

Trevo: An Exploratory Tool for Tree and Trait Data

Pre-Paper Talk



Background and Motivation

***(these black and white title pages are
to be explicit about the content
sections. They won't be in the final
presentation)***

***Evolution: the process of
change in a given characteristic
spanning generations***

***Evolutionary Biology: explain
the evolutionary process that
gives the diversity of the living
world.***

***Worked with evolutionary biologists
at the University of Idaho***



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Phylogenetic Comparative Methods

Learning from trees

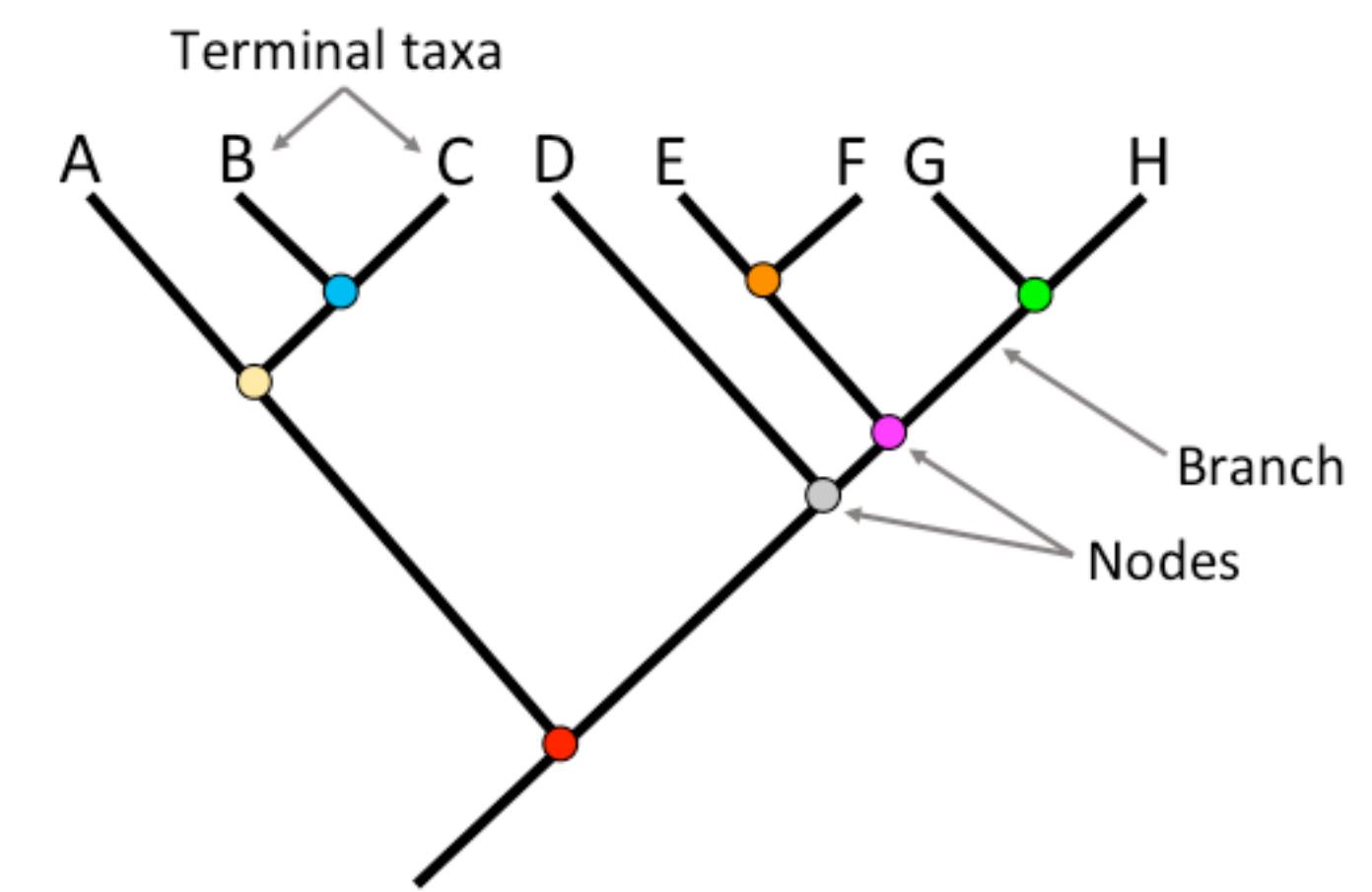


Luke J. Harmon

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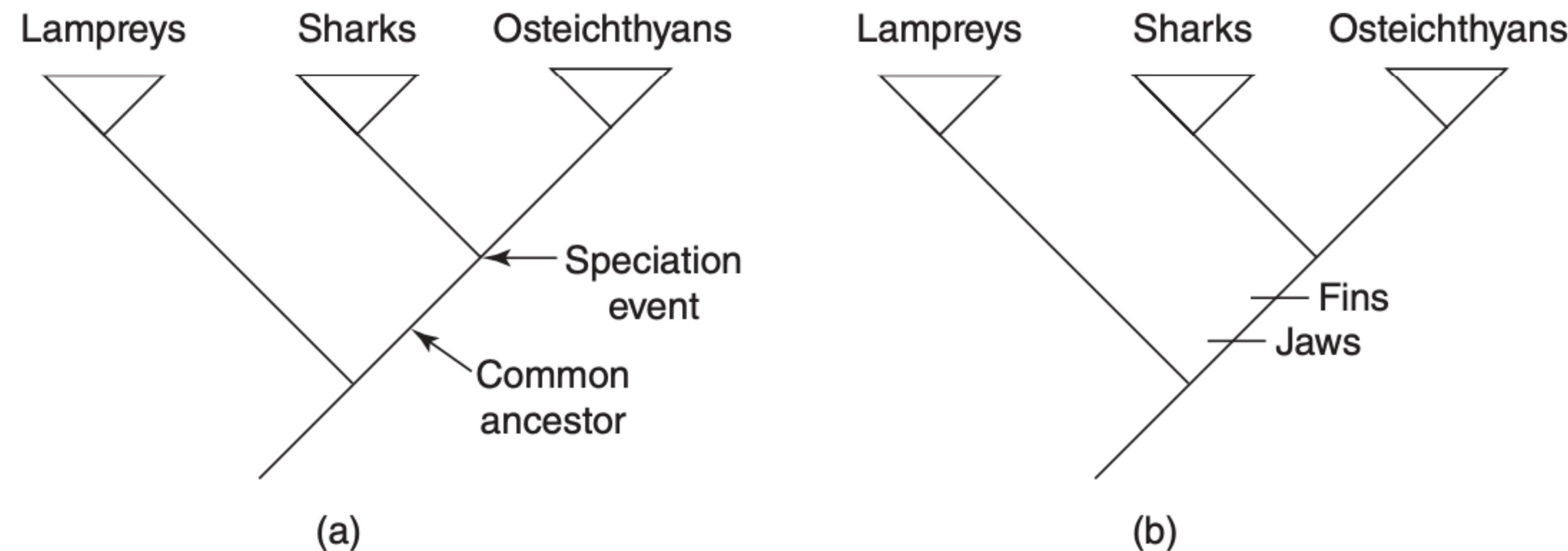
***Wrote the book on
comparative methods***

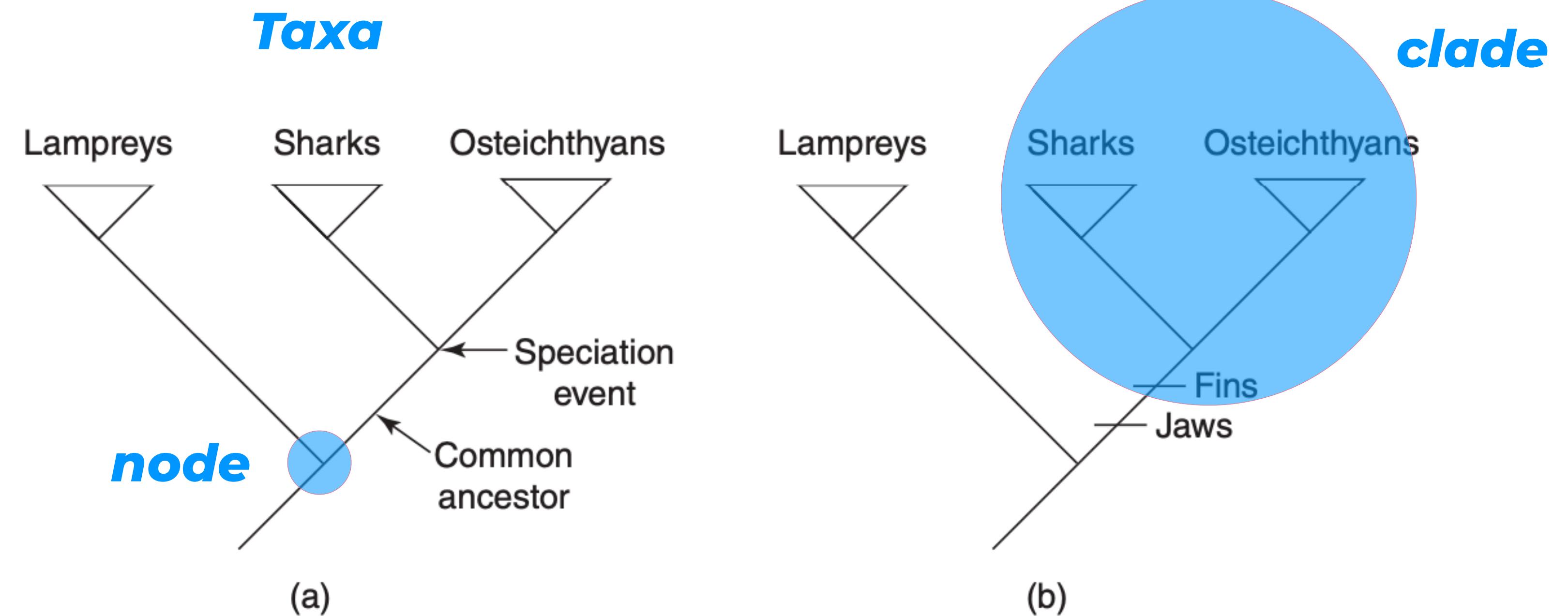
They work extensively with phylogenetic trees



**They work extensively with
phylogenetic trees**

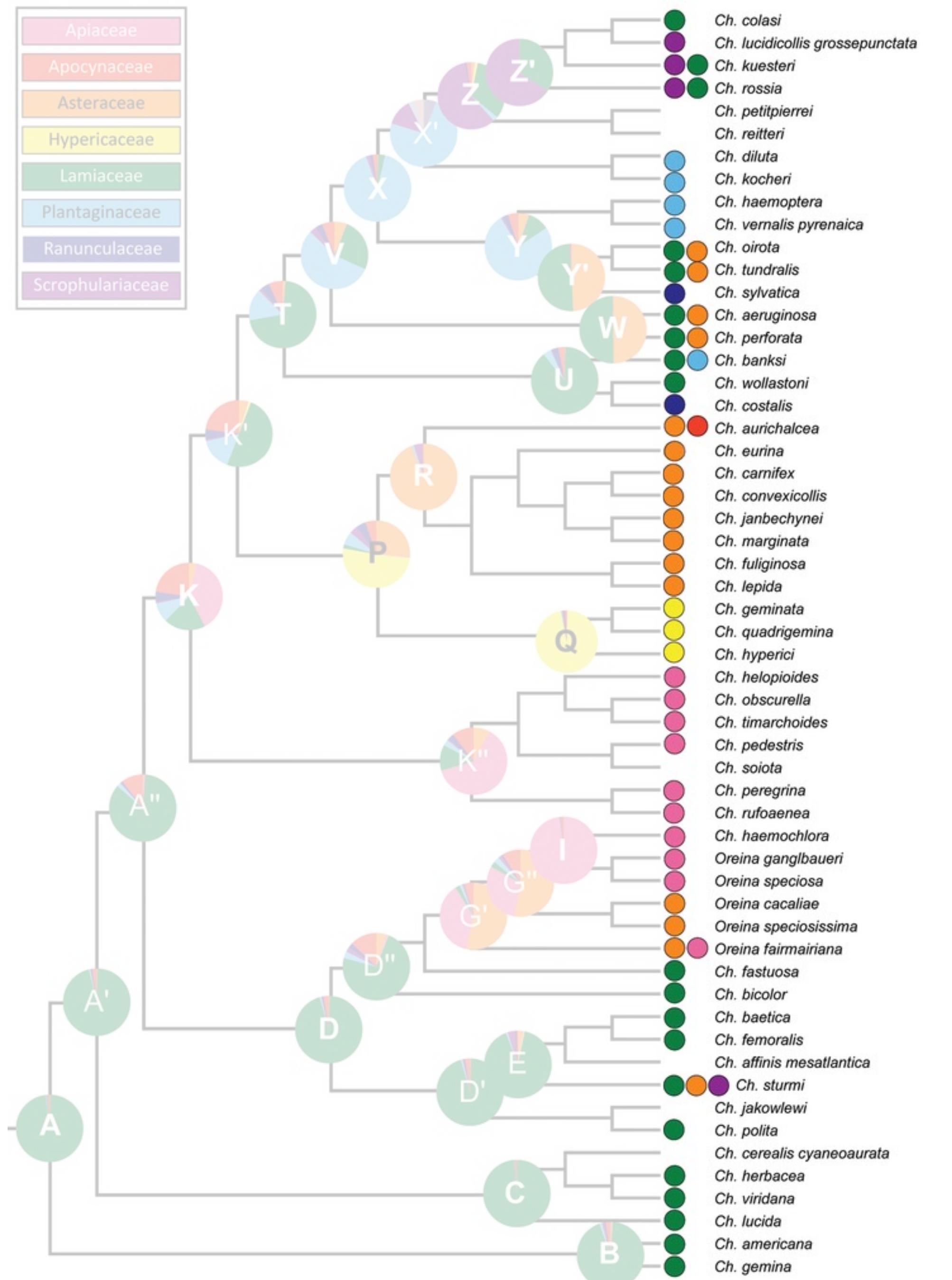
**Depict hypothesized
evolutionary relationships**





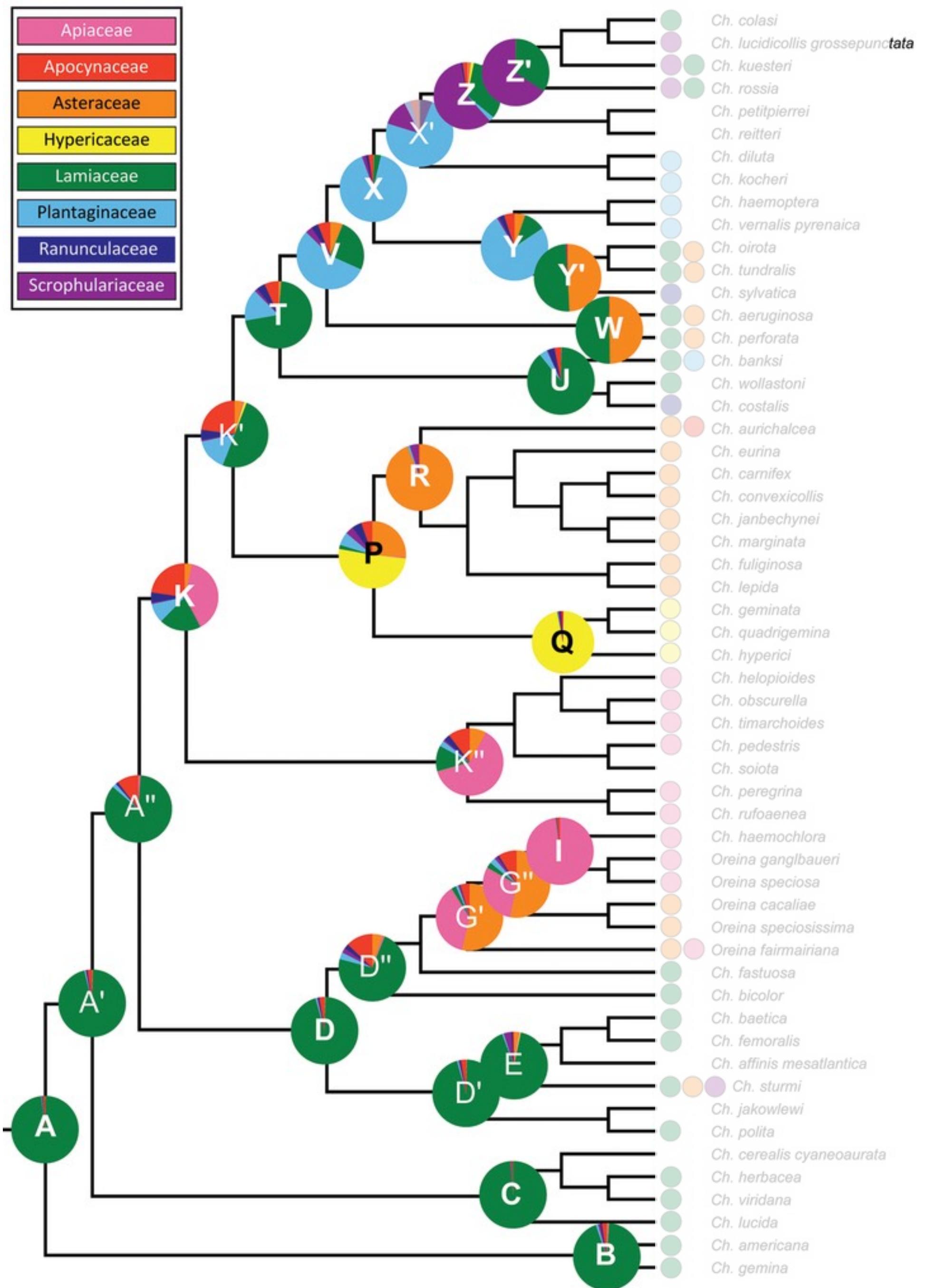
To understand the evolutionary process, they reconstruct histories through ancestral state reconstruction.

How and when did traits evolve?



Ancestral State Reconstruction

Use observed attributes from species samples



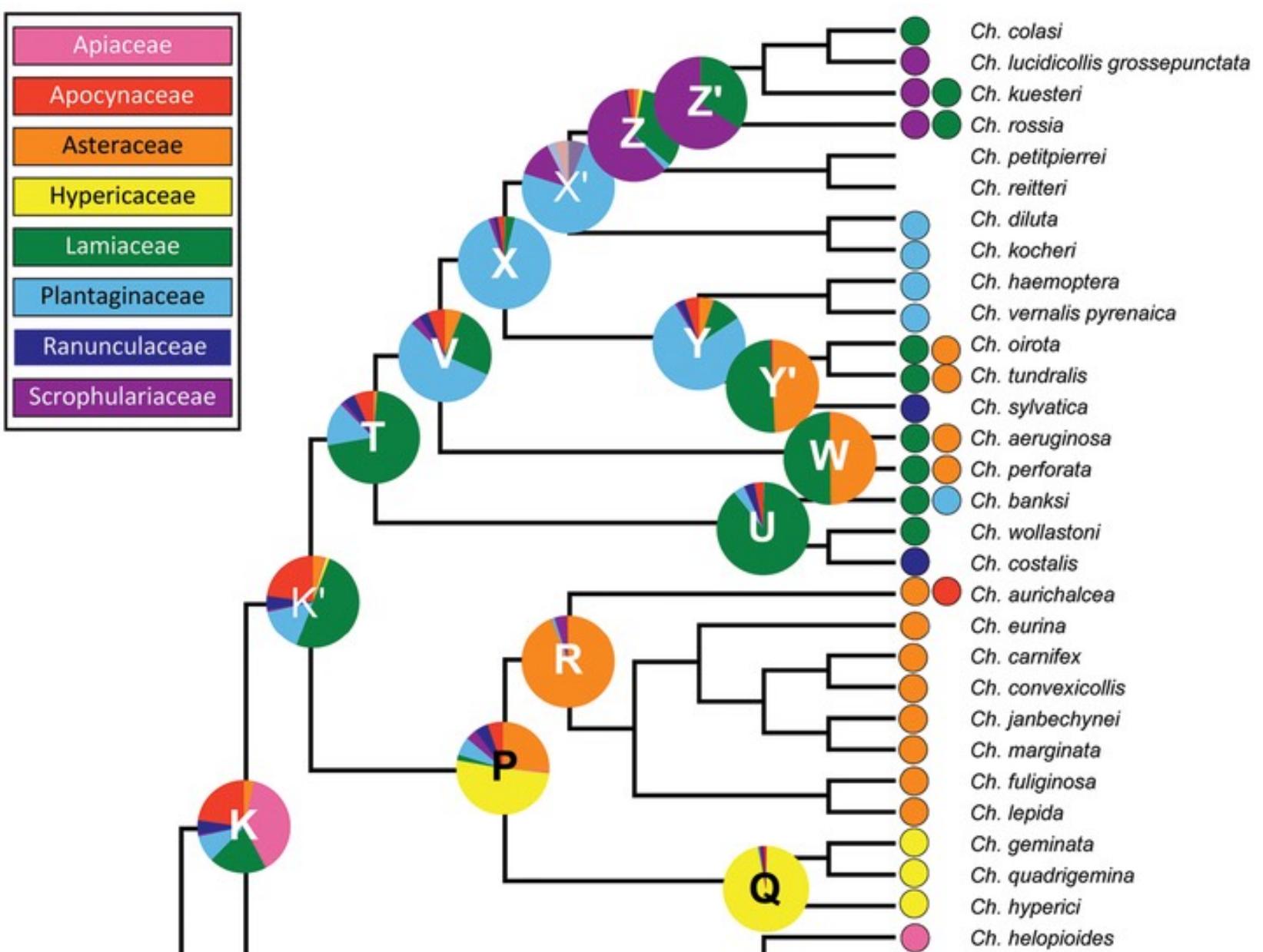
Ancestral State Reconstruction

Calculate state probabilities (discrete) or estimated values (continuous) for the common ancestors up the tree.

Trait Data:

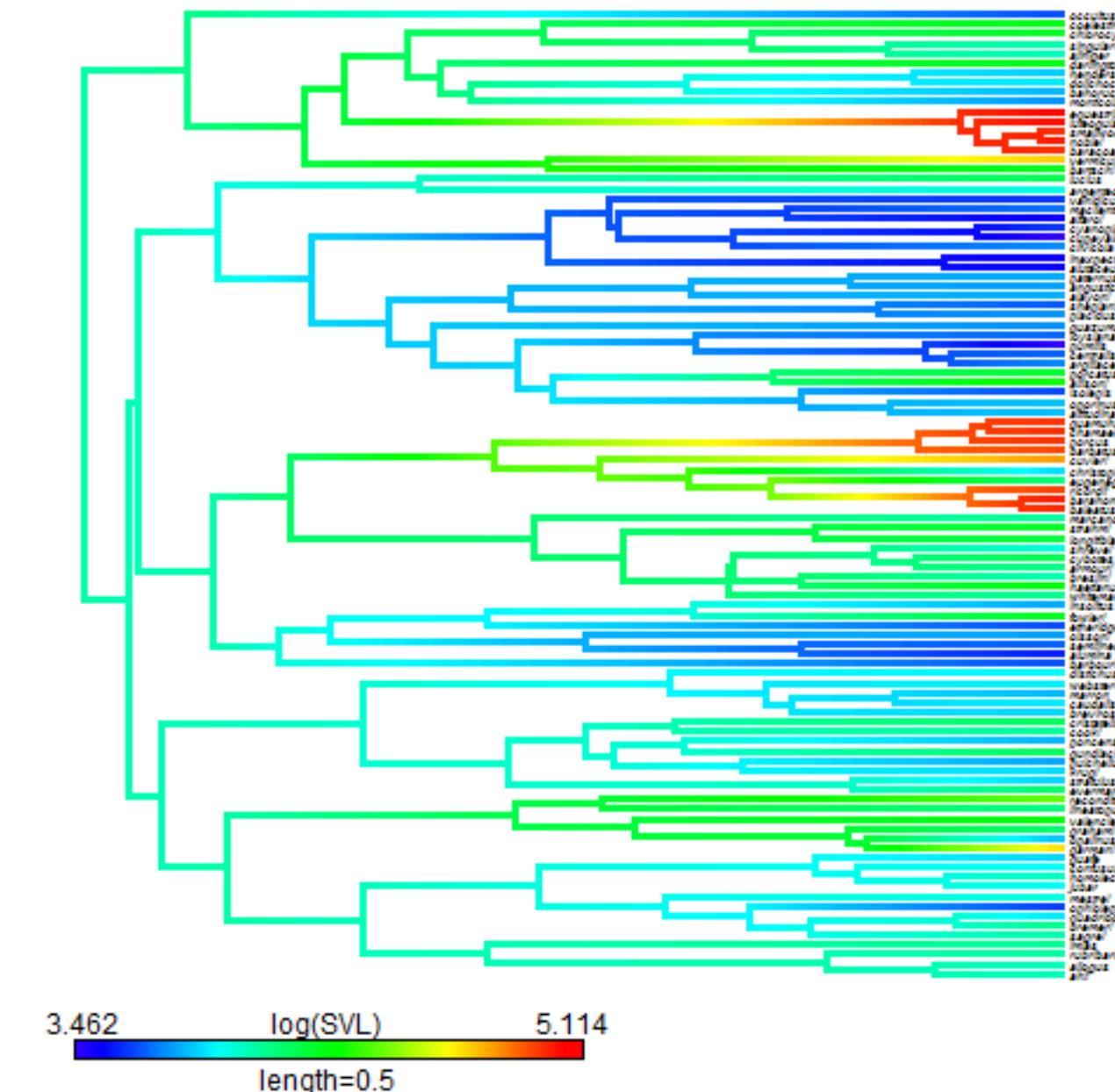
Discrete

Probability that internal node is in a category

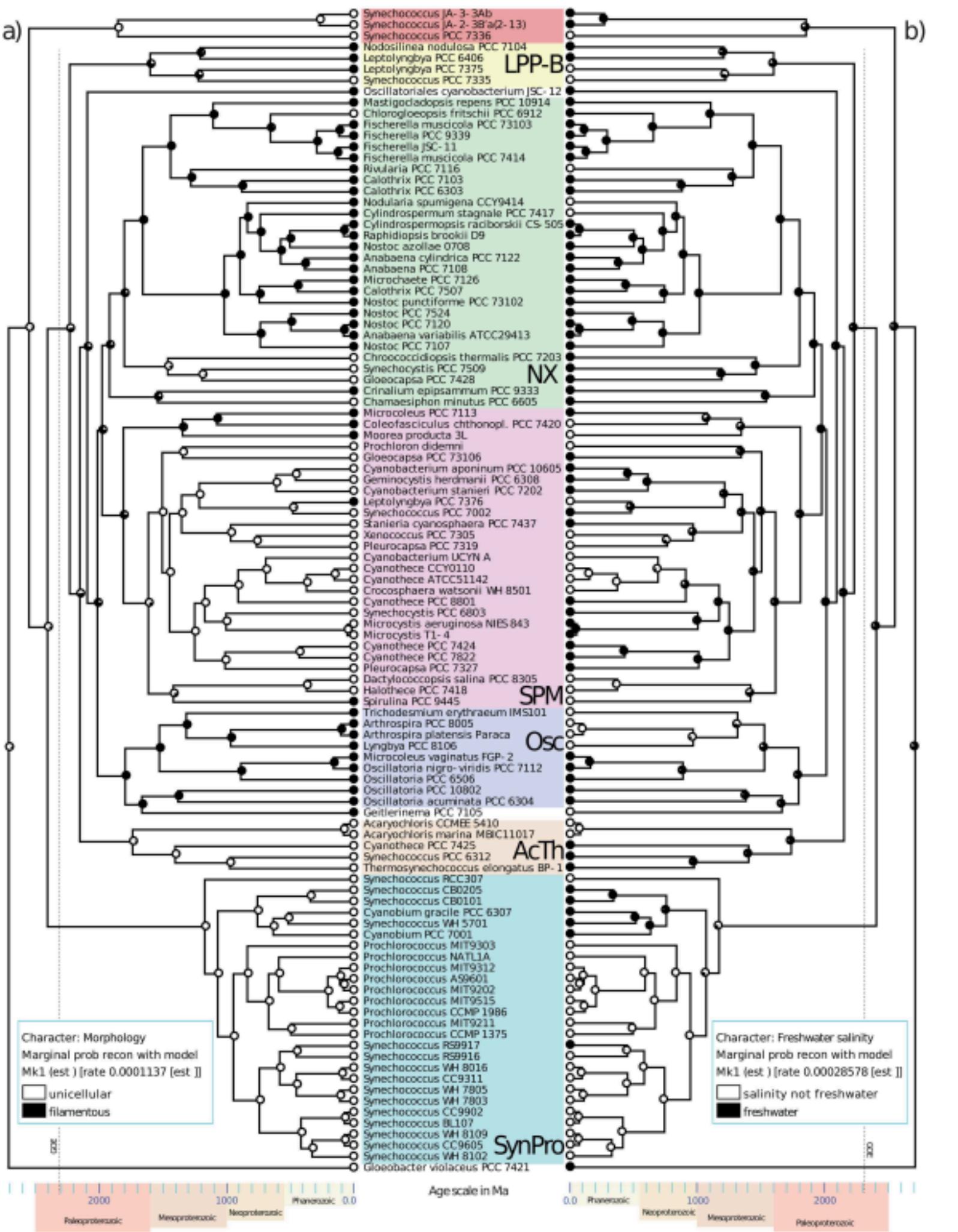


Continuous

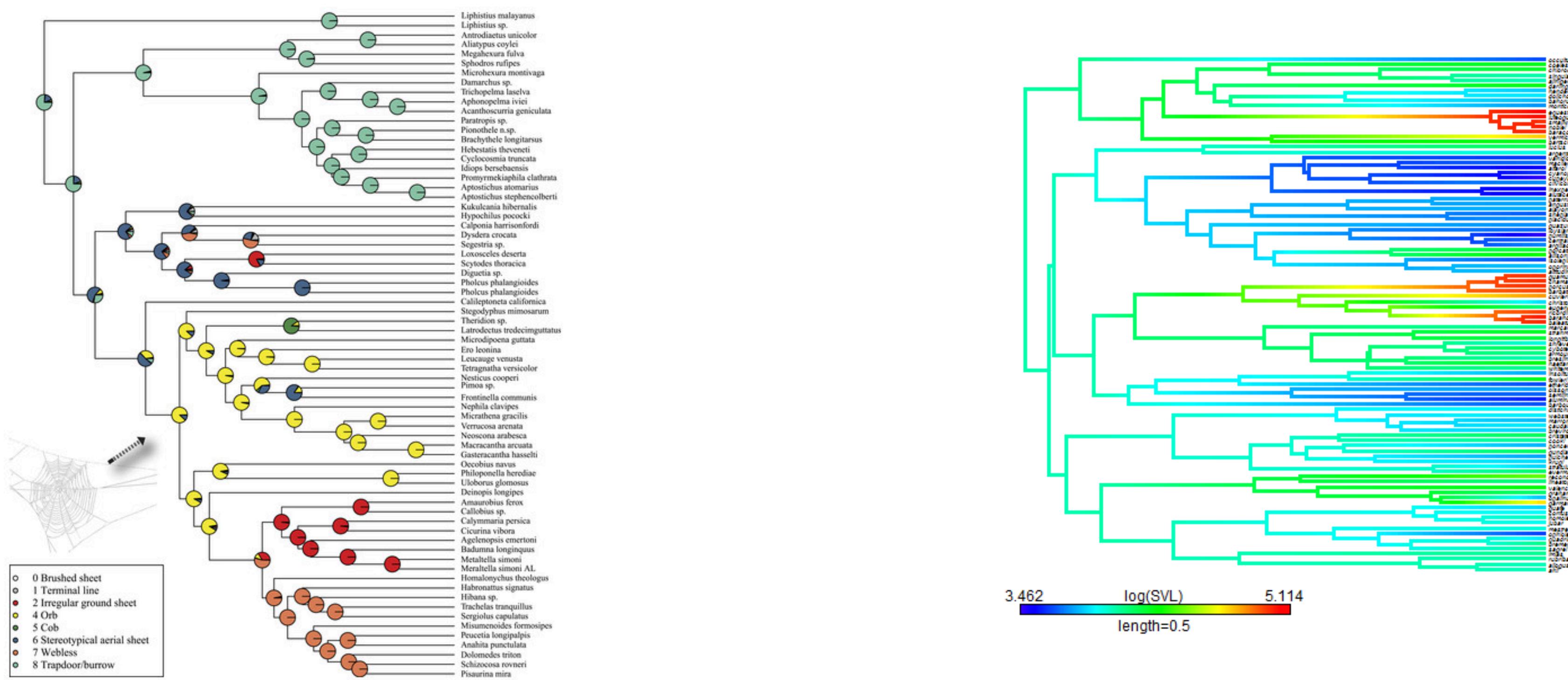
Estimated value and 95% confidence interval



They have to view states of different attributes on separate trees.

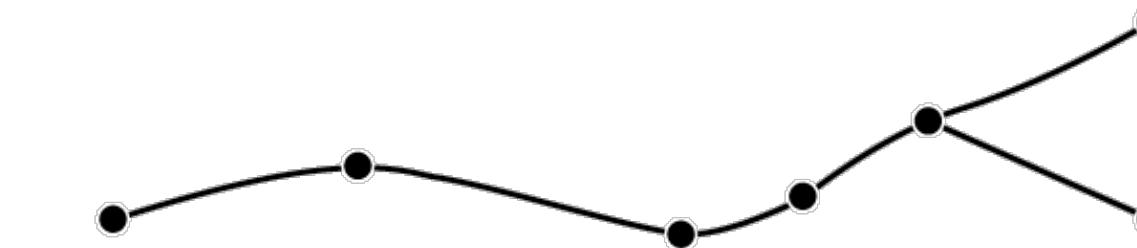
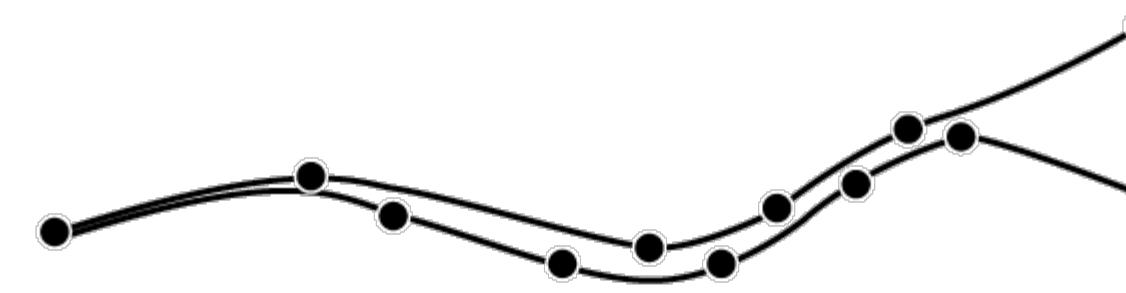
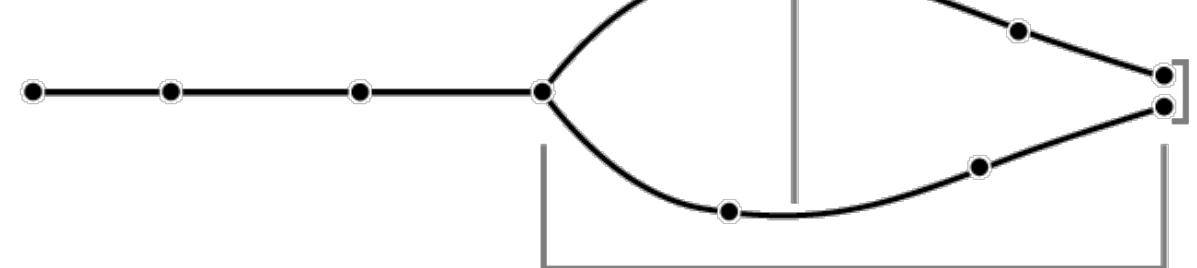
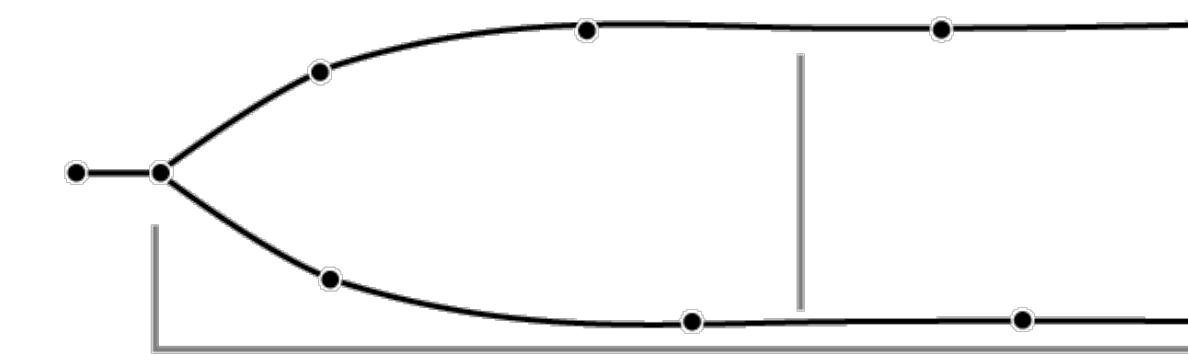
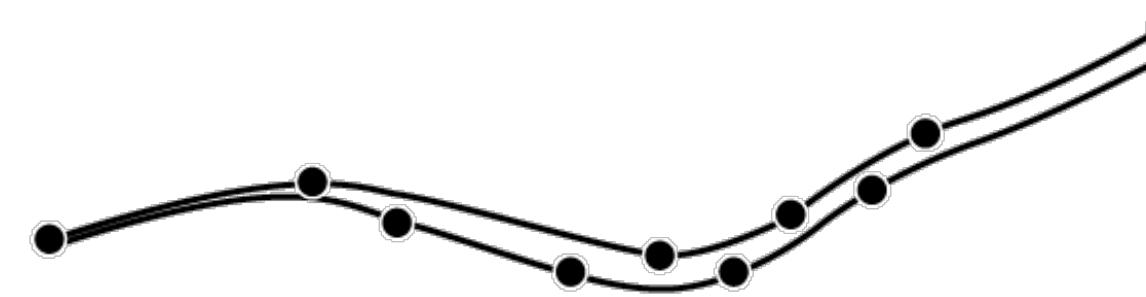
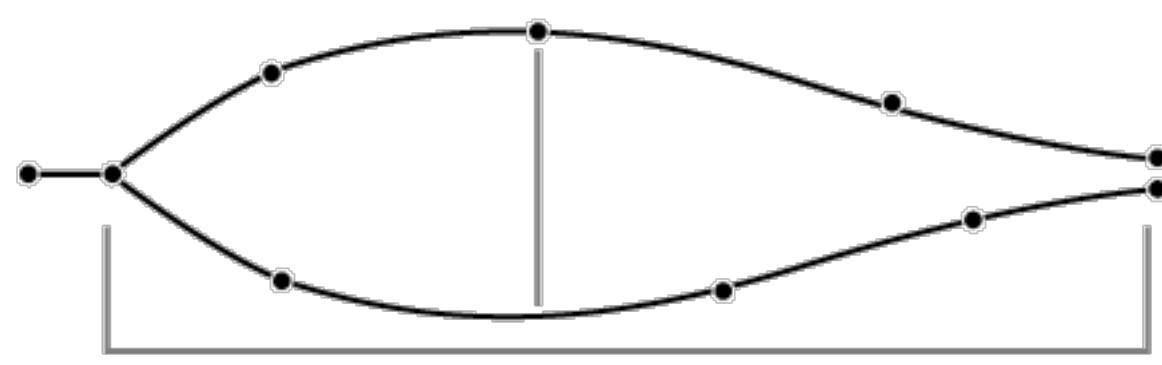


**“If you have one continuous trait you can do things.
If you two - ok. If you have three or four or five, there
is nothing really sufficient”**

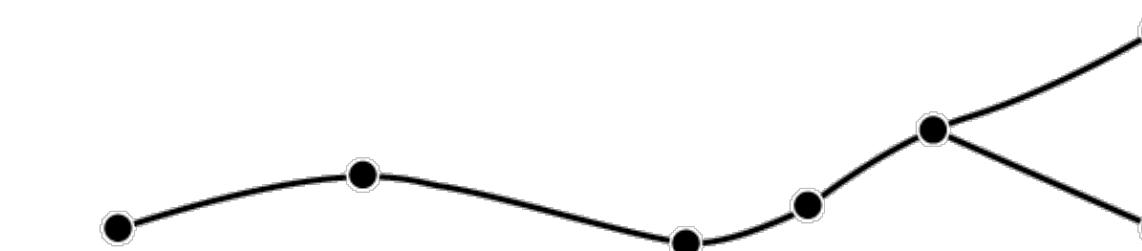
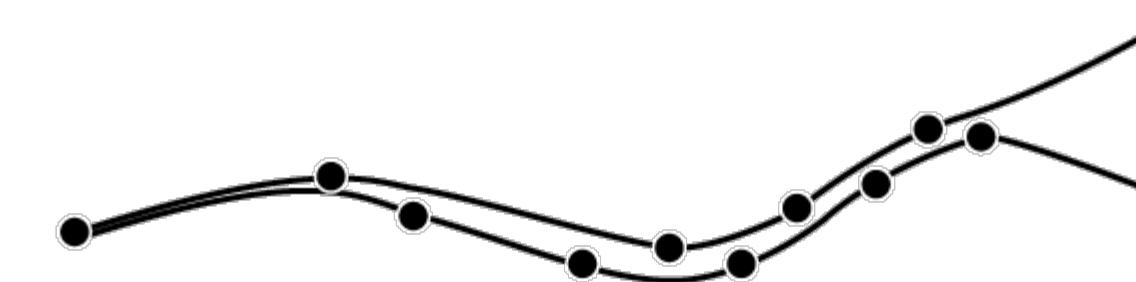
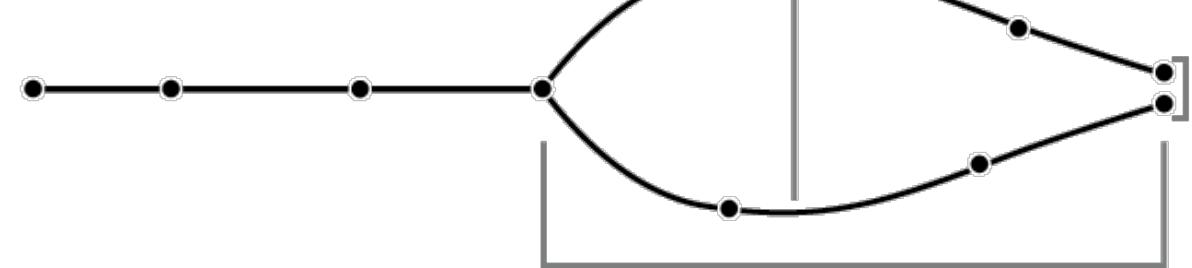
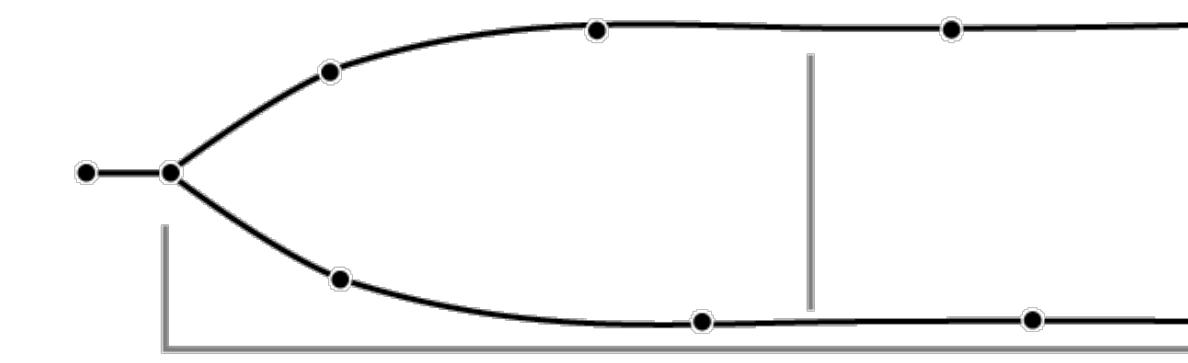
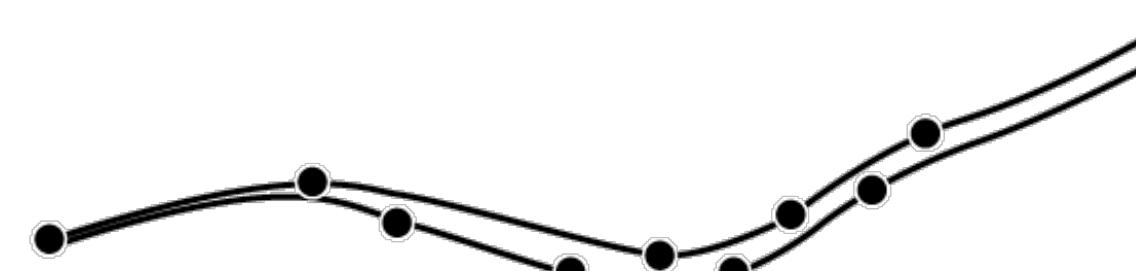
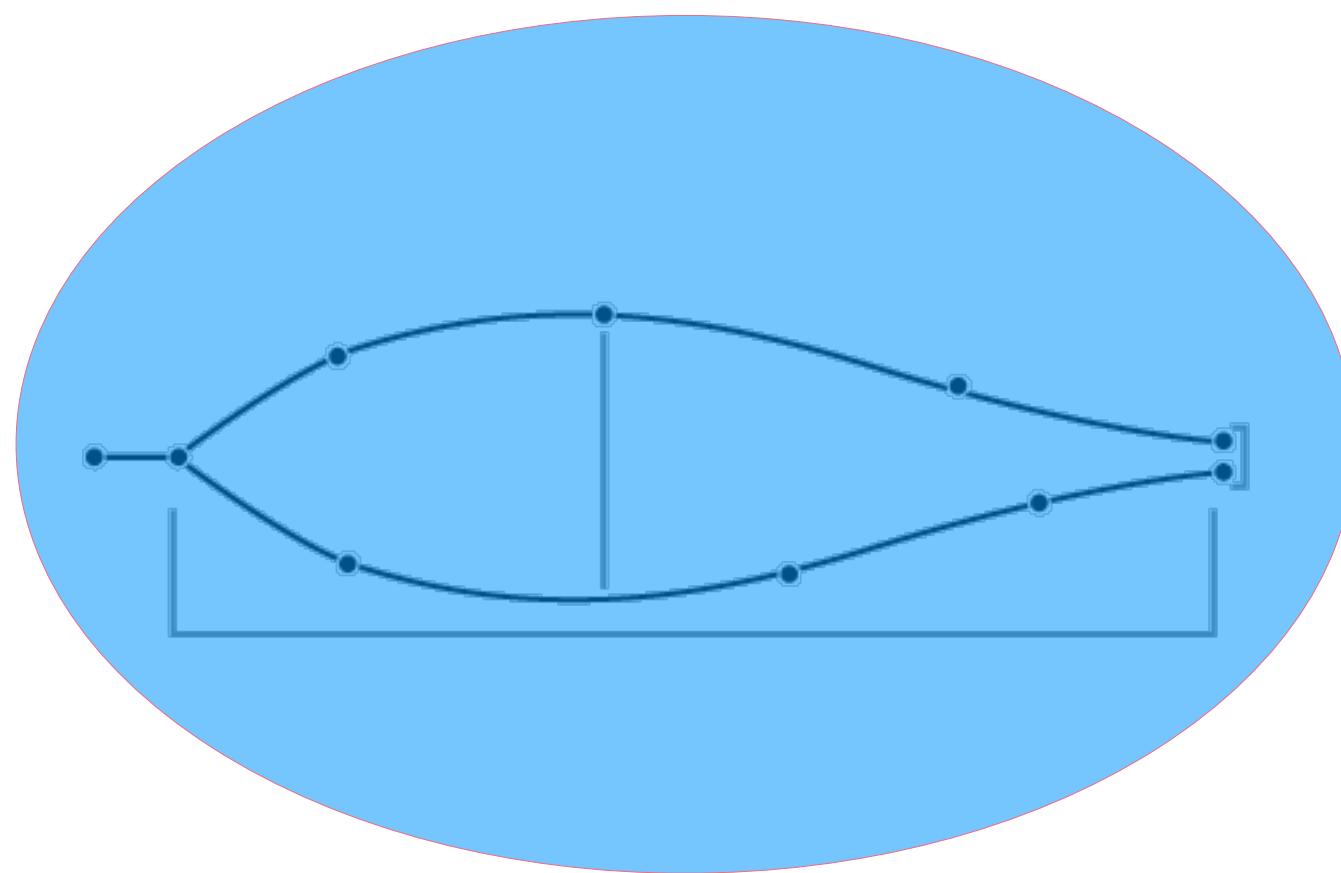


***Do trait changes follow any
established evolutionary
hypotheses?***

Established Evolutionary Hypotheses:

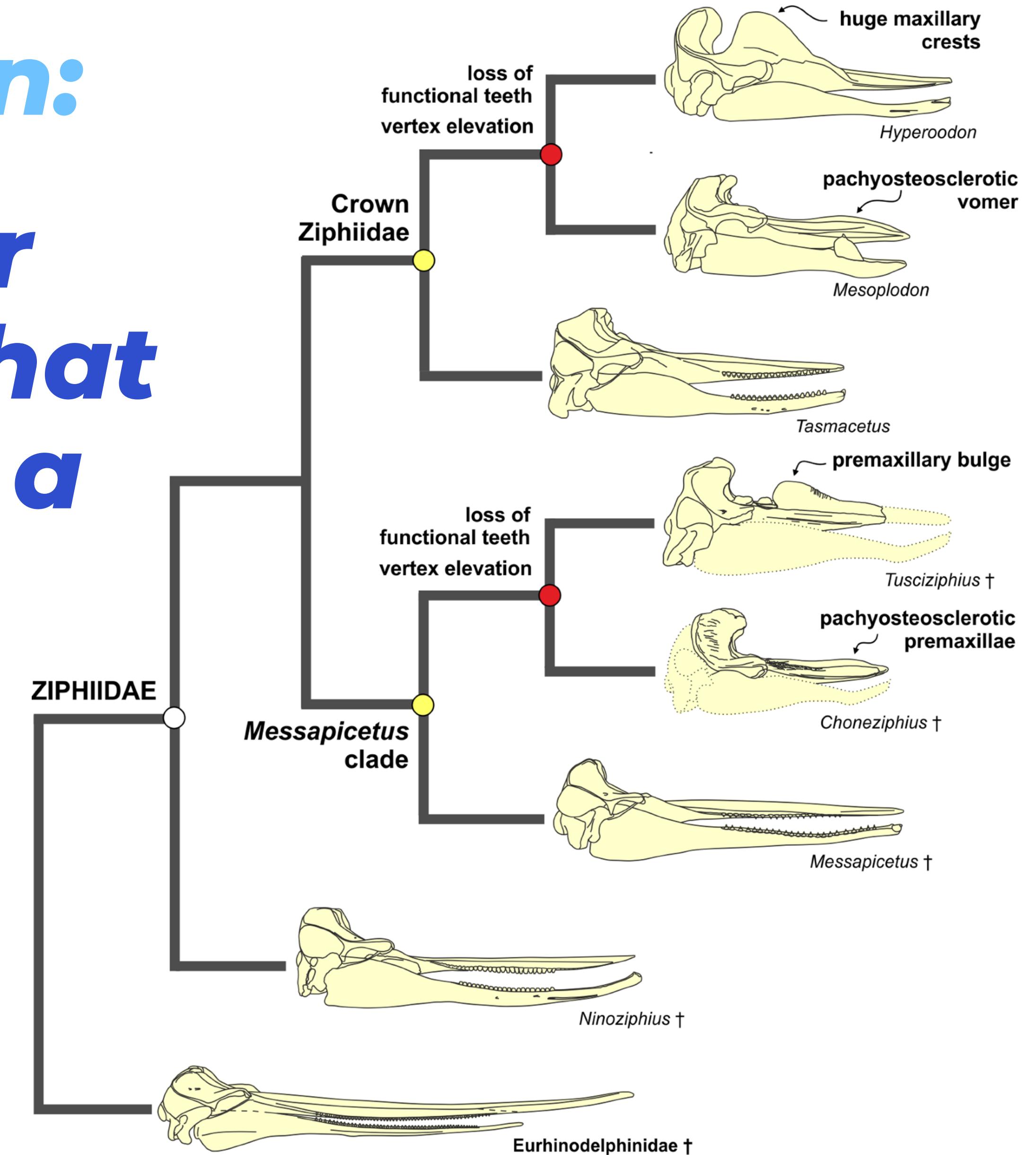


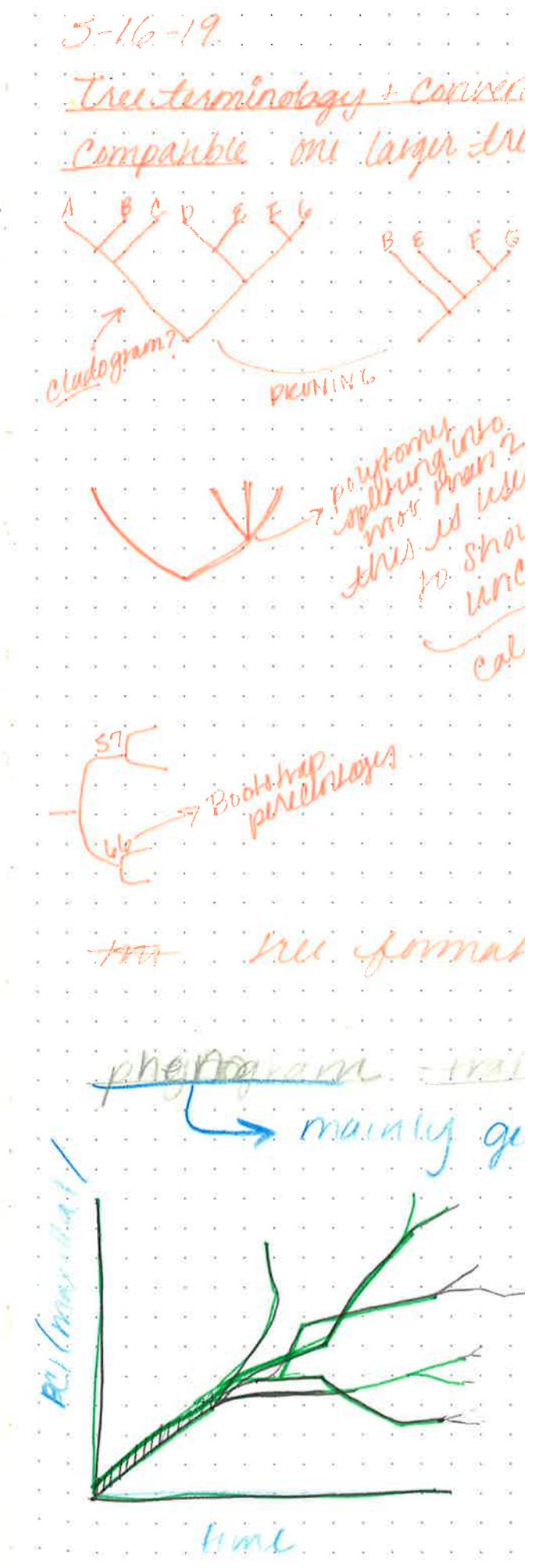
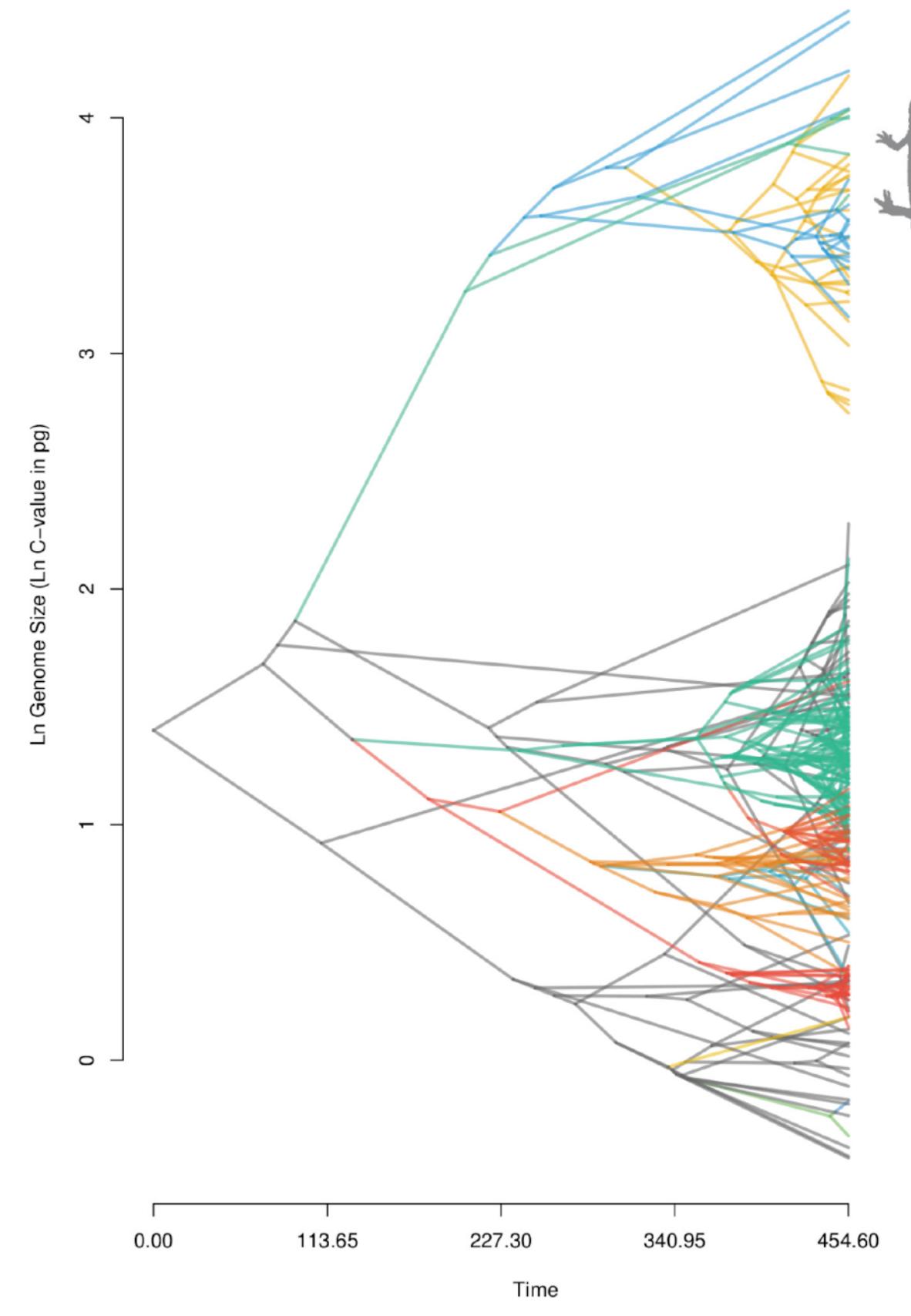
Established Evolutionary Hypotheses:



Convergent Evolution:

Emergence of similar features in species that have not come from a common ancestor





Traitgrams express the change in value across time in a continuous path in the context of the topology.

Limitations of current representations:

Lack the tools to view discrete and continuous characters together.

Limitations of current representations:

***Comparisons are limited
by topology.***

Limitations of current representations:

No tool that allows visual testing of established evolutionary hypotheses.

Contribution

Contribution:

Visual exploratory tool that allows analysts to visualize multivariate phylogenetic data independent of the topology of the tree.

Ranking system that allows analysts to test established hypotheses regarding the relationships of species histories.

Lessons learned on design and development of an applied visualization tool informed by a reflective process through the duration of the design study.

Task Characterization

Explain the evolutionary process that gives the diversity of the living world.

we defined domain requirements that fall within this goal and operationalized tasks that support these requirements.

Task Characterization

- 1) *Understand how and when traits evolved.*
- 2) *Identify evolutionary events and trends*
- 3) *Visual data check of distributions and outliers*

Task Characterization

- **Understand how and when traits evolved**

- See how trait value change over time
 - Plot trait values of internal nodes through time ([path view](#))
- Identify species that share similar value trends
 - Sort by volatility and value change scores of internal node values ([path view](#))
 - subtree definition by trait values. ([expanded sidebar](#))
- Copy species names from internal node brush ([summary view](#))

Task Characterization

- Detect exceptional evolutionary events and trends

- **Identify Macro-Evolutionary Modes (Test historical hypotheses about evolution)**

- Identify the mode by the trait relationship between species ([rank view](#))
 - Ability to quantify these relationships- which species stand out as exceptionally similar or different? ([rank view](#))

- **Identify situations of re-evolution**

- View state changes in discrete traits through time of a given species ([path view](#))

- **Identify positive and negative trends**

- View changes of value in continuous traits ([path view](#))

- **Identify which traits follow the topology of the tree, and which do not**

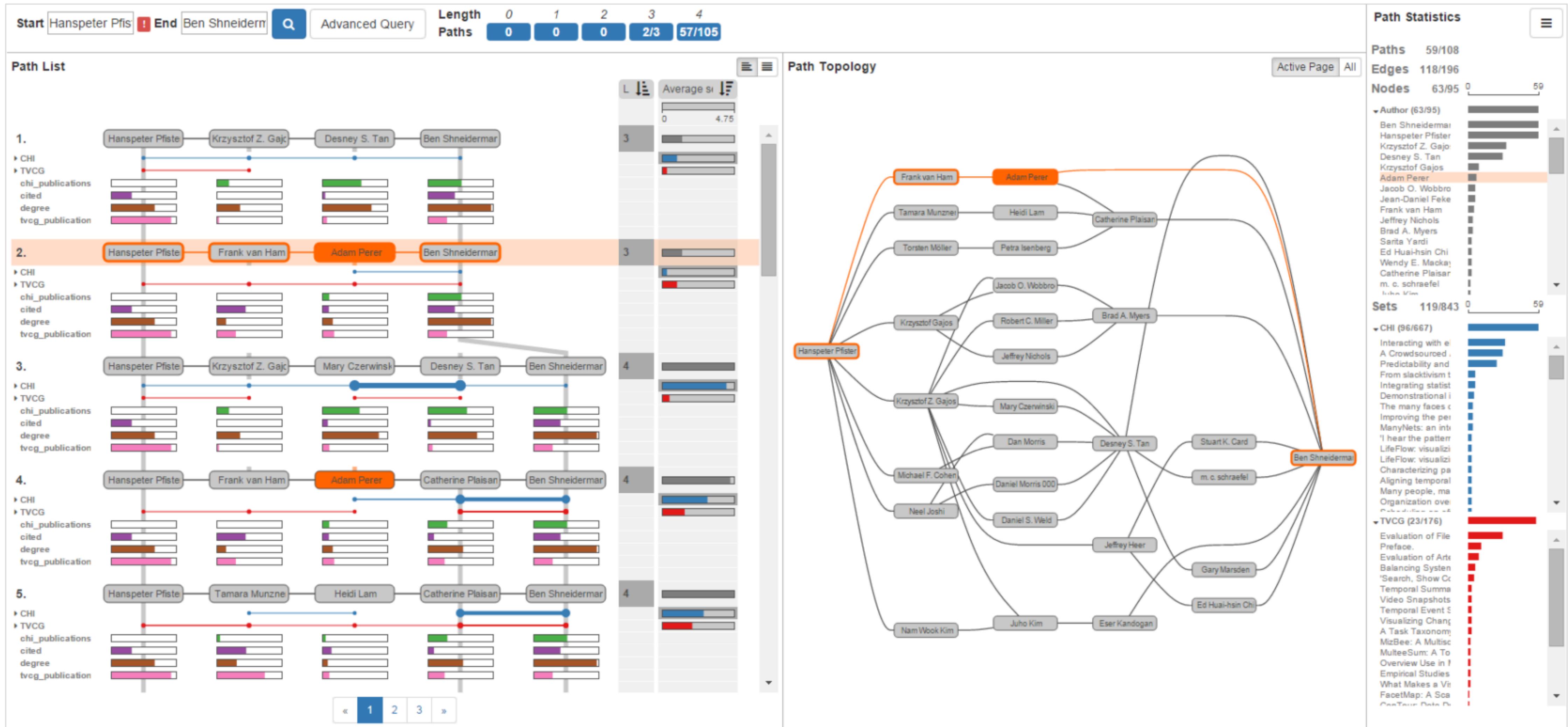
- quantify 'phylogenetic signal' (volatility) in path view
 - Traits that don't have a phylogenetic signal - scattered varied ([path view](#))
 - Traits that do - clades have consistent trait values ([path view](#))

Task Characterization

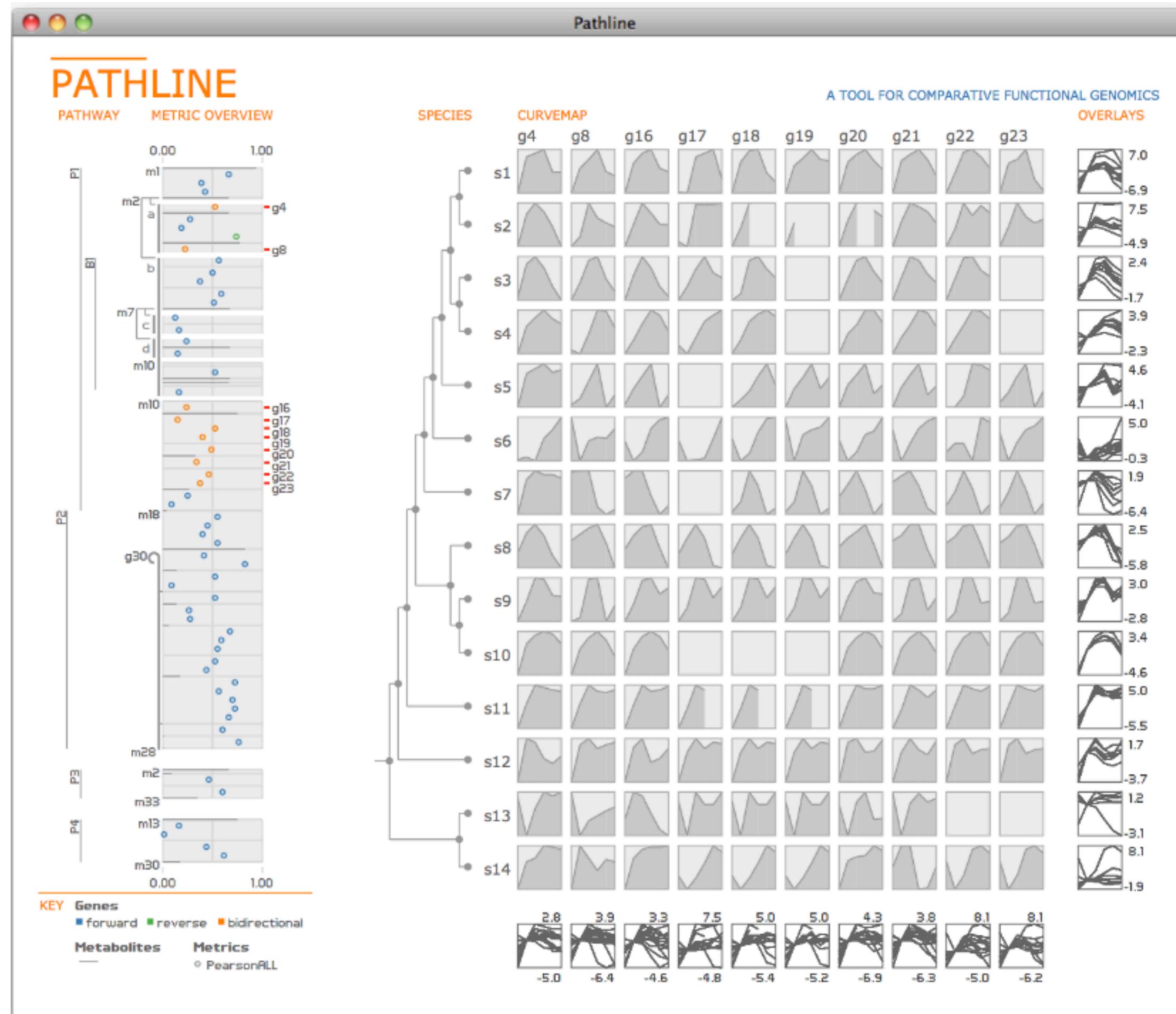
- Visual check of distribution of data and outliers
 - **Identify evolutionary outliers -**
 - Make outliers of trait distributions explicit ([summary view/ ranked volatility in path](#))
 - Plot trait distributions in binned time segments ([summary view](#)).

Related Work

Related Work



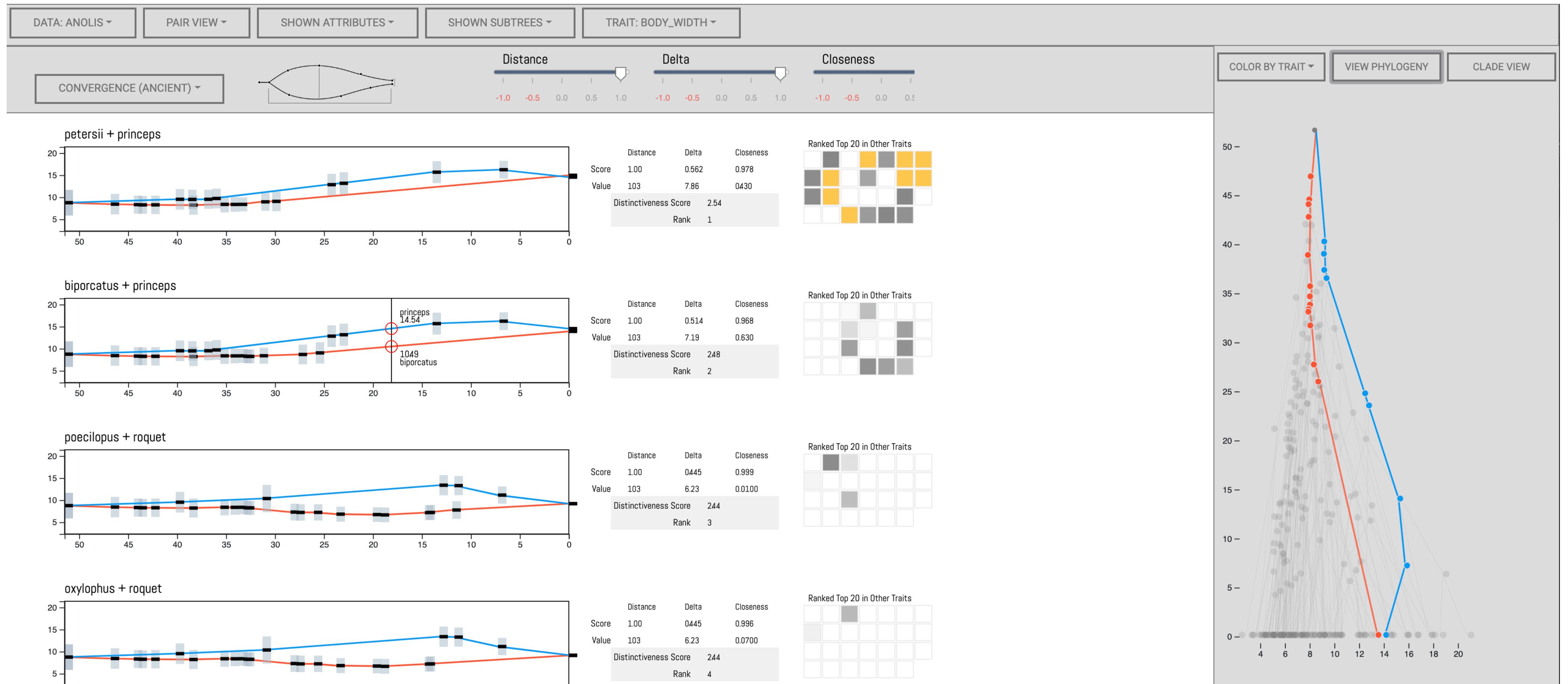
Related Work



Related Work

Design highlights that support the tasks.





DATA: ANOLIS

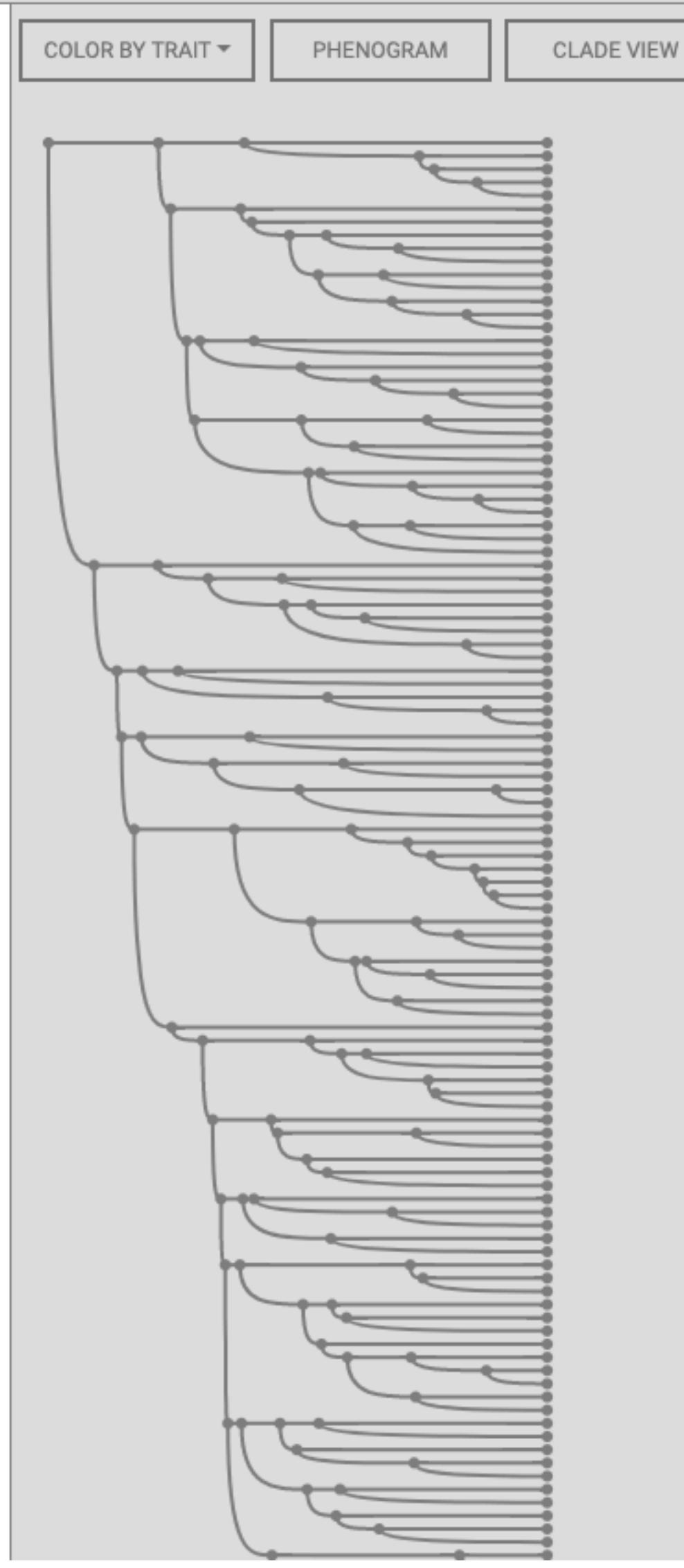
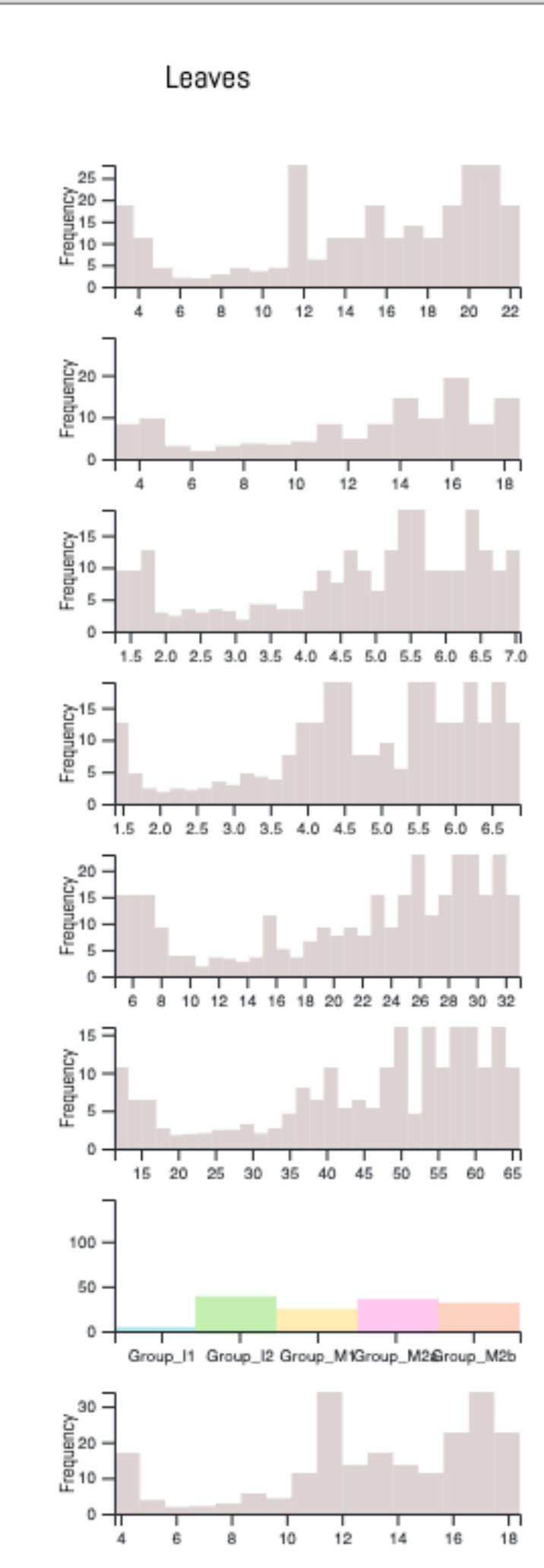
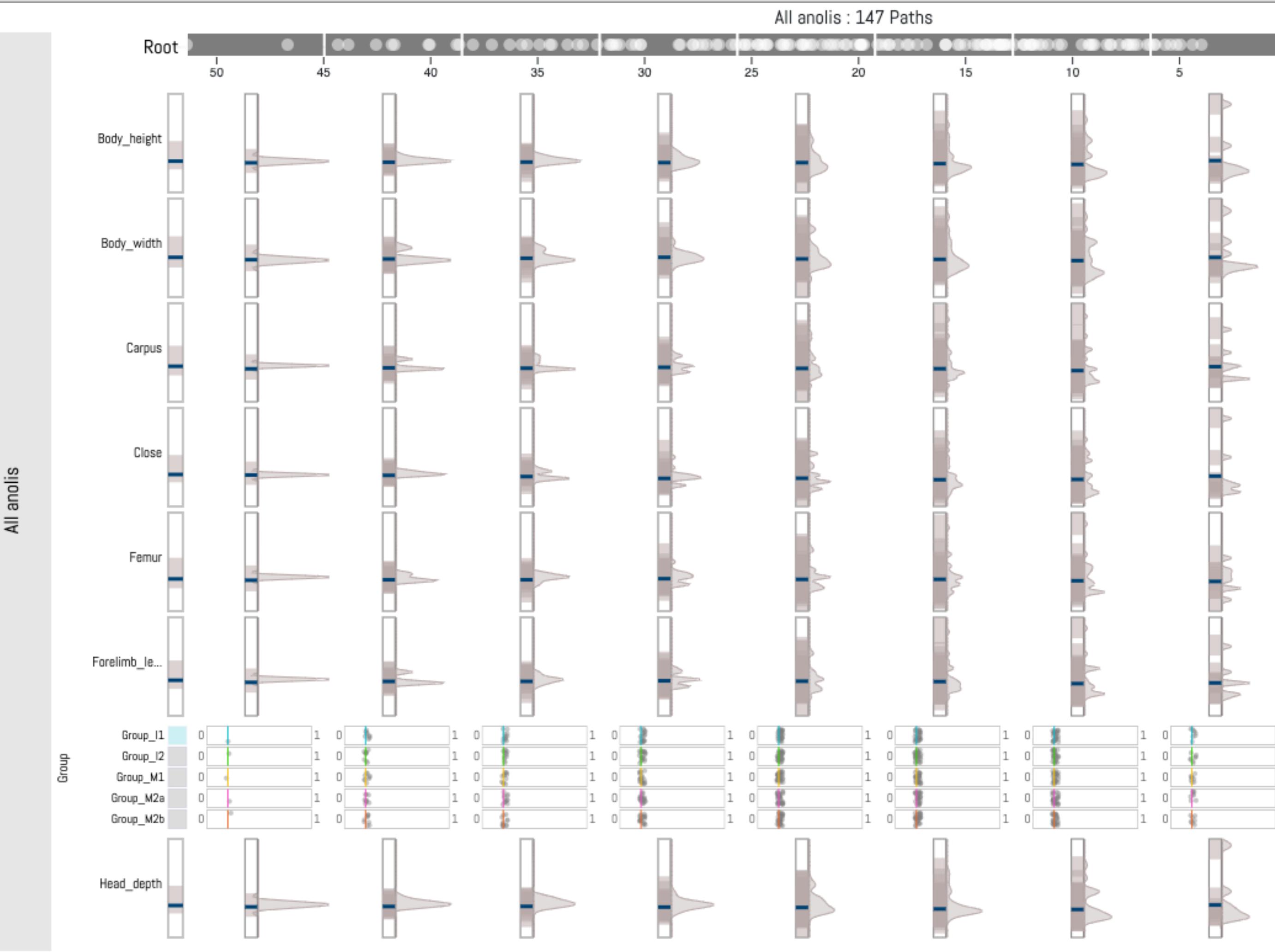
SUMMARY VIEW

SHOWN ATTRIBUTES

SHOWN SUBTREES



LOG SCALE



The study process.

Immersed myself in the lab.





*Familiarized myself
with R Studio and
tools they use for
analysis.*

***Conducted
interviews around
the department.***





Reflection is a large part of the development process

Process: Reflection through the study

Diverging from established design study methodology, we reflected through the process of the design study

Process: Reflection through the study

Shon - reflective conversation

Process: Reflection through the study

Uta - design as a speculative process

Lessons learned:

Reflection allowed reframing of ideas early in the process

Reviewing notes early in the process - things that seemed unimportant initially had new found value

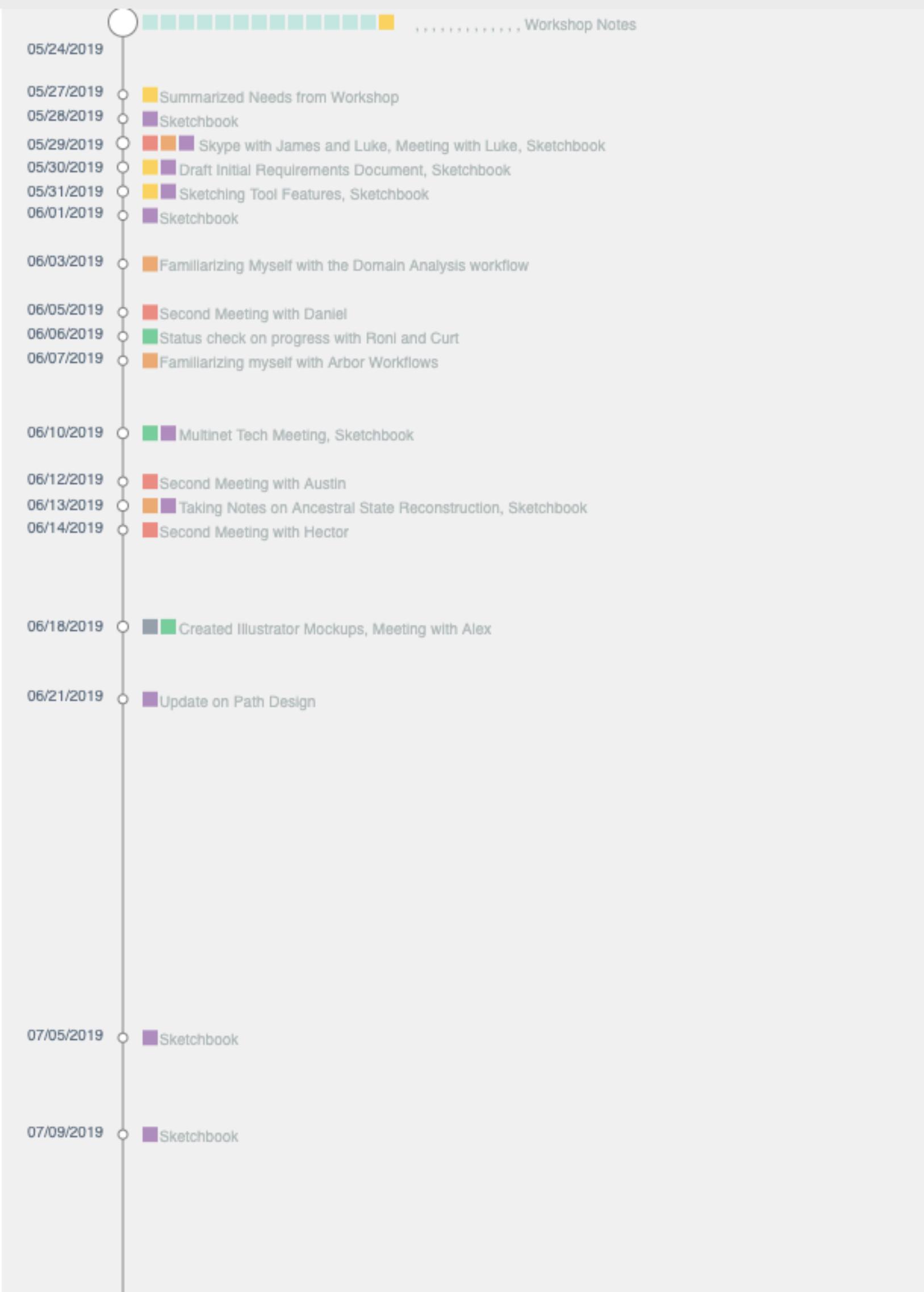
Lessons learned:

Failed views could act as a catalyst for new insight

Lessons learned:

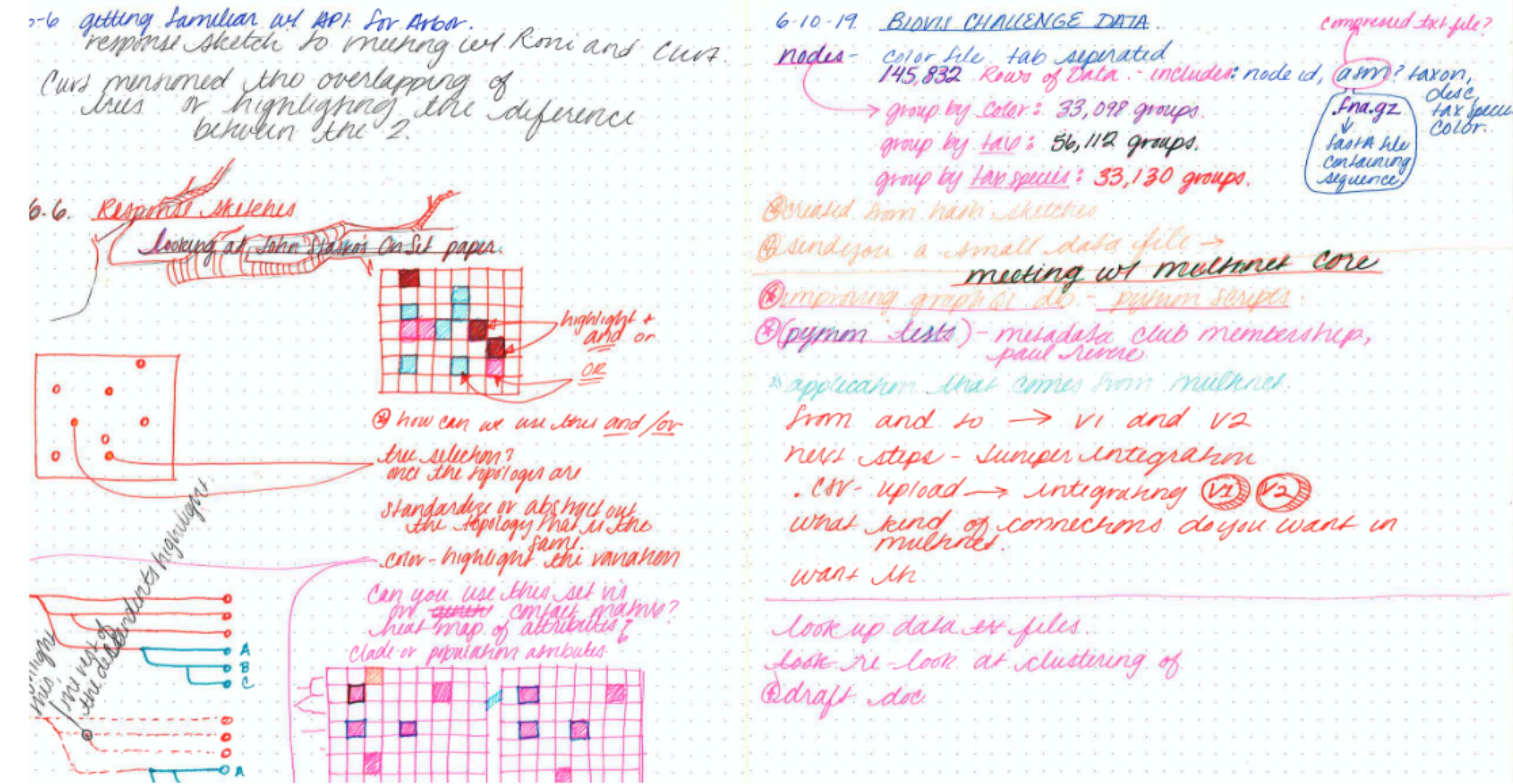
Looking at the plotted timeline of notes, the design development happened mainly in areas where reflection took place.

Abundance and Transparency



Sketchbook Mon Jun 10 2019 00:00:00 GMT-0600 (Mountain Daylight Time)

Tags:
sketch, brainstorm,



Audit trail website

<http://vdl.sci.utah.edu/evo-bio-audit/>

Evaluation

Challenge of evaluating design studies

***The Challenge of Information
Visualization Evaluation - plaisir***

*Evolutionary biologists tested the tool
on their own computer*

Case studies

Future work: