



# Collaborative science to understand how organisms adapt to the environment

Josefa González, CSIC, Barcelona



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[josefa.gonzalez@csic.es](mailto:josefa.gonzalez@csic.es)

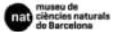
[www.gonzalezlab.eu](http://www.gonzalezlab.eu)

[github/GonzalezLab](https://github.com/GonzalezLab)





**institut  
botànic**  
de Barcelona

Centre mixt



Dra. Josefa González  
Evolutionary and Functional Genomics LAB  
Institut Botànic de Barcelona, IBB, CSIC-CMCNB

- 2002 PhD in Biology  
- 2002-2005 Assistant Professor/Postdoc 
- 2005-2011 Fulbright Postdoc/Res Associate 
- 2011-2017 *Ramón y Cajal* Researcher 
- 2017- 2023 Tenured Scientist 
- 2023 Research Scientist 
- 2025 Fulbright visiting scholar 



# institut botànic de Barcelona


Centre mixt



musiu de ciències naturals de Barcelona



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**Marta Coronado-Zamora**  
Postdoc



**Francesca Destefanis**  
Postdoc



**Gonzalo Sabaris**  
MSCA Postdoc



**Lauretta Van Helden**  
Lab tech



**Lucia Muñoz**  
Postgraduate  
JAE-Intro



**Joel Font**  
Undergraduate



**Adrian Tarazona**  
Visiting PhD,  
IBV-CSIC

## RESEARCH NETWORKS



European  
population  
genomics  
consortium  
<http://droseu.net>



Adaptation Genomics  
<http://adaptnet.es>



Life Hub CSIC:  
Origin, (co)  
Evolution,  
diversity and  
synthesis of life



Functional genomics  
<https://conexion-genoma.csic.es/>

## SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES COUNCIL MEMBER



- Satellite, regional and interdisciplinary meetings
- Inclusion, diversity, equity, access
- SMBE2023 Ferrara, Italy



Vice President

- Outreach



**ESEB2025**  
BARCELONA 17-22 AUGUST 2025  
CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR  
**EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY**

## UNDERSTANDING ADAPTATION to diverse environmental conditions



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www.gonzalezlab.eu



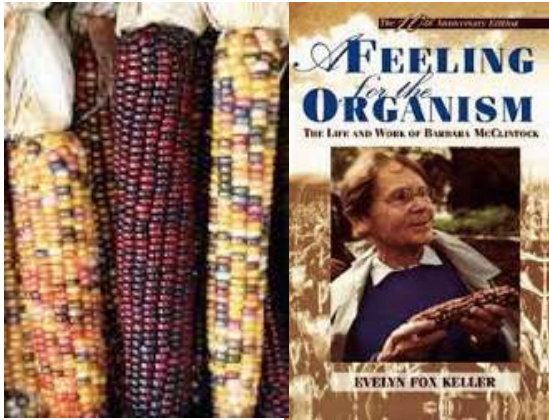
josefa.gonzalez@csic.es



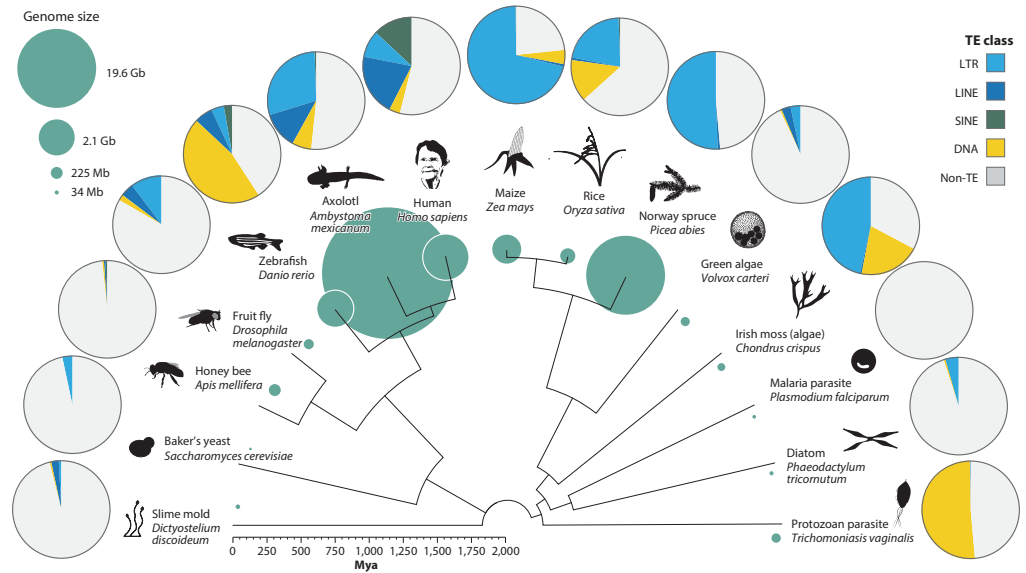
github.com/GonzalezLab

# TRANSPOSABLE ELEMENTS

present across the tree of life, represent a sizable portion of the genome



**Barbara McClintock** 1940's  
*controllers of gene expression*  
Nobel prize 1983



# TRANSPOSABLE ELEMENTS CAN HAVE PHENOTYPIC EFFECTS



Van't Hof et al 2016, Nature

Teosinte Plant

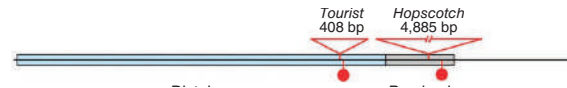


Teosinte has multiple stalks, or tillers

Corn Plant



Corn usually has one central stalk



Studer et al 2011, Nat Genet



Lynch et al 2015, Cell Rep

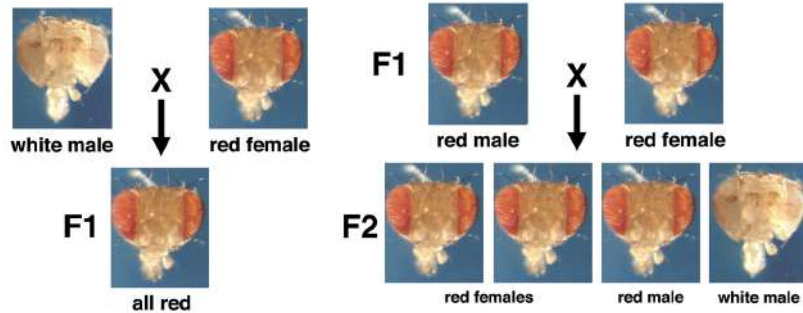


# **DROSOPHILA AS A MODEL ORGANISM**

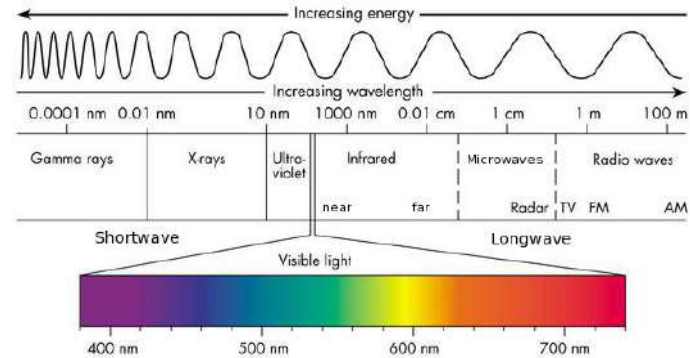


# *Drosophila melanogaster*

**El paper dels cromosomes en l'herència.**  
Thomas H. Morgan. Premi Nobel **1933**



**Les radiacions causen mutacions.**  
Hermann J. Mueller. Premi Nobel **1946**

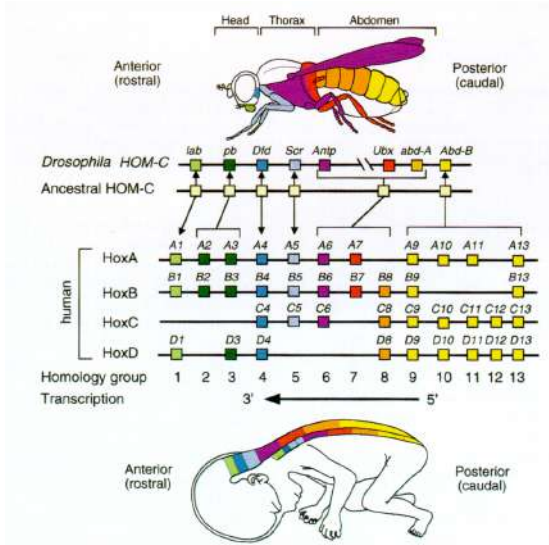




# *Drosophila melanogaster*

## Identificació dels gens que controlen el desenvolupament.

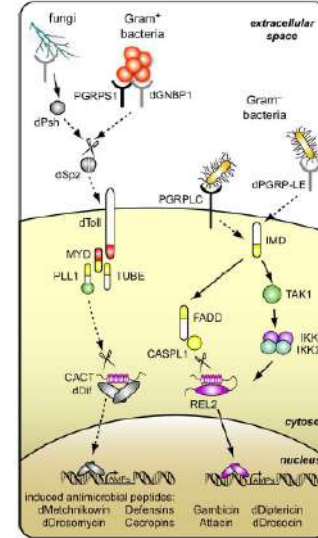
Edward B. Lewis, Christiane Nusslein-Volhard, Eric F. Wieschaus. Premi Nobel **1995**.



## Immunitat innata i adaptativa.

Jules Hoffman, Bruce Beutler and Ralph Steinmann.

Premi Nobel **2011**.



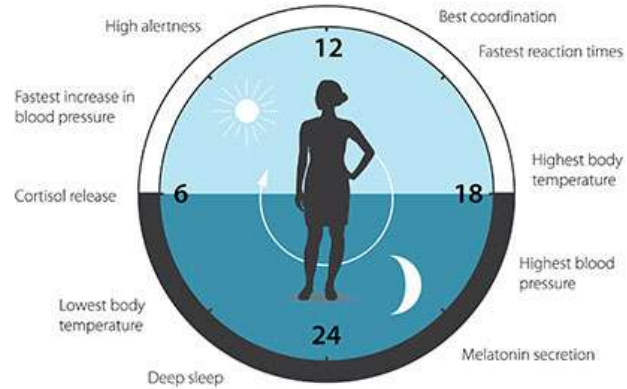


# *Drosophila melanogaster*

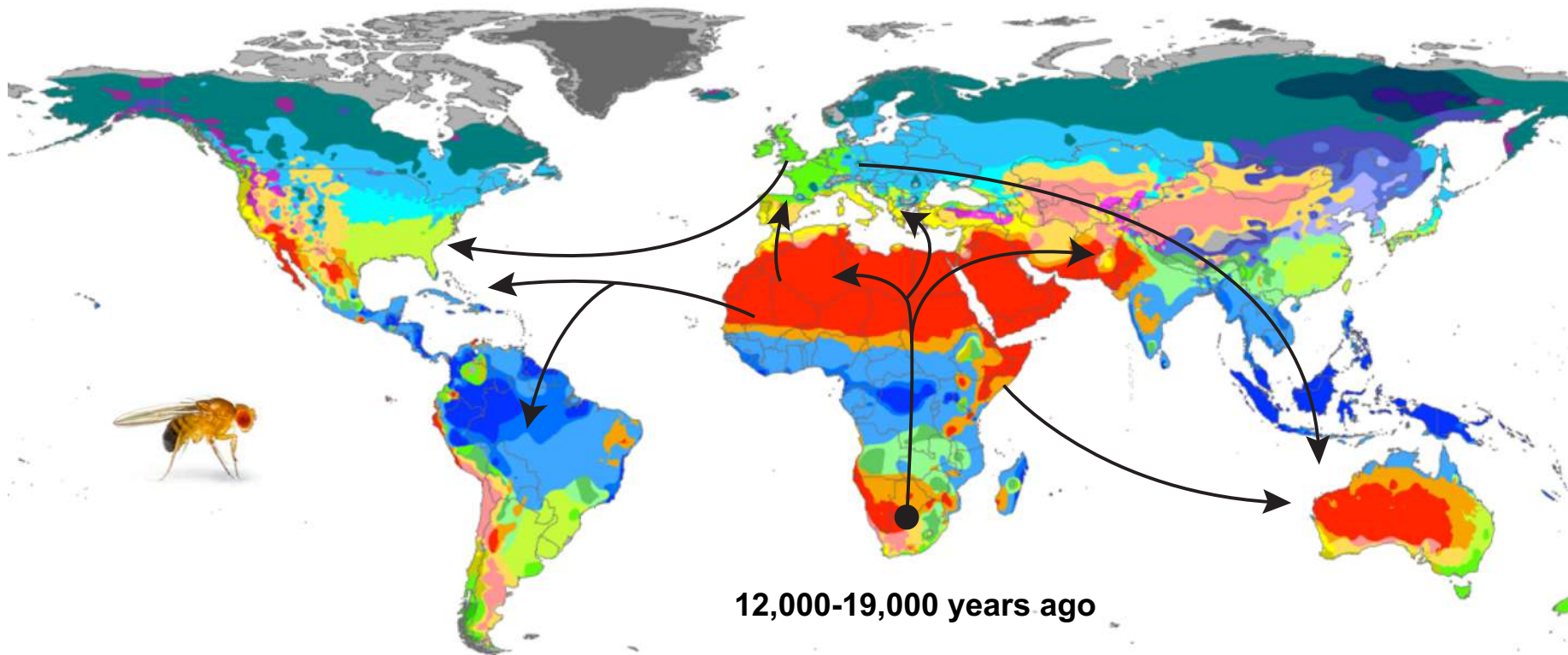
## Ritmes circadians.

Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young

Premi Nobel **2017**.



# *Drosophila melanogaster* natural populations



12,000-19,000 years ago

Sprengelmeyer et al 2020; Arguello et al 2019



Thomas Flatt  
Uni Fribourg

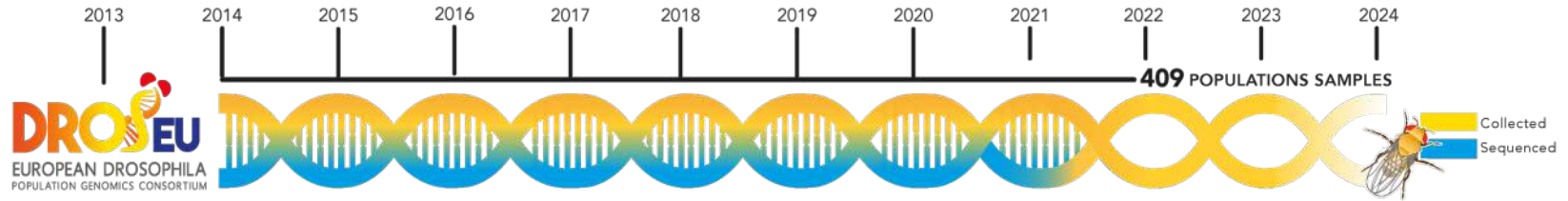


Martin Kapun  
NHM, Wien



Josefa  
González  
CSIC

73 laboratories / 28 countries



CITIZEN SCIENCE  
**MELANOGASTER**  
Catch The Fly



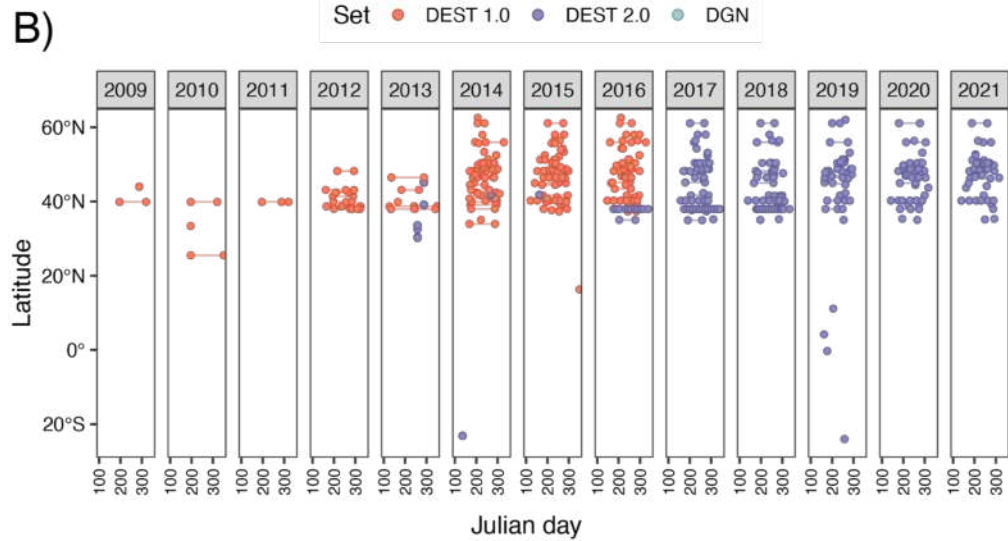
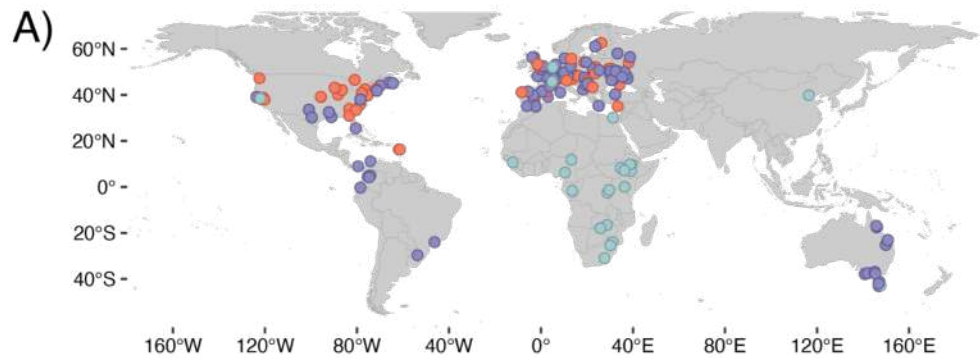
Roberto Torres  
LCATM

>20 schools / 5 countries



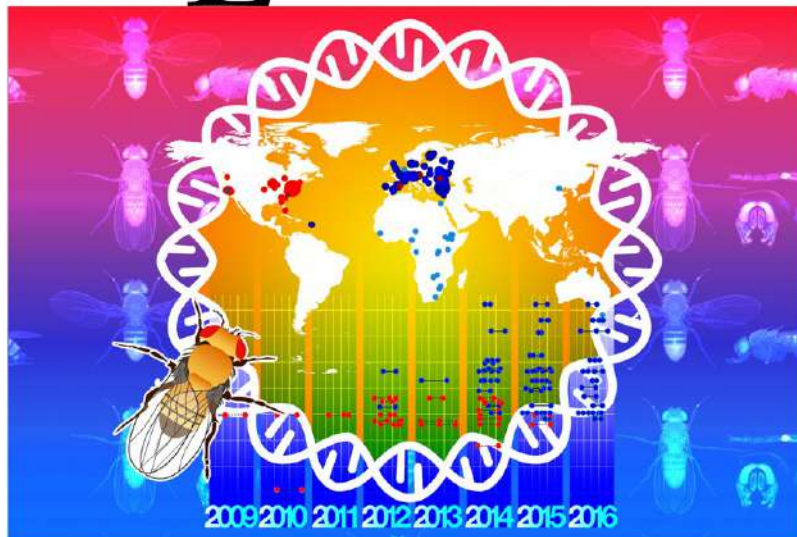
MOLECULAR  
BIOLOGY AND  
EVOLUTION

Kapun et al 2020; Kapun et al 2021



# MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

academic.oup.com/mbe



Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution

Online ISSN 1537-1719

## GENOMIC ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN

### *DROSOPHILA MELANOGASTER* POPULATIONS REVEALS LONGITUDINAL STRUCTURE, CONTINENT-WIDE SELECTION, AND PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN DNA VIRUSES



#### FIRST CONTINENT-WIDE GENOMIC ANALYSIS

For the first time, quantitatively investigate **genomic** patterns of **genetic variation** in European *Drosophila melanogaster*.



#### UNKNOWN EAST-WEST POPULATION STRUCTURE

Our analyses, investigate not only **SNP variation**, but also variation in transposable elements, inversions, mitochondria and host-specific **microbiota** reveal a previously unknown east-west **population structure** and identified numerous loci potentially affected by **spatially varying selection**.



#### SIGNALS OF SELECTIVE SWEEPS IN EUROPEAN POPULATIONS

Files found in:

Summer Autumn

## 48

#### POPULATION SAMPLES

Collected, sequenced and analyzed



## 32

#### LOCATIONS ANALYSED

Across Europe.



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This effort only became possible thanks to numerous European **collaborators** who participated in sampling.

[www.droseu.net](http://www.droseu.net)

@Dros\_EU

EUROPEAN DROSOPHILA POPULATION GENOMICS CONSORTIUM



# DROSOPHILA EVOLUTION OVER SPACE AND TIME (DEST) A NEW POPULATION GENOMICS RESOURCE

A modular and standardized bioinformatics **PIPELINE** for generating allele frequency estimates from pooled resequencing of *D. melanogaster* genomes.



## THE PIPELINE

(i) Maps the sequencing reads against the hologenome;

(ii) calls SNPs using SNAPE-pool and PoolSNP;

(iii) provides scripts to perform the SNP quality control of the datasets analyzed. It is available as a docker image.



THE DATASET IS OPEN AND SCALABLE

Using this pipeline, we assembled a **DATASET** of allele frequencies from 271 *D. melanogaster* populations sampled across space and time.

## THE DATASET

(i) Is the result of the collaborative efforts of DrosEU and DrosRTC consortia

(ii) is coupled with sampling and environmental metadata

(iii) is available in a web-based genome browser.

<https://dest.bio>



A UNIFIED AND EXTENSIBLE DATABASE OF GENETIC VARIATION IN *D. MELANOGASTER* SAMPLED OVER TIME AND SPACE



## WE USED THE DEST DATASET TO

### Generate geographically informative SNP markers.

We generated a set of informative SNP markers which will allow to assign population samples to predefined demographic clusters



This effort only became possible thanks to numerous European collaborators and citizens who participated in sampling.

CITIZEN SCIENCE  
**MELANOGASTER**  
CALLS TO YOU!  
[www.melanogaster.eu](http://www.melanogaster.eu)

### Estimate the divergence time between European clusters and the asymmetrical migration rates between clusters.

We provide guidelines on how to use pool-seq data for model-based demographic inference.

[www.droseu.net](http://www.droseu.net)

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eseb

**DROSEU**

EUROPEAN DROSOPHILA  
POPULATION GENOMICS CONSORTIUM

- Secuenciación de las muestras de 2014-2016: 271 muestras.
- Describimos un “pipeline” para poder analizar de forma automática múltiples secuencias genómicas
- Identificamos variantes genéticas que permiten identificar la procedencia geográfica de un genoma

# THE DISCOVERY, DISTRIBUTION, AND DIVERSITY OF DNA VIRUSES ASSOCIATED WITH *DROSOPHILA MELANOGASTER* IN EUROPE



## SEQUENCING

Sequencing wild *Drosophila* doesn't /just/ tell us about the ***Drosophila***, we also learn about their **microbiota**, including **viruses**.



## DNA VIRUSES

Only two **DNA viruses** had previously been discovered in ***Drosophila*** species. This study describes 13 new ***Drosophila*** associated **DNA viruses**.



## 5 VIRUSES IN SPACE AND TIME



***Drosophila***  
Kallithea  
nuditarsis



***Drosophila***  
Espano  
nuditarsis



***Drosophila***  
Linville Road  
densovirus



***Drosophila***  
Viltain  
densovirus



***Drosophila***  
Vesanto virus



2014 2015 2016



## NEW VIRUSES

These include some extremely odd and potentially interesting new viruses, such as the multi-segmented ***Drosophila*** Vesanto **Bidna-like virus**



## THE SCALE OF THE SAMPLING

>6500 flies from the Europe over 3 years

# VIRUS



www.droseu.net

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**DROSEU**

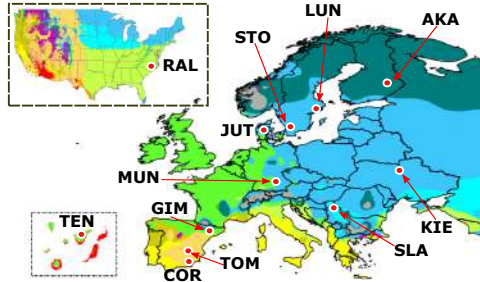
EUROPEAN *DROSOPHILA*  
POPULATION GENOMICS CONSORTIUM

- En *Drosophila* solo se conocían dos virus de DNA antes del análisis de las poblaciones naturales recolectadas por los científicos y los ciudadanos, ahora se conocen 13 virus de DNA
- Cuantos mas nuevos virus se descubren mas podemos entender su biologia



# TEs shape stress response, development, behavior and pigmentation

32 new reference genomes

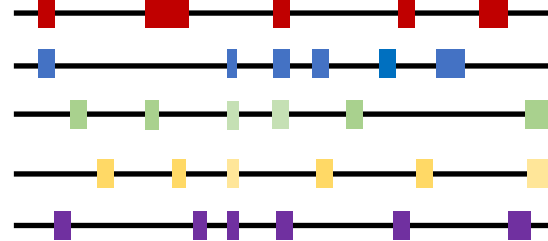


De novo TE annotations

1,615 TEs → 28,365 TE insertions



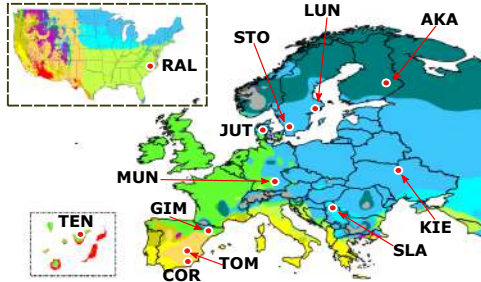
+ MANUAL CURATION





# TEs shape stress response, development, behavior and pigmentation

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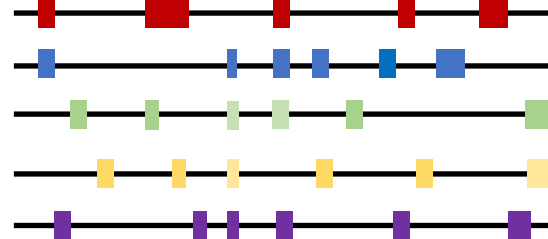


De novo TE annotations

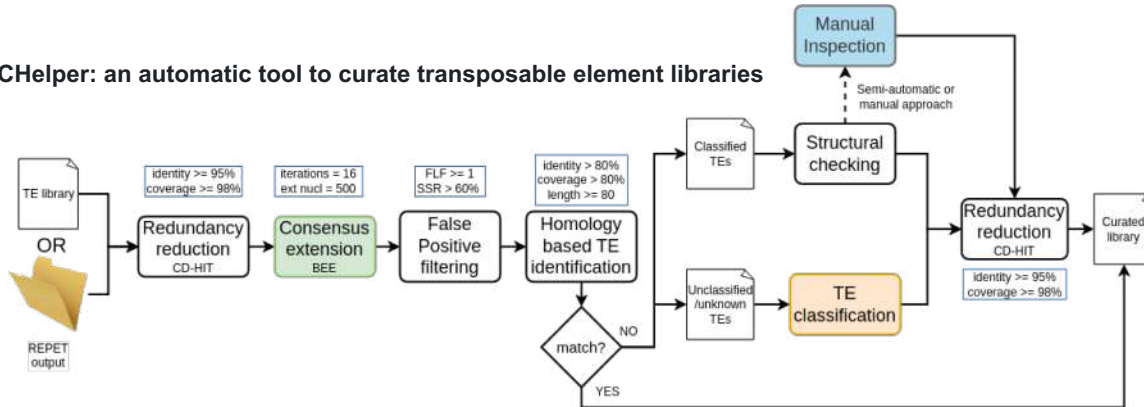
1,615 TEs → 28,365 TE insertions



+ MANUAL CURATION



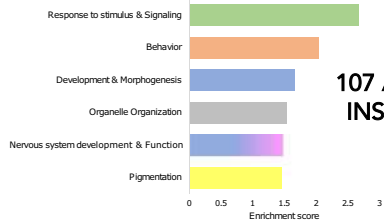
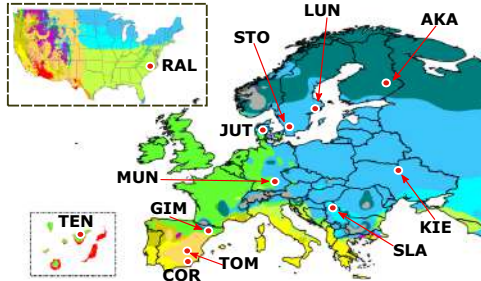
MCHelper: an automatic tool to curate transposable element libraries





# TEs shape stress response, development, behavior and pigmentation

32 new reference genomes



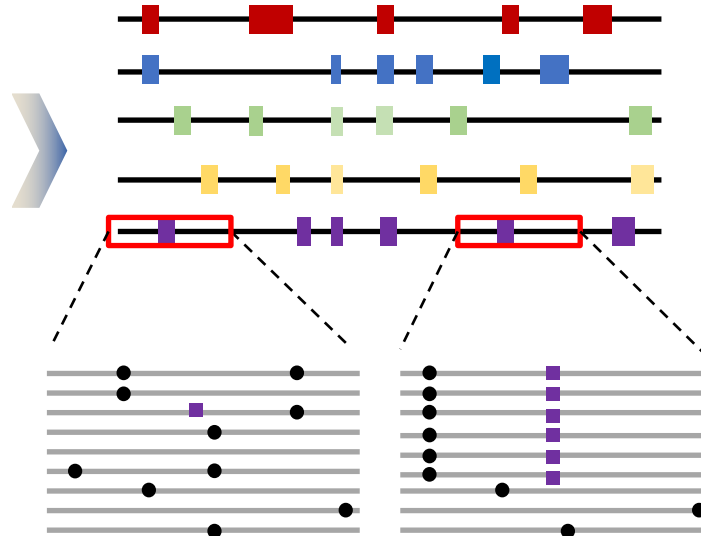
**107 ADAPTIVE INSERTIONS**

De novo TE annotations

1,615 TEs → 28,365 TE insertions



+ MANUAL CURATION



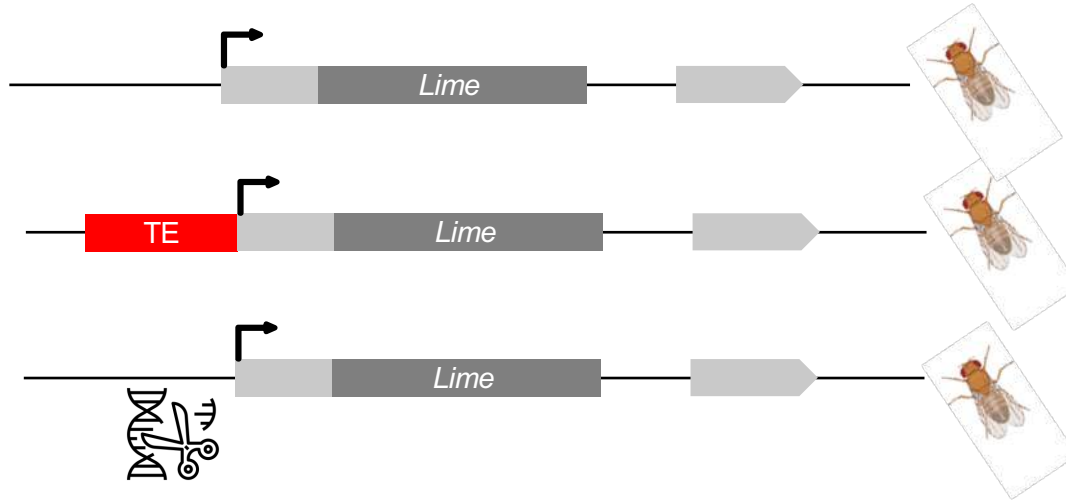
**Evidence of selection in TE flanking regions (902 TEs)**  
hard and soft sweeps & pop differentiation



## FBti0019985 increases fly survival to infection



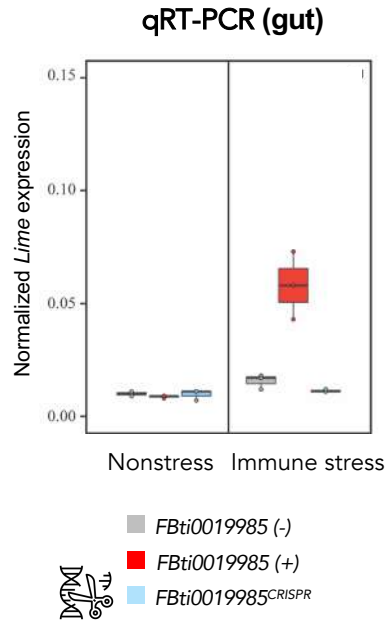
Miriam  
Merenciano



*Lime*: gen implicado en la respuesta inmune

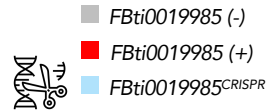
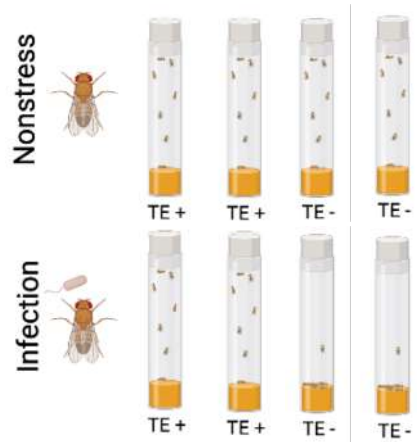
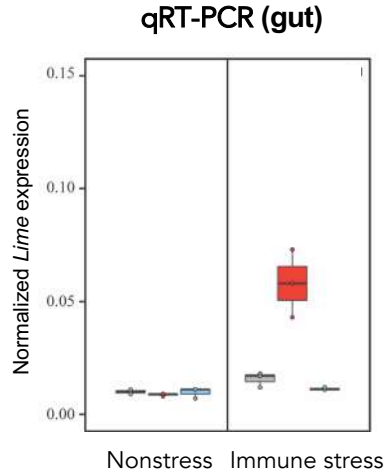


## *FBti0019985* increases fly survival to infection





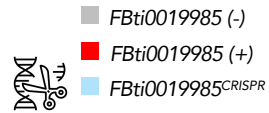
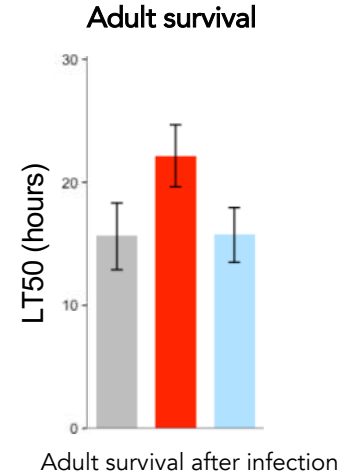
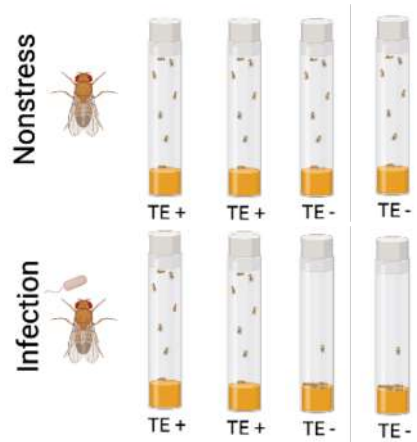
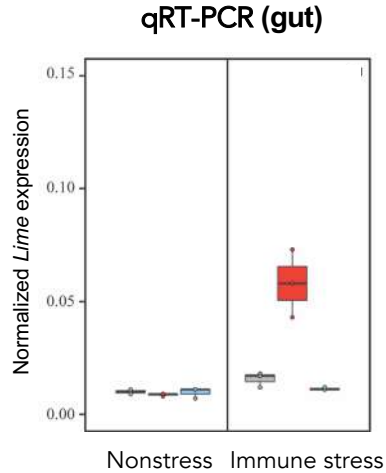
# FBti0019985 increases fly survival to infection





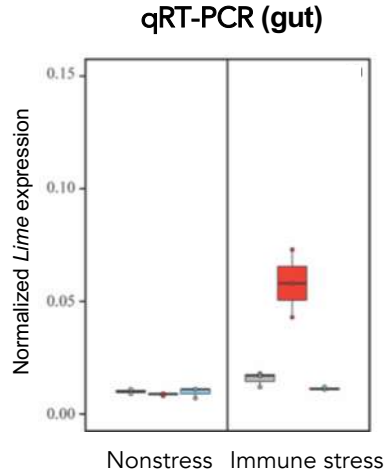


# FBti0019985 increases fly survival to infection

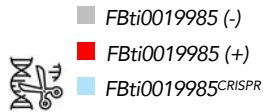
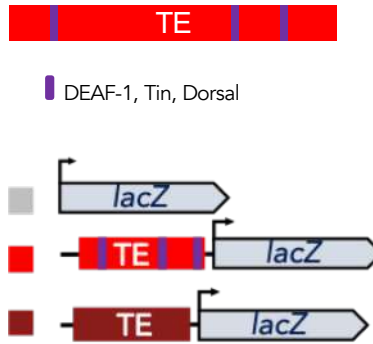




# FBti0019985 increases survival by adding immune TFBS

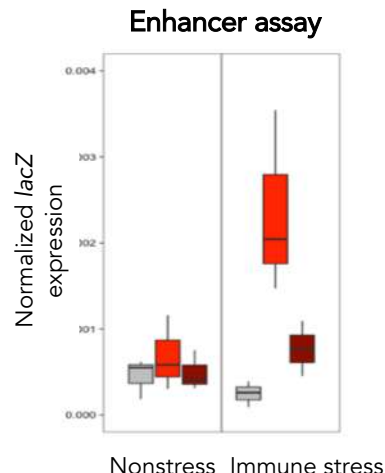
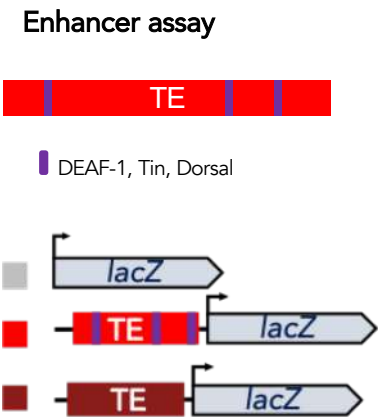
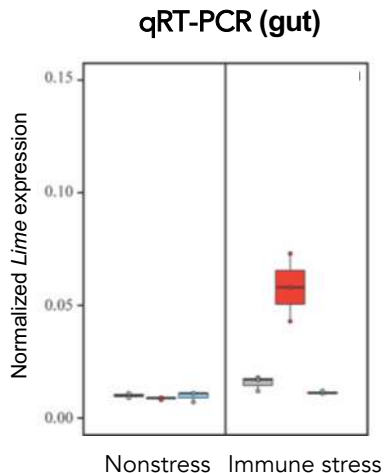


## Enhancer assay

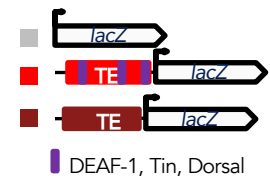




# FBti0019985 increases survival by adding immune TFBS



■ FBti0019985 (-)  
 ■ FBti0019985 (+)  
 ■ FBti0019985<sup>CRISPR</sup>



## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- ▶ **El trabajo conjunto de científicos y ciudadanos nos permite tener acceso a una colección de datos mucho mayor y mucho mas informativa que la que pueden conseguir solo los científicos**
- ▶ **Hemos podido identificar por primera vez genes que son beneficiosos para las poblaciones de Drosophila de los diferentes ambientes**
- ▶ **Hemos descrito nuevos virus de ADN de Drosophila que nos permiten investigar más sobre su biología**
- ▶ **Hemos identificado varios elementos móviles que permiten a las moscas sobrevivir en condiciones de estrés**



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github.com/GonzalezLab

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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**Joel Font**  
Undergraduate



**Gonzalo Sabarís**  
MSCA Postdoc



**Adrian Tarazona**  
Visiting PhD,  
IBV-CSIC



**Roberto Torres**  
LCATM



**Thomas Flatt**  
Uni Fribourg

**Past lab members:** *Miriam Merenciano, Laura Aguilera, María Bogaerts-Márquez, Llew Green, Gabriel Rech, Anna Ullastres, Vivien Horvath, Simon Orozco*



## COLLABORATORS



## FUNDING

