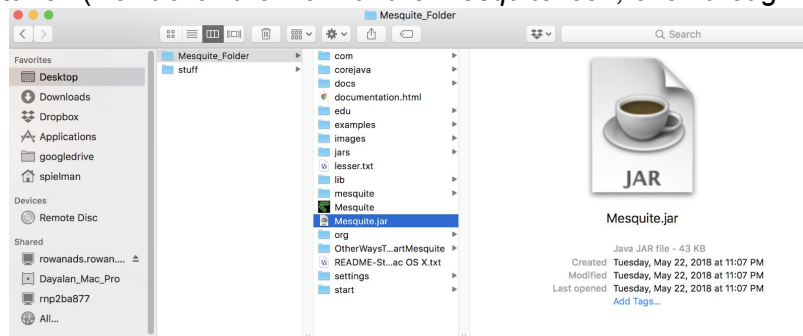We will be using the software **Mesquite** for our phylogenetics lab. Importantly, all computers must have Java installed in order to run Mesquite properly. Therefore, you should **first install Mesquite** on your computer and attempt to open it. If it does open properly, Java has already been installed. *If it does not open properly, then you will need to install Java*.

Installing Mesquite

- **If you are on a Mac,** first check the version of your Mac by going to the Apple in the top left corner of your screen and clicking "About this Mac." A screen will appear indicating your version. For example, this is version is **10.13.6. The middle number here is 13.**
  - If the middle number is **9 or lower**: click Mesquite351-MacOSX.10.9.or.lower-Java1.6.dmg
  - If it is **10 or higher**, click Mesquite351-macOS.10.10.or.higher-Java-1.7plus.dmg
- **If you are on a Windows (or surface tablet)**, click the link Mesquite351-Windows.zip
- **If you are on a Linux**, click the link Mesquite351-Linux.tgz

1. Once you click the link above, a file with the same name as the link will download onto your computer. Double-click this folder, and it will create a new folder named "Mesquite_Folder". A newfinder Window will appear with this folder directly. **Drag the folder named "Mesquite_Folder" onto your Desktop directly. This folder you have dragged contains the Mesquite program we will be using.** Once you have dragged this folder, you may delete the original downloaded file if you want.

2. Open the folder "Mesquite_Folder" and double click the file named **Mesquite.jar**. **This is really important!!** (*Don't click the file with the Mesquite icon, even though it looks very click-able.*)

3. If Mesquite launches without an error, you have successfully downloaded and launched Mesquite. If Mesquite did not launch and gave an error, it is probably because your computer does not have Java installed. You will need to install Java to use Mesquite, from here: https://www.java.com/en/download/help/download_options.xml . Follow the instructions for your machine to install Java. After you finish installing java, double-click again the **Mesquite.jar** file and it should load for you.