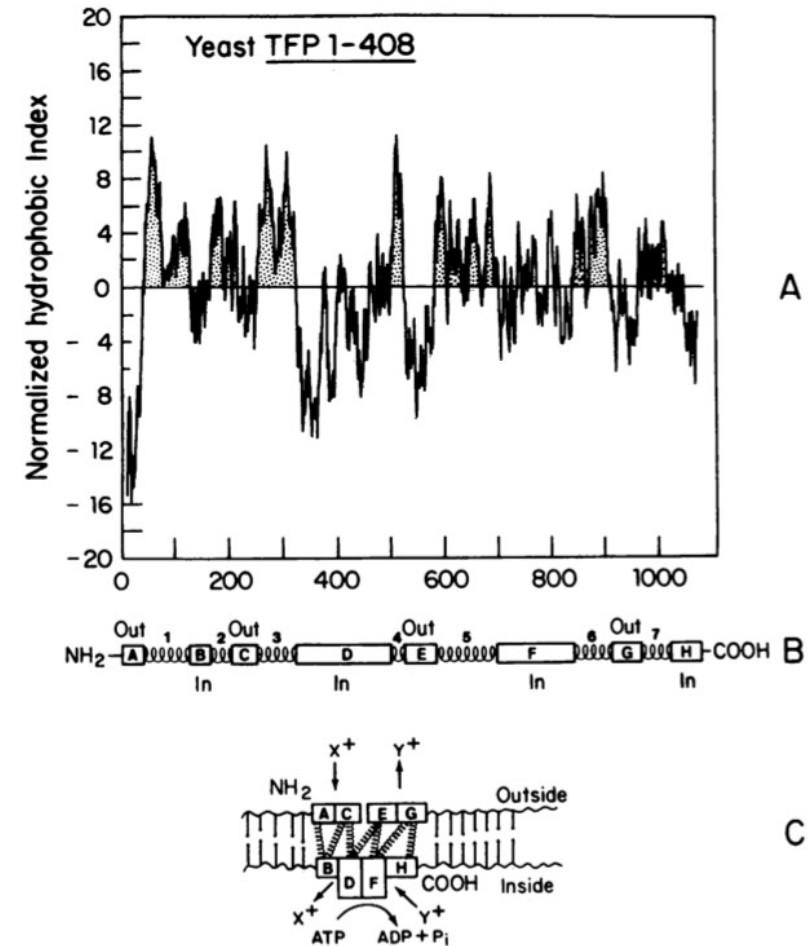


A Dominant Trifluoperazine Resistance Gene from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Has Homology with F₀F₁ ATP Synthase and Confers Calcium-Sensitive Growth

CHENG-KON SHIH, RONALD WAGNER, SABINE FEINSTEIN, CYNTHIA KANIK-ENNULAT, AND NORMA NEFF*

First published intein sequence,
but not recognized as such.

(vacuolar ATPases catalytic
subunit is not an integral
membrane protein)



Molecular Structure of a Gene, *VMA1*, Encoding the Catalytic Subunit of H⁺-Translocating Adenosine Triphosphatase from Vacuolar Membranes of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae**

(Received for publication, October 10, 1989)

Ryogo Hirata, Yoshinori Ohsumi‡, Akihiko Nakano, Hiroshi Kawasaki§, Koichi Suzuki§, and Yasuhiro Anraku¶

From the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113, Japan and the §Department of Molecular Biology, The Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113, Japan

```

S. cerevisiae (1071aa)  MAGAIENARKEIKRISLEHAESEYGAIVSVPVIAEN
                      * ***** **
N. crassa (607aa)    MAPQQNGAEVDGIHTGKIYSVSGPVVAED

41*  MIGCAMYELVKVGHDLNVEVIRIDGDKATIQVYEETAGLTVGDPVLRGTGKPLSVELGPG
    * * * * *
31*  MIGVAMYELVKVGHDLNVEVIRIDGDKATIQVYEETAGVMDPVLRTGKPLSVELGPG

101* LMETIYDGIQRPLKAIKEESQSIYIPRGIDTIPALDRTIKWQTFPGKPVGDHISGGDIYQ
    * * * * *
91*  LLNVIYDGIQRPLEKLAASNSIYIPRGIATPALDRKKKWEFTT-TMKVGDHLAGGDVWG

161* SVFENSLISSHKILLPPRSRGITITWIAPAGEYTLDEKILEVEFDGKSDFTLYHTWVVRV
    * * * * *
150* TVYENSFISVHKILLPPRARGITITRIAEKGEYTVEEKILEVEFDGKTEYPMQTPVVRV

221* PRPVTAKLSADYPLLGTQVLDALFPCVQGGTTCIPGAFGCGKTVISQSLSKYSNSDAII
    * * * * *
210* PRFAAFNSANQPFDRVLDALFSPVQGGTVAIPGAFGCGKTVISQSVKFSNSDVIV

281* YVGG... (454a.a.)... GERGNMAEVLMEFFELYTMSGTKEPIMKRTTLVANTSN
    * * * * *
270* YVGG... GERGNMAEVLKDFPELSIEVDGRKEPIMKRTTLVANTSN

779* MPVAAREASTYTGITLAEYFRDQGNVSMIADSSRWAEALREISGRLGEMPADQGFPA
    * * * * *
314* MPVAAREASTYTGITVAEYFRDQGNVSMIADSSRWAEALREISGRLGEMPADQGFPA

839* LGAKLASFYERAGKAVAGSPDRGTSVIVAAVSPAGGDFDPVTTATLGITQVFWGLDK
    * * * * *
374* LGAKLASFYERAGKAVAGSPDRGTSVIVAAVSPAGGDFDPVTTATLGITQVFWGLDK

899* KLAQRKHFPISINTSVSYKYTNVKNKPYDSNYPEFVLRDRMKEILSNAEELEQVQVLVQ
    * * * * *
434* KLAQRKHFPISINTSVSYKYLTIKDKMYEREYDPDFRLDRIRQLLSDSEELDQVQVLVQ

959* KSALSDSDKITLDVATLIKEDFLQNGYSTYDAFCPIWKTFRMRAFISYHDEAQAQVAN
    * * * * *
494* KSALSDPKITLDMATLIKEDFLQNGYSYDQFCPIWKTFRMRAFISYHDEAQAQVAN

1019* GANWSKLADSTGCVKHAVSSSKFFPEPSRGEKVEHGEFEKLLSTMRFAESTD
    * * * * *
554* GQWVWKVREATQDLQALKSLKFEVPSSEGEKICKKYEAIQQQLDKFASVIDE
    
```

FIG. 6. Amino acid sequence homology between the catalytic subunits of yeast and *Neurospora crassa* vacuolar membrane H⁺-ATPases. Identical residues and conserved amino acid replacements are indicated by stars and dots, respectively. Dashes represent gaps introduced to obtain maximum matching.

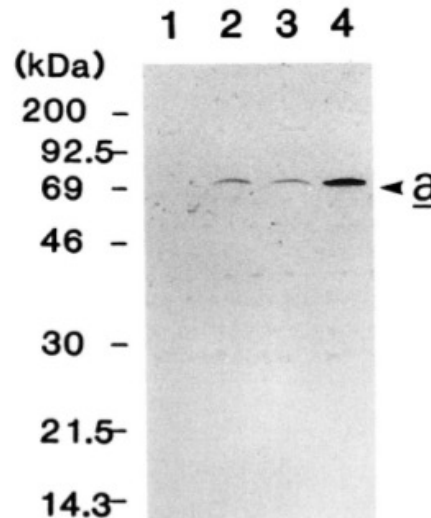


FIG. 5. Lack of subunit *a* in total cell lysate from *vma1* null mutant cells. Total cell lysate was prepared as described under "Materials and Methods" from RH101 (*vma1*, lane 1), ANY21 (*VMA1*, lane 2) and ANY21 harboring multicopy plasmid without or with *VMA1* gene (lanes 3 and 4). About 50 µg of proteins was separated on a 10% SDS-polyacrylamide gel and blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane. Subunit *a* was detected using an anti-subunit *a* monoclonal antibody.

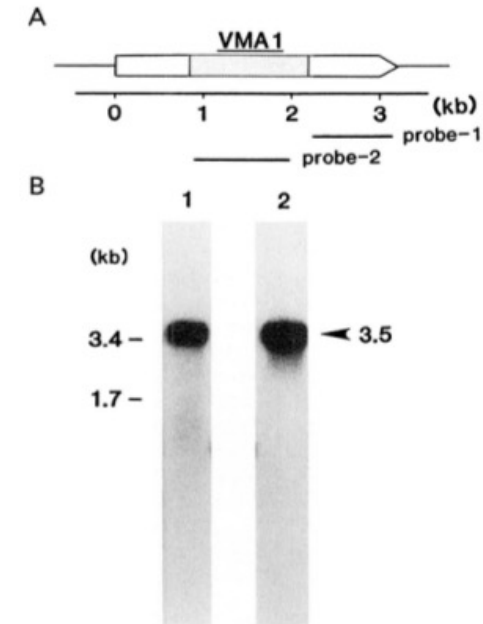


FIG. 8. Northern blot analysis of the *VMA1* mRNA. Poly(A)⁺ RNA was isolated from ANY21, size fractionated on an agarose-formamide gel (1.2% gel), and transferred to a nylon membrane filter. Blots were hybridized with the DNA probes shown in A. Hatched region represents the nonhomologous insert (see "Results"). Hybridization patterns for probe-1 (lane 1) and probe-2 (lane 2) are shown in B. About 5 µg of RNA was loaded in each lane.

Levels of Selection

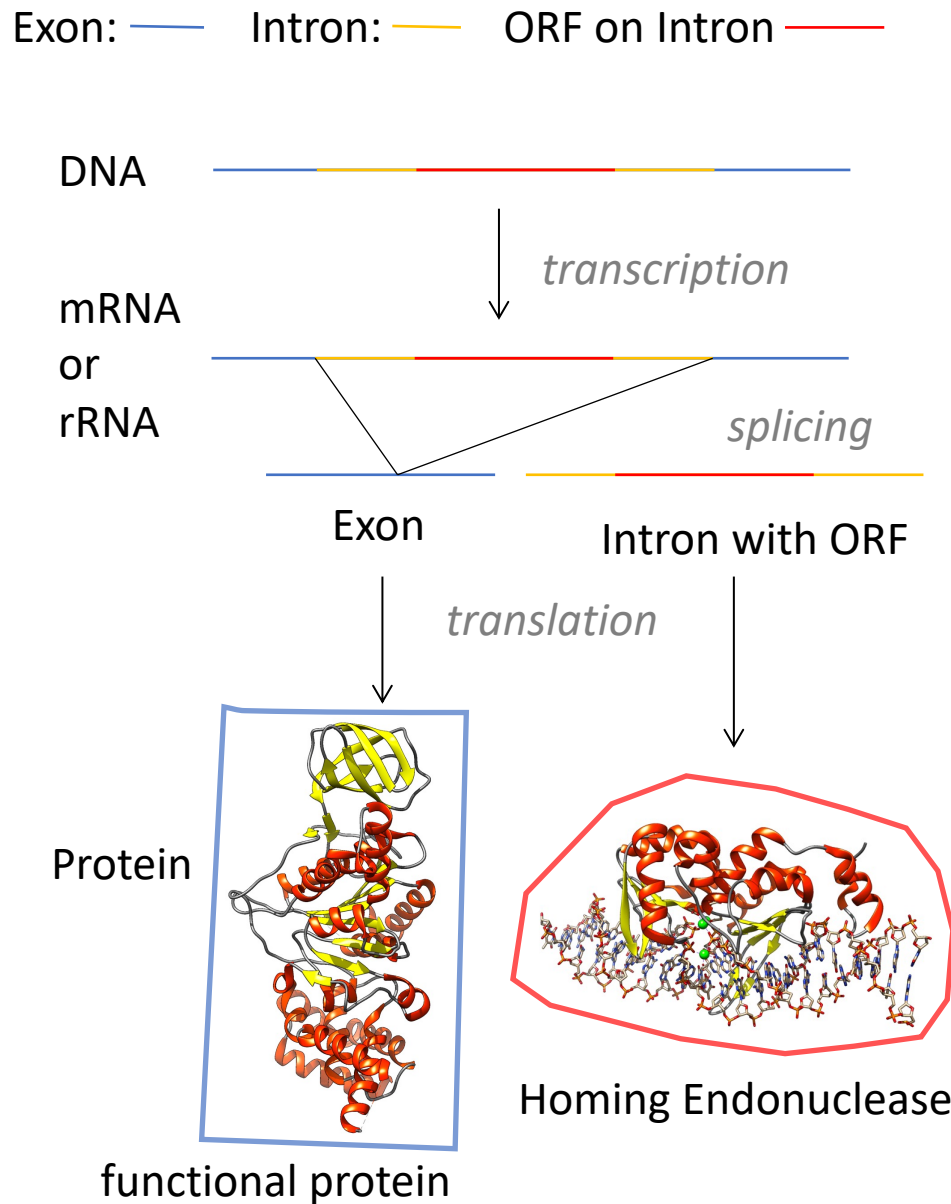
Competition between holobionts (host plus symbionts) and between microbial communities (consisting of multiple species in a syntrophic relationship)

Competition between groups
(groups that adapt or evolve faster outcompete other groups)

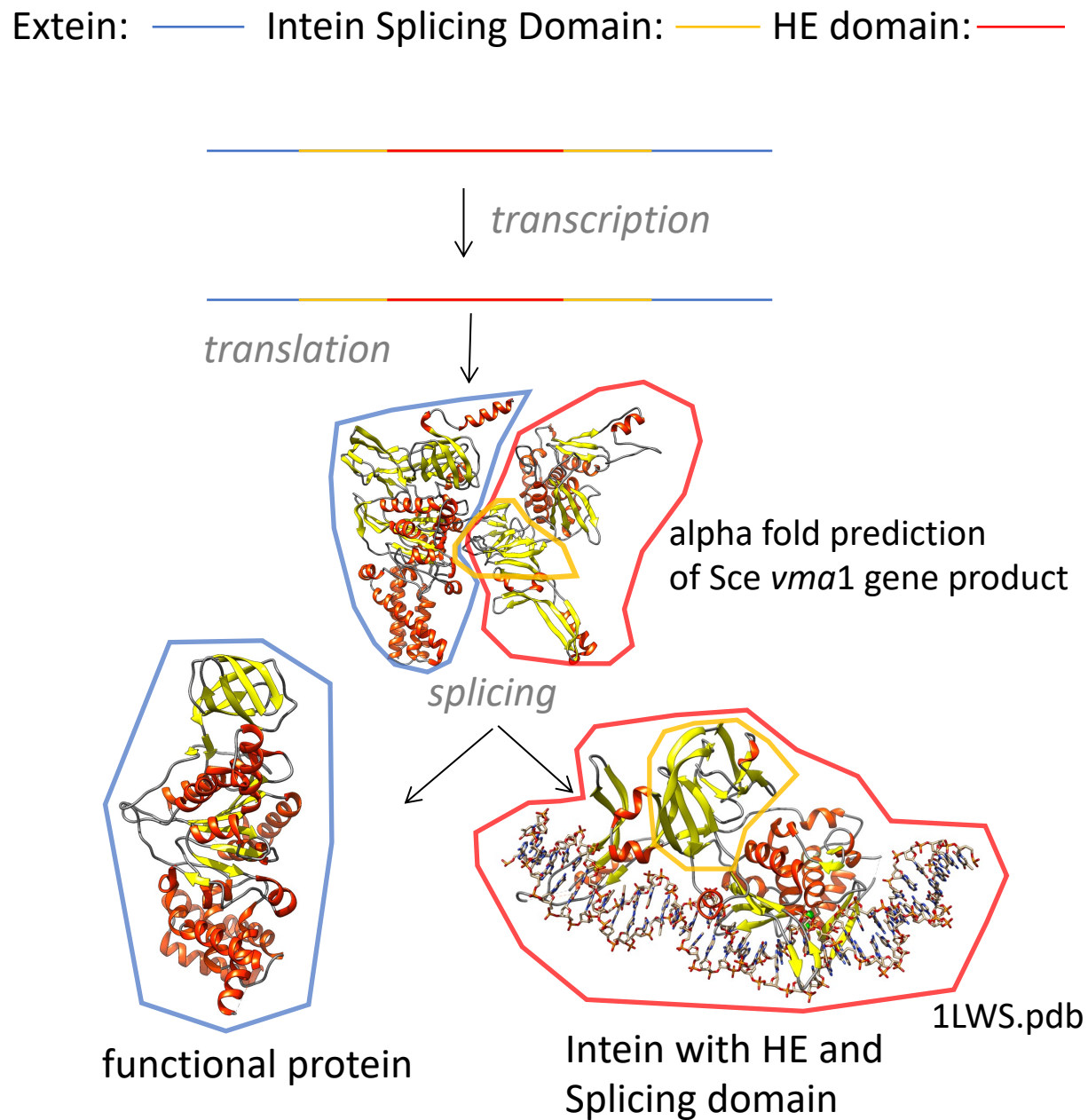
Competition between individuals
(genes in organisms with higher fitness increase in frequency in the population)

Gene-level selection
(selfish genes that cooperate to construct a fit organism; parasitic genetic elements that may have a negative impact on host fitness)

Group I Intron



Intein



Inteins (molecular fleas): Self-Splicing Protein Mobile Elements

DNA



Intein Self-Splicing Domains

Auto catalytic splicing reaction
removes the intein from the host protein

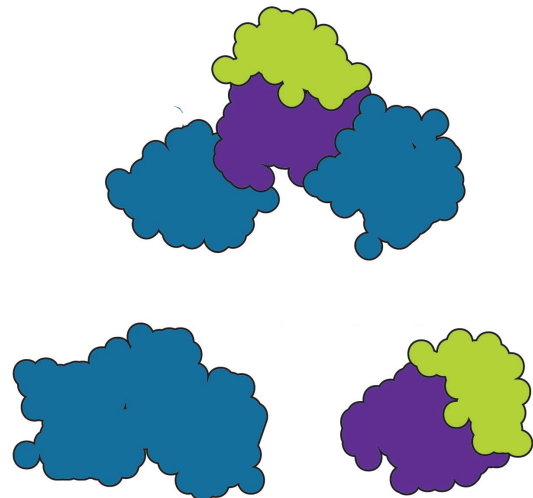
RNA



Intein Homing Endonuclease Domain

Recognizes unoccupied intein insertion
sites (IIS) and disrupts the sequence

Protein



with a

double strand break

Extein

Host protein

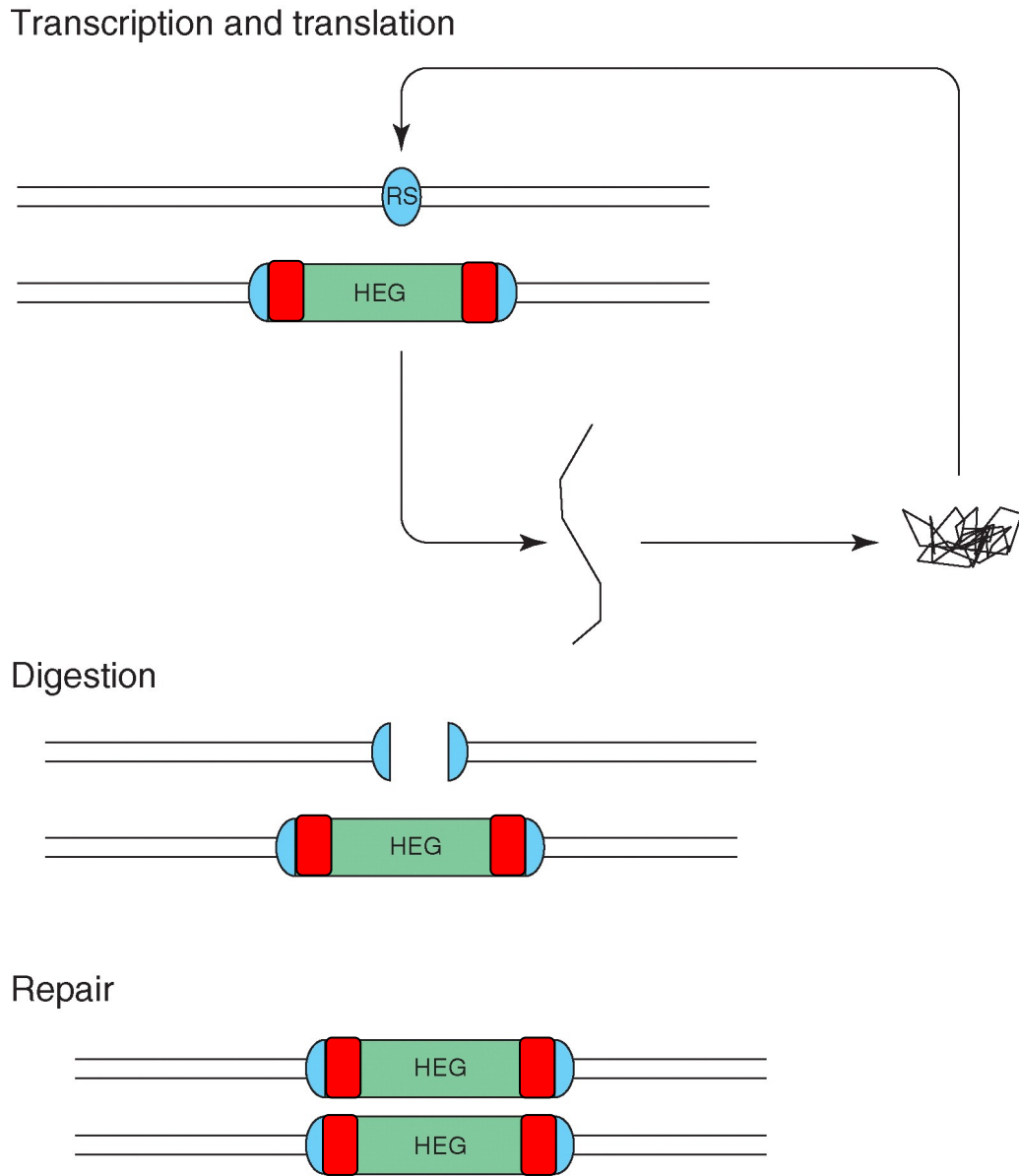
Modified from

Homing endonuclease genes: the rise and fall and rise again of a selfish element

Austin Burt and Vassiliki Koufopanou

Current Opinion in Genetics & Development

Volume 14, Issue 6, December 2004, Pages 609-615




Current Opinion in Genetics & Development

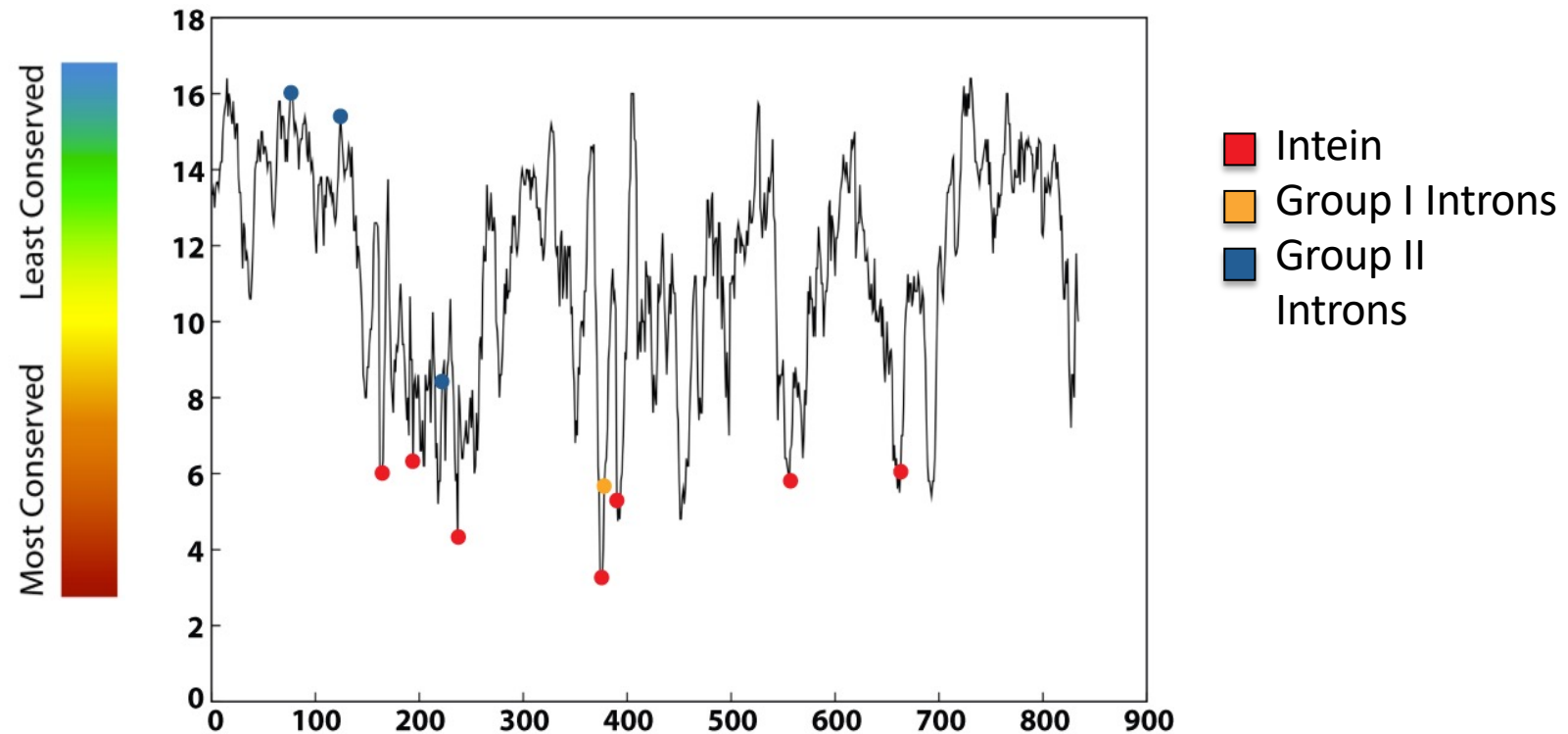
Intein Homing

Intein = **I**nter**v**ening **P**rotein sequence
= “protein intron”

 Self Splicing Domain

 Homing Endonuclease Domain

Ribonucleotide Reductase



Swithers KS, Senejani AG, Fournier GP, Gogarten JP (2009)
Conservation of intron and intein insertion sites: Implications for life histories of parasitic genetic elements.
BMC Evolutionary Biology 2009, 9:303 doi:10.1186/1471-2148-9-303 (Highly Accessed)

In case of inteins the co-evolution of genes results in

- **Mutualism** between splicing and homing endonuclease domain



- **Commensalism** between host protein and intein without HE domain



- **Parasitism** between host protein and intein with HE



Encoding



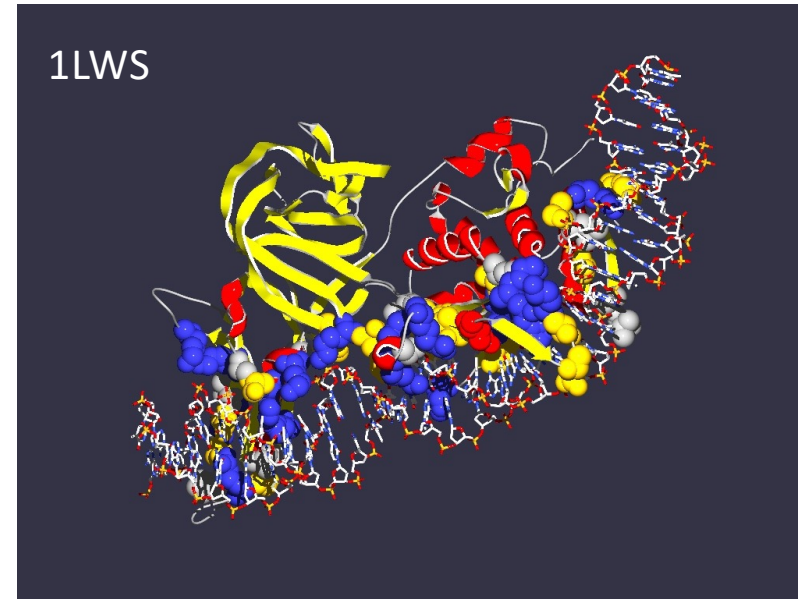
Extein = Host Protein



Intein Splicing Domain



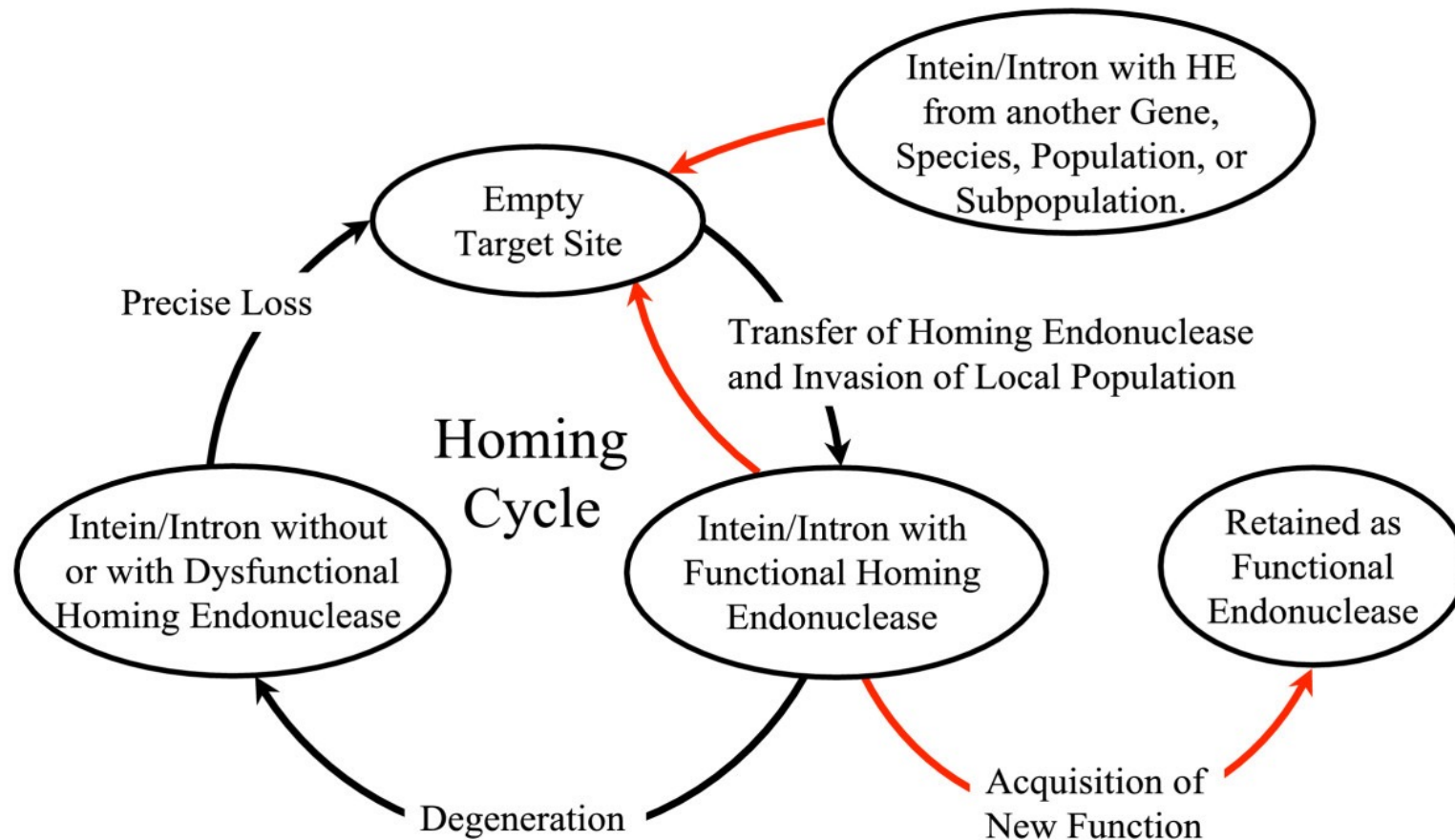
Homing Endonuclease (HE) domain



Structure from Moure et al. (2002)
Nat.Struct.Biol. 9: 764-770

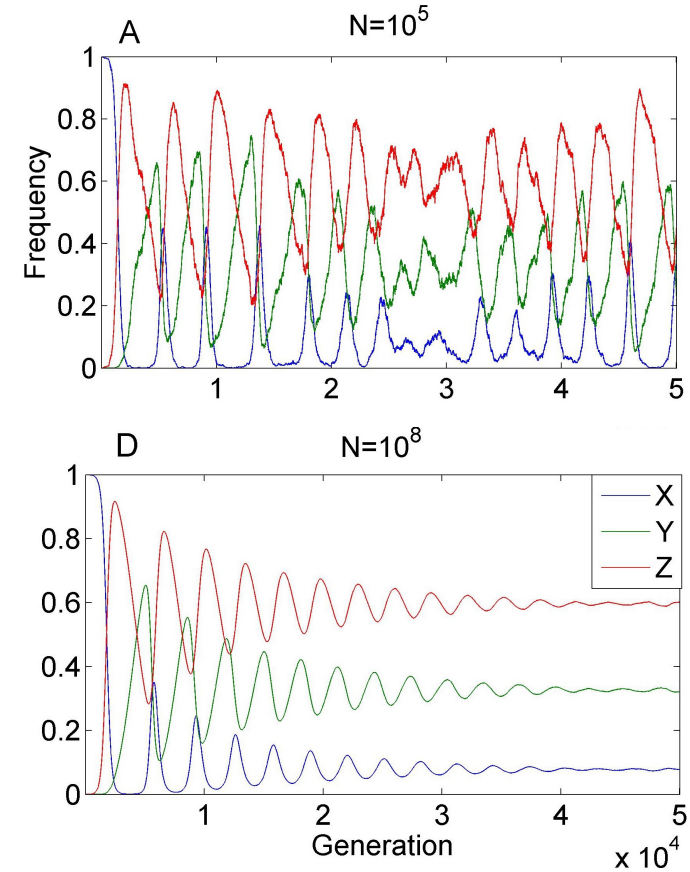
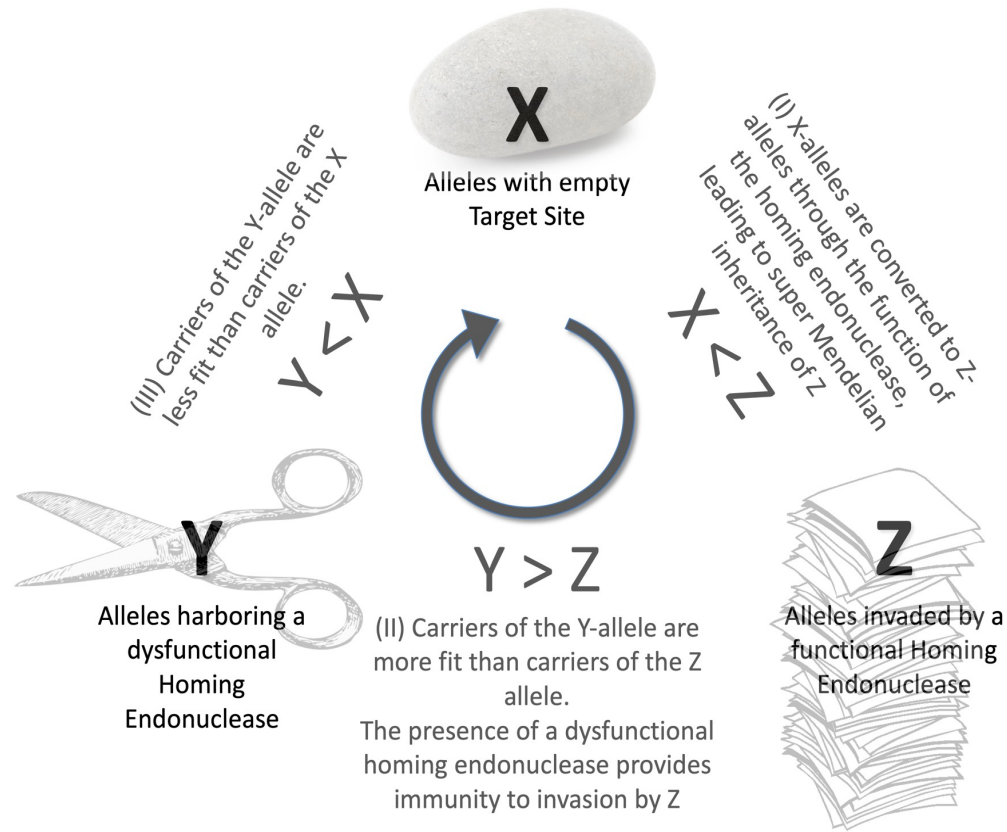
How can inteins with functional homing endonuclease survive on the long run?

- Homing cycle
- Coexistence of the three forms (predator prey with three partners, in an intransitive fitness relationship)
- Diverse environment with regions that select for the intein, and those that don't



Homing cycle of a parasitic genetic element (modified from [3, 13]). Recent findings suggest that due to complex population structure the cycle might not operate in synchrony in different subpopulations. The red arrows indicate the trajectory of the functioning HE and the black arrows the fate of the host gene. The precise loss can occur through recombination with an intein or intron free allele, or, in case of introns, through recombination with a reverse transcript of the spliced mRNA [39, 40].

Coexistence of the three forms



A Molecular Rock-Paper-Scissors game

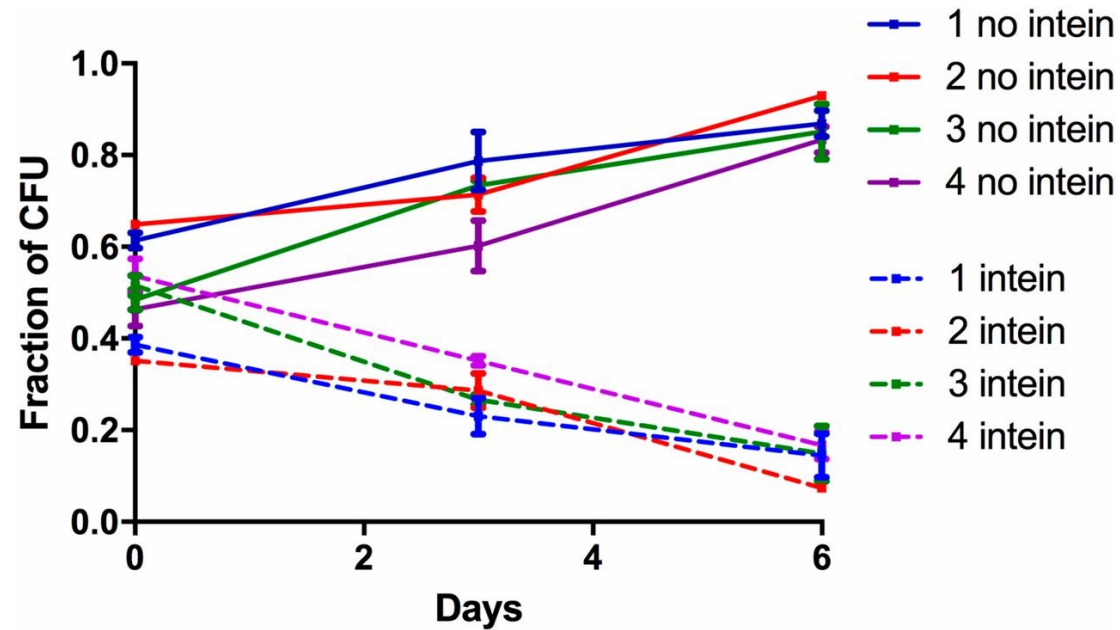
Barzel *et al.* *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 2011
 11:324 doi:10.1186/1471-2148-11-324

Simulations using difference-equations in populations of limited size

Inteins have a high fitness cost for the host organism.



United States - Israel
Binational Science Foundation



Competition Experiment between Intein + and Intein - strains (otherwise isogenic)

From: Impact of a homing intein on recombination frequency and organismal fitness. Naor et al.

[doi: 10.1073/pnas.1606416113](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1606416113)



Dr. Adit Naor
Tel Aviv Univ / Stanford



Dr. Shannon Soucy
UConn / Dartmouth



Dr. Uri Gophna
Tel Aviv Univ



Dr. Thane Papke
UConn

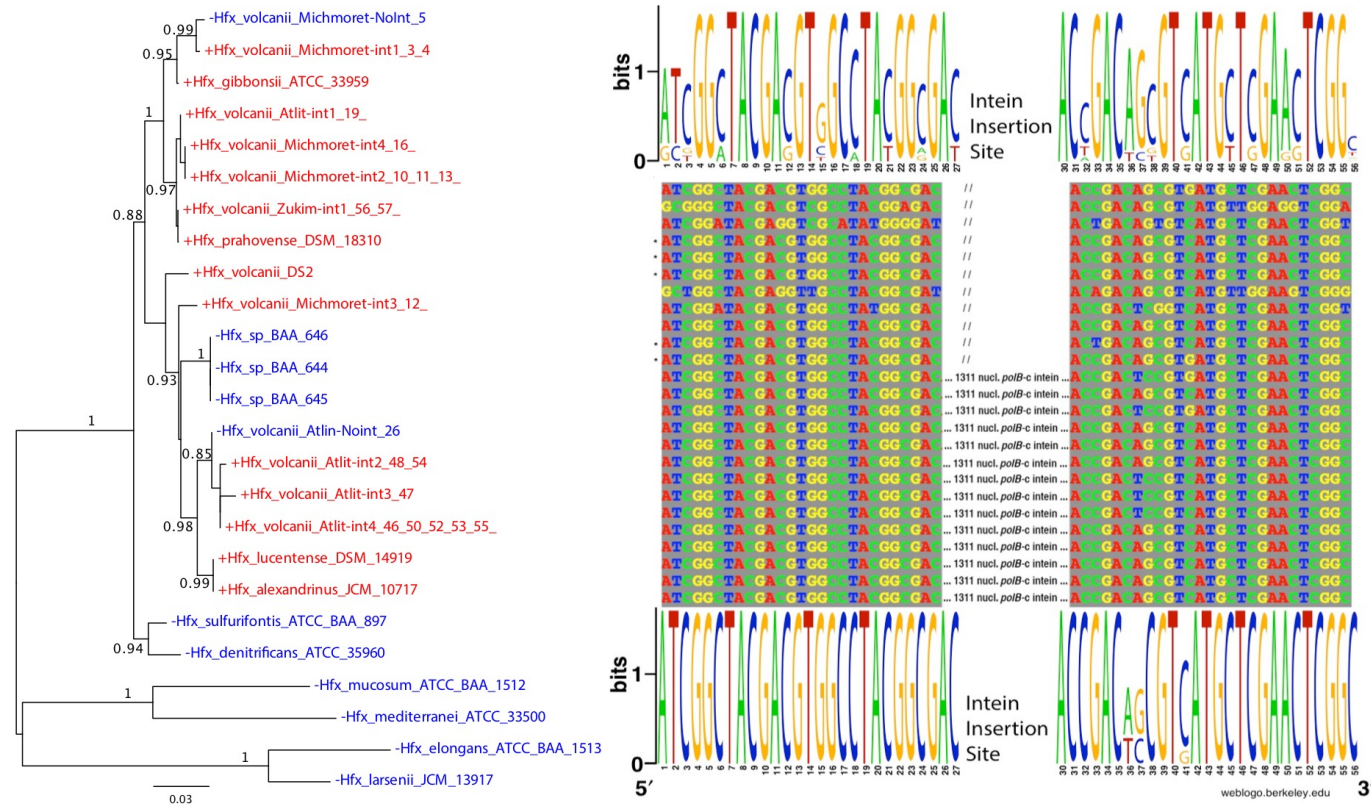
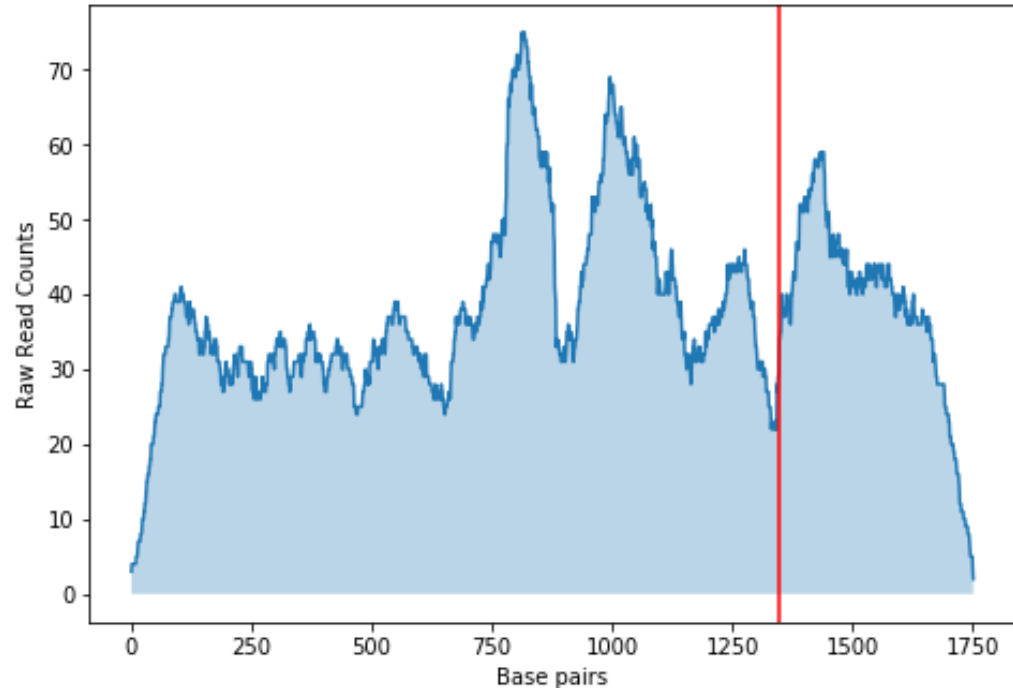


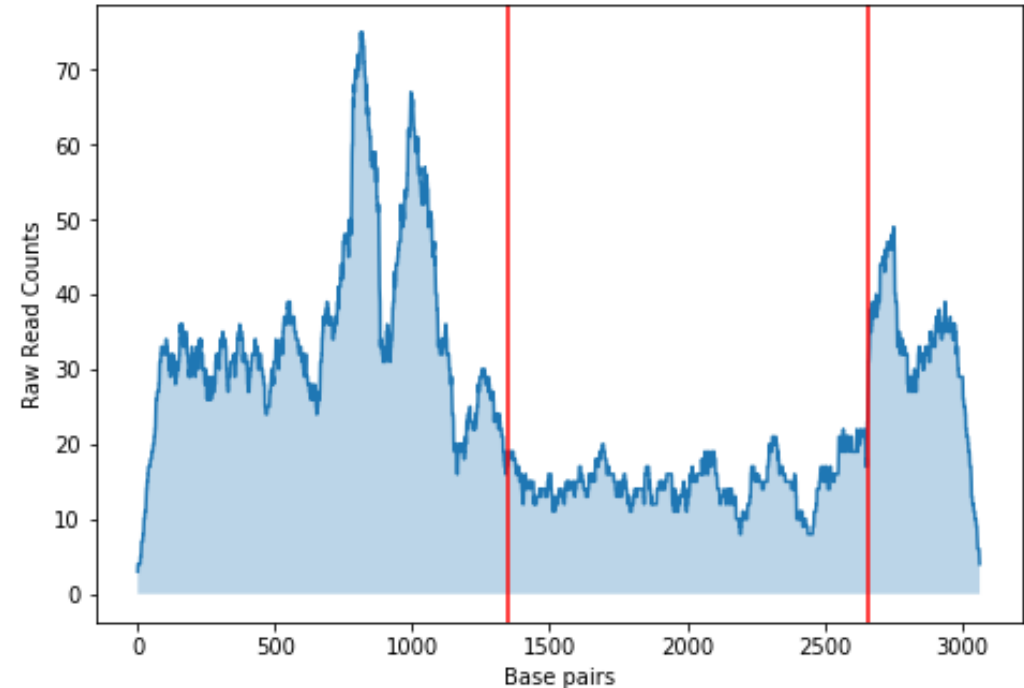
Fig 6. Maximum likelihood phylogeny for *polB* extein sequences (left) and conservation of *polB*-c intein insertion sites (right). Numbers give support values calculated using the approximate Likelihood Ratio Test as implemented in phylml 3.0 (32). Although drawn as a rooted, the tree should be considered unrooted. The finding that sequences **without (blue)** and **with intein (red)** do not always form distinct clans (34) reveals that invasion of the *Haloferax* genus with the *polB*-c intein is an ongoing process. The panel on the right shows a *polB* nucleotide sequence alignment around the intein insertion site c. Web logos (33) give the site conservation for intein minus (top) and intein plus sequences (bottom). The five intein minus sequences that group within the cluster of intein plus sequences are marked with an asterisk. The intein minus sequences show greater nucleotide diversity surrounding the intein insertion site, mainly in synonymous positions -- only two positions at the 5' and close to the 3' end of the alignment represent non-synonymous changes. Homing endonuclease site specificity was shown to tolerate substitutions that result in non-synonymous changes (35), suggesting that none of the depicted *Haloferax* sequences may be immune to intein invasion.

Frequency of reads mapped to *Natronomonas moolapensis* rir1g

Reads mapped to *Natronomonas moolapensis* rir1g with intein removed Lake Meyghan



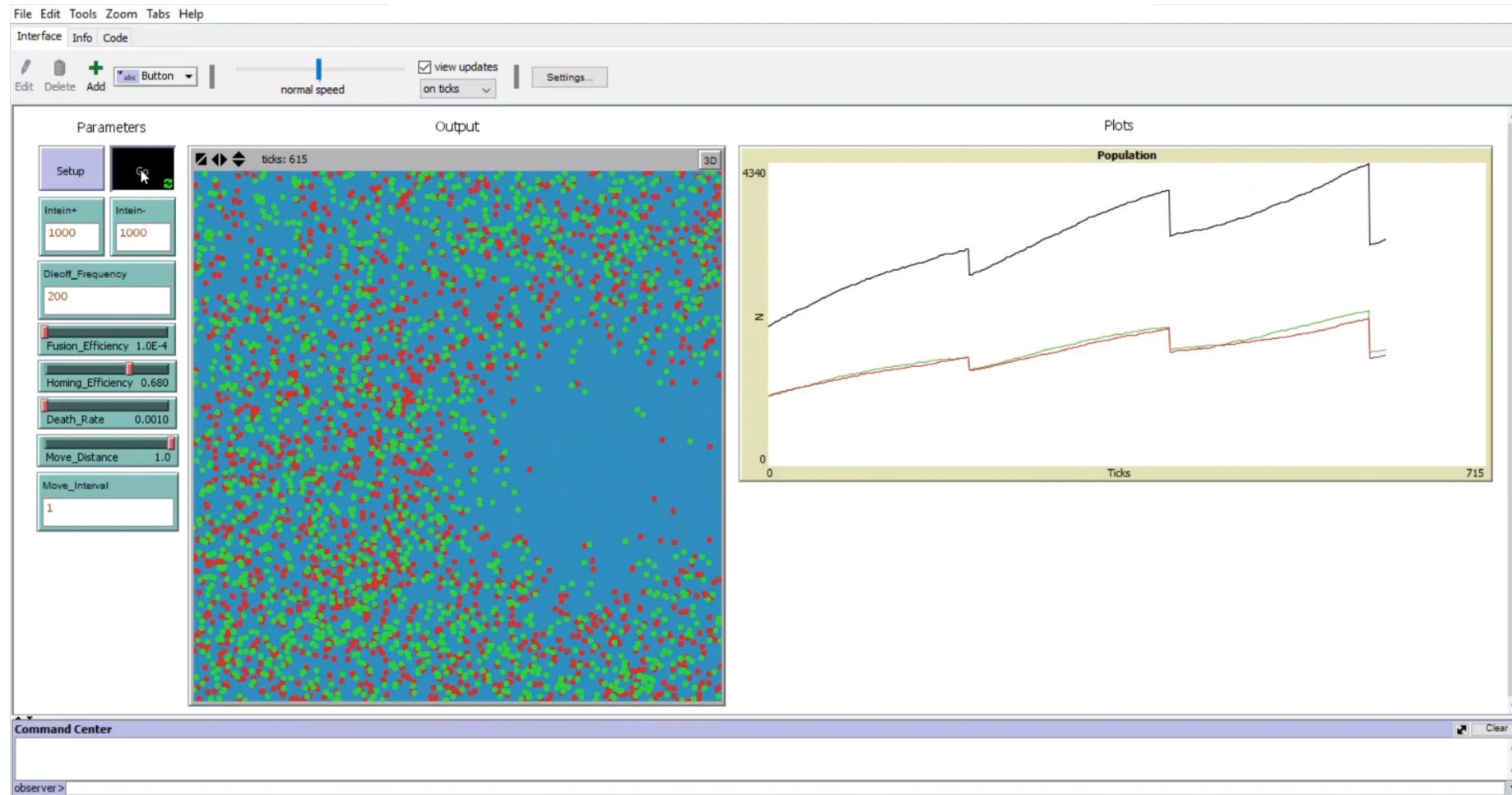
Reads mapped to *Natronomonas moolapensis* rir1g with intein Lake Meyghan



- Metagenomic reads from Lake Meyghan* mapped back to reference sequences with and without the intein.
- Intein was artificially removed, to intact insertion site.
- Red lines indicate intein boundaries, sharp decrease in coverage when intein removed.

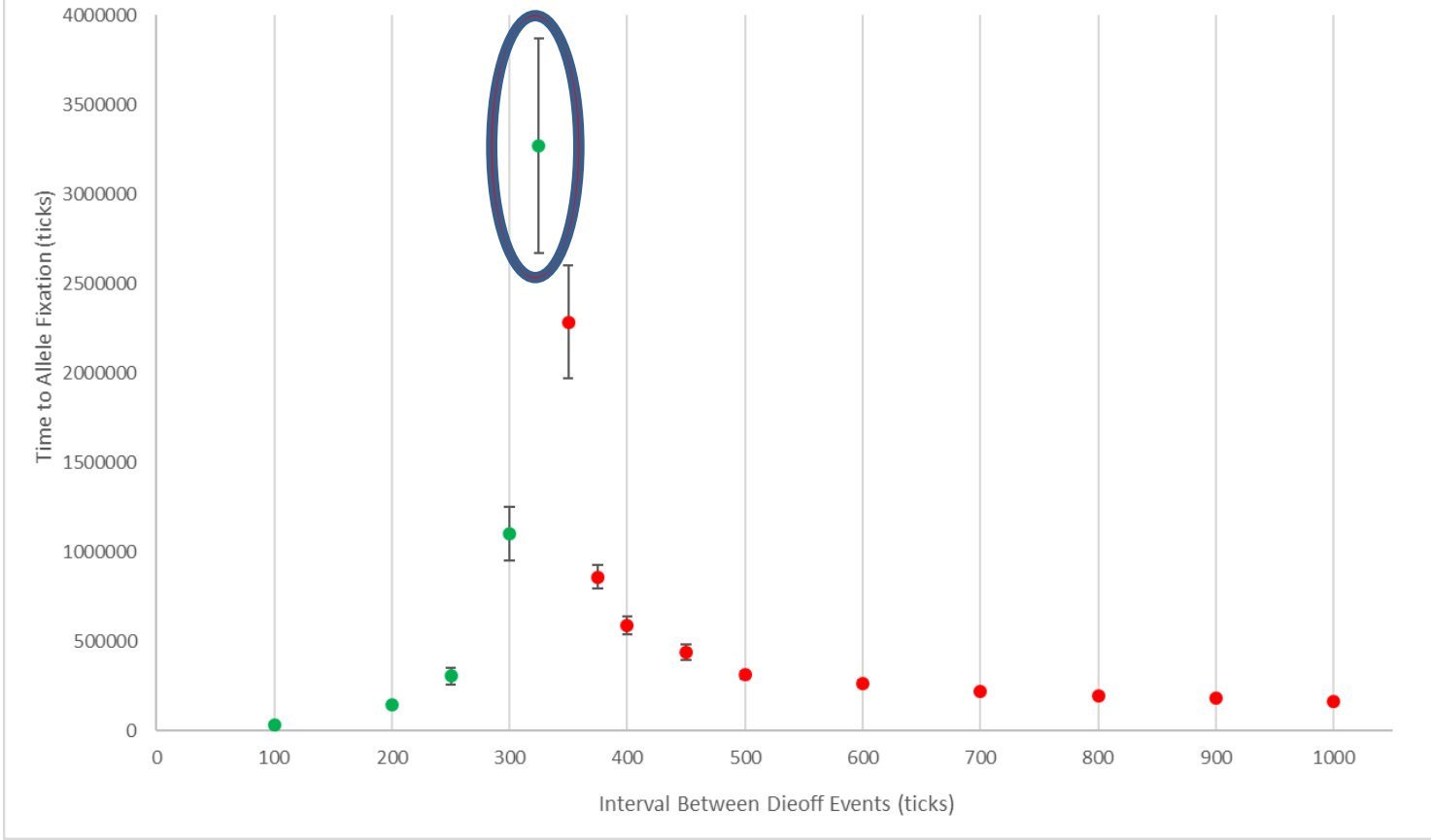
*Naghoni, A. *et al.* Microbial diversity in the hypersaline Lake Meyghan, Iran. *Sci. Rep.* **7**, (2017).

Simulation: Homogeneous Environment with localized random extinctions



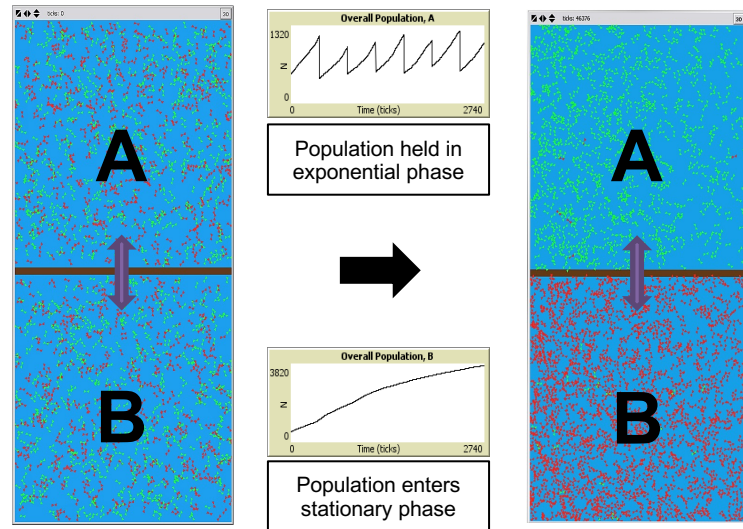
Agent based modeling using NetLogo

Allele fixation in homogeneous environments is dependent on growth conditions



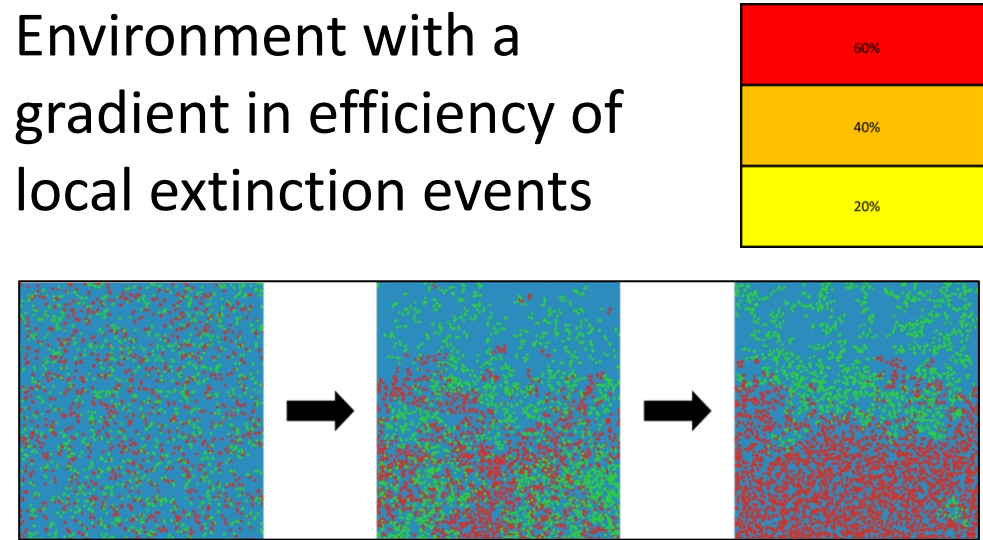
Changing conditions (temporal and/or spatial) can facilitate the long-term coexistence of homing endonucleases with empty target sites

Two environments with different frequencies of local extinction events



Close to stationary phase: Inteins transmission continues, increasing the frequency of the invaded allele

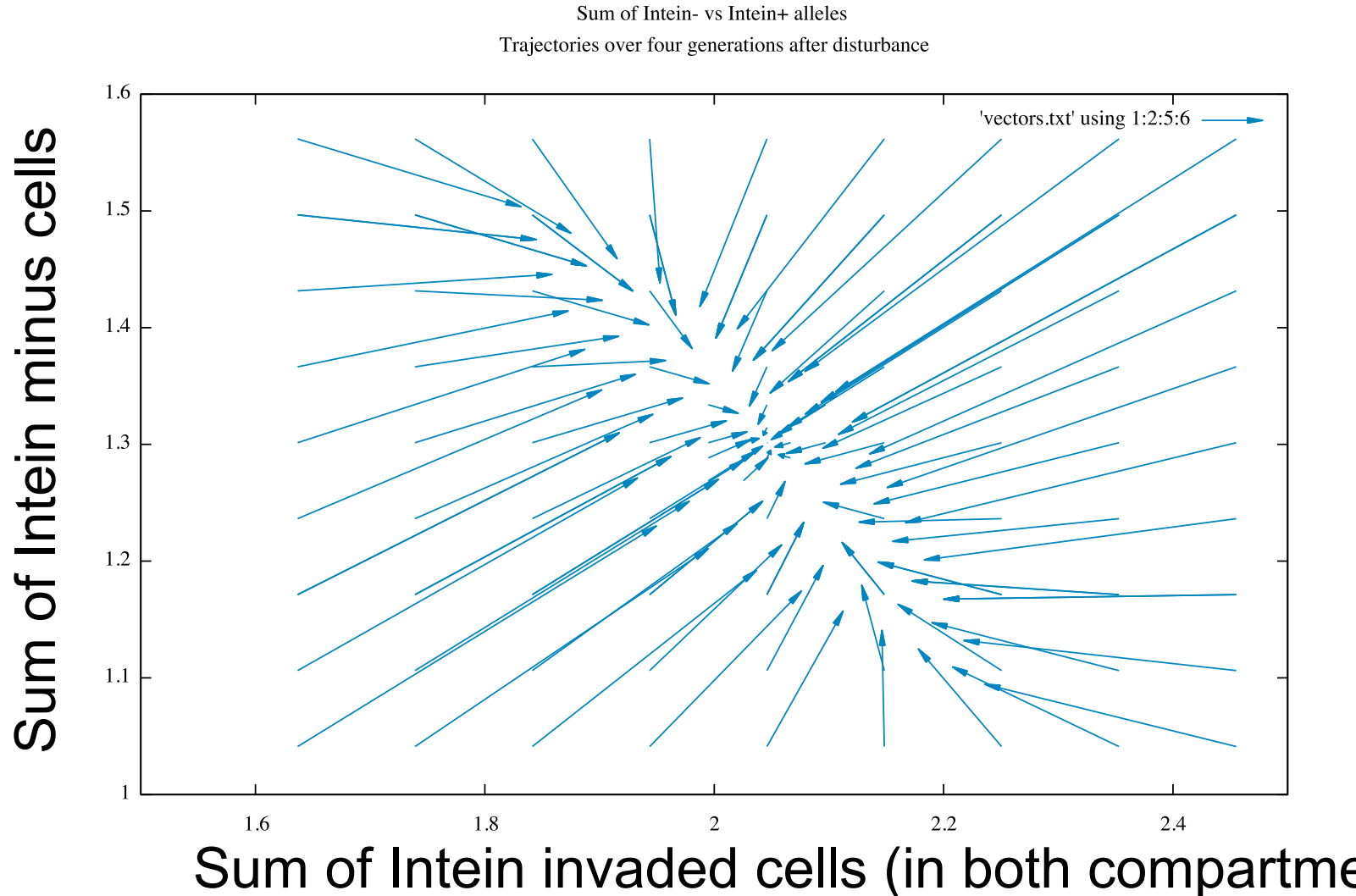
Environment with a gradient in efficiency of local extinction events



During active growth: Due to fitness cost of the intein, the frequency of the noninvaded allele increases

A heterogeneous environment can lead to long-term stable coexistence of invaded and uninvaded genes

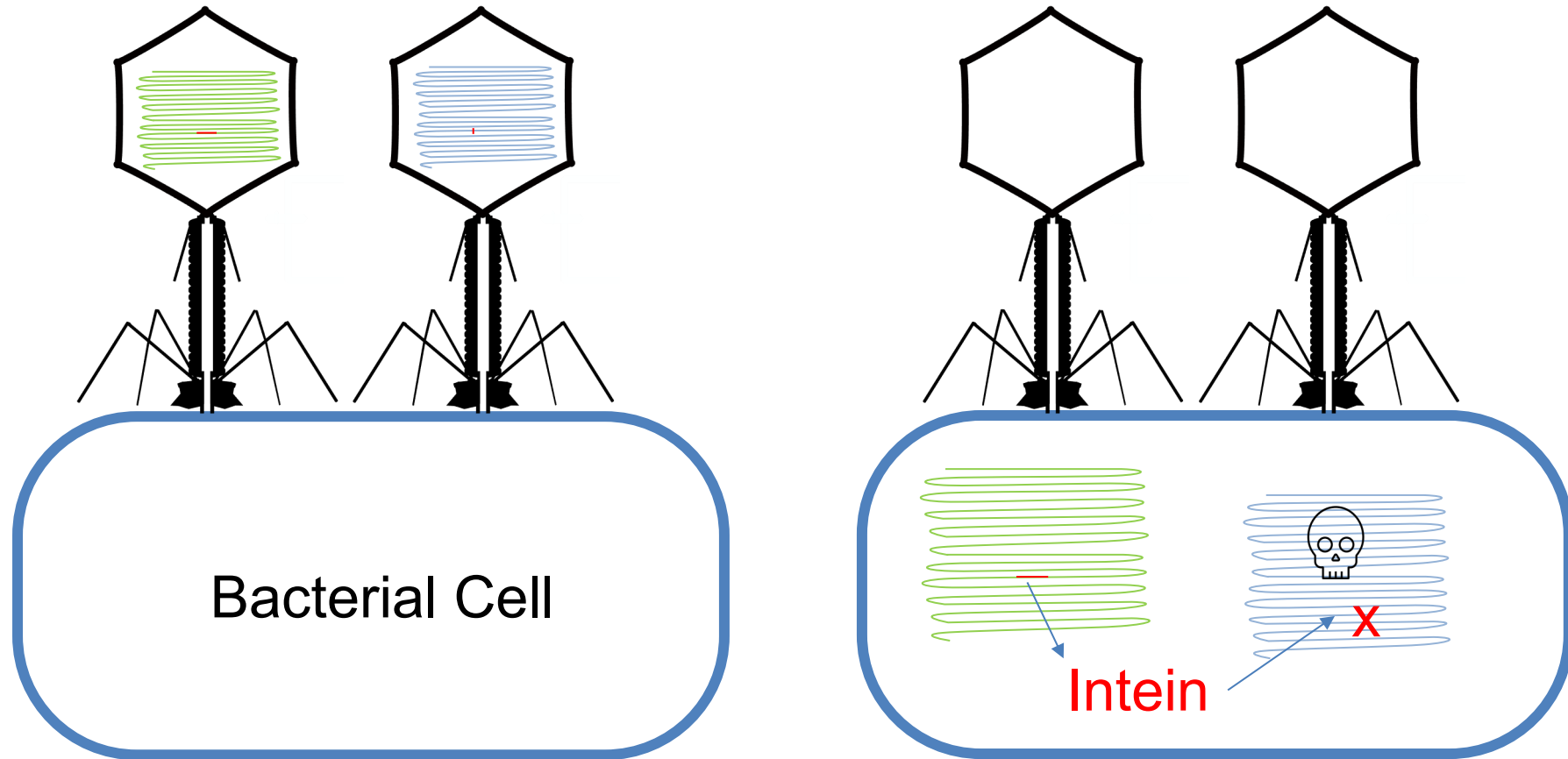
Simulation of a two-compartment system (each of the compartments is homogenous) using iterations. In each discrete generation 10% of the population dies in compartment 2, and .1% move between compartments. Without death the carrying capacity is 2 in each compartment.



How can inteins with functional homing endonuclease survive on the long run?

- Homing cycle
- Coexistence of the three forms (predator prey with three partners, in an intransitive fitness relationship)
- Diverse environment with regions that select for the intein, and those that don't
- They picked up a function that increases the fitness of the host (emergency shut off, if conditions are bad – e.g., salt, temperature, redox potential; mating type switching endonuclease, weapon against competitors).

Phage with Intein Phage w/o Intein



Infinite Regress



After a lecture on the structure of the solar system, the cosmologist William James was accosted by a little old lady.

"Your theory that the sun is the centre of the solar system, and the earth is a ball which rotates around it has a very convincing ring to it, Mr. James, but it's wrong. I've got a better theory," said the little old lady.

"And what is that, madam?" inquired James politely.

"That we live on a crust of earth which is on the back of a giant turtle."

Not wishing to demolish this absurd little theory by bringing to bear the masses of scientific evidence he had at his command, James decided to gently dissuade his opponent by making her see some of the inadequacies of her position.

"If your theory is correct, madam," he asked, **"what does this turtle stand on?"**

"You're a very clever man, Mr. James, and that's a very good question," replied the little old lady, "but I have an answer to it. And it's this: **The first turtle stands on the back of a second, far larger, turtle, who stands directly under him.**"

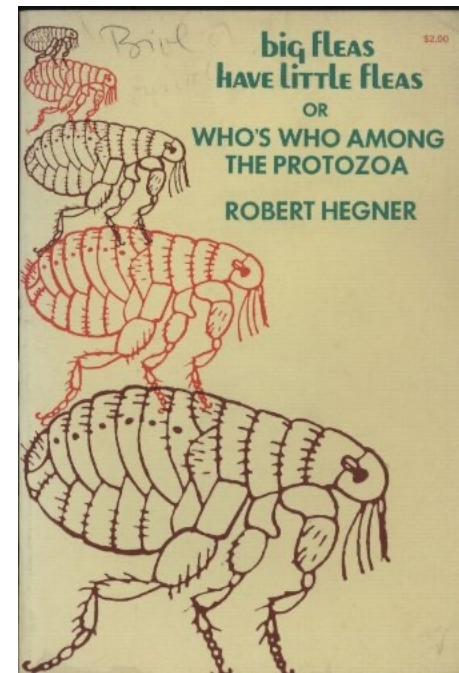
"But what does this second turtle stand on?" persisted James patiently.

To this, the little old lady crowed triumphantly,

"It's no use, Mr. James—it's turtles all the way down."

Siphonaptera

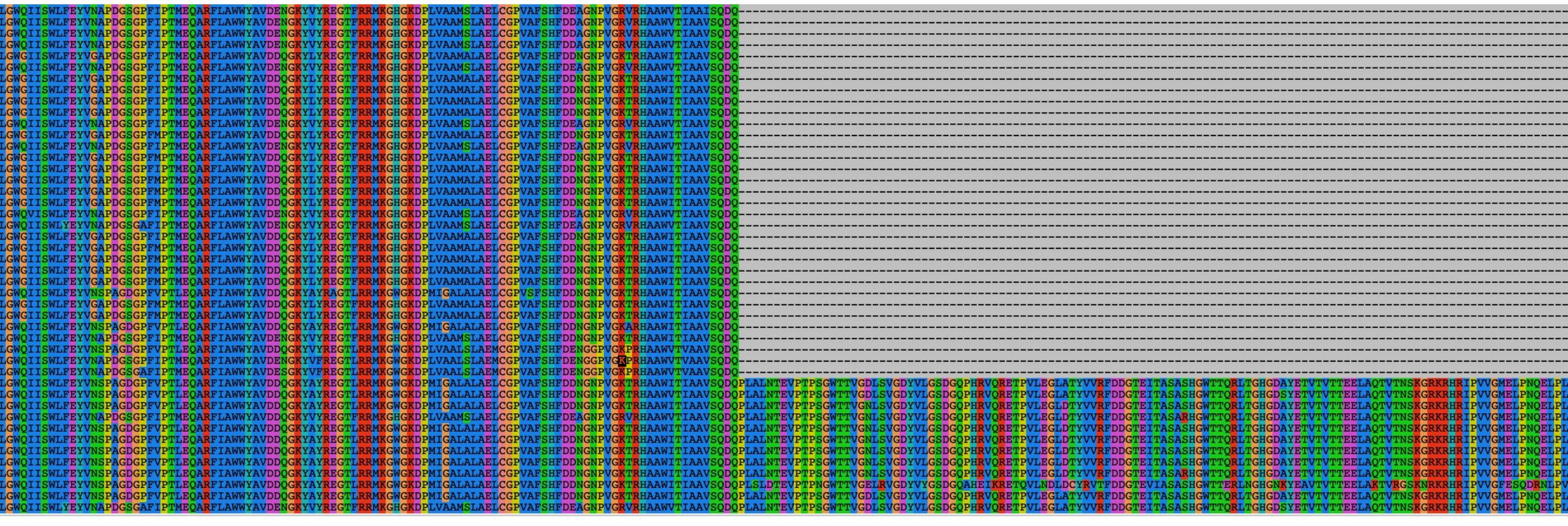
Great fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em,
And little fleas have lesser fleas, and so *ad infinitum*.
And the great fleas themselves, in turn, have greater fleas to go on ;
While these again have greater still, and greater still, and so on.



From: Augustus De Morgan's poem *Siphonaptera* (1872)
via [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siphonaptera_\(poem\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siphonaptera_(poem))

Terminase Subunits from Actinobacteriophages Cluster A1

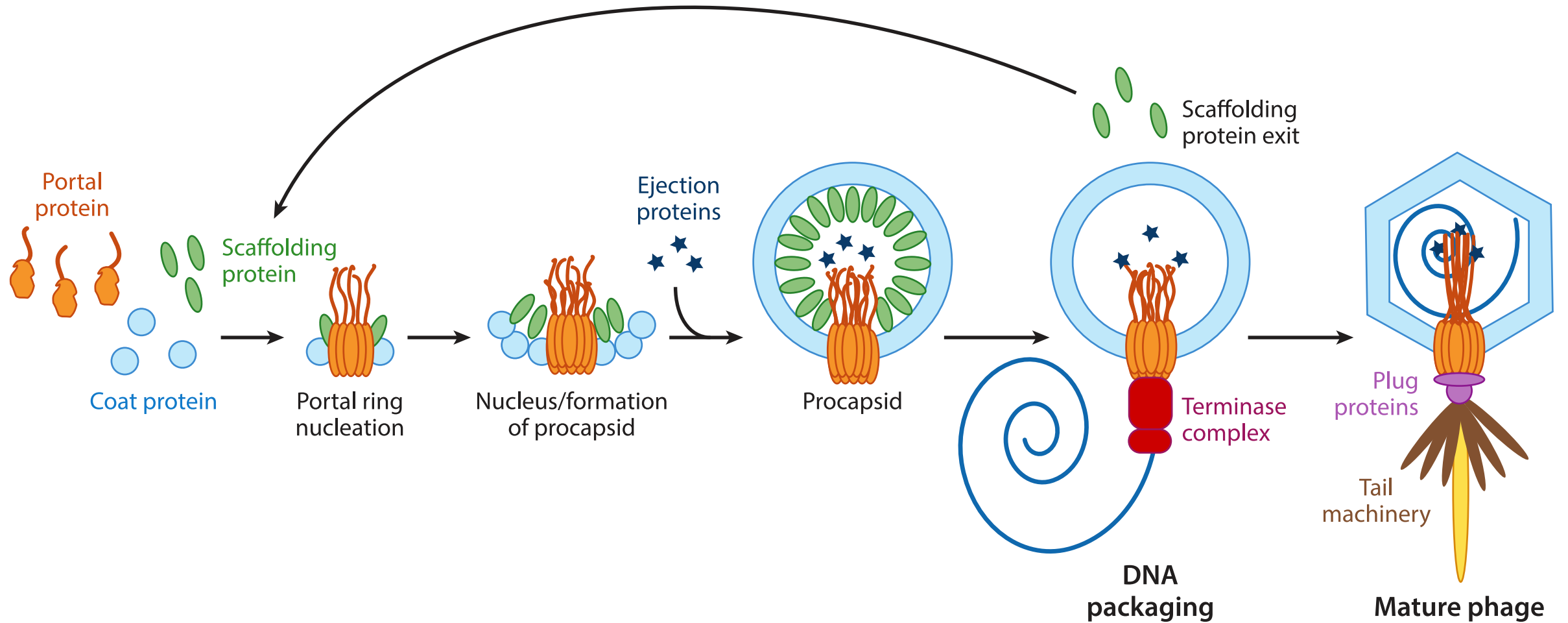
Alignment of protein sequences



N-Extein

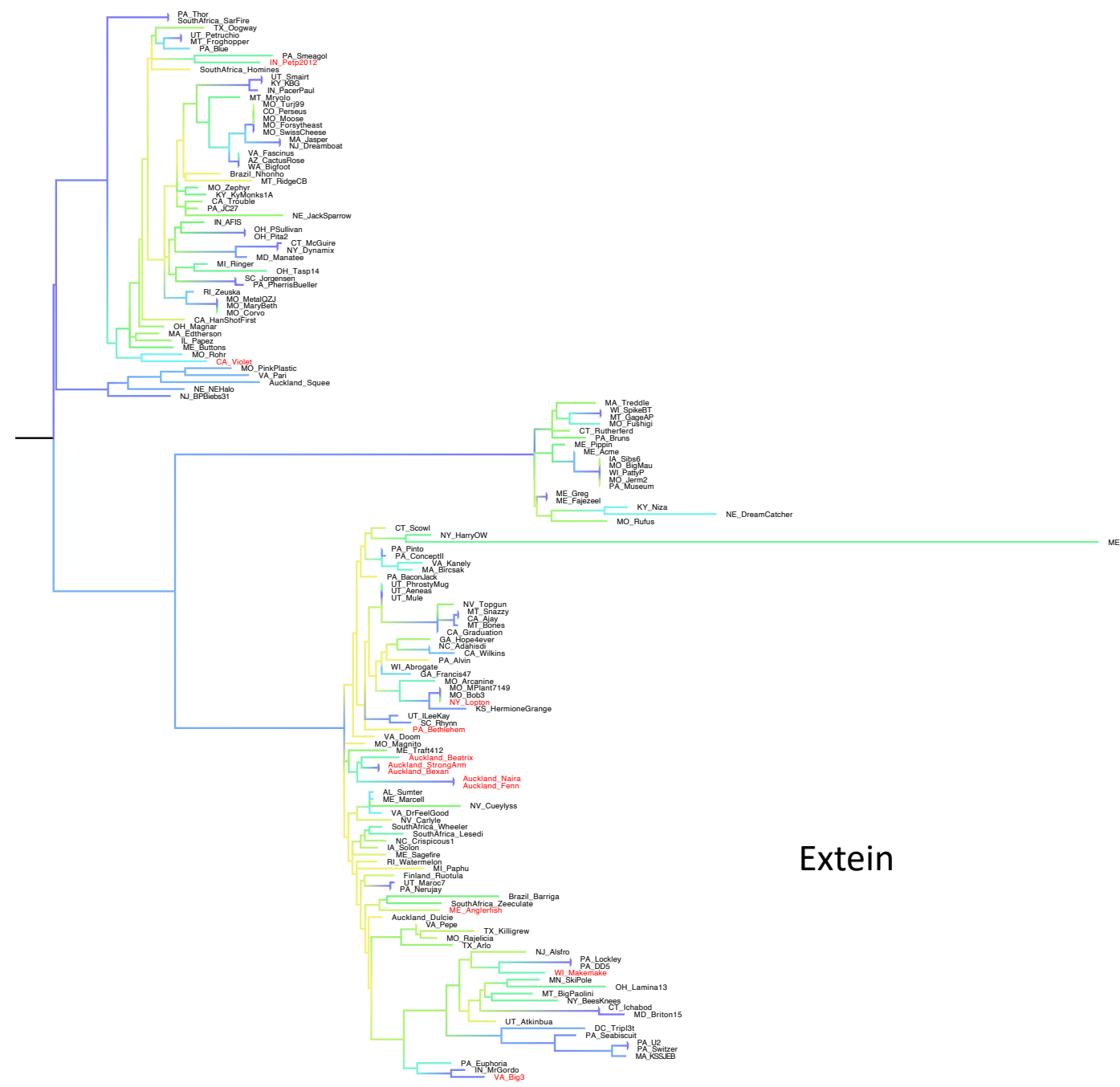
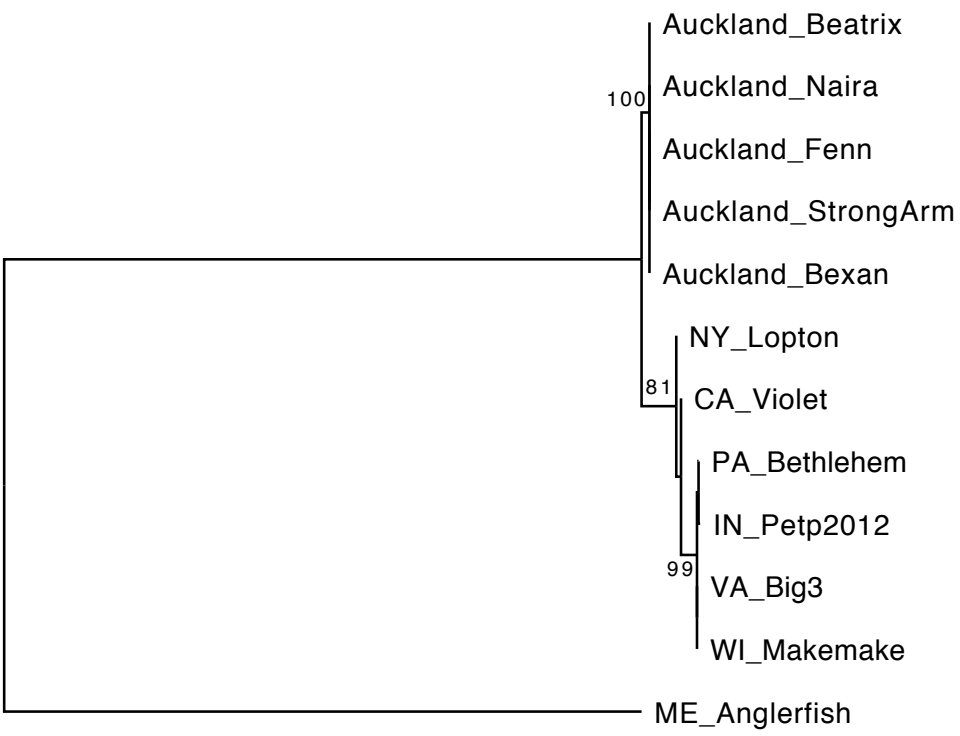
Intein

Phage Assembly



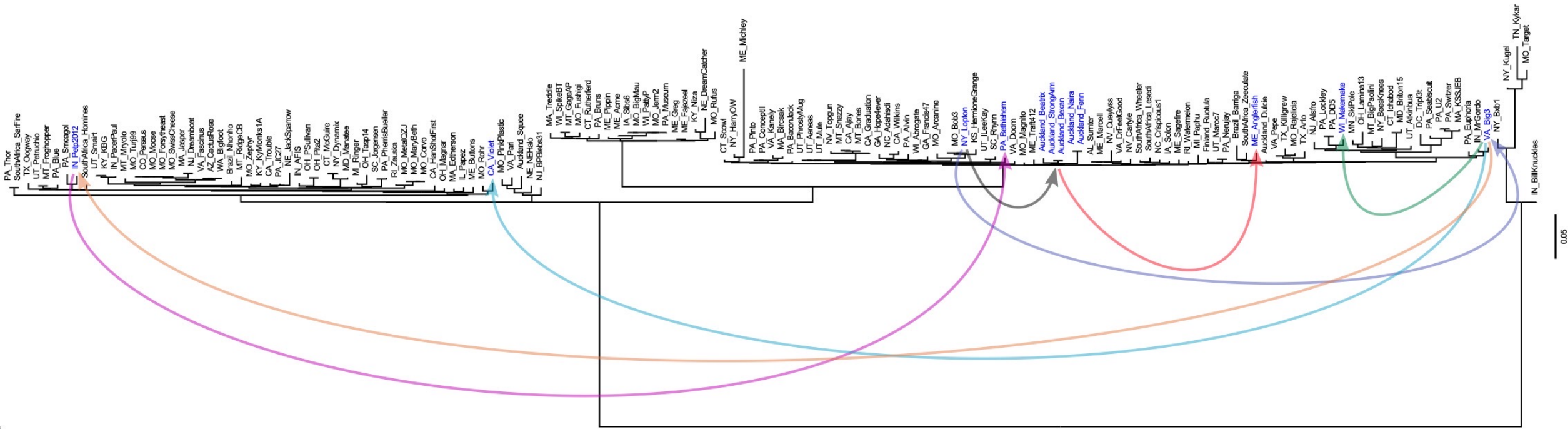
From: Corynne L. Dedeo, Gino Cingolani, and Carolyn M. Teschke:
Portal Protein: The Orchestrator of Capsid Assembly for the dsDNA Tailed Bacteriophages and Herpesviruses
Annual Review of Virology 2019

Exteins and their inteins from homologous terminase subunits in the A1 cluster



Extein

Reconciliation between extein and intein trees



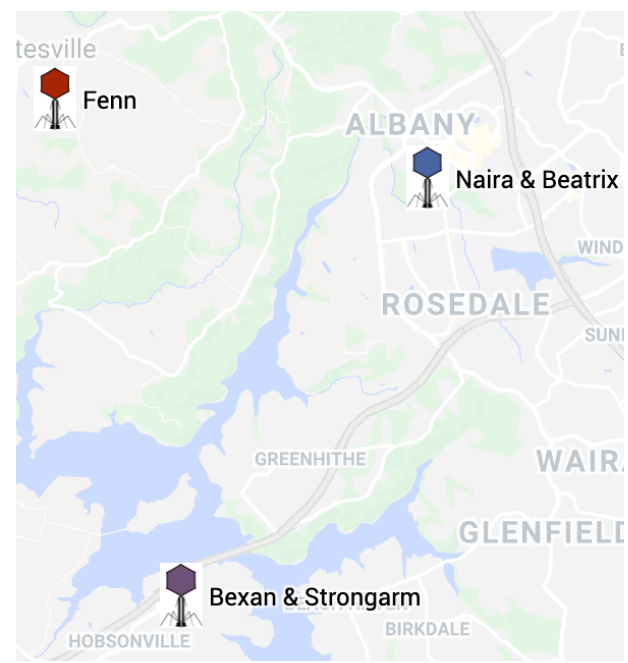
This is one of many equally parsimonious reconciliations (allowing for transfer, duplication and loss).

Note that the Auckland cluster requires only one intein acquisition at the base.

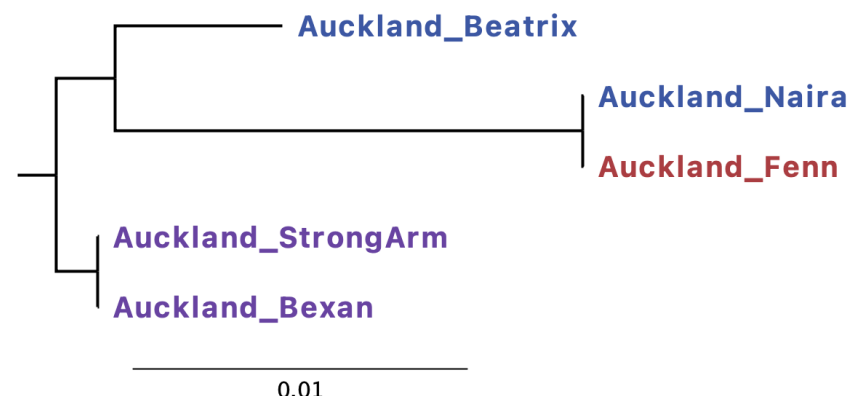
The A1 Phages from the Auckland area

Name	Year of Isolation	Location	Description of Location
Fenn	2017	36.724847 S, 174.635248 E	Soil on an old metal garage door in a field near Auckland
Naira	2017	36.734195 S, 174.700783 E	Massey University community garden compost bin
Beatrix	2017	36.734195 S, 174.700783 E	Massey University community garden compost bin
Bexan	2019	36.790857 S, 174.65929 E	Catalina community garden compost bin
Strongarm	2019	36.790857 S, 174.65929 E	Catalina community garden compost bin


	Number of sites	Number of sequences	Number of Polymorphic sites (only SNPs)	Watterson's Theta
Extein	1689	5	31	0.0088
Intein	1023	5	0	0



Phylogeny based on extein sequences (topology is the same if the whole genomes are used):



The Evolutionary History of a DNA Methylase Reveals Frequent Horizontal Transfer and Within-Gene Recombination

by  Sophia P. Gosselin ¹ ,  Danielle R. Arsenault ¹ ,  Catherine A. Jennings ¹ and  Johann Peter Gogarten ^{1,2,*}  

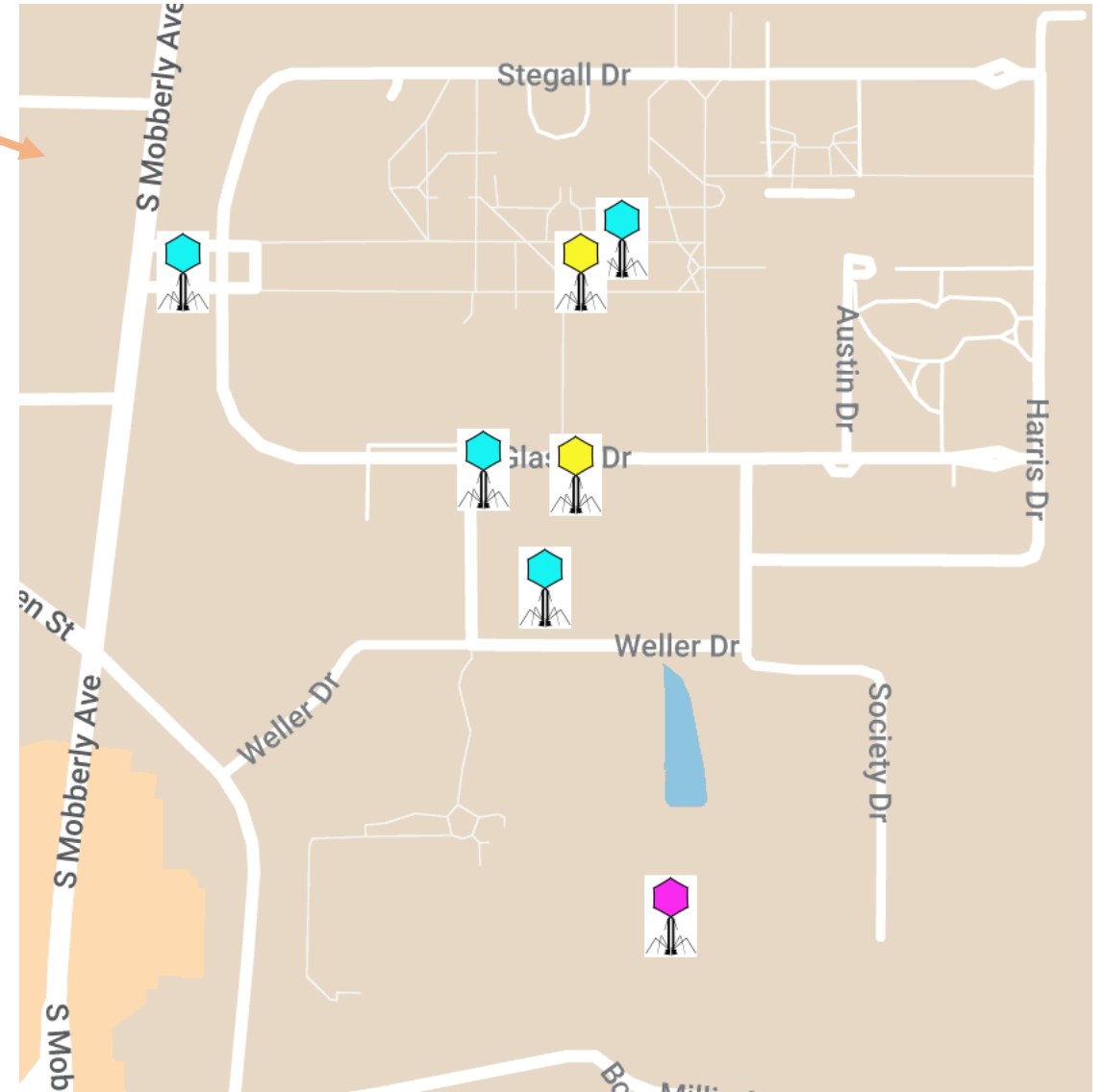
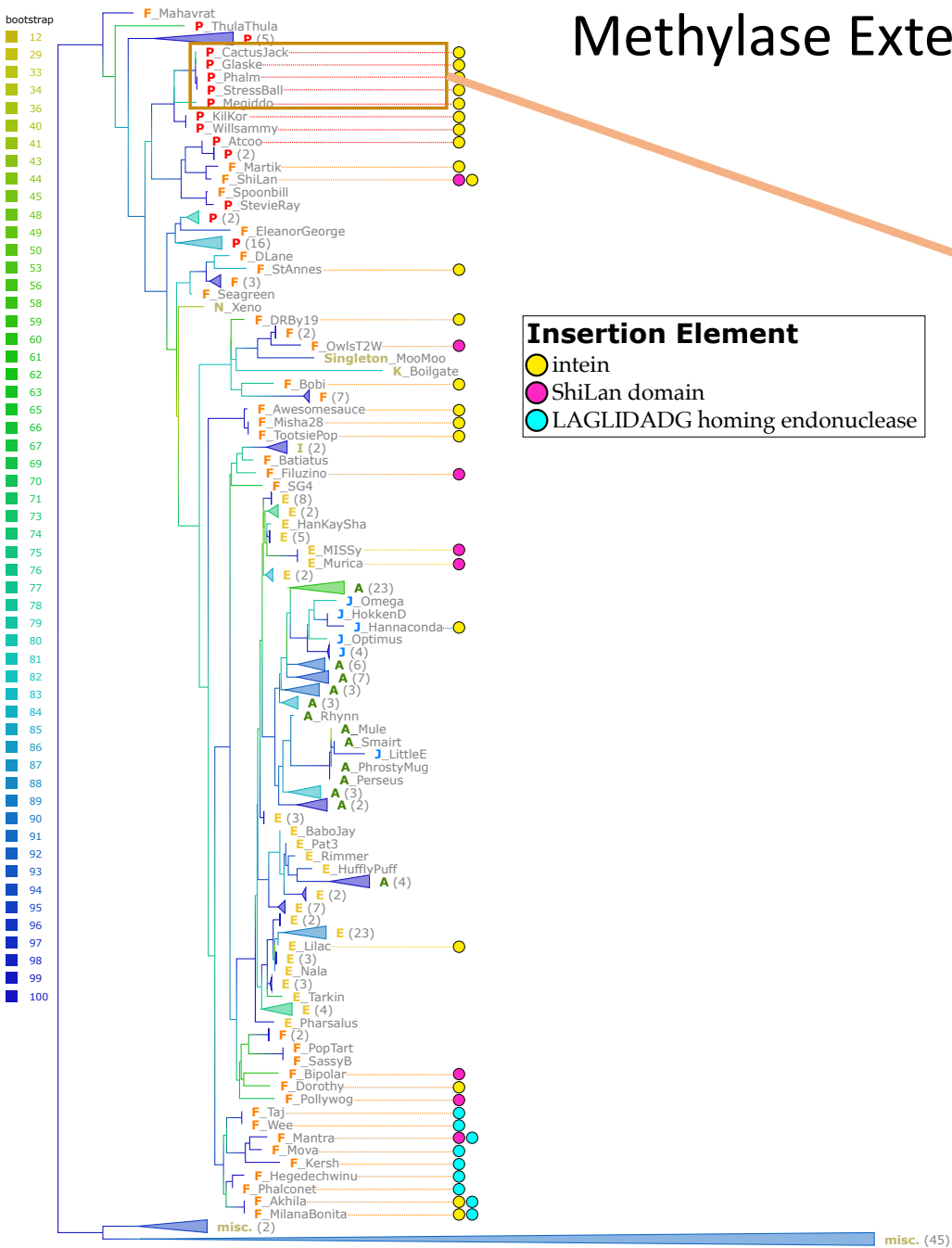
¹ Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268-3125, USA

² Institute for Systems Genomics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268-3125, USA

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

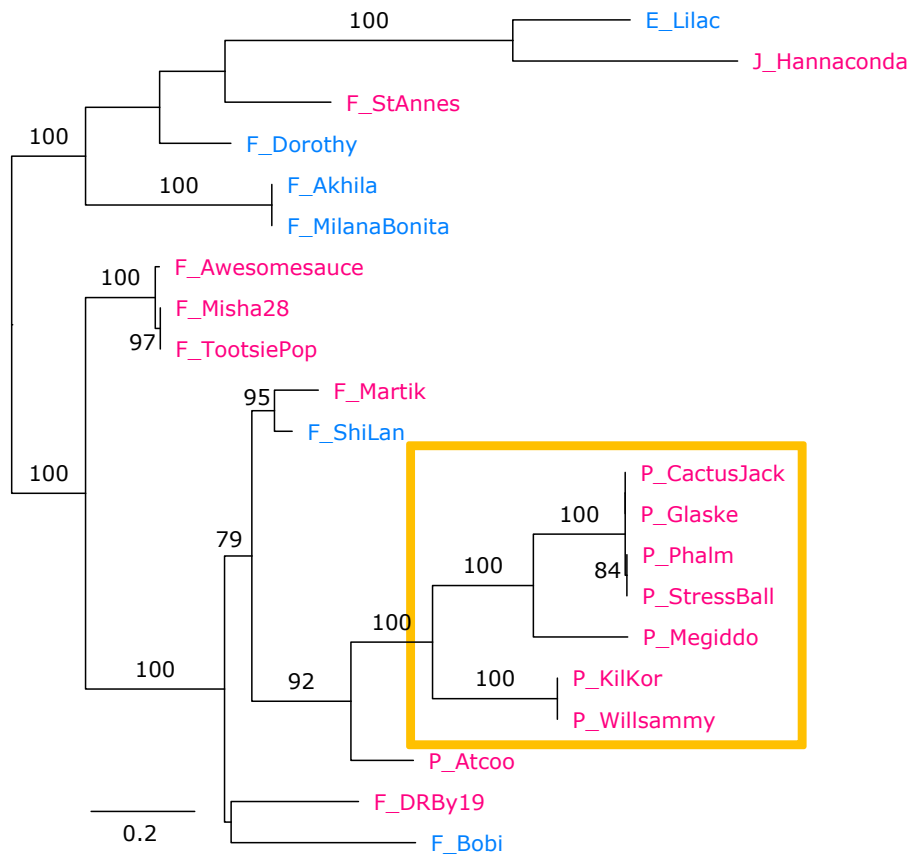
Genes **2023**, *14*(2), 288; <https://doi.org/10.3390/genes14020288>

Methylase Extein Phylogeny



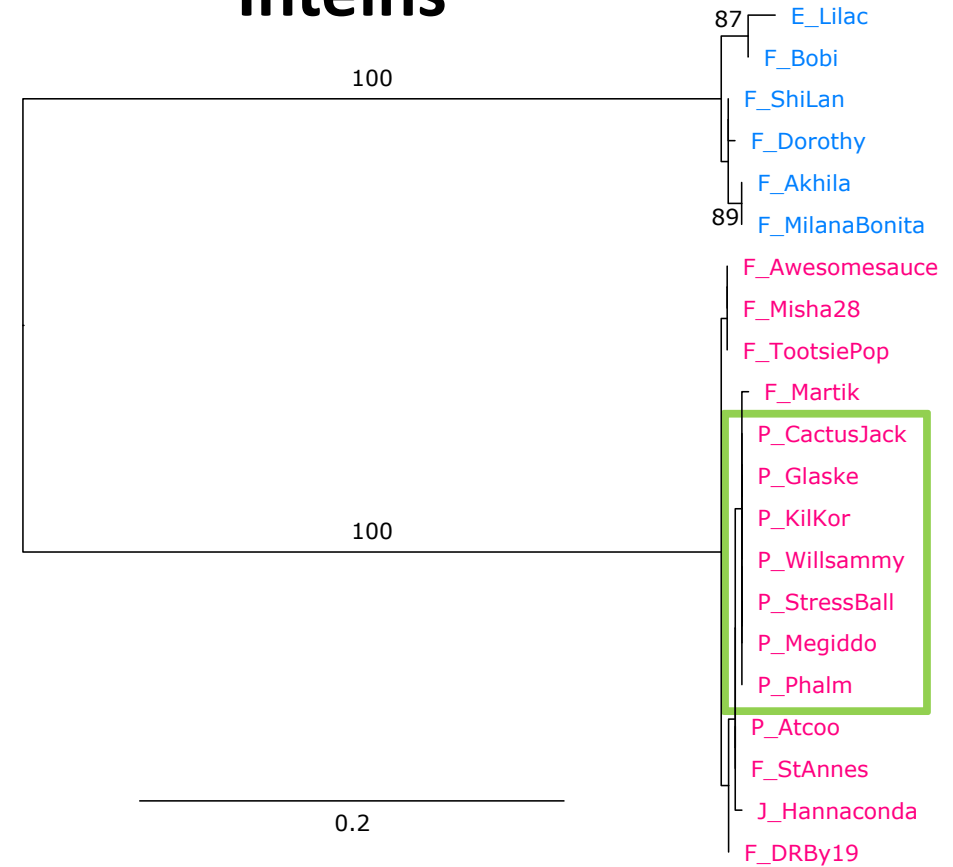
Phylogeny of an Actinophage Methylase Family

Exteins



Max **13%** sequence divergence

Inteins



Max **0%** sequence divergence