

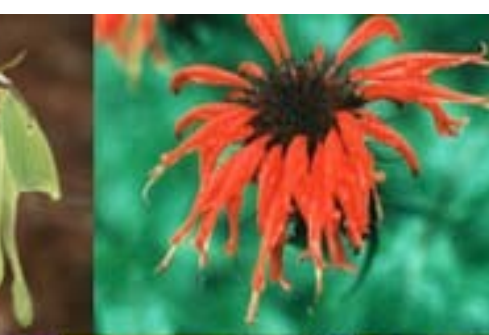
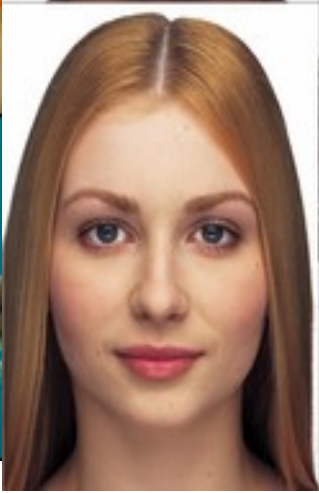
Evolution of the living world



Virginie Courtier-Orgogozo
Institut Jacques Monod, Paris

- **Can we explain the diversity in living forms?**
- **How do living beings evolve?**
- **What about other possible living forms?**





Observable characters (phenotype)

Morphology

Color
Size and Shape
Presence/absence
Position

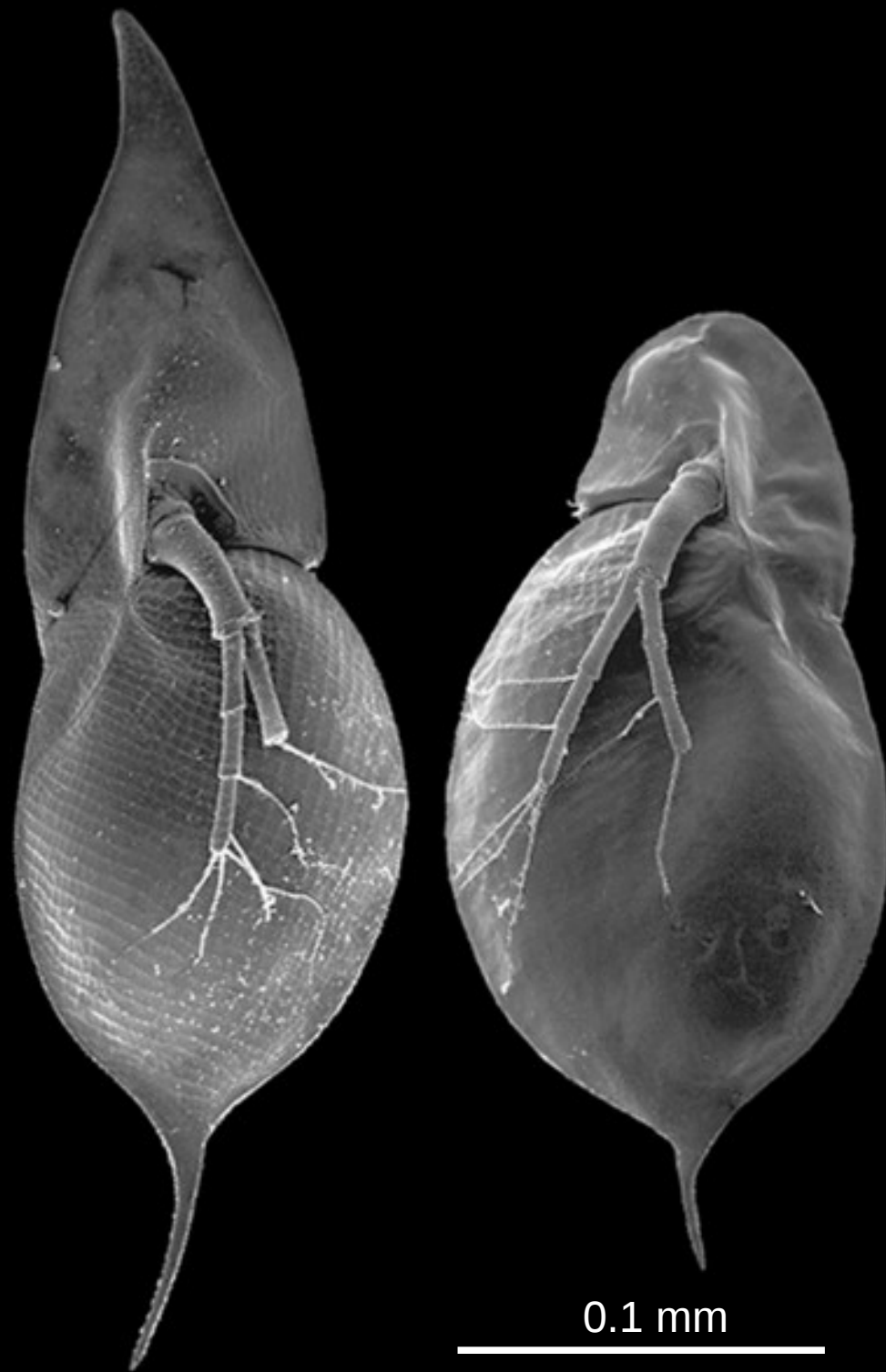


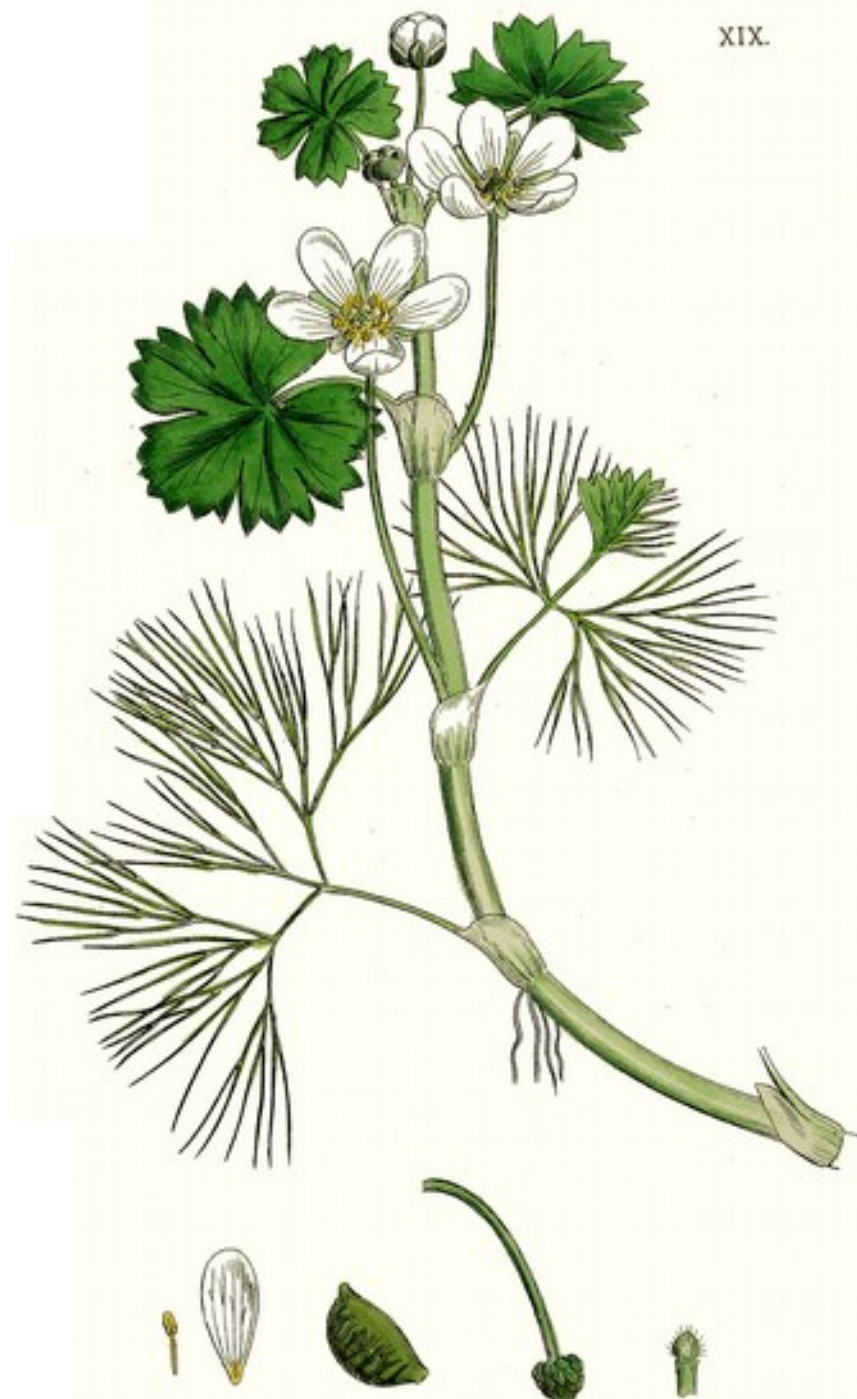
Aristote, Historia animalium, book I, 2, 300BC

Physiology

Behavior







Ranunculus heterophyllus. Various leaved Water-crowfoot.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome



Small eye openings

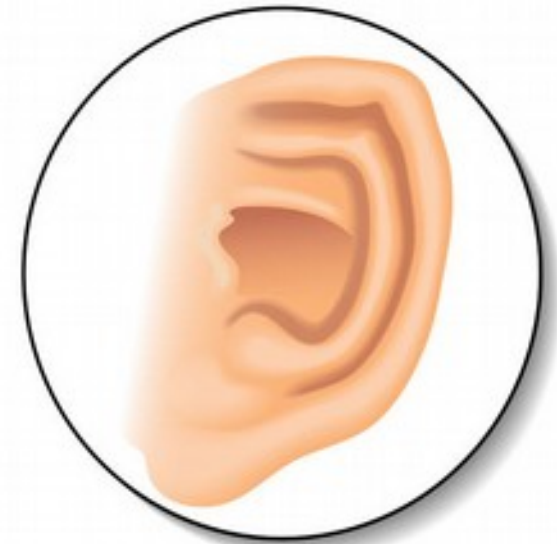
Short nose

Underdeveloped jaw

Low nasal bridge

Indistinct
philtrum

Thin upper lip

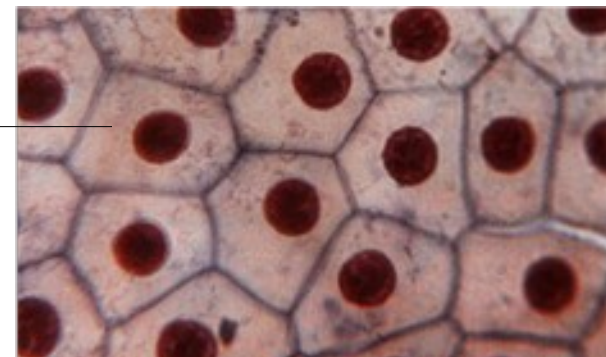
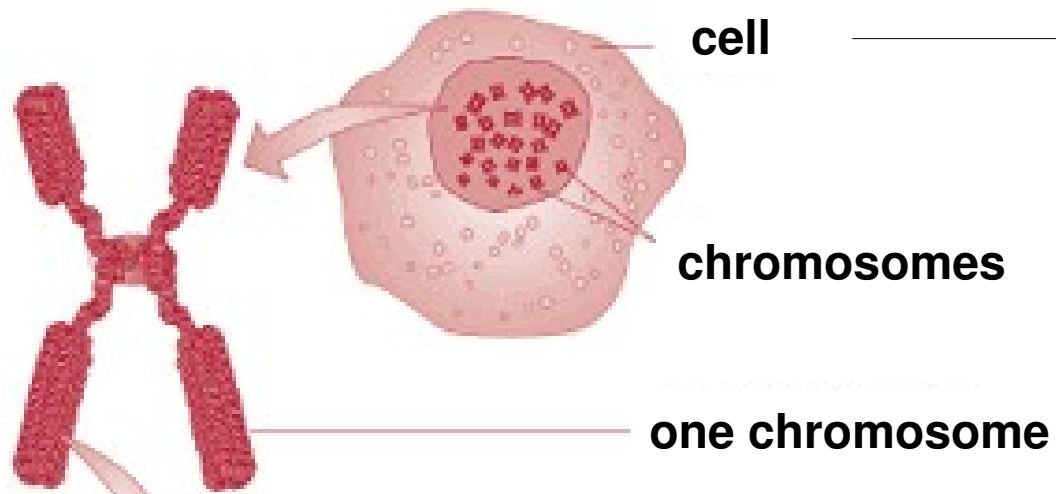


Top of the ear underdeveloped



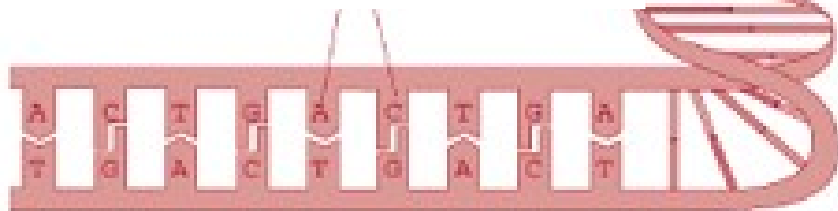
Curved fifth finger (clinodactyly)



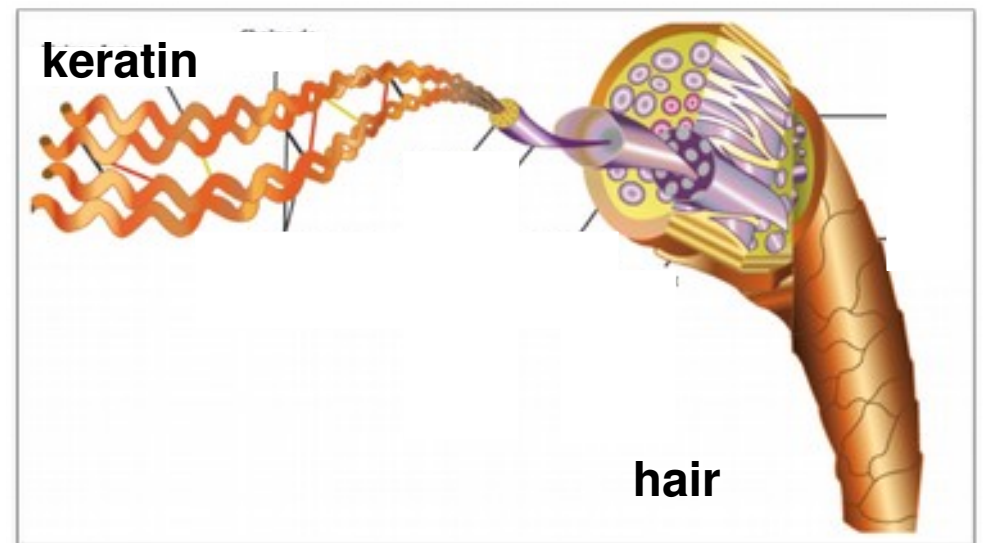
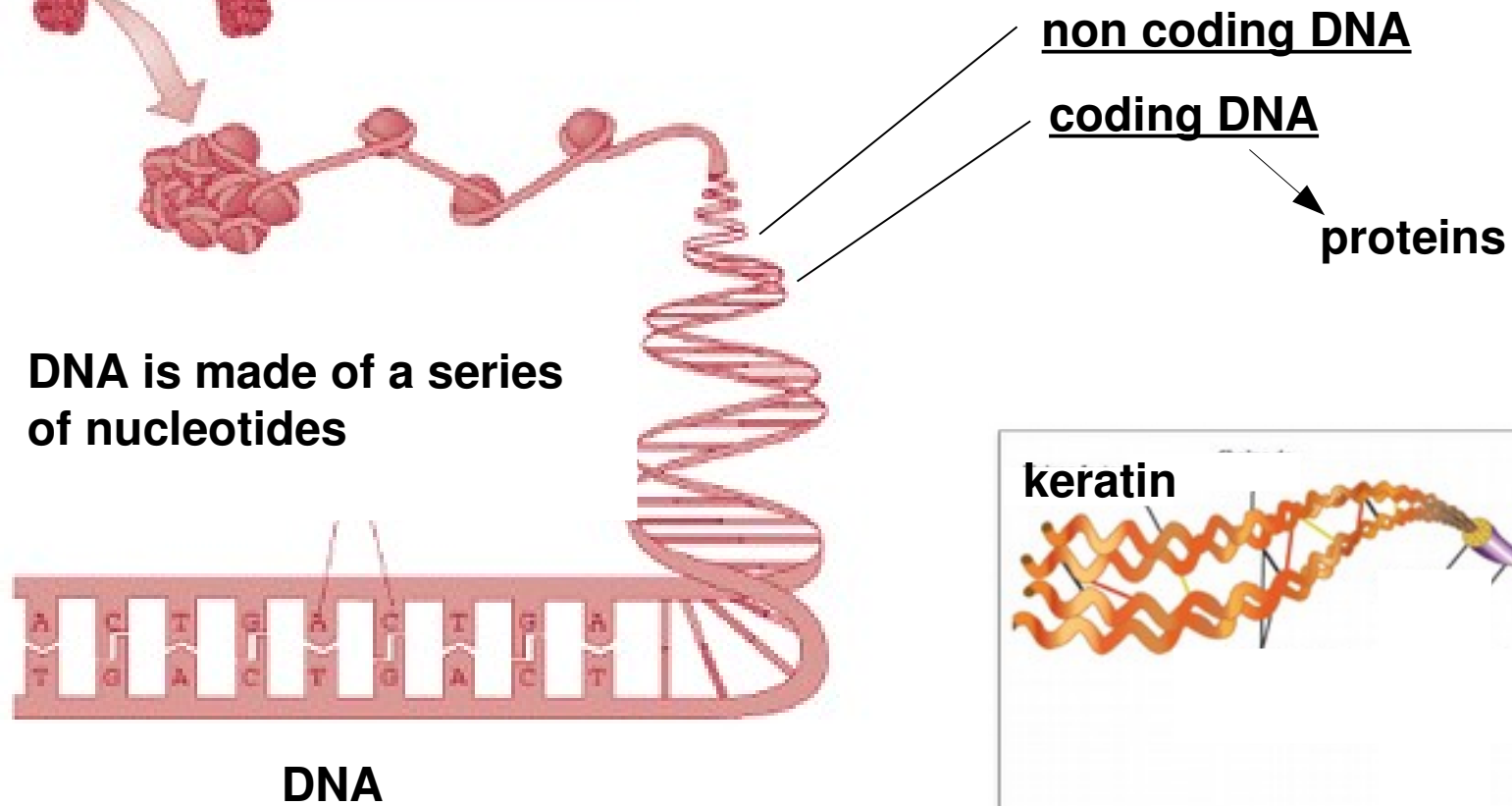
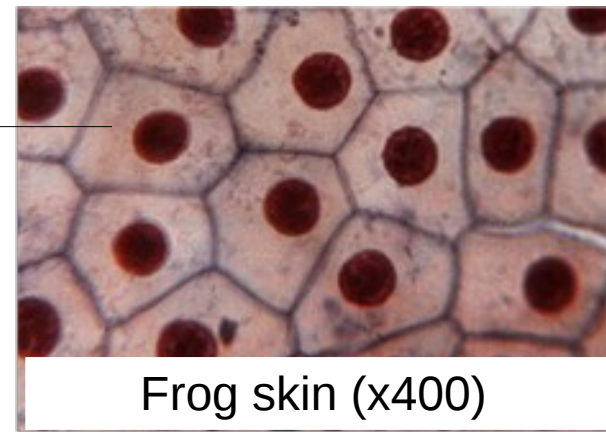
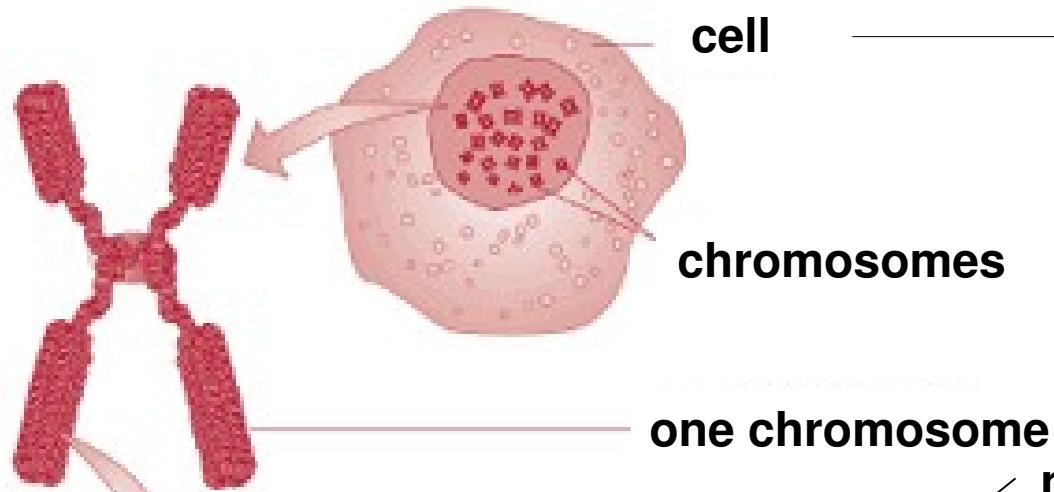


Frog skin (x400)

DNA is made of a series of nucleotides



DNA





Chromosome

Straight hair



TCAAGGCTCTGAACAACAAGTTCGCCTCCTTCATCGACAAG
AGTTCCGAGACTTGTTGTTCAAGCGGAGGAAGTAGCTGTTTC

KRT71
gene

K	A	L	N	N	K	F	A	S	F	I	D	K	...
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-----



Whooly hair



TCAAGGCTCTGAACAACAAGT**G**CGCCTCCTTCATCGACAAG
AGTTCCGAGACTTGTTGTTCA**C**GCGGAGGAAGTAGCTGTTTC

K	A	L	N	N	K	C	A	S	F	I	D	K	...
---	---	---	---	---	---	----------	---	---	---	---	---	---	-----



Genetics

Genes

Amount of food

Alcohol

Mechanical forces

Presence of predators

Temperature

...

Shape

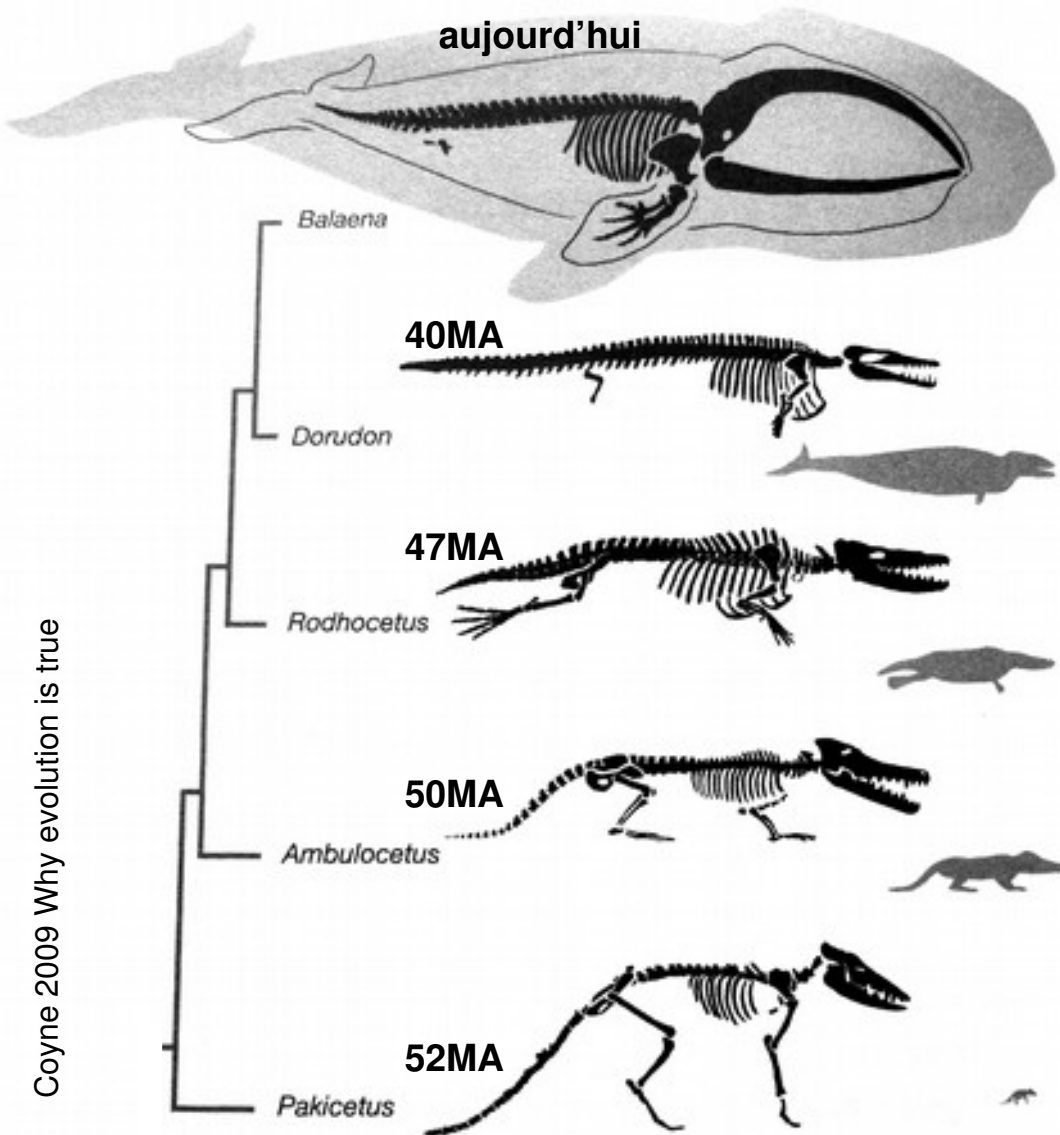
Environment

Stochasticity



- Can we explain the diversity in living forms?
- **How do living beings evolve?**
- What about other possible living forms?

Evolution = modification of living beings over successive generations



The oldest rocks on earth



3,80 MMA



4,03 MMA



3,60 MMA



4,5

Billion years

formation
of the earth

The oldest traces of life

3,48MMA: Biofilm



(Noffke et al. 2013)

3,7MMA: Graphite biogénique



(Ohtomo et al. 2013)

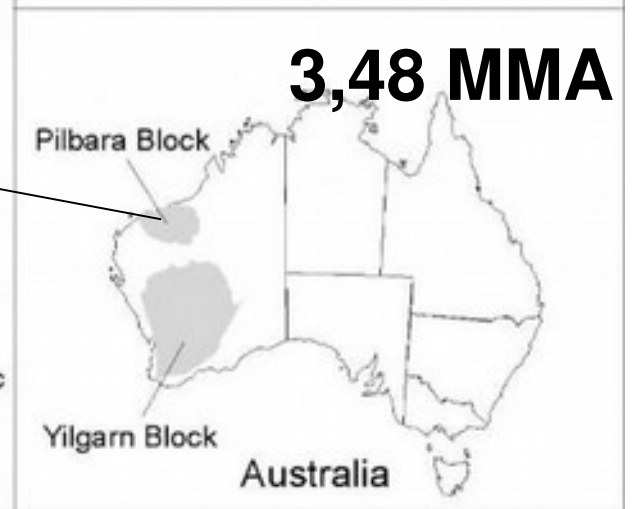
3,80 MMA



4,03 MMA



3,48 MMA



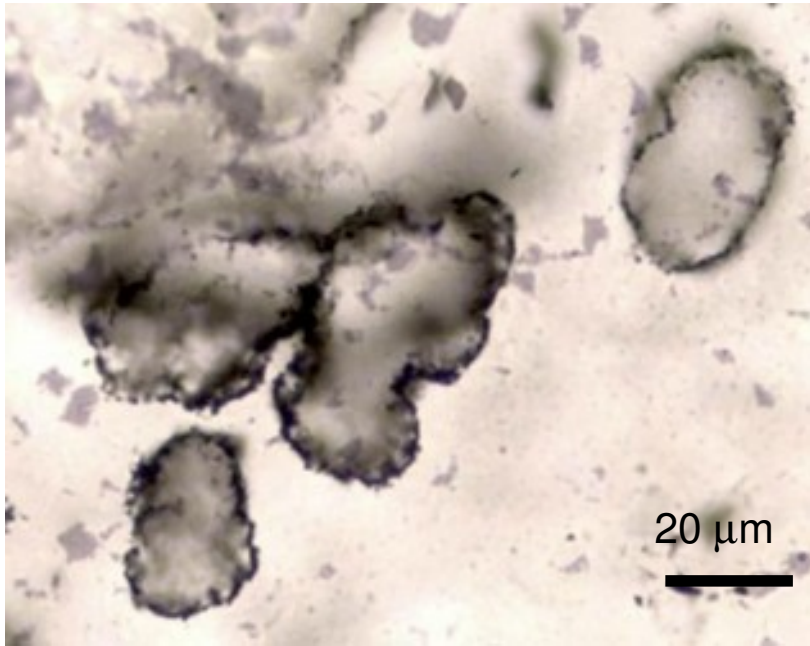
4,5

3,7

Billions of years

1st traces (graphite)

First fossilized cells : 3,4 MMA



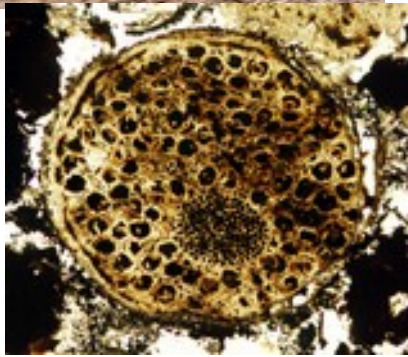
(Wacey et al. 2011)



Strelley Pool Formation, Australie



Ediacara fossils: 630-540MA



1st traces (graphite)
1st fossilized cells

1st complex fossils
Ediacara fauna

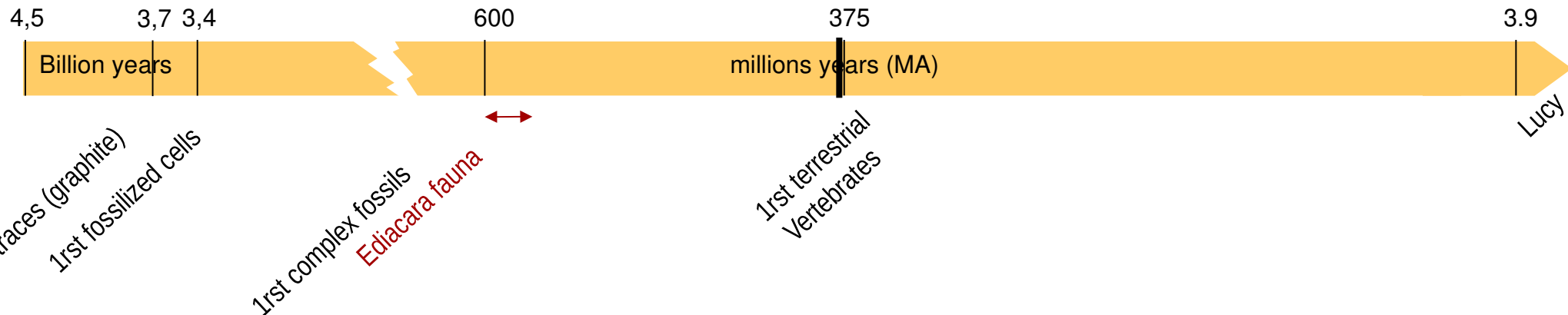
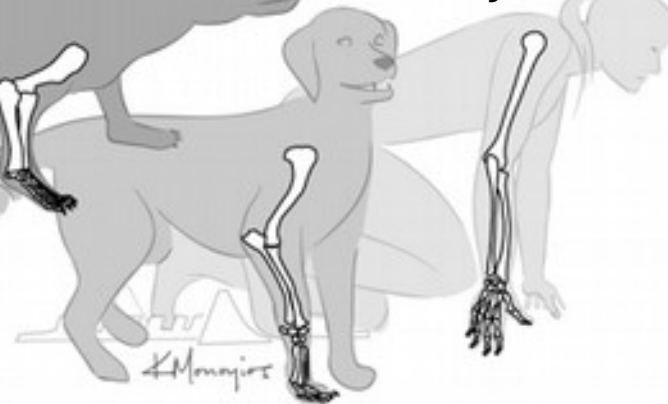
Vertebrates move out of water



Acanthostega gunnari (365MA)

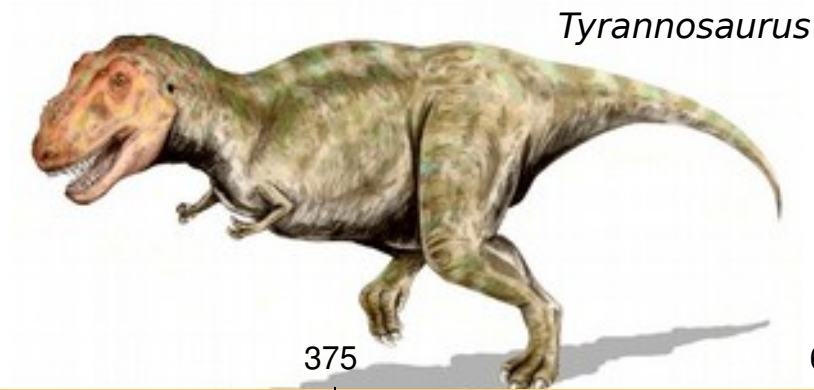
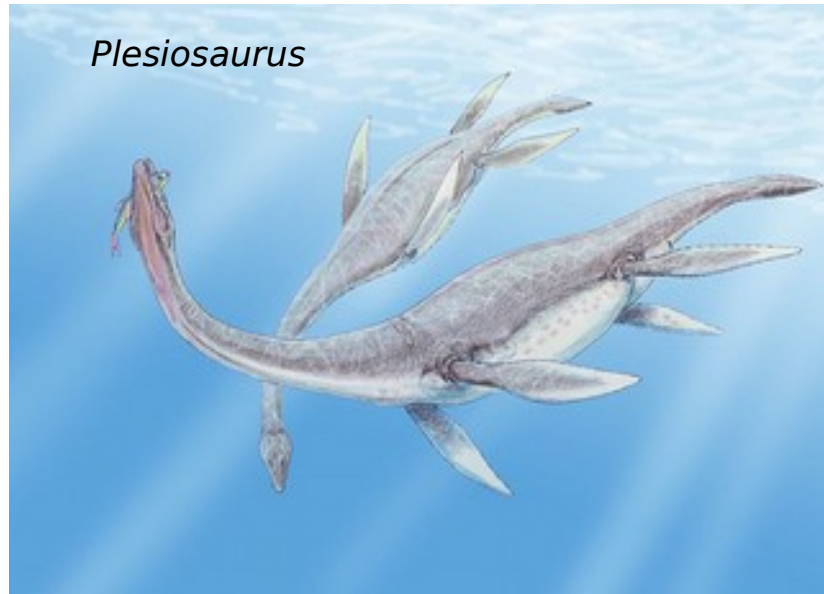
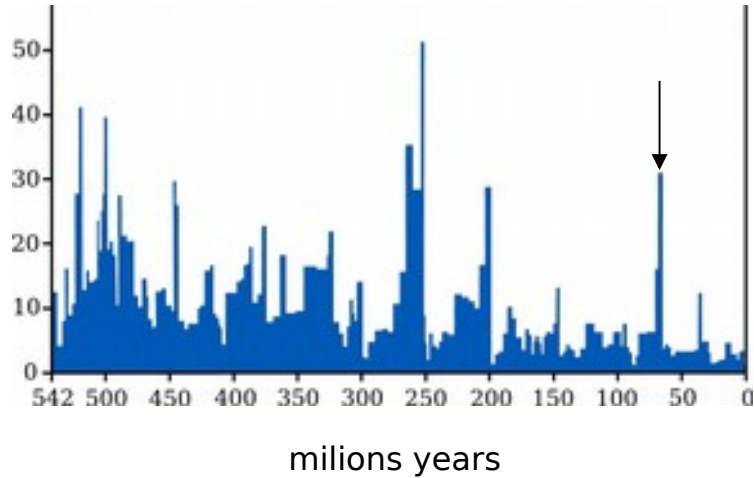


aujourd'hui



Mass Extinction: 65MA

% lost genera of marine animals



Linked to important changes in the environment

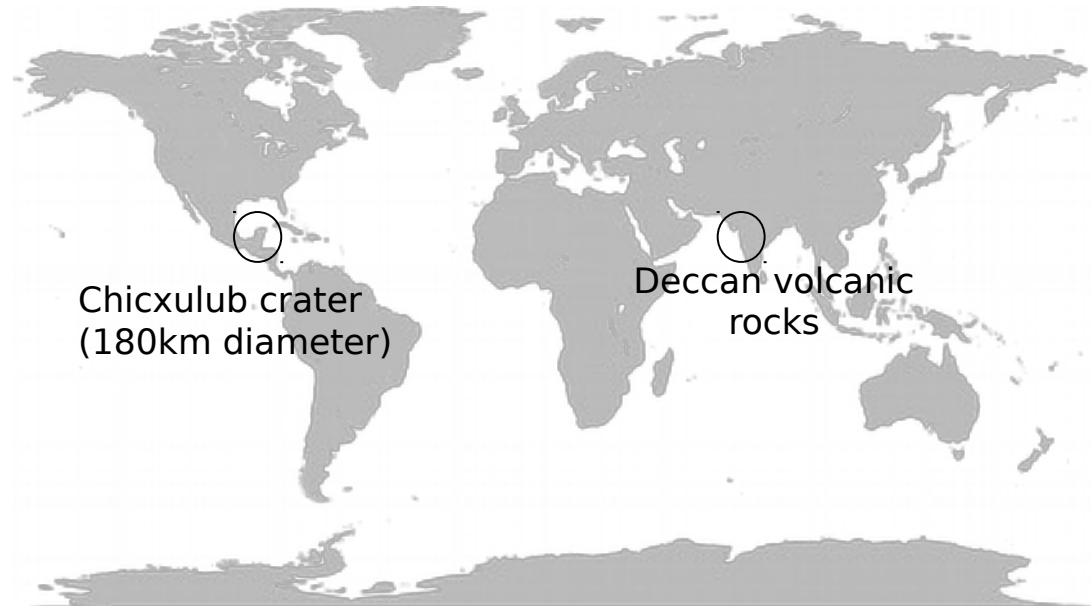


Wyoming Rocks

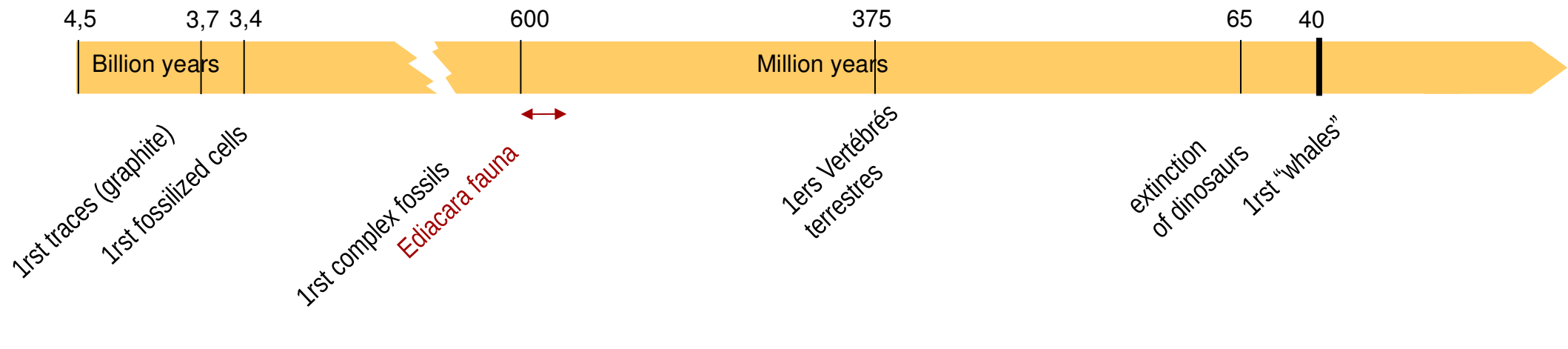
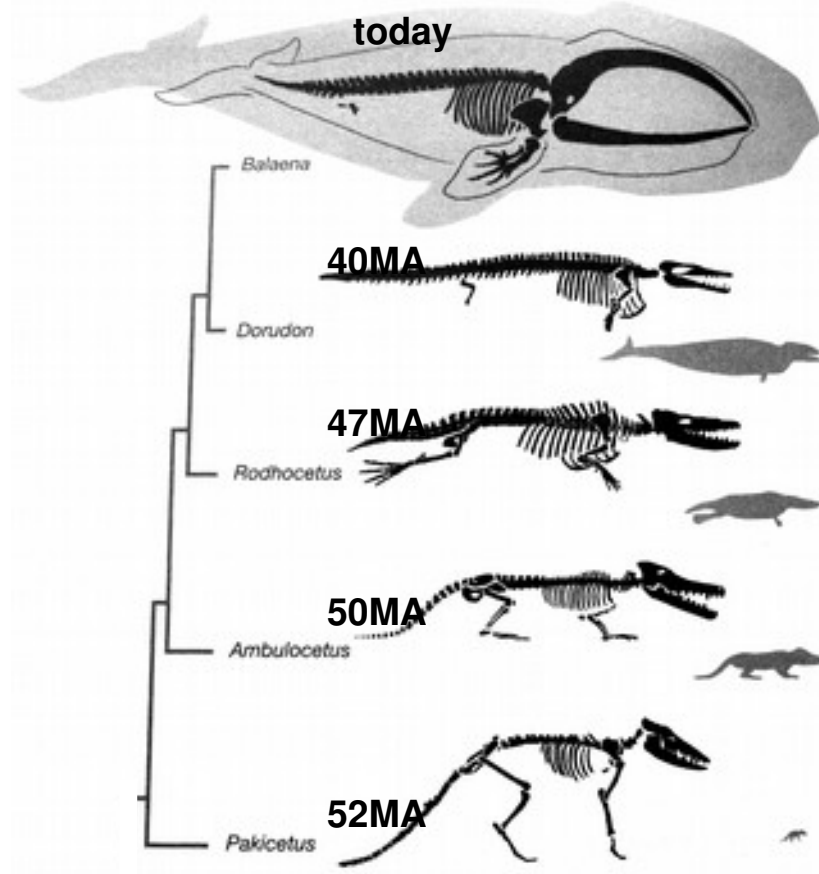
after 65MY

65MA : 1000 times more iridium

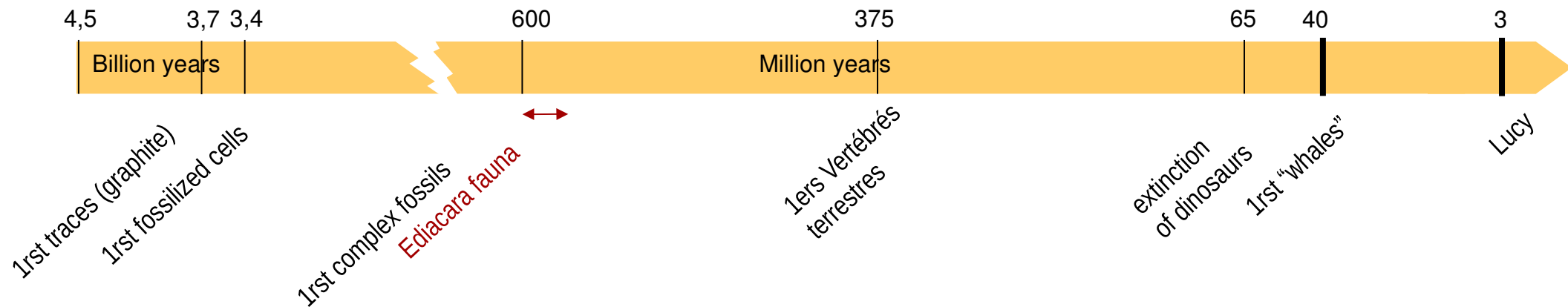
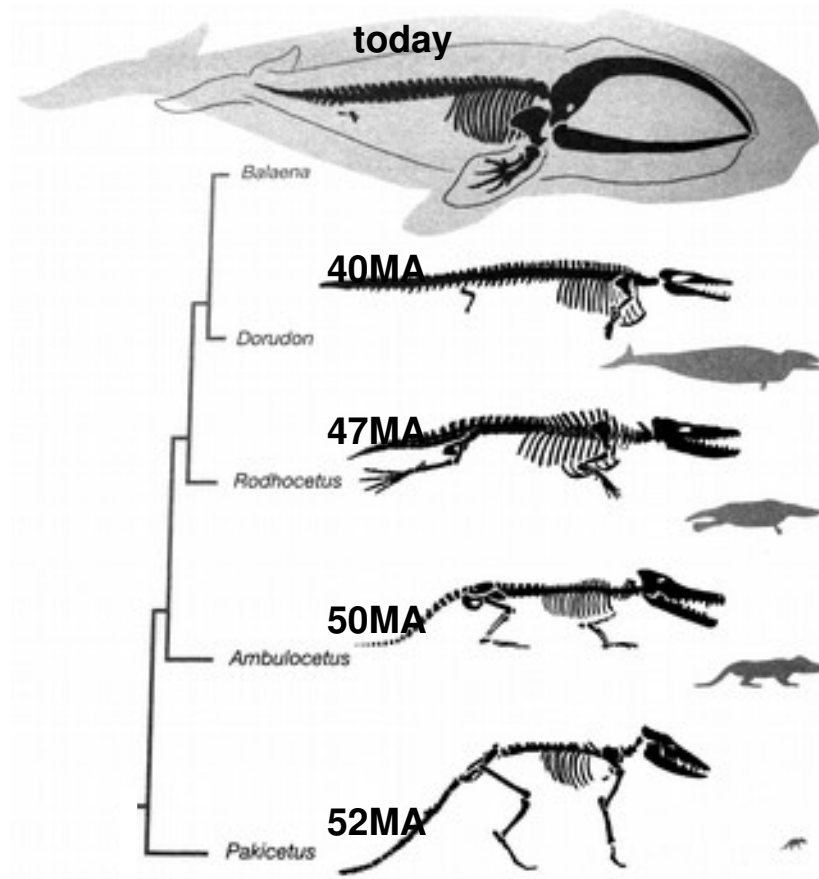
before 65MA



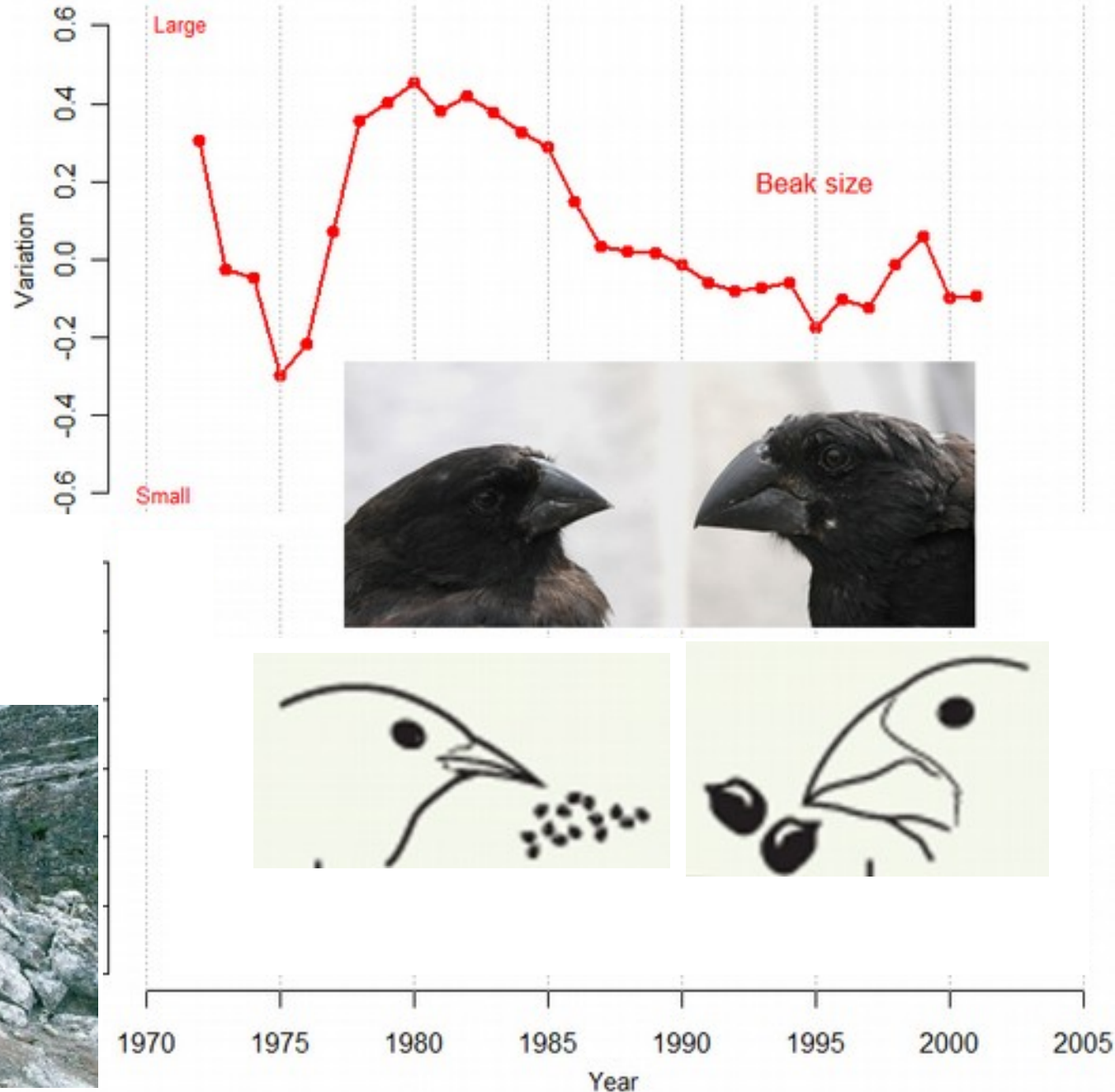
Back to water for some Mammals



Back to water for some Mammals

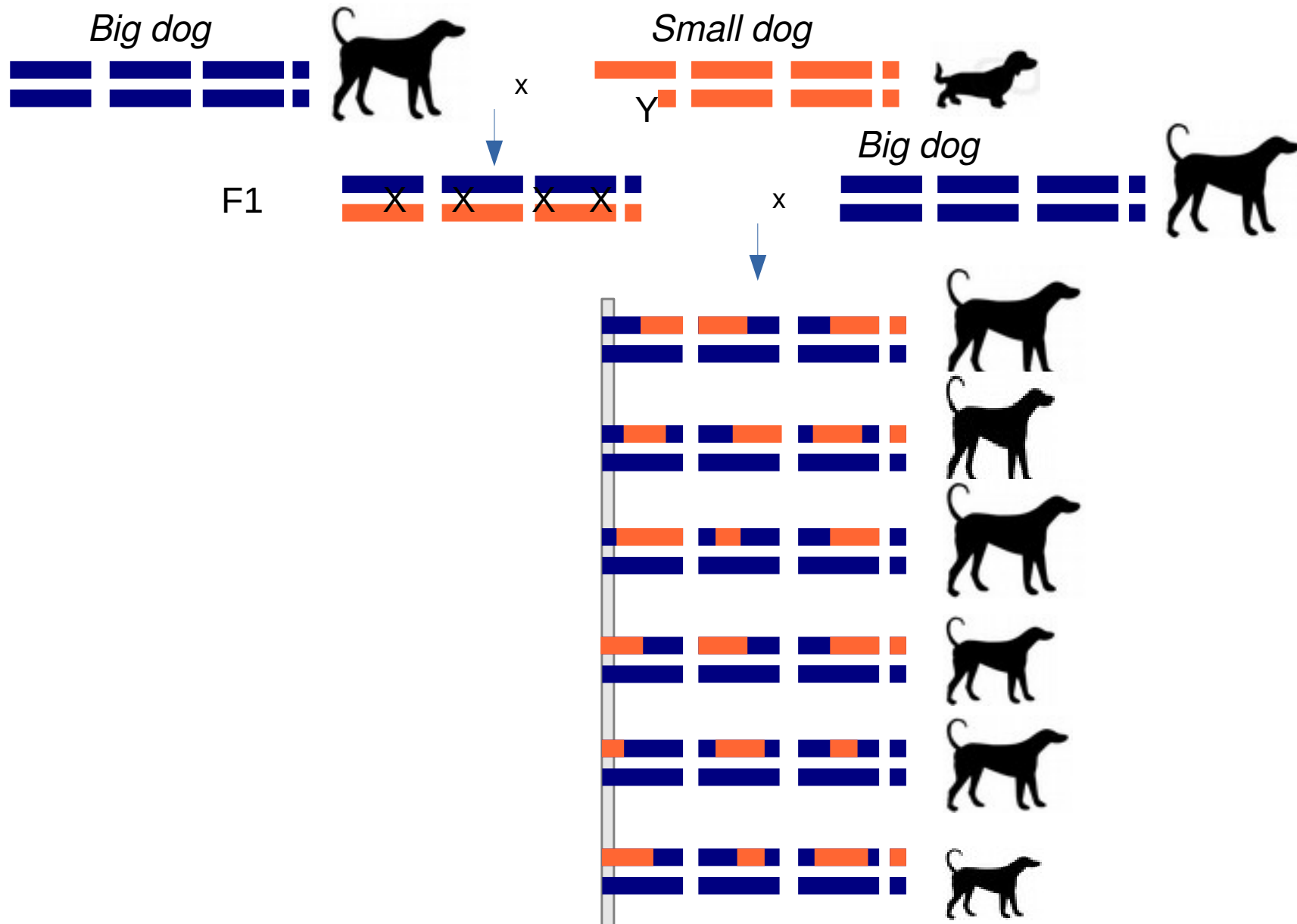


Rapid Evolution in Galapagos islands





Crosses and genetics



Association between DNA and phenotype

Small dogs carry a different *insuline IGF1* gene

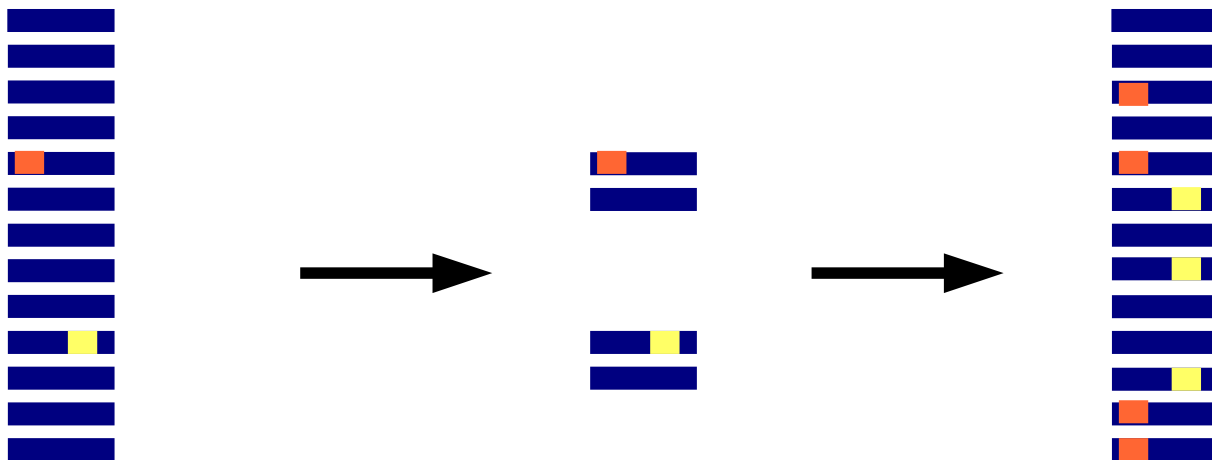
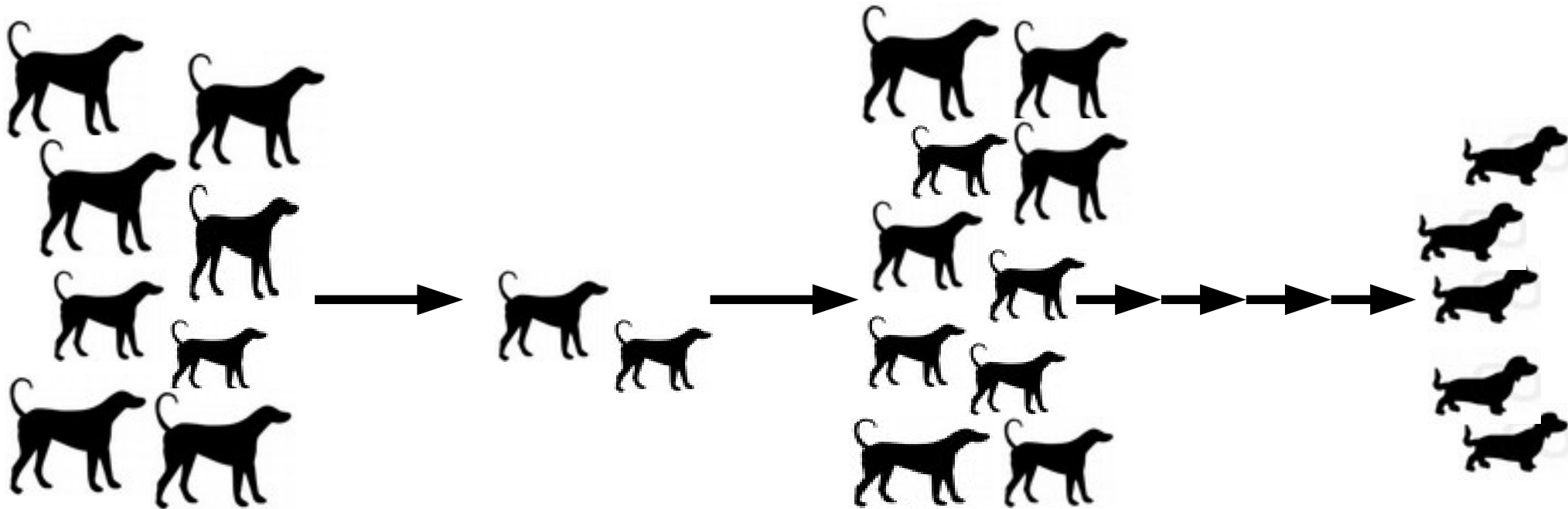


**Small dogs carry a different
insuline IGF1 gene**



**Same genetic association
in humans and mouse**

Evolution



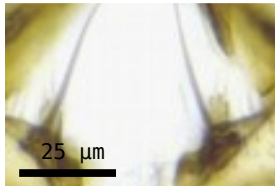
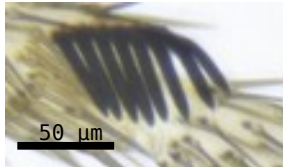
D. yakuba



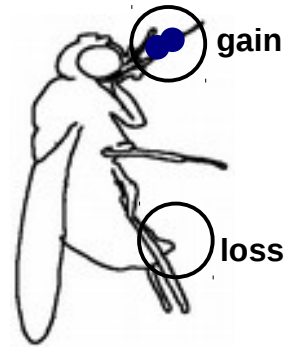
D. santomea



D. yakuba

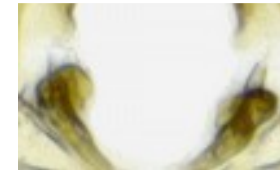


ancestor

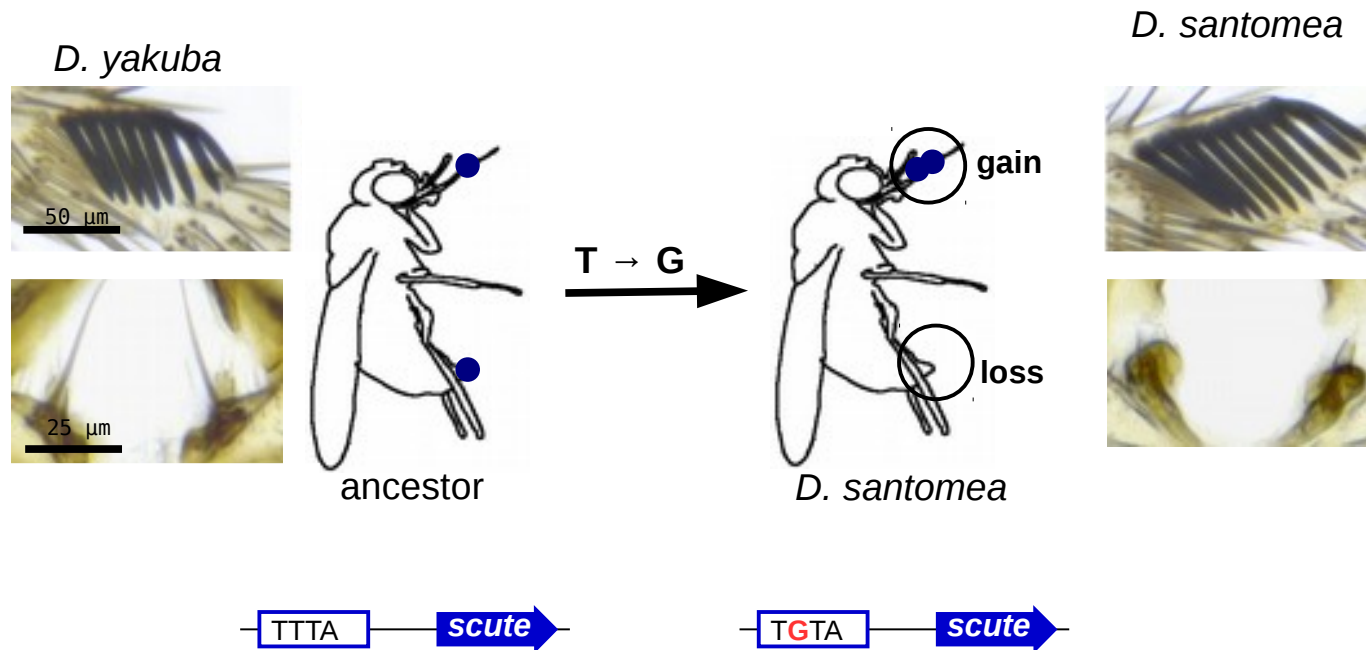


D. santomea

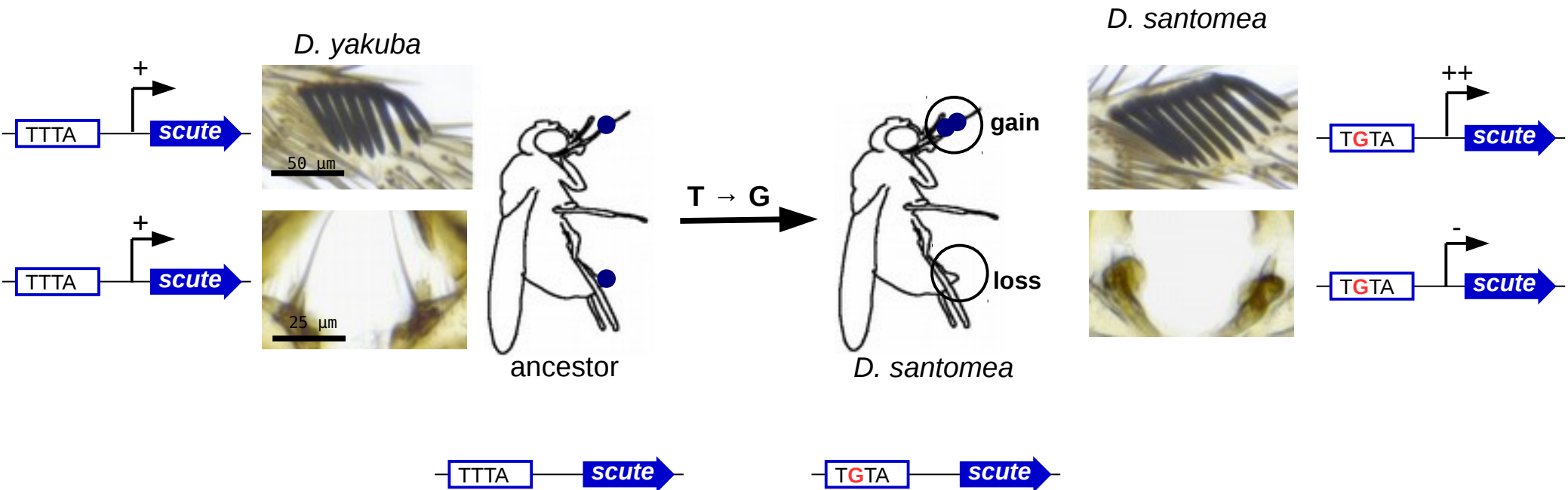
D. santomea



A single mutation decreases genital bristles and increases leg bristles



A single mutation decreases genital bristles and increases leg bristles



- Can we explain the diversity in living forms?
- How do living beings evolve?
- **What about other possible living forms?**

Same evolution in the same conditions

Placentals

North and South America

Marsupials

Australia



Mole



Marsupial mole



Lesser anteater



Numbat (anteater)



Mouse



Marsupial mouse



Lemur



Spotted cuscus



Flying squirrel



Flying phalanger



Ocelot



Tasmanian "tiger cat"



Wolf



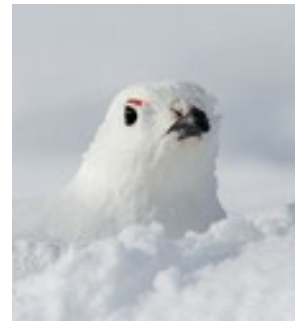
Tasmanian wolf

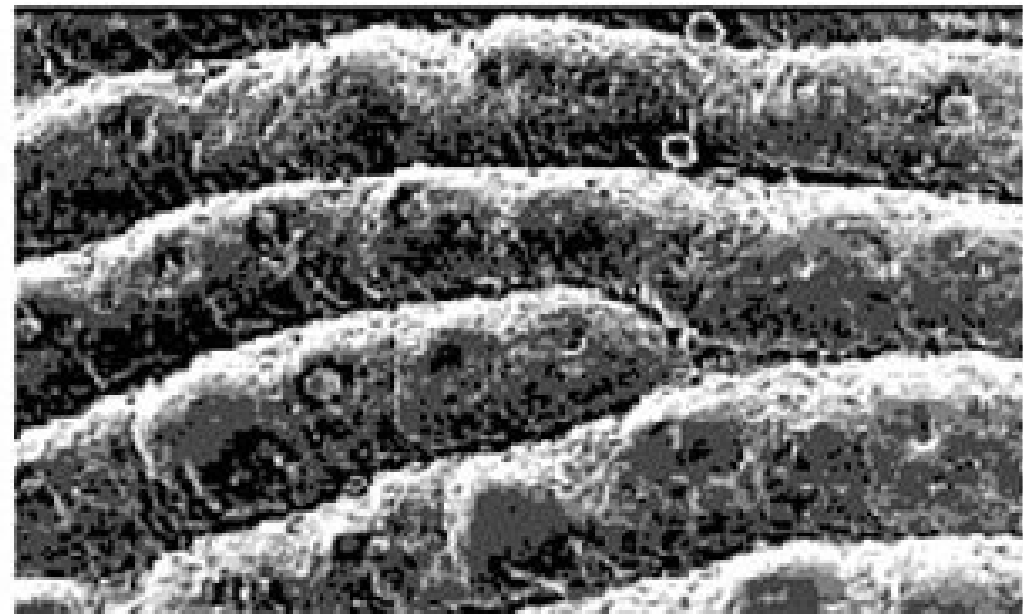
Euphorbs

Asia, Australia, Africa

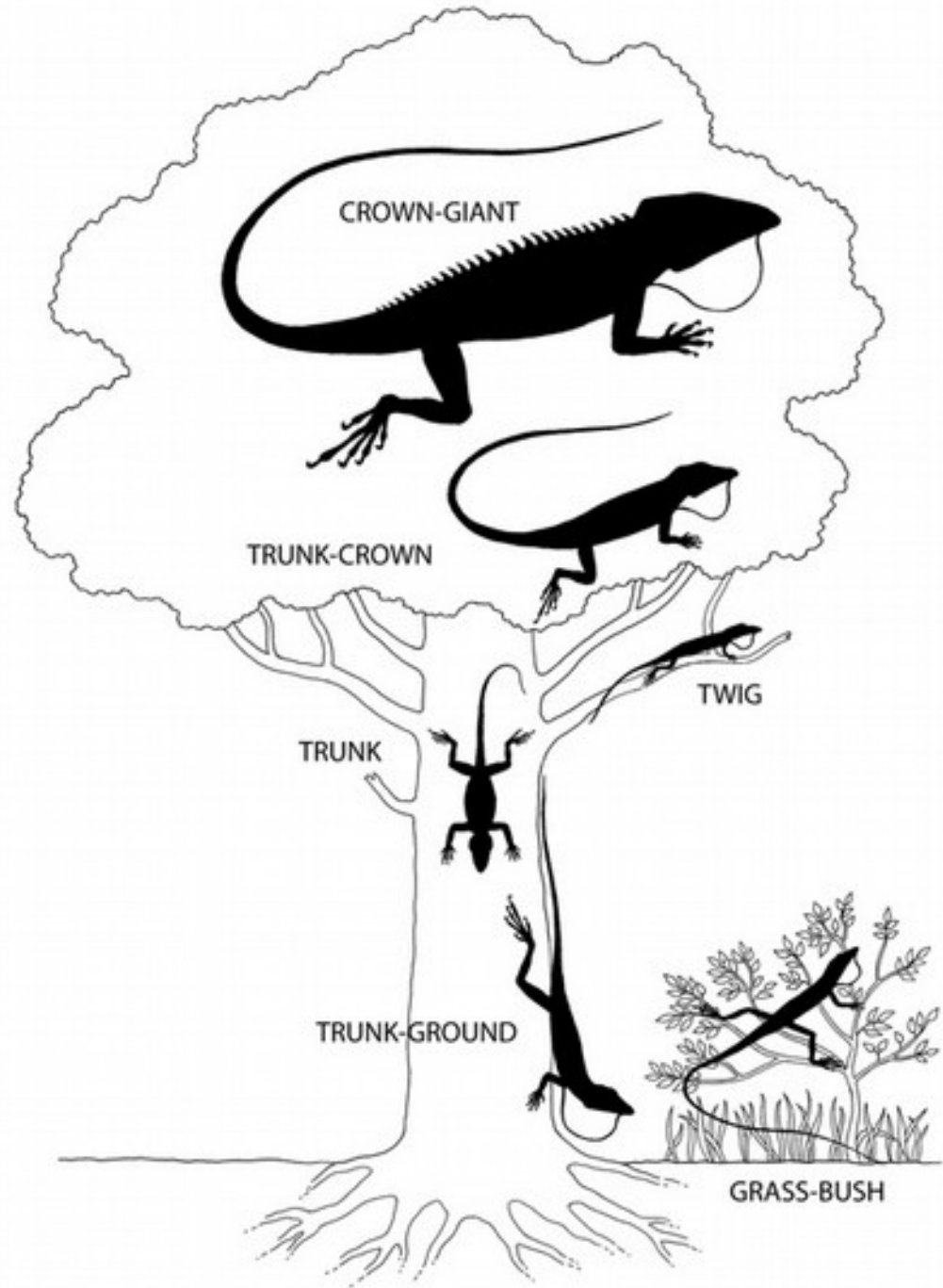
Cactae

North and South America

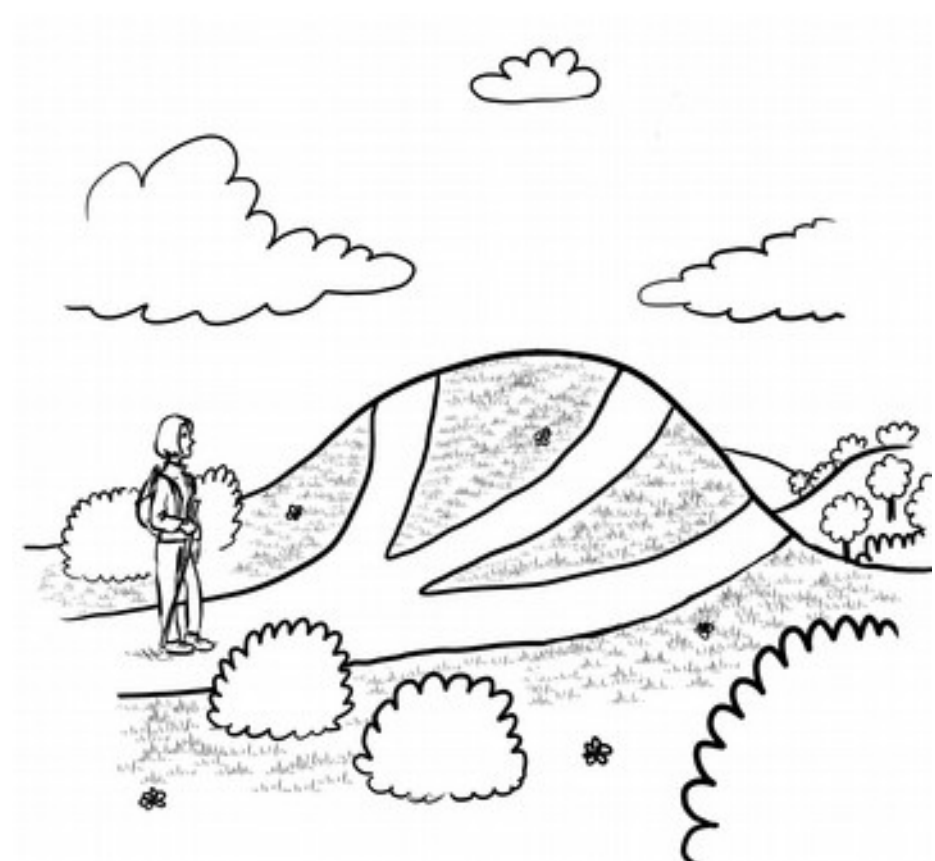
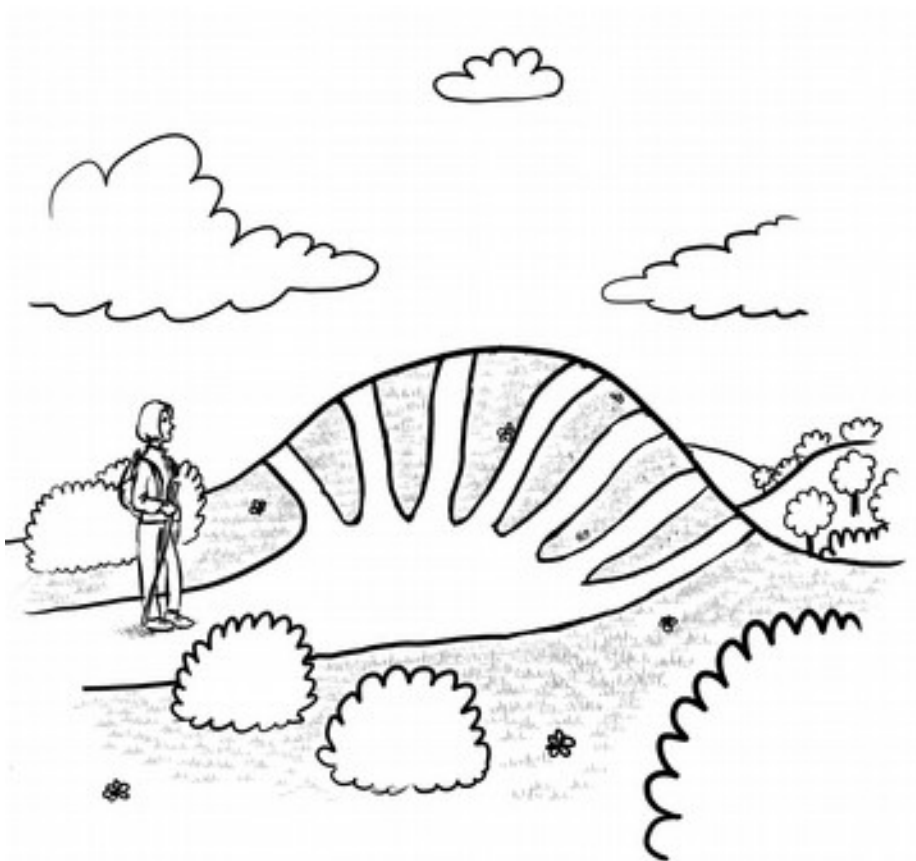




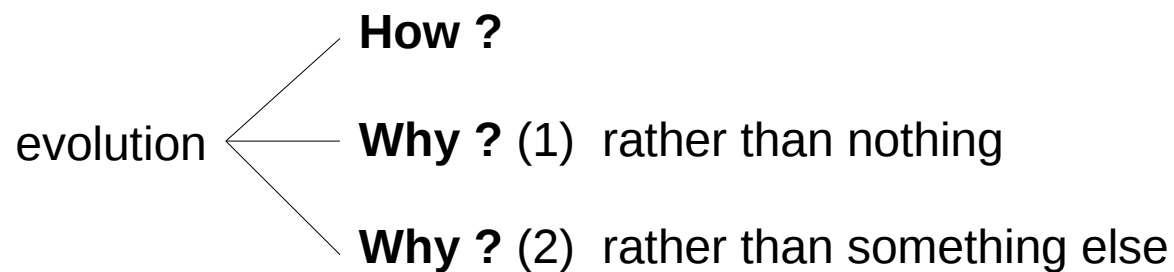
Same evolution in multiple Caribbean islands



**The number of possible paths
is smaller than previously thought**



What kinds of other living forms?



Imagining other living worlds

1. combining characters

2. changing a variable
number of arms, gravity, etc.

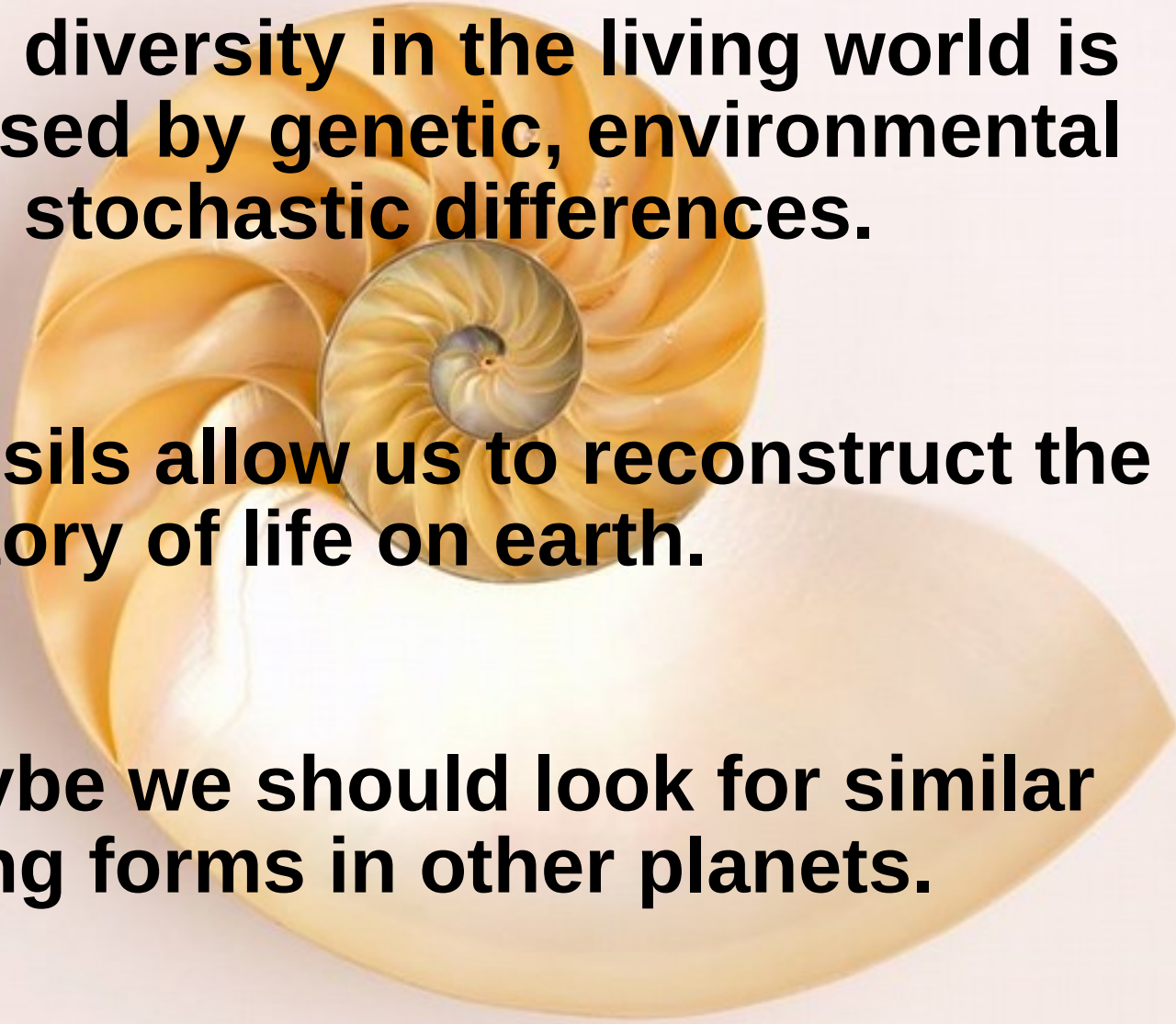
3. analogy with non-living objects

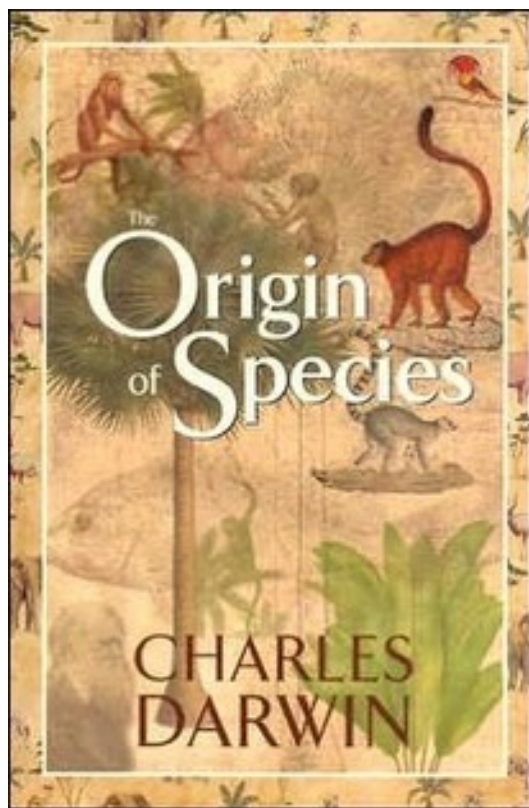


**Always refers to
our known world**

Conclusion

- **The diversity in the living world is caused by genetic, environmental and stochastic differences.**
- **Fossils allow us to reconstruct the history of life on earth.**
- **Maybe we should look for similar living forms in other planets.**





'Compelling . . . masterful . . .
outstandingly good.'
Richard Dawkins, *TLS*

WHY EVOLUTION IS TRUE



JERRY A. COYNE

