

# **ESA: Extreme habitable worlds**

Origin of life on earth by RNA and viruses

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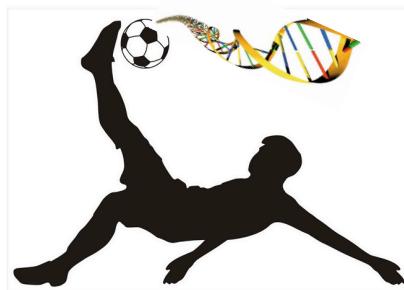
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# Origin of life on earth by RNA and viruses

magnified virus

HGT



„I am a .... Virus"

Are viruses our oldest ancestors?

What contemporary viruses tell us about evolution

Viruses more friends than foes (2017)

# Viruses are ubiquitous

EM

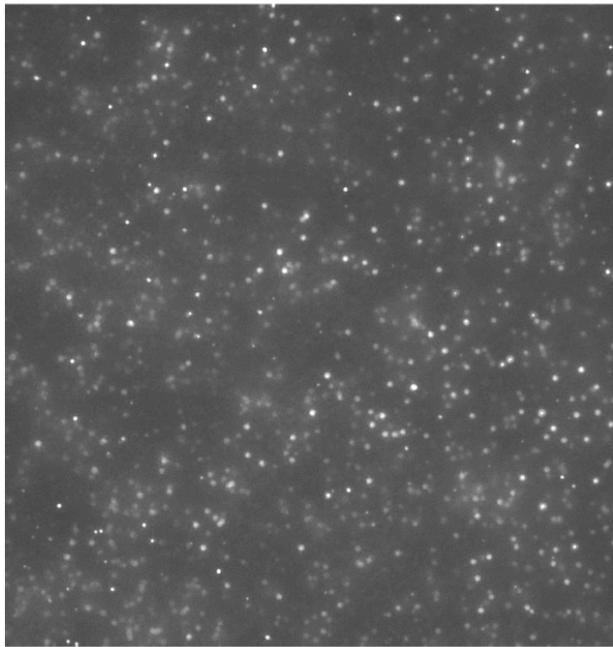


FIG. 1. SYBR Gold-stained human fecal viral concentrate under epifluorescent microscopy. No contaminating microbial cells were observed.

Viruses:  $10^{33}$

Atoms  $10^{80}$



Stars:  $10^{25}$



Sand  $10^{28}$

# Life: Replication und Evolution – viroids as MODEL

## Def: Proteinsynthesis

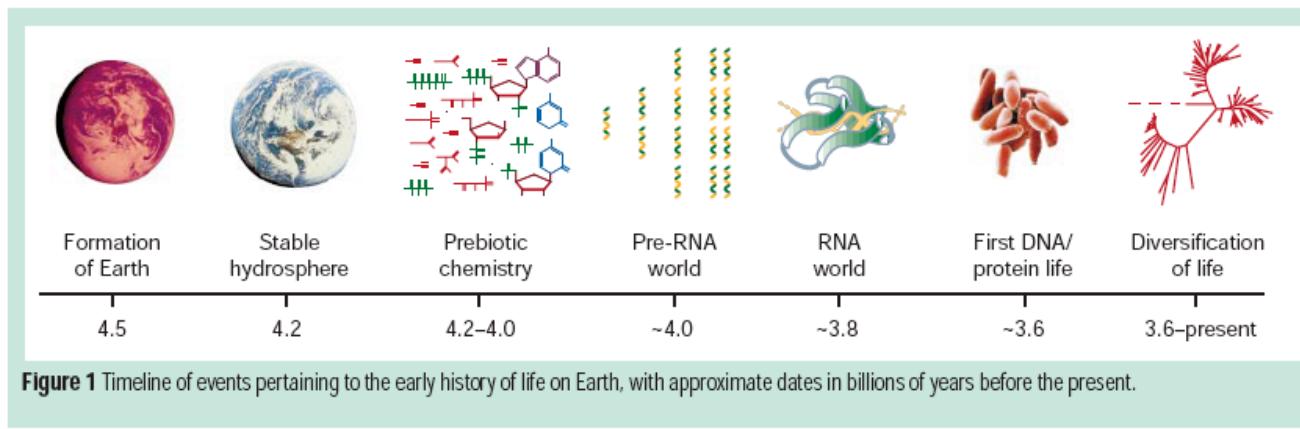
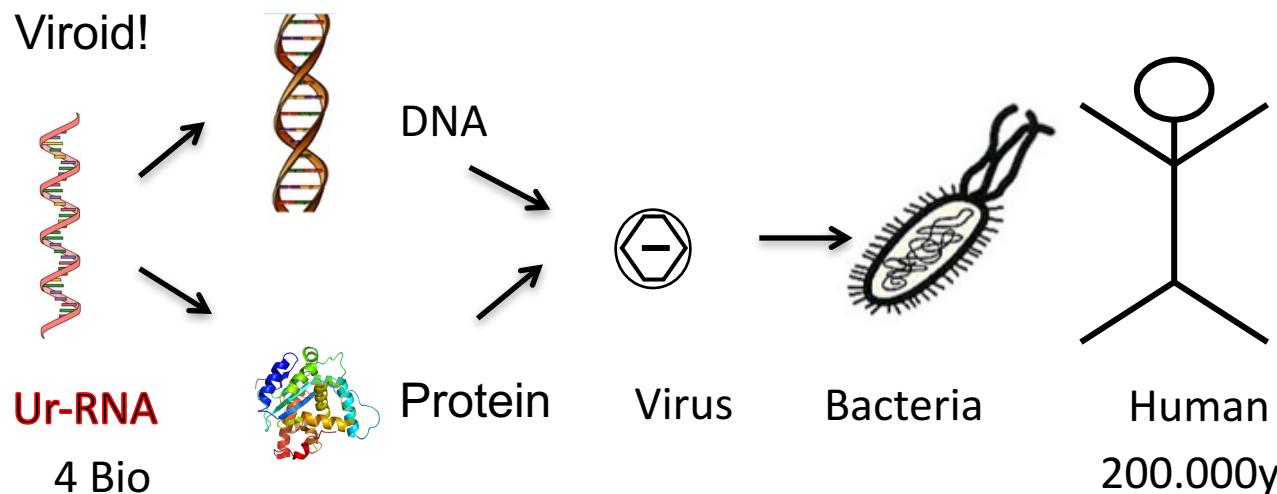
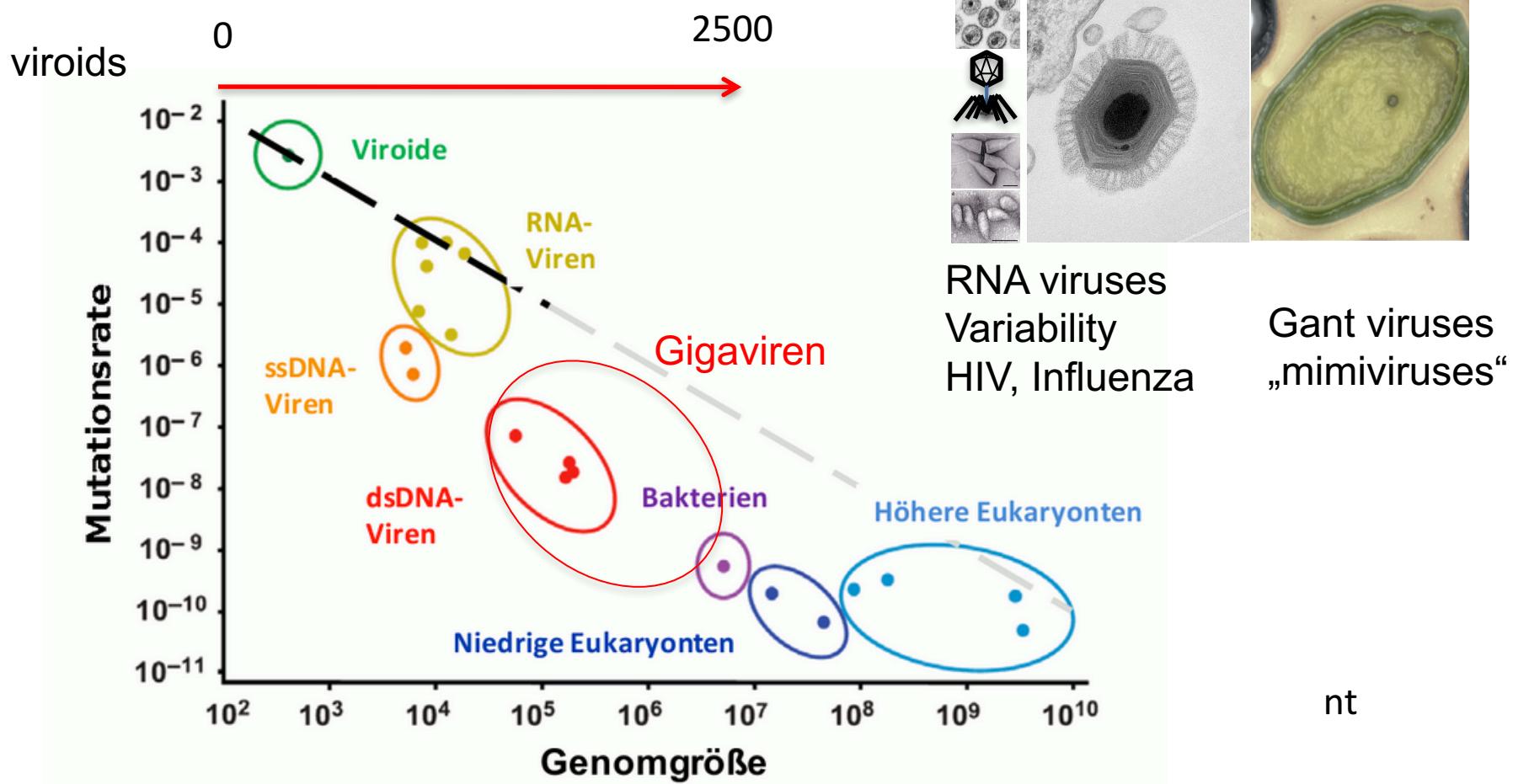
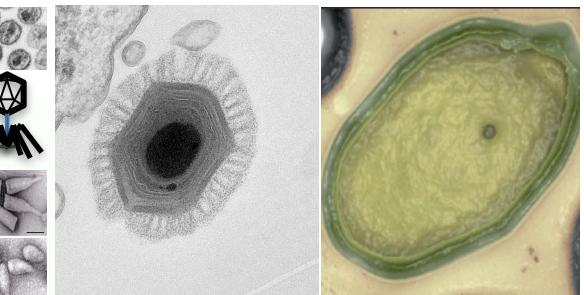


Figure 1 Timeline of events pertaining to the early history of life on Earth, with approximate dates in billions of years before the present.

# Viruses zero genes (0-2500 genes)!

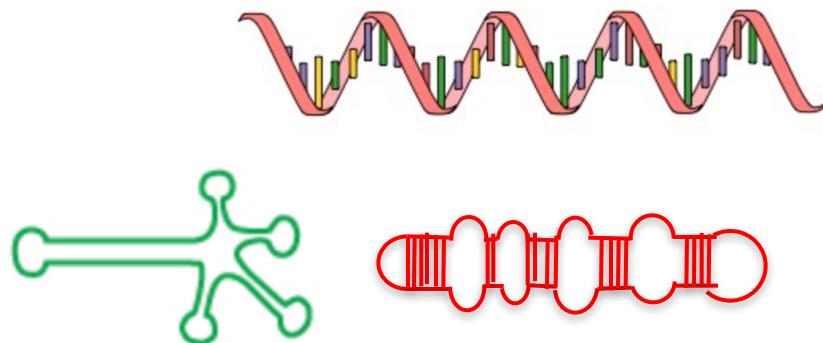


*E. coli*  $5 \times 10^6$  bp, 1.700 genes, *cyanobact*  $3.5 \times 10^6$  bp,  
3.000 genes,  $O_2$  producers, giant viruses 2.500 genes  
Humans have  $3.2 \times 10^9$  bp, 20.000 genes

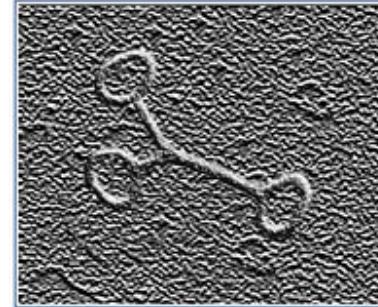


1 Gene = 1000 nt

# Ribozyme/Viroid, smallest Virus:



Ur-RNA



pluripotent: closed circles, cleave, join, replicate, mutate, evolve, nc, structural info, can gain or lose catalytic activity  
peptide bond formation

„Ribosomes are ribozymes“ (Steitz, Yonath), NP

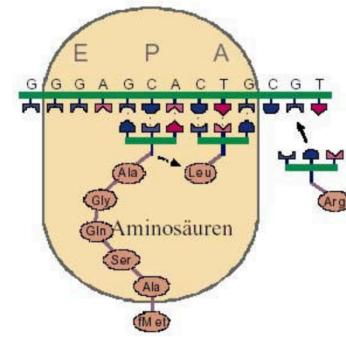
Plant pathogen

Humans: Hepatitis Delta Virus (HBV as helper)

**Gene regulators (98% hu genome reg 2% proteins)**

CircRNA "sponge" today 25.000 miR per cell,  
regulators of regulators

ncRNA, miR, siRNA, lncRNA, circRNA, mRNA, tRNA,  
**piRNA** (transgenerational genetics in semen  
transmitted),



ribosome



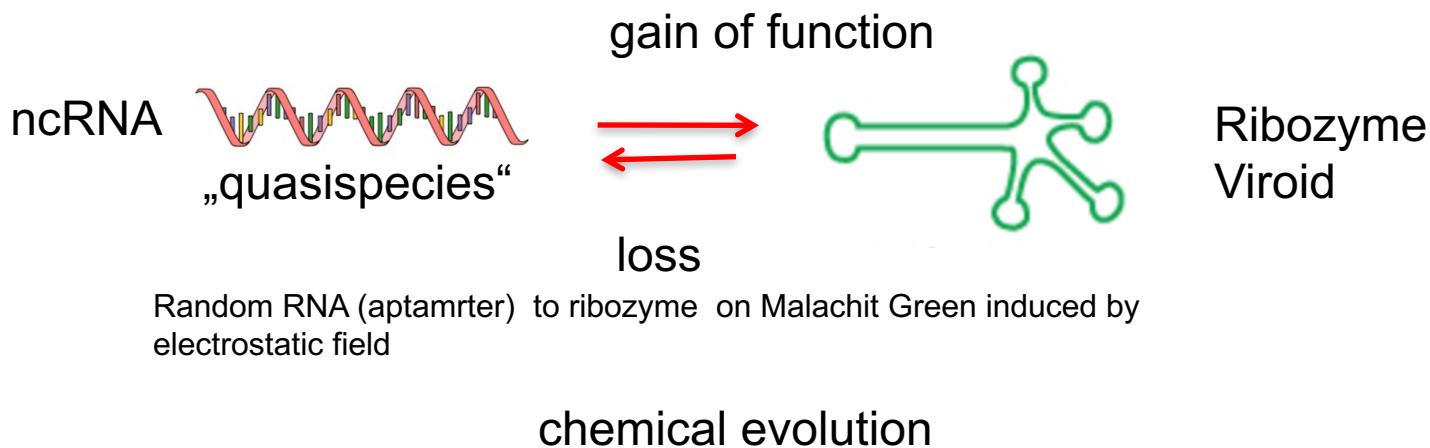
HDV code and coat!

Lincoln&Joyce, Science 323,1229(2009)  
T.Taylor,T.Cech, F.Dyson  
T.Diener, H. Sänger Giessen

RNA world: anaerobic, no lights, chemotrophic, biological activity, evolution, no protein synthesis

test tube!

- One pot synthesis: H,C,N,O, P: nucleotide, amino acid, lipid
- Polymerization
- non-coding (nc)RNA to Ribozyme/viroid



Patel et al Sutherland 2015

Brackett and Dieckmann, ChemBioChem 7, 839 (2006)

Wilson and Szostak Ann Rev Biochem 1999

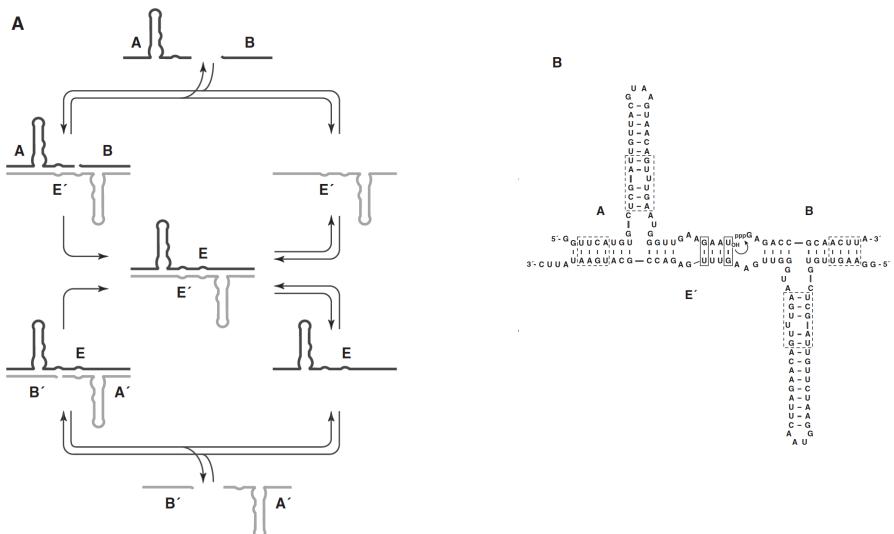
K Moelling ESA 2017

Cech and Altman NP: Ribozyme  
T Diener and Sänger: viroid

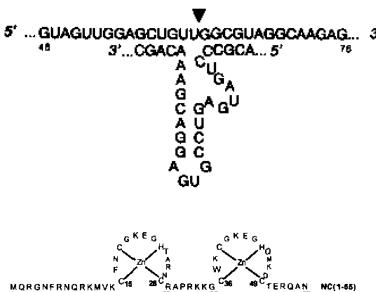
J.Joyce

# Self-sustained replication of ribozyme

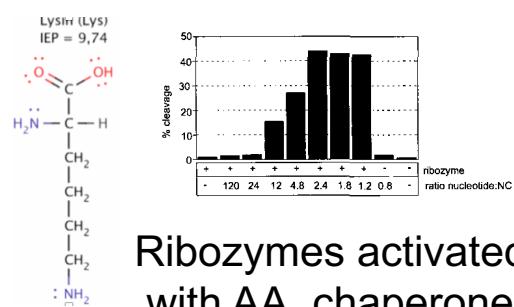
J.Szostak



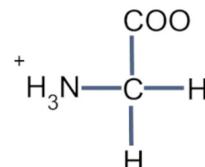
98% of human genome is for ncRNA



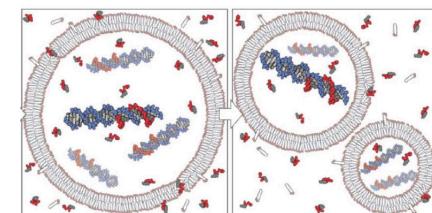
NC HIV



## Ribozymes activated with AA, chaperone



## glycine (Mars Rosetta)



# liposomes

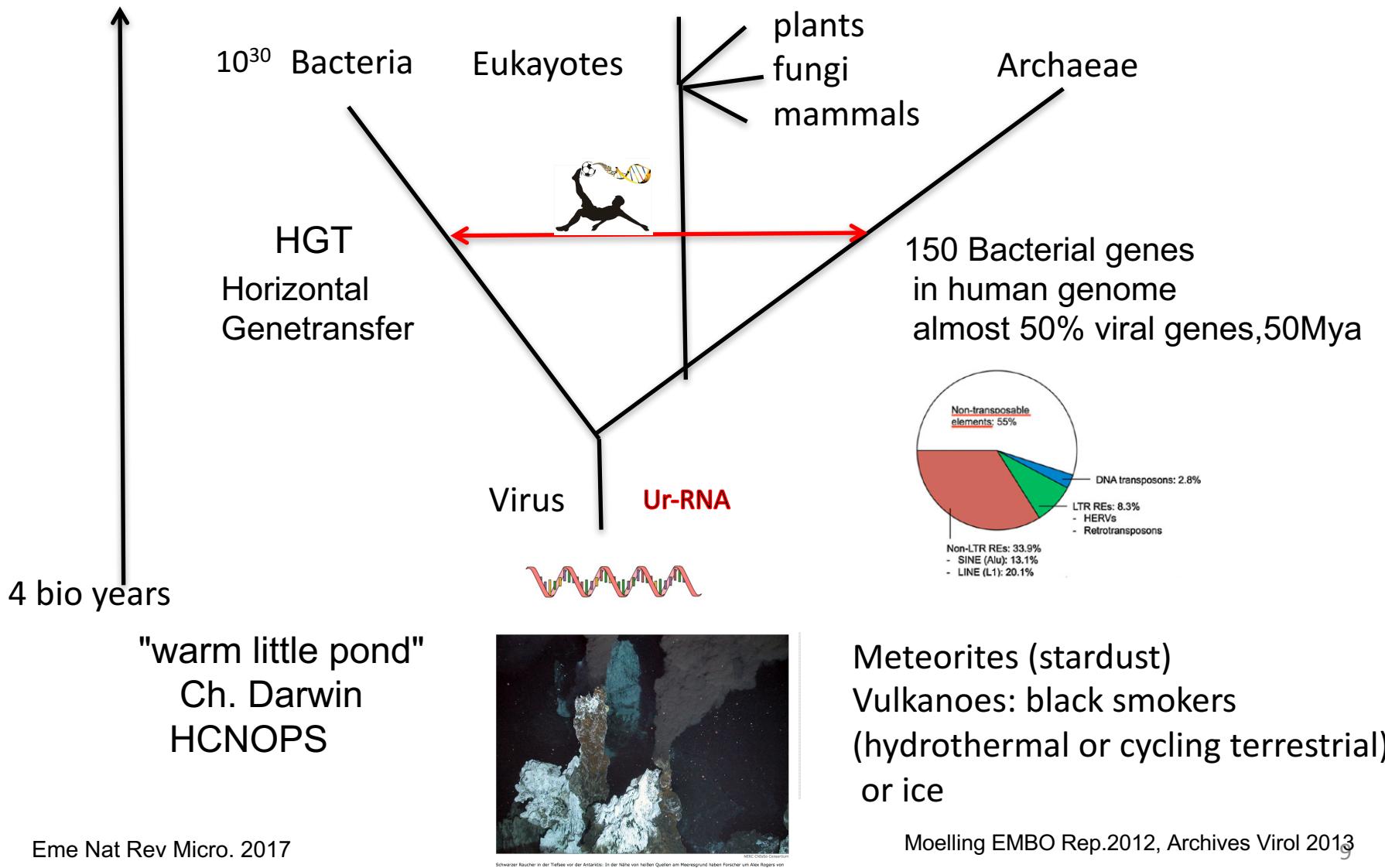
Müller et al Moelling.JBC 242,422(1994)

K Moelling ESA 2017

Lincoln and J. Joyce Science 323, 1229 (2009).

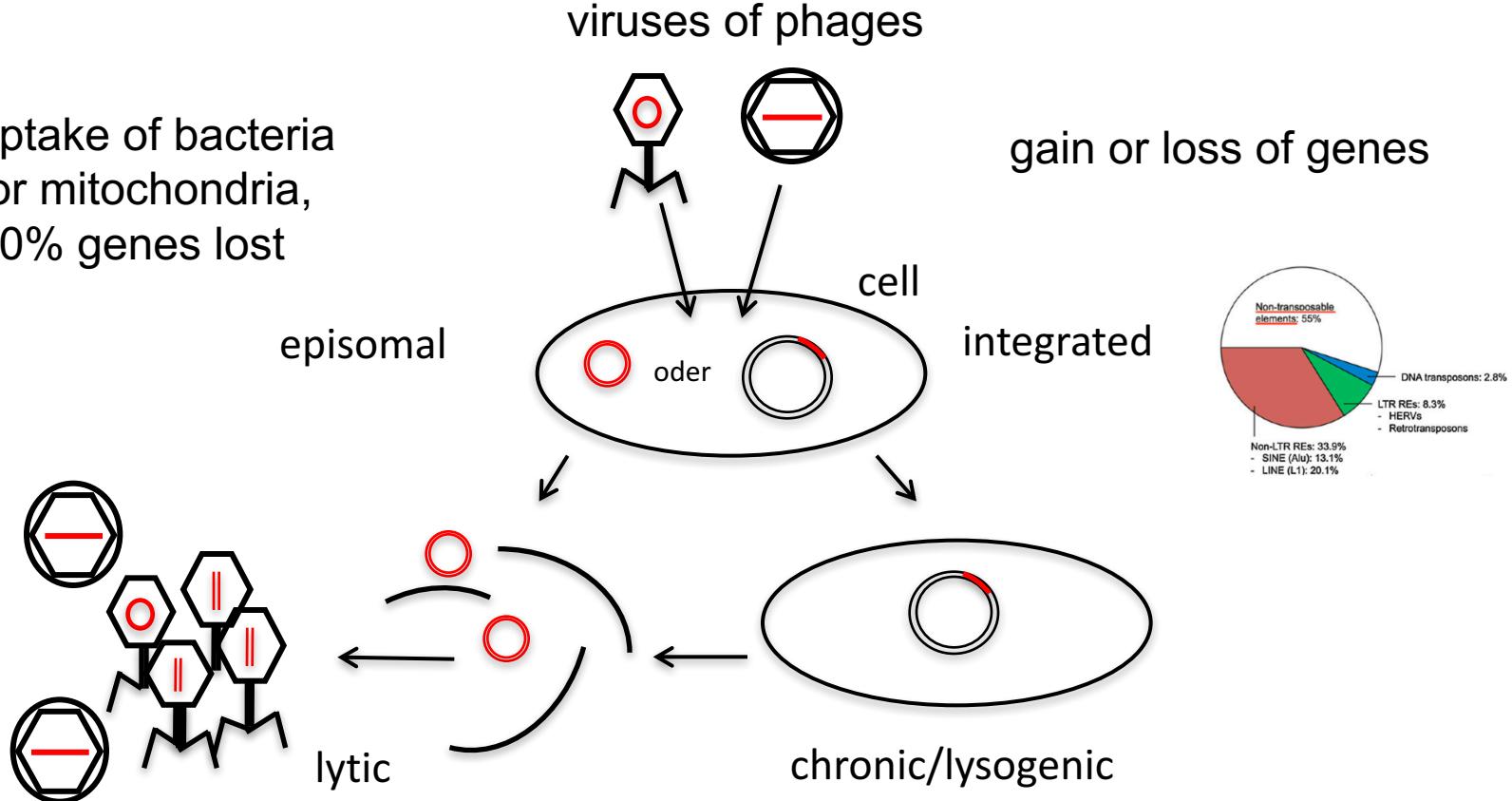
# We are all related!

$10^{33}$  viruses in all three kingdoms (most successful)



# Endosymbiosis pox viruses for nuclei?

uptake of bacteria  
for mitochondria,  
90% genes lost



## Life cycles

## Viruses not only parasites

Rich environment makes lazy – ribozyme, viruses

Loss of gene count in obese guts

Delegated functions

cyanobacteria to mitochondria

loss or gain of function  
ribozyme dep.on environment



Mikrobiom complexity

fat

lean

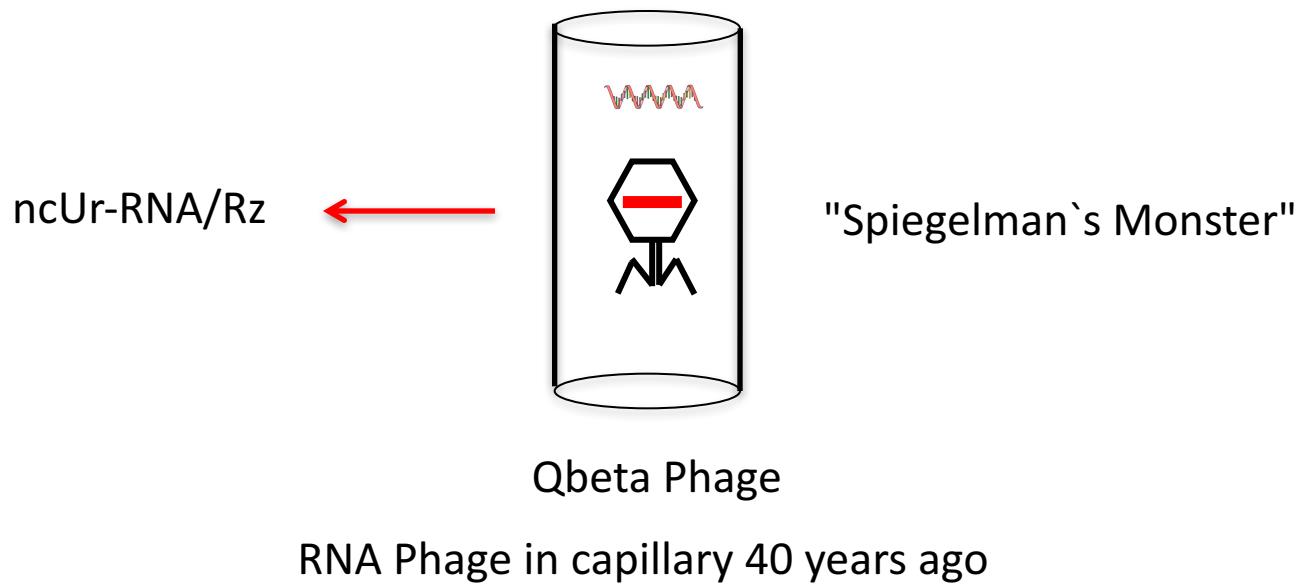
200.000 genecounts

800.000

# Decrease/loss of complexity

RNA can „de-evolve“ to ncRNA

rich milieu makes „lazy“ loss of genes



bacteria endosymbiont in  
eukaryotic cells 90% gene loss    intracellular RZ lose activity!

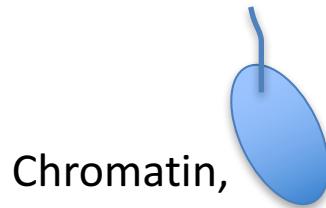
# Model for early life forms Viroids (naked viruses), Ribozymes

- Summary:** RNA: non-coding, no protein, 0 to 300 bases, quasispecies  
structural information, respond to environment,  
cleave and join, replicate, mutate, evolve – this is “alive”  
loss and gain of functions  
„ribosomes are ribozymes“  
sequence space gigantic ( $4^{50}$  corr to  $10^{30}$ )  
Influenza or HIV, RNA primary genetic information, is highly variable  
range from Nanoparticles to Mimiviruses, ie.  
„Mimicking bacteria“ with components for protein synthesis  
RNA invents, DNA stabilizes  
**TODAY: obligatory parasites!**  
Consequence of rich environment  
Most successful species on our planet  $10^{33}$

- Future:** Samples with virome, microbiome, PCR,  
indicator gene with color emission after cleavage  
Astronaut analysis –piRNA etc

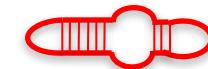
## RNAs as transgenerational regulator

stable many generations

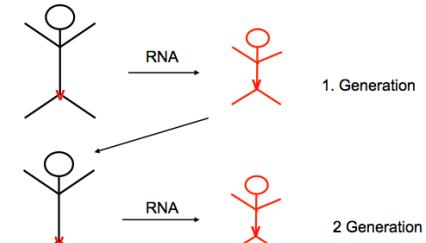
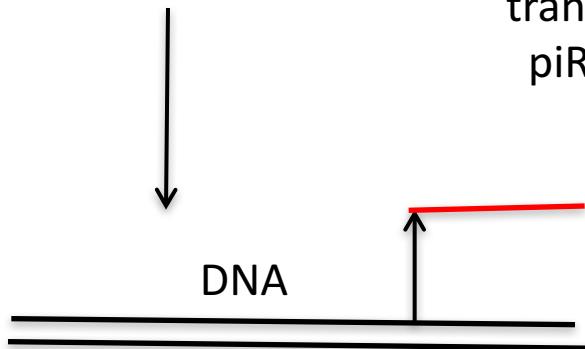


Chromatin,  
stability?

RNAs



transmitted  
piRNA

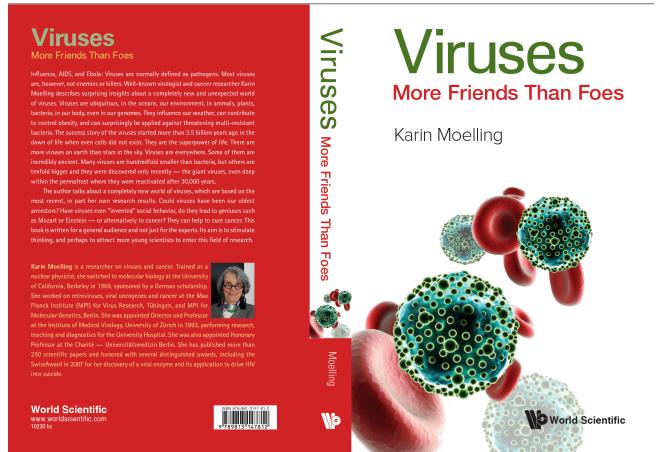


not only transient epigenetics by methylation and acetylation  
for one generation but many!

# Thanks!

Most viruses do not cause disease  
viruses are the inventors, drivers of evolution, recycle nutrients  
„endosymbionts“  
not obligatory parasites, beginning of life – survivors

**Detection** by PCR, 98° C, minilab, fossils, quasi-fossils, chirality(Quack)?



WSP 2017

**Moelling: What contemporary viruses tell us about evolution**  
Arch Virol 158,1833 (2013)

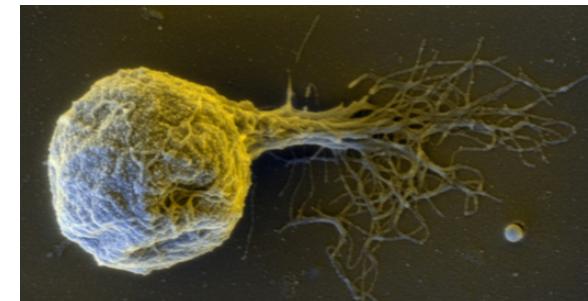
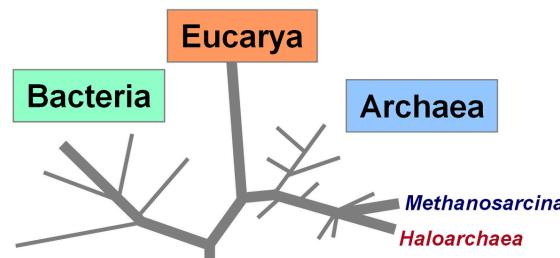
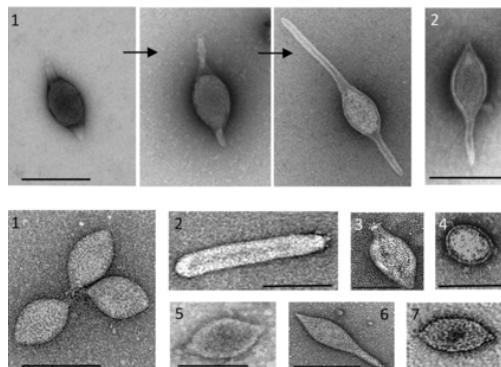
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Cyano bact and phages, Uv  
Bärtierchen

## Viruses in Archaea (Extremophiles)

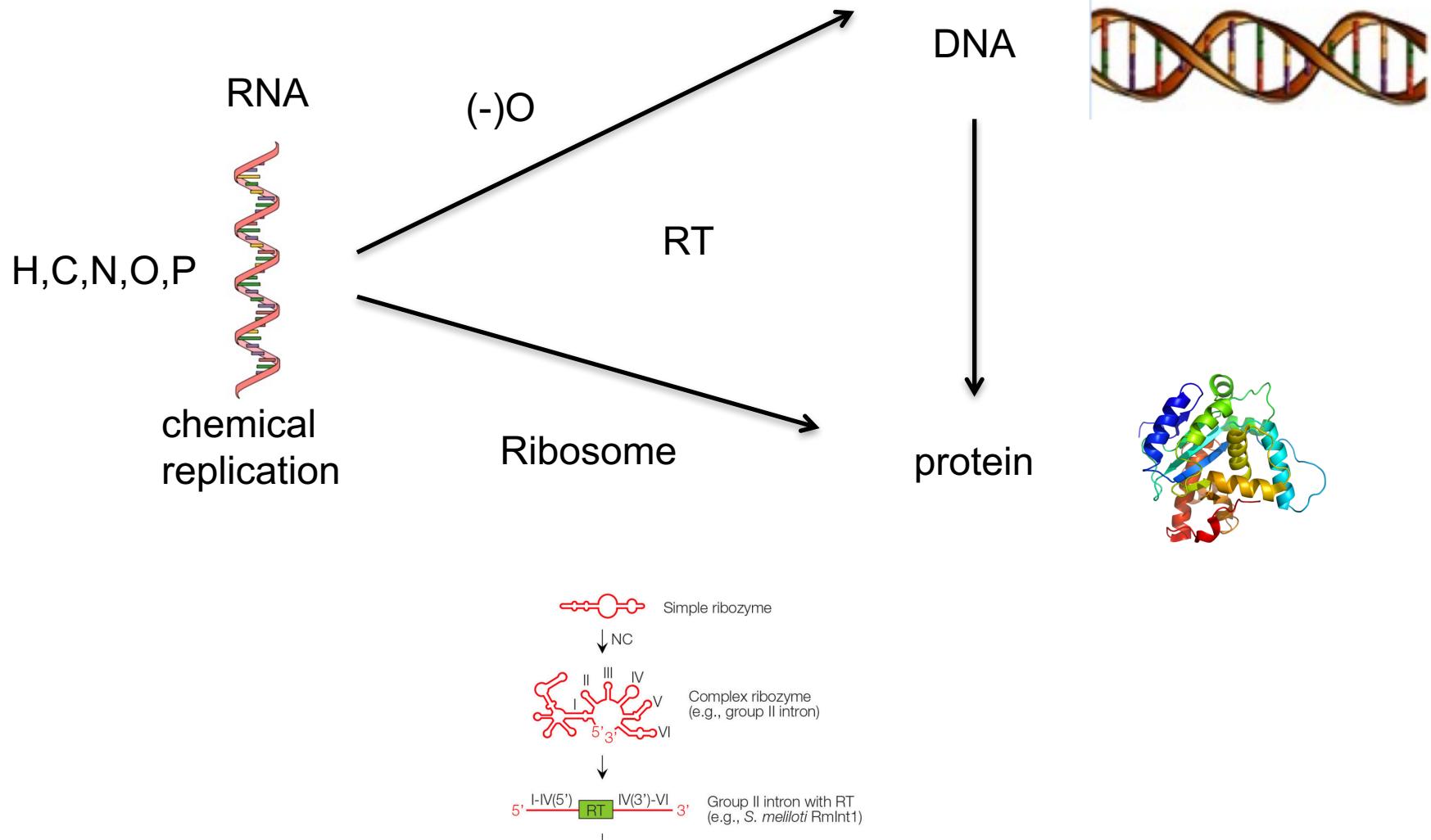
Extremophile

98 oC 13.000 Years  
Georgia Prangishvili

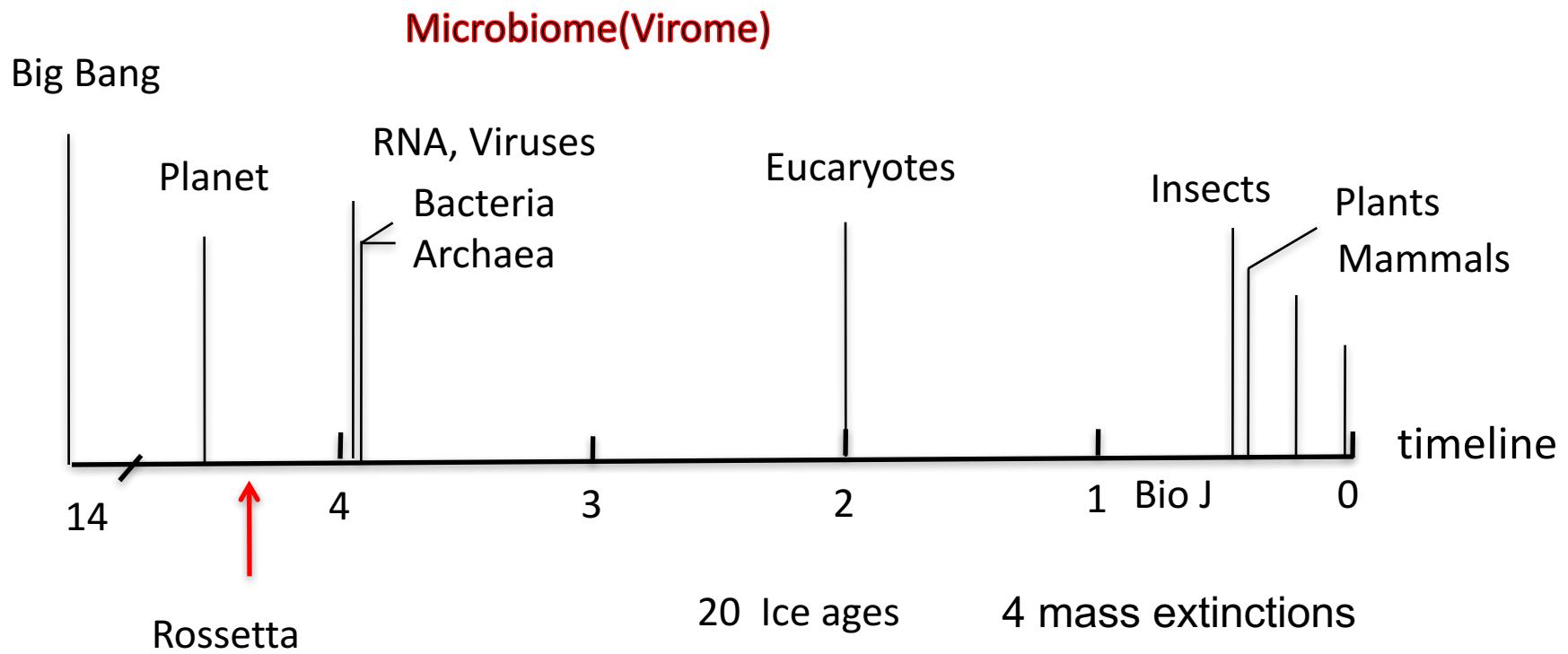


archaea are slow developers

# RNA is unique: hardware and software



## "Virosphere": from the beginning...

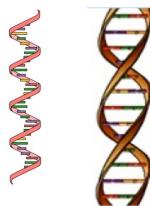


# Leben: Erbgut mit Verpackung (Protein) und Replikation

## Einfachster Fall: Viren

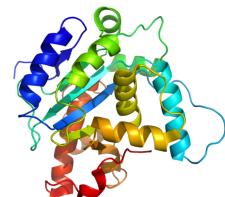
### Parasites

RNA/DNA



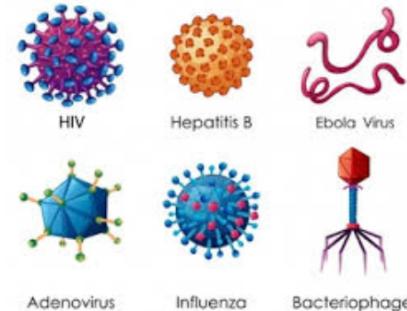
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Protein

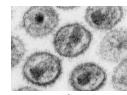


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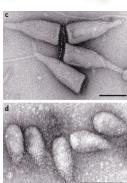
Viren



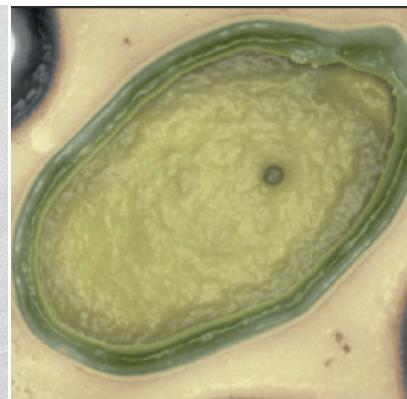
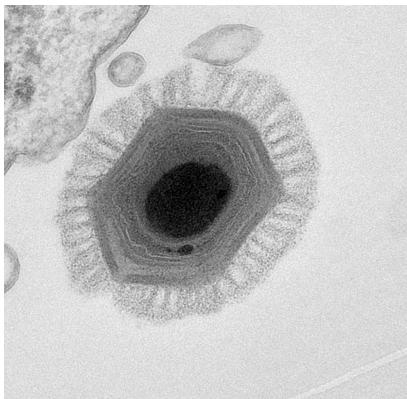
HIV



Phage



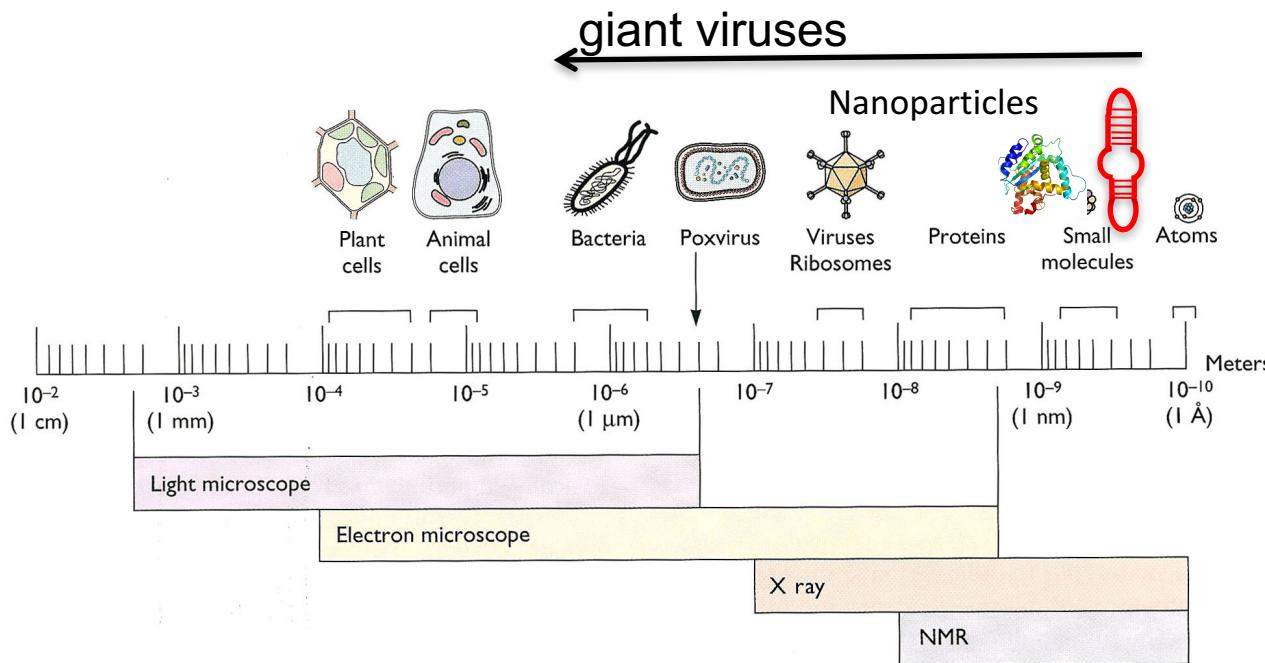
Archaea



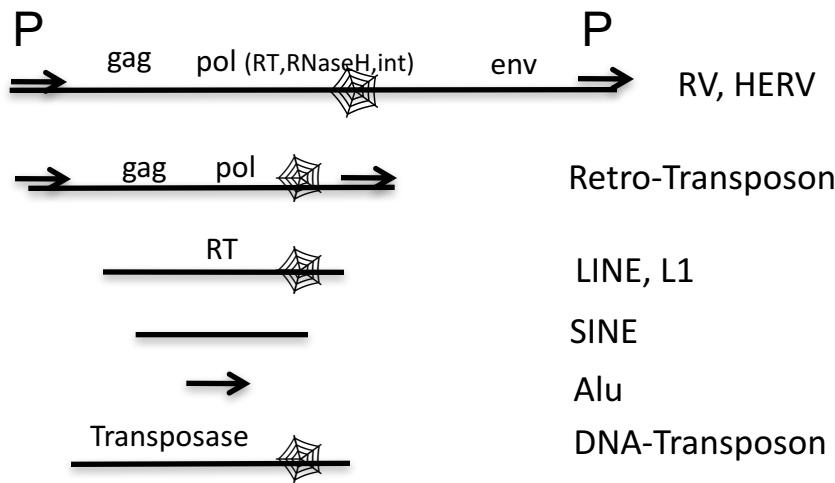
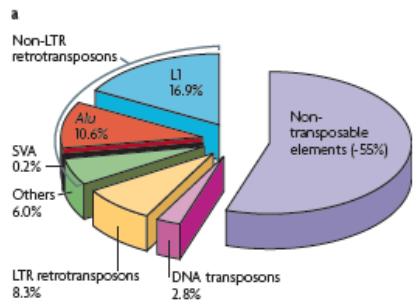
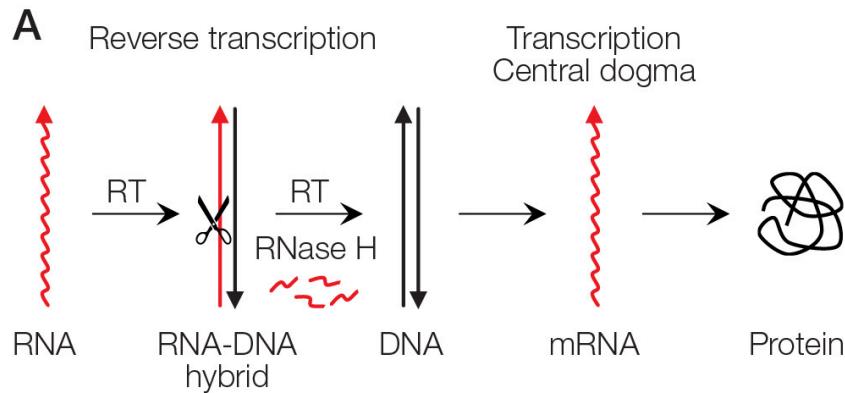
Giga  
Viren

1500-3000 Virustypen?

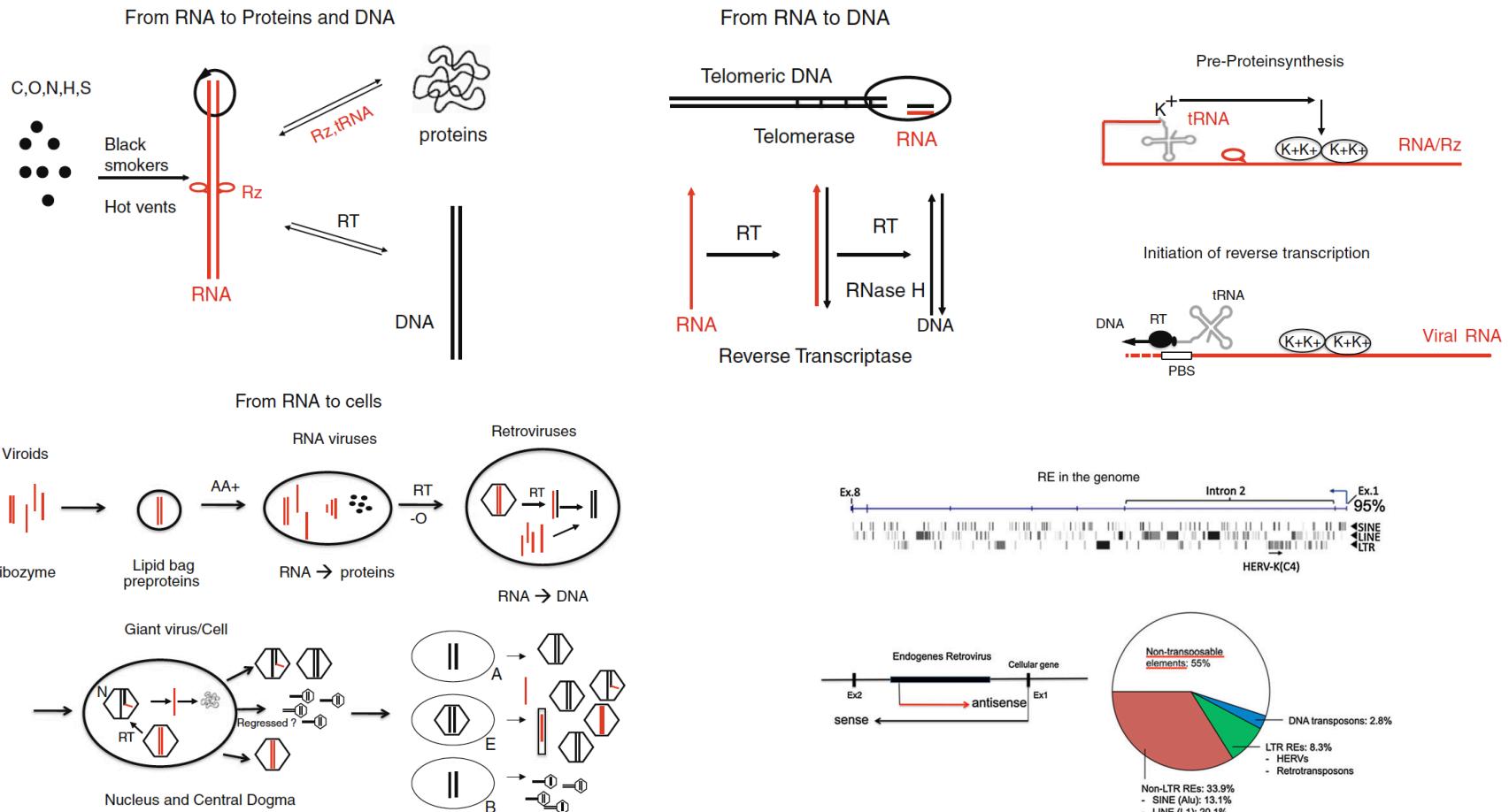
# Viruses size range 4 logs



size and evolution?



50% endogenous viruses



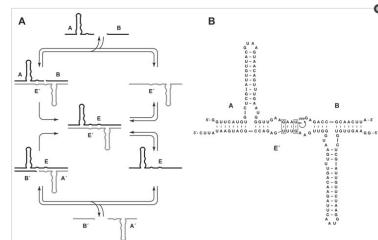
sequence space of  $50^4 = 10^{30}$

98%ncRNA

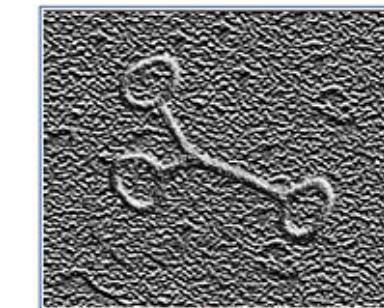
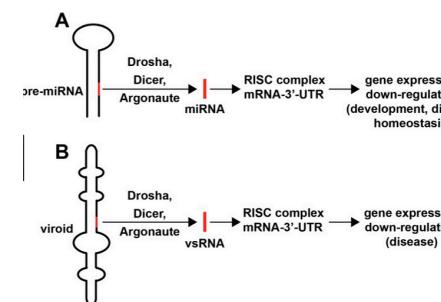
Stozak Aptamr o rz

K Moelling ESA 2017

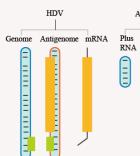
Fig. 1



See figure legend for details of RNA enzymes. (A) The enzyme E (grey) can catalyze ligation of subunits A and B (black) to form the enzyme E', while E catalyzes ligation of A' and B' to form E''. The two enzymes dissociate to provide copies of both E and E'' that each can catalyze another reaction. (B) Sequence and secondary structure of the complex formed between the cross-replicating RNA enzyme and its two subunits (E', A', and B' are the respective). Curved arrow indicates the site of ligation. Boxed residues indicate the sites of critical weak points that provide enhanced catalytic activity compared to the parental POC figure.

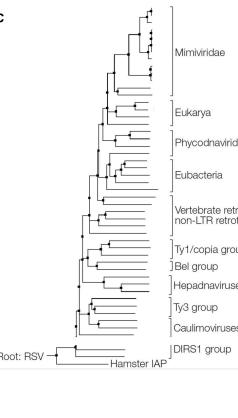


without undies). The big difference between viroids and virusoids is that virusoids cannot cause disease without a helper virus, while virusoids can infect by themselves. Also, virusoids cause distinct disease from their helper virus, though typically do not affect helper virus replication.

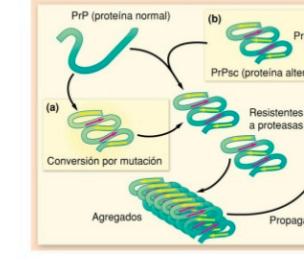


Virusoid and Viroid Genome Structure  
 The differences between viroids and virusoids can be seen in the table below:

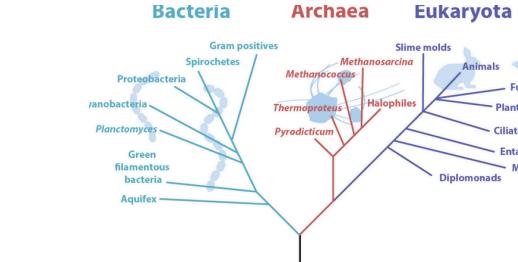
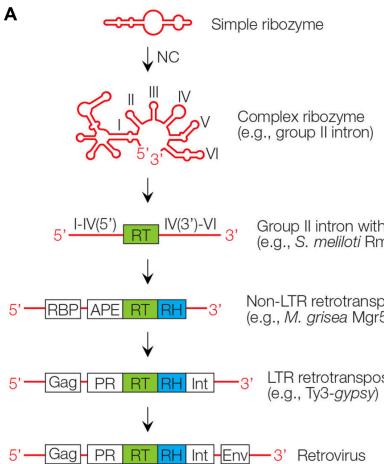
	Viroids	Virusoids (Satellites)
Genome Size	200-400 bases	500-2000 bases
Requires helper virus for replication?	No	Yes
Encodes proteins?	No	Yes
Replication Mediator	Host RNA Pol II	Helper virus polymerase
Site of Replication	Nucleus	Where helper virus replicates
Example	Potato spindle	Tobacco rings



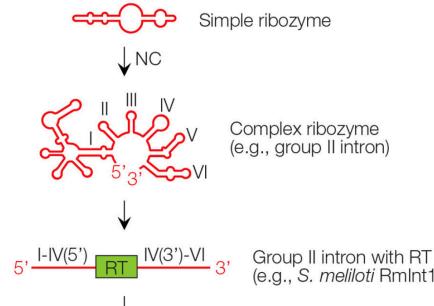
## Viroides y Priones



A



sequence space of  $50^4 = 10^{30}$



## Rickettsien

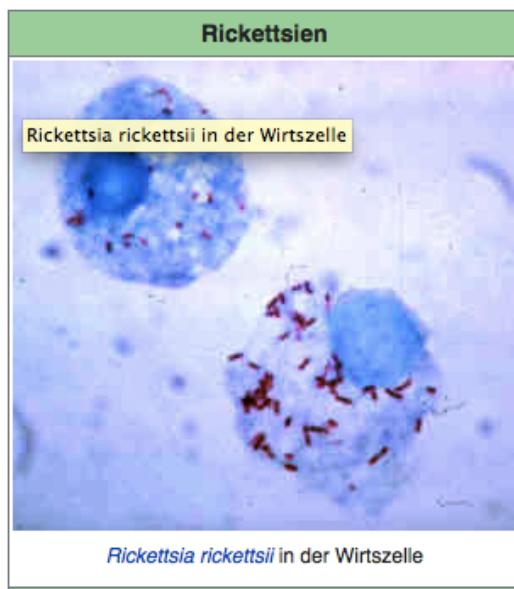
Rickettsia are obligatory intracellular parasites in eukaryotes,  
may be large viruses, divide by fission

Aus dieases, sensitive to antibiotics, common relative ot mitochondria?

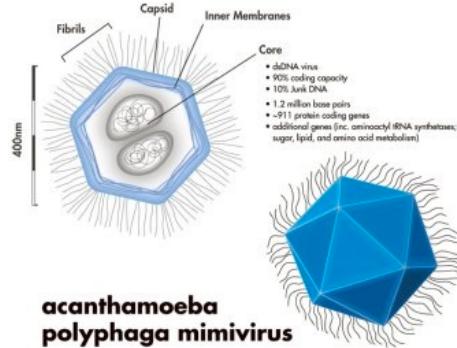
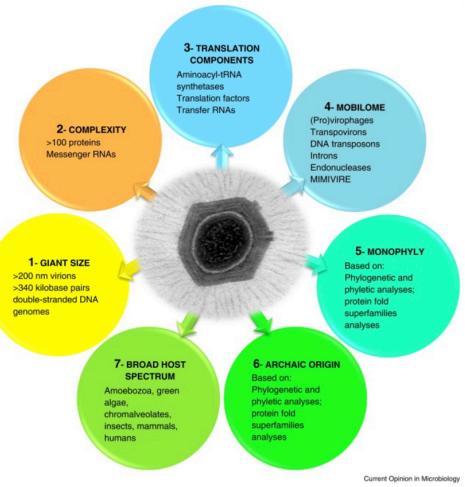
Obligatory inside cells:

Chlamydia trachomatis, Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)

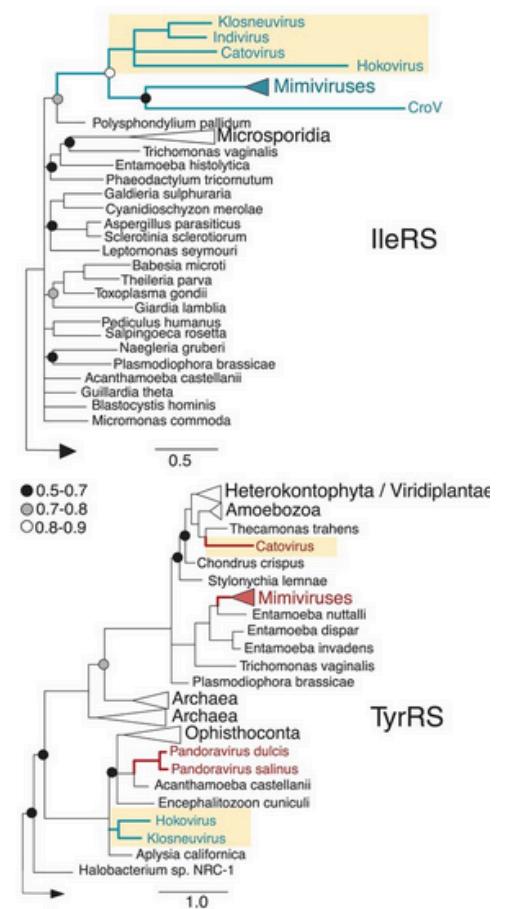
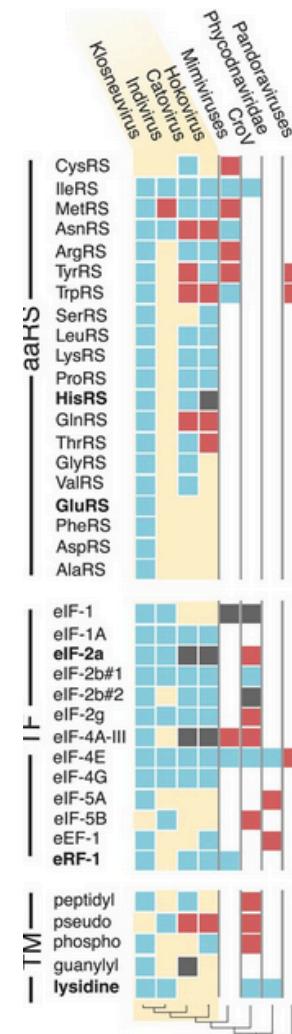
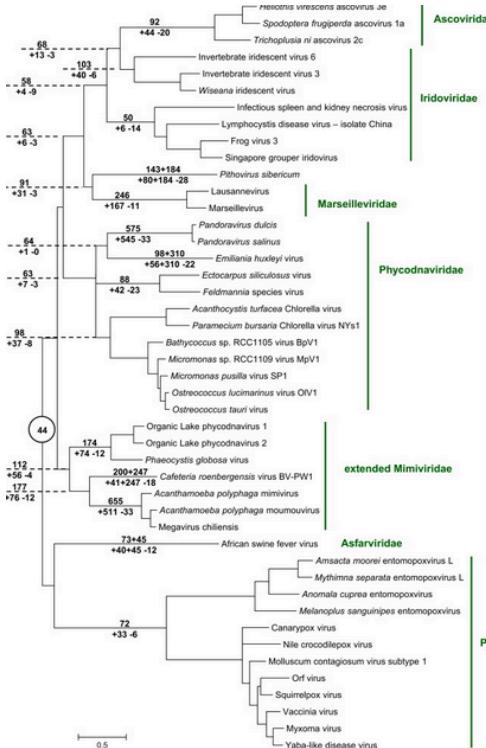
Mycobacteria leprae, M tuberculosis



Trypanosoma, Toxoplasmodia, Cryptosporidia

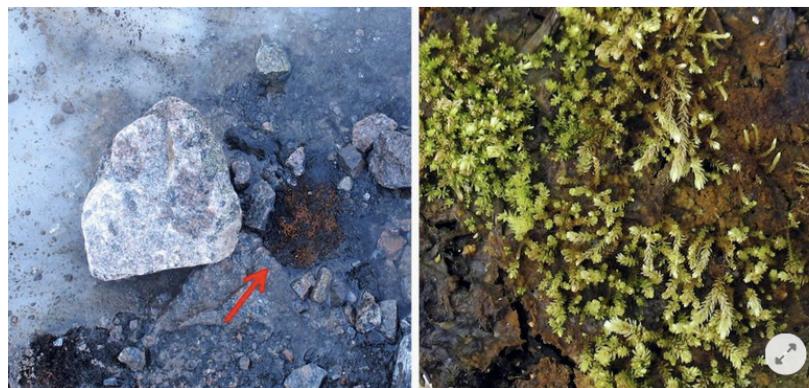


## Klosneuvirus 20 AA transferases. Gain of host genes



Für Felix und Tim Aplysia!!!

# Fungi 400 years in ice



Die Aufnahme links zeigt eine Moospflanze der Art *Aulacomnium turgidum*, die Jahrhunderte lang im Eis des Teardrop-Gletschers am Sverdrup Pass auf Ellesmere Island, eingefroren war. Kanadische Forscher haben herausgefunden, dass die Pflanzen (rechts in einer Petrischale) wieder zu wachsen beginnen, wenn sie durch den Rückzug des Gletschers ans Tageslicht kommen.

Quelle: pa/pa

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Dass Moospflanzen Überlebenskünstler sind, ist bekannt. Doch was Forscher jetzt berichten, klingt fast unglaublich: Moospflanzen, die 400 Jahre unter Gletschereis begraben waren, wachsen wieder.

[0 Kommentare](#)

**M**oospflanzen können einen jahrhundertelangen Schlaf unter einer dicken Schicht Gletschereis fast unbeschadet überstehen. Kanadische Forscher haben festgestellt, dass die Pflanzen wieder zu wachsen beginnen, wenn sie durch den Rückzug des Gletschers ans Tageslicht kommen.

Die Wissenschaftler zogen die Pflanzen dann auch im Labor heran. Die Moose verfügten über sehr widerstands- und wandlungsfähige Zellen, aus denen neue Pflanzen hervorgehen können, schreiben die Forscher in den „Proceedings“ der US-Nationalen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

Catherine La Farge und ihre Mitarbeiter von der Universität von Alberta (Edmonton/Kanada) hatten die Flora am Sverdrup Pass auf der Ellesmere-Insel des kanadisch-arktischen Archipels untersucht. Der dortige Teardrop-Gletscher hat sich