

Epistasis, the Spice of Life (and Evolution)

Lessons from the study
of the plant immune system

Detlef Weigel

Max Planck Institute
for Developmental Biology
Tübingen

<http://weigelworld.org>



@PlantEvolution



Disclaimers





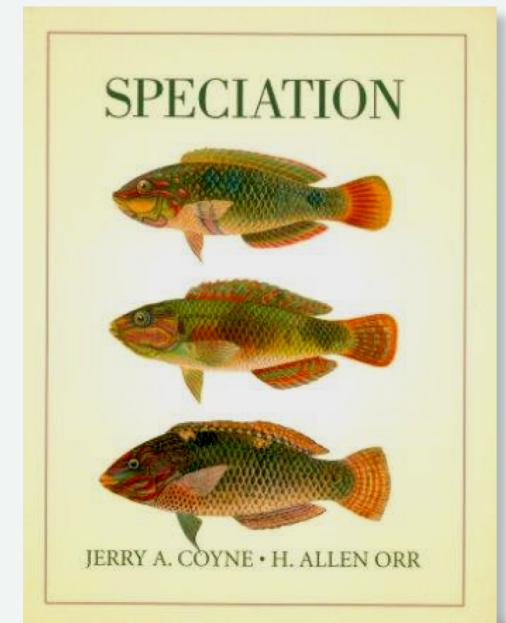
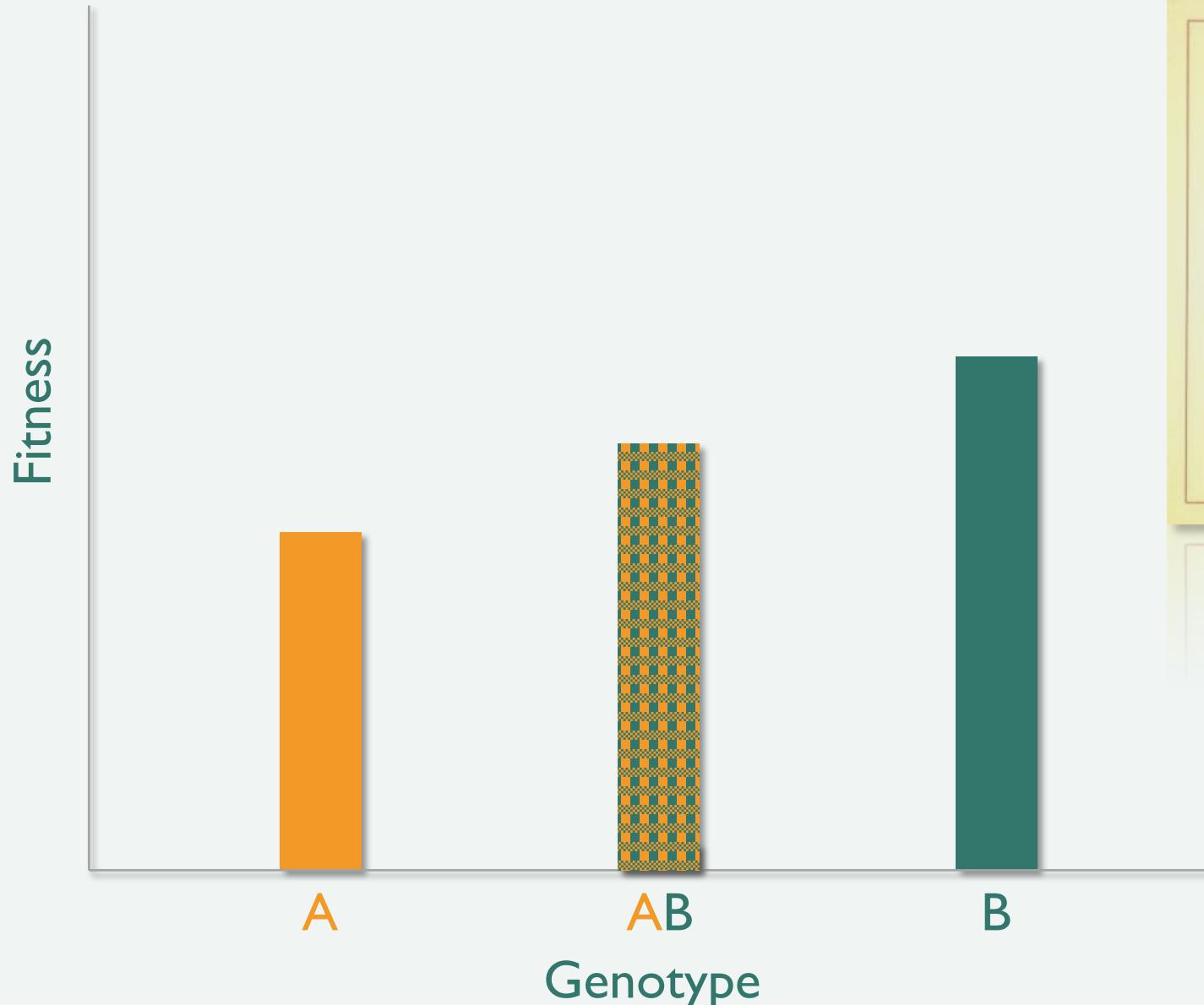
Derek Lundberg (@DerekSeveri)	Wednesday 15:10	MI CS15
<i>Sphingomonas</i> and <i>Pseudomonas</i> in wild <i>A. thaliana</i> and neighboring plants		
Talia Karasov (@KarasovTalia)	Wednesday 14:50	Lomond CS14
Mapping genes in a leaf microbiome responsible for strain-specific pathogenicity		
Or Shalev (@orshalevsk)	Monday/Tuesday	028-PI
Host Genotype-dependent Interactions among <i>Pseudomonas</i> in <i>A. thaliana</i>		
Lei Li (@Lei_Li0601)	Monday/Tuesday	328-PI
Autoimmunity activated by atypical R protein RPW8/HR4 and NLR RPP7		
Haim Ashkenazy (@Haim_Ashkenazy)	Wednesday/Thursday	887-P2
The evolution of <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> associated <i>Pseudomonas</i>		
Wangsheng Zhu (@WangshengZhu)	Wednesday/Thursday	888-P2
Epistatic interactions between immune genes in <i>Arabidopsis</i>		
Fiona Paul	Wednesday/Thursday	I023-P2
Population genetics of <i>Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis</i> (<i>Hpa</i>)		
Eunyoung Chae (@EunyoungChae)	Monday 15:30	Clyde CS4
RPW8/HR repeats predict NLR-dependent hybrid performance		

Epistasis – nonadditive gene action

Epistasis as Evolutionary Disaster



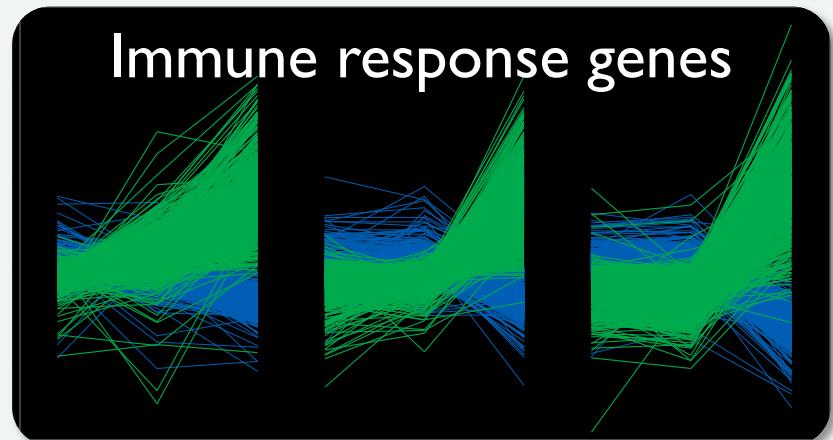
Hybrid weakness – negative heterosis



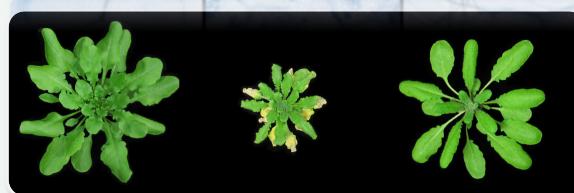
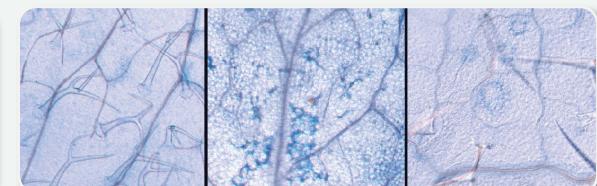
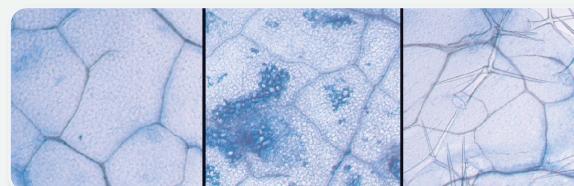
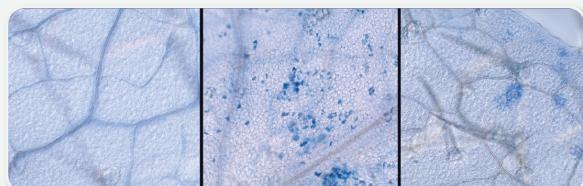
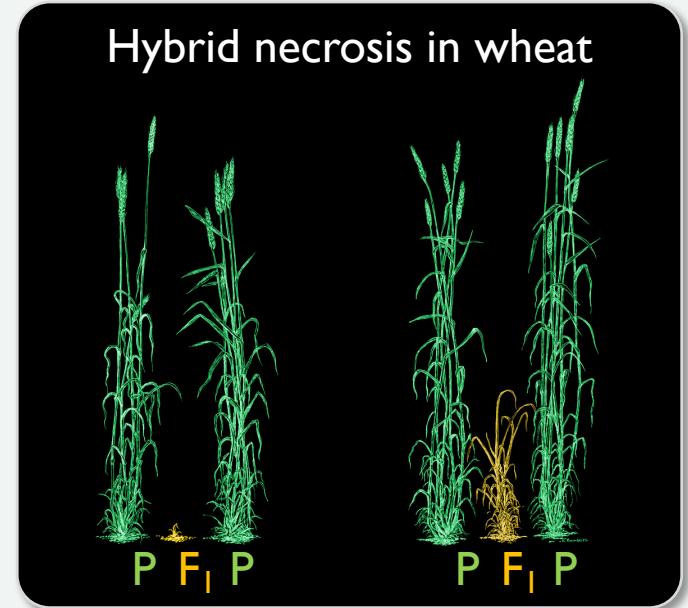
Hybrid Necrosis – Autoimmunity in *A. thaliana* F₁ Hybrids



Immune response genes



Hybrid necrosis in wheat



Bla-1

F₁

Hh-0

Mir-0

F₁

Se-0

KZ10

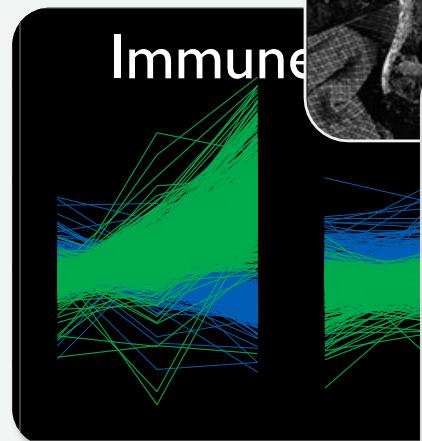
F₁

Mrk-0

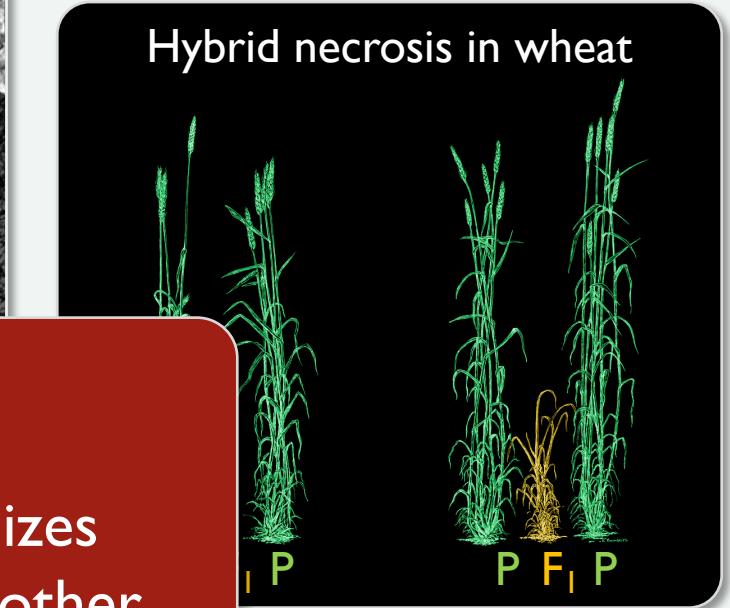
Bomblies et al. (2007)

© Detlef Weigel 2019

Hybrid Necrosis – Autoimmunity in *A. thaliana* F₁ Hybrids

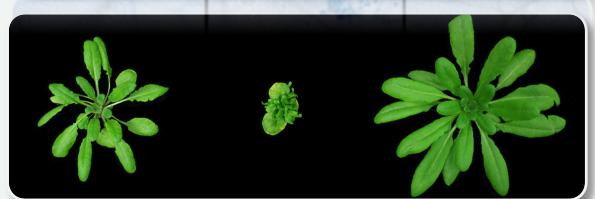
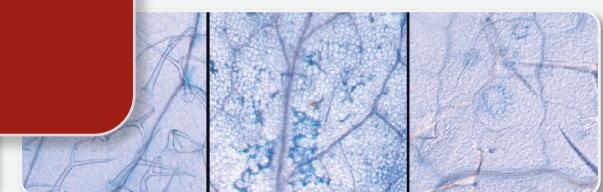
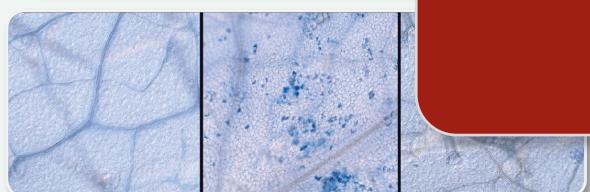


Hybrid necrosis in wheat



Hypothesis:

One genome recognizes
something from the other
genome as foreign
(pathogen derived)



Bla-1

F₁

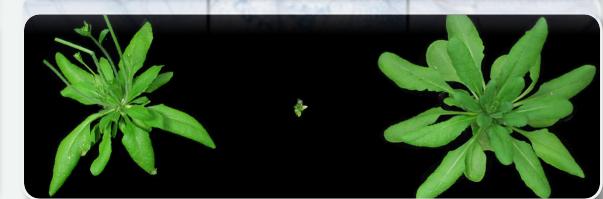
Hh-0



Mir-0

F₁

Se-0



KZ10

F₁

Mrk-0

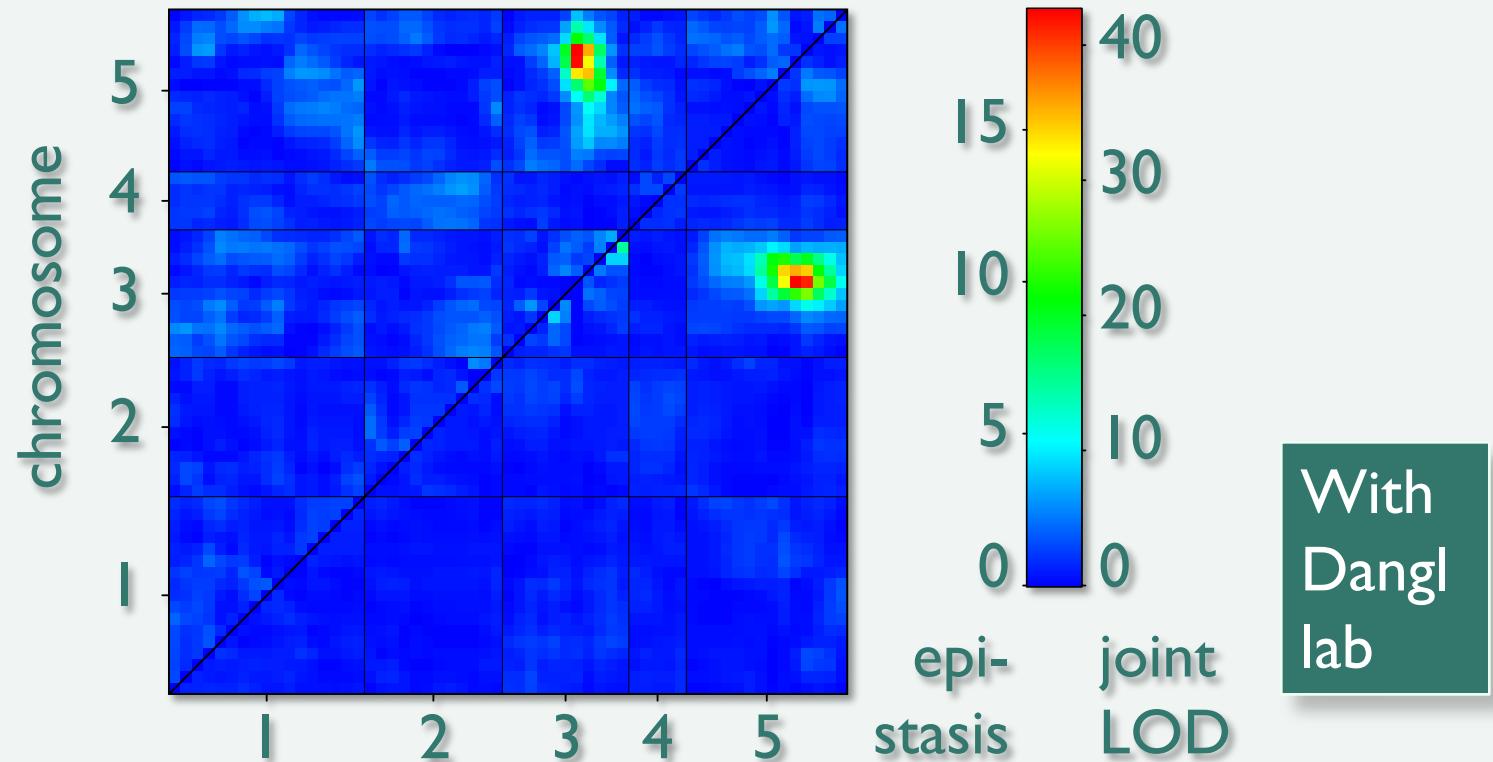
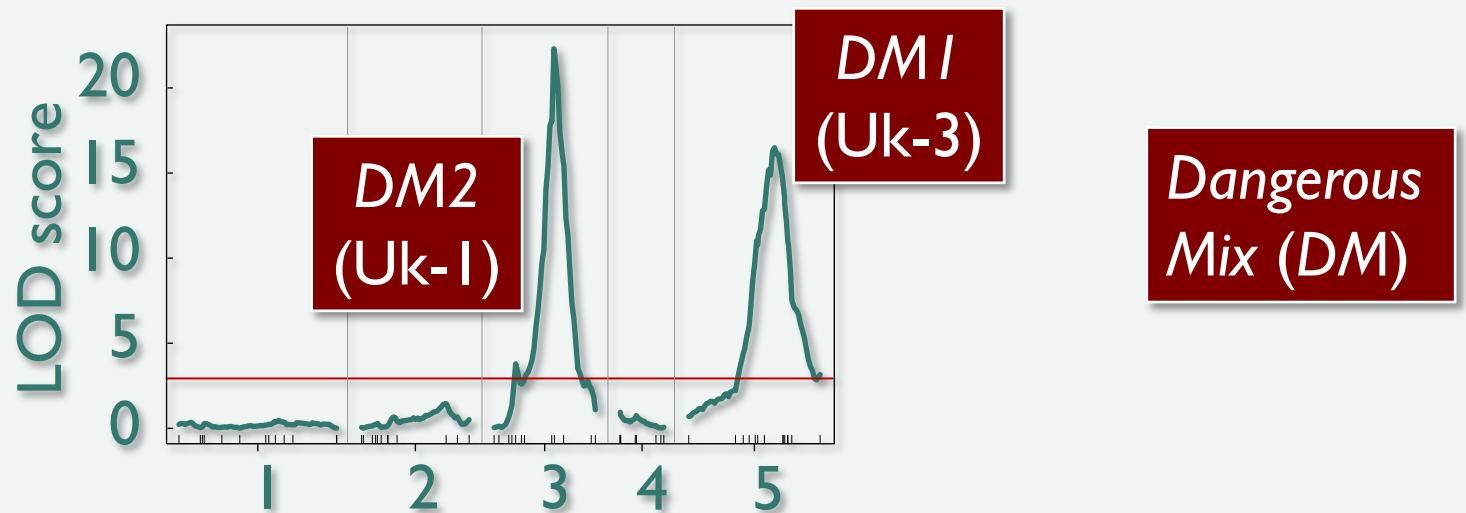
Bomblies et al. (2007)

© Detlef Weigel 2019

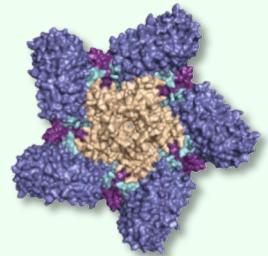
Simple Genetics of Hybrid Necrosis



Conforms to
(Bateson-)
Dobzhansky-
Muller
incompatibility

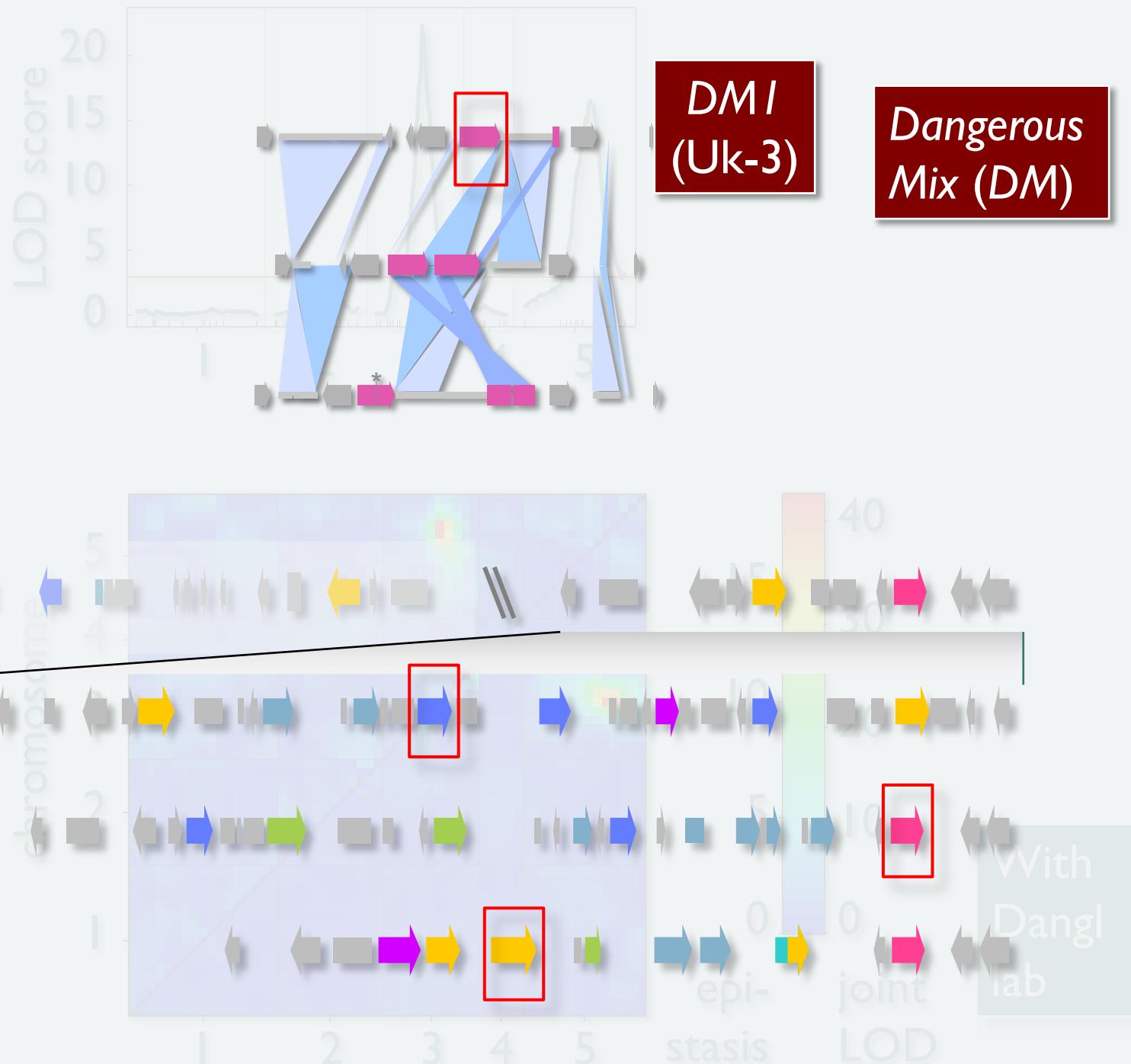


DM1 Encodes an NLR Immune Receptor and *DM2* as well!

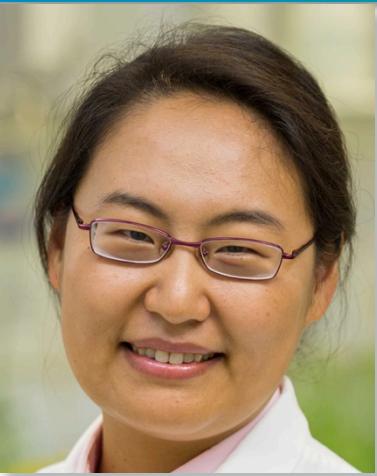


**Nucleotide
binding
site**
**Leucine rich
repeat**
Receptor

***DM2*
(Uk-1)**

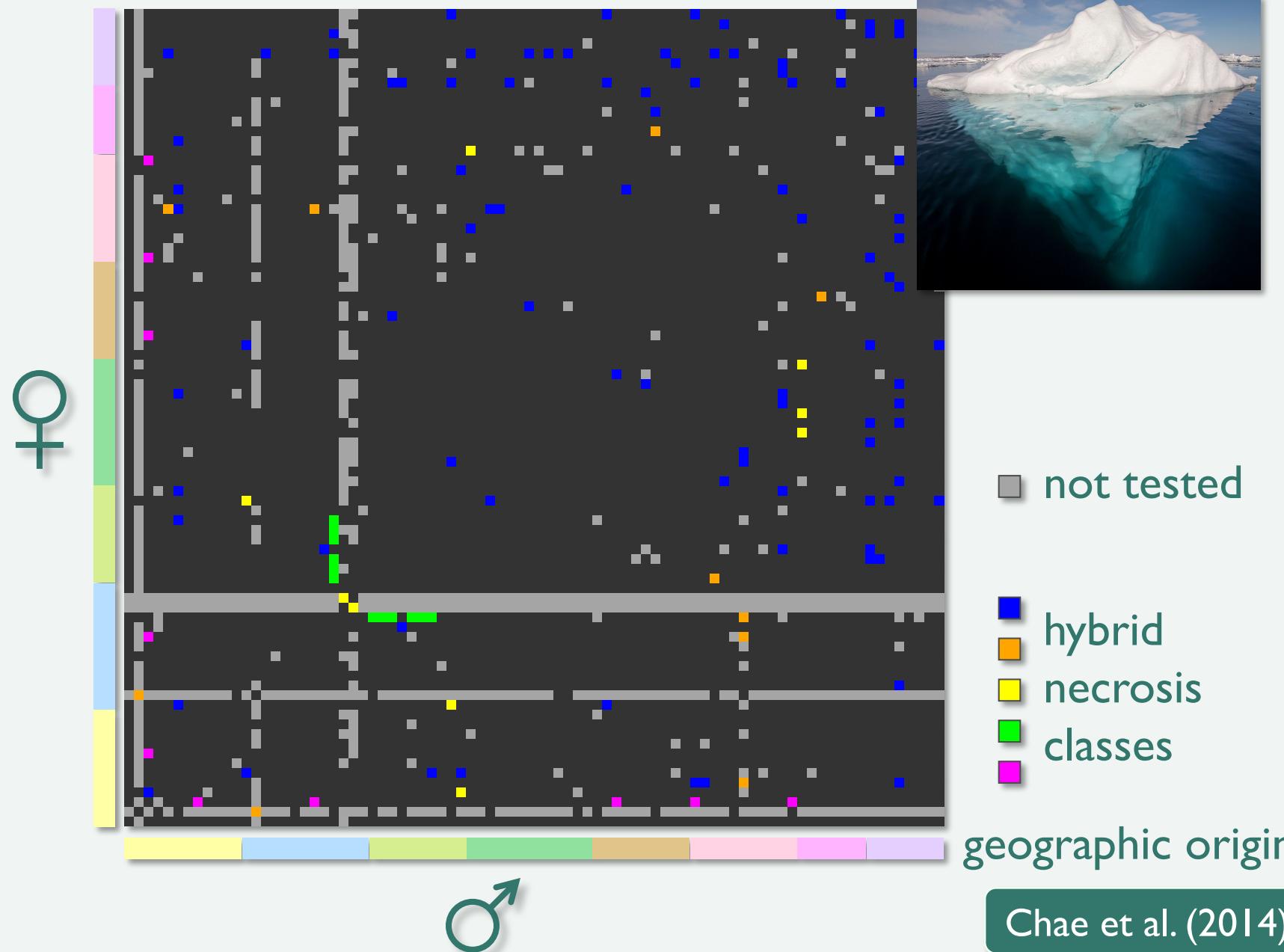


Species-wide Survey of Hybrid Necrosis



Eunyoung
Chae
(now NUS)

6,409 crosses (3,330 unique combinations)

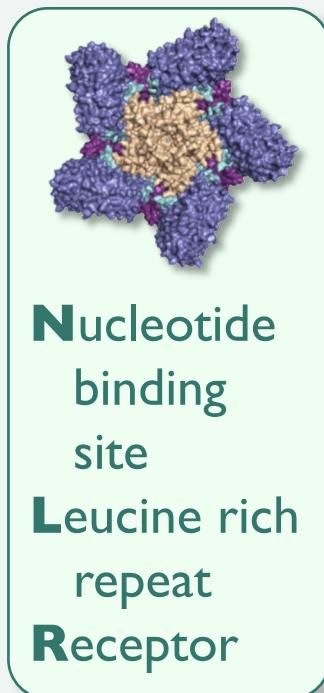


geographic origins

Chae et al. (2014)

© Detlef Weigel 2019

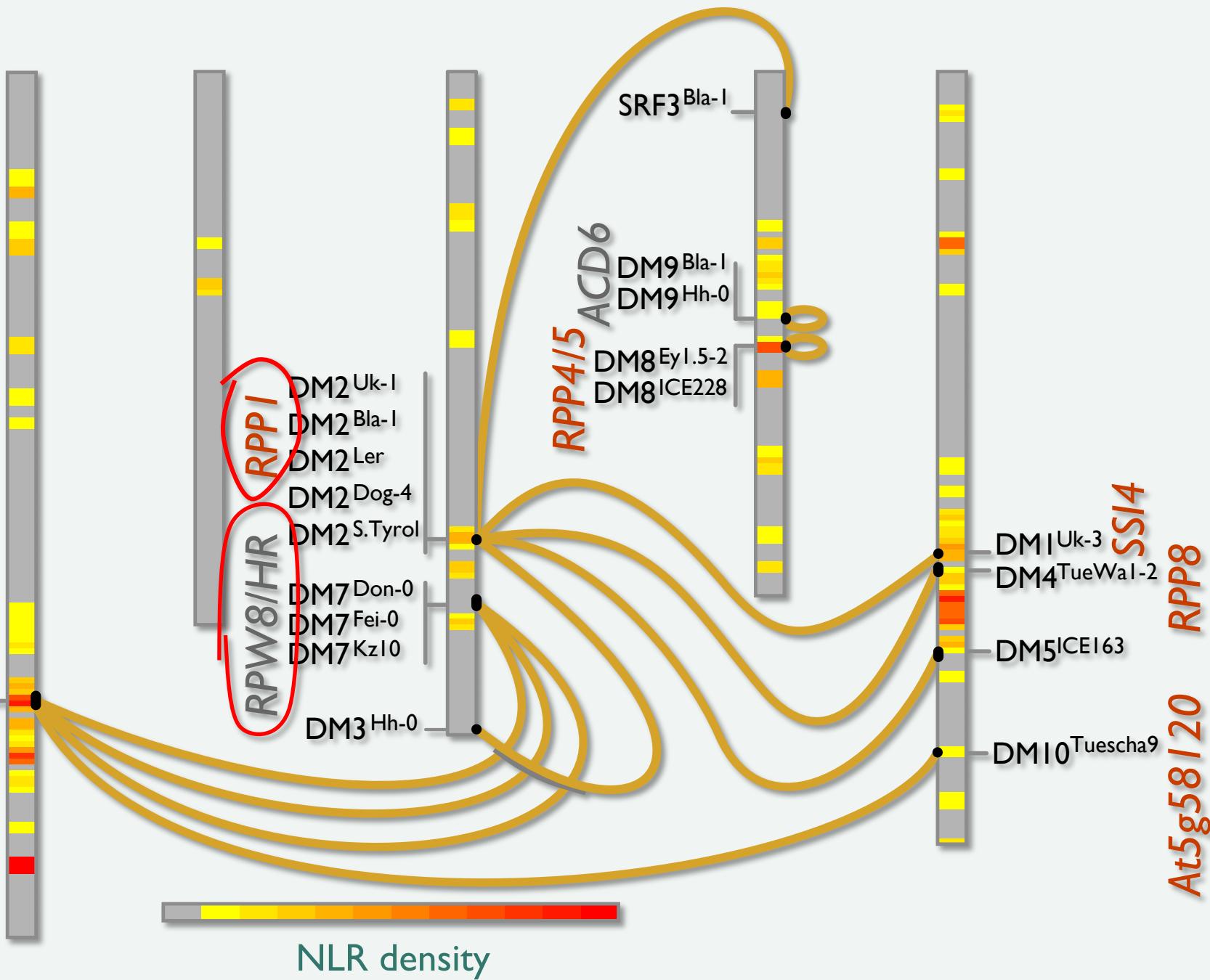
Specific R Gene Loci Overrepresented in Hybrid Necrosis



RPP7

DM6^{ICE79}
DM6^{Lerik1-3}
DM6^{Mrk-0}
DM6^{Cdm-0}

Dangerous Mix (DM)



Multiple Pairs of *RPP7* – *RPW8/HR* Interactions



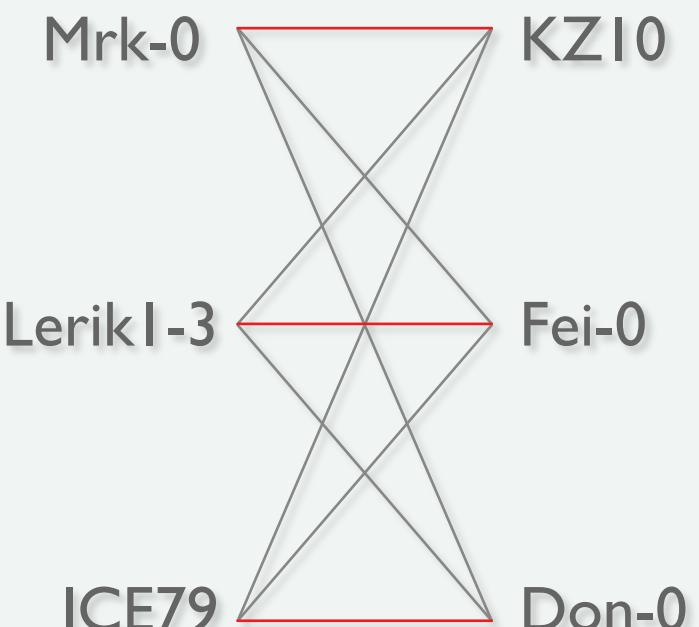
Cristina
Barragan



Parent 1 F_1 Parent 2

*RPW8/HR**

RPP7

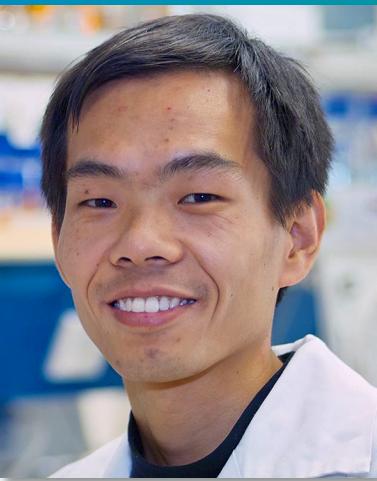


**RPW8/HR* homologs of MLKL & HELL/HeLo domain proteins;
share CC_R domain with an NLR subclass

bioRxiv 559864

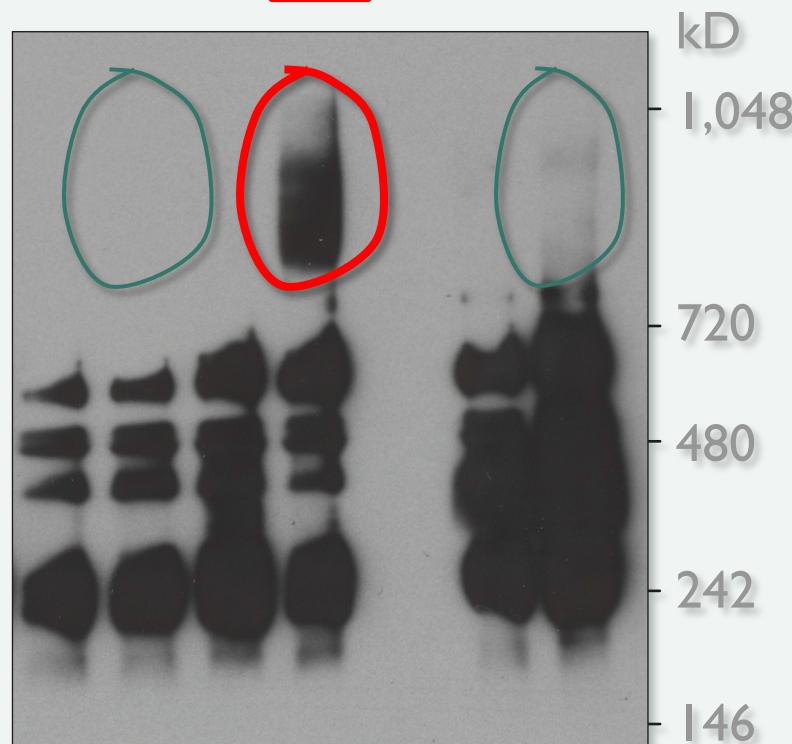
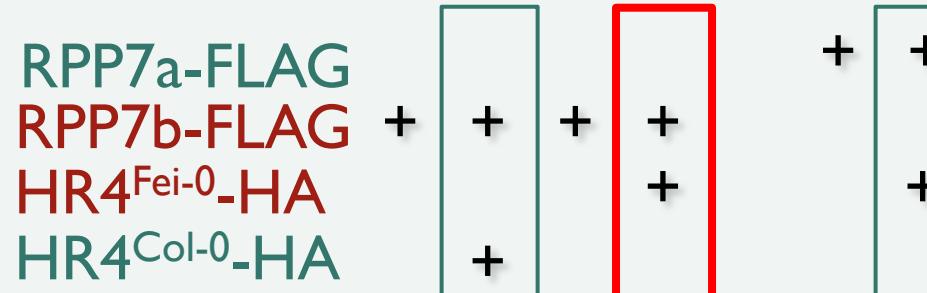
© Detlef Weigel 2019

Specific Interactions between RPP7 and RPW8/HR Proteins



Lei Li

Only between proteins encoded by causal alleles of *RPP7* and *RPW8/HR*



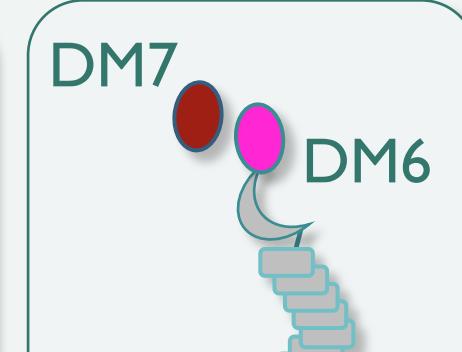
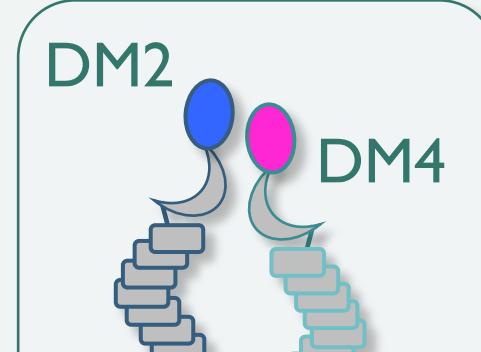
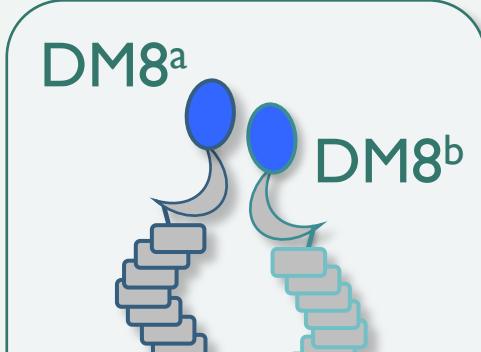
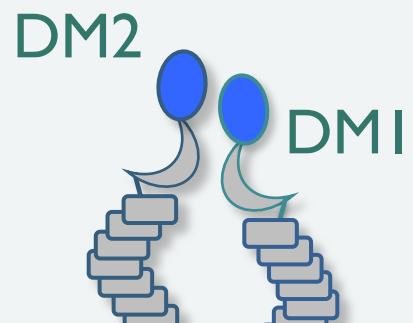
3-12% native PAGE

A Wide Range of (Direct?) NLR Interactions

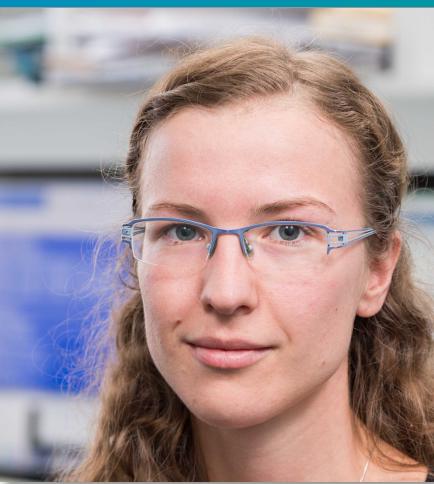


Hypothesis:

Potentially promiscuous NLR interactions limit possible immune receptor combinations in single genotype

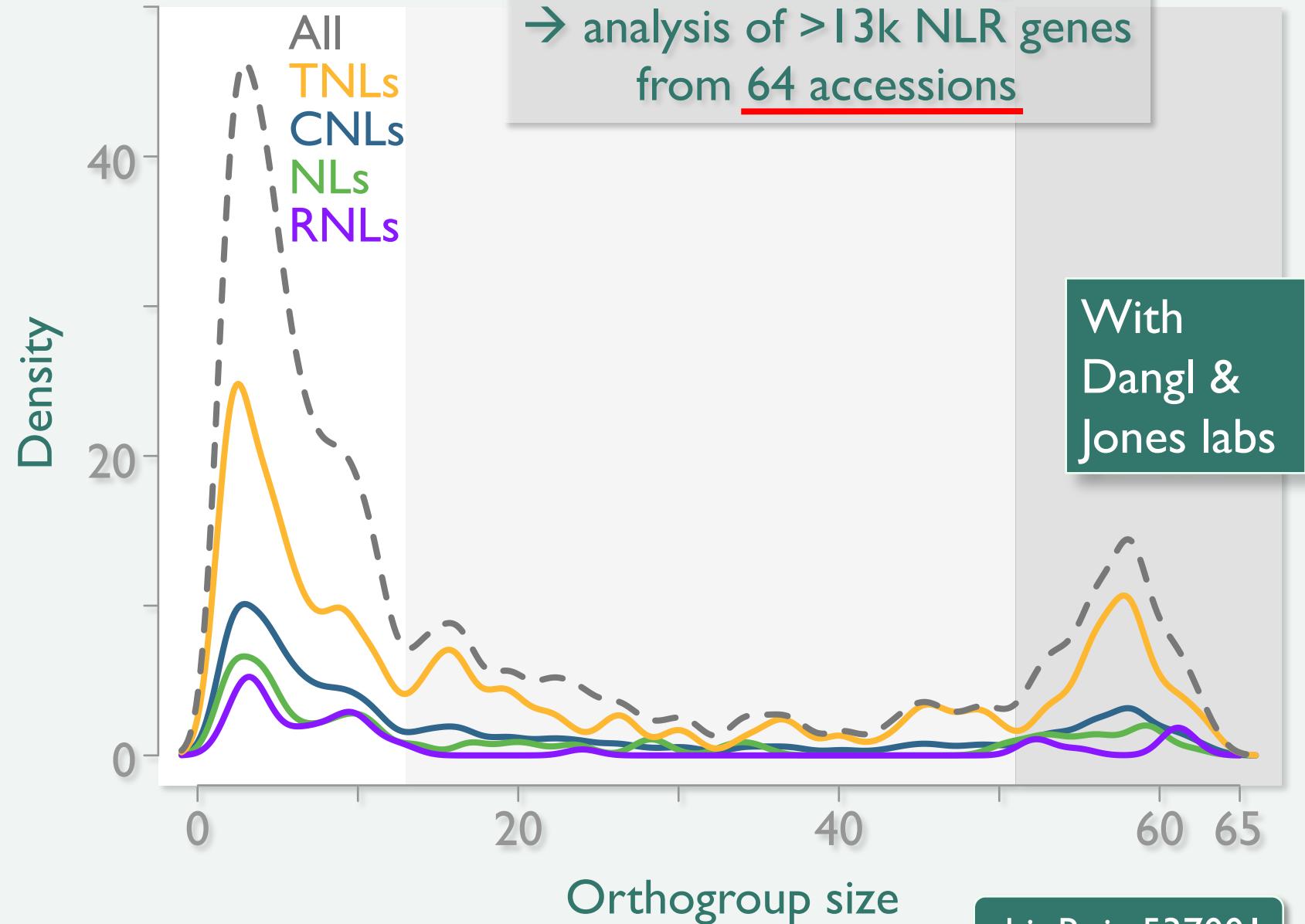


(Too Much) NLR Immune Receptor Diversity ...



Anna-Lena
Van de Weyer
(now LaboKlin)

Felix
Bemm
(now KWS)



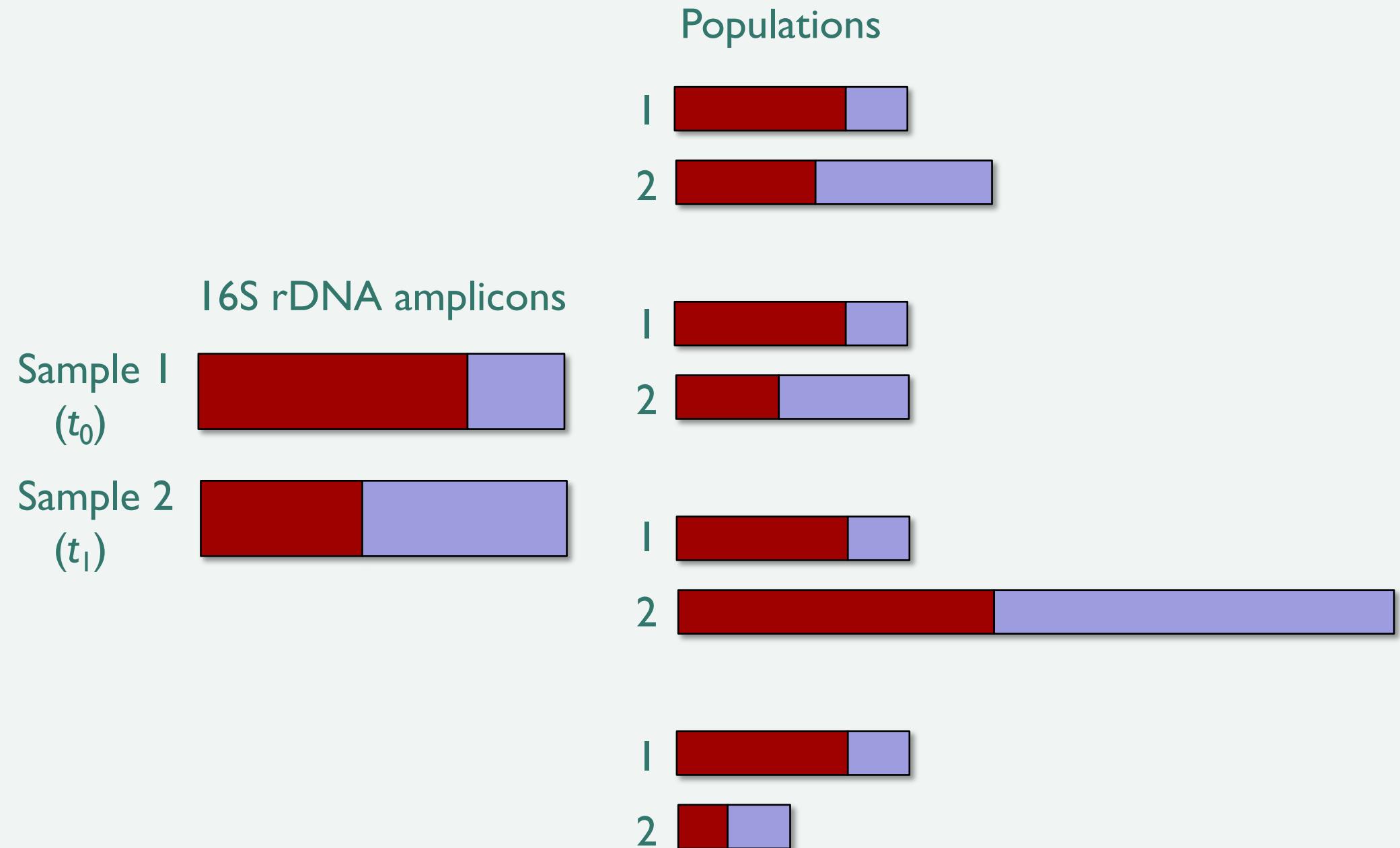
bioRxiv 537001

© Detlef Weigel 2019

**What causes and limits immune system
diversification in the wild?**

Question #1:
Who is there and how many of them?

Microbiome Analyses: Amplicon Data Are Compositional

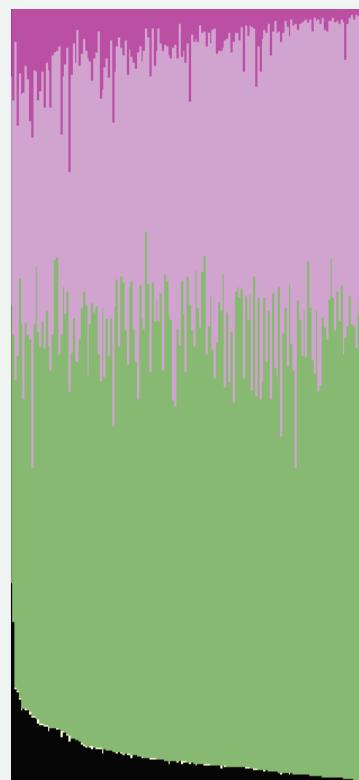


Metagenome Shotgun Sequencing

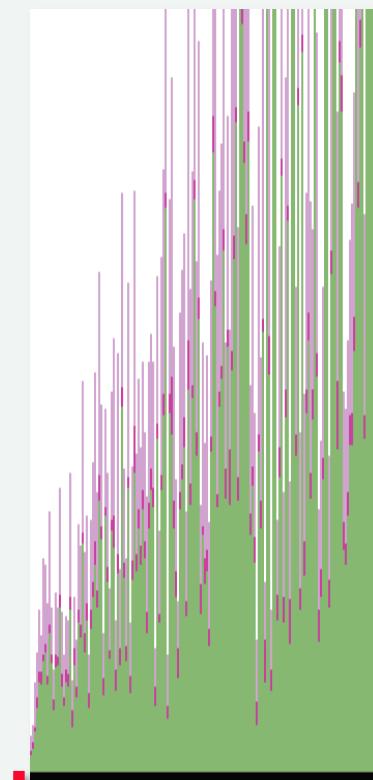


Julian
Regalado

Total reads
equal
= raw data



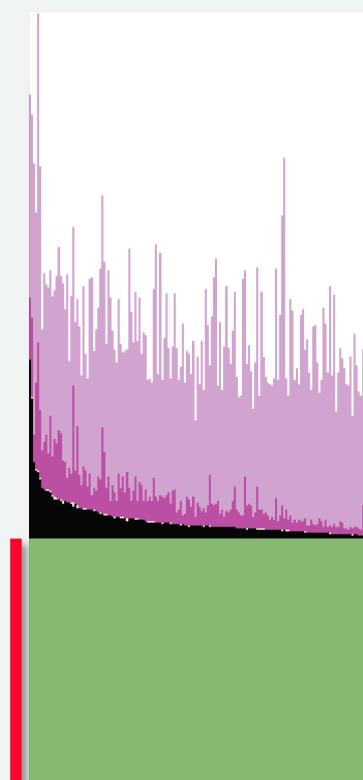
Microbial
reads equal
= amplicons



Derek
Lundberg

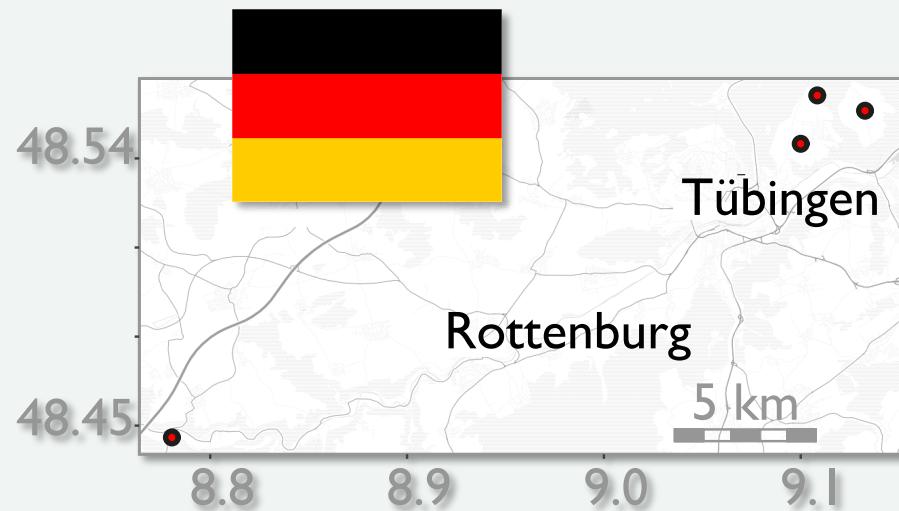


Plant nuclear
reads equal



- █ Unclassified
- █ Organelles
- █ Plant nucleus
- █ Fungi
- █ Microbes
- █ Scaled portion

Pilot: Sampling Germany and Sweden



SW Germany
176 plants
4 populations
2 seasons

With
Bergelson
lab

S Sweden
50 plants
5 populations
1 season

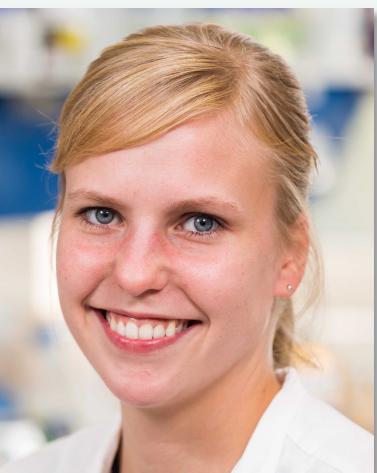


Within-region Similarity / Between-region Difference

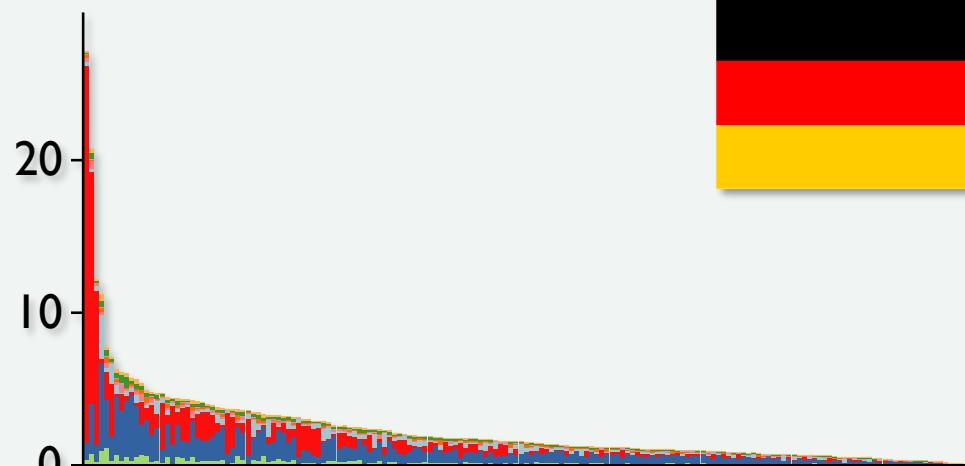


Talia
Karasov

Manuela
Neumann



Bacteria



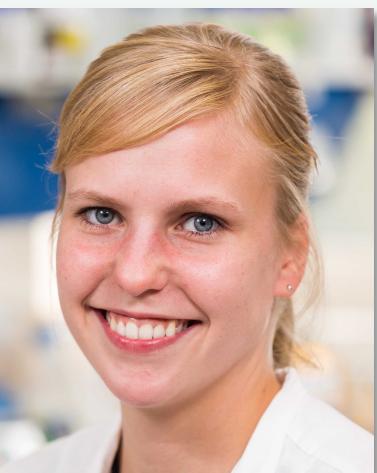
Burkholderiaceae	Oscillatoriaceae
Comamonadaceae	Pseudomonadaceae
Enterobacteriaceae	Other
Hymenobacteraceae	Sphingomonadaceae
Microbacteriaceae	

Within-region Similarity / Between-region Difference

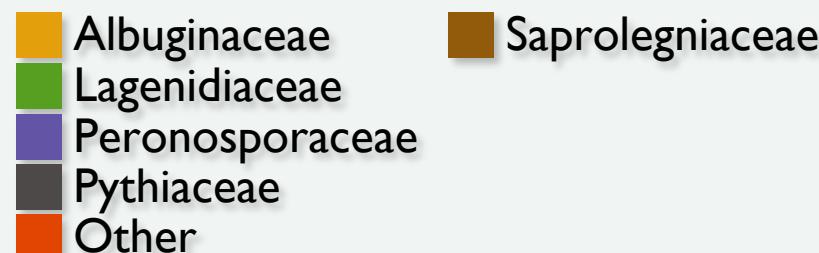
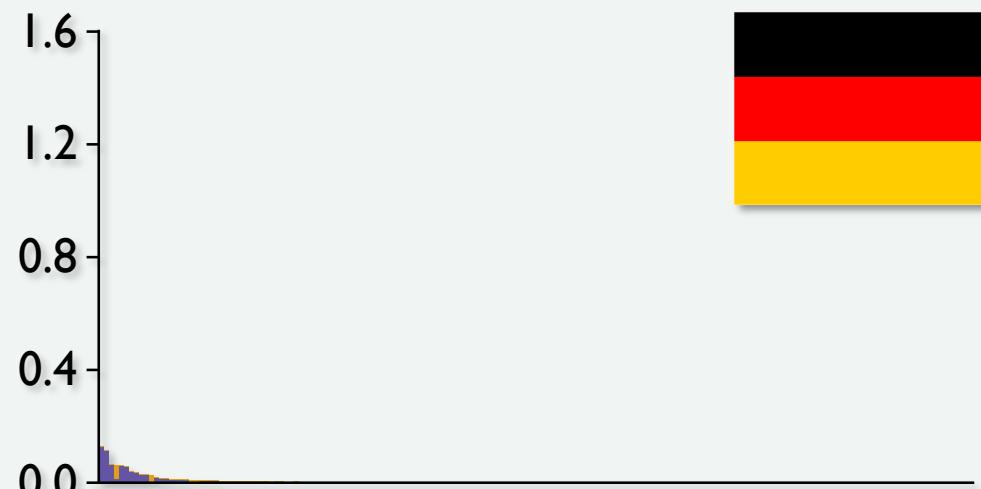


Talia
Karasov

Manuela
Neumann



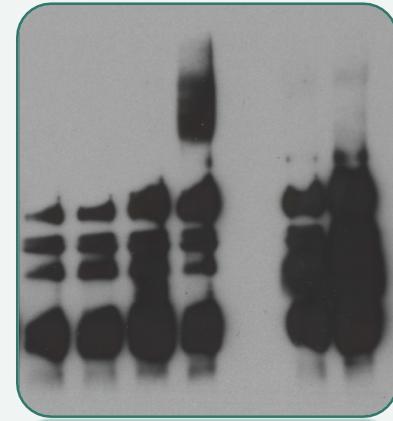
Oomycetes



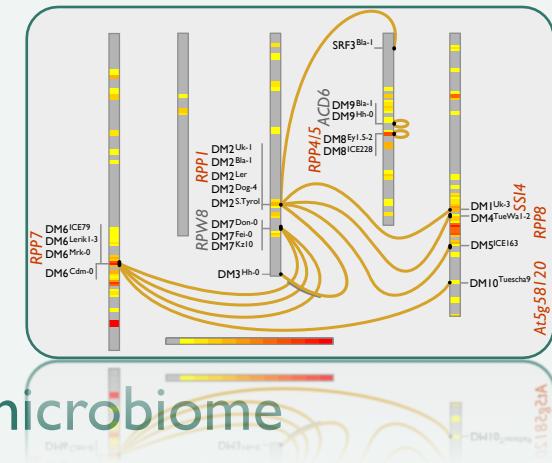
Lessons



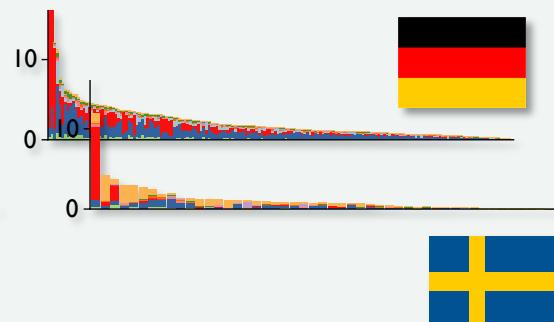
- Epistatic interactions in immune system are common



- Too much diversity at NLR and other immune loci can backfire



- Extreme geographic diversity in *A. thaliana* phyllosphere microbiome



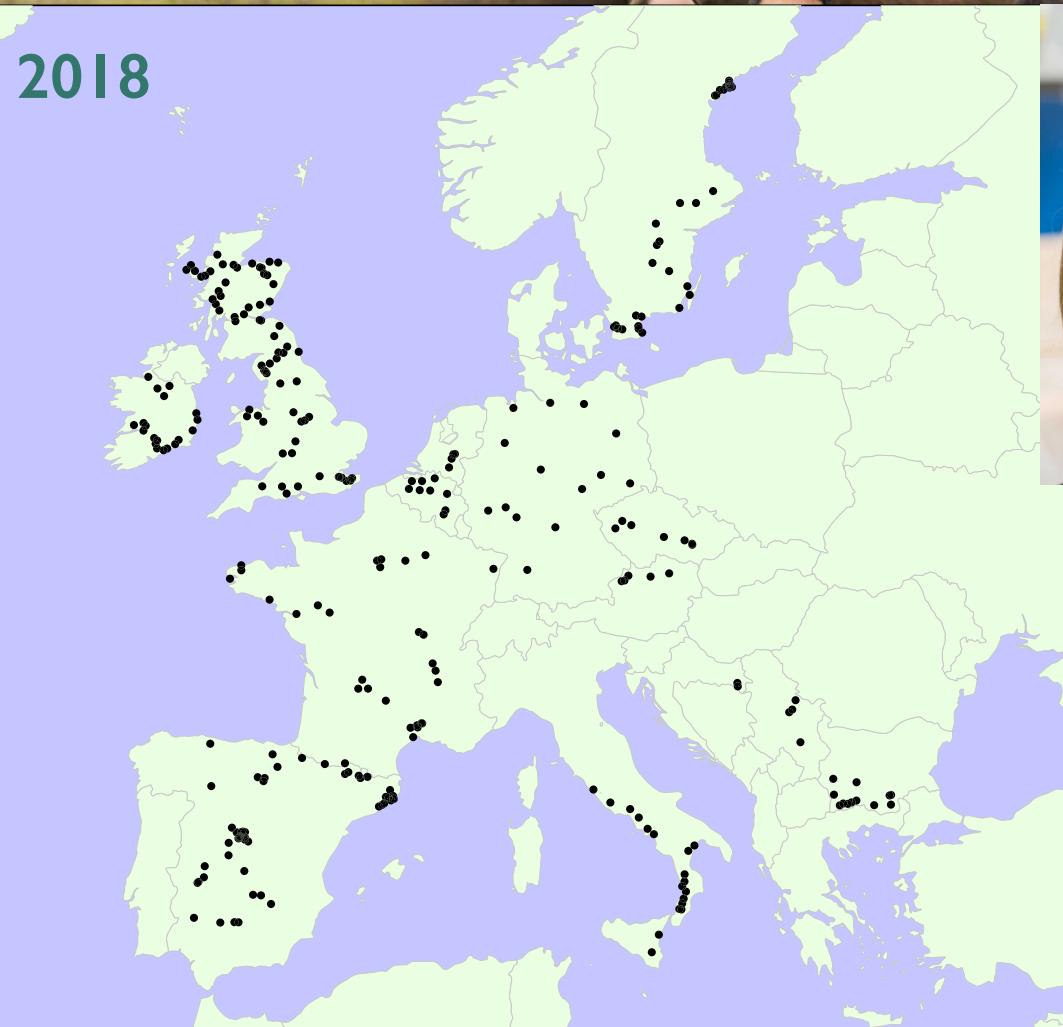
Project Pathodopsis



Patho(gens on Arabi)dopsis

>650 plants

- Metagenome
- Bacterial 16S rDNA
- Eukaryotic ITS
- Environmental variables



Rebecca
Schwab



pathodopsis.org

How is it going on the road and in the lab?



