

Model organisms and developmental biology

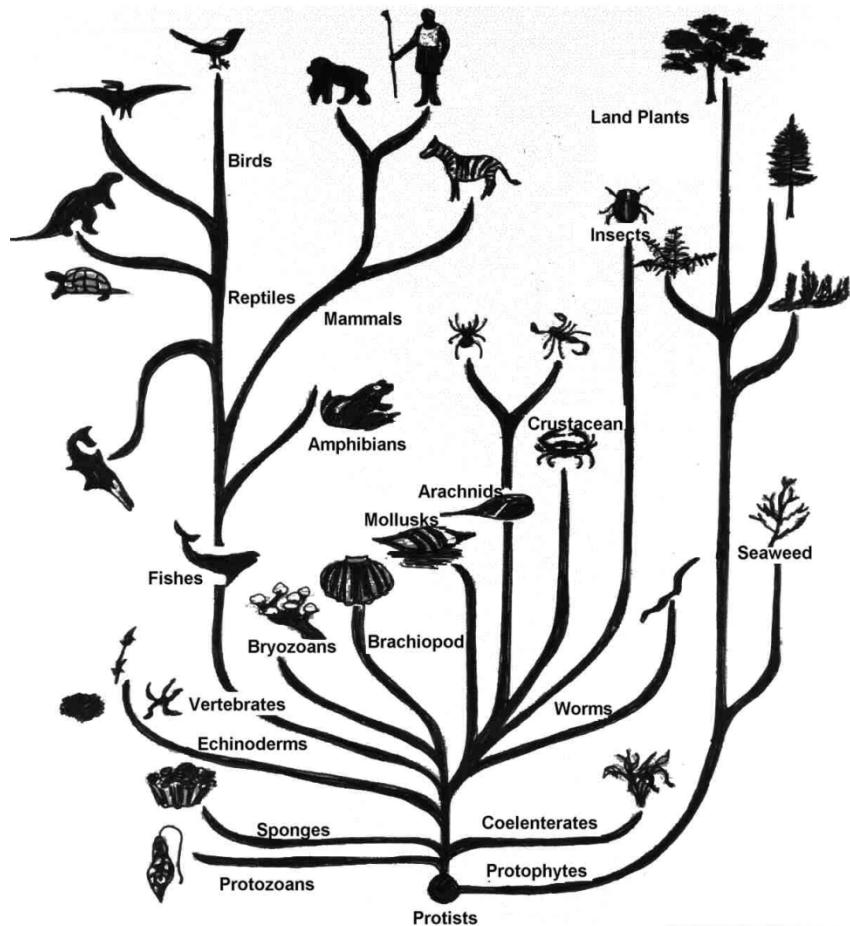
仲寒冰

zhong.hb@sustc.edu.cn

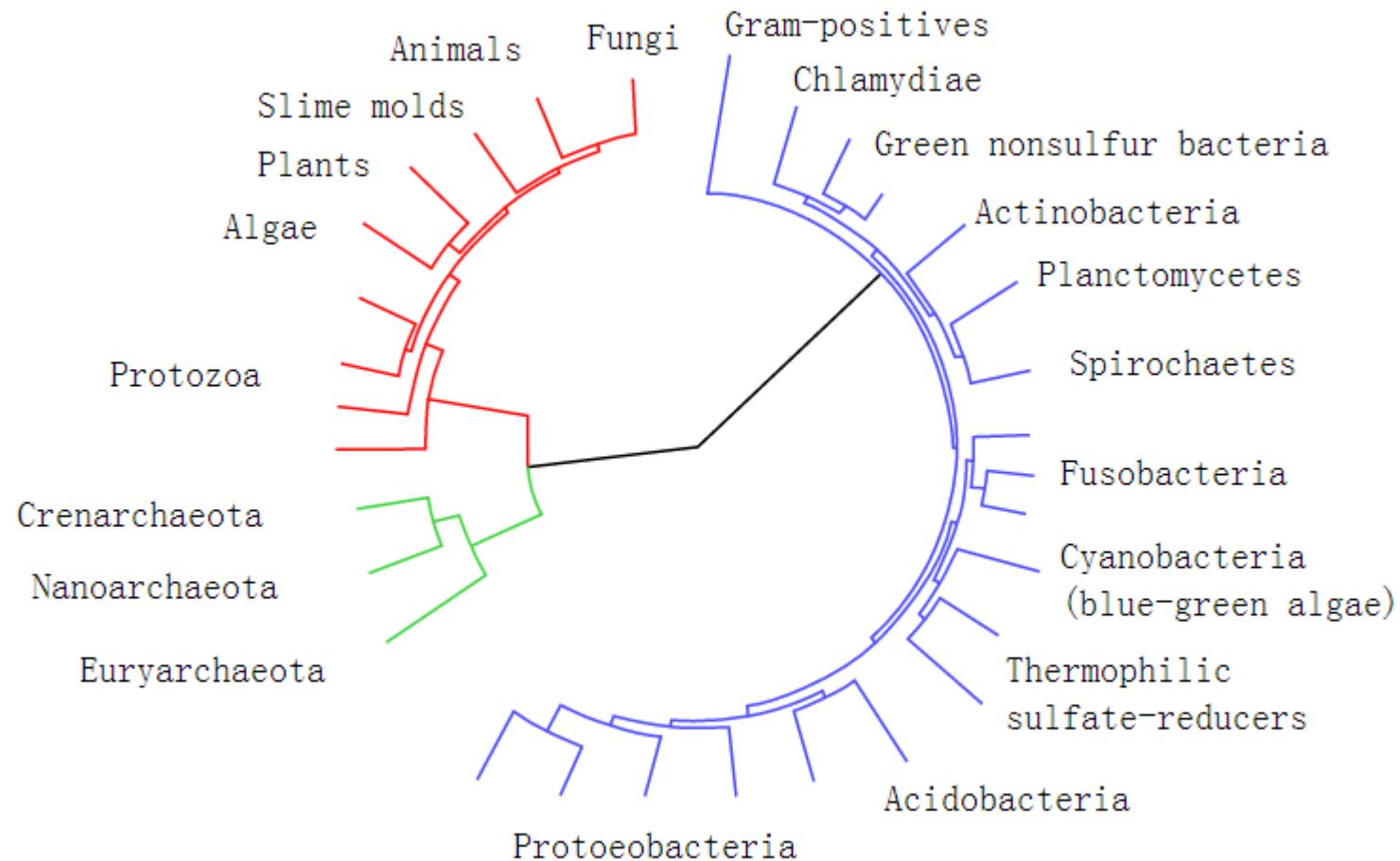
Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in
the Light of Evolution.

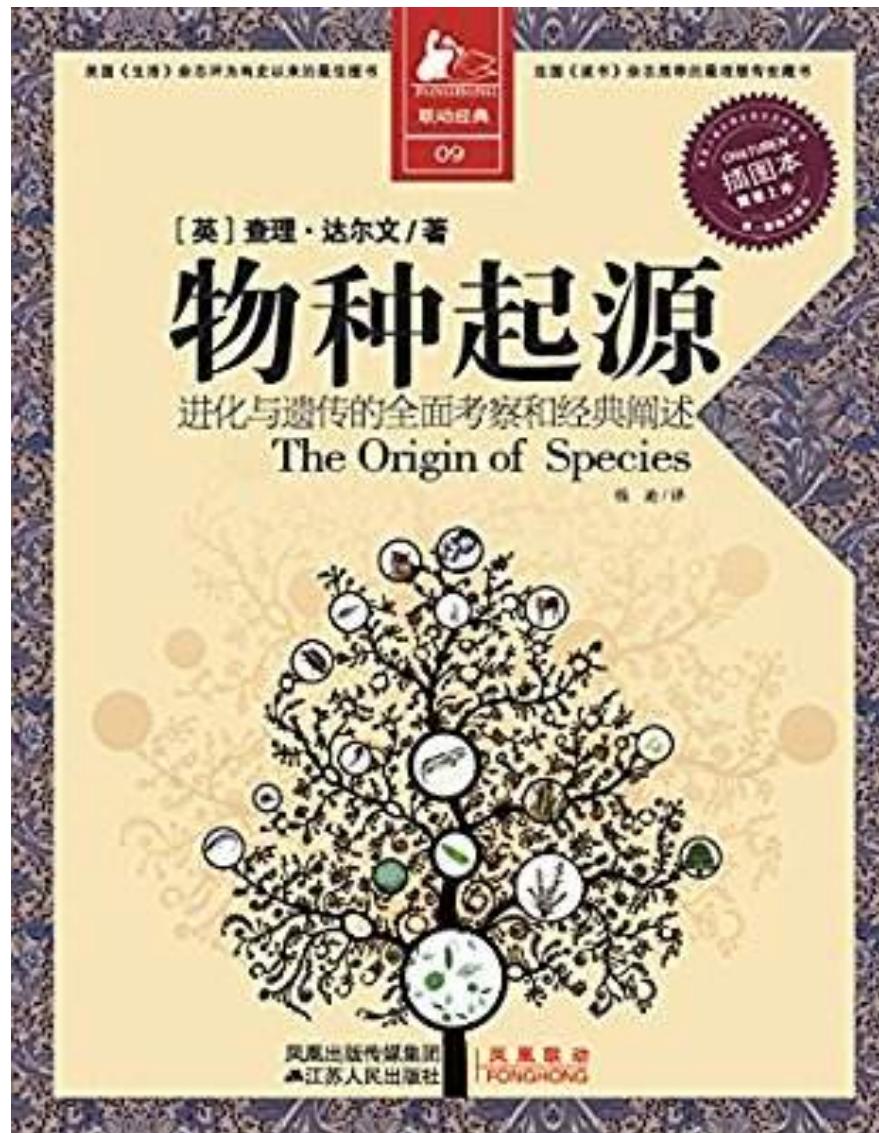
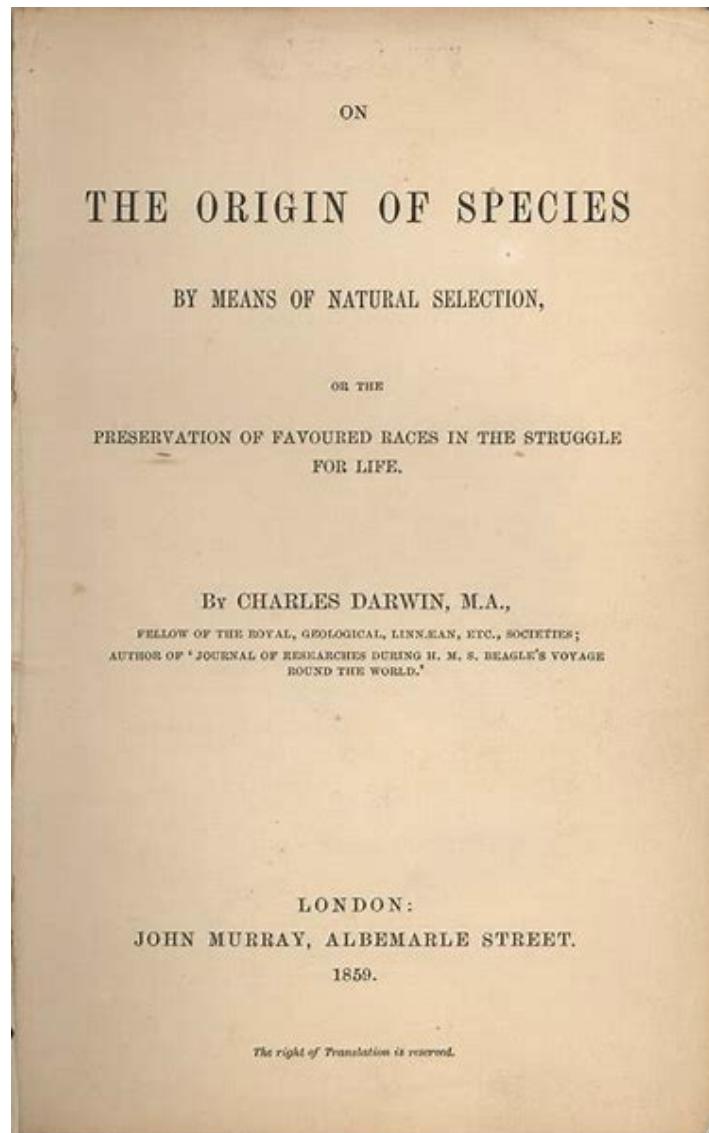
--Theodosius Dobzhansky

Evolution, 进化 VS 演化



Evolution, 进化 VS 演化





Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life.

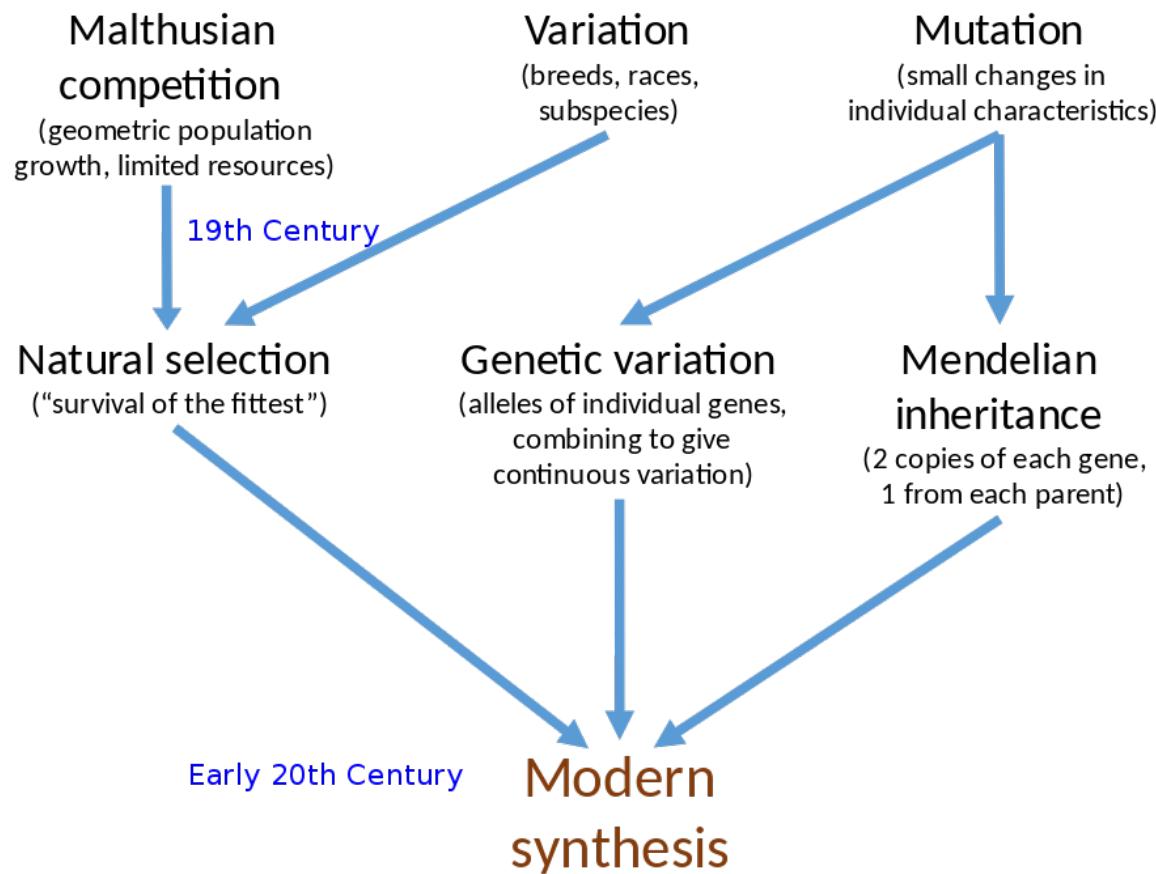
seventy-five years before the authorities started getting offended. Likewise we think that Galileo was a victim in the name of science; in fact, the church didn't take him too seriously. It seems, rather, that Galileo caused the uproar himself by ruffling a few feathers. At the end of the year in which Darwin and Wallace presented their papers on evolution by natural selection that changed the way we view the world, the president of the Linnean society, where the papers were presented, announced that the society saw "no striking discovery," nothing in particular that could revolutionize science.

— The Black Swan by Taleb

Natural selection

- Heritable variation. Differential reproduction. Descent with modification.
- Fitness, “survival of the fittest”.
- Competition.
- Common ancestor.

Modern synthesis of evolutionary theory



Modern synthesis of evolutionary theory

- Morphological novelty and innovation has been a recurrent theme. The architects of the modern synthesis of evolutionary theory made three claims about evolutionary novelty and innovation:
- First, that all diversifications in the history of life represent adaptive radiations;
- Second, that adaptive radiations are driven principally by ecological opportunity rather than by the supply of new morphological novelties, thus the primary questions about novelty and innovation focus on their ecological and evolutionary success;
- Third, that the rate of morphological divergence between taxa was more rapid early in the history of a clade but slowed over time as ecological opportunities declined.

The extended evolutionary synthesis

- The extended evolutionary synthesis is a set of extensions of the earlier modern synthesis of evolutionary biology that took place between 1918 and 1942. The extended evolutionary synthesis was called for in the 1950s by C. H. Waddington, argued for on the basis of punctuated equilibrium by Stephen Jay Gould and Niles Eldredge in the 1980s, and relaunched in 2007 by Massimo Pigliucci.
- The extended evolutionary synthesis revisits the relative importance of different factors at play, examining several assumptions of the earlier synthesis, and augmenting it with additional causative factors. It includes multilevel selection, transgenerational epigenetic inheritance, niche construction, and evolvability.
- Not all biologists have agreed on the need for, or the scope of, an extended synthesis. Many have collaborated on a different synthesis in evolutionary developmental biology, which integrates embryology with molecular genetics and evolution to understand how natural selection operated on developmental processes and deep homologies between organisms at the level of highly conserved genes.

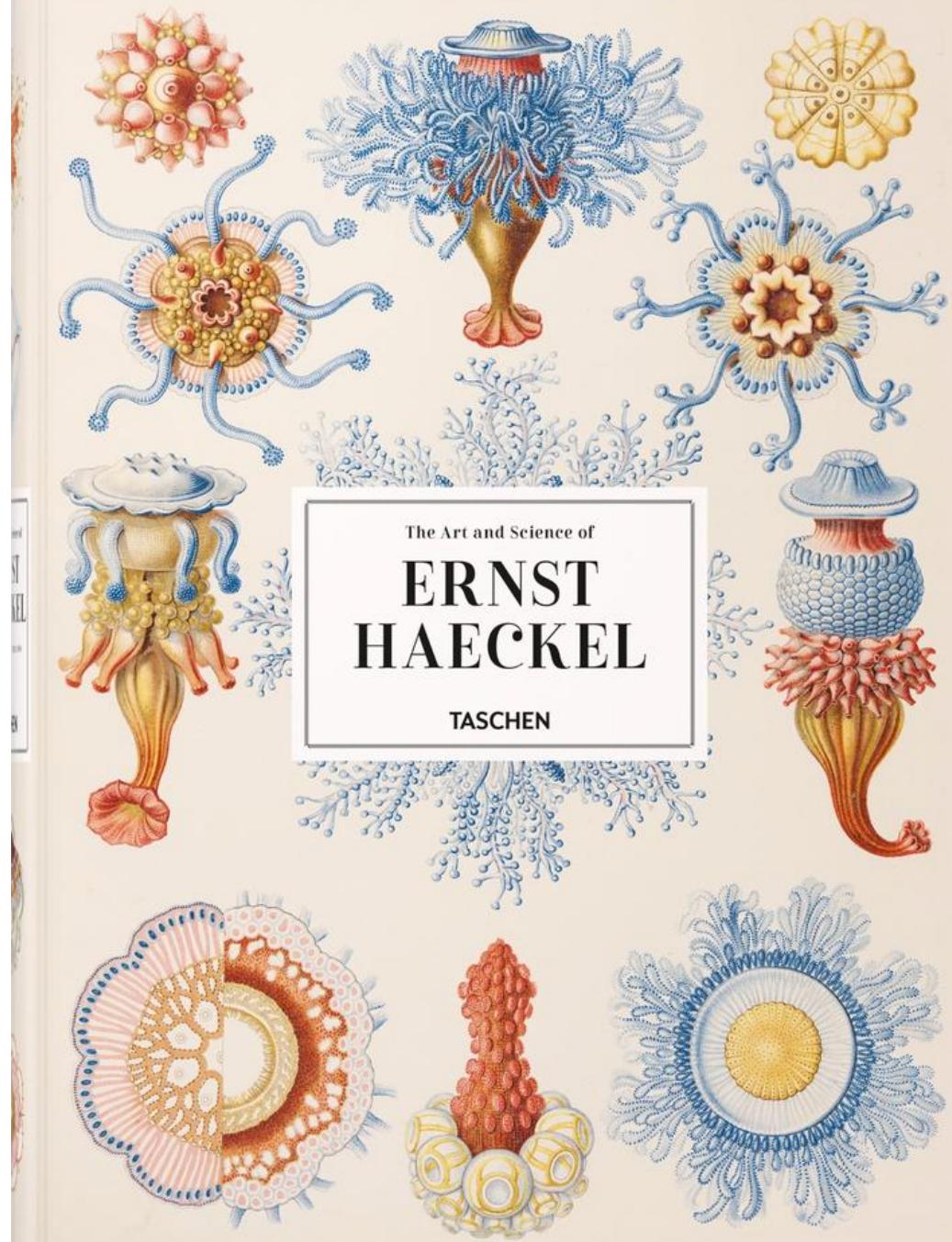
Evolutionary developmental biology (evo-devo)

- Contemporary evolutionary developmental biology is analyzing how changes in development can create the diverse variation that natural selection can act on.
- Evolutionary developmental biology views evolution as the result of changes in development.
- If development is the change of gene expression and cell position over time, then evolution is the change of development over time.
- Rather than concentrating on the “survival of the fittest,” evolutionary developmental biology gives us new insights into the “arrival of the fittest”.

Recapitulation theory, ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny!



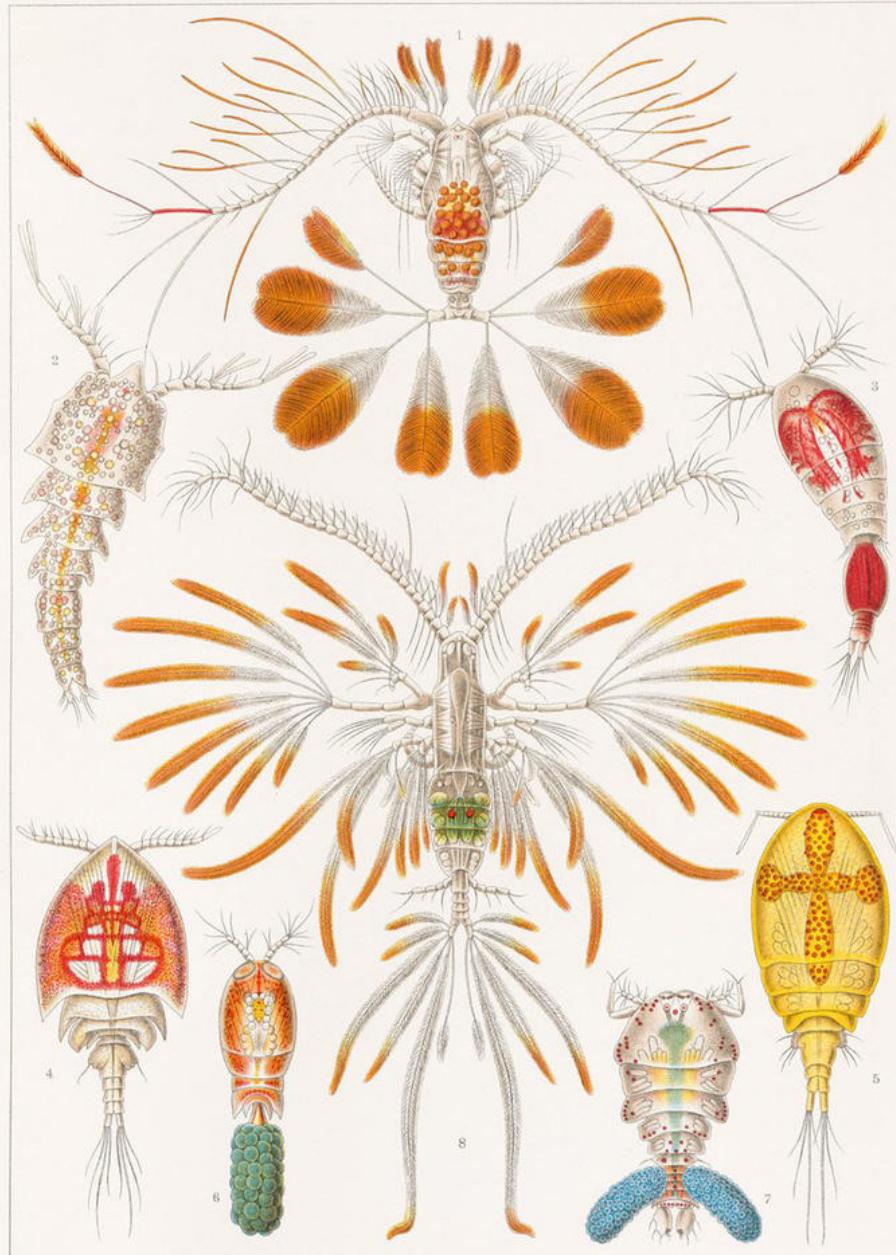
Ernst Haeckel, *The evolution of man*, 1903



The Art and Science of

ERNST HAECKEL

TASCHEN

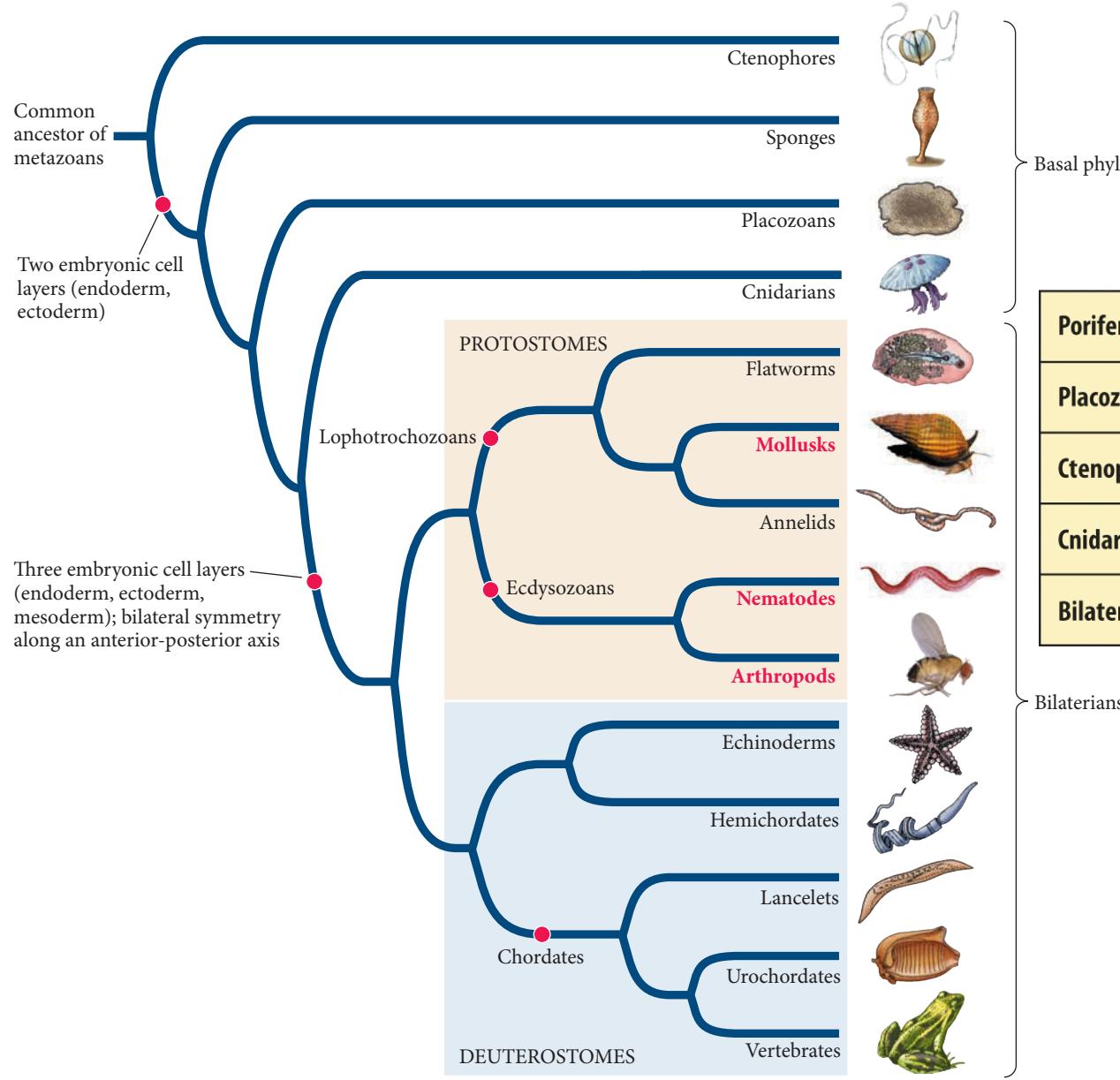


Copepoda. — Rüderkrebs.

Some questions

- The origin of the first gene
- The emerging of “central dogma”
- The origin of the first cell
- The origin of the first multi-cellular organism

The tree of metazoan (animal) life



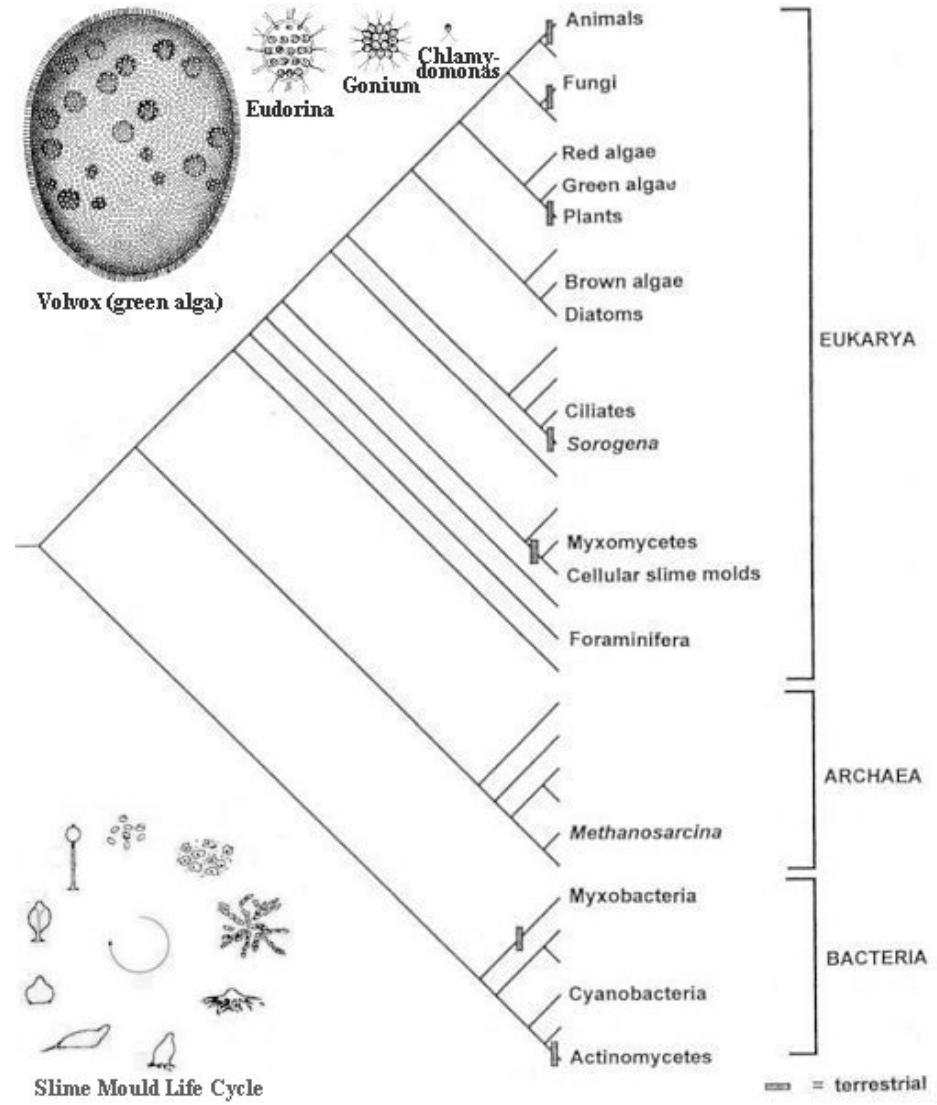
	Wnt	Notch	Nodal	BMP	Shh
Porifera	■	■	■		
Placozoa	■	■			
Ctenophora	■				
Cnidaria	■	■	■	■	■
Bilateria	■	■	■	■	■

The origin of multicellular organisms

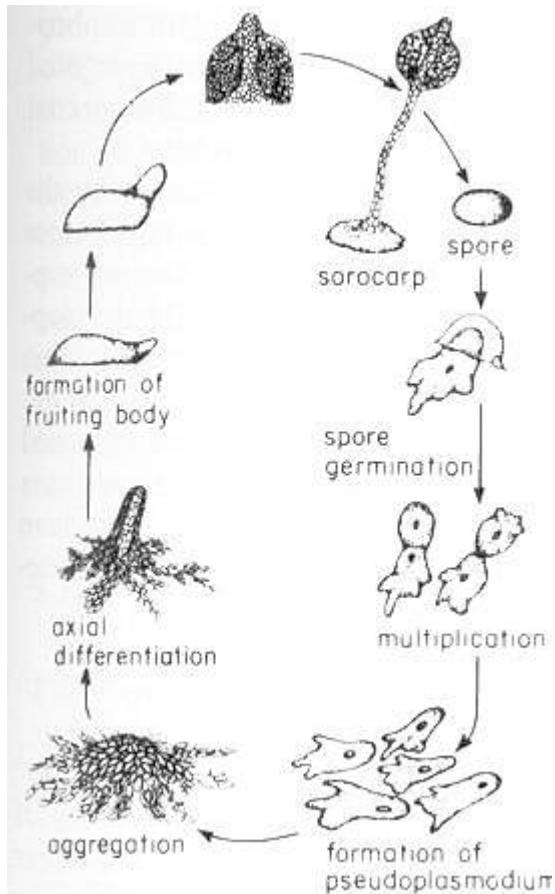
The origin of multicellular organisms

- One **possibility**, and it is highly **speculative**, is that mutations resulted in the progeny of a single-celled organism not separating after cell division, leading to a loose colony of identical cells that occasionally fragmented to give new ‘individual’.
- One advantage of a colony might originally have been that when food was in short supply, the cells could feed off each other, and so the colony survived. This could have been the origin of both multicellularity and the requirement for cell death in multicellular organisms. In sponges, for example, the egg phagocytoses neighboring cells.

Slime Moulds



The slime mould life cycle



- They begin their life from spore germination and multiplication.
- The basic units of slime moulds are haploid amoebae, usually prowling around on the forest floor consuming bacteria.
- Once the supply of food is exhausted, individual amoebae begin to move together. They form streams of cells called pseudoplasmodium moving slowly at about one millimeter/hour. It is now known that the process is initiated with the cAMP¹ signaling molecules released by the starving amoebae.
- Eventually the streams come together and form an aggregation which is at the spot with high concentration of cAMP. The mass can number a hundred thousand cells and might reach a size of a few millimeters.
- Then they stick together by secreting adhesion molecules and creating a slime sheath (cap) which covers all the cells in the mass. The polarity defined by the anterior (front), posterior (back) ends is established by oxygen gradient. The responsible gene for adhesion can be identified by blocking its expression. The resulting mass becomes a loose rubble that is incapable of further development



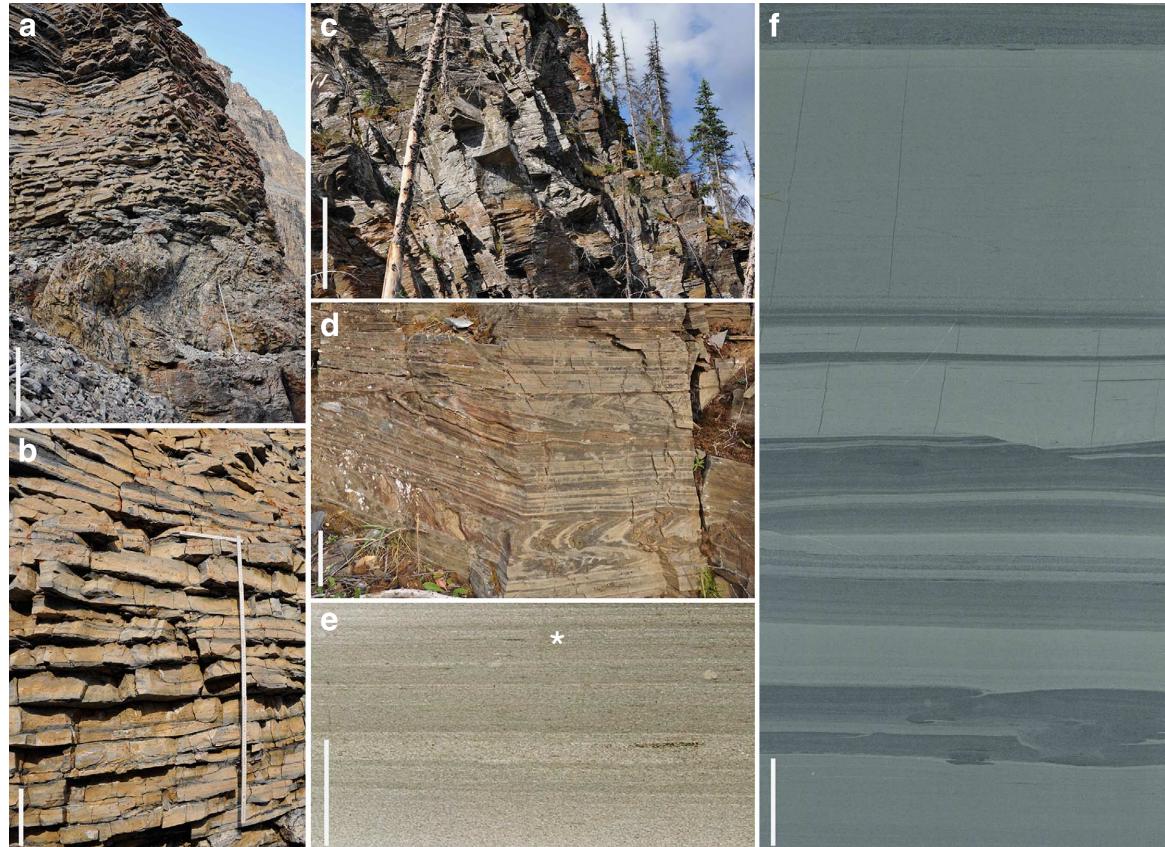
Cambrian explosion

- The “Cambrian Explosion” refers to the appearance in the fossil record of most major animal body plans about 543 million years ago. The new fossils appear in an interval of 20 million years or less. On evolutionary time scales, 20 million years is a rapid burst that appears to be inconsistent with the gradual pace of evolutionary change. However, rapid changes like this appear at other times in the fossil record, often following times of major extinction. The Cambrian Explosion does present a number of interesting and important research questions. It does not, however, challenge the fundamental correctness of the central thesis of evolution.
- Before the Cambrian explosion, most organisms were simple, composed of individual cells occasionally organized into colonies. Over the following 70 to 80 million years, the rate of diversification accelerated, and the variety of life began to resemble that of today. Almost all present animal phyla appeared during this period.

Cambrian fossils

- Ediacaran biota, Australia
- Chengjiang (澄江) biota, Yunnan, China
- Burgess shale biota, Canada

Sedimentary facies of the Stephen Formation at the Marble Canyon locality



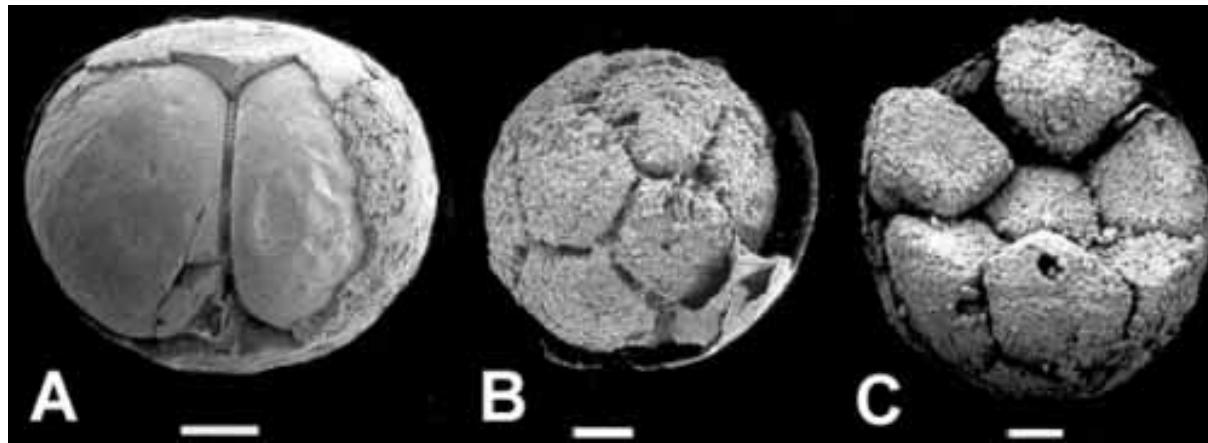
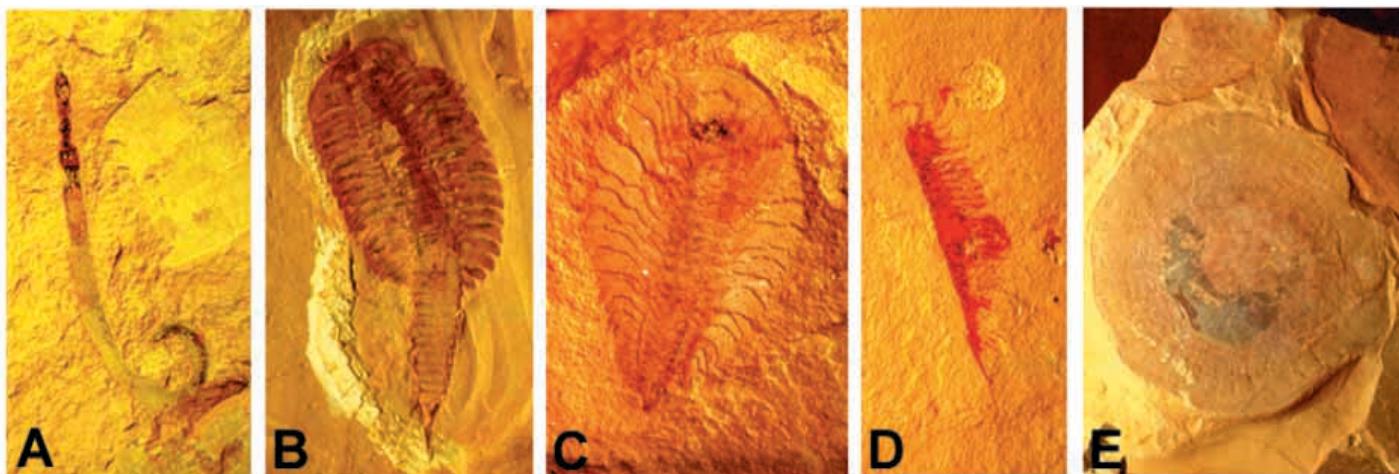
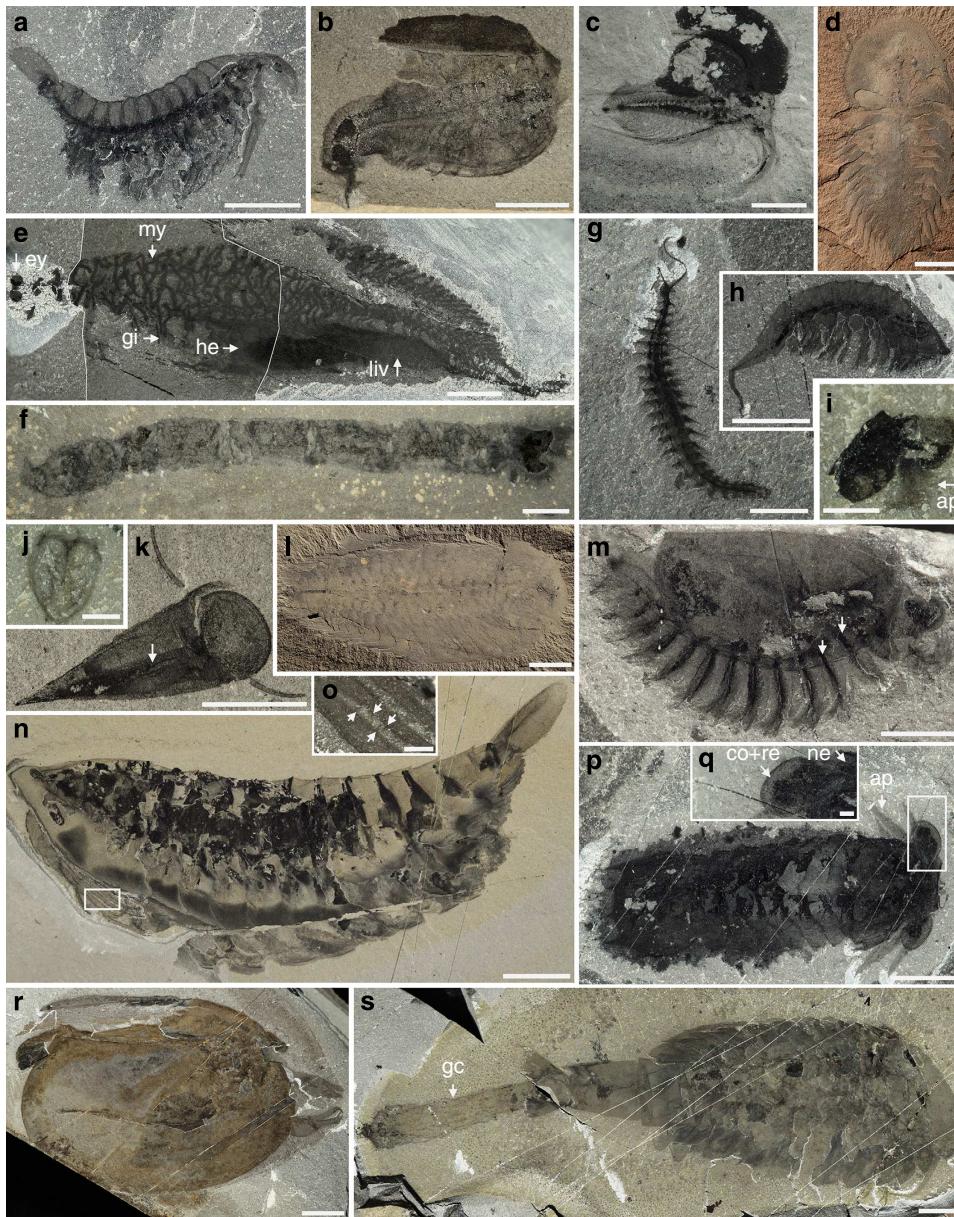
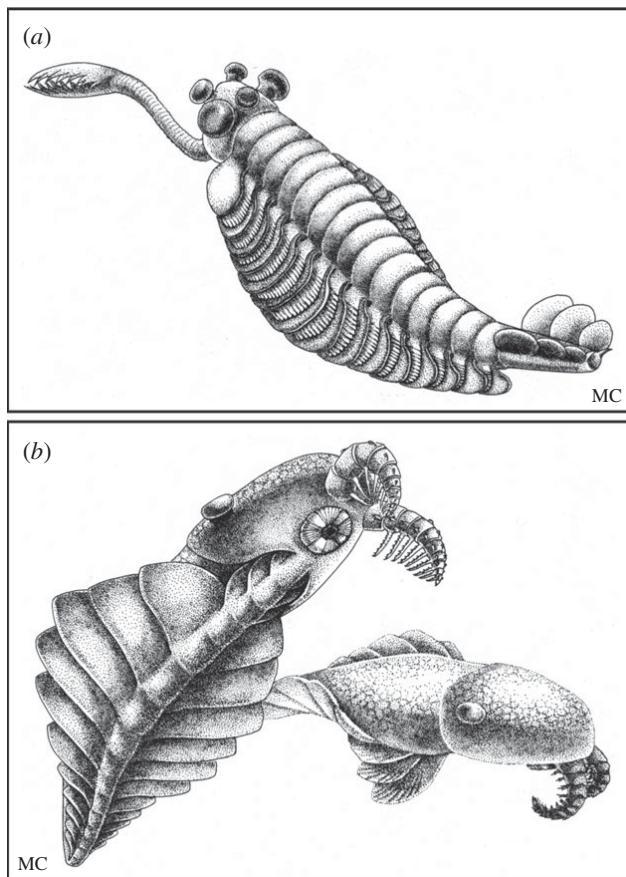


Fig. 2. Phosphatized fossil embryos from the Neoproterozoic, 570 ± 20 million years old. (A) 2-cell stage. (B,C) Later cleavage stages, with internal geometry of cells visible in C. From Xiao et al. (1998).



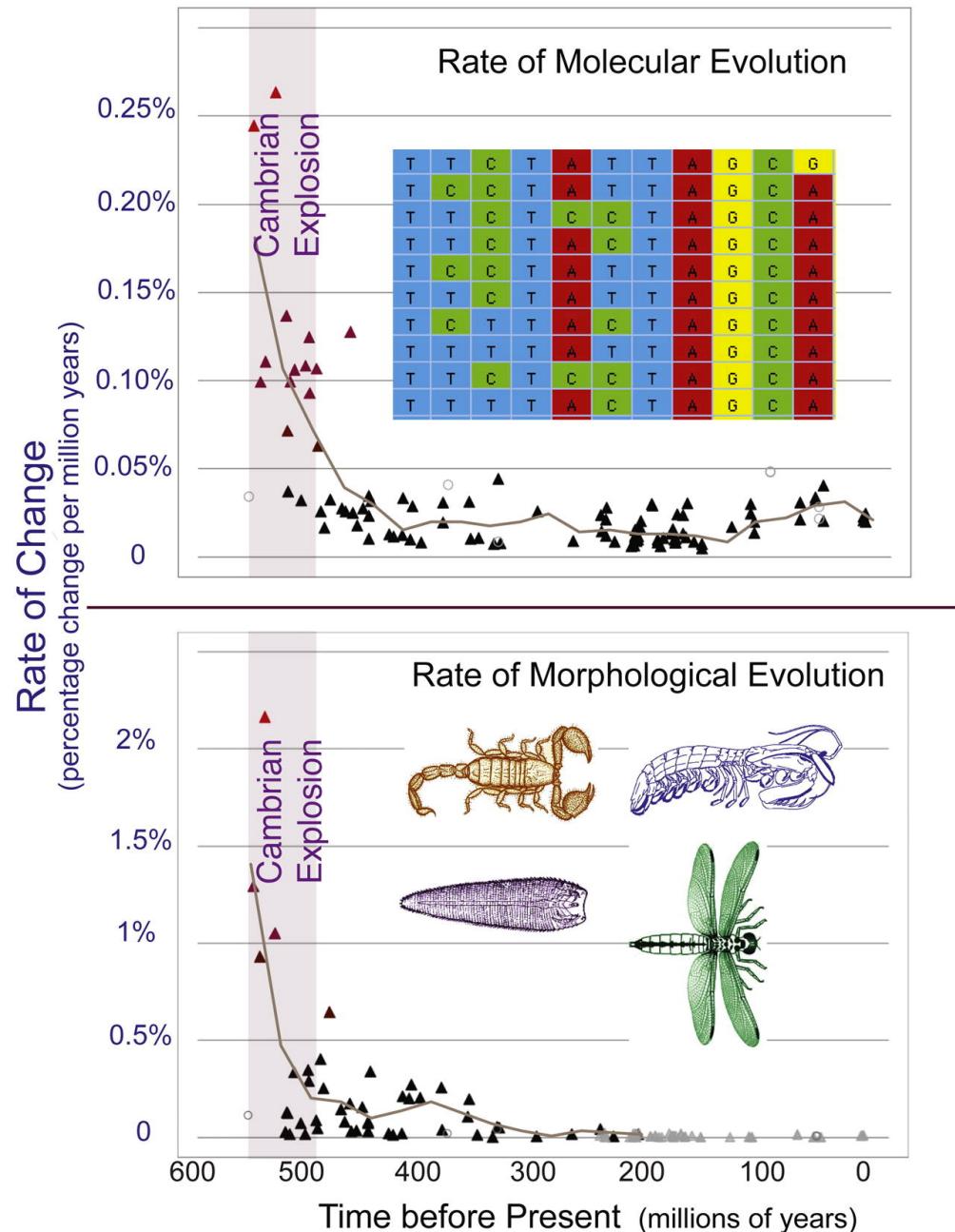


Opabinia (欧巴宾海蝎) and *Anomalocaris*



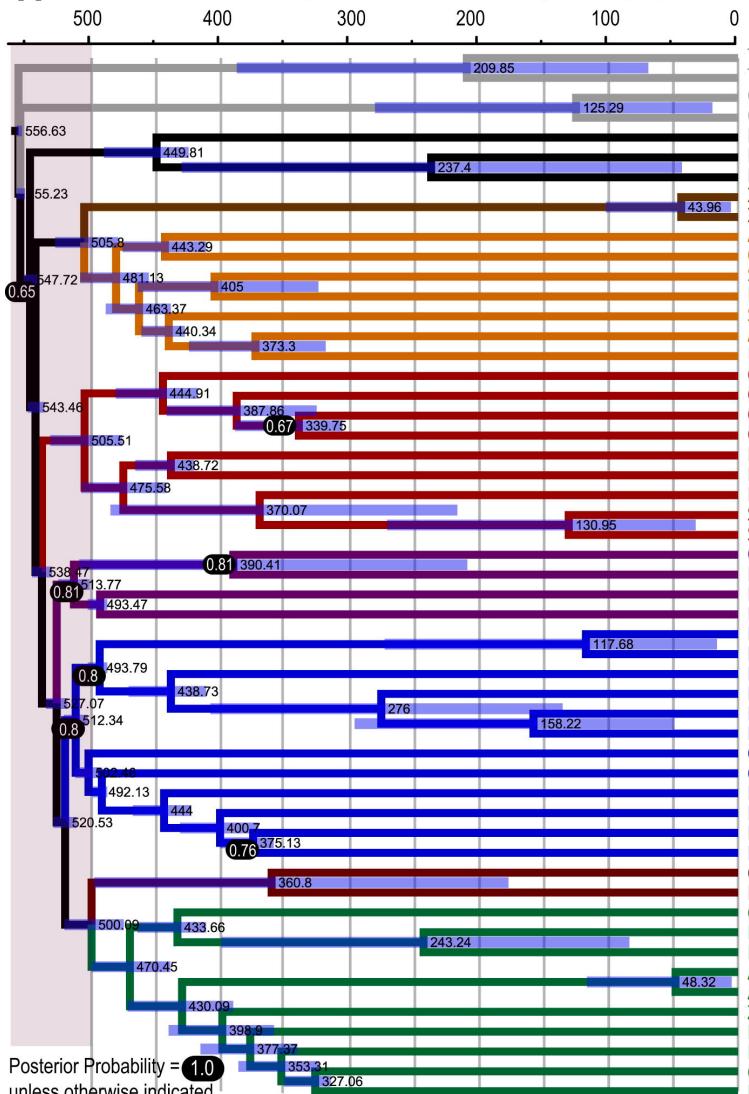
A menagerie of strange creatures emerged during the Cambrian explosion



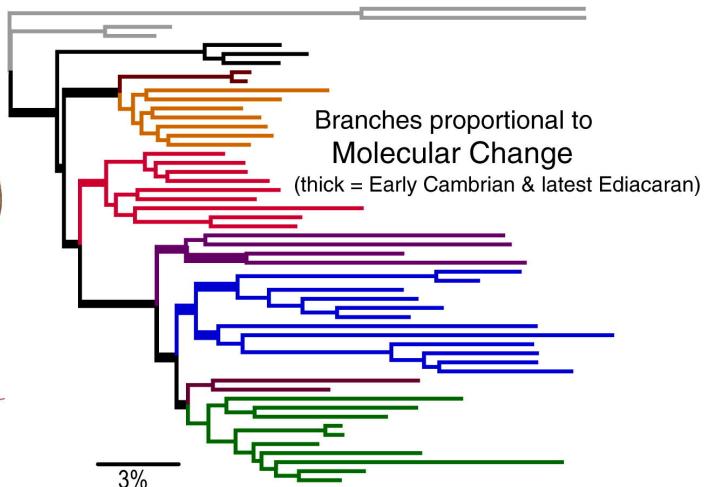
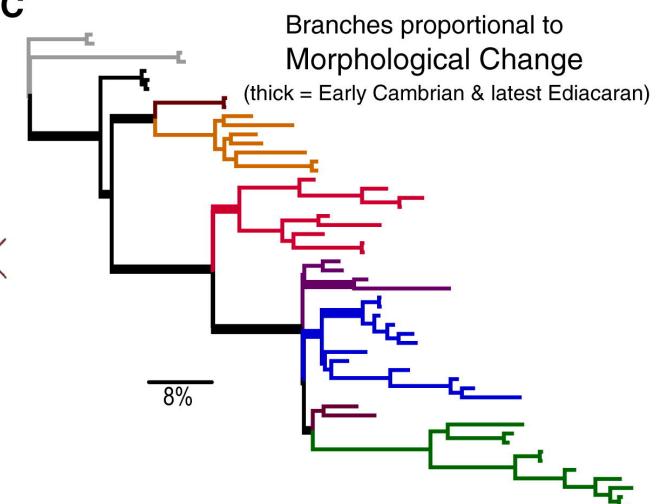


A

Branches proportional to Time (million yrs)



Tardigrada (*Milnesium*)
Tardigrada (*Hypsibinae*)
Onychophora (*Euperipatoides*)
Onychophora (*Peripatidae*)
Pycnogonida (*Colossendeis*)
Pycnogonida (*Ammothelidae*)
Pycnogonida (*Endeis*)
Xiphosura (*Caracinoscorpius*)
Xiphosura (*Lirulmus*)
Acari (*Amblyomma/Optilioacarus*)
Opiliones (*Leiobunum/Siro*)
Solifugae (*Eremocosta*)
Ricinulei (*Cryptocellus*)
Scorpiones (*Scorpionidae*)
Araneae (*Mygalomorphae*)
Uropygi (*Mastigoproctus*)
Chilopoda (*Scutigera*)
Chilopoda (*Lithobius*)
Chilopoda (*Scolopendra*)
Chilopoda (*Craterostigmus*)
Diplopoda (*Polyxenus*)
Diplopoda (*Narcex*)
Pauropoda (*Pauropodinae*)
Symphyla (*Hanseniella*)
Symphyla (*Scutigerella*)
Ostracoda (*Cypridopsis*)
Mystacocarida (*Derocheilocaris*)
Branchiura (*Argulus*)
Pentastomida (*Armillifer/Railletiella*)
Branchiopoda (*Artemia*)
Branchiopoda (*Streptocephalidae*)
Branchiopoda (*Triops*)
Branchiopoda (*Lynceus*)
Branchiopoda (*Daphnia*)
Branchiopoda (*Limnadia*)
Cirripeda (*Semibalanus*)
Copepoda (*Calanoida*)
Malacostraca (*Nebalia*)
Malacostraca (*Stomatopoda*)
Malacostraca (*Decapoda*)
Malacostraca (*Oniscidea*)
Cephalocarida (*Hutchinsoniella*)
Remipedia (*Speleonectes/Remipedia*)
Collembola (*Tomocerus*)
Diplura (*Campodeidae*)
Diplura (*Japygidae*)
Archaeognatha (*Meinertellidae*)
Archaeognatha (*Machilidae*)
Zygentoma (*Lepismatidae*)
Ephemeroptera (*Ephemerella/Collibaetis*)
Diptera (*Panopoda*)
Orthoptera (*Acheta/Locusta*)
Blattodea (*Periplaneta*)

**B****C**

[Download PDF](#)[Export](#) ▾

Current Biology



Volume 7, Issue 2, February 1997, Pages R71-R74

Dispatch

Molecular clocks: Defusing the Cambrian ‘explosion’?

Simon Conway Morris ¹

[Show more](#)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0960-9822\(06\)00039-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0960-9822(06)00039-X)

[Get rights and content](#)

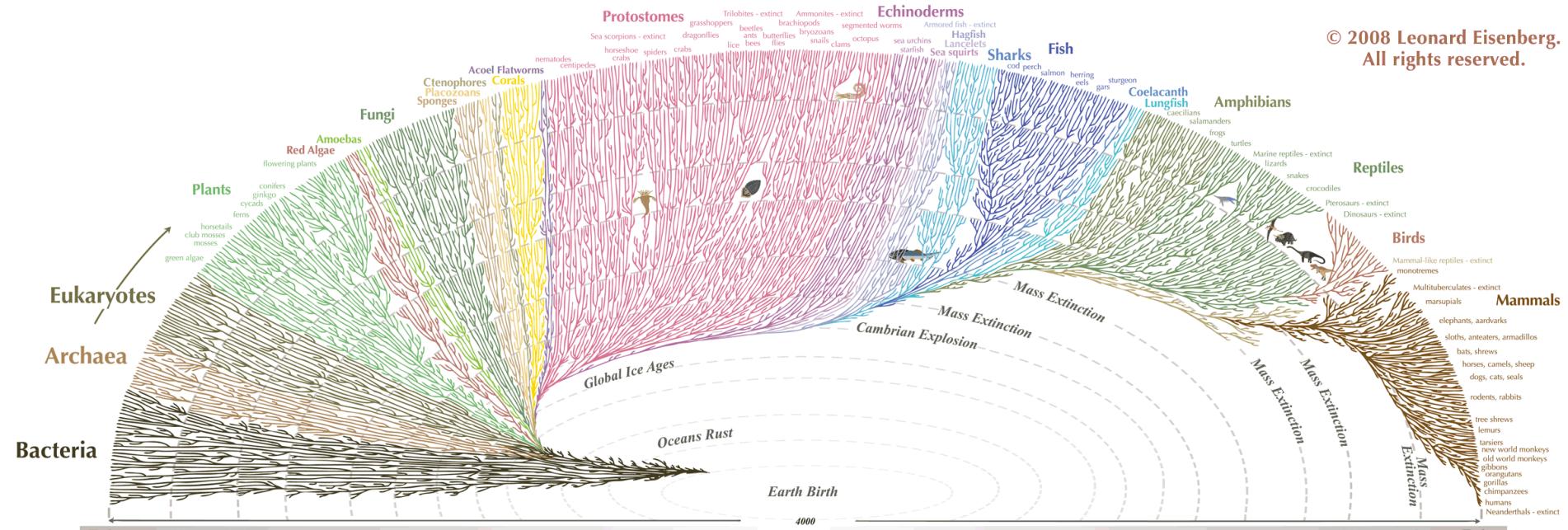
Under an Elsevier [user license](#)

[open archive](#)

Abstract

A recent molecular phylogenetic study argues against the orthodox view that metazoan phyla emerged abruptly during the Cambrian ‘explosion’, pointing instead to a protracted history for metazoans that arguably stretches back a billion years or more; the fossils, however, seem to tell a different story.

© 2008 Leonard Eisenberg,
All rights reserved.



All the major and many of the minor living branches of life are shown on this diagram, but only a few of those that have gone extinct are shown. Example: **Dinosaurs - extinct**

© 2008 Leonard Eisenberg. All rights reserved.
evogenieao.com

TREE OF LIFE web project

Explore the Tree of Life

Browse the Site

- [Root of the Tree](#)
- [Popular Pages](#)
- [Sample Pages](#)
- [Recent Additions](#)
- [Random Page](#)
- [Treehouses](#)
- [Images, Movies,...](#)

 Search[read more](#)

The Tree of Life Web Project (ToL) is a collaborative effort of [biologists and nature enthusiasts from around the world](#). On more than 10,000 World Wide Web pages, the project provides information about biodiversity, the characteristics of different groups of organisms, and their evolutionary history ([phylogeny](#)).

Each page contains information about a particular group, e.g., [salamanders](#), [segmented worms](#), [phlox flowers](#), [tyrannosaurs](#), [euglenids](#), [Heliconius butterflies](#), [club fungi](#), or the [vampire squid](#). ToL pages are linked one to another hierarchically, in the form of the evolutionary tree of life. Starting with the [root of all Life on Earth](#) and moving out along diverging branches to individual species, the [structure of the ToL project](#) thus illustrates the genetic connections between all living things.

[read more about the Tree of Life Web Project...](#)

Learn about ...

Agaricales

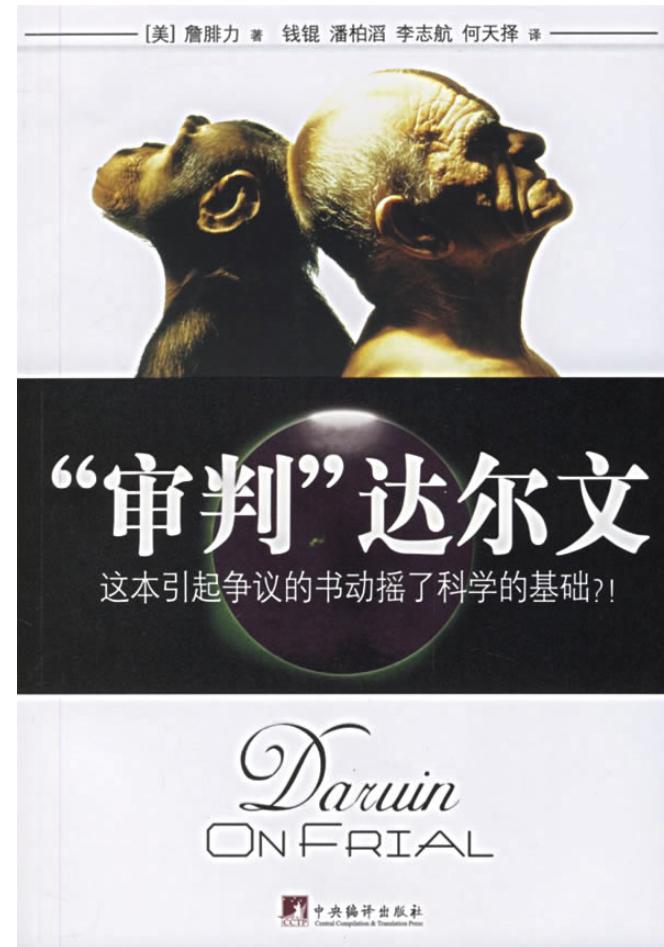
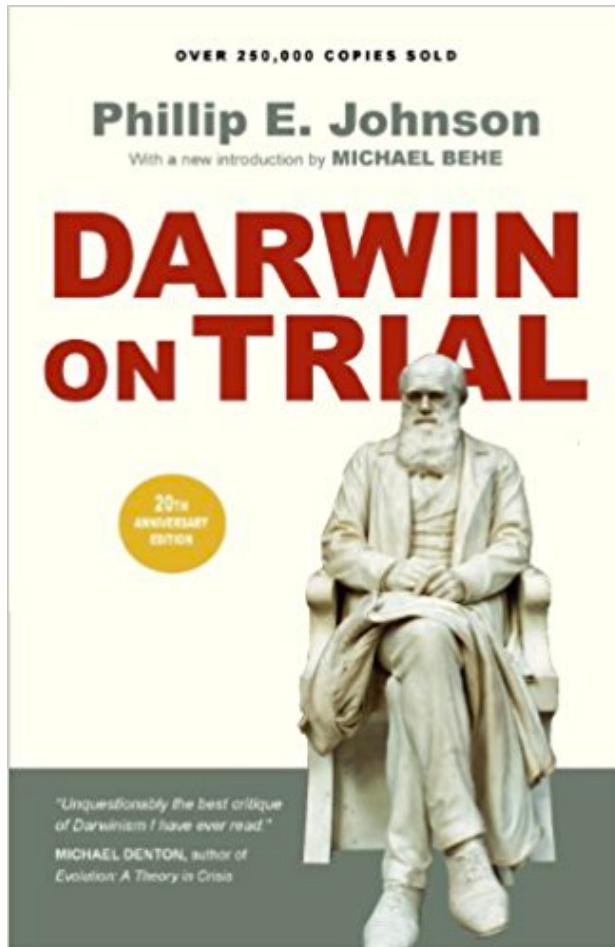
(a group of fungi)

[image info](#)

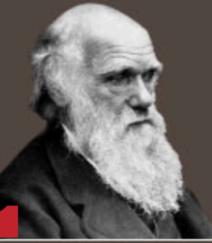
The Agaricales, or euagarics clade, is a monophyletic group of approximately 8500 mushroom species...

[read more](#)[more featured pages](#)

Debates over theory of evolution



DARWIN ON TRIAL



BIOGRAPHY

BOOKS

ARTICLES

MULTIMEDIA

NEWS

Darwin on Trial 20th Anniversary Trail...



Phillip E. Johnson

This website explores the life and writings of Phillip E. Johnson, Professor of Law, Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and author of *Darwin on Trial* and other books. Here you will find links to Professor Johnson's [articles](#), [reviews of his books](#), and [multimedia](#) files of his interviews and lectures.



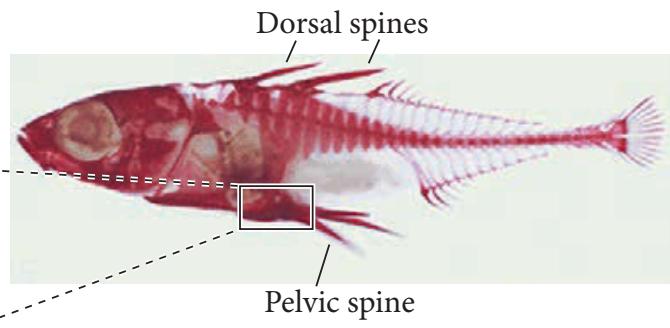
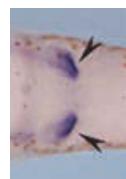
Modularity (模块化)

- Discrete units (modules) , eg. segments and somites.
- Duplication of modules, eg. somites of snake.
- Divergence of modules, eg. wing and holtore, forelimb and hindlimb.
- Both anatomical units and DNA elements are modular.

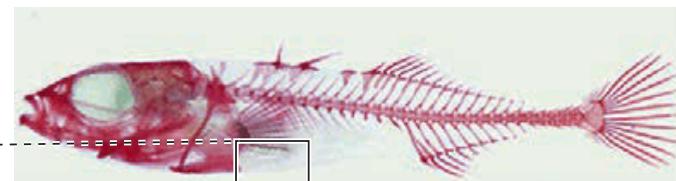
Pitx1 and stickleback evolution

(A) Marine

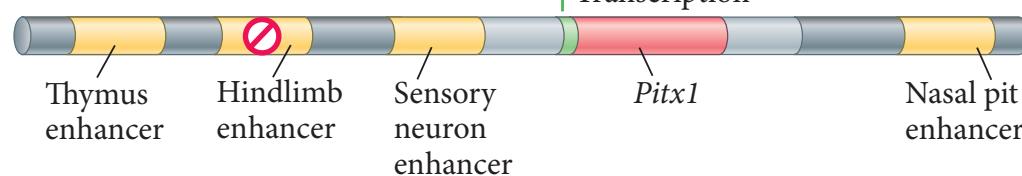
Pitx1 expression
(ventral view)



(B) Freshwater



(C)



Recruitment or “co-option”

(A)



(B)

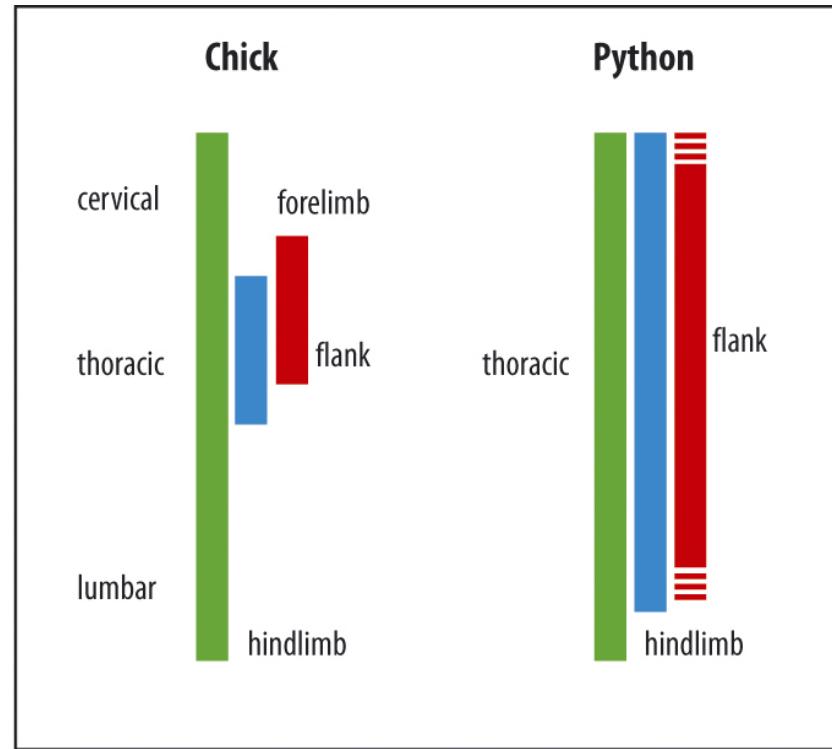
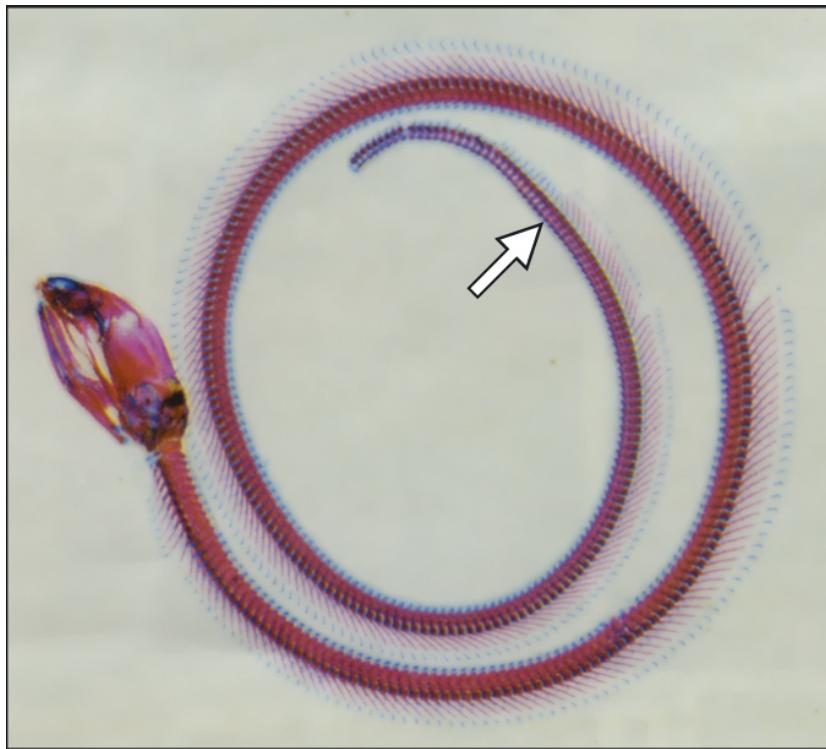


However, in beetles (and in no other known insect), Apterous protein also activates the exoskeleton genes in the forewing while repressing them in the hindwing (Tomoyasu et al. 2009).

Mechanisms of Evolutionary Change

- François Jacob, the Nobel laureate who helped establish the operon model of gene regulation.
- First, Jacob said, evolution works with what it has: it combines existing parts in new ways rather than creating new parts.
- Second, he predicted that such “tinkering” would be most likely to occur in those genes that construct the embryo, not in the genes that function in adults (Jacob 1977).

- Wallace Arthur (2004) catalogued four ways in which Jacob's "tinkering" can take place at the level of gene expression to generate phenotypic variation available for natural selection:
 - 1. Heterotopy (change in location)
 - 2. Heterochrony (change in time)
 - 3. Heterometry (change in amount)
 - 4. Heterotypy (change in kind)



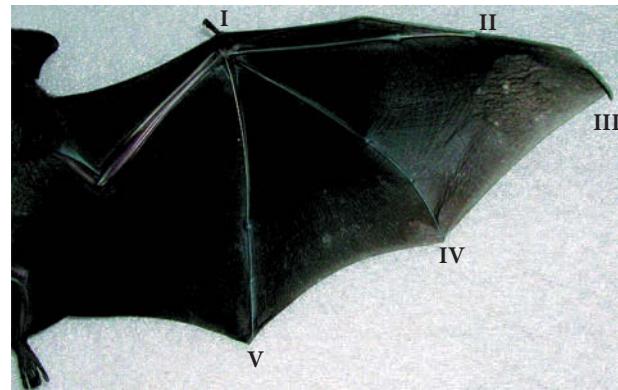
Heterotopy (change in location)

How the bat got its wings? By blocking the BMPs that would otherwise cause the inter-digital cells to undergo apoptosis.

(A)



(B)



(C)

Bat

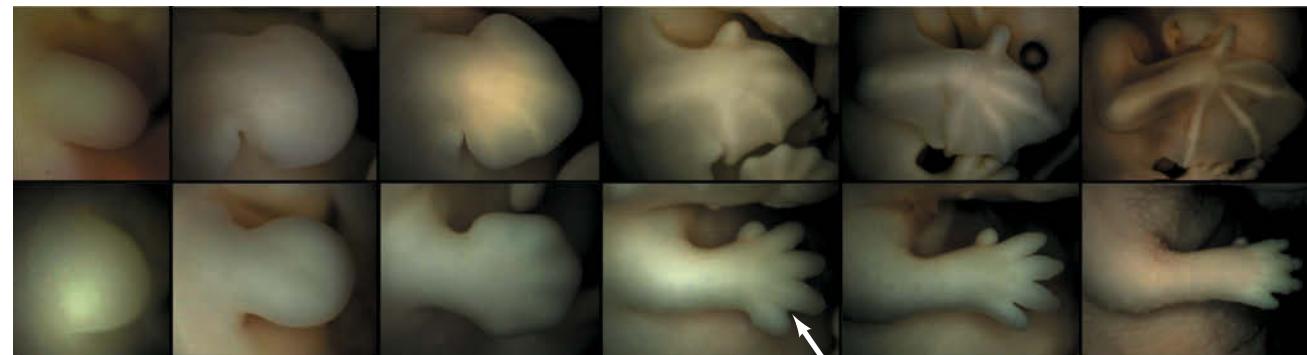


FIGURE 1.19 Development of bat and mouse forelimbs. (A,B) Mouse and bat torsos, showing the mouse forelimb and the elongated fingers and prominent webbing in the bat wing. The digits are numbered on both animals (I, thumb; V, “pinky”). (C) Comparison of mouse and bat forelimb morphogenesis. Both limbs start as webbed appendages, but the webbing between the mouse’s digits dies at embryonic day 14 (arrow). The webbing in the bat forelimb does not die and is sustained as the fingers grow. (A courtesy of D. McIntyre; B,C from Cretkos et al. 2008, courtesy of C. J. Cretkos.)

Heterochrony (change in time)

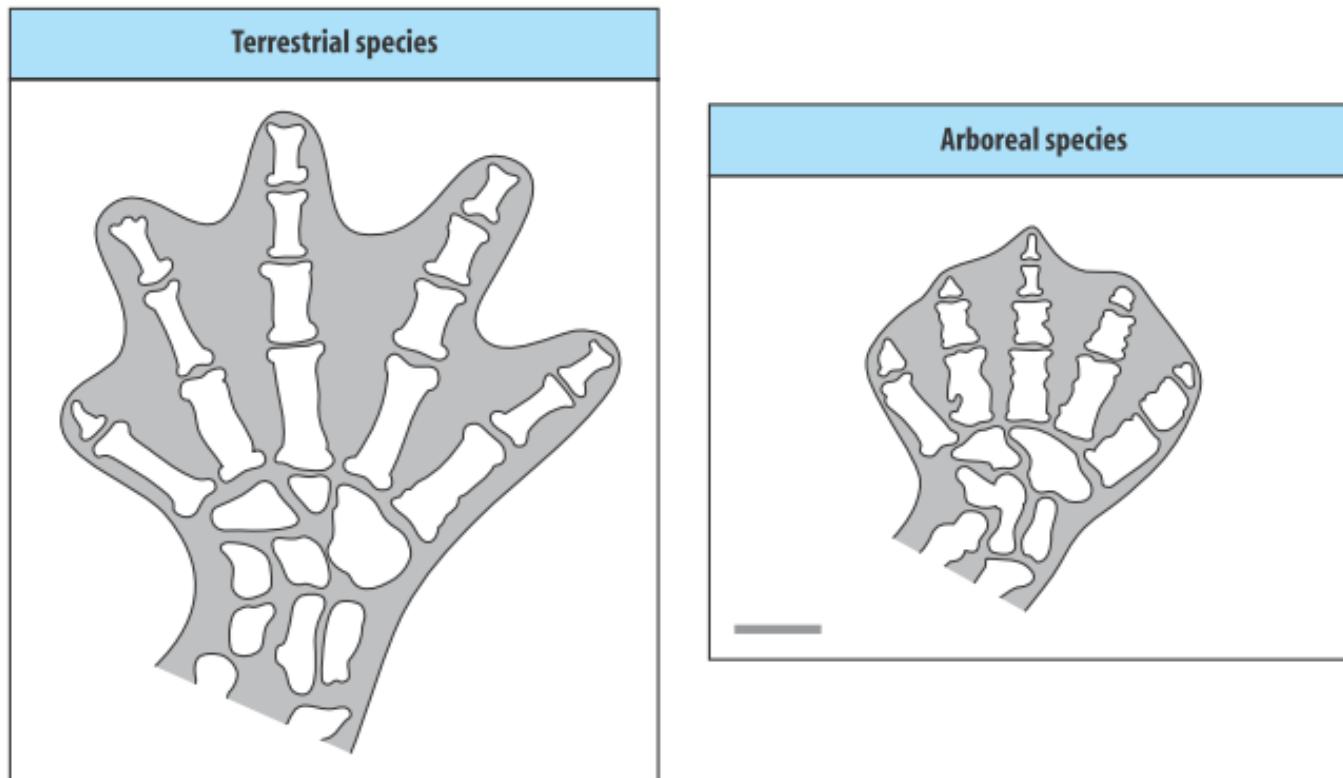
- Heterochrony (Greek, “different time”) is a shift in the relative order or timing of two developmental processes.
- As Darwin noted, “we may confidently believe that many modifications, wholly due to the laws of growth, and at first in no way advantageous to a species, have been subsequently taken advantage of by the still further modified descendants of this species.”

Heterochrony in frogs, larval stages can be skipped

Frogs of the genus *Eleutherodactylus*, develop directly into an adult frog and there is no aquatic tadpole stage, the eggs being laid on land. Typical tadpole features, such as gills and cement glands, do not develop, and prominent limb buds appear shortly after the formation of the neural tube.

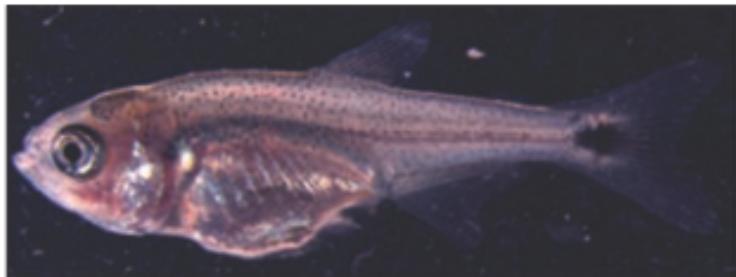


Heterochrony (differences in timing) in salamanders



Heterometry (change in amount)

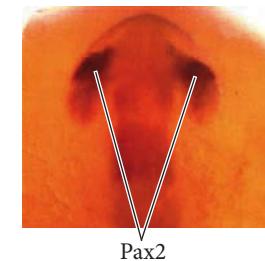
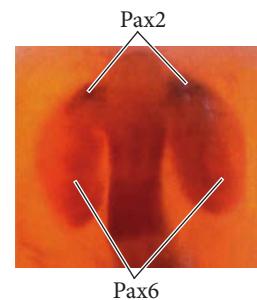
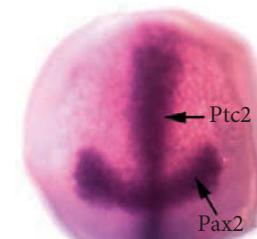
The two different forms of *Astyanax mexicanus*



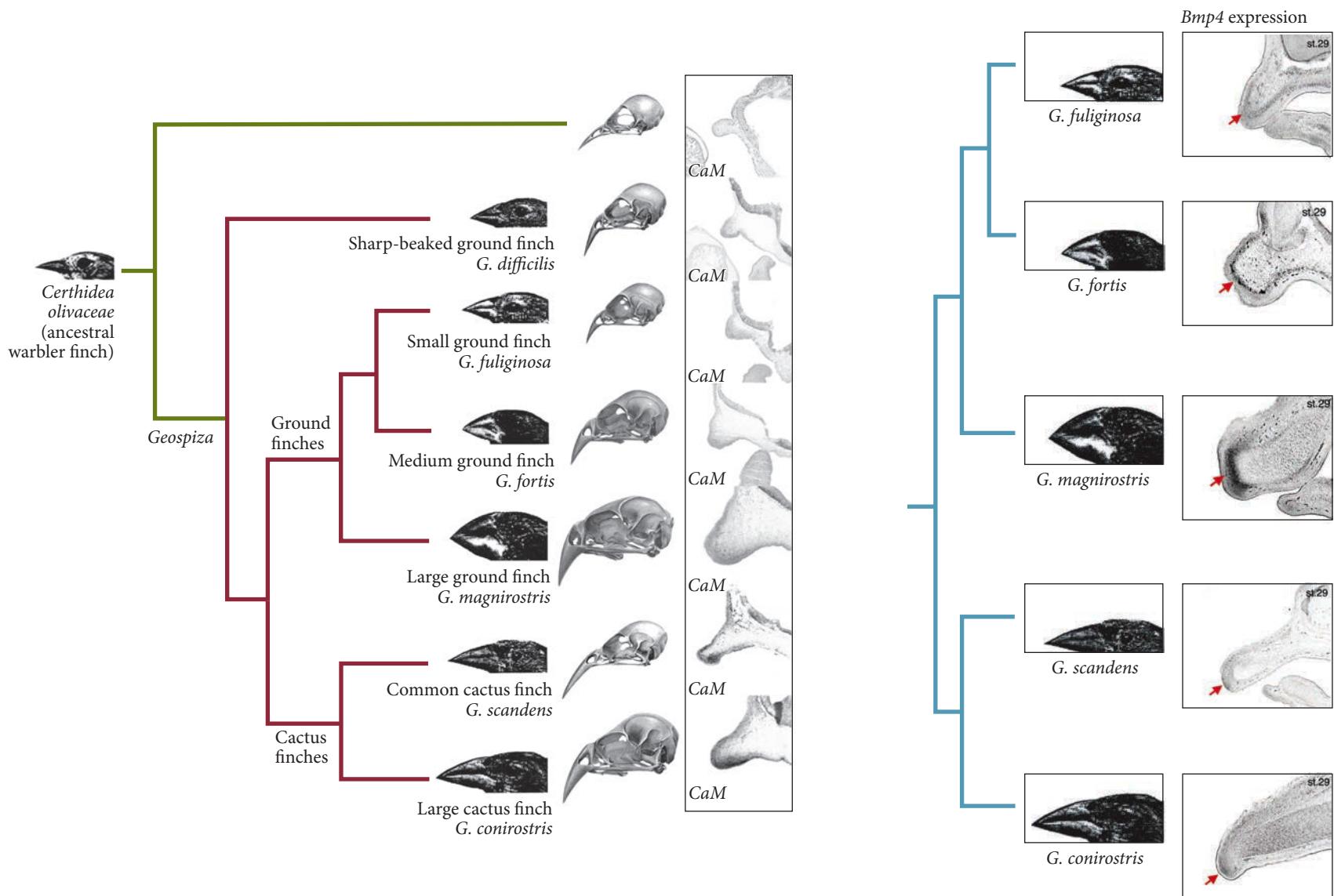
(A) Surface-dwelling populations



(B) Cave-dwelling populations



Darwin's finches



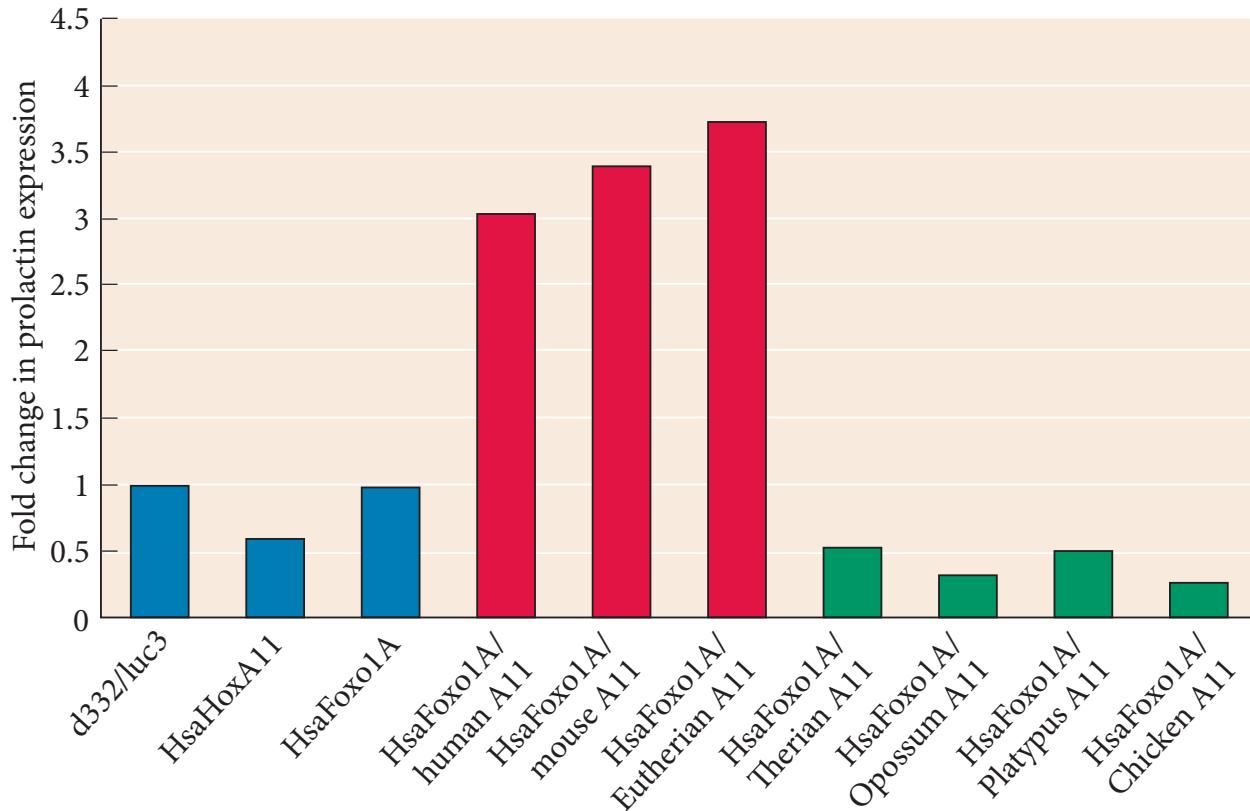
Heterotypy (change in kind)

- The changes of heterotypy affect the actual coding region of the gene, and thus can change the functional properties of the protein being synthesized. These changes in the protein- encoding regions of the gene are usually seen in genes that are expressed in only one or a few tissues, suggesting that pleiotropy (see below) constrains such changes in broadly expressed genes.

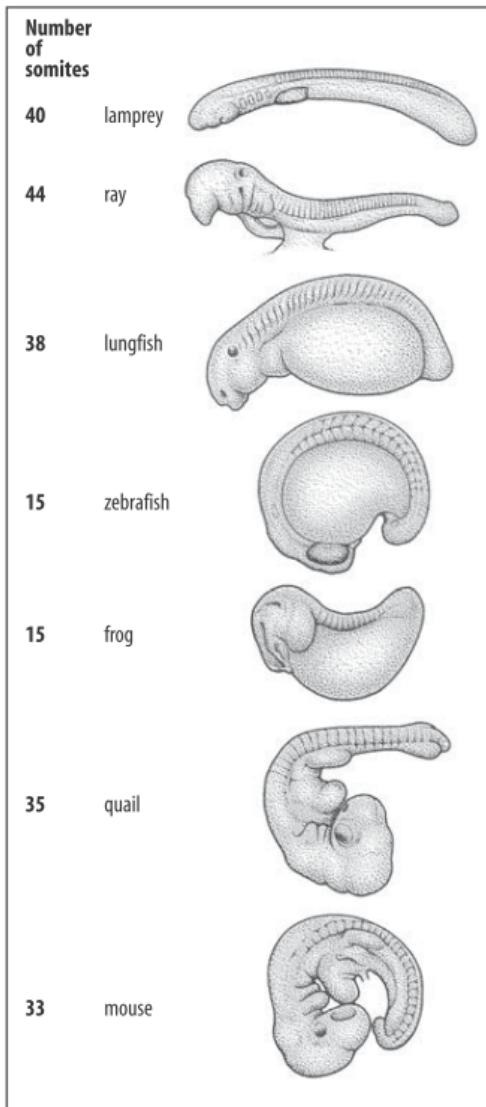
How pregnancy may have evolved in mammals

- One of the key proteins enabling this internal gestation is prolactin.
- Prolactin promotes differentiation of the uterine epithelial cells, regulates trophoblast growth, allows blood vessels to spread toward the embryo, and helps downregulate the immune and inflammatory responses so the mother's body does not perceive the embryo as a "foreign body" and reject it.

Ability of the mammalian Hoxa11 protein, in combination with Foxo1a, to promote expression of the uterine *Prolactin* enhancer



Phylotypic stage/period



- All vertebrate embryos pass through a phylotypic stage at which they all more or less resemble each other and show the specific embryonic features of the phylum to which they belong.

Phylotypic stage/period between phyla

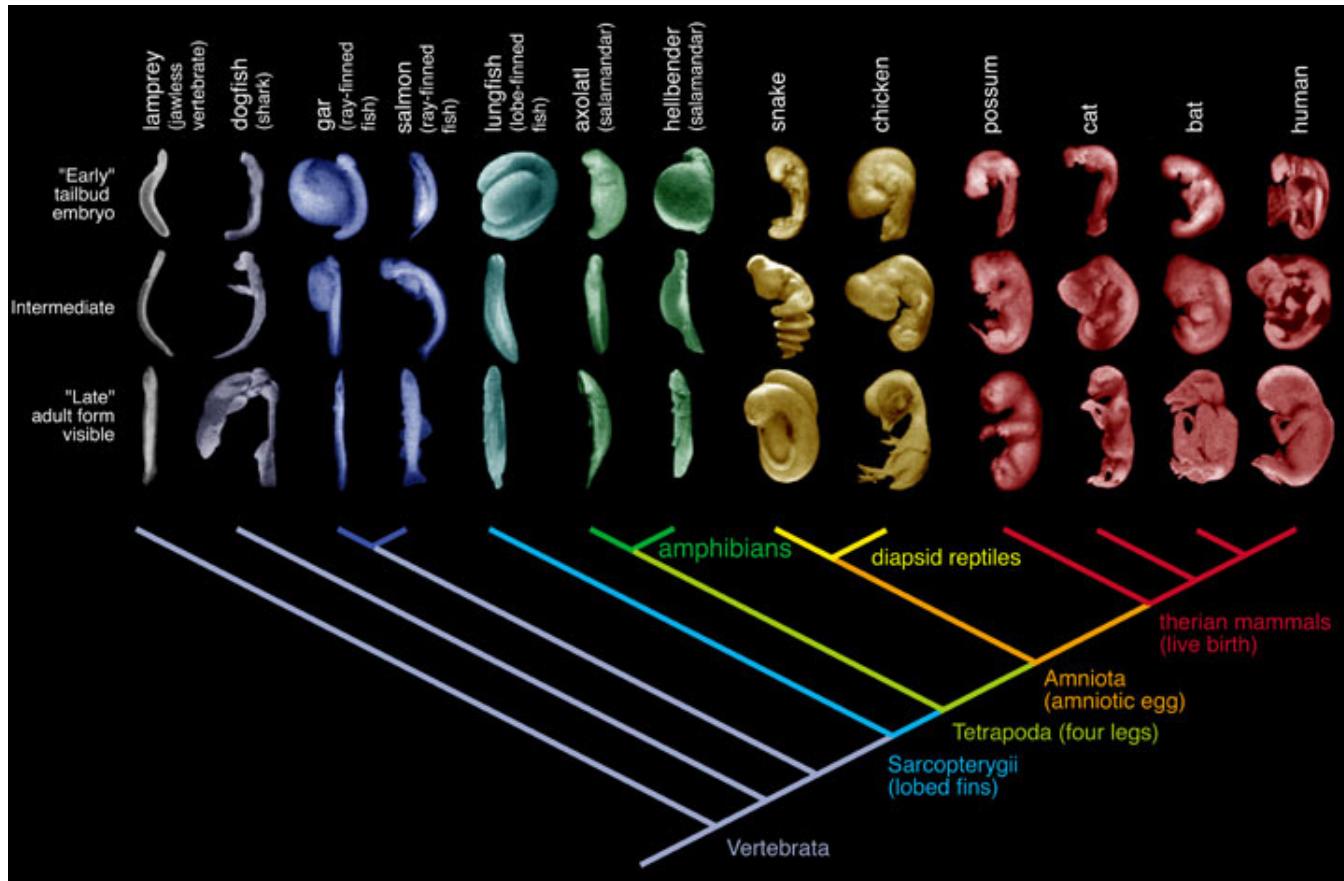
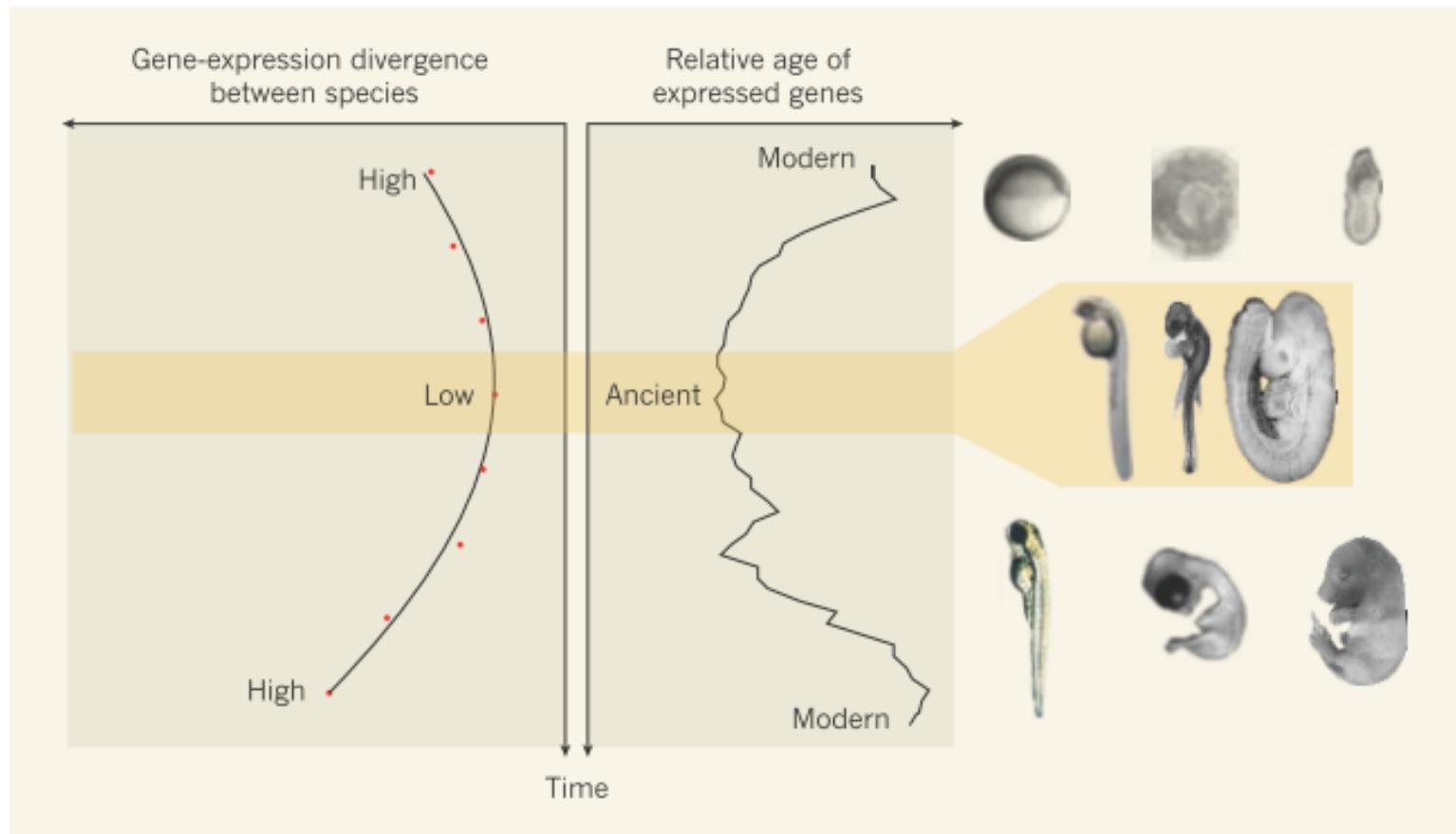


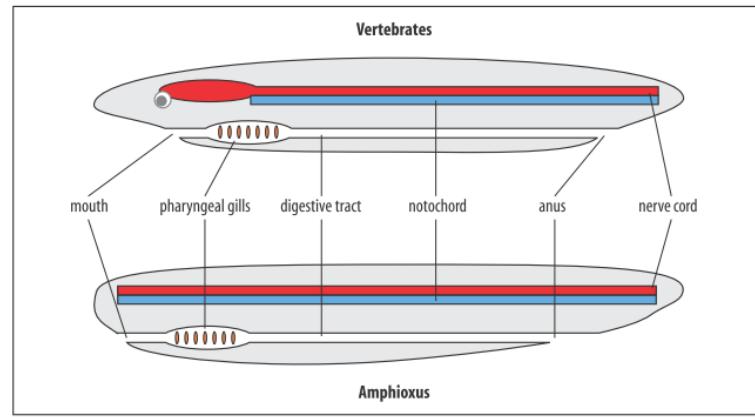
Figure 8. Developmental sequences of various vertebrates shown in phylogenetic context. Note the shared similarities of some closely related taxa, particularly the amniotes (modified from Richardson et al. 1998.)

The developmental hourglass, as revealed by comparative genomics

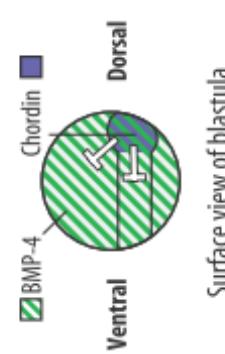
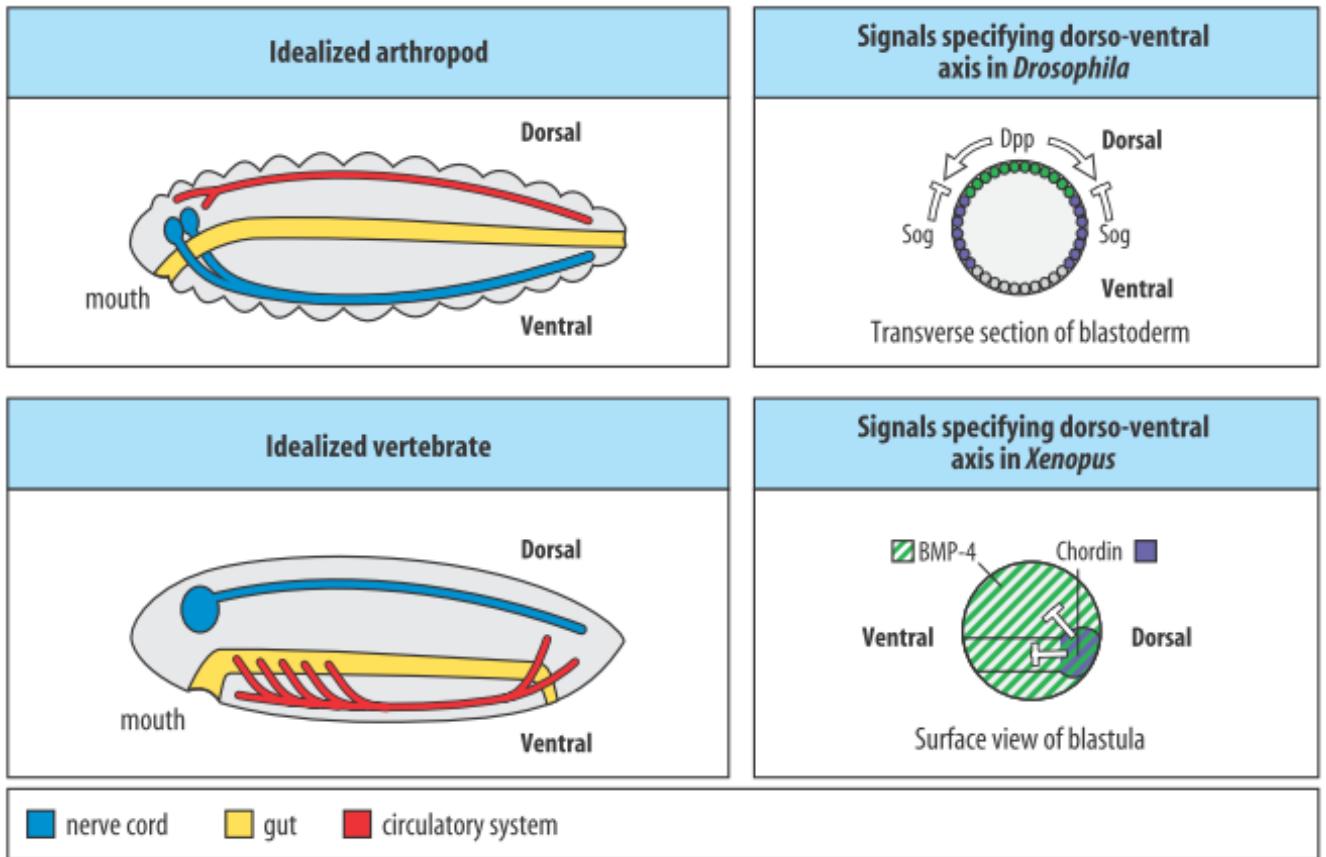


The evolutionary modification of embryonic development

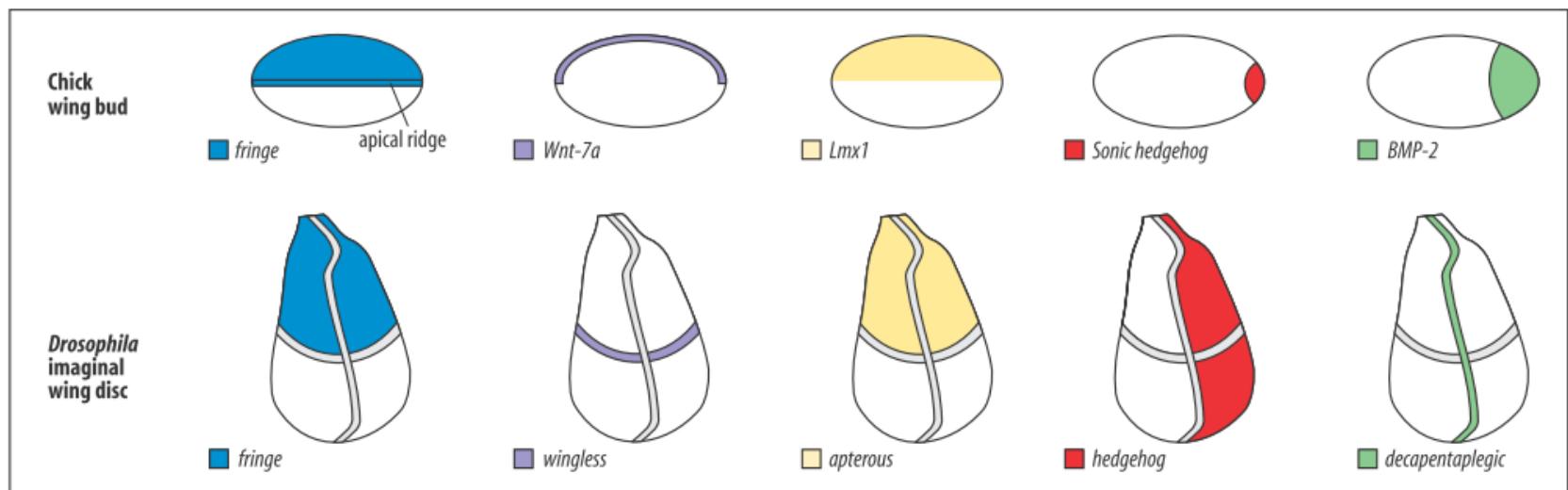
- The more general characteristics of a group of animals (that is, those shared by all members of the group) usually appear earlier in their embryos than the more specialized ones, and arose earlier in evolution.
- In the vertebrates, a good example of a general characteristic would be the notochord, which is common to all vertebrates and is also found in other chordate embryos. Paired appendages, such as limbs, which develop later as special characters



The vertebrate and *Drosophila* dorso-ventral axes are related but inverted

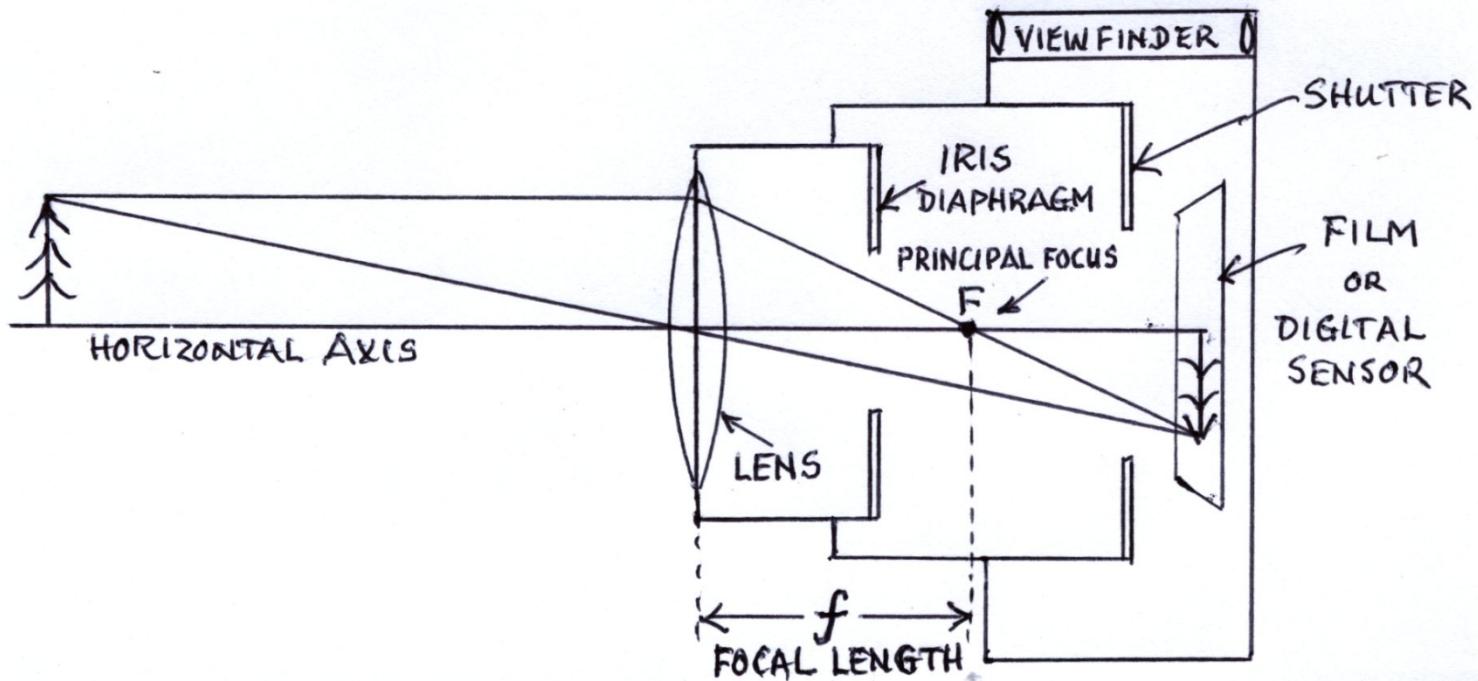


Comparison of developmental signals in the chick wing bud and *Drosophila* wing imaginal disc

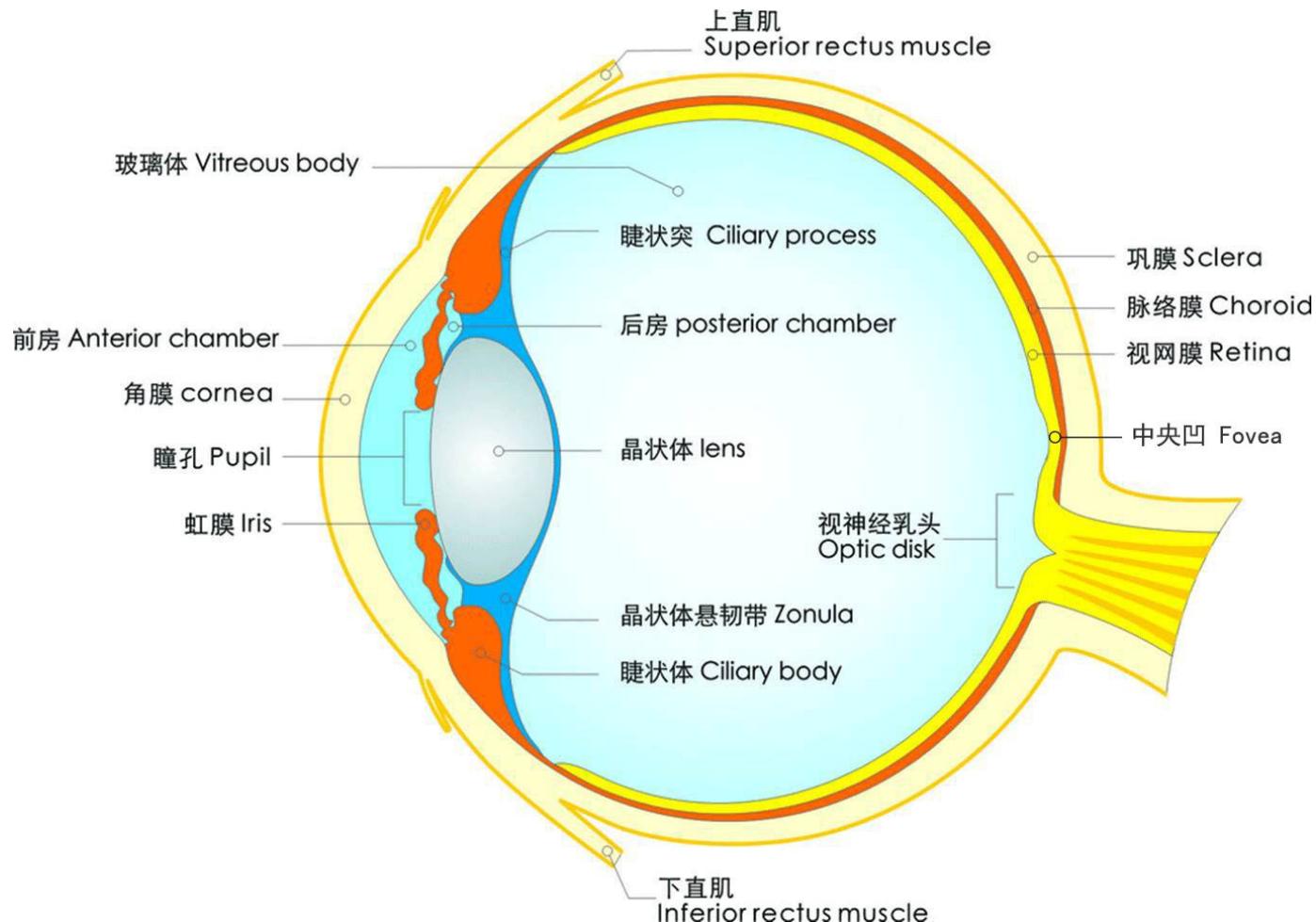


Vertebrate eye evolution

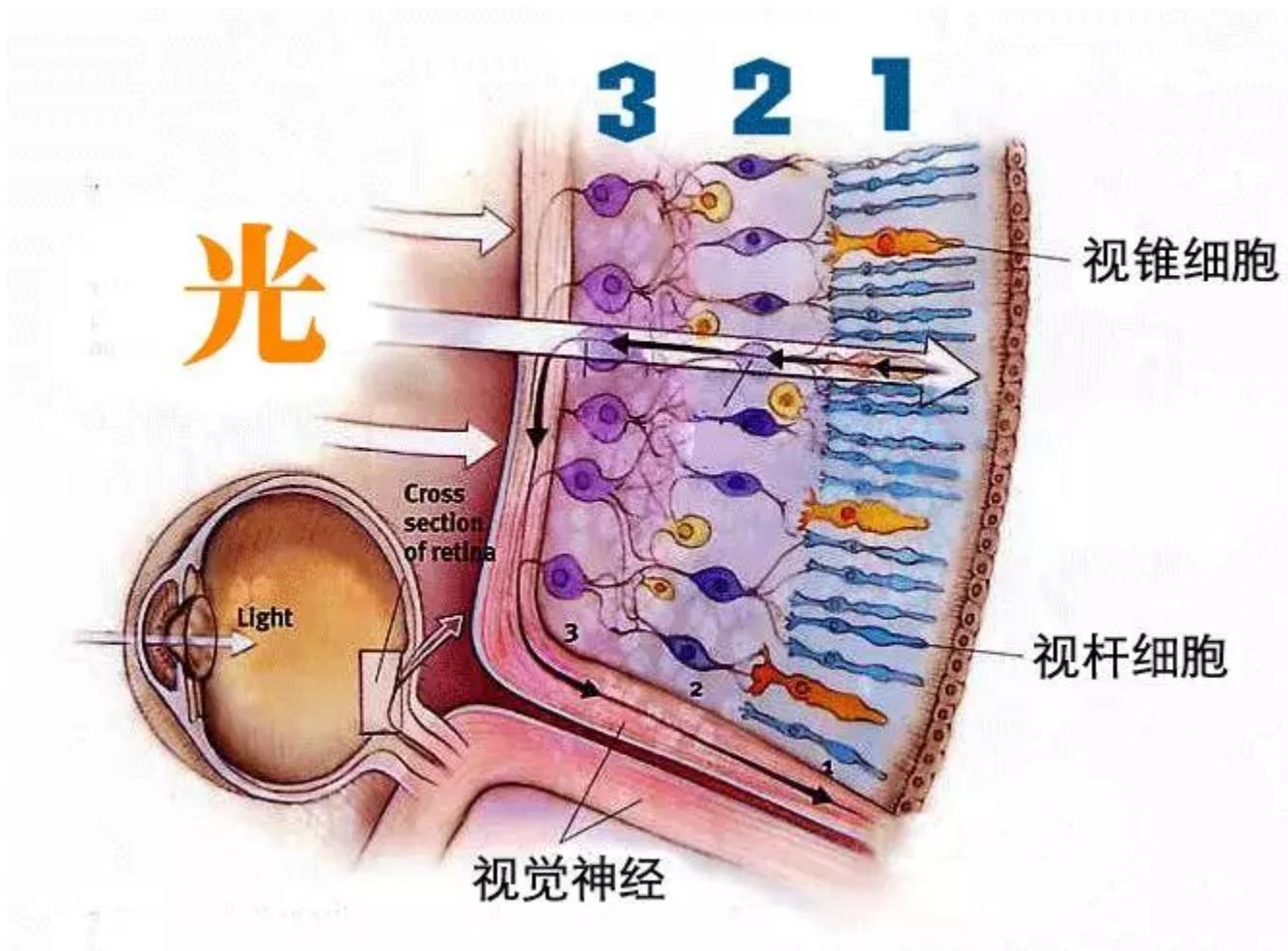
Camera diagram



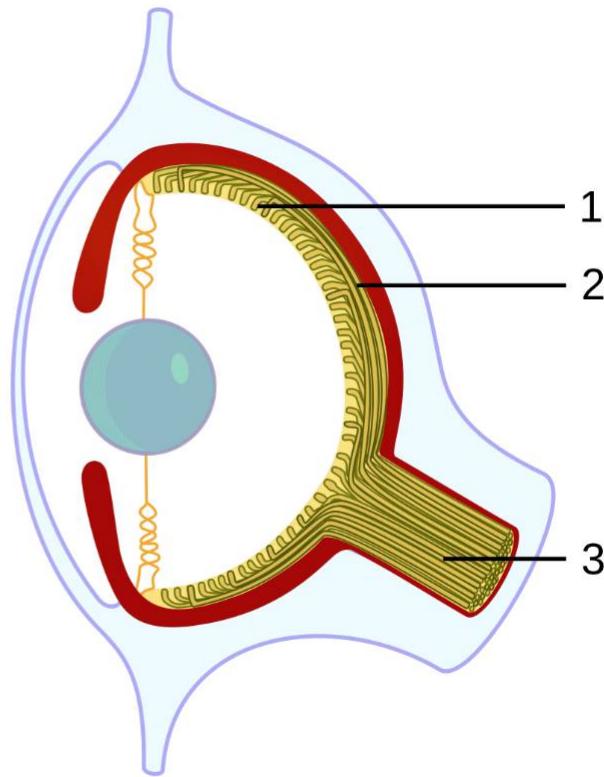
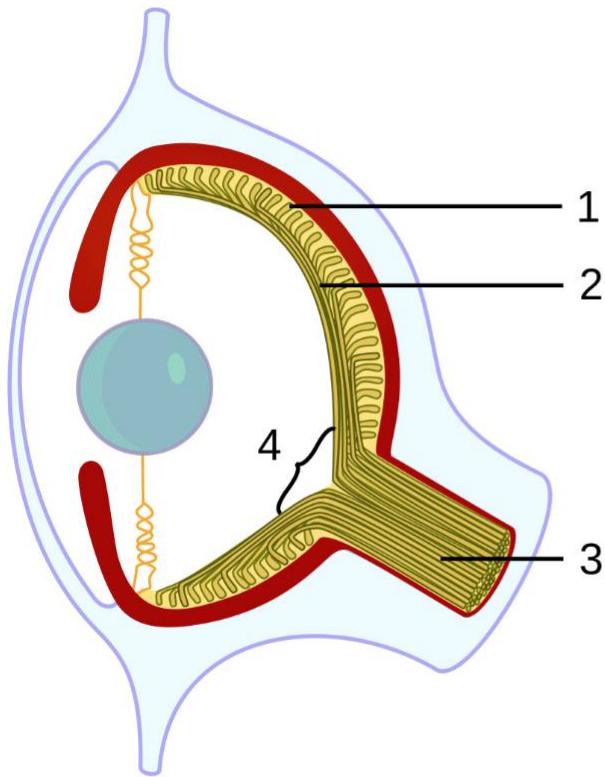
Human eyes



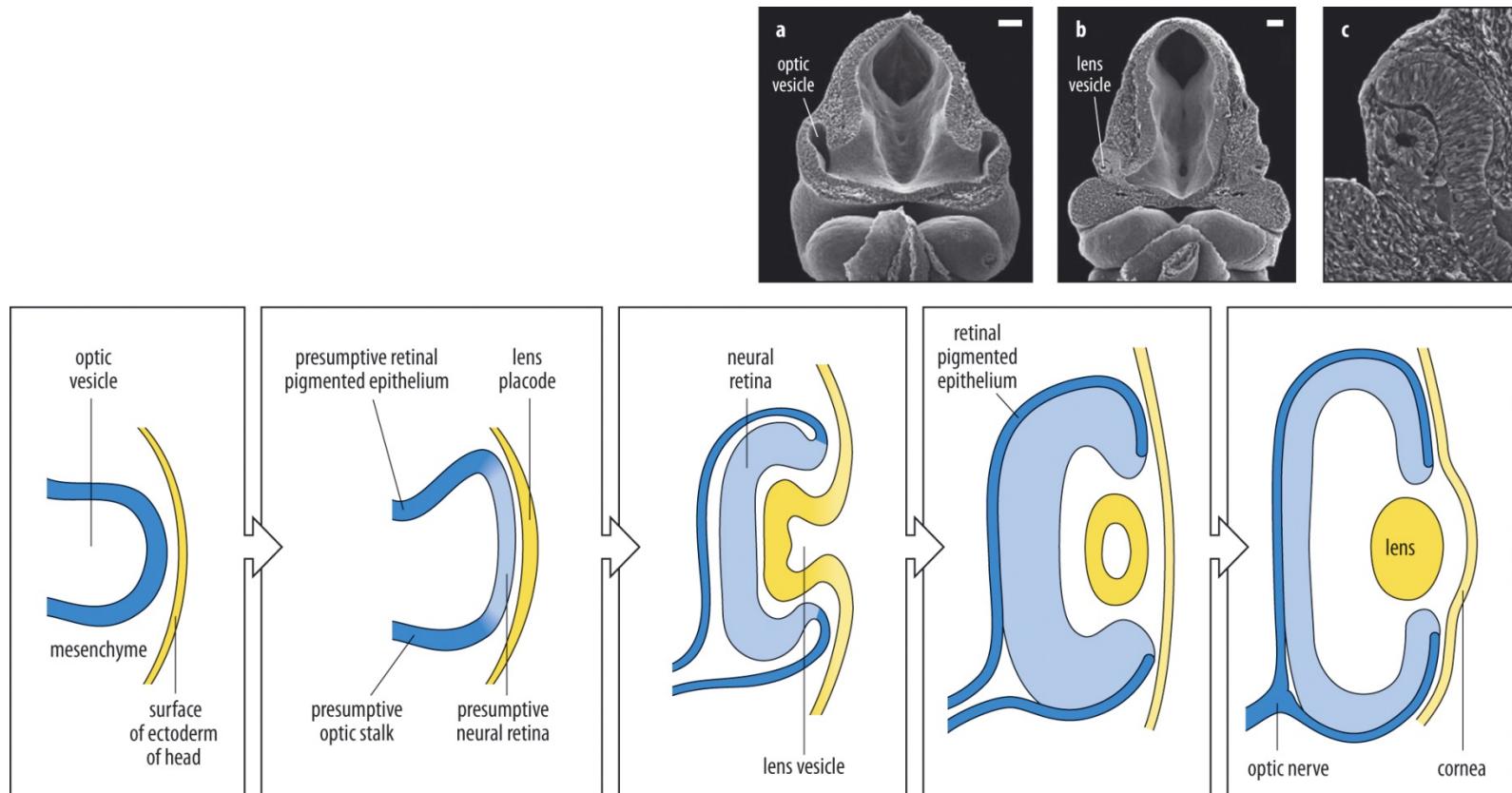
Confusing ‘design’



Human eyes VS octopus eyes



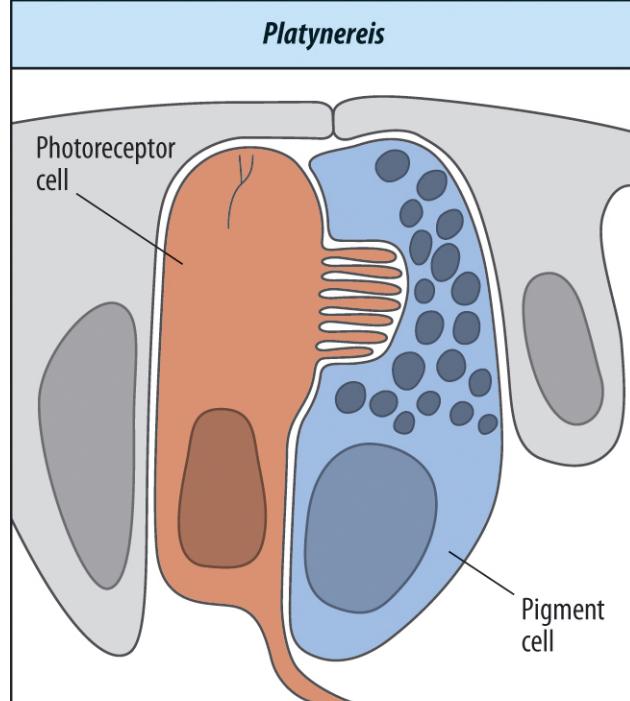
The main stages in the development of the vertebrate eye



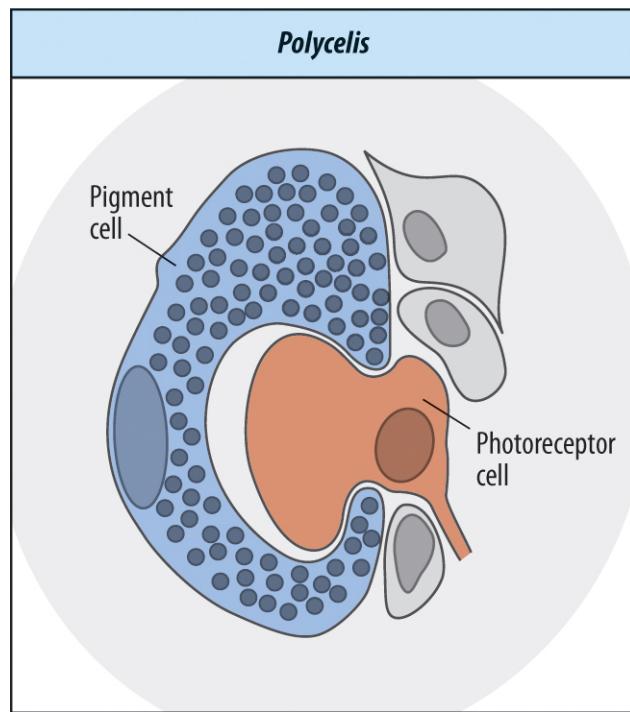
The pair of black dots on the head of the flatworm *Dugesia dorotocephala* represent some of the simplest true eyes



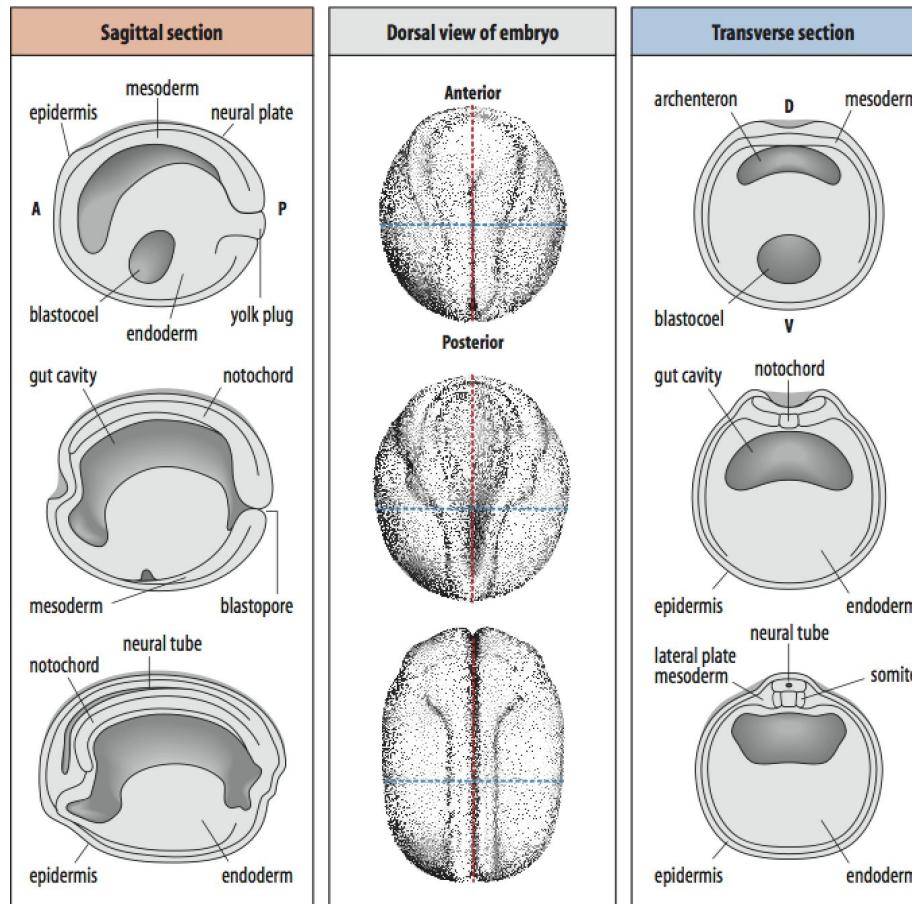
Platynereis



Polycelis

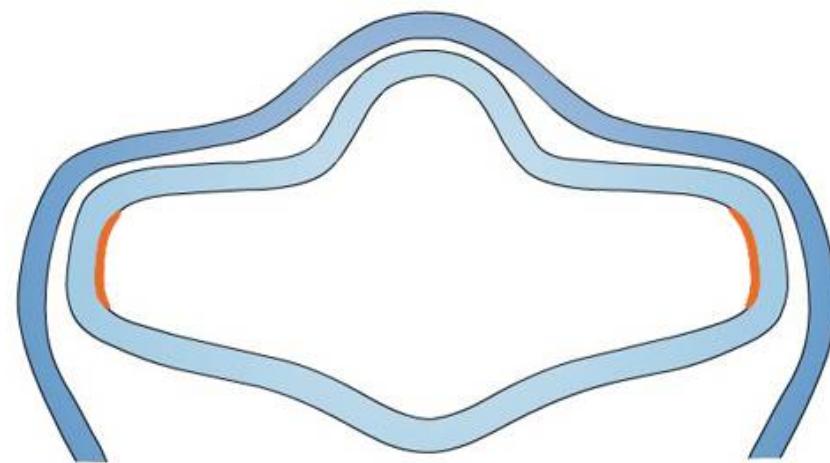
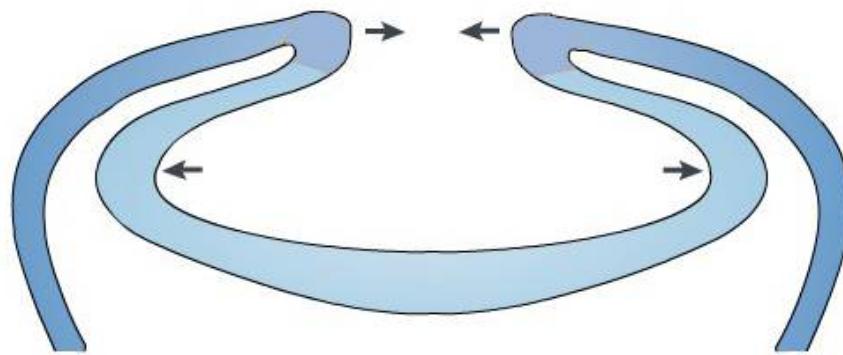


Neuralation in amphibians

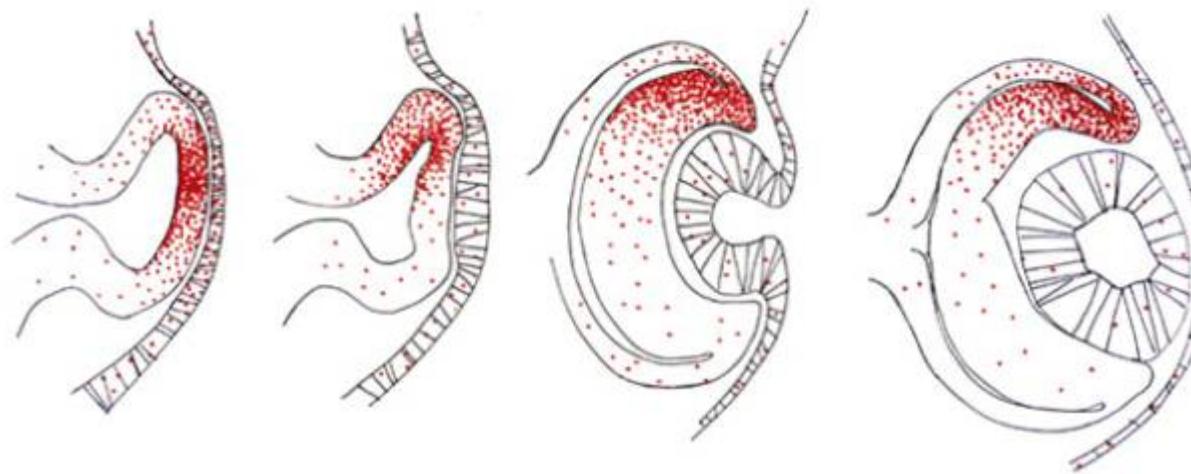
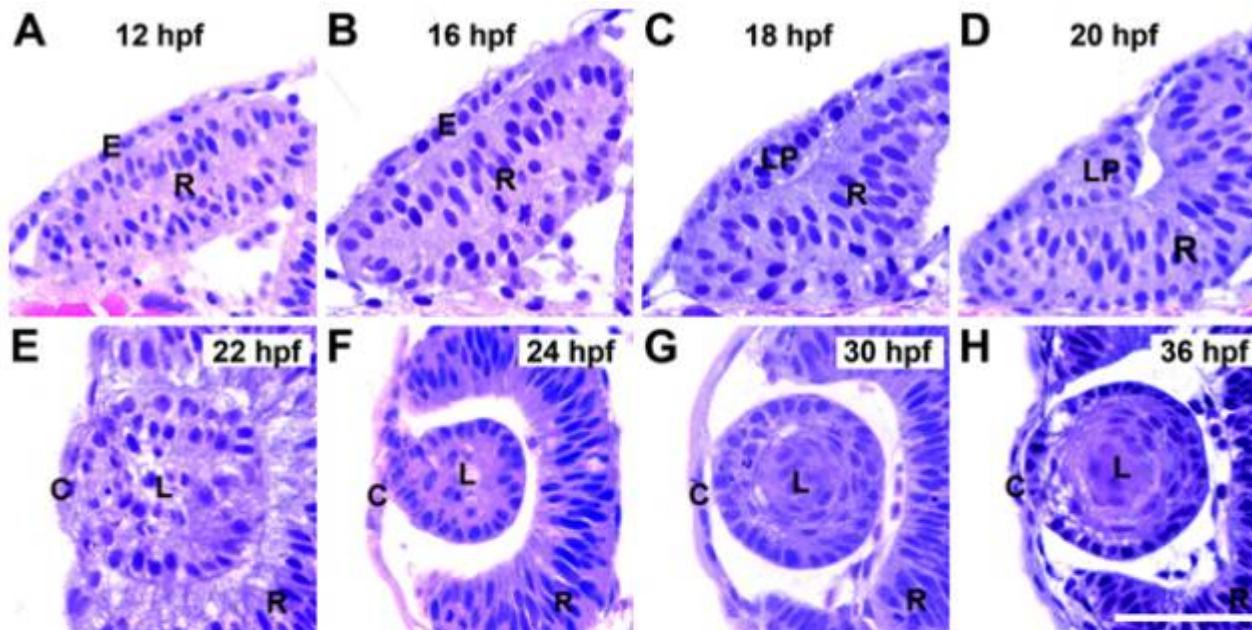


Neuroectoderm = neural plate

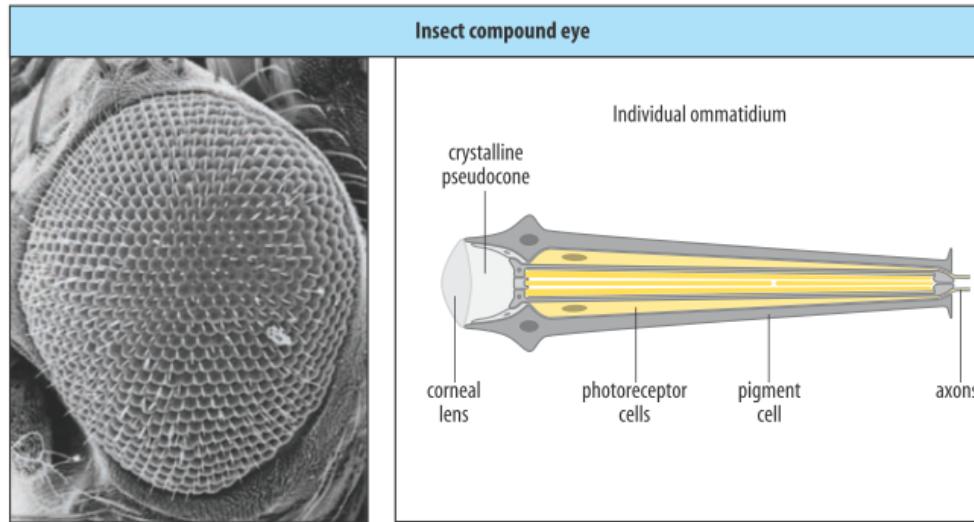
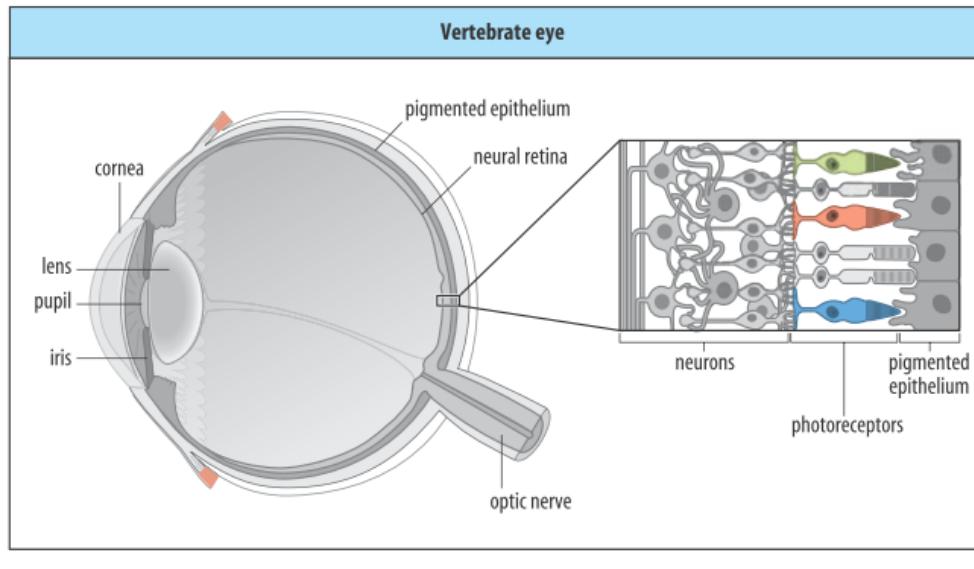
Primitive retina is folded inside



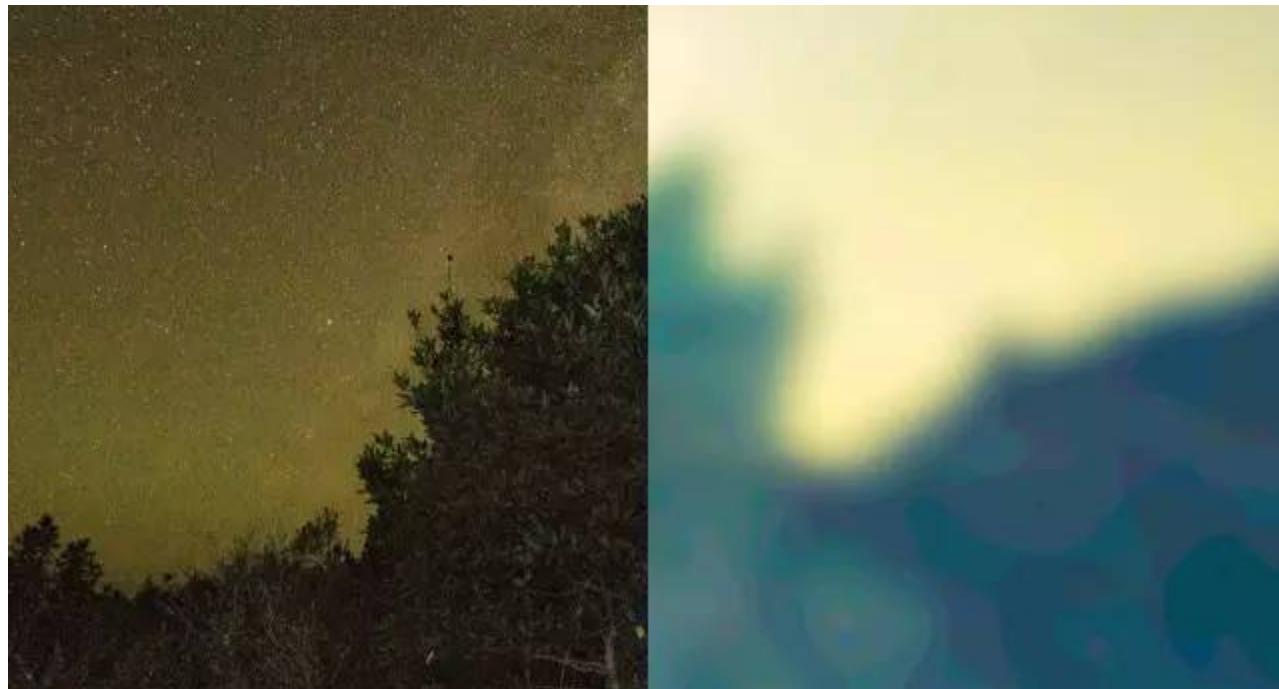
The formation of zebrafish eyes shows the reversal folding of retina



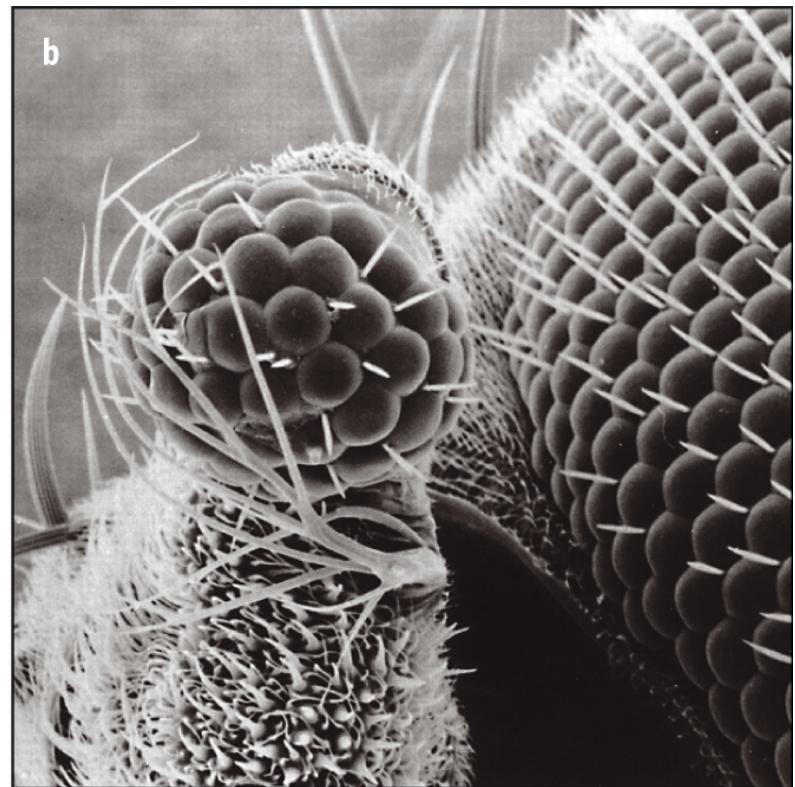
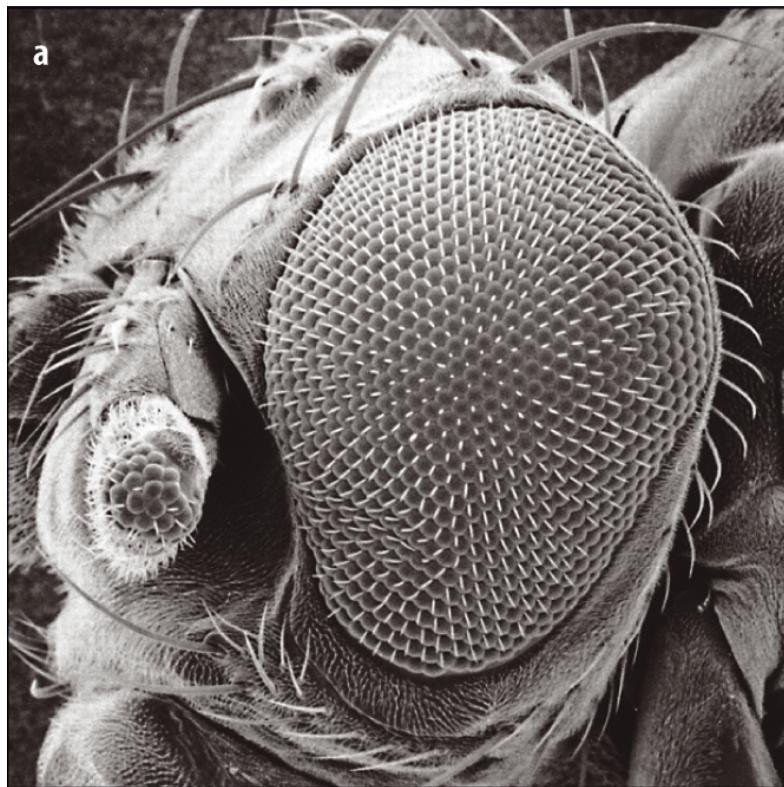
Vertebrate and insect eyes



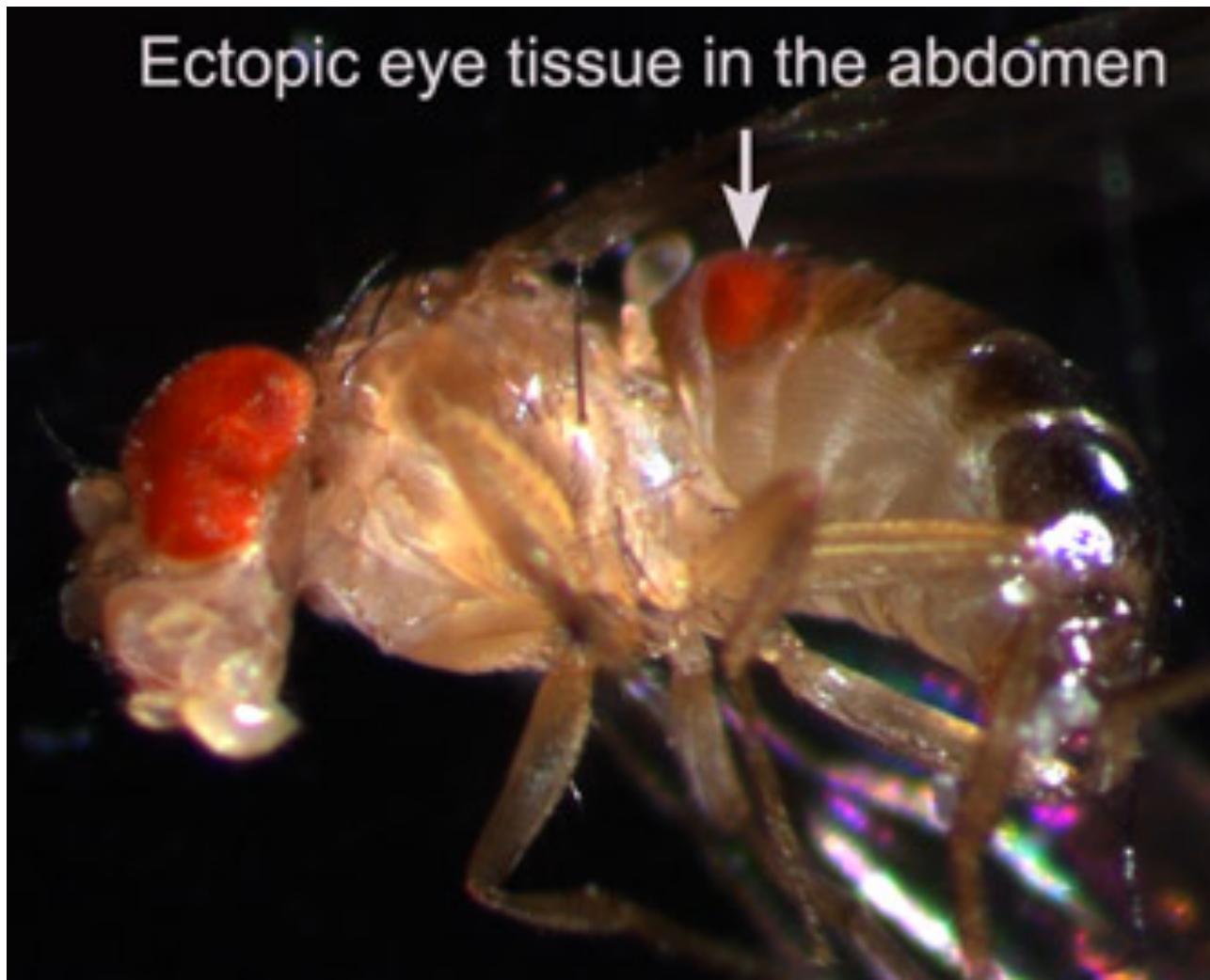
Human vision VS insect vision



Pax6 is a master gene for eye development



Ectopic eye tissue in the abdomen

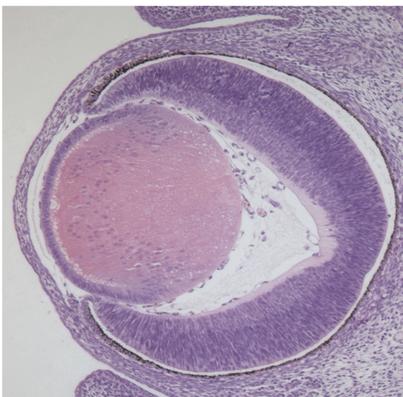


Human

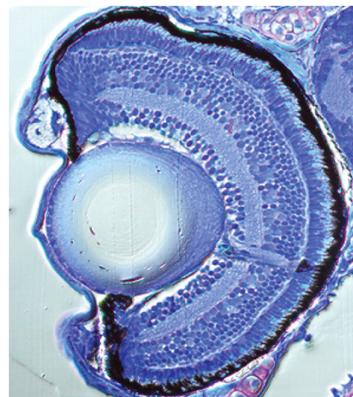


WT

Mouse



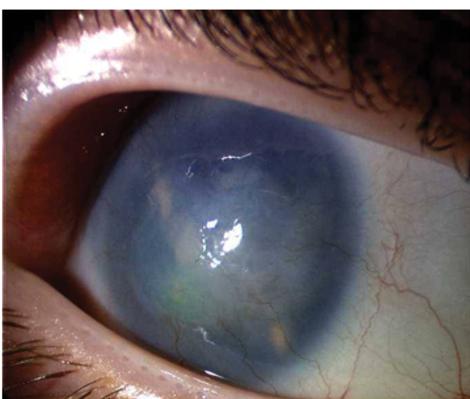
Zebrafish



Drosophila



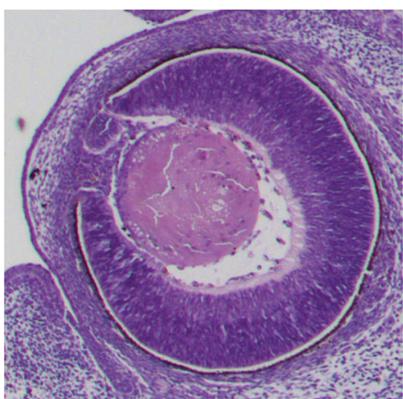
mut



PAX6^{+/−}

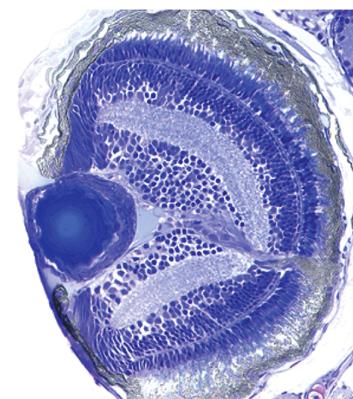
EQs

cornea opaque
iris absent
retina degenerate
lens opaque
aqueous humor of eyeball increased pressure



Pax6^{−/−}

eye decreased size
lens fused_to cornea
iris morphology
anterior chamber absent



pax6b^{−/−}

eye decreased size
lens decreased size
retina malformed



ey^{−/−}

eye absent

Thanks!

