

Propojení výuky oborů Molekulární a buněčné biologie a Ochrany a tvorby  
životního prostředí OPVK (CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0032)

# HEPATITIS C: TREATMENT TRIUMPHS

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Nature 510, 43–44 (05 June 2014)



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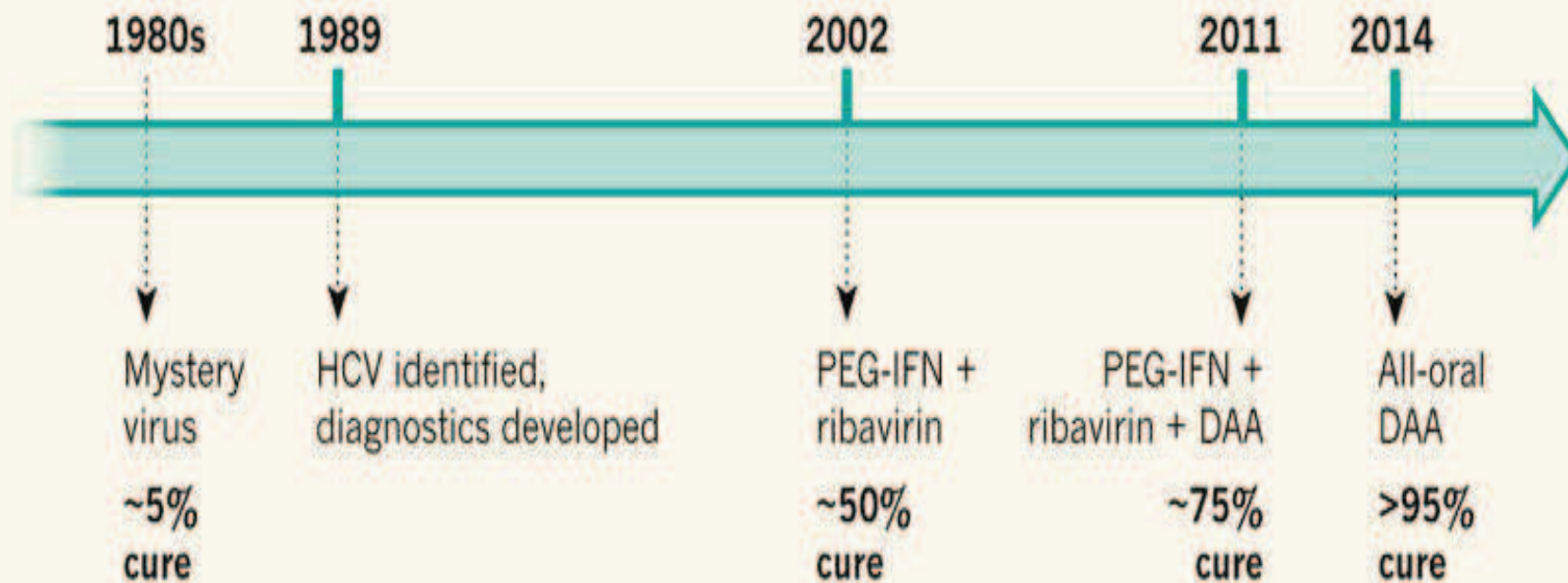


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- The story of hepatitis C began in the 1970s, when it was recognized that something other than hepatitis A or hepatitis B infections was causing liver inflammation following blood transfusions.
- In 1989, the troublemaker was identified as a small RNA virus, named hepatitis C (HCV).
- Although there are now effective diagnostic procedures that allow a safe blood supply in most developed countries, intravenous drug abuse continues to lead to new infections.
- An estimated 185 million people are chronically infected with HCV and are at risk of developing life-threatening liver diseases, including cirrhosis and cancer.

# FIGURE 1: HCV TRAJECTORY.



- Another barrier is identifying those infected. Most people are unaware of their HCV infection, and only a small minority has been treated.
- Although some health agencies have recommended universal screening of high-risk groups, implementing such policies is challenging and time-consuming.
- The current price tag for cutting-edge HCV treatment in the United States is more than US\$80,000 for a 12-week course. Competition among pharmaceutical companies may lower this price, but most people infected with HCV live in countries that cannot afford the new treatments.
- Fortunately, there is movement in the pharmaceutical industry to provide for low-cost drug production in certain countries, such as Egypt, where an estimated 10% of the population is infected.



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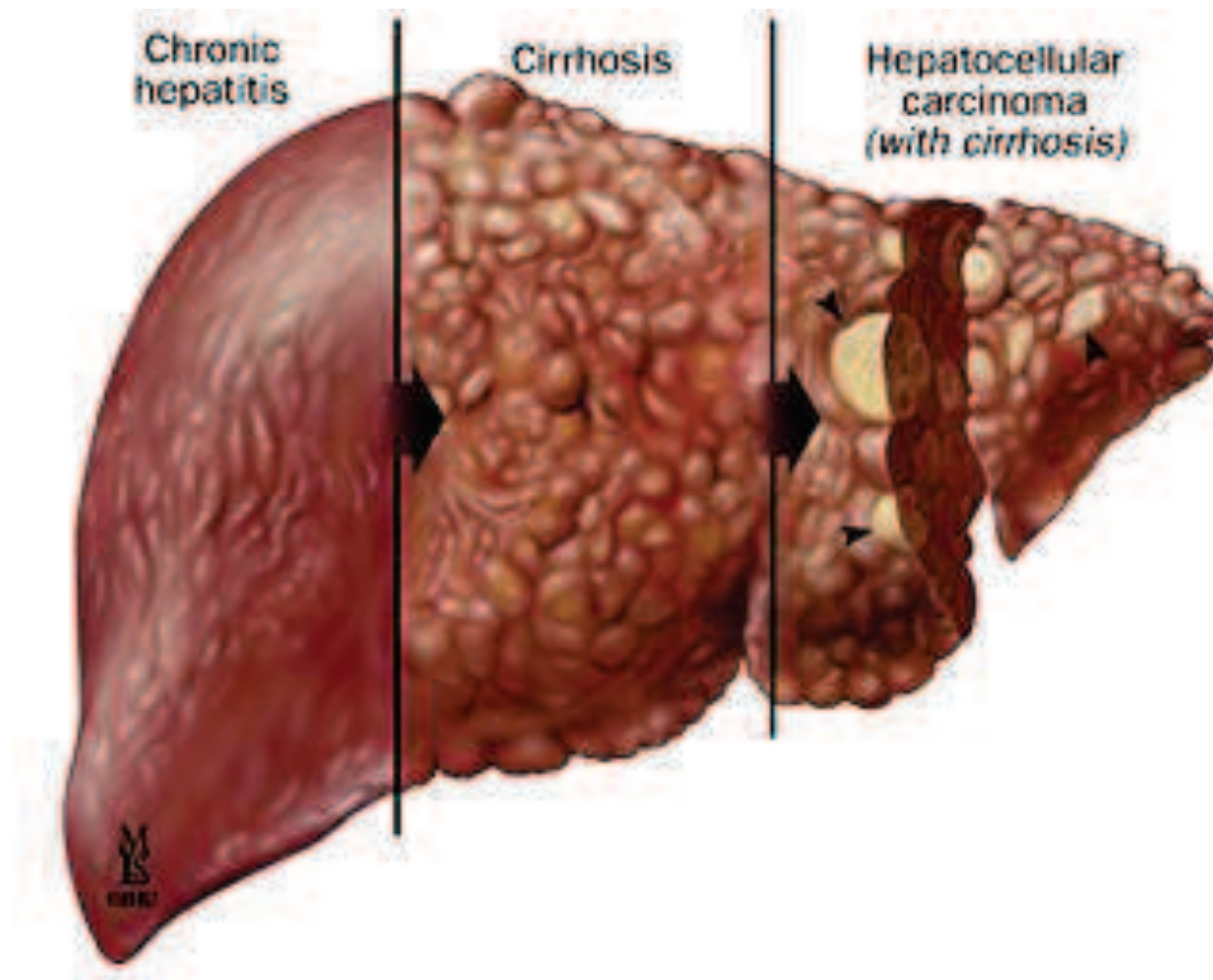
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## FIGURE 2: PROGRESSION OF HEPATITIS C INFECTION.



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# Comparative population genomics in animals uncovers the determinants of genetic diversity

Nature 515

13 November 2014

J. Romiguier and 20 other scientists

Tereza Buchtová



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# Genetic diversity

- Diversity:
  - response to environmental changes
  - ecosystem recovery
  - viability of recently endangered population
- It increases with effective population size  $N_e$
- Diversity is linked with biological traits and abundance.
- Confusing factors:
  - mutation rate
  - population structure
  - population bottlenecks
  - selective sweeps
  - ecological disturbances
- Life-history – Main driver of genetic diversity.

# Analysis

- 31 families of 8 major animal phyla
- 374 individual transcriptomes from 76 non-model species
- They predicted protein coding sequences and identified diploid genotypes and single nucleotide polymorphisms.



# Synonymous nucleotide diversity $\pi_s$

- Relationship between  $\pi_s$  and geography variables
  - average distance between GPS records
  - average distance to equator
  - invasive status
  - marine versus continental environment
- Relationships between  $\pi_s$  and life-biology
  - adult size
  - body mass
  - maximum longevity
  - adult dispersion ability
  - Fecundity
  - propagule size
- It explained 73 % of variance in  $\pi_s$

# Relationship between $\pi_s$ and life-history

- Low genetic diversity
  - Amniotes (turtles, mammals, birds)
  - Marine species (seahorses, nemerteans)
  - Eusocial insects (ants, bees, termites)
  - Large parental investment in their offspring
  - K-strategists
- High genetic diversity
  - Marine species (mussels, sea squirts, gorgonians)
  - Minimal parental investment in their offspring
  - r-strategists

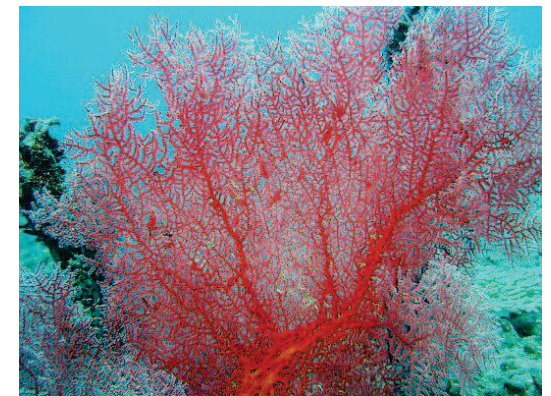
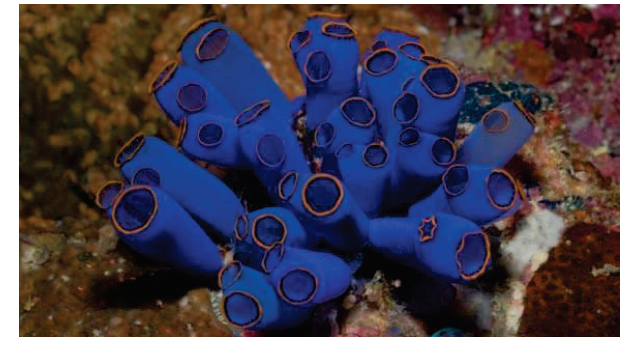
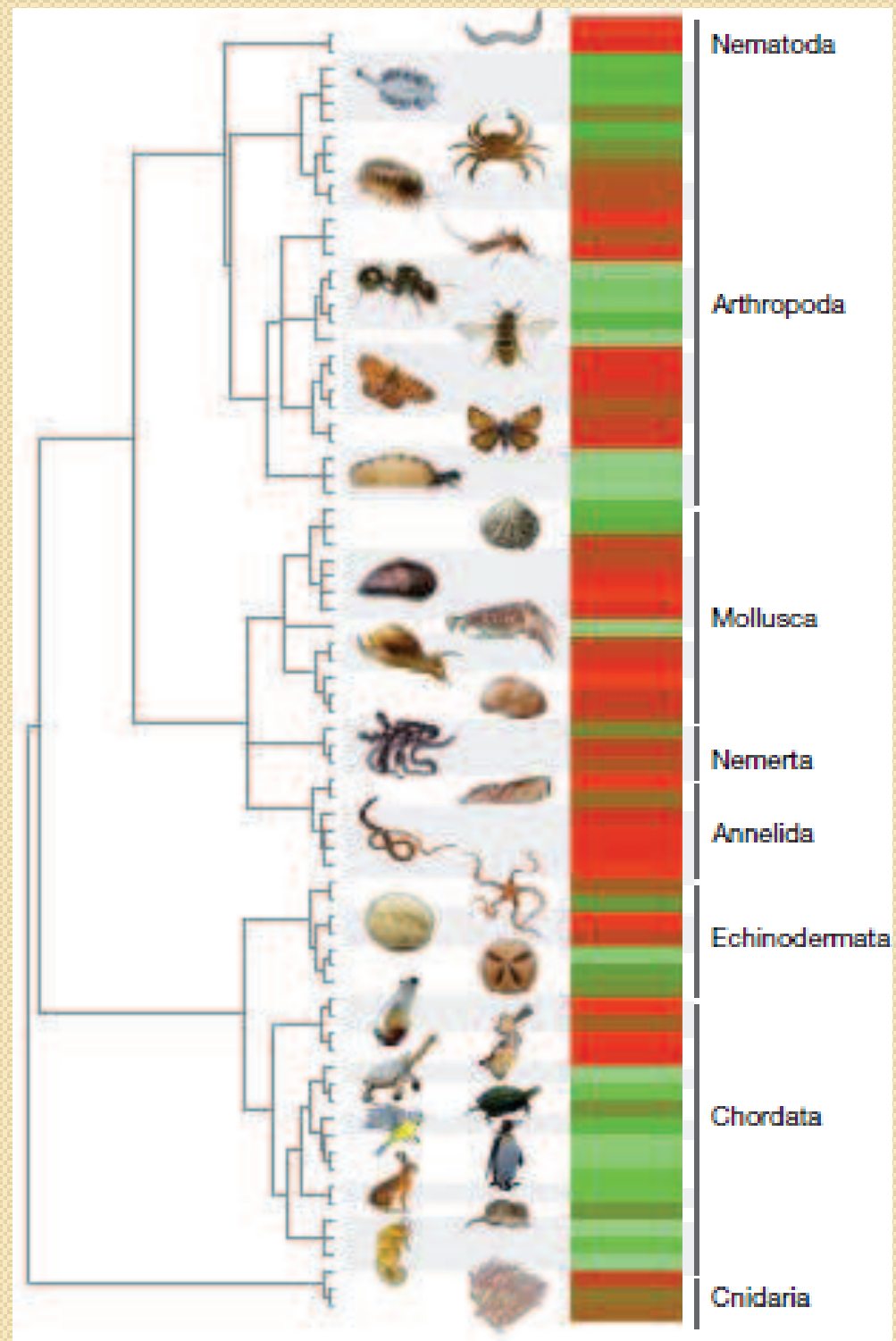


Figure 1, 2, 3 – Nemertean, sea squirt, gorgonian

# GENOME-WIDE GENETIC DIVERSITY ACROSS THE METAZOAN TREE OF LIFE.

Figure 4 - Families and phyla used for analysis. Organisms with low-diversity are green. Organism with high diversity are red.



$$\pi_n / \pi_s$$

- $\pi_n$  non-synonymous nucleotide diversity
- Life-history traits
  - Longevity
- Small population with negative genetic drift
- It is influenced by mutation rate

# Question

- How can life-history traits be so predictive of  $\pi_s$  in spite of the evidence for the impact of ecological perturbations on patterns of genetic variation?
- Resolve
  - Life-history influence the response of species to environmental perturbations.
  - K-strategists – stable environment,; small population
  - r-strategists – large population



# Thank you for your attention.