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'Dialogues' between squid and luminous bacteria during the establishment of the interaction and the building of the extended phenotype.

Symbiotic associations are widespread in nature, and constitute a driving force in the evolution of organisms. However, the interactions between partners that lead to the establishment, the specificity and the evolution of the association are oftentimes difficult to study. We used the binary mutualistic association between the squid *Euprymna scolopes* and the luminescent bacterium *Vibrio fischeri* as a natural model to study the dialogue between partners that facilitates the selection and colonization of the symbiont into host tissues, but also its maintenance over a strong diel rhythm. We coupled comparative transcriptomics analyses and functional characterizations to better understand how the initial molecular conversation between the two partners plays a role in determining the specificity of the association. We also studied the influence of the presence of a persistent luminous bacterium on the gene expression and physiology of its host. These studies reveal that a very limited number of symbionts is sufficient to reprogram host gene expression, leading to the specific establishment of the interaction and the building of its extended phenotype.

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Bacterial species that are defined by genes but not by ecology

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Analysis of genomic structural diversity in wolf-like canids.

Structural variation in general, and copy number variants (CNV) in particular, has emerged as an important source of genetic variation. The genetic history and the extraordinary morphological, physiological and behavioral variation of dogs, make them an ideal mammal in which to study the effects of CNV on biology and disease. The dog genome revealed the existence of more than one thousand of CNV that overlap ≈ 400 genes, which are enriched for defense/immunity, oxidoreductase, protease, receptor, signaling molecule and transporter genes. Furthermore, CNV can have significant impacts on a wide range of phenotypes including breed-defining traits and showed to be appropriate markers to analyze genetic relationships between dog populations. This finding implies that most of the surveyed CNVs were present in the pool of canine breed founders. In order to understand the ancestral dog genome organization, we designed a high density custom 720K probes NimbleGen aCGH chip based on all known dog CNV and segmental duplication and genotyped 15 wolves from 11 populations, with a wide distribution (including Europe, Asia and America), 5 dogs (Dingo, Basenji, Beagle, Boxer and Dachshund) and three outgroups (red wolf, coyote and golden jackal). The dataset analyzed in this study allow us to identify selected CNV during early dog domestication.

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Organization of genes along genome during evolution.

The organization of genes along a genome is not random. There exists various proofs of specific rearrangements such that operon for procaryote organisms. In the goal to better understand how this organization can explain the correlation between chromosomal mutation in cancer, we studied the organization of co-functional genes on the human genome (pathways, protein complexes, RNAi, etc). Using statistics, we observed significant concentrations (or dispersions) for sets of co-functioning genes. We evaluated the organization of these sets of genes through three aspects: number of chromosomes involved, genomic distance, spatial intra-chromosomal distance. This organization seems to depend on the functional category (FunCat) of each set of genes. From this results, we start to work on the evolution of these concentrations and dispersions among various species. Moreover, in order to observe some (dis)similarities between genomes, it is necessary to define realistic models and measures. We have implemented models (based of graph theory and mathematic programming) to compute in particular common adjacencies between genomes. These models take into account increasingly biologic information despite the complexity of the studied problems.

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Cancer: a missing link in ecosystem functioning?

Cancer is a disease that affects the majority of metazoan species and prior to directly causing host death, is likely to influence the competitive abilities of individuals, their susceptibility to pathogens, their vulnerability to predators and their ability to disperse. Despite the potential importance of these ecological impacts, cancer is rarely incorporated into model ecosystems. In this talk, I will describe the diversity of ways in which oncogenic phenomena, from precancerous lesions to generalized metastatic cancers, may affect ecological processes that govern biotic interactions. I will argue that oncogenic phenomena, despite their complexity, have predictable ecological consequences. Our aim is to provide a new perspective on the ecological and evolutionary significance of cancer in wildlife, and to stimulate research on this topic.

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Stratégies de recherche actuelles en génomique cardiovasculaire

La révolution technologique que vit depuis ces 10 dernières années la recherche biomédicale permet de mettre à disposition de la communauté scientifique et médicale des outils très puissants pour appréhender de manière agnostique l'ensemble des mécanismes génétiques et épigénétiques associées aux maladies humaines, qu'elles soient fréquentes ou rares. Les premières technologies de puces à ADN ou à ARN ("micro-array") ont tout d'abord permis la réalisation des études d'association génome-entier ("GWAS") et des études transcriptomiques dont les succès sont désormais légions. Depuis 3 ans, la technologie des puces fait petit à petit place aux outils de séquençage haut-débit ("Next Generation Sequencing" ou "NGS") permettant non seulement de déterminer de manière exhaustive la variabilité génétique de l'ADN mais également, à partir d'un type cellulaire donné ou un échantillon de fluides (plasma, sérum, urine), de quantifier précisément l'ensemble des isoformes d'un gène exprimé, de détecter et de quantifier l'ensemble des ARNs non codants, mais également de mesurer le degré de méthylation de l'ADN. L'objectif de cette présentation est de présenter les grandes stratégies de recherches actuelles basées sur les différentes technologies haut-débit dans le domaine des maladies cardiovasculaires. Une attention toute particulière sera portée aux besoins en biostatistique et en bioinformatique que requièrent l'application de ces nouvelles technologies à la recherche en génétique et épigénétique.

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The evolution of sexual dimorphism: Linking inter- and intra-sexual phenotypic and transcriptional variation

Males and females of most species share nearly the entire genome, and yet they use many of their shared genes in radically different ways. Differential expression between males and females is thought to be product of conflicting male- and female-specific selection over optimal transcription, and to form the underlying basis of sexual dimorphism in many species. If the relationship between sex-biased gene expression and sexually dimorphic phenotypes is true, then several simple predictions can be made. First, altering sex-specific selection should elicit a response in sex-biased gene expression, and this response should be more pronounced for genes linked to sex chromosomes. Second, although sexual dimorphism is often envisaged as a dichotomous comparison between female and male forms, many species show more of a continuum, with some individuals occupying intermediate points along an axis of dimorphism. In these cases, the magnitude of sex-biased expression should reflect the degree of sexual dimorphism. Third, the degree of sex-biased expression should accumulate over time in response to continuous sex-specific selection. Case studies using both comparative and experimental evolutionary frameworks will be presented to address these predictions.

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Génomique des tumeurs de la corticosurrénale

La génomique est un champ nouveau de la biologie, dont les techniques évoluent rapidement. Appliquées aux tumeurs de la surrénale, bénignes et malignes, ces approches permettent d'appréhender des aspects nouveaux de la physiopathologie de ces tumeurs, et de dériver des marqueurs diagnostiques et pronostiques.

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