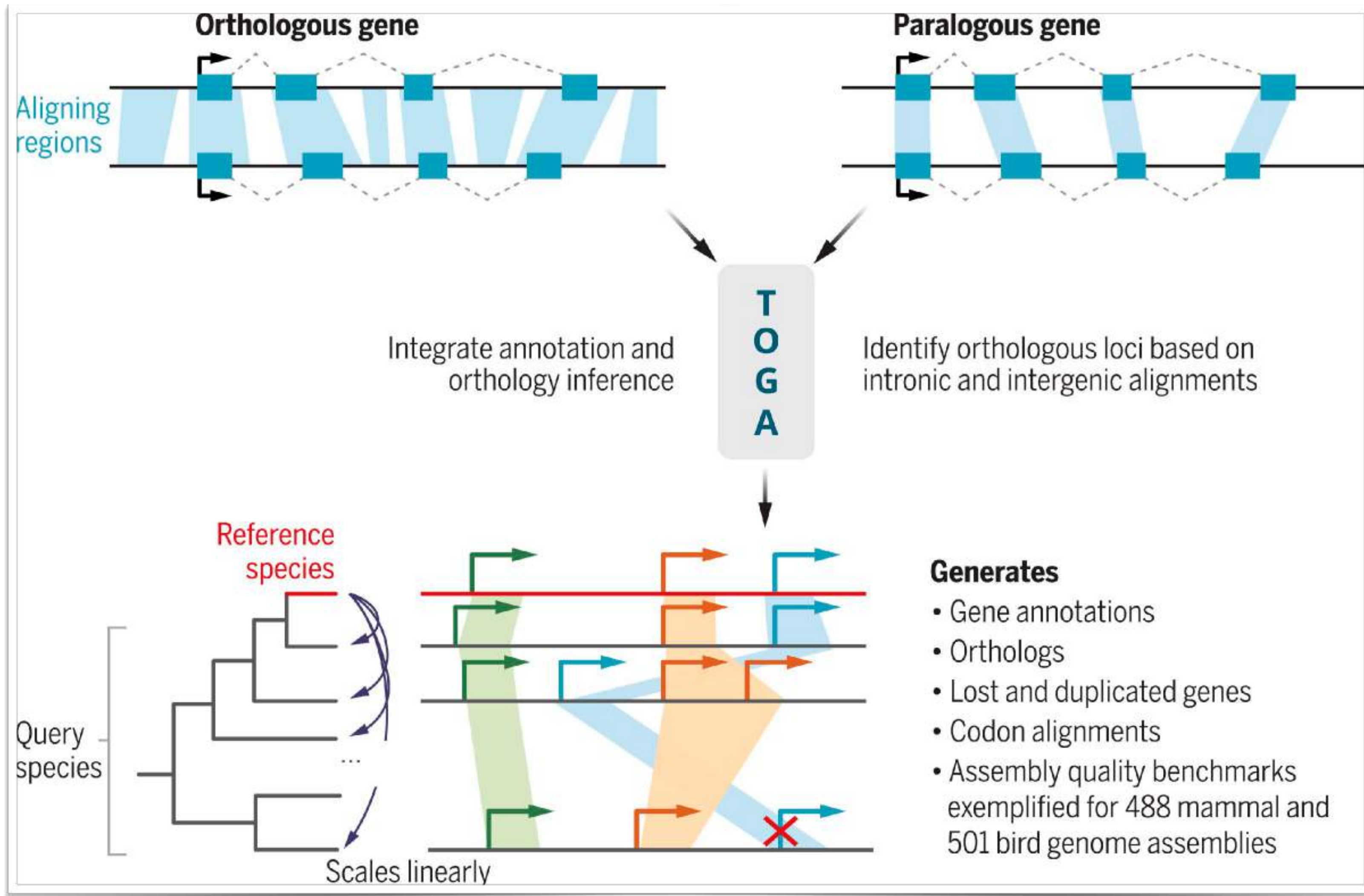
» Whole Genome alignment »



» Some of the applications (annotation) »

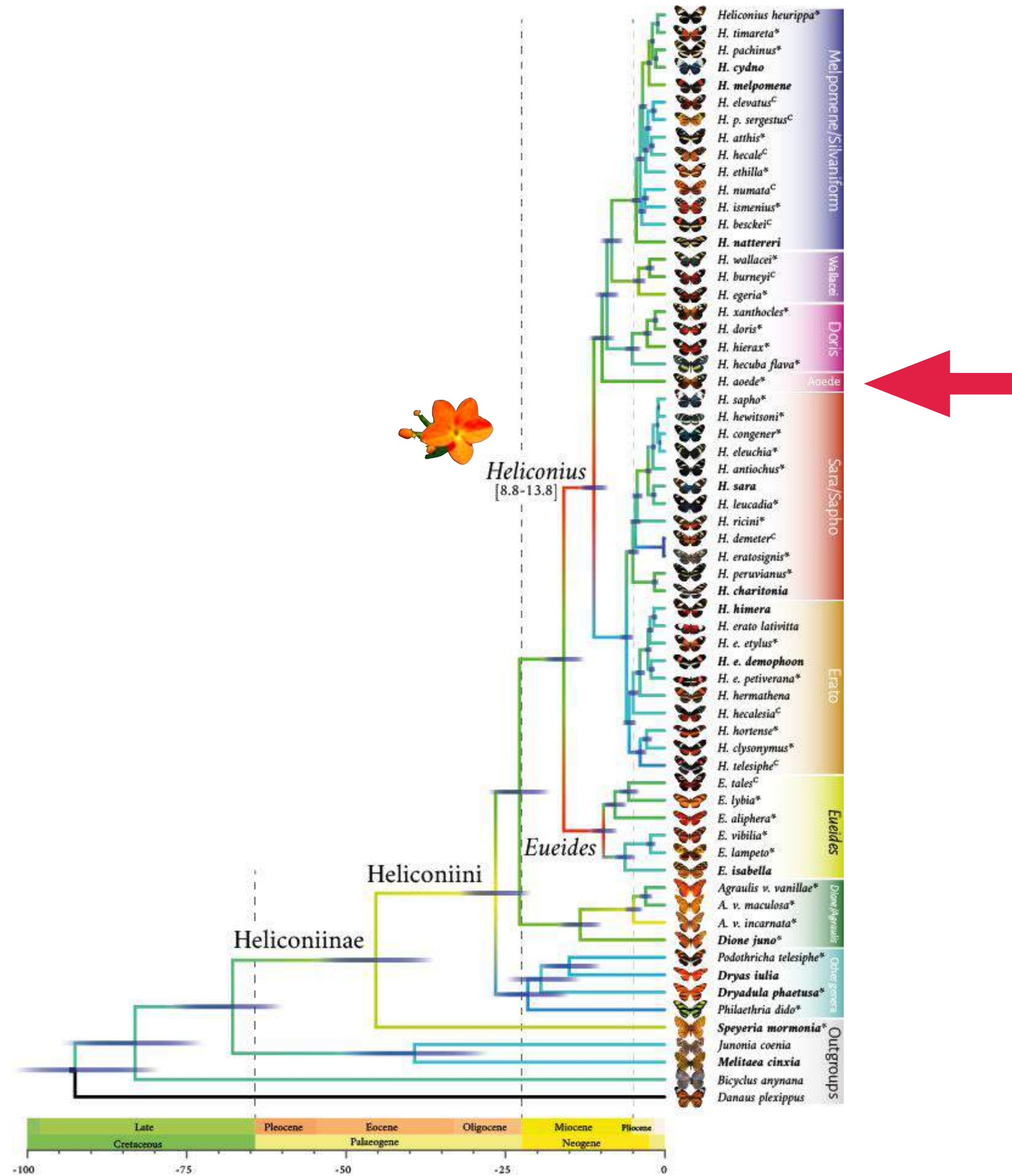


» Some of the applications (orthology inference) »

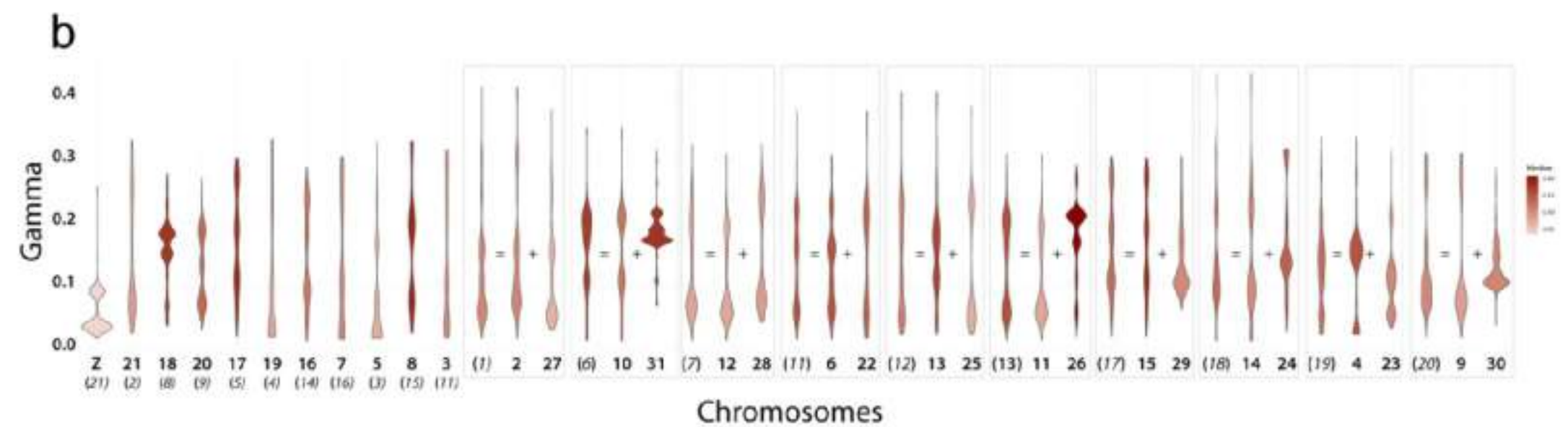
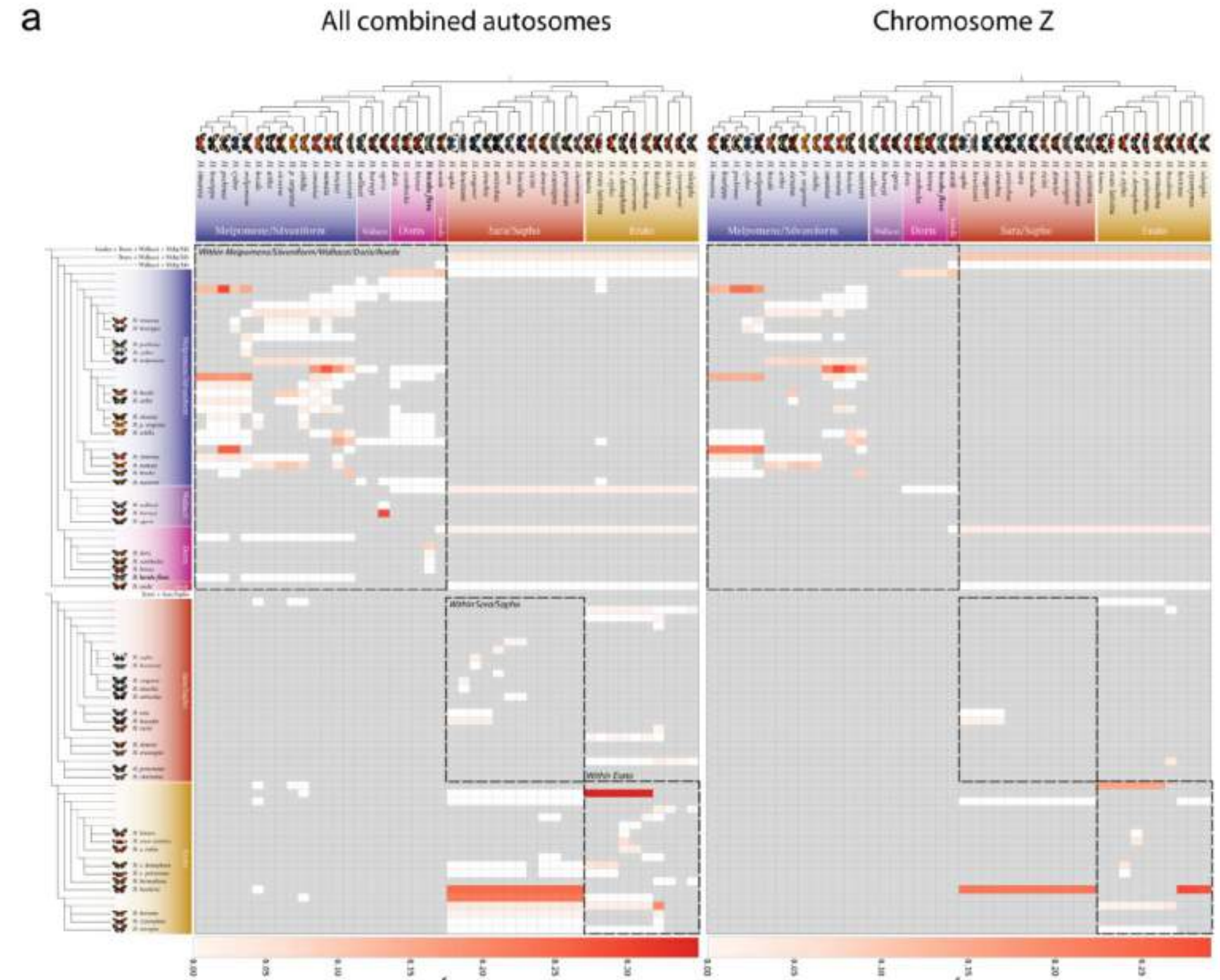
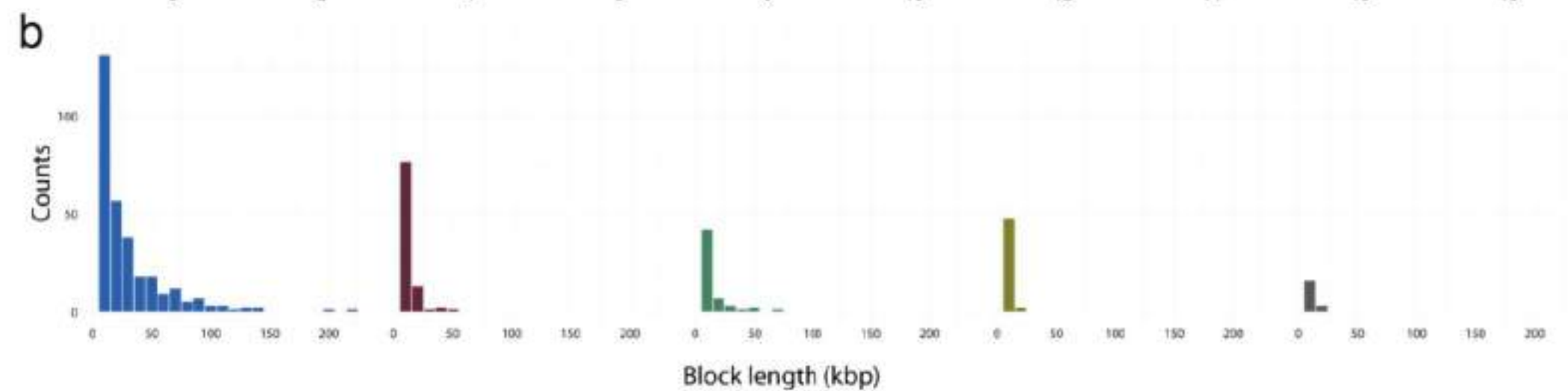
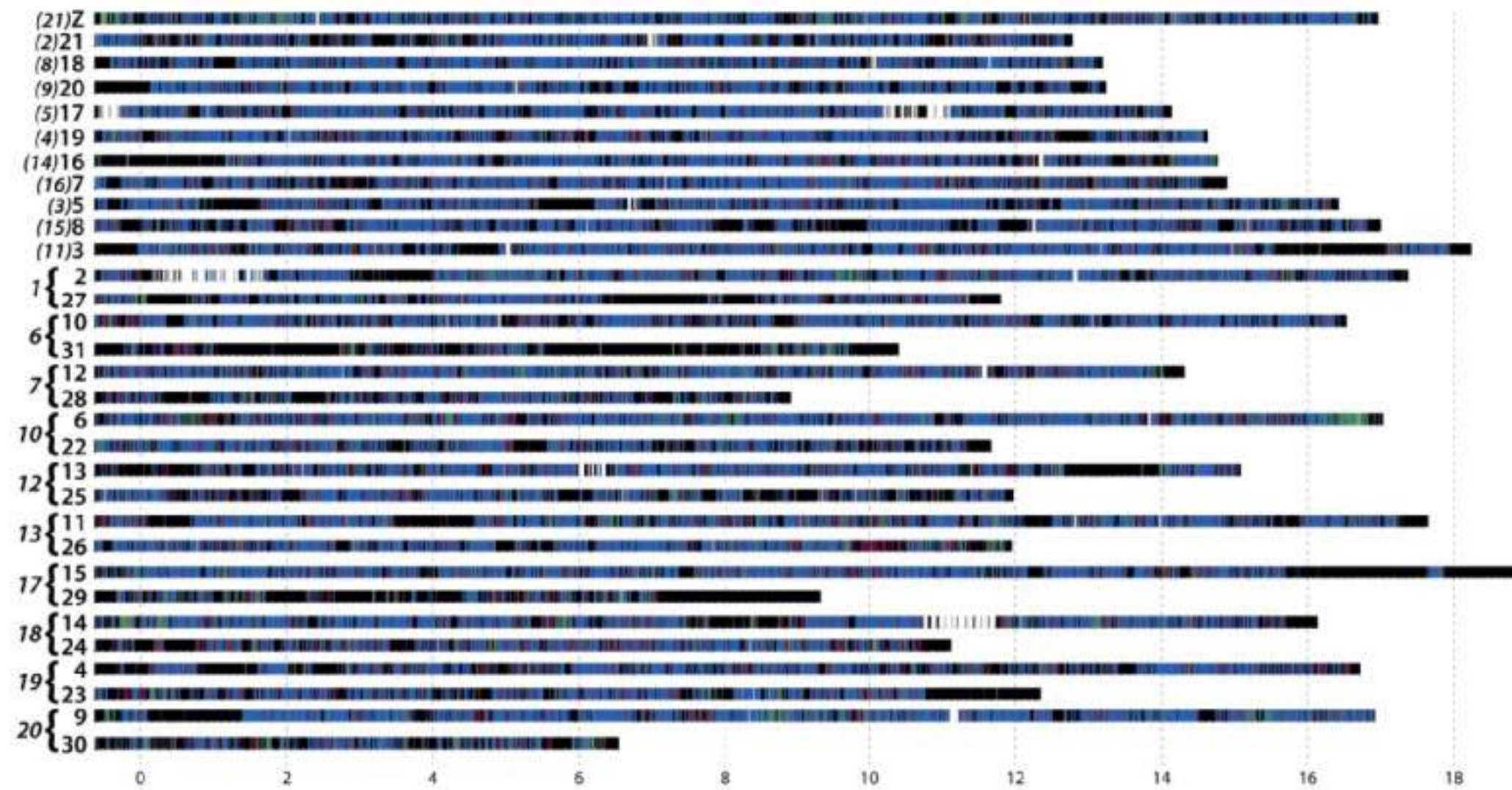
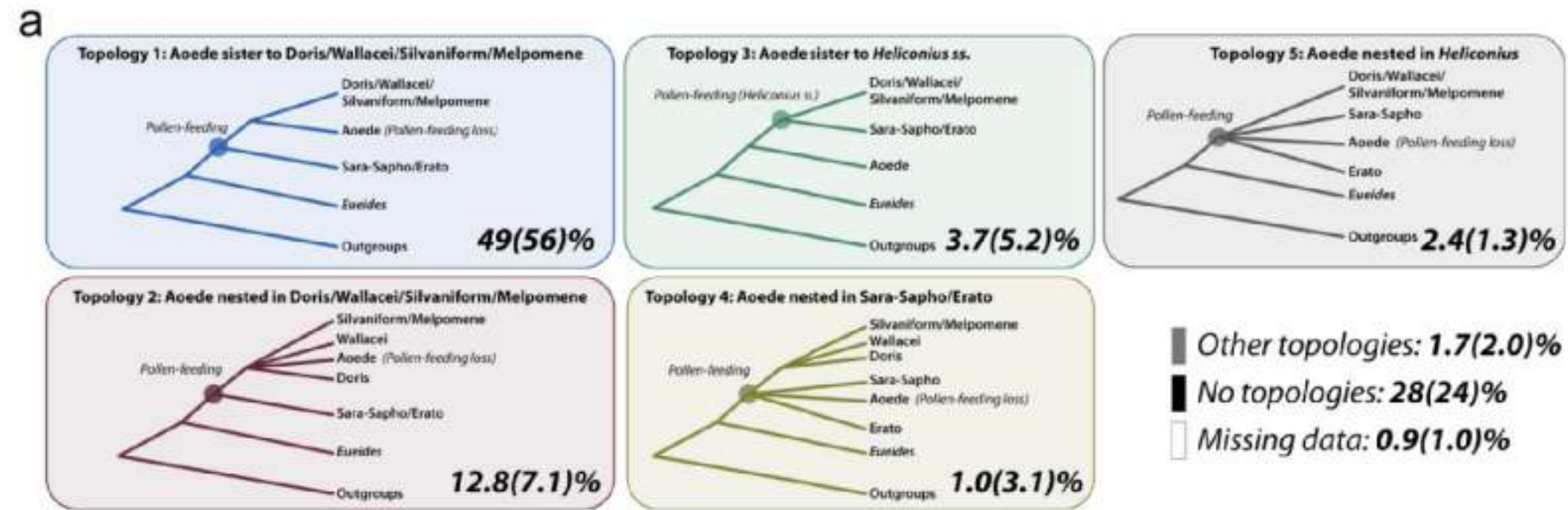


» Phylogeny / Introgression »

» Phylogeny / Introgression »

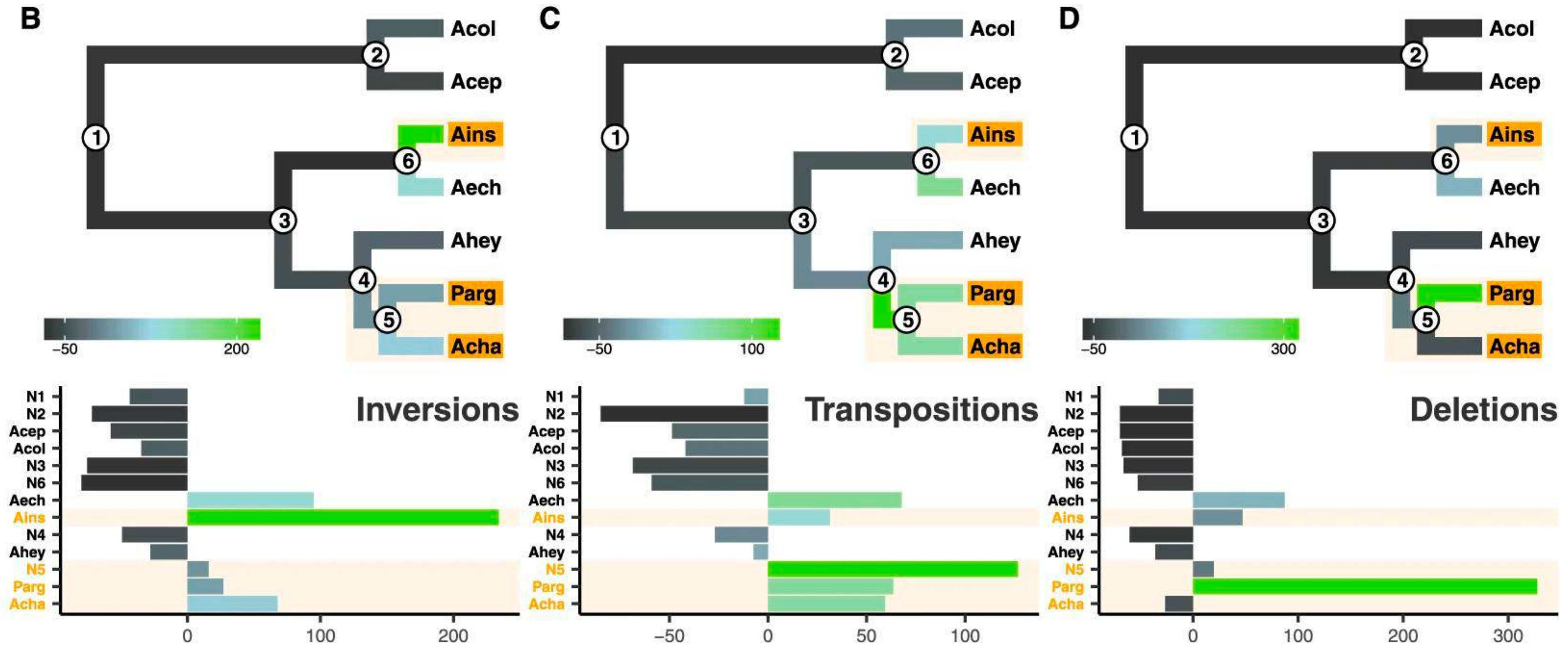


» Phylogeny / Introgression »

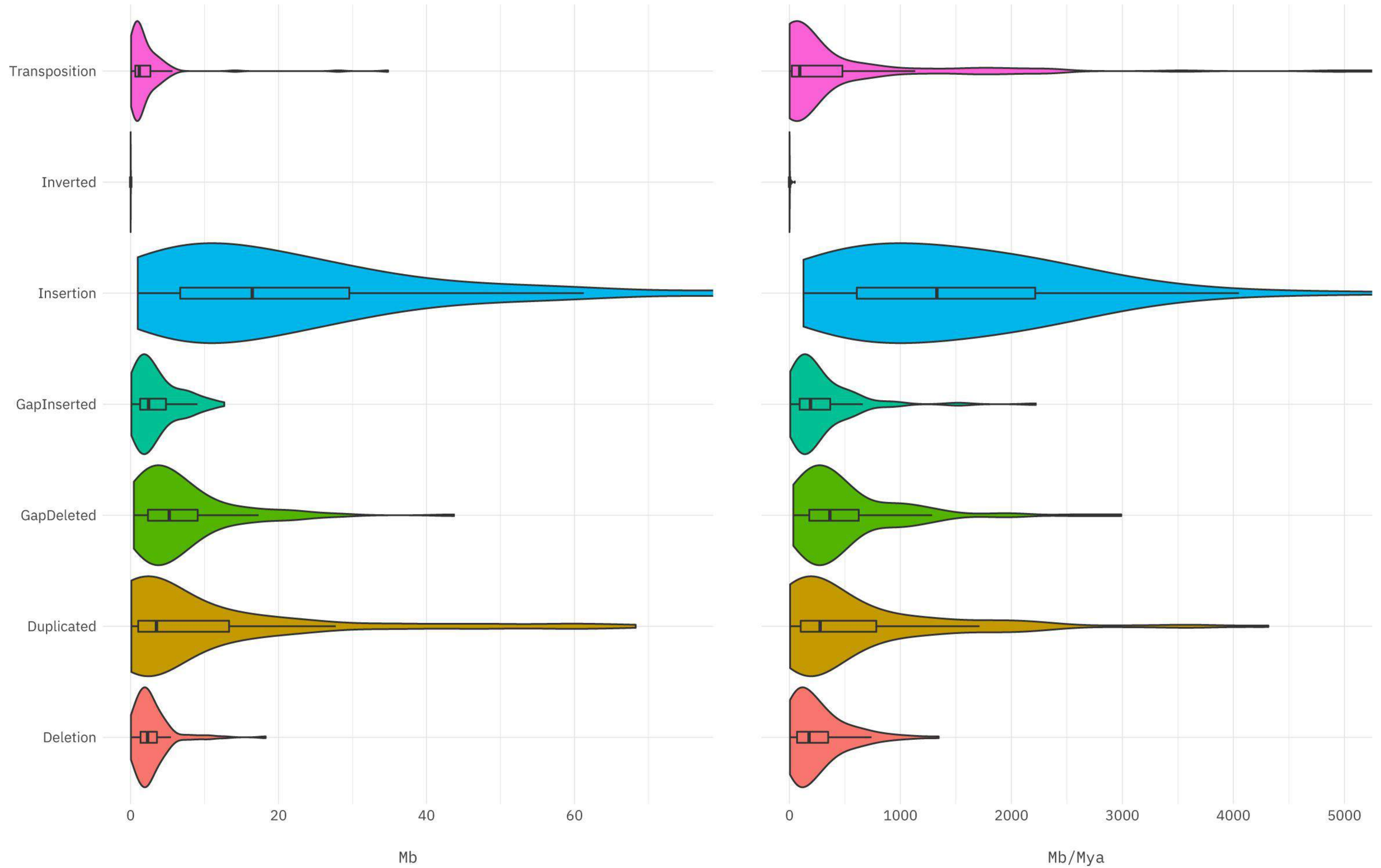


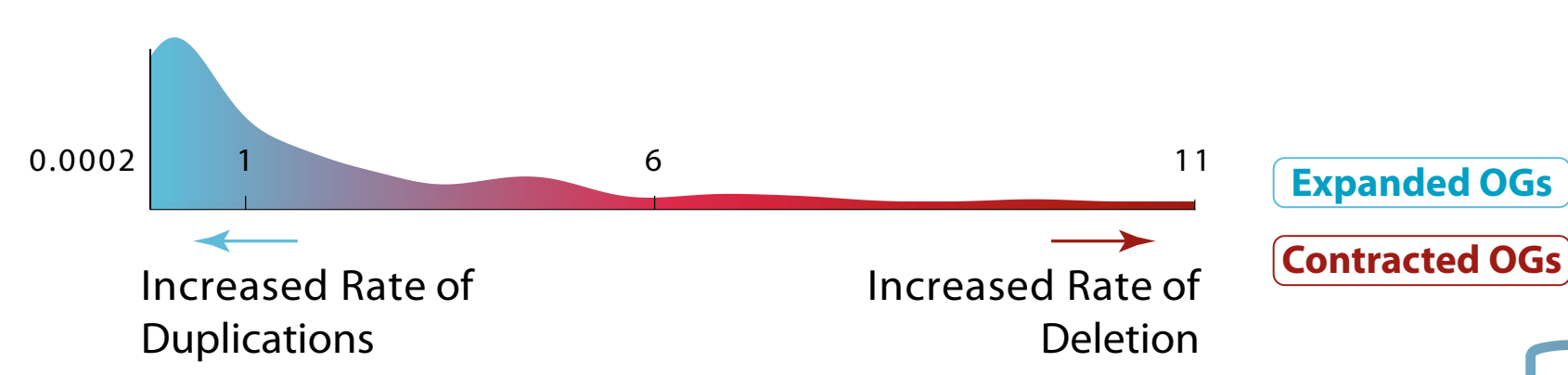
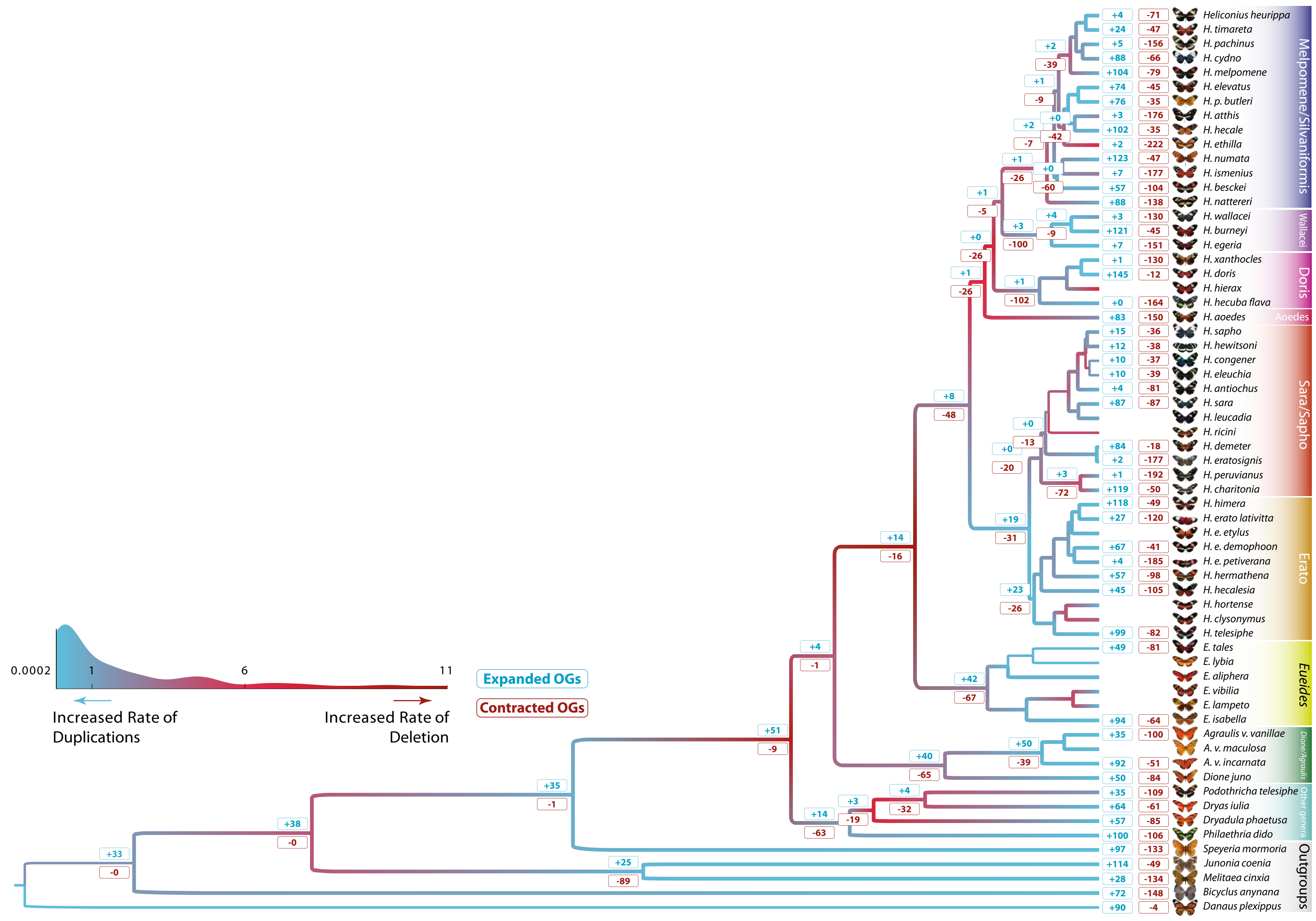
» Structural Rearrangements »

» Structural Rearrangements »



Schrader et al 2021 Nature Comm.



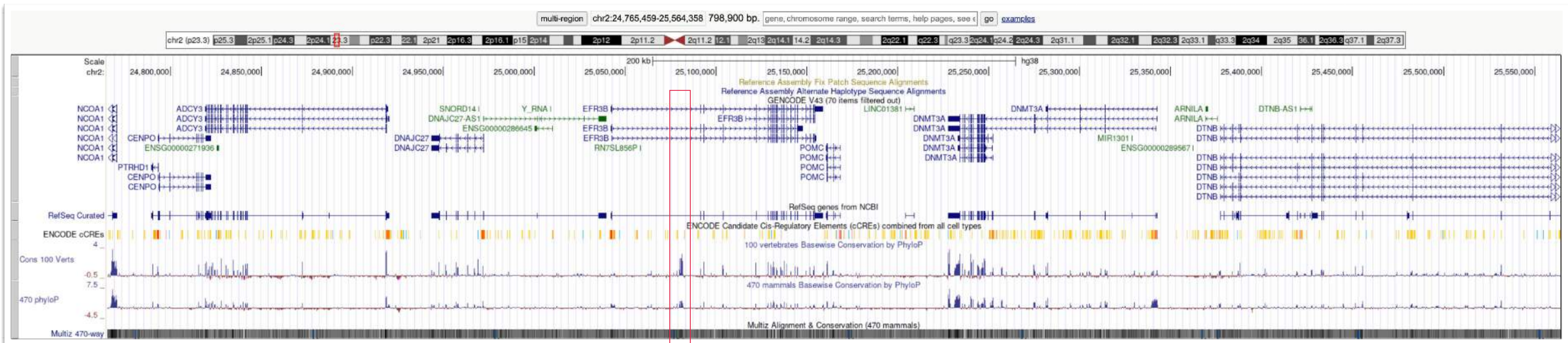


10Mya

» Conserved non-coding Elements (CNEs) »

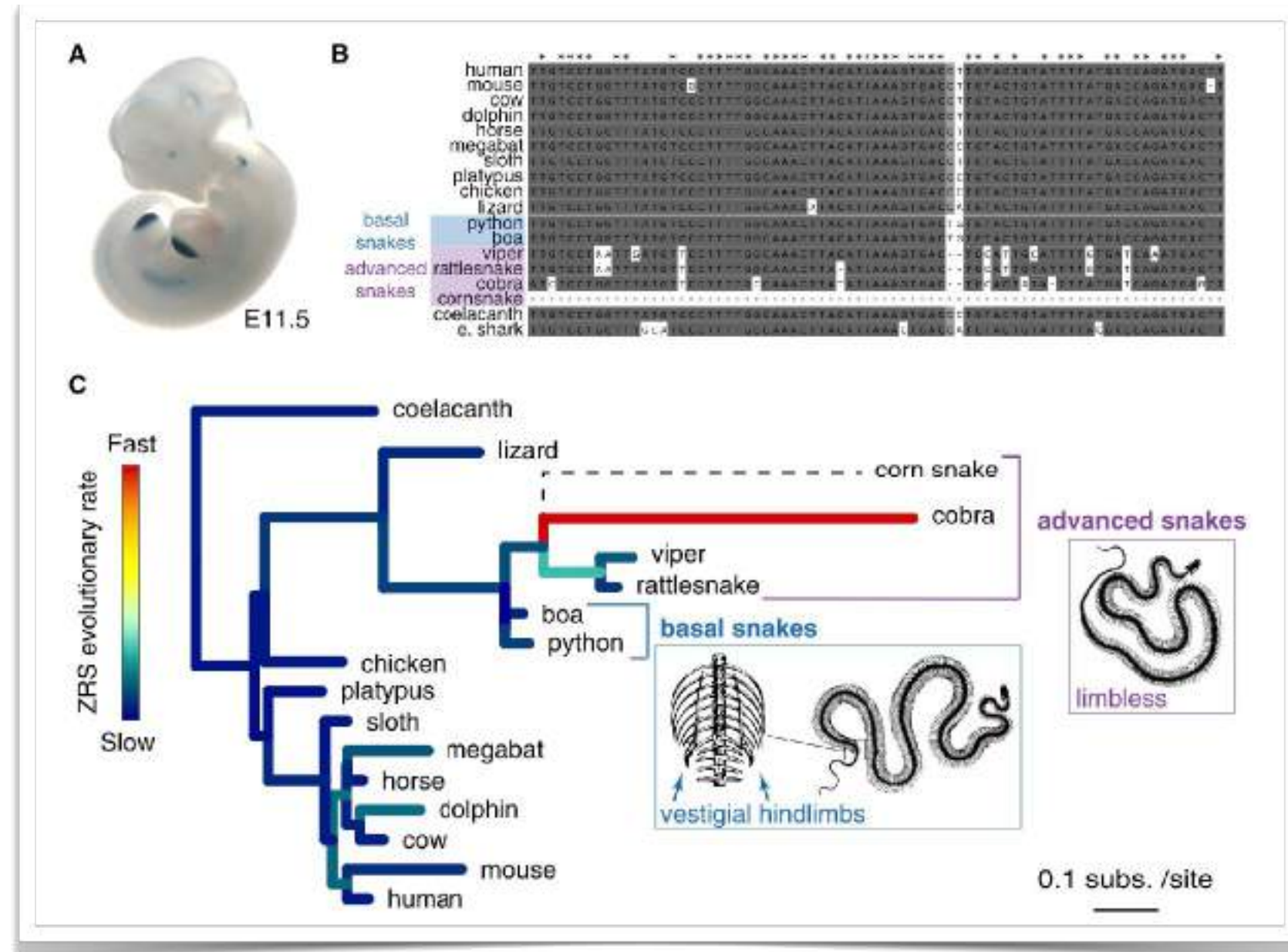
» Conserved non-coding Elements (CNEs) »

- > A class of *non-protein-coding* genomic sequences with elevated degree of conservation.
- > CNEs are non-randomly distributed, clustering in the vicinity of genes with regulatory roles.
- > Organised into functional ensembles (regulatory blocks), which coordinate the expression of shared target genes.
- > The disruption of these elements contribute to diseases linked with development, and cancer.

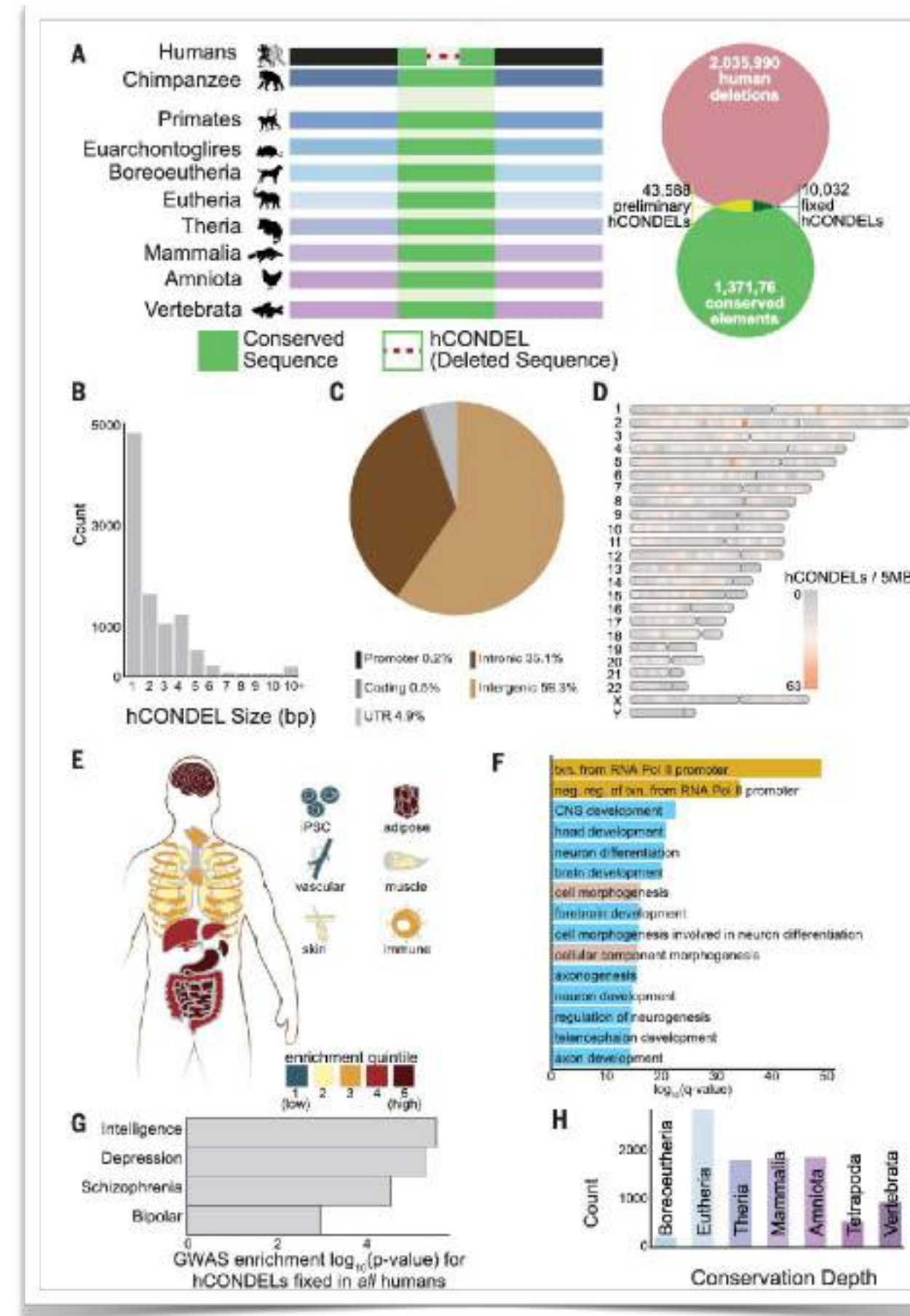


Candidate Cis-Regulatory Elements (cCREs)

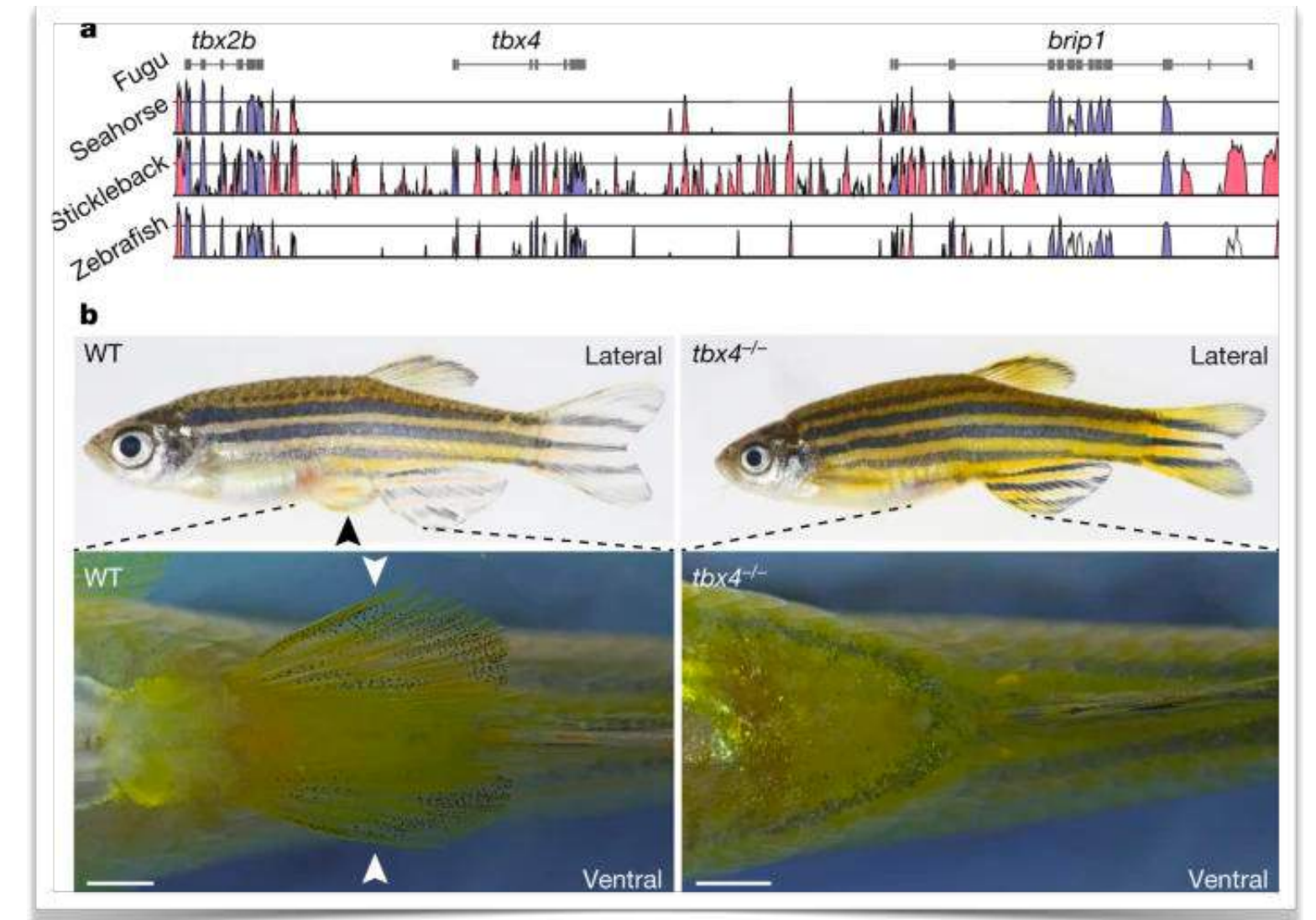
» Conserved non-coding Elements (CNEs) »



Kvon et al 2016 Cell



Xue et al 2023 Science



Lin et al 2016 Nature

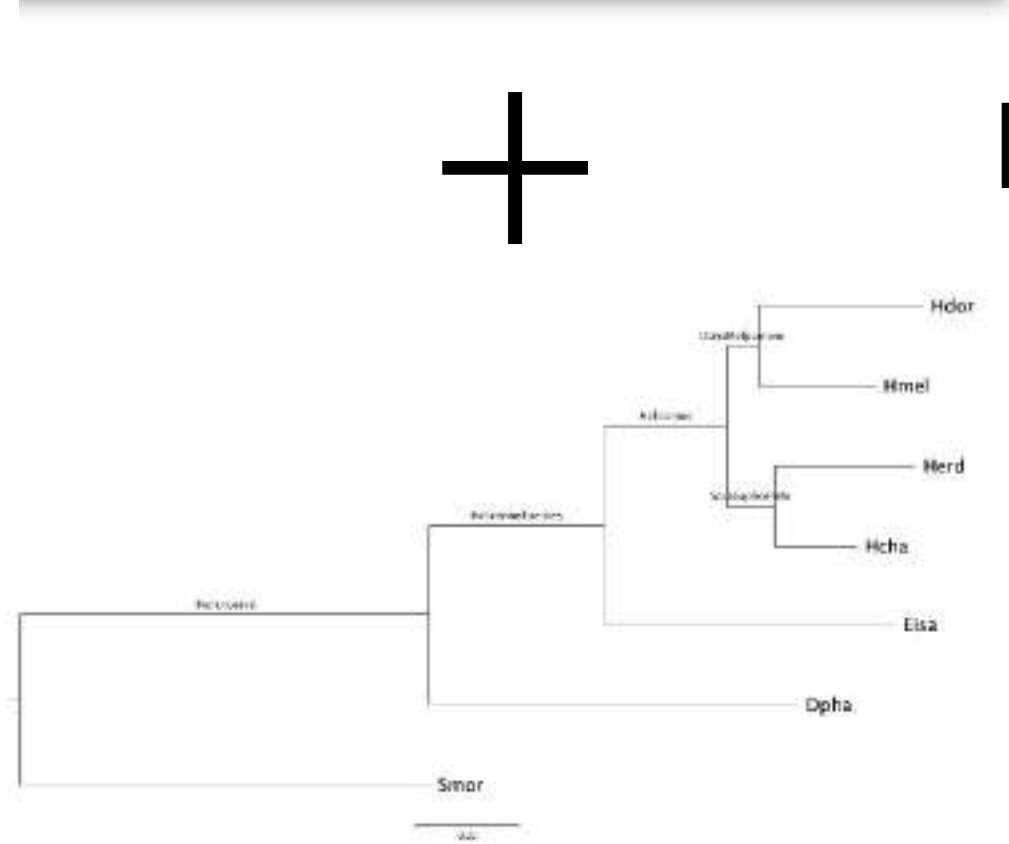
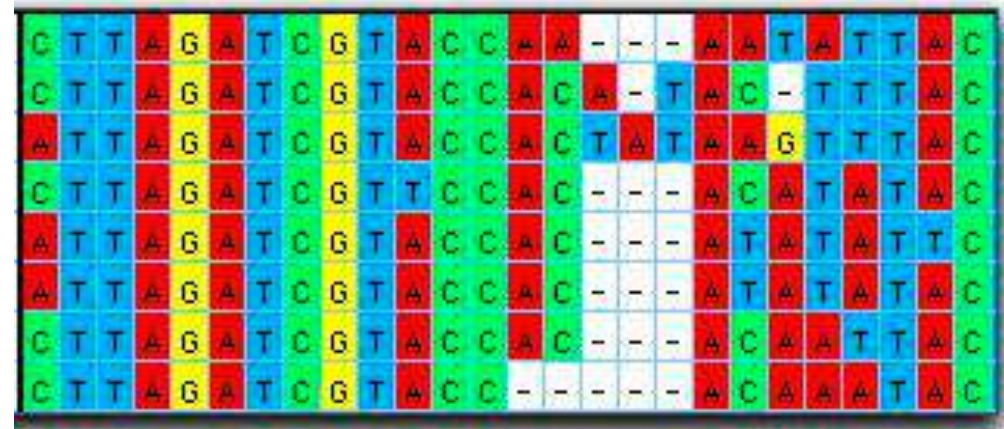
» How to identify these regions »

1. A Model of DNA sequence evolution

2. Phylogenetic tree

» How to identify these regions »

Neutral evolving regions

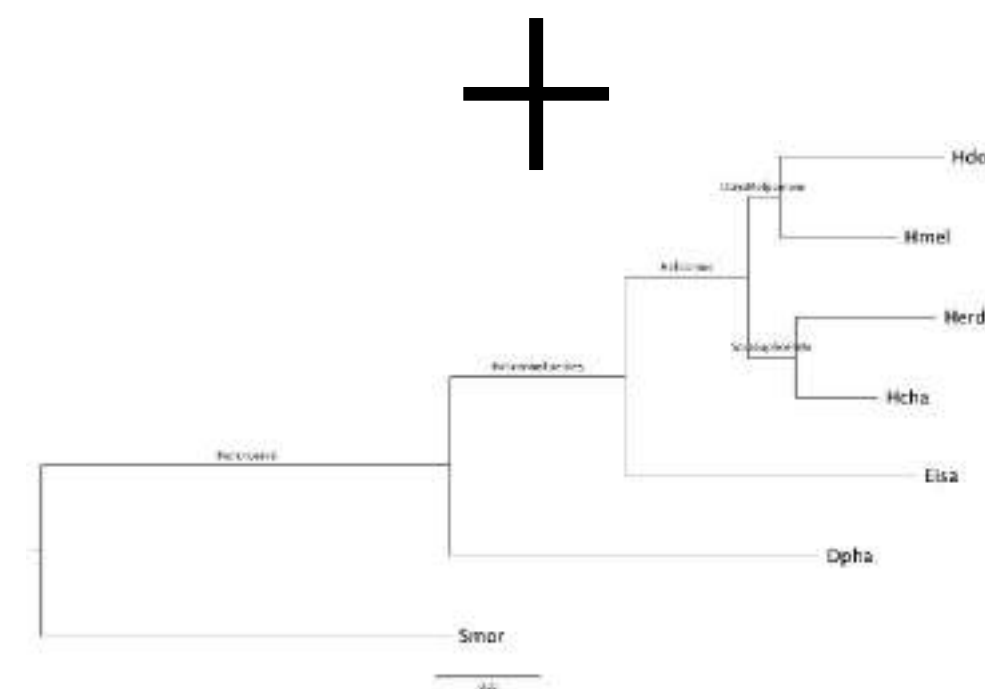
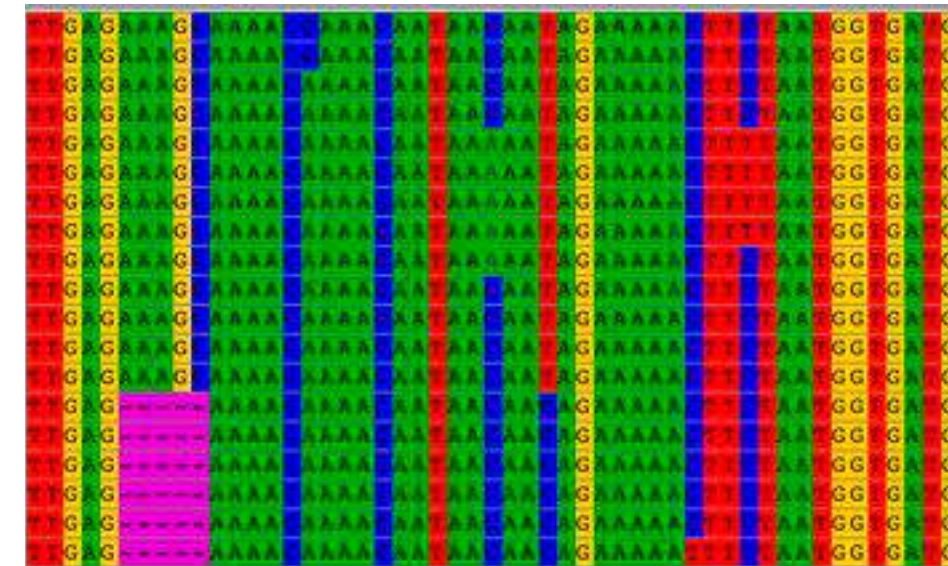


➔ Neutral model ➔

Neutral model

Other metrics
(*PhyloP*)

WGA

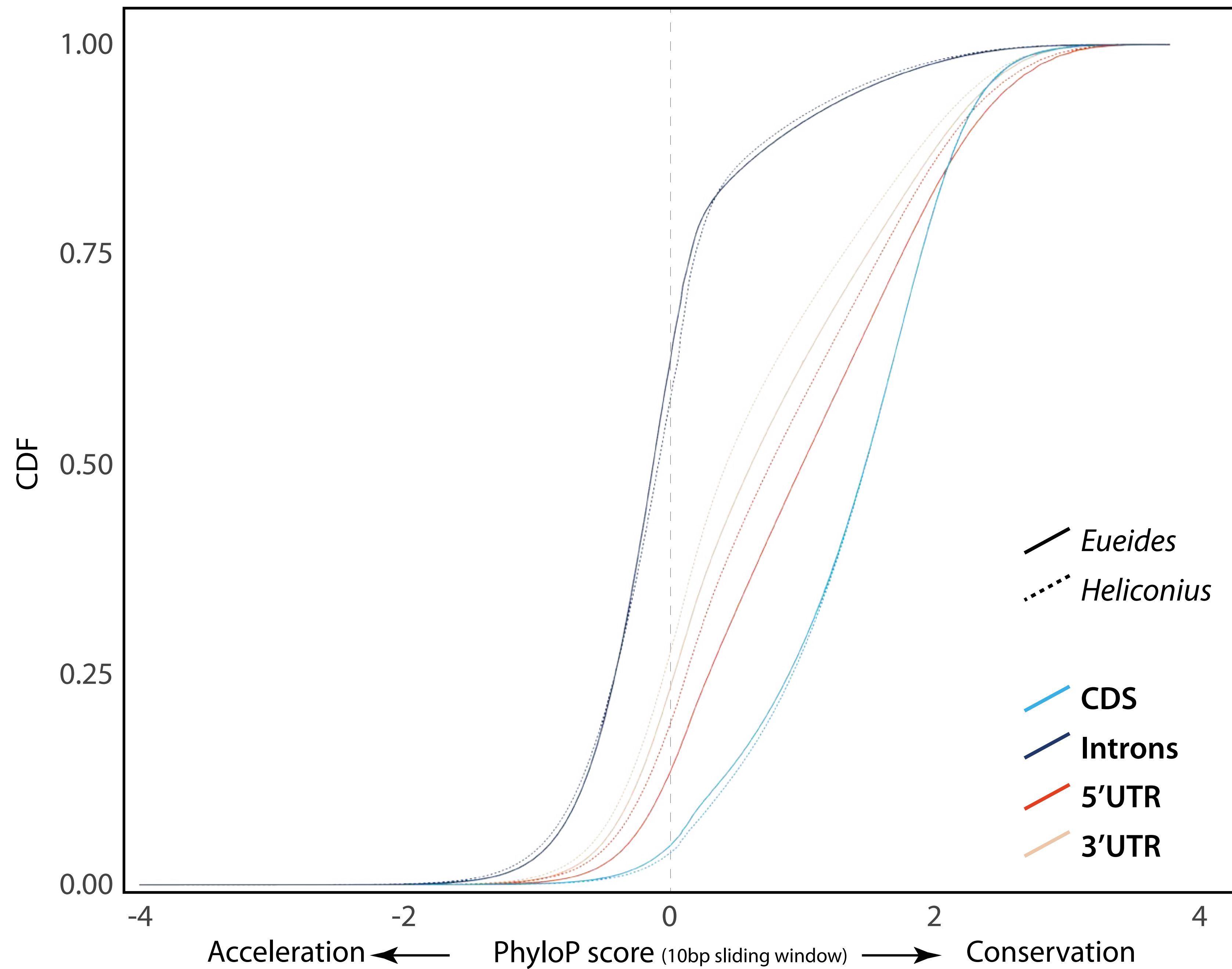


+

neutral model

➔ Conservation model

➔ Non-conserved model



» Let's start the exercise »

Some tools you probably going to need:

- Cactus
- halSummarizeMutations
- halAlignmentDepth
- wigToBigWig
- samtools
- and more ...

Don't forget IGV!

» ATAC-seq (Assay for Transposase-Accessible

Chromatin using sequencing) »



» ATAC-seq (*A*ssay for *T*ransposase-*A*ccessible
Chromatin using **sequencing**) »

» ATAC-seq (Assay for Transposase-Accessible

Chromatin using sequencing) »

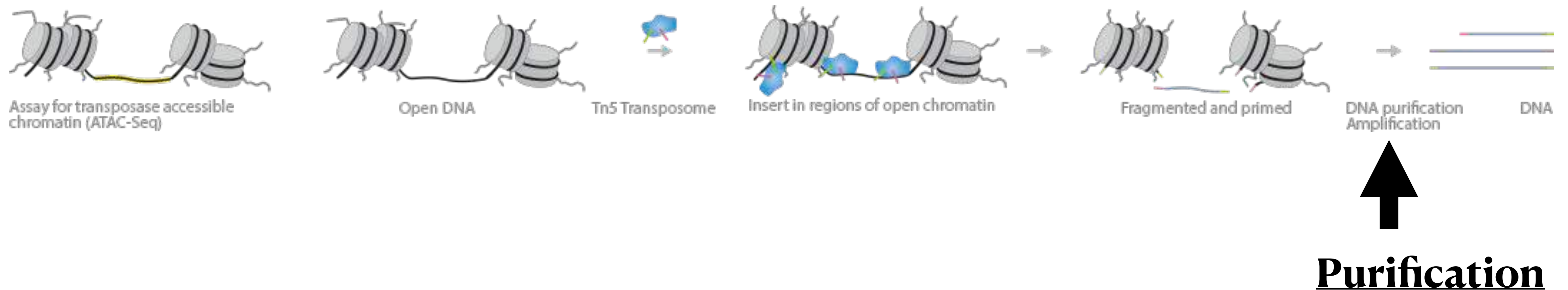


Tagmentation

The activity Tn5 (hyperactive) Transposase that inserts sequencing adapters into open regions of the genome and cleaves

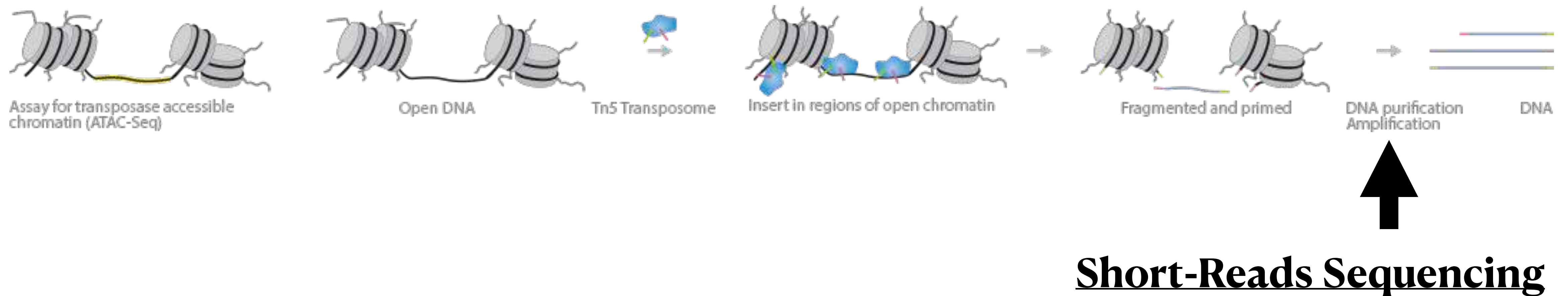
» ATAC-seq (Assay for Transposase-Accessible

Chromatin using sequencing) »

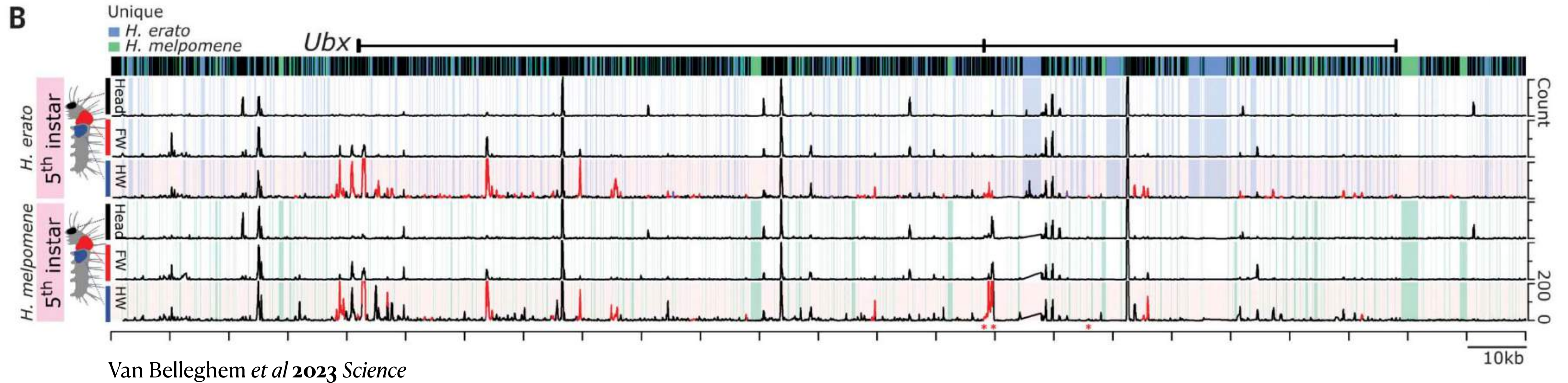


» ATAC-seq (Assay for Transposase-Accessible

Chromatin using sequencing) »



» ATAC-seq (Assay for Transposase-Accessible Chromatin using sequencing) »



Van Belleghem *et al* 2023 *Science*

» Let's continue »

» Notes »

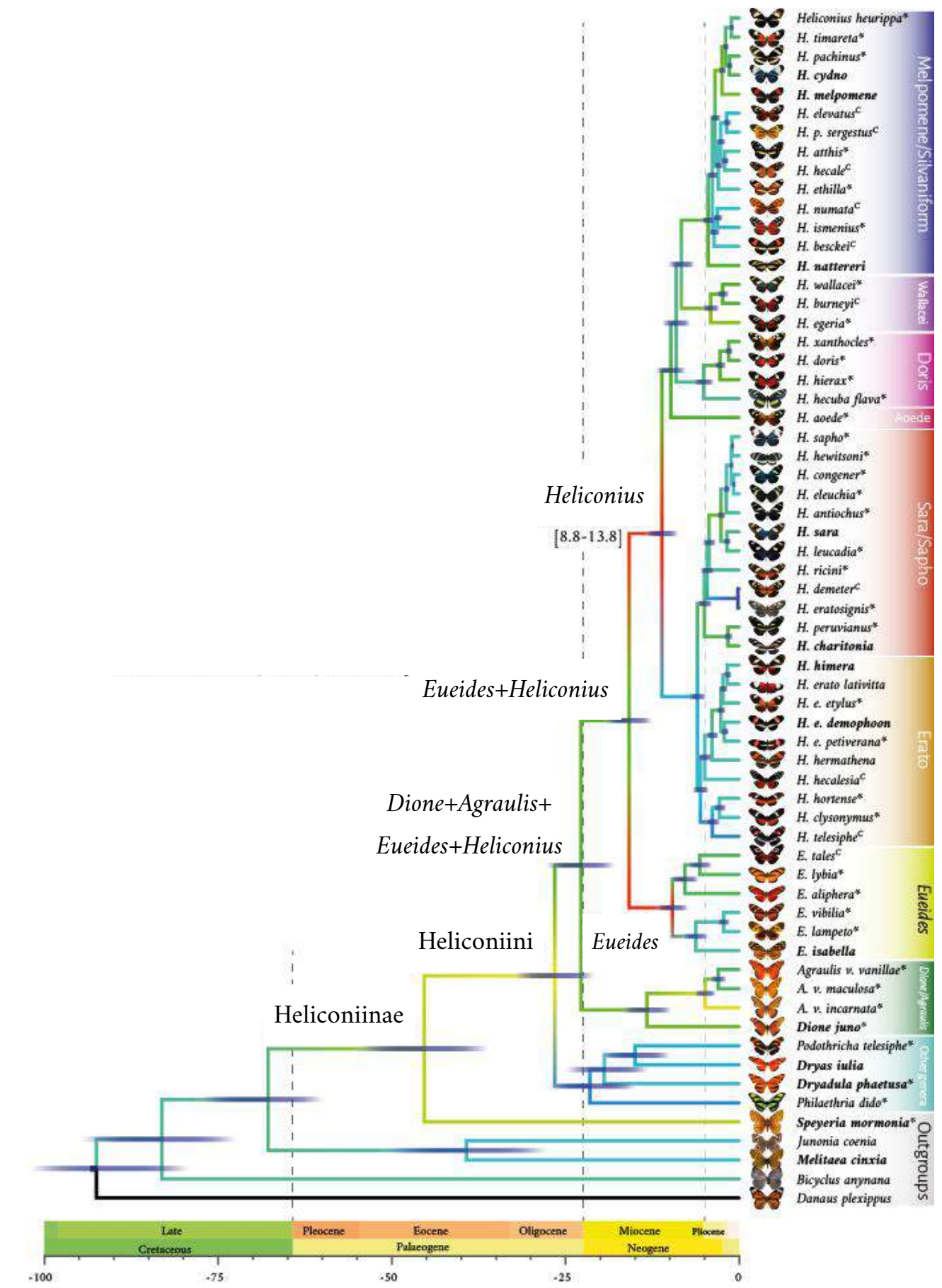
Some UNIX tools you probably going to need:

- “>” Redirect
- “|” Pipe
- “sed” a stream editor

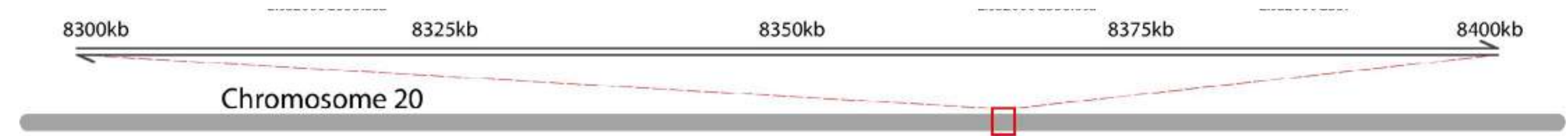
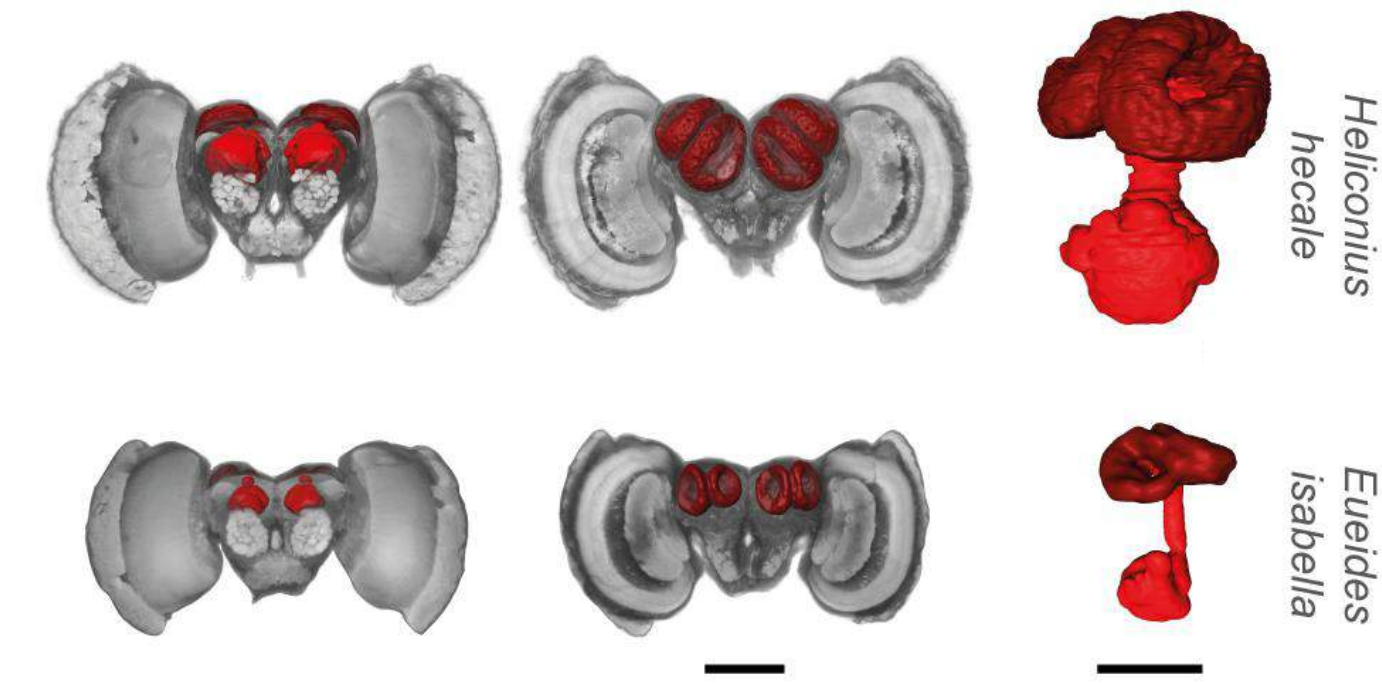
For the extra task:

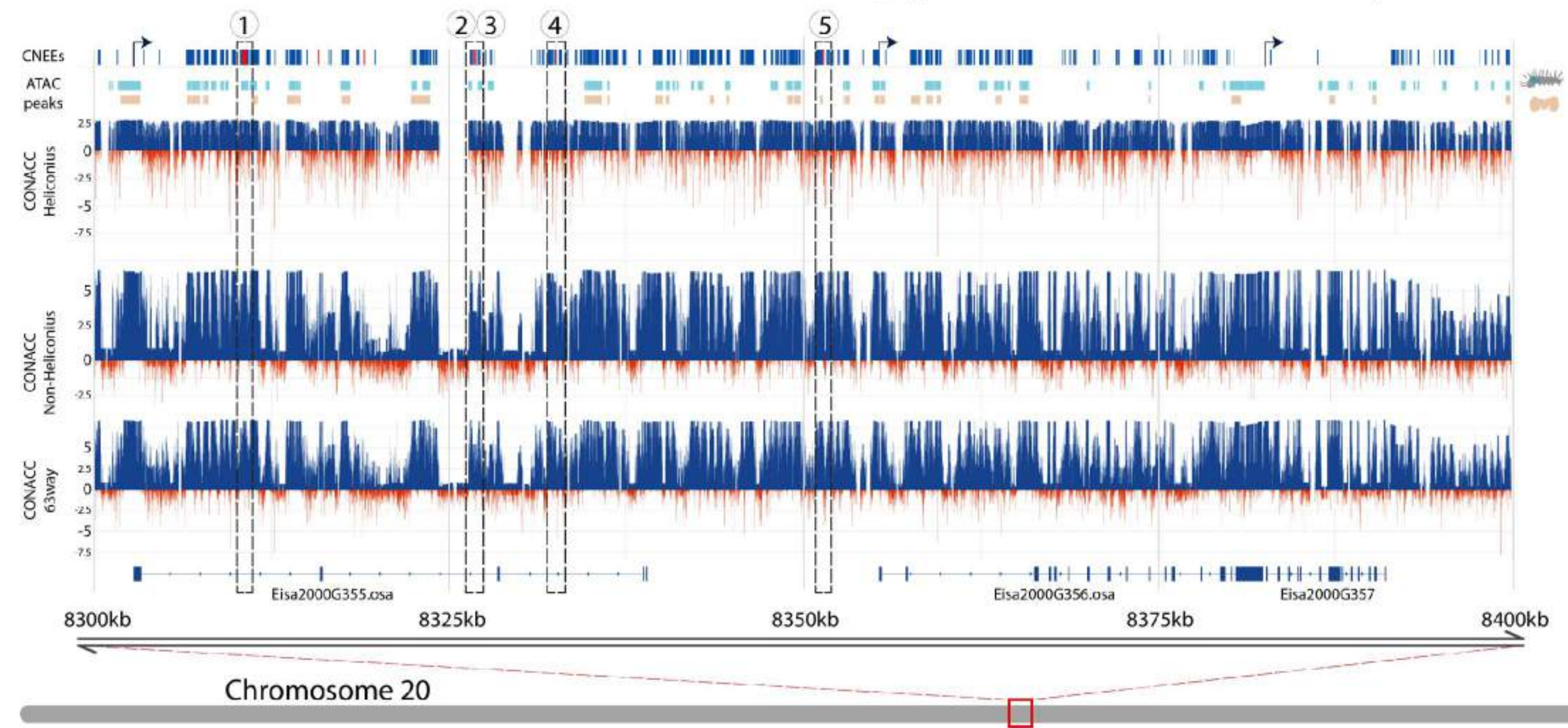
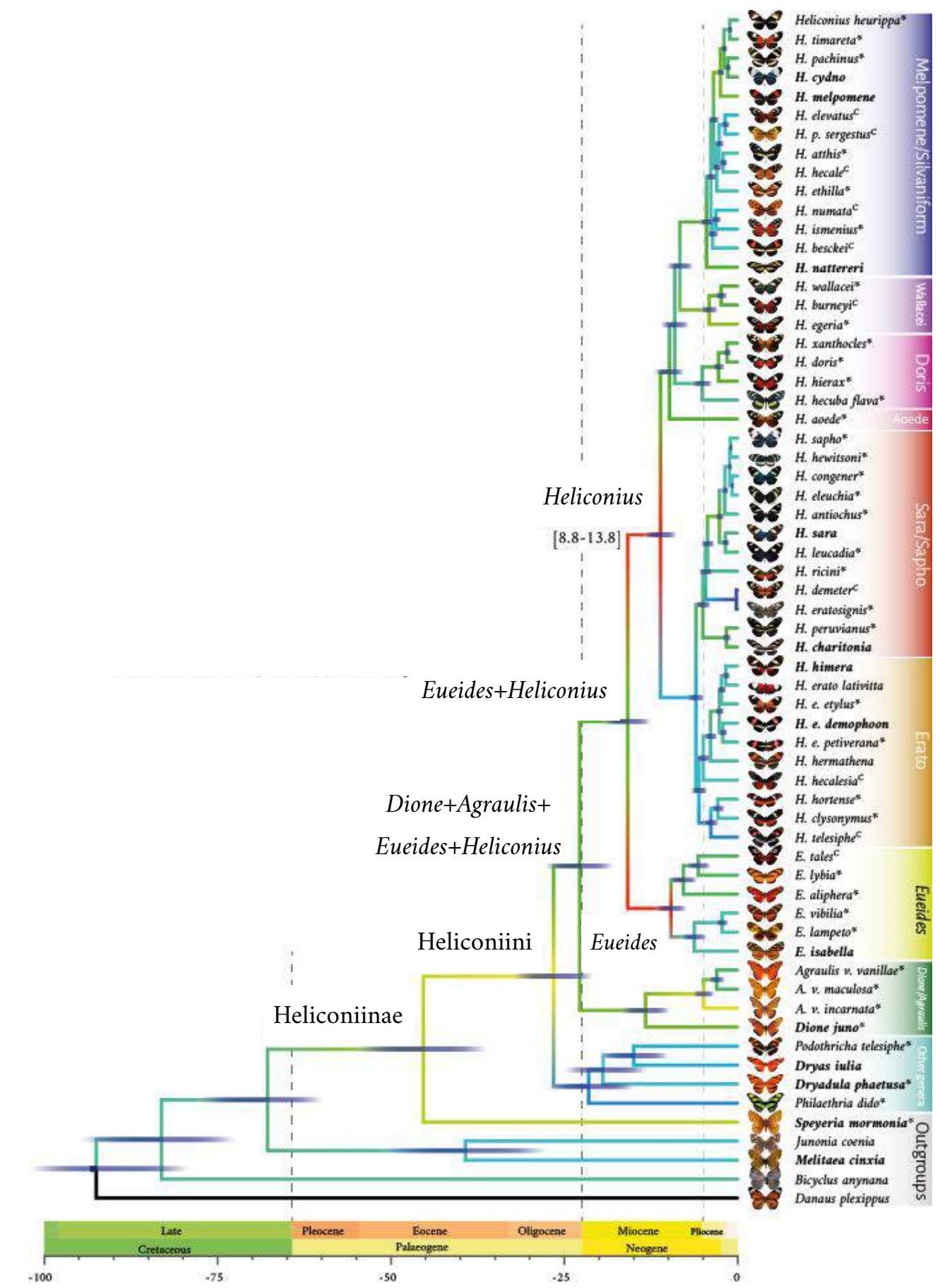
- “seq” unix command to generate a sequence of numbers
- *For loop*

» Test for Acceleration »

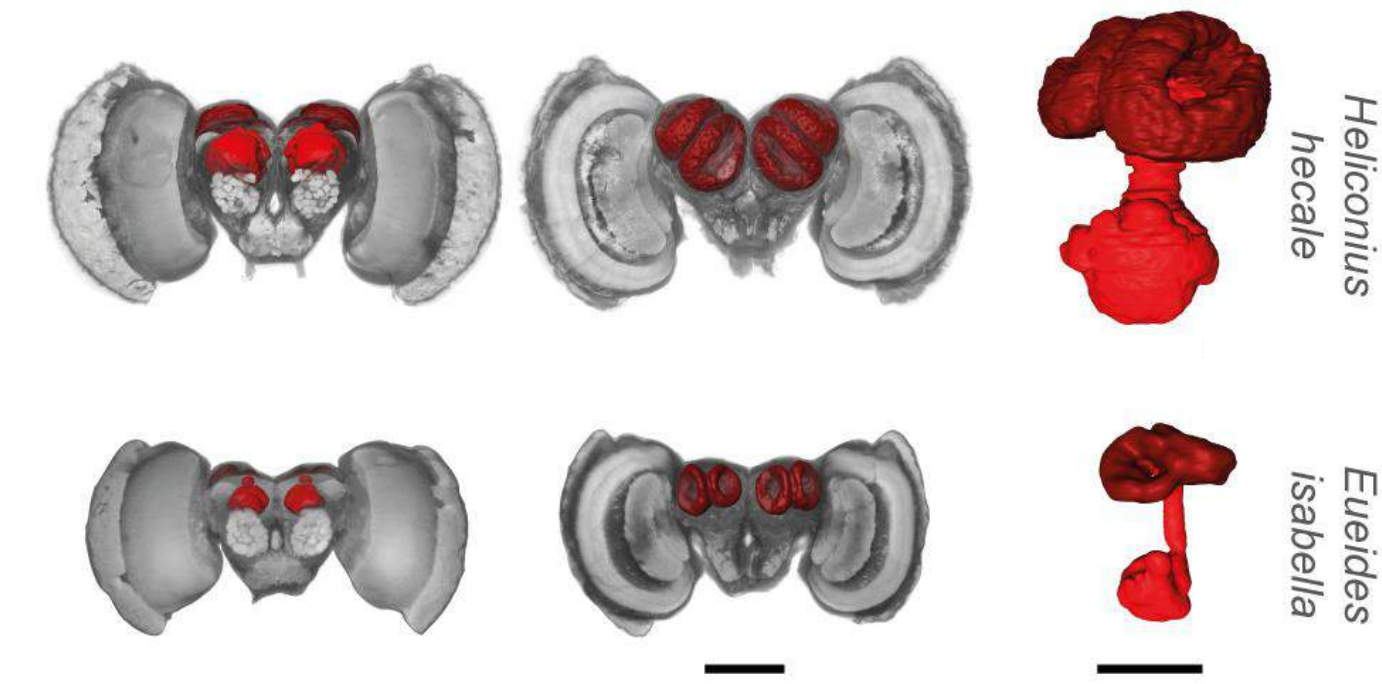


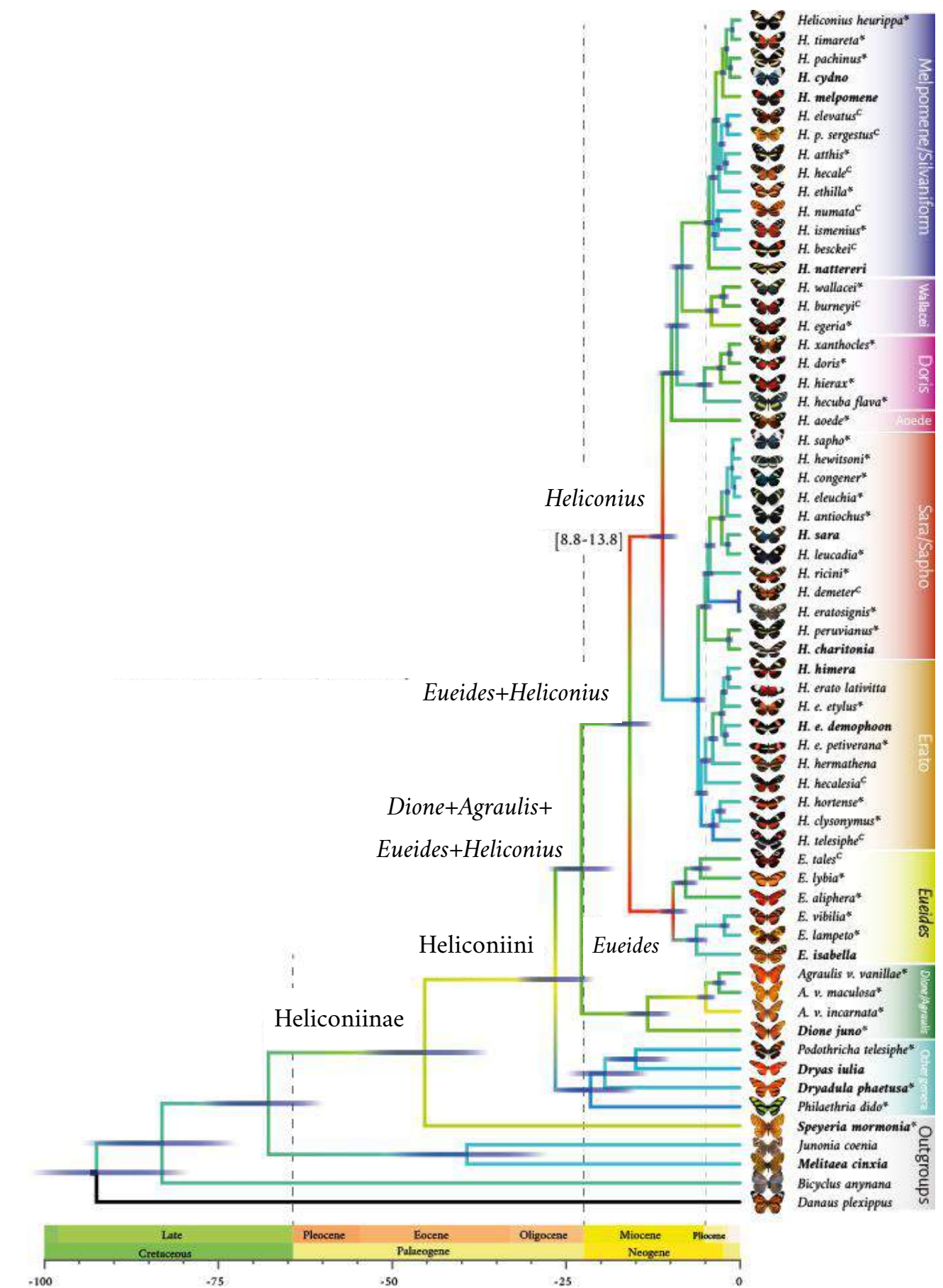
» **Mushroom body expansion (Brain)**



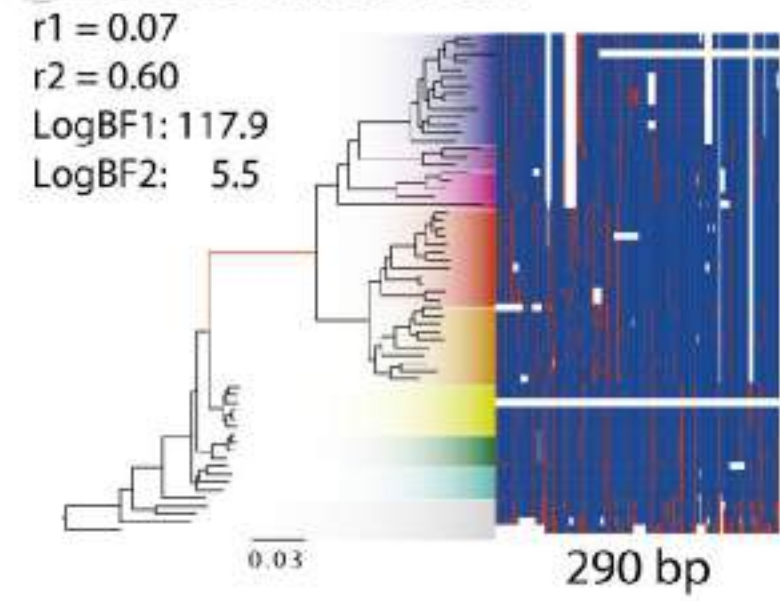


» **Mushroom body expansion (Brain)**

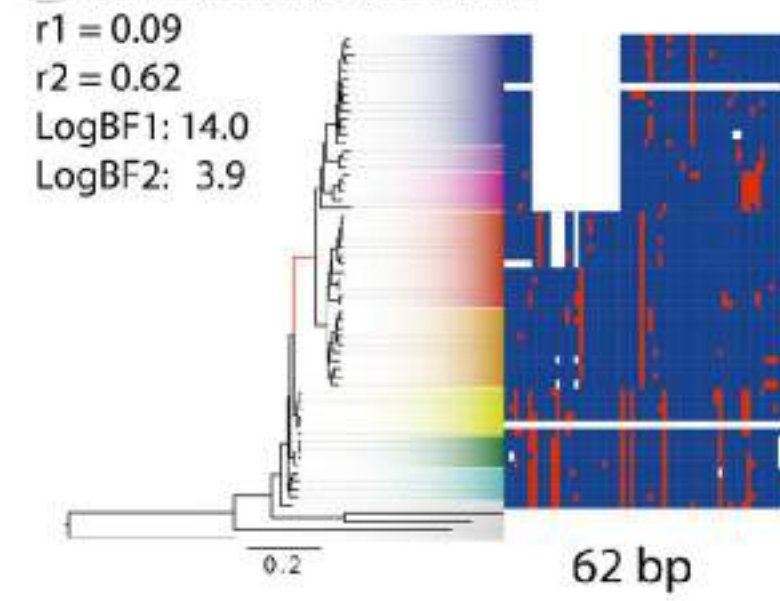




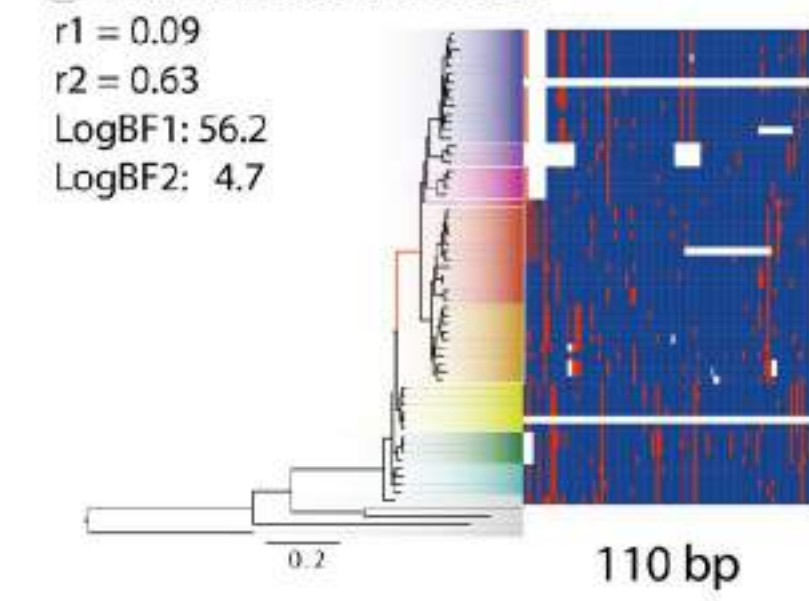
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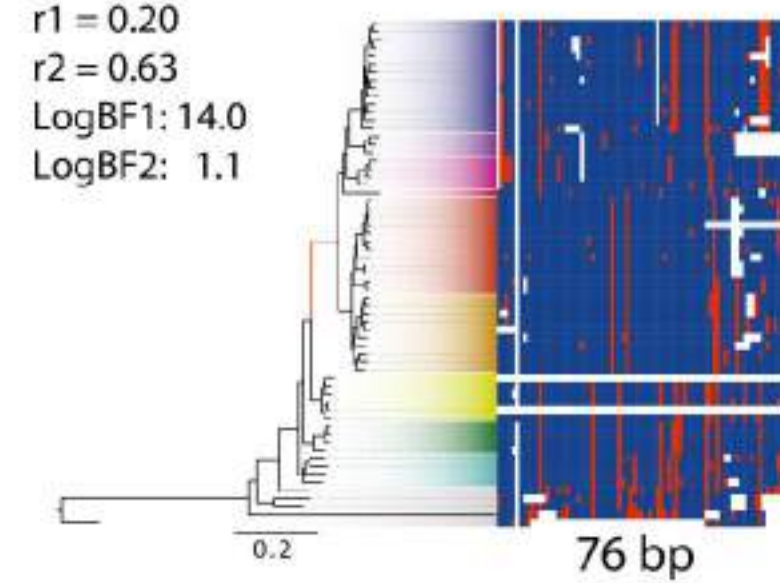
2 intronicCNEE156926



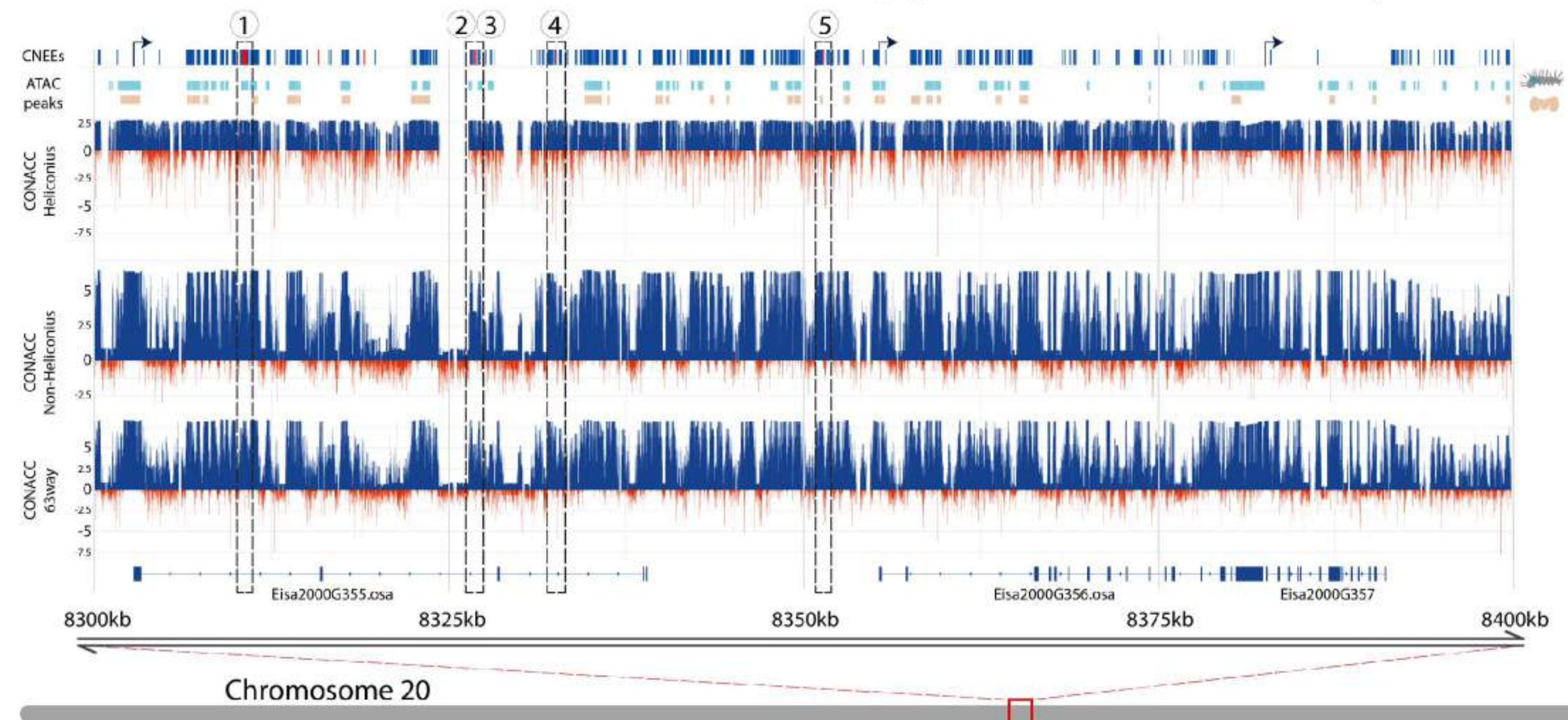
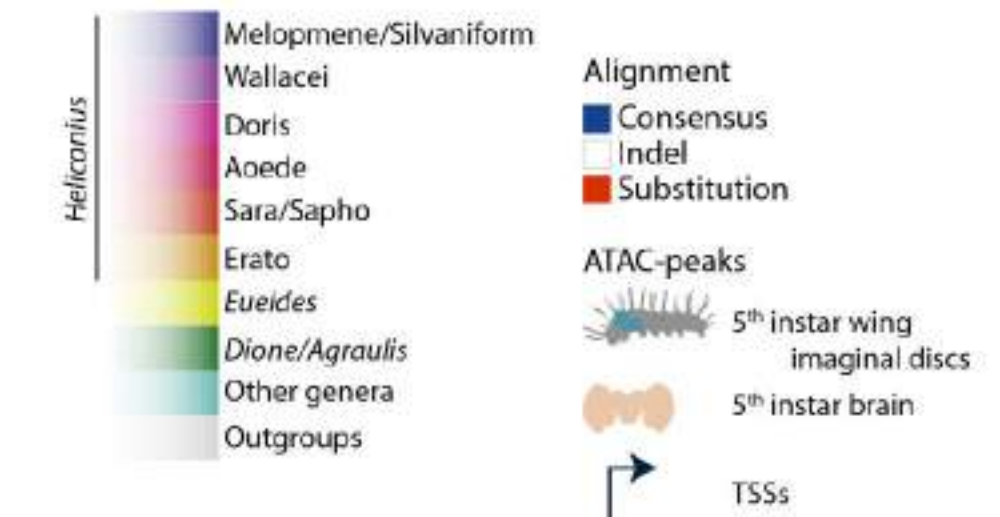
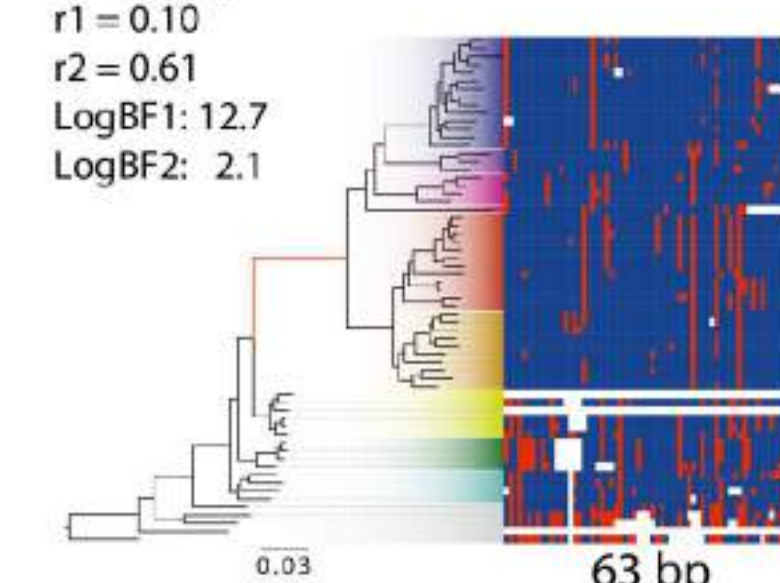
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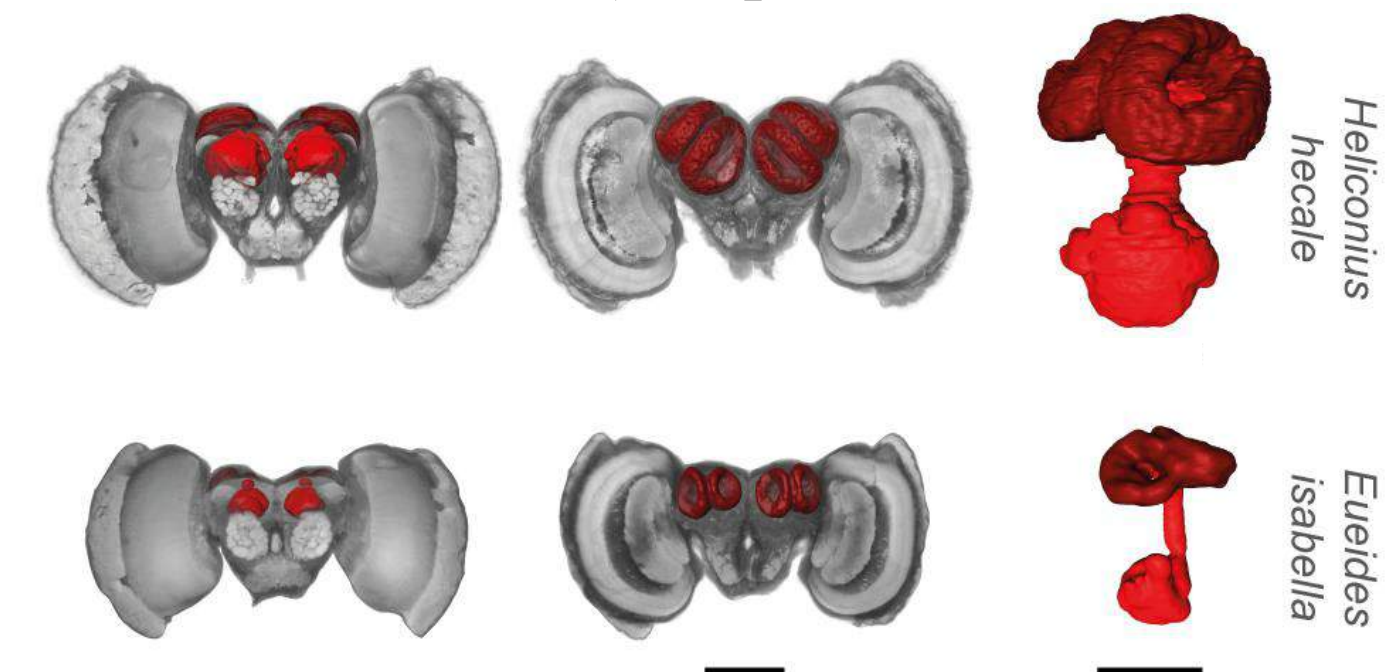
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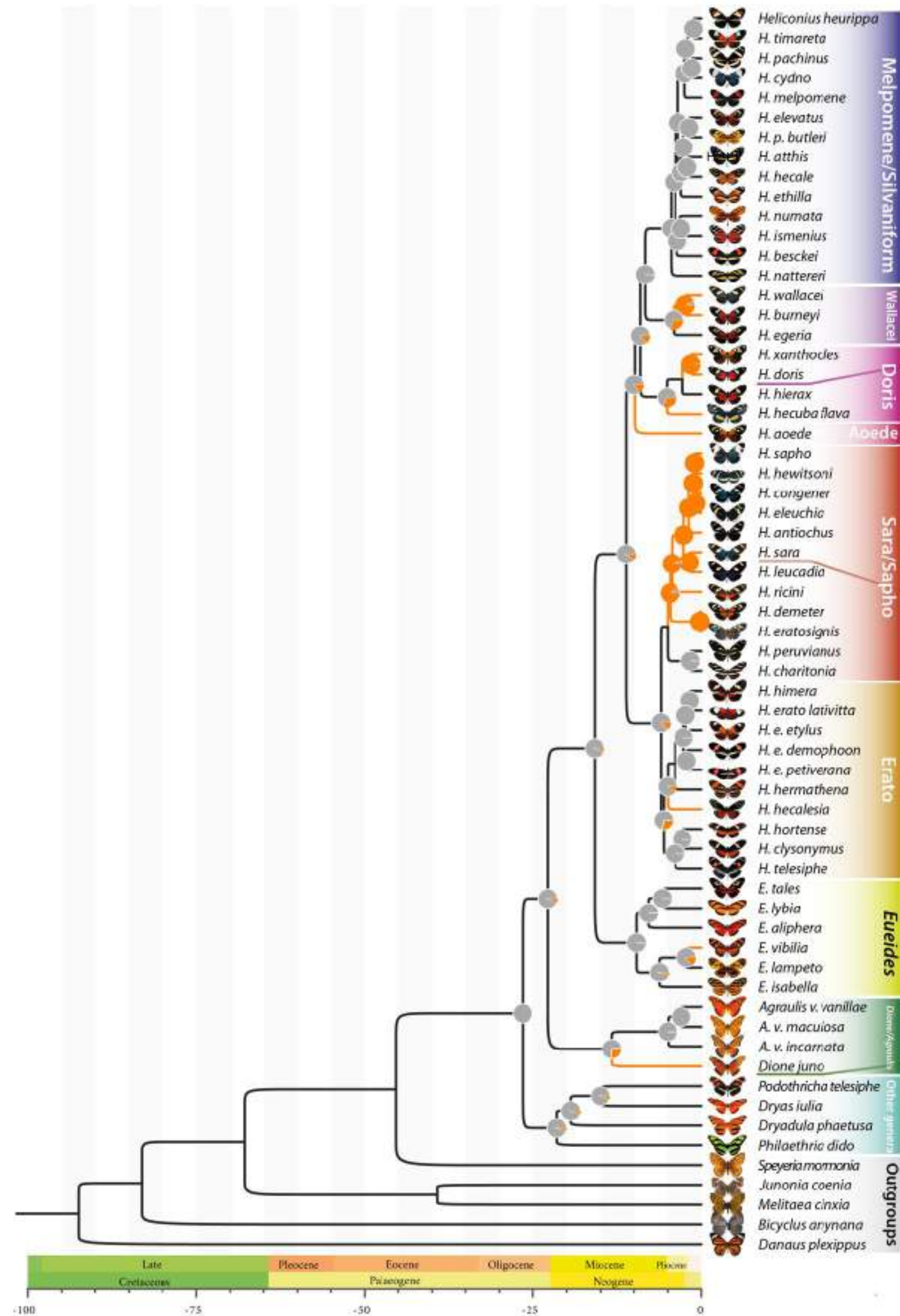
5 intergCNEE179234



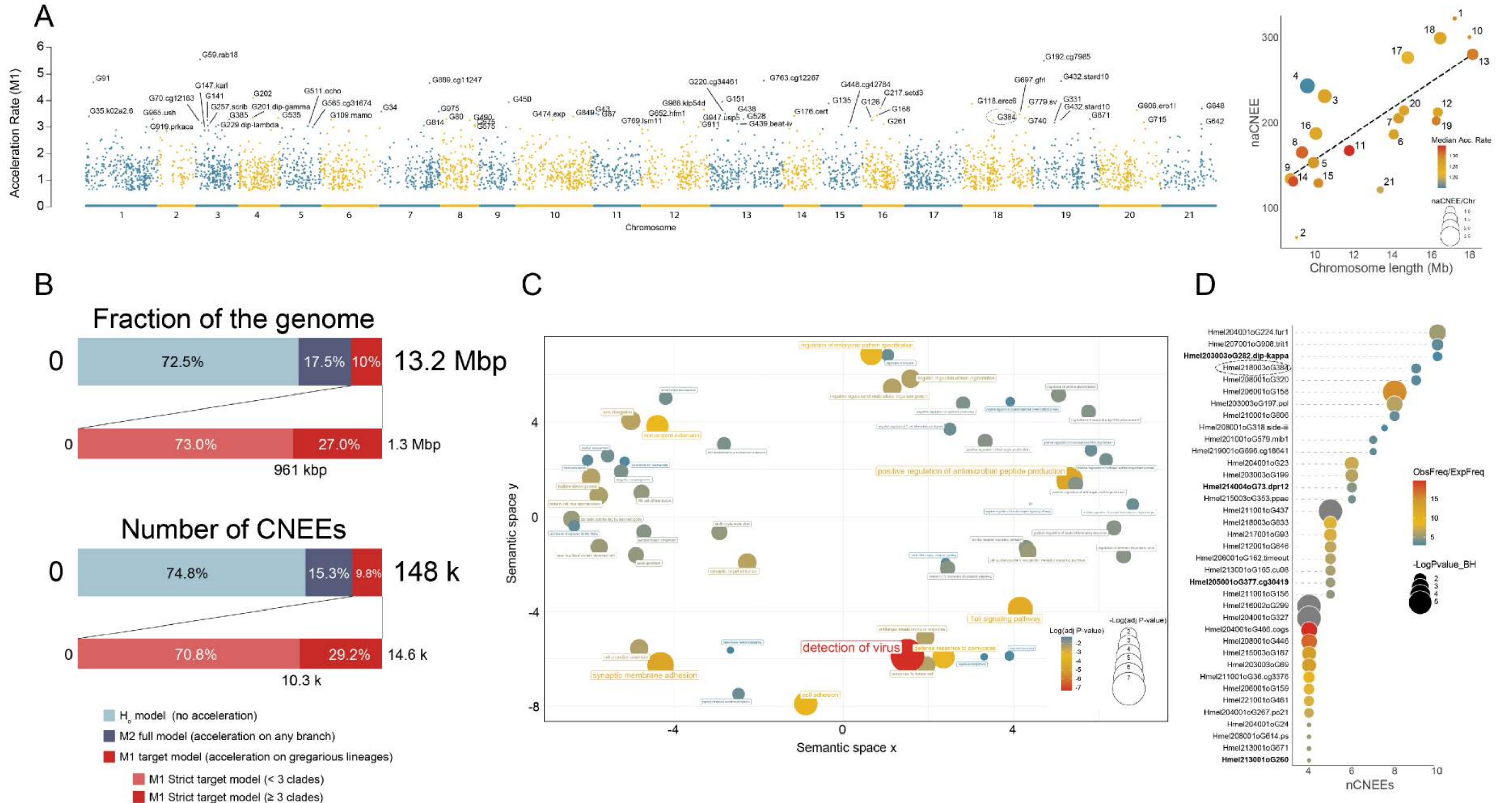
» **Mushroom body expansion (Brain)**



» Test for Convergence »



» Test for Convergence »



» Test for Convergence »

