

# Systems Microbiology

Monday Oct 29 - Andersson and Moran readings

## Genome Evolution & Ecology

- LGT & Genome Evolution
- Genomics of Endosymbionts
- Environmental Genomics

# Mechanisms and consequences of Lateral Gene Transfer

**Transduction:**  
**via a virus**  
**(bacteriophage)**

**Conjugation:**  
**direct contact**  
**(plasmid)**

**Transformation:**  
**integration of**  
**free DNA**

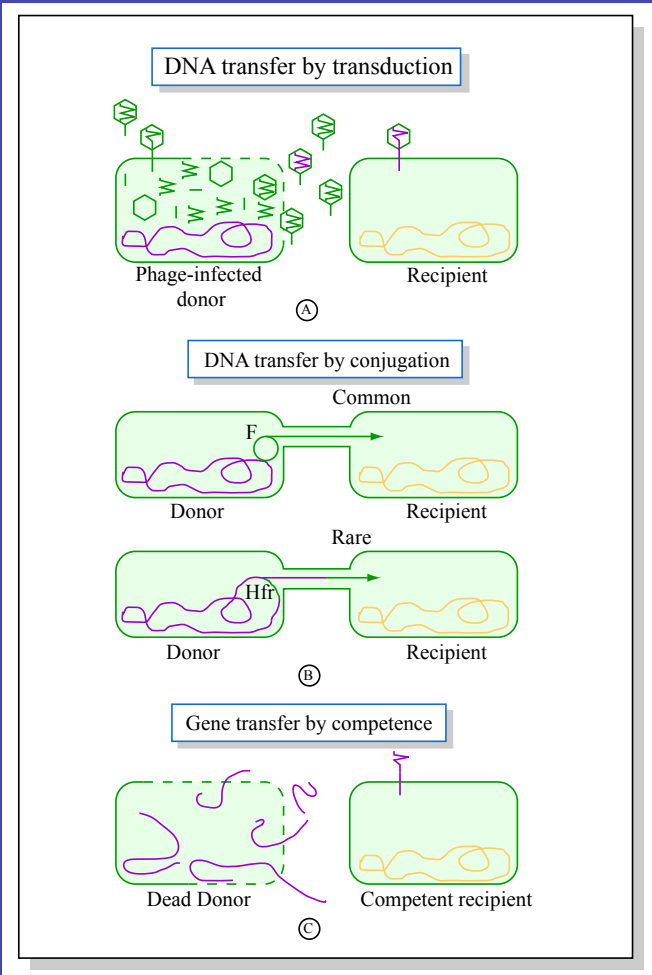
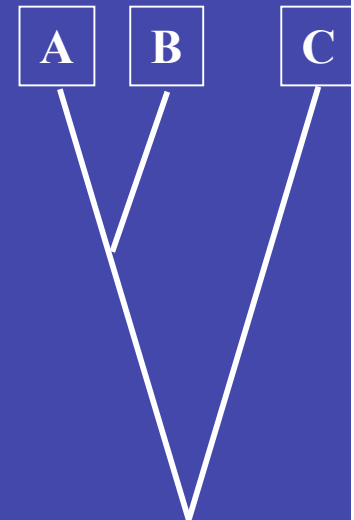


Figure by MIT OCW.



Organismal phylogeny

gene phylogeny

Microscopic photographs of phage and bacterial conjugation removed due to copyright restrictions.

# POPULATION GENETICS OF PATHOGENS

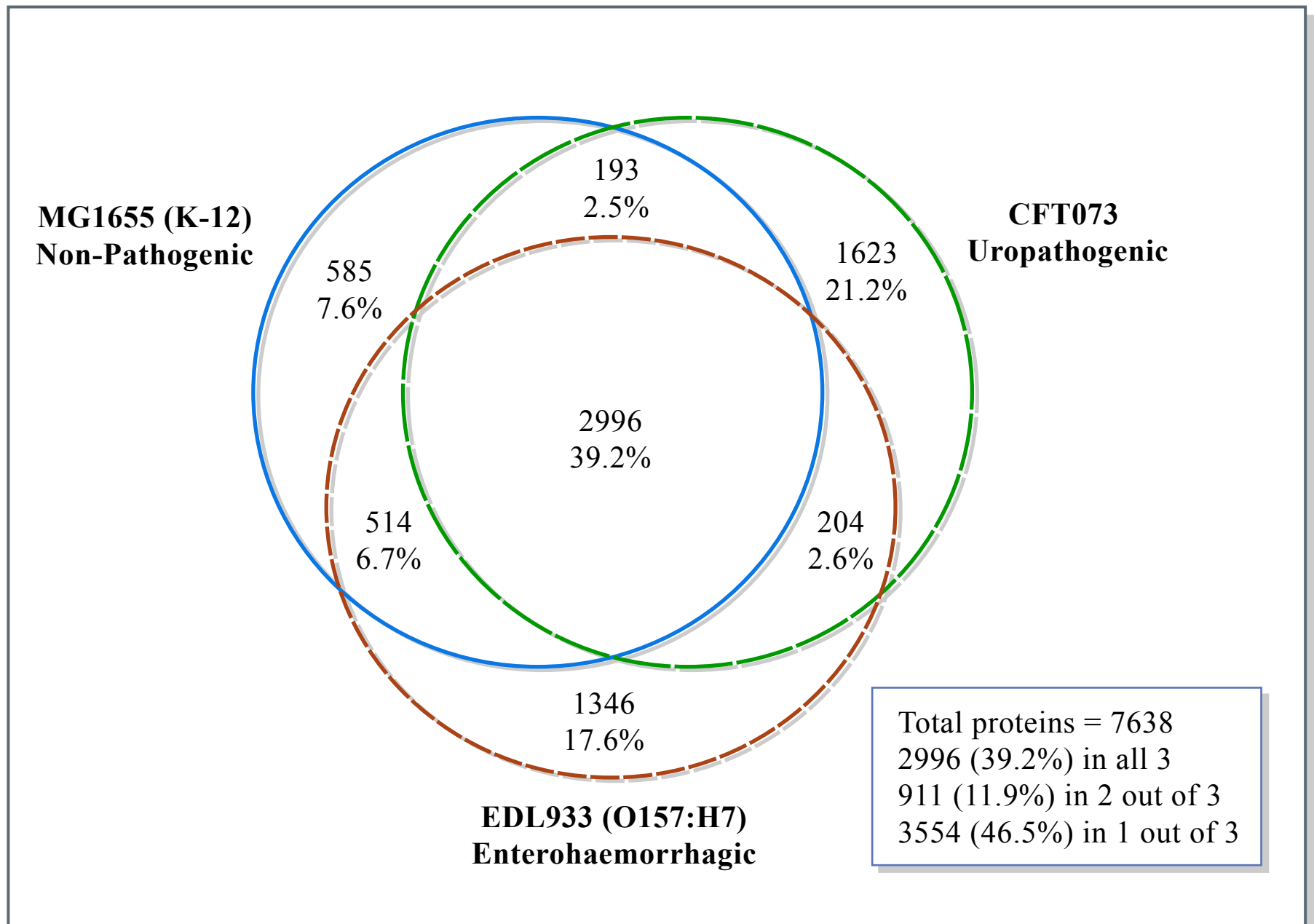


Figure by MIT OCW.

## UROPATHOGENIC & ENTEROHAEMORRHAGIC "HOT-SPOTS"

Welch, R. A. et al. (2002) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 99, 17020-17024

# POPULATION GENETICS OF PATHOGENS

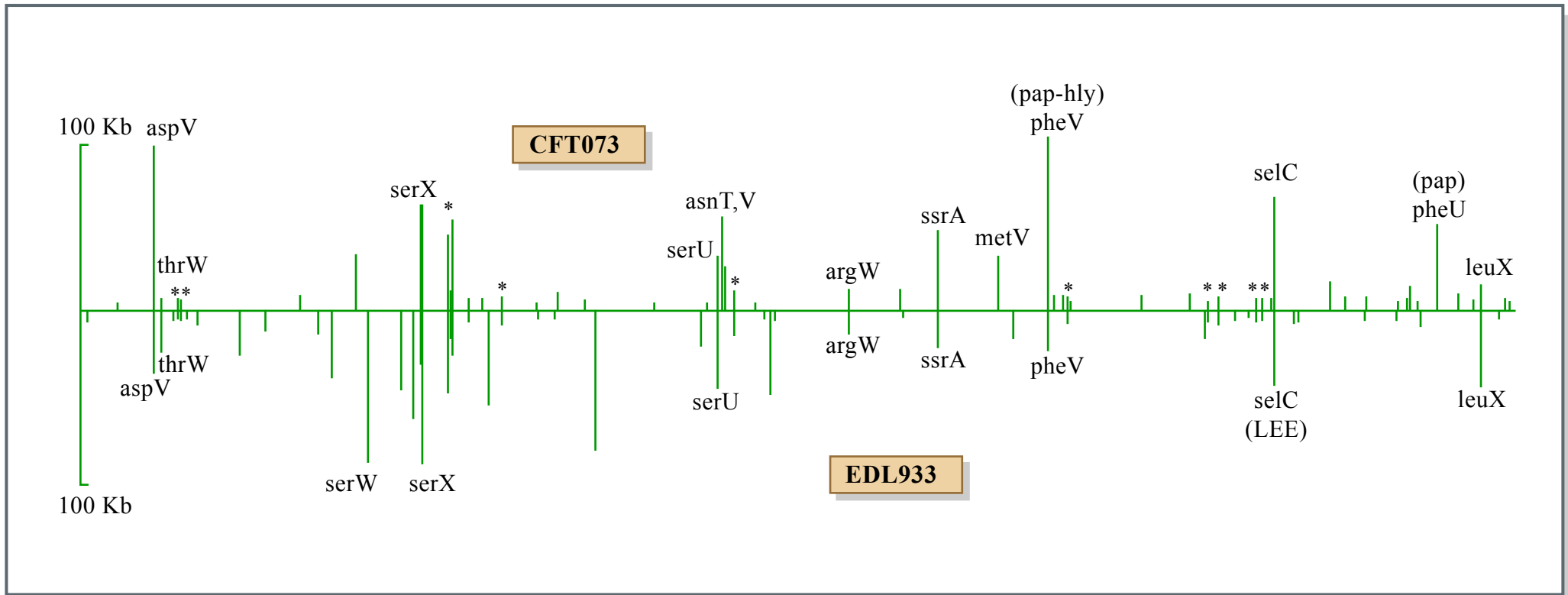


Figure by MIT OCW.

## UROPATHOGENIC & ENTEROHAEMORRHAGIC "HOT-SPOTS"

Welch, R. A. et al. (2002) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 99, 17020-17024

# Molecular Phylogenetics : Inferring Evolutionary Relationship

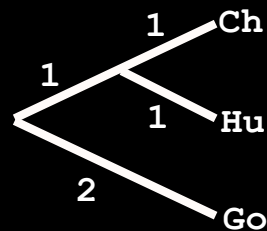
Gorilla	ACGTCGTA
Human	ACG TTCCT
Chimpanzee	ACGTTTCG

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓  
 ↑ ↑

1. Construct multiple alignment of sequences

	Go	Hu	Ch
Go	-	4	4
Hu		-	2
Ch			-

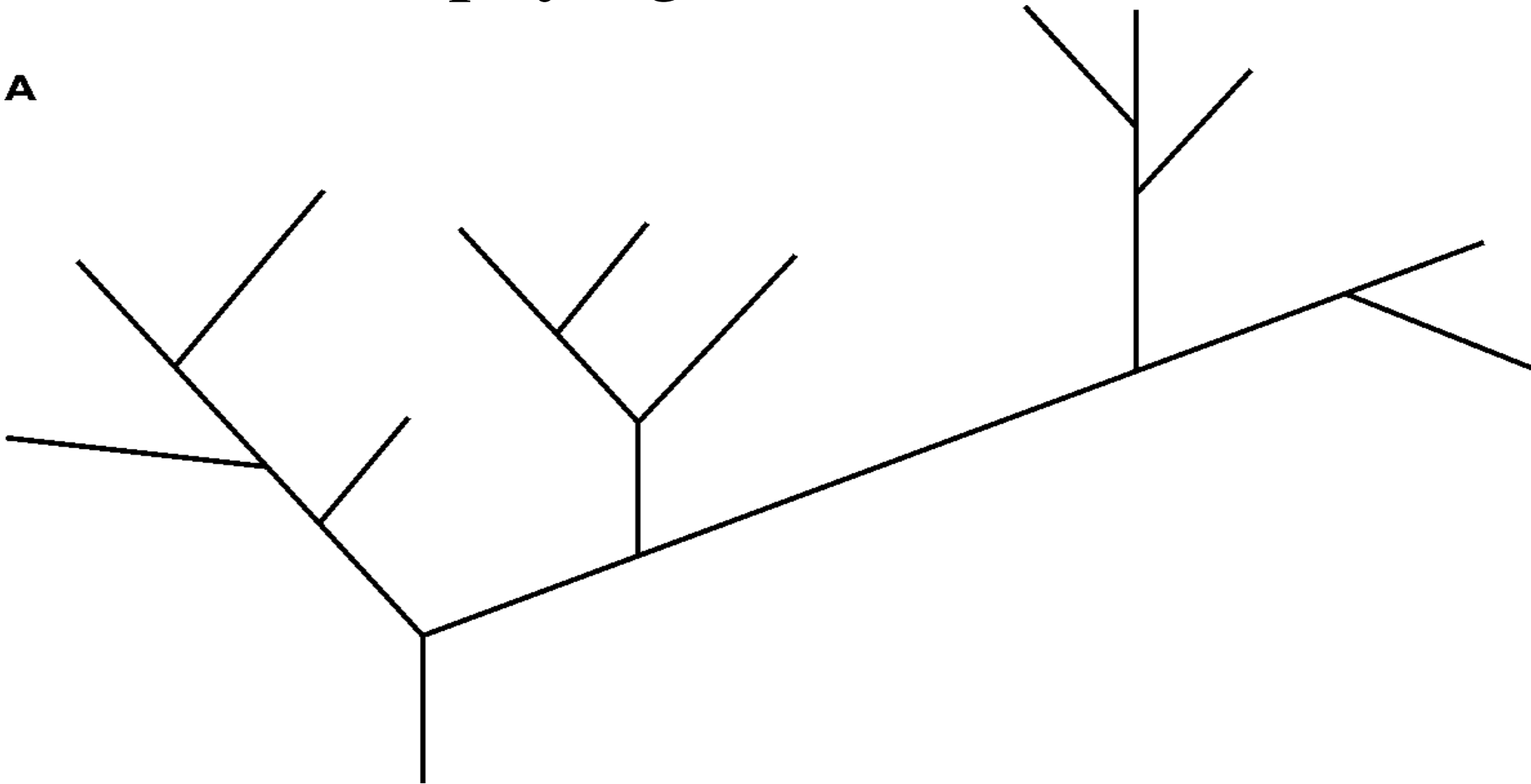
2. Construct table listing all pairwise differences (matrix)



3. Construct tree from pairwise distances

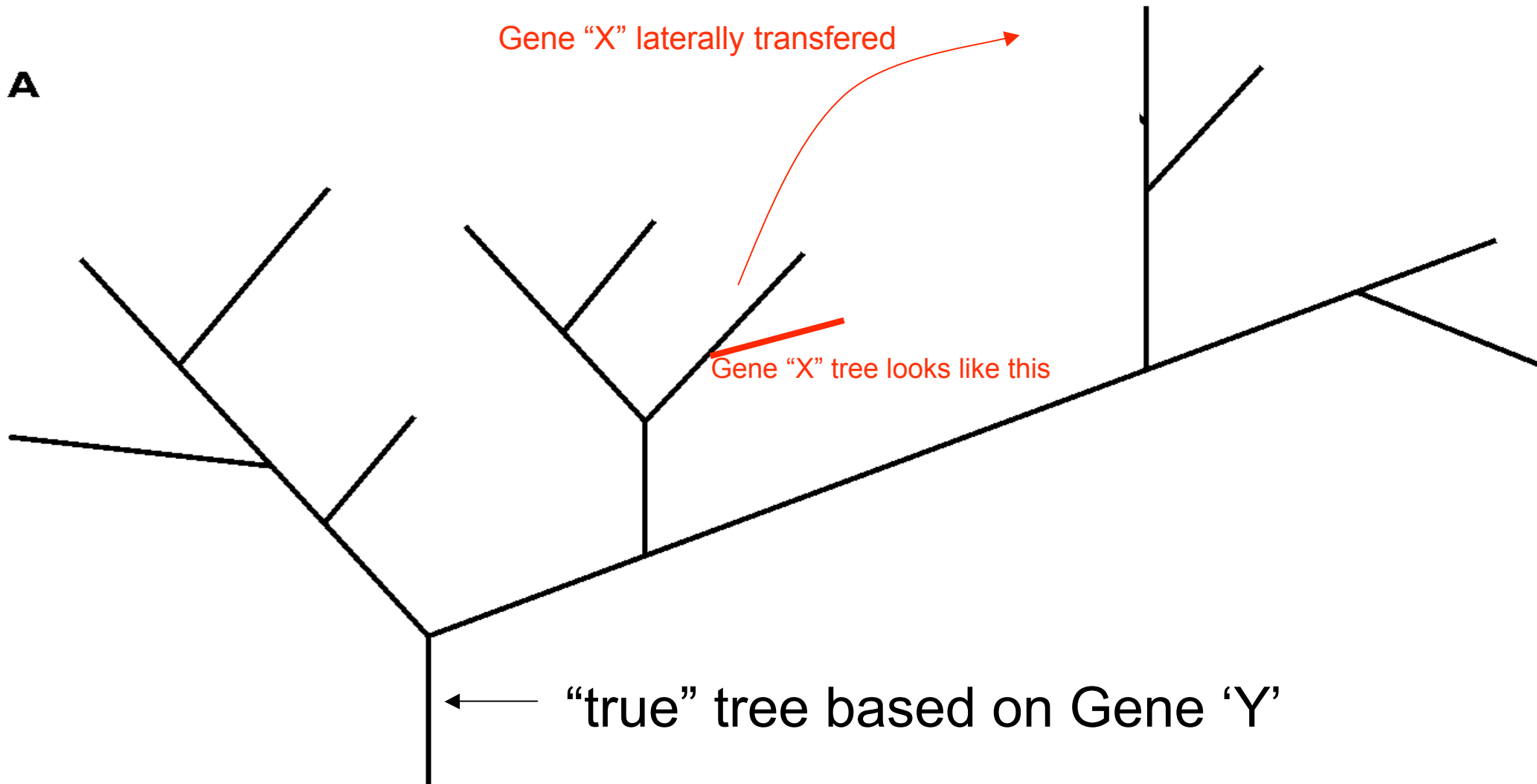
# Lateral Gene Transfer and molecular phylogenetics

**A**



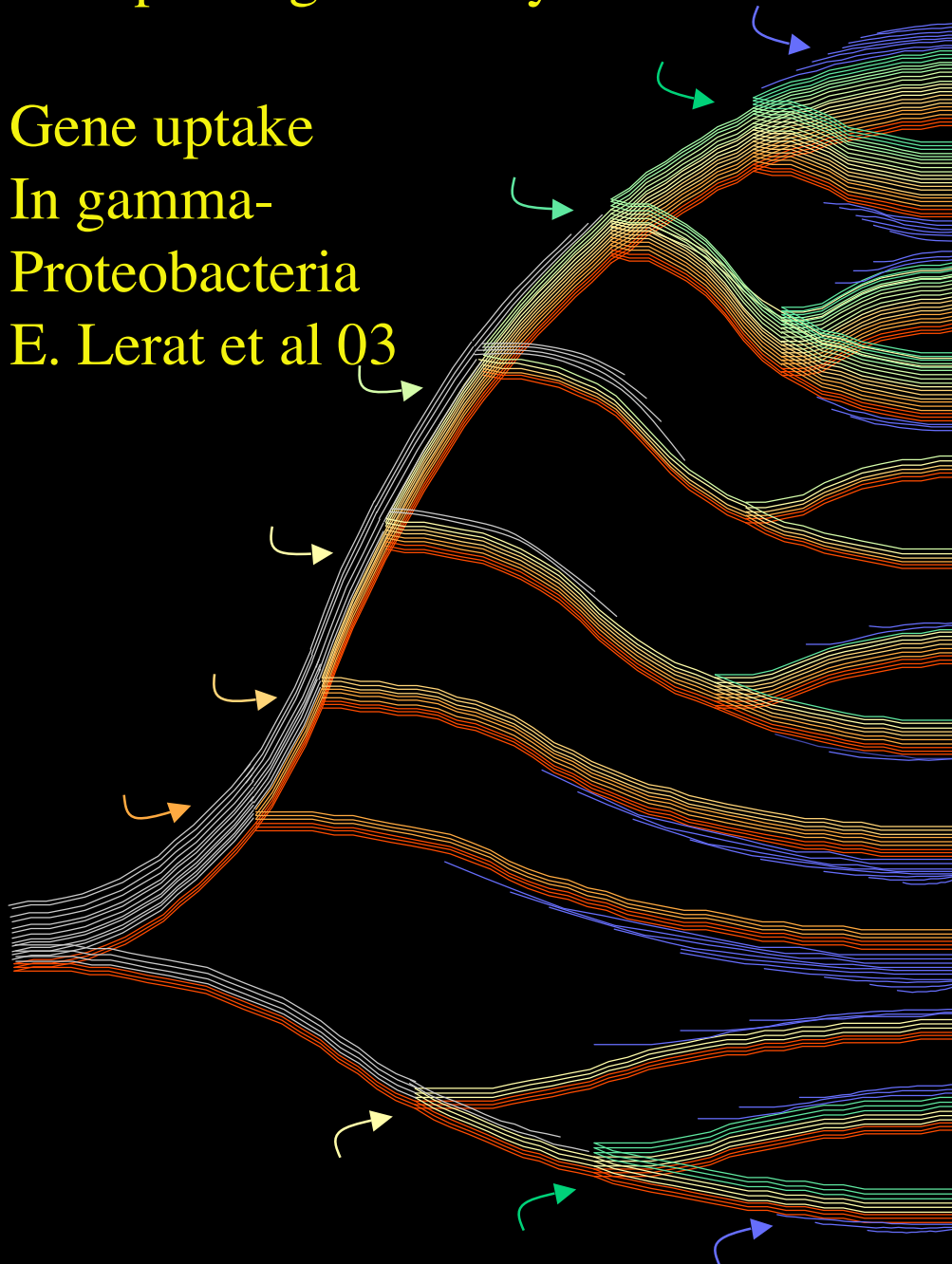
“Gene tree” assumes similarity by descent

But what if there is extensive lateral gene transfer between bacteria ???



# Example of genome dynamics over time due to Lateral Gene Transfer

Gene uptake  
In gamma-  
Proteobacteria  
E. Lerat et al 03



- S. typhimurium*
- E. coli*
- Y. pestis* KIM
- Y. pestis* CO92
- W. brevipalpis*
- B. aphidicola*
- P. multocida*
- H. influenzae*
- V. cholerae*
- P. aeruginosa*
- X. fastidiosa*
- X. campestris*
- X. axonopodis*

Many genes in most genomes arrived via LGT after the common ancestor.

Most genes arriving via LGT come from distant sources (not in this group)

Many persist as vertically transmitted genes within the descendant clade.  
---but many are lost quickly (many present only in tips of tree)



## Detecting Horizontal Transfers

1. Unexpected ranking of sequence similarity among homologs
2. Unexpected phylogenetic tree topology
3. Unusual phyletic pattern
4. Conservation of gene order
5. Anomalous DNA composition

“All criteria for identifying probable horizontal gene transfer, or more precisely acquisition of foreign genes by a particular genome, inevitably rely on some unusual feature(s) of subsets of genes that distinguishes them from the bulk of genes in the genome.” Koonin et al. 2001

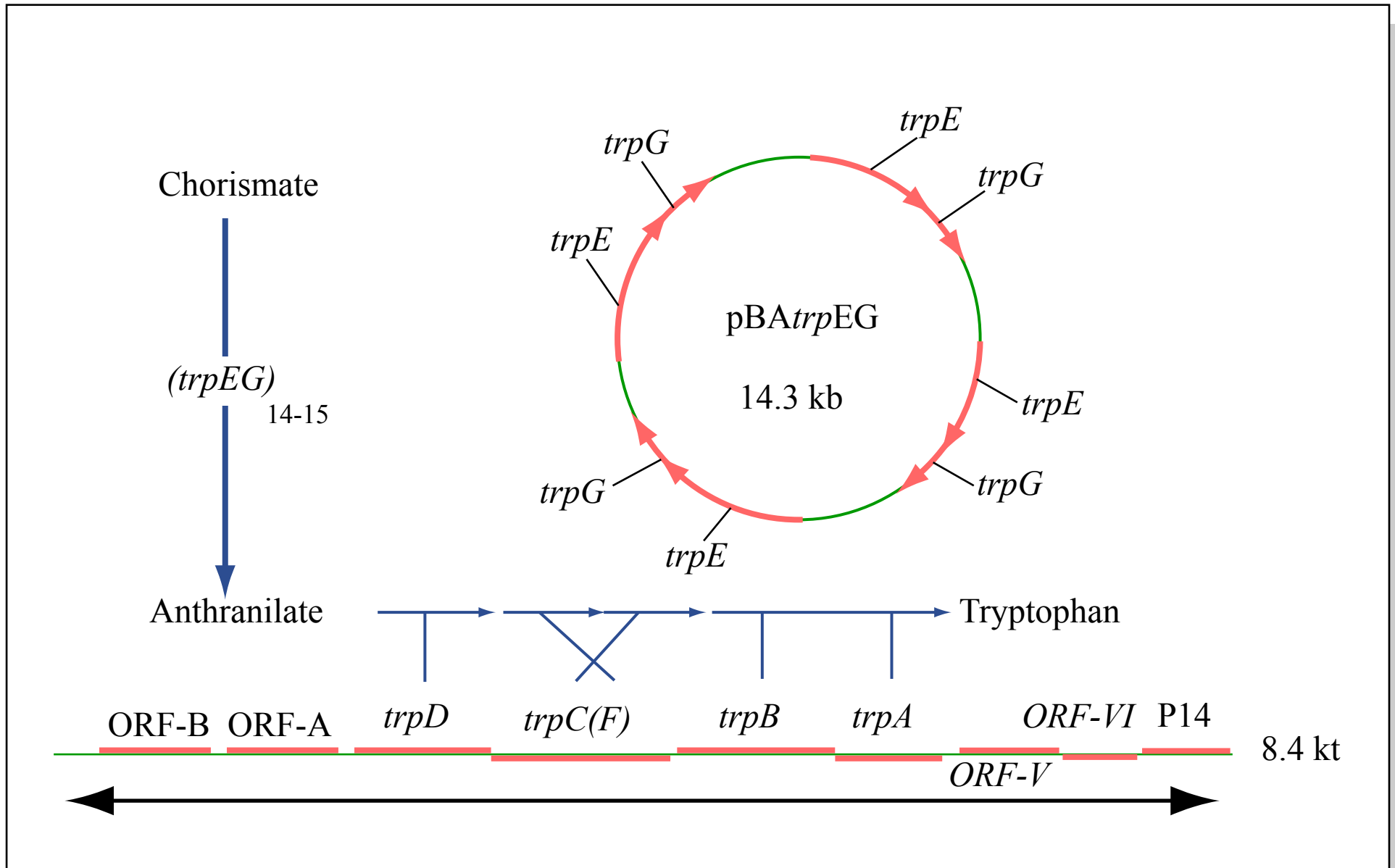
- Direct proofs are unavailable
- Indications of horizontal transfers remain probabilistic

Image of an aphid (*Acyrtosiphon pisum*) removed due to copyright restrictions.

# Essential amino acids - not in the bugs diet !

Name	Recommended daily intake in human Adults mg per Kg body weight WHO	for 70Kg human (mg)
F Phenylalanine	14 (sum with Tyrosine)	980
L Leucine *	14	980
M Methionine	13 (sum with Cysteine)	910
K Lysine	12	840
I Isoleucine	10	700
V Valine	10	700
T Threonine *	7	490
W Tryptophan	3	245
H Histidine	unknown, 28 in infants (? sum with arginine)	(? 1960)
R Arginine	unknown, required for infants, maybe seniors	(?)

# Plasmids for essential amino acid biosynthesis found in aphid symbionts



Aphid Host	Aphid Clone/Population	<i>leuABCD</i>	<i>trpEG</i>
<i>A. pisum</i>	12 United Kingdom clones	—	2.4-16.2*
	N. A. Moran lab clone 5A (Madison, WI)	0.6	4.8
<i>Diuraphis noxia</i>	P. Baumann lab clone (Lincoln, NE)	0.9	1.8
	South Africa population	0.3	0.4
<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	N. A. Moran lab clone (Tucson)	—	0.3
<i>S. graminum</i>	Biotype B (K. A. Shufran lab clone)	—	0.5
	Biotype E (T. Mittler lab clone)	23.5	14.5
	Biotype E (P. Baumann lab clone)	1.4	2.1
	Biotype E (N. A. Moran lab clone)	1.9	1.5
	Biotype E (K.A. Shufran lab clone)	1.6	2.6
	Biotype G (K.A. Shufran lab clone)	0.5	2.4
	Biotype SC (K.A. Shufran lab clone)	—	0.5
<i>Uroleucon ambrosiae</i>	86 individuals, 15 U.S. populations	0.5-2.8	0.3-1.9

*The ratios of copies of plasmid-borne amino acid biosynthetic genes (leuABCD, trpEG) to chromosomal gene copies for Buchnera of different aphid species and strains.*

Figure by MIT OCW.

Moran et al., PNAS 100:14545 (2003)

# Symbiont phylogeny mirrors insect host phylogeny - co-evolution

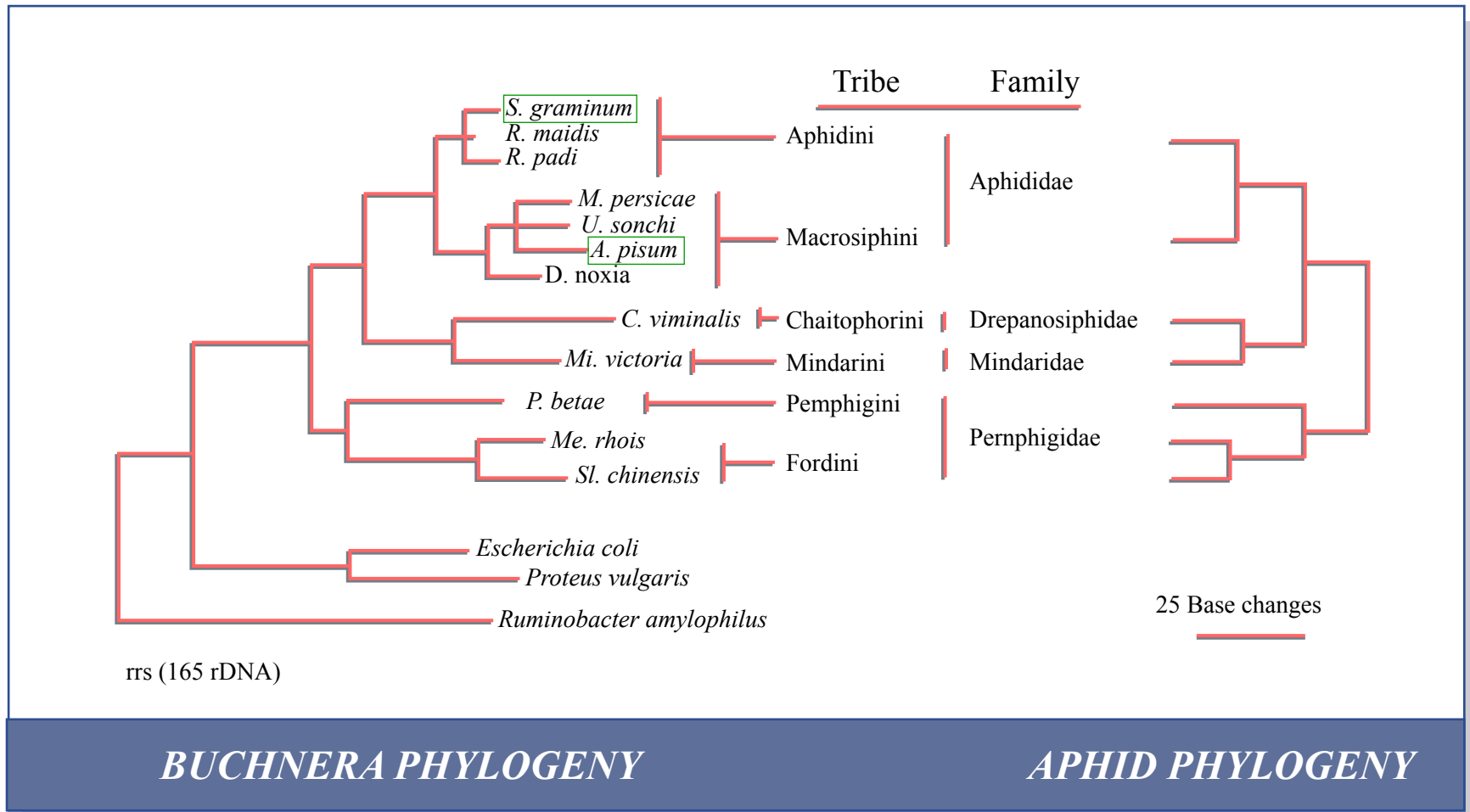


Figure by MIT OCW.

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**UNCHARACTERIZED  
NATIVE TAXA**



**GENOMIC ANALYSES ?**

Figures removed due to copyright restrictions.

*Haemophilus influenzae*

Fleischmann, R.D et al. 1995 Science 269: 496-512



## *Two basic metagenomic approaches*

1. Extract DNA from environmental sample

2. Construct library

conventional small insert  
( $<10\text{kb}$ ) library

large insert (cosmid or BAC)  
library (up to 200 kb), allows  
sampling of whole operons

3. Screen

Sequence DNA or RNA,  
look for genes with functions  
of interest

Perform functional screens:  
directly test for some  
biochemical property in the  
cloning host

Limitations:

Limits search to genes with  
detectable (evolutionary)  
homology to functionally  
characterized genes:  
Sequence or structural homology

Possible problems with efficient  
transcription of the cloned fragment,  
translation, secretion of the product,  
correct chaperones for folding of the  
product

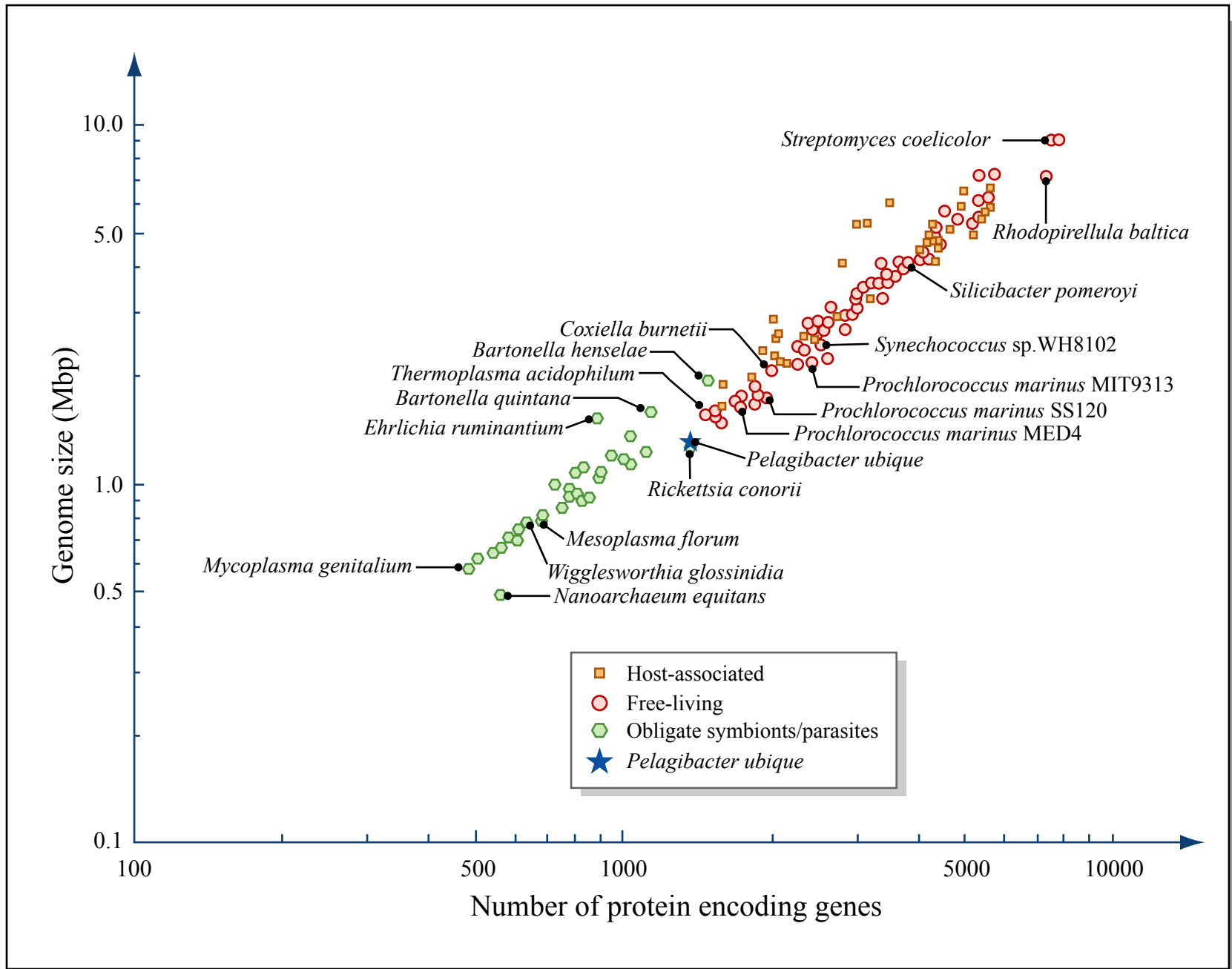


Figure by MIT OCW.

**Genome sequence of the endocellular bacterial symbiont of aphids *Buchnera* sp.**

**APS** Shuji Shigenobu, Hidemi Watanabe, Masahira Hattori, Yoshiyuki Sakaki, Hajime Ishikawa

*Nature* **407**, 81-86 (07 Sep 2000)

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions.

**The 160-Kilobase Genome of the  
Bacterial Endosymbiont *Carsonella***

Atsushi Nakabachi,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Atsushi Yamashita,<sup>2†</sup> Hidehiro Toh,<sup>2,4†</sup> Hajime Ishikawa,<sup>5</sup>  
Helen E. Dunbar,<sup>2</sup> Nancy A. Moran,<sup>2</sup> Masahira Hattori<sup>6,7\*</sup>

*Science* 314:267  
(Oct 13, 2006)

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions.

2000 genes lost from ancestor, to Sg/Ap divergence  
Must have been rapid evolution and gene loss !

Diagram showing Buchnera gene loss from a reconstructed  
enteric ancestor removed due to copyright restrictions.

# COMPARATIVE GENOMICS

## 50 Million Years of Genomic Stasis in Endosymbiotic Bacteria

Ivica Tamas,<sup>1\*</sup> Lisa Klasson,<sup>1\*</sup> Björn Canbäck,<sup>1</sup>  
A. Kristina Näslund,<sup>1</sup> Ann-Sofie Eriksson,<sup>1</sup>  
Jennifer J. Wernegreen,<sup>2</sup> Jonas P. Sandström,<sup>1</sup> Nancy A. Moran,<sup>2</sup>  
Siv G. E. Andersson<sup>1†</sup>

*SCIENCE* 296:2376 (2002)

Comparison of Genome Features for *B. aphidicola* (Sg)  
and *B. aphidicola* (Ap)

Feature	<i>B. aphidicola</i> (Sg)	<i>B. aphidicola</i> (Ap)
Genome size (bp)	641, 454	640, 681
Genic G + C content (%)	26.2	26.3
Intergenic G + C content (%)	14.8	16.1
Protein coding genes (no.)	545	564
Pseudogenes (no.)	38	13
Avg. gene length (bp)	978	985
Avg. intergenic length (bp)	118	127

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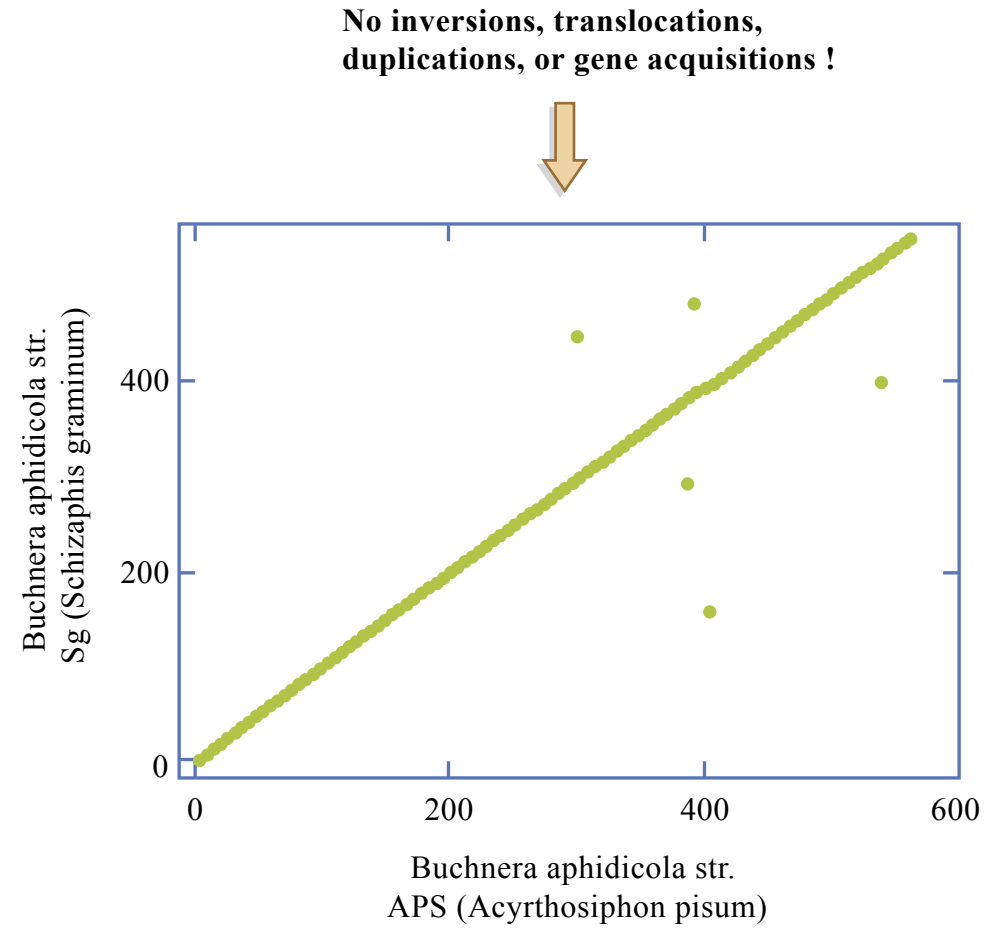
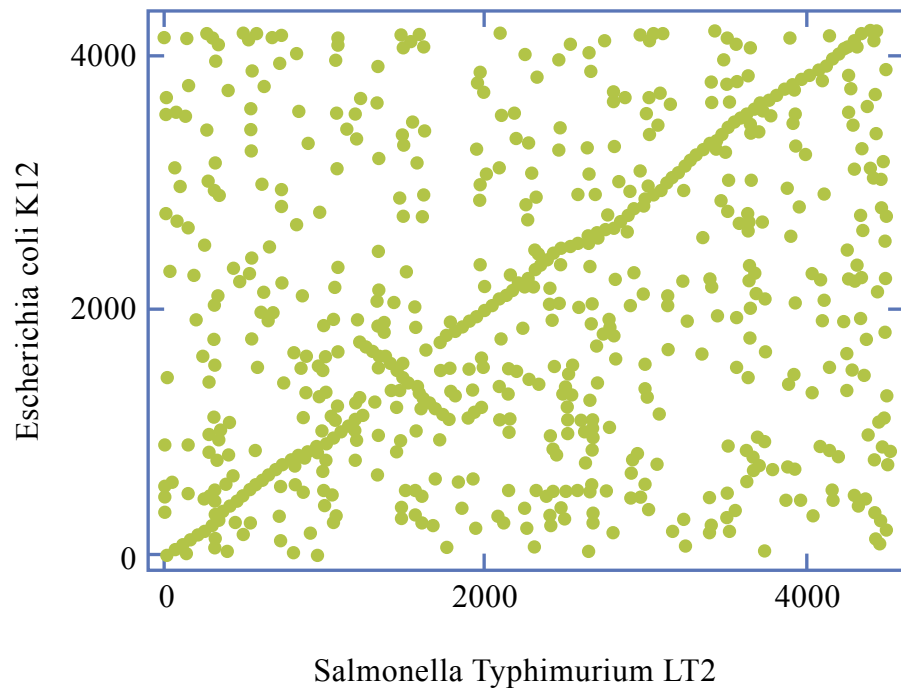
*Buchnera aphidicola* the bacterial symbiont, was compared (strain-wise) between the aphids *Schizaphus graminum* (Sg) versus *Acyrtosiphon pisum* (Ap)

After 70 million years, **no chromosomal rearrangements or gene acquisitions**

But considerable sequence divergence, and substantial gene loss  
( $9e-9$  **synonymous** substitutions/yr;  $1.65e-9$  **non-synonymous** substitutions/yr)

In comparison, *E coli* vs. *S. typhimurium*: 2000X more labile in gene content/order

# Gene plot, ncbi





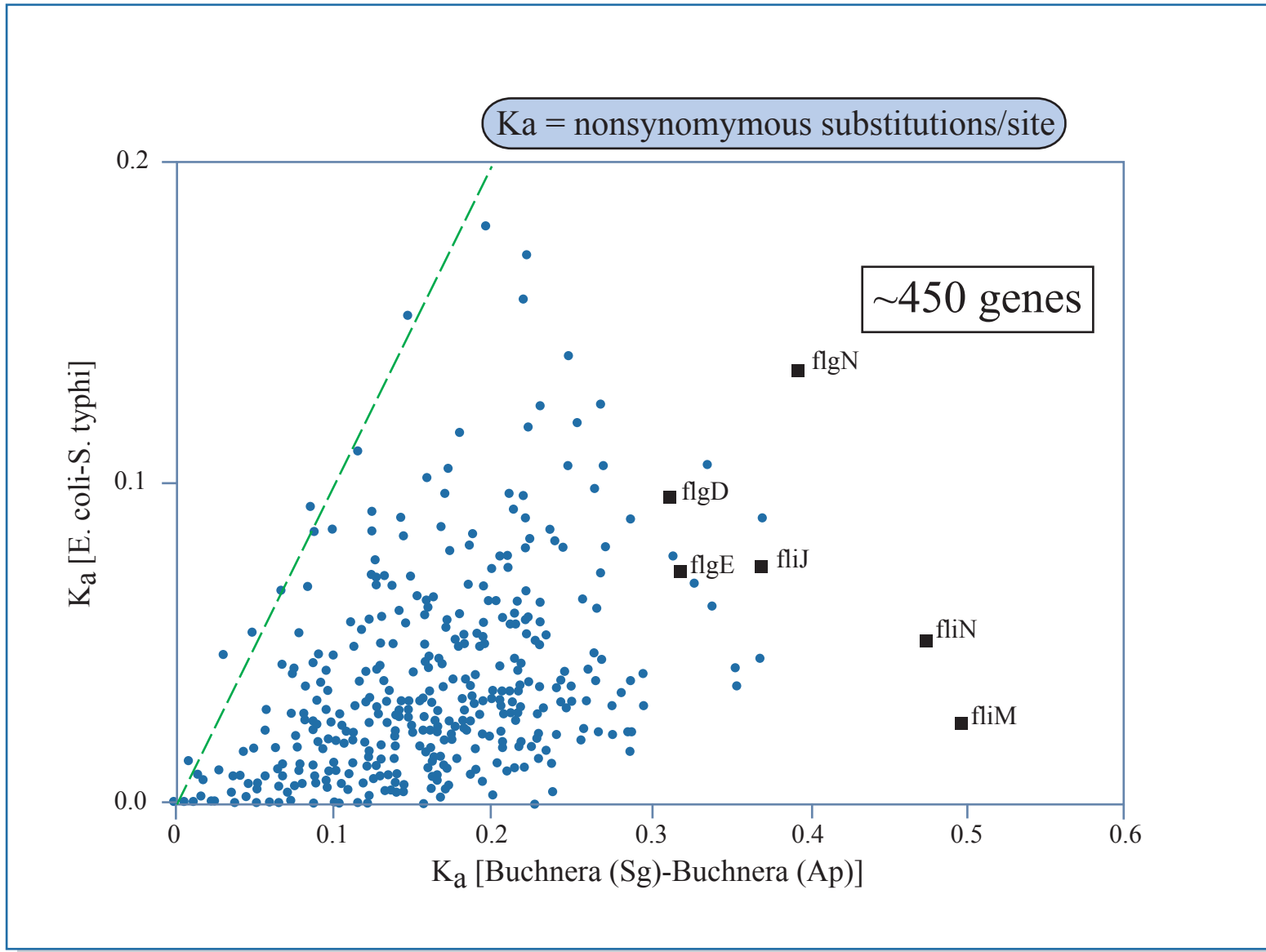


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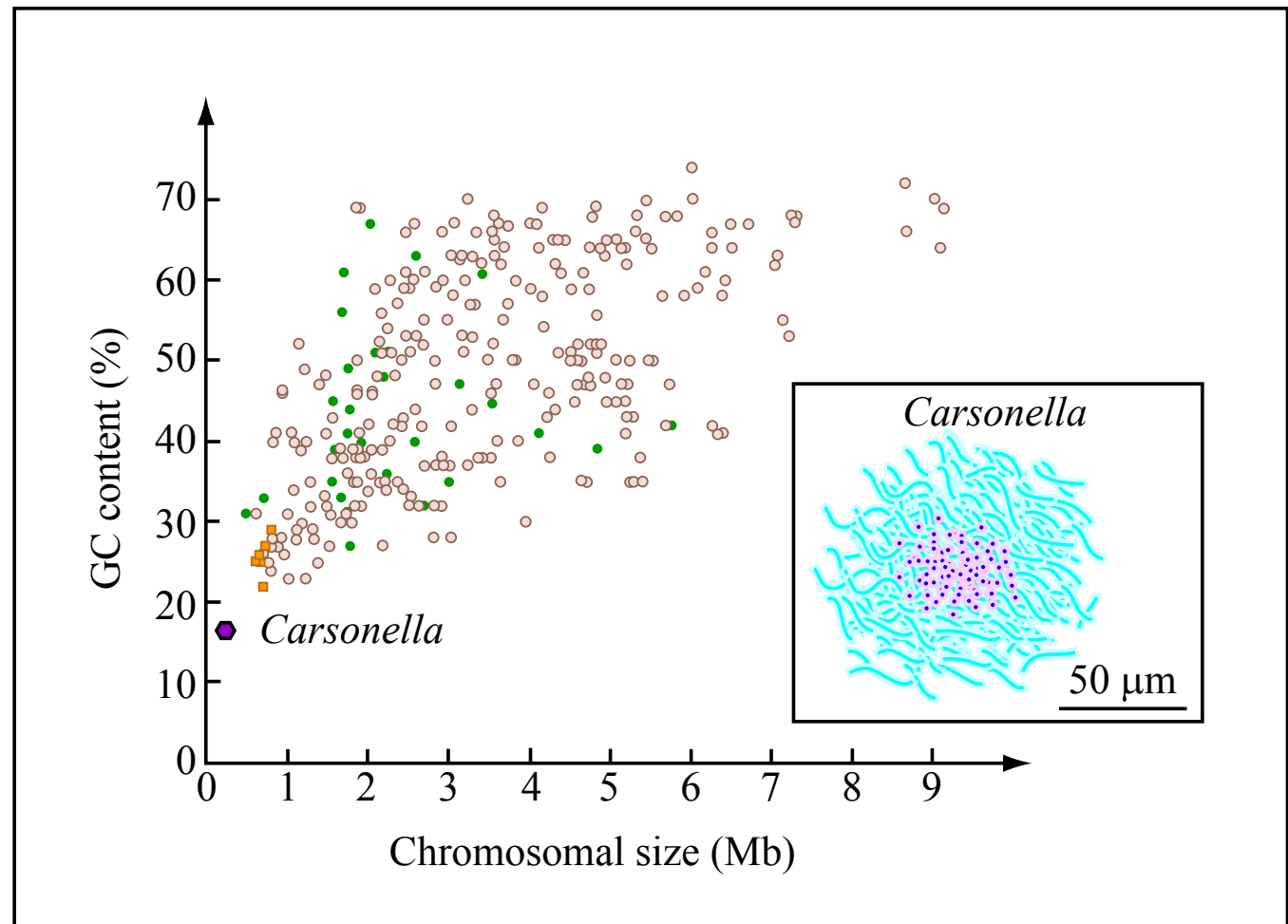
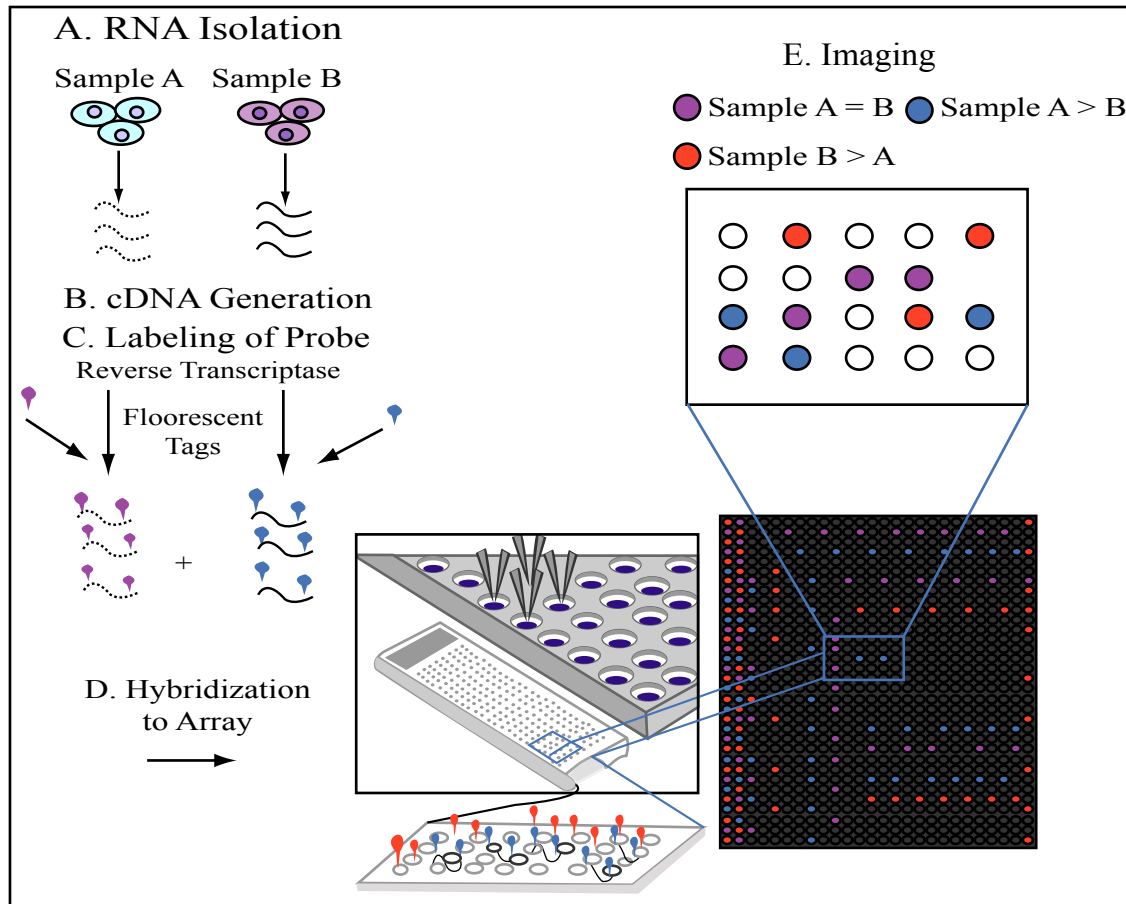


Figure by MIT OCW.

# GENOME DYNAMICS IN *Buchnera*

- Enhanced stability of genome architecture in obligate symbionts, despite substantial sequence divergence
- Prominence of pseudogenes, loss of DNA repair mechanisms (So how is genome stability maintained ???)
- Gene transfer elements are greatly reduced/eliminated (Reduced phage, exchange with other genomes, repeat seqs, transposons)
- Lack of recombination mechanisms (no *recA* and *recF*) - lowers rearrangement/gene acquisitions
- Lowered freqs of recomb., likely renders it neutrally selective => genome stasis



- Prepare (or buy) microarray carrying "probes" of interest
- Isolate RNA from cells
- Generate cDNA and label "targets"
- Samples will be labeled with two different fluorescent dyes
- Incubate this hybridization mix with DNA microarrays
- Scan microarrays to detect bound cDNA. Store data
- Analyze data

Consequences of reductive evolution for gene expression in an obligate endosymbiont. *Mol Microbiol.* 2003 Jun;48(6):1491-500.

Graphs removed due to copyright restrictions.

# A genomic perspective on nutrient provisioning by bacterial symbionts of insects

PNAS 100:14543 (2003)

Nancy A. Moran<sup>\*†‡</sup>, Gordon R. Plague<sup>\*†</sup>, Jonas P. Sandström<sup>§</sup>, and Jennifer L. Wilcox<sup>\*</sup>

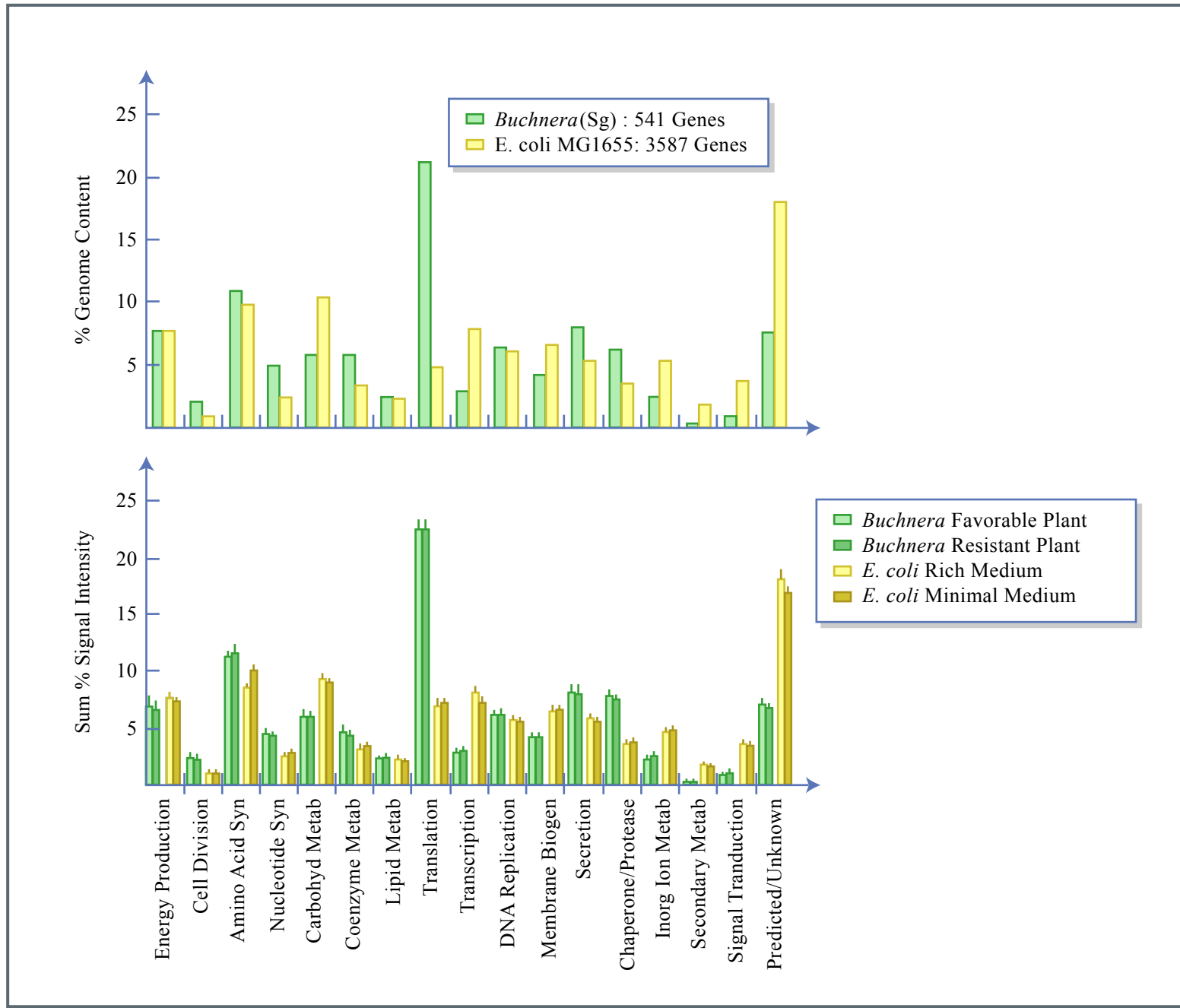


Figure by MIT OCW.

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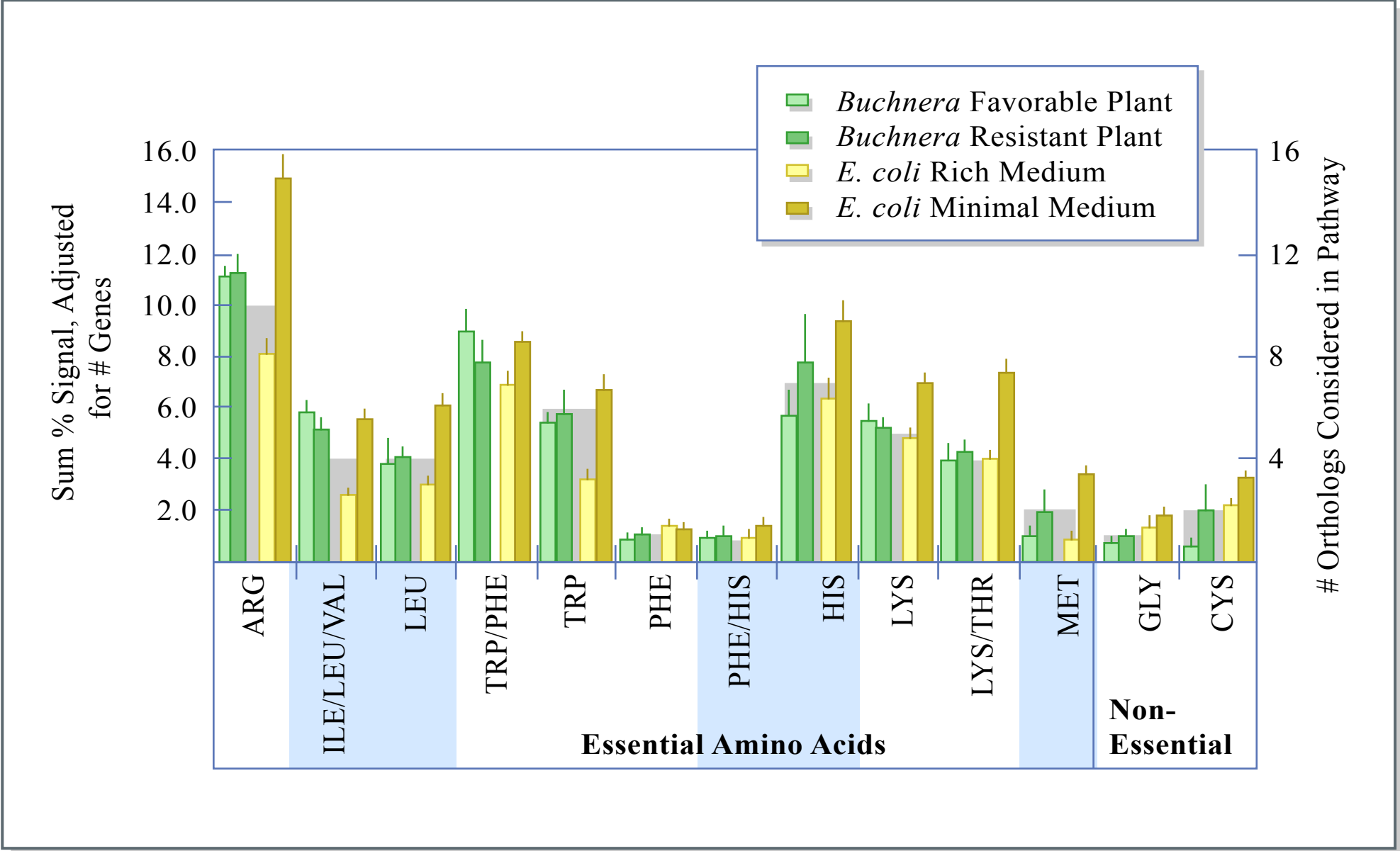


Figure by MIT OCW.



# **Metabolic Complementarity and Genomics of the Dual Bacterial Symbiosis of Sharpshooters**

Dongying Wu, et al. PLoS Biology 4:(6) e188 (2006)

## Two different bacterial endsymbionts in glassy-winged sharpshooter bacteriome

Microscopic image of *Baumannia* and *Sulcia* removed due to copyright restrictions.

# Metabolic Complementarity and Genomics of the Dual Bacterial Symbiosis of Sharpshooters

Dongying Wu, et al. PLoS Biology 4:(6) e188 (2006)

Sharpshooters are also a vector for extracellular *Xylella* a pathogen on grapes

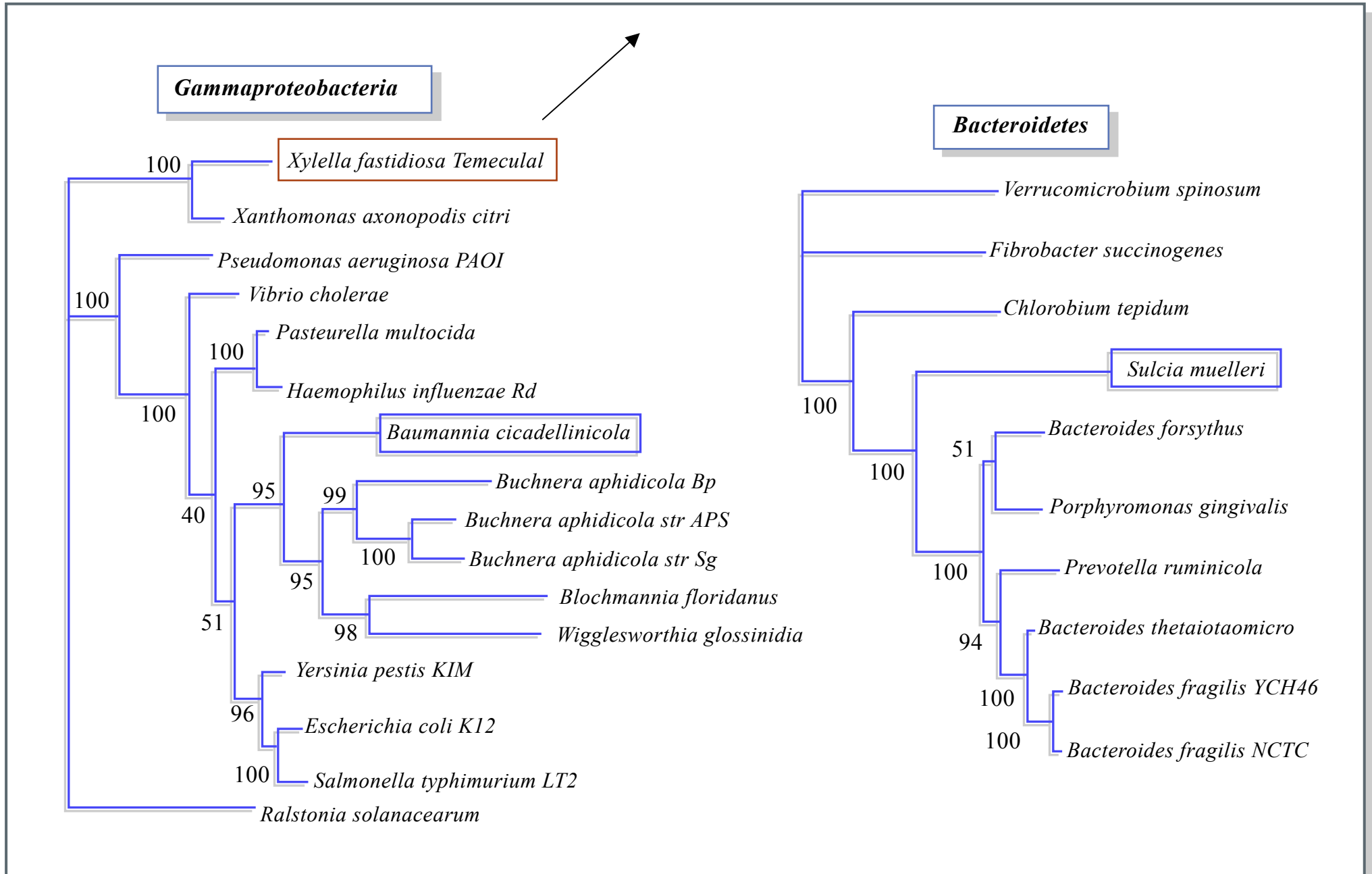


Figure by MIT OCW.