

Genome size and body size in ectotherms related to temperature; Ecological and evolutionary drivers

Dag O. Hessen, Kristian Alfsnes,
Hans P. Leinaas, Martin Svenning
University of Oslo, Dept. Biosciences &
Norwegian Inst. Nature Res.

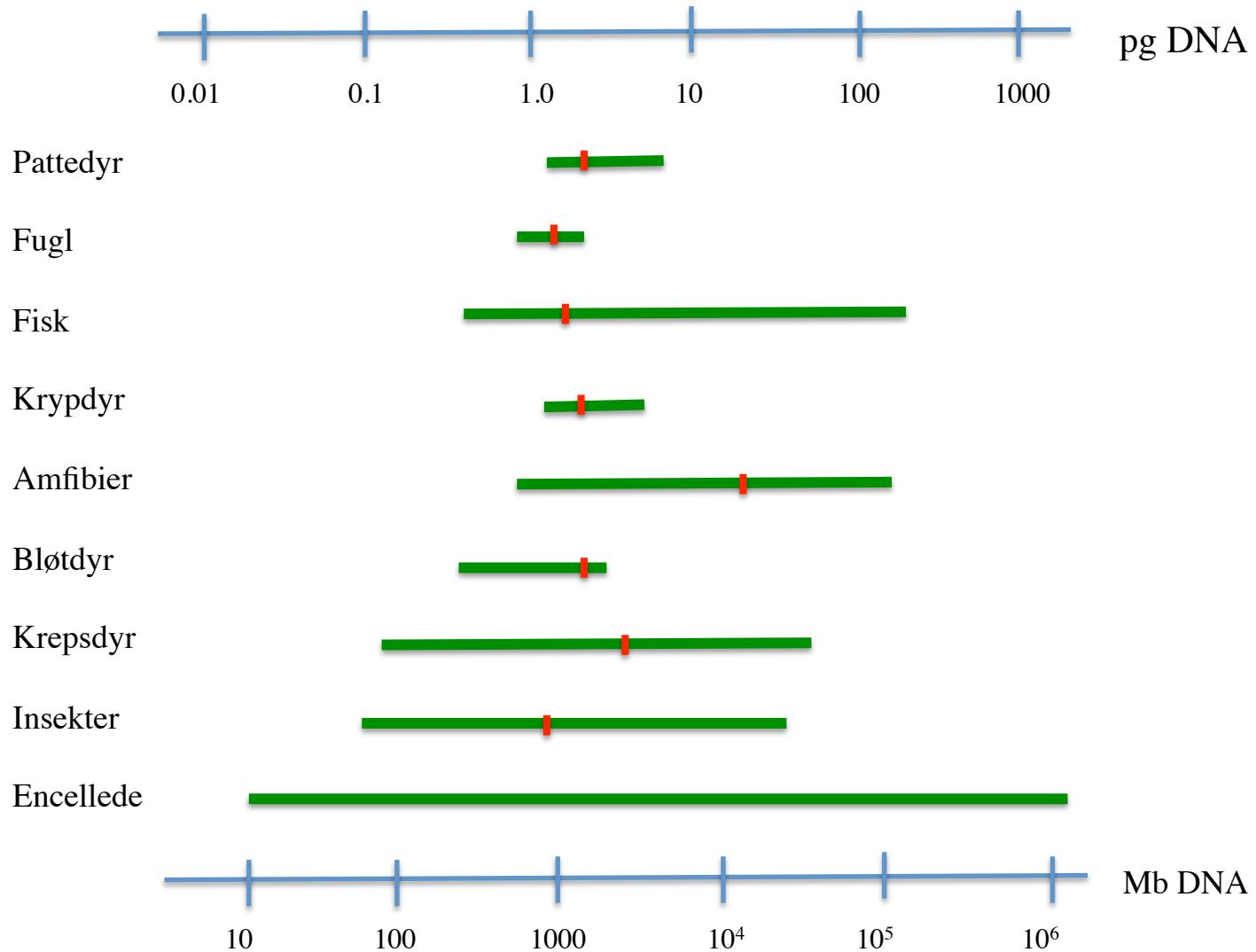


Temperature, Bergmann and TRS



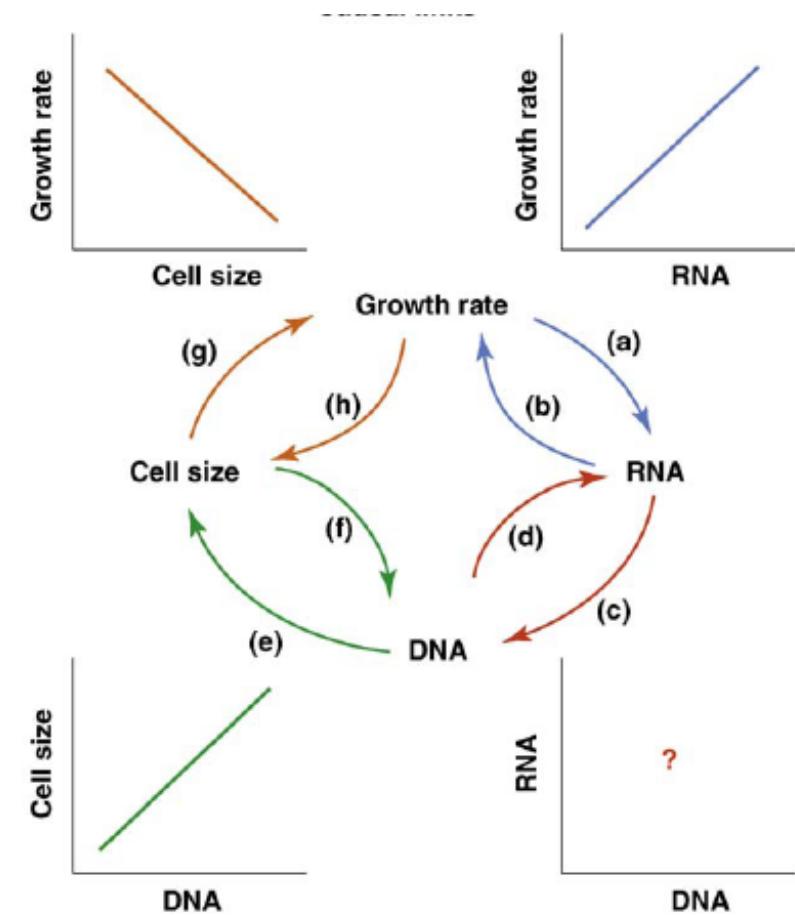
- Large size at low temperature ecosystems
(Bergmann type rules)
- Large size when raised at low temp
(Temperature-Size Rules)
- Phenotypic or genotypic effects?
- Same effect, but for different reasons?
- How and why does size increase?
- Does this imply “shrinking” of cells and species at elevated temperatures?

The “C-value paradox”

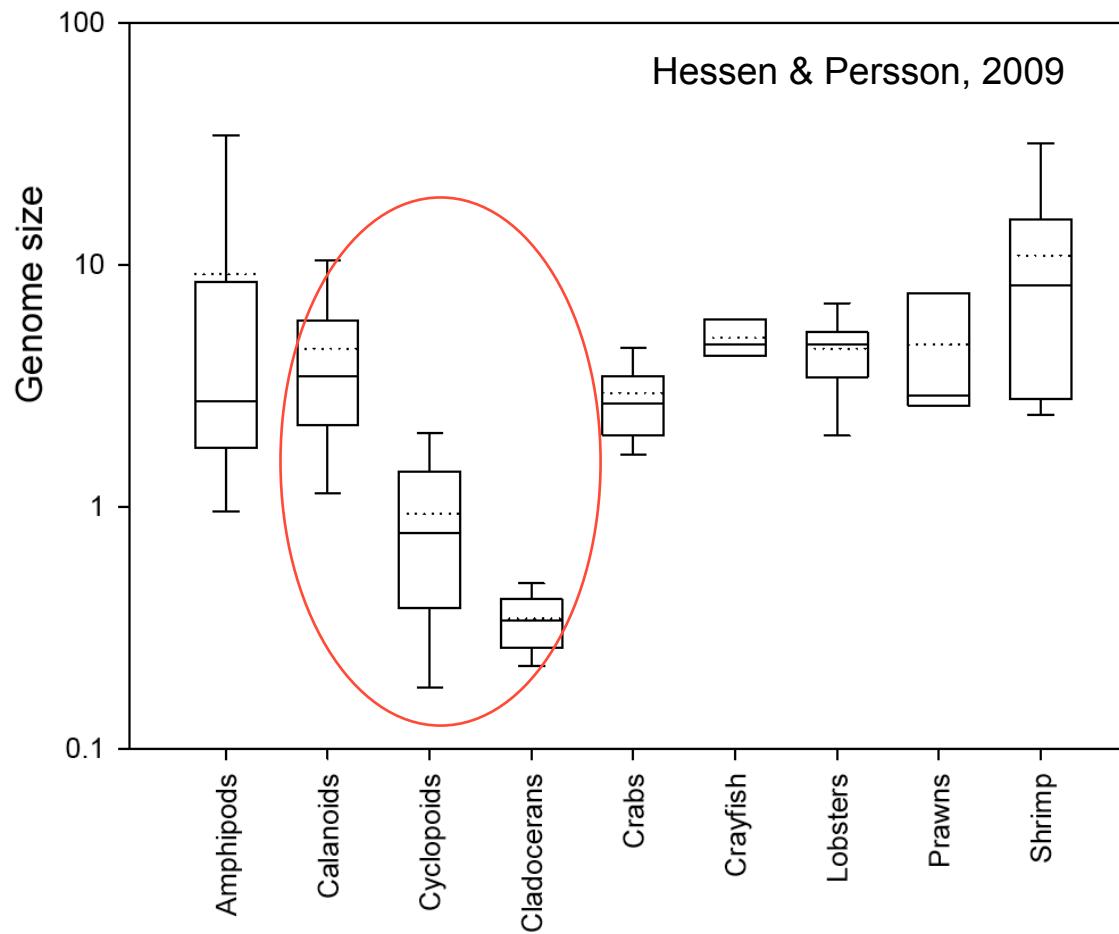


Growth, genome size, RNA - causes and correlations?

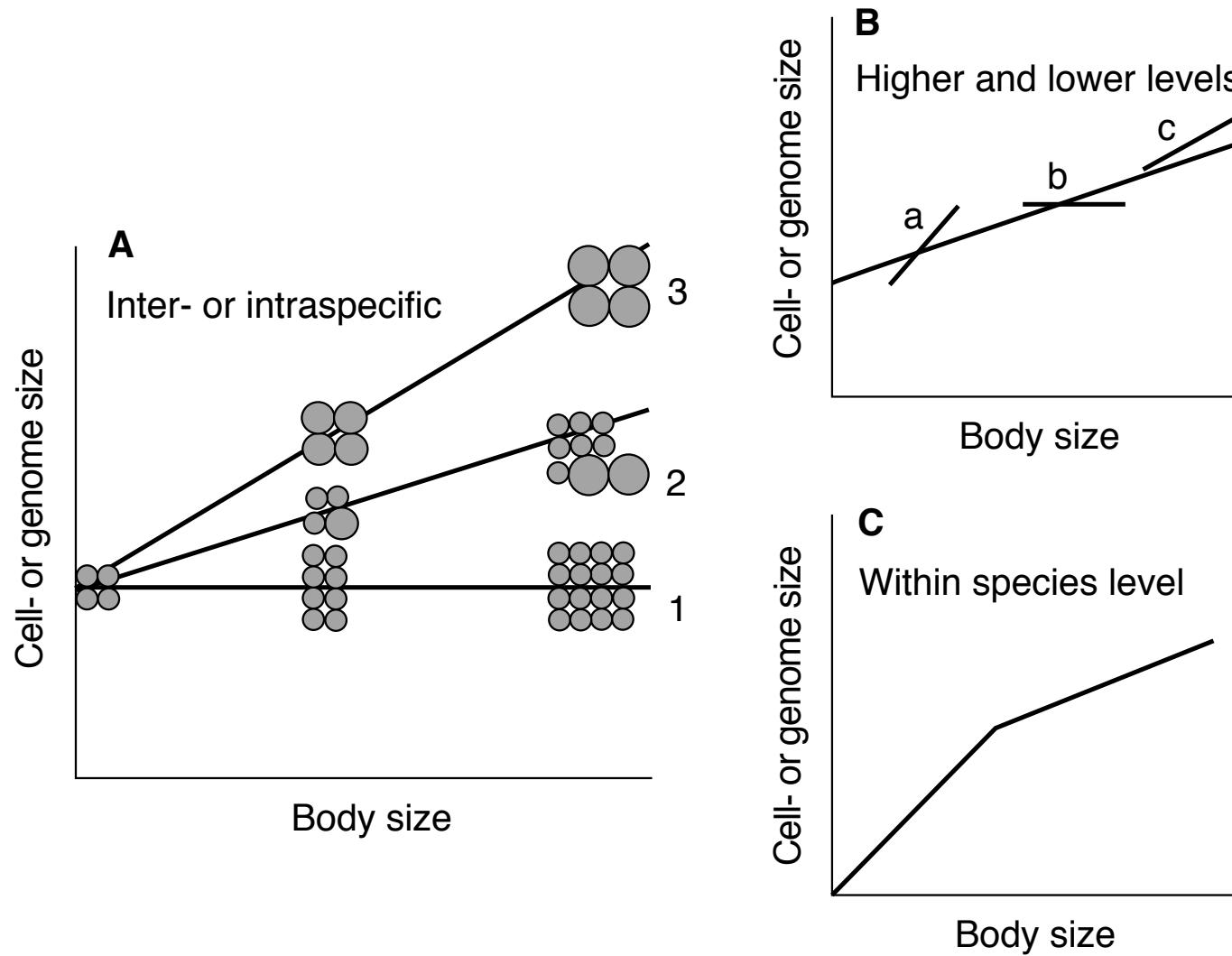
- Small genome = small cells
- Small genome = high growth rate
- Small genomes = high RNA
- Metabolic activity scales with [RNA] and [DNA]
- Low temperatures go along with large genomes
- Does large cells correlate with large bodies?
- *Striking correlations but unresolved causalities*



E.g. crustaceans: tremendous variability in genome size – but why?



Growth by increased cell size or cell number?



Body size evolution – by cell size or cell number?

- Body volume and genome size: slope = 1 means growth by cell number, slope = 0 means growth by cell size
- Different evolutionary strategies? I.e. with finite cell number you can only grow by cell enlargement
- Often mixed strategies or endopolyploidy
- The role of (endo)polyploidy is not well understood

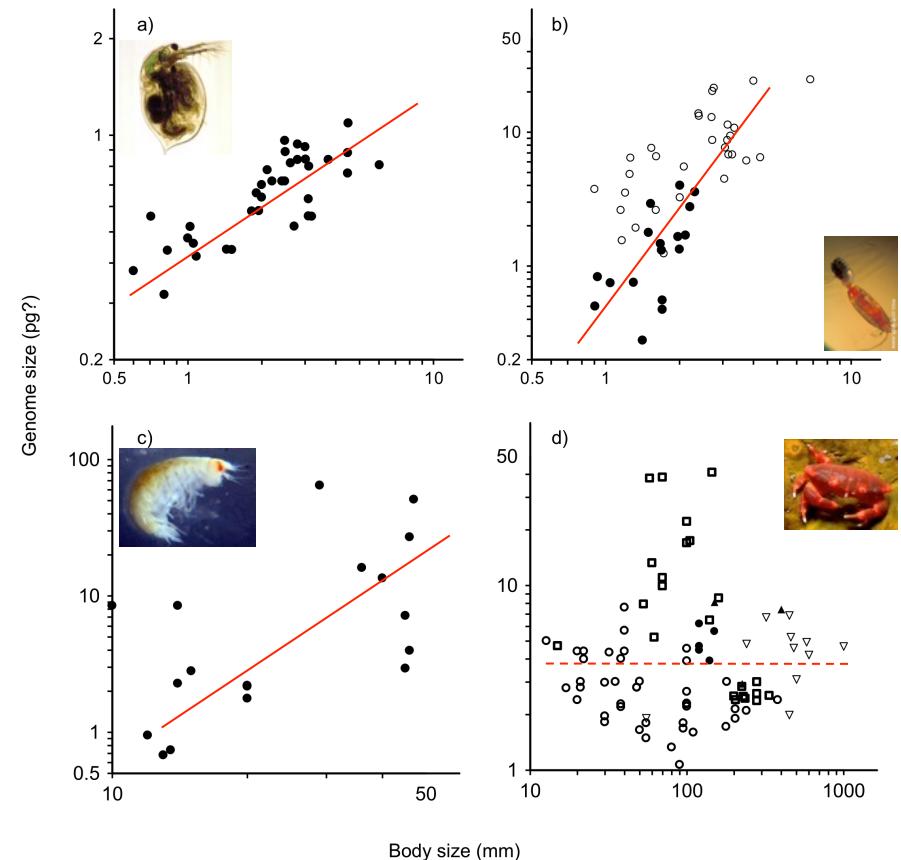
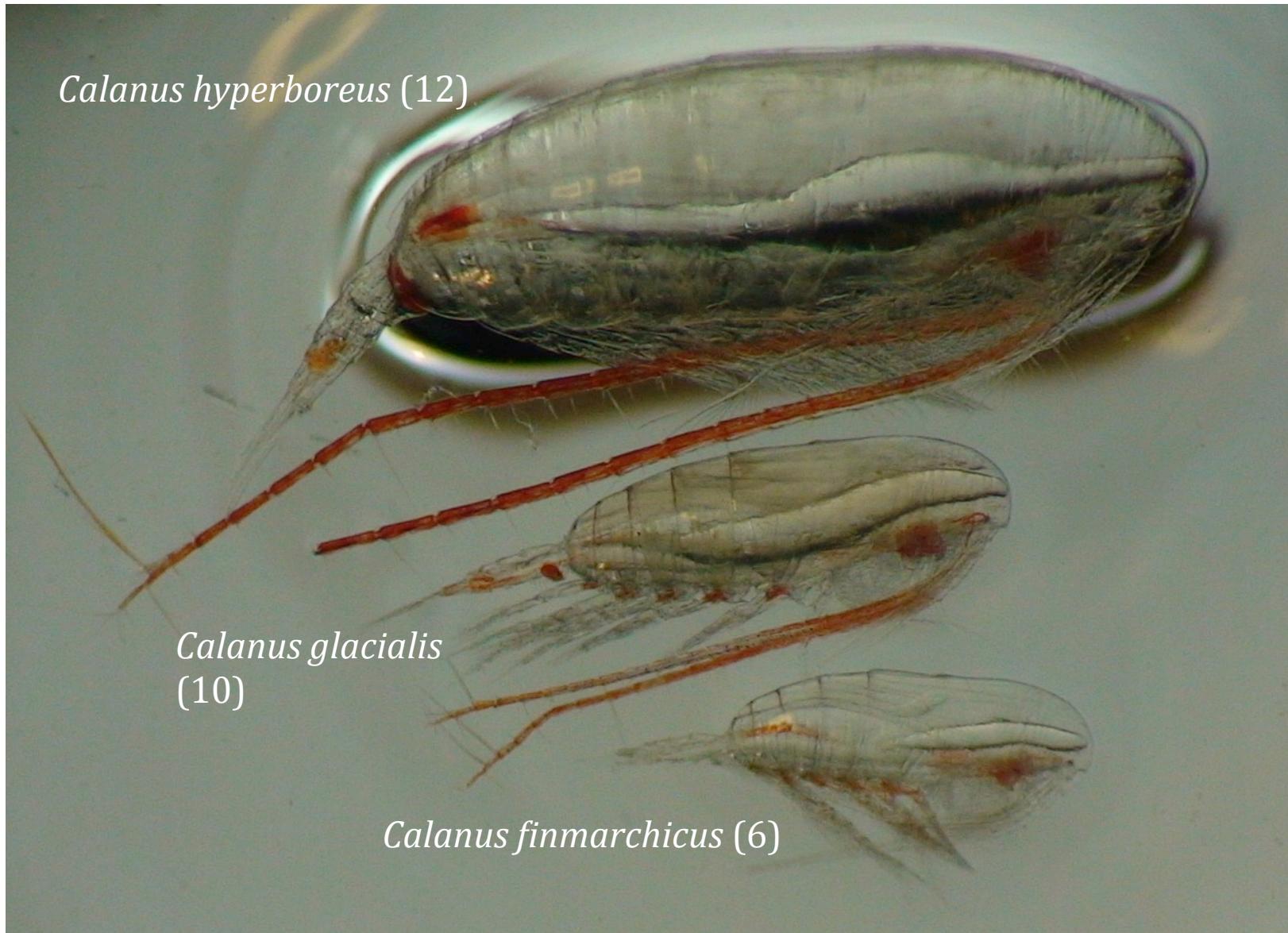


Figure 2. a) Cladocerans b) • Calanoids ◇ Cyclopoids c) Amphipods d) ◇ Crabs • Crayfish ▲ Prawns □ Shrimps △ Lobsters

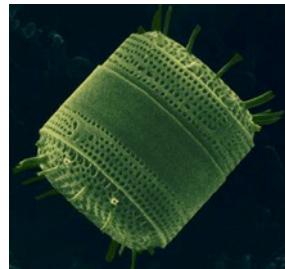
Speciation by genome-cell and body size?



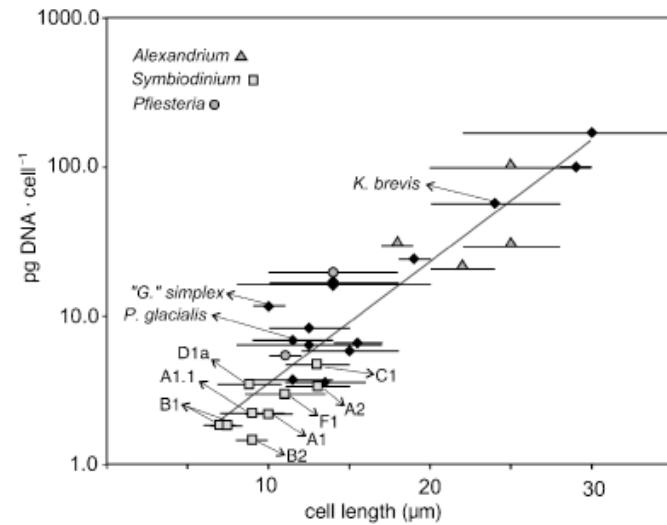
But genome size do not scale
with body size for homeotherms



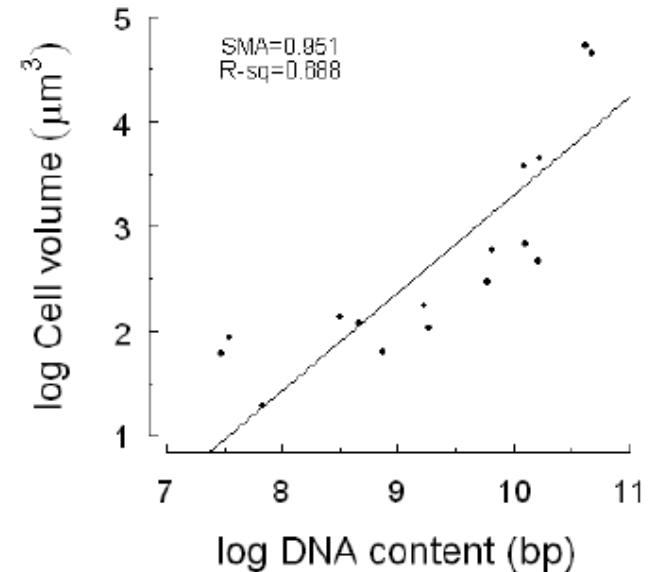
What about autotrophs?



- High growth rate correlates with small genomes also for plants
- Cell volume correlates with genome size in phytoplankton
- P- (and N) sparing as a cause for haploidy in phytoplankton?
(cf. Lewis, Am. Nat. 1985)



LaJeunesse et al. J. Phycol. (2005)



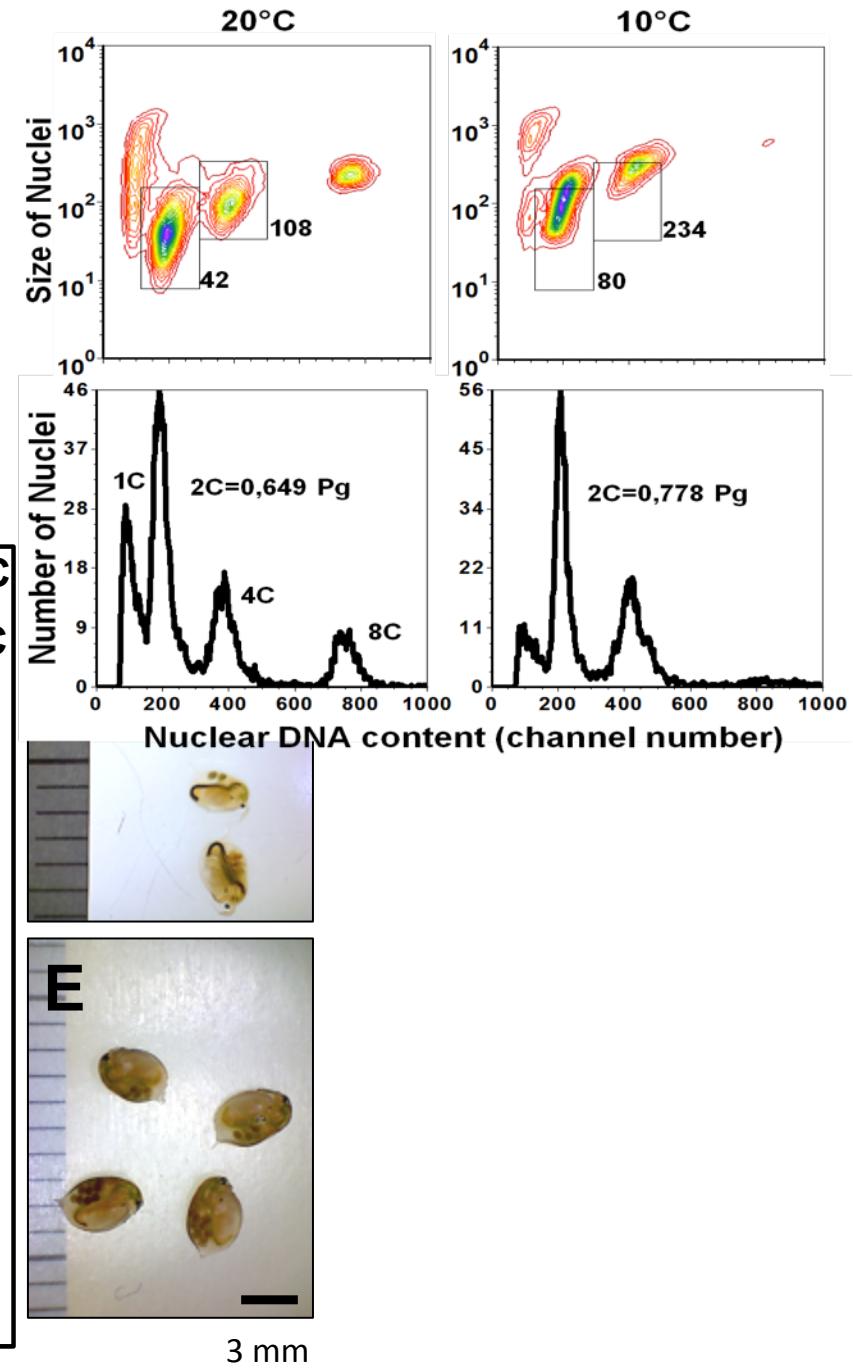
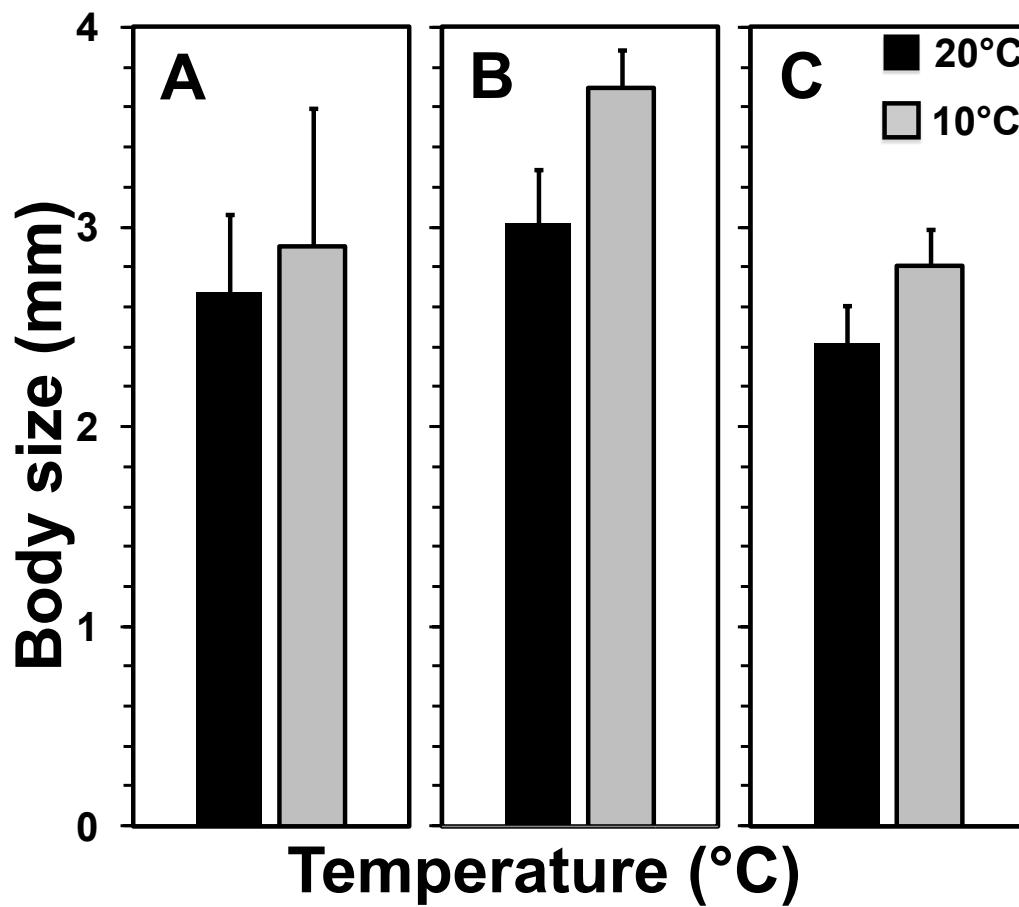
Connolly et al. J. Phycol. (2008)

Benefits of small genomes straightforward, but why large genomes?

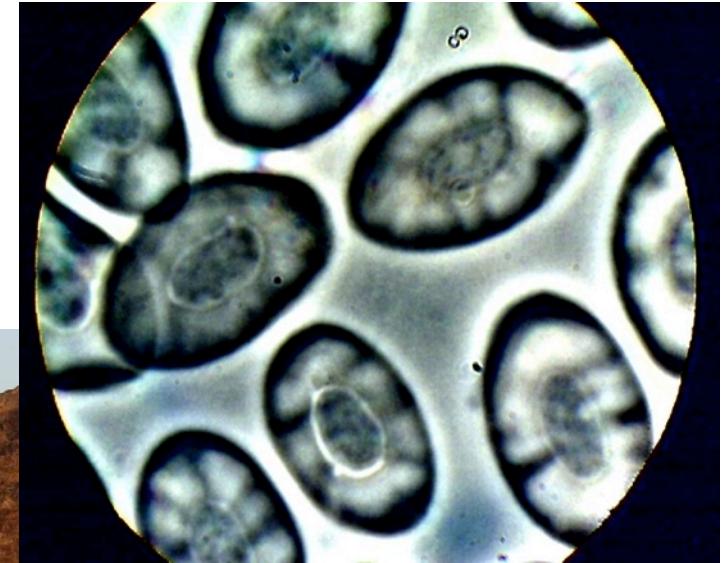
- Large body size?
- Slow growth?
- Lipid accumulation?
- Or simply lack of counter-selective forces?
- The role of population size?



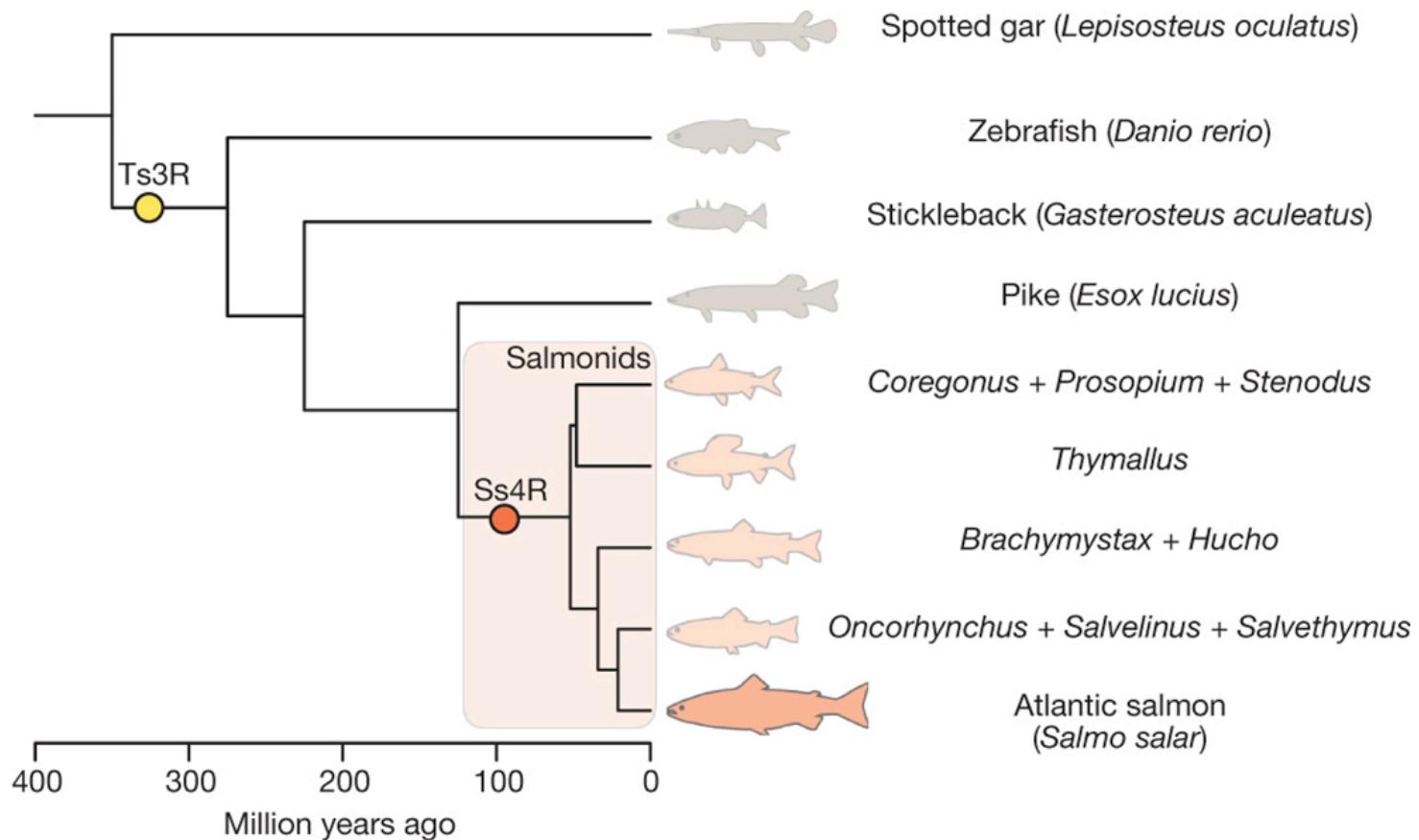
Daphnia genome size and temp



Blood-cells char, size, temp



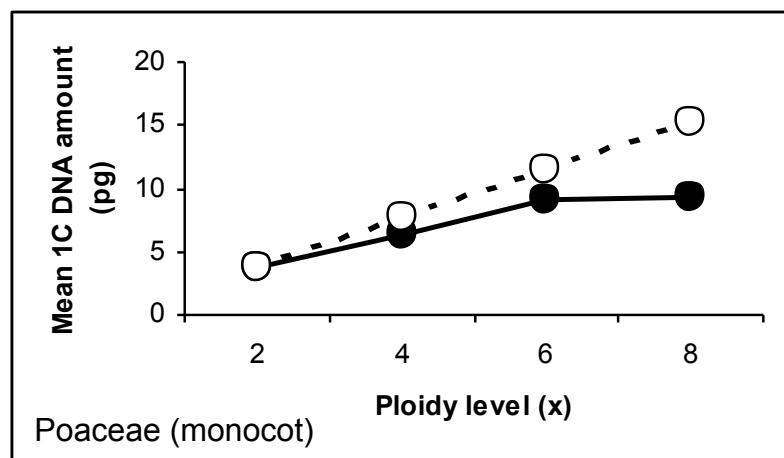
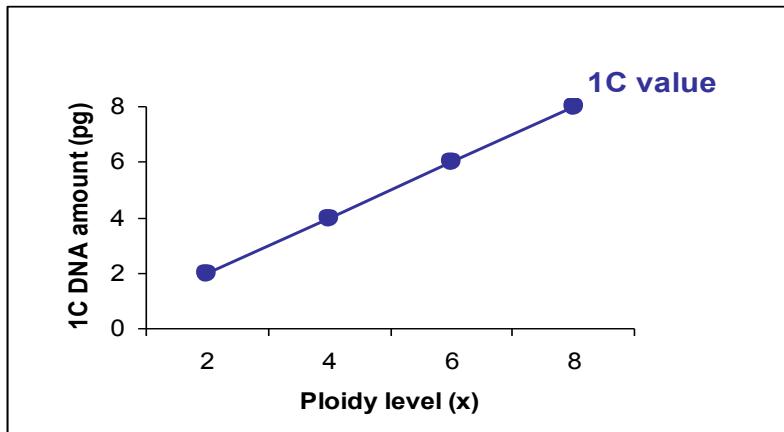
Polyplody - whole genome duplications in several lineages



S Lien et al. *Nature* 1–6 (2016) doi:10.1038/nature17164

nature

Genomic downsizing and genome streamlining



C-values of polyploids are expected to increase in direct proportion to ploidy level

Recent polyploids:
DNA content tends to be exactly a multiple of the diploid's C-value

Genomic downsizing:

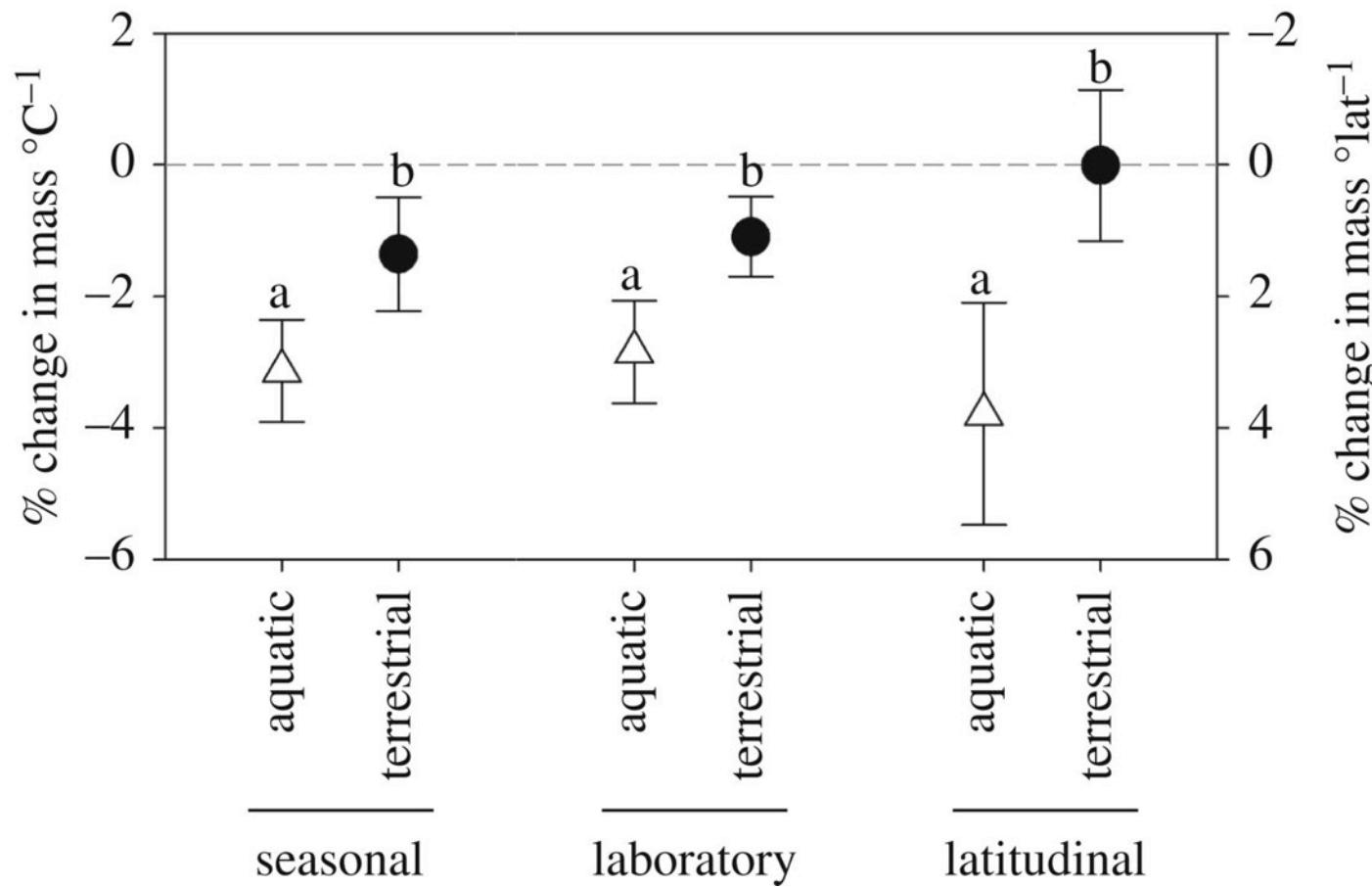
Polyplloid formation often followed by loss of DNA

Older polyploids:
Deviations due to genomic re-structuring

- a smaller C-value
- reduction of the biochemical costs
- enhancement of homologous pairing

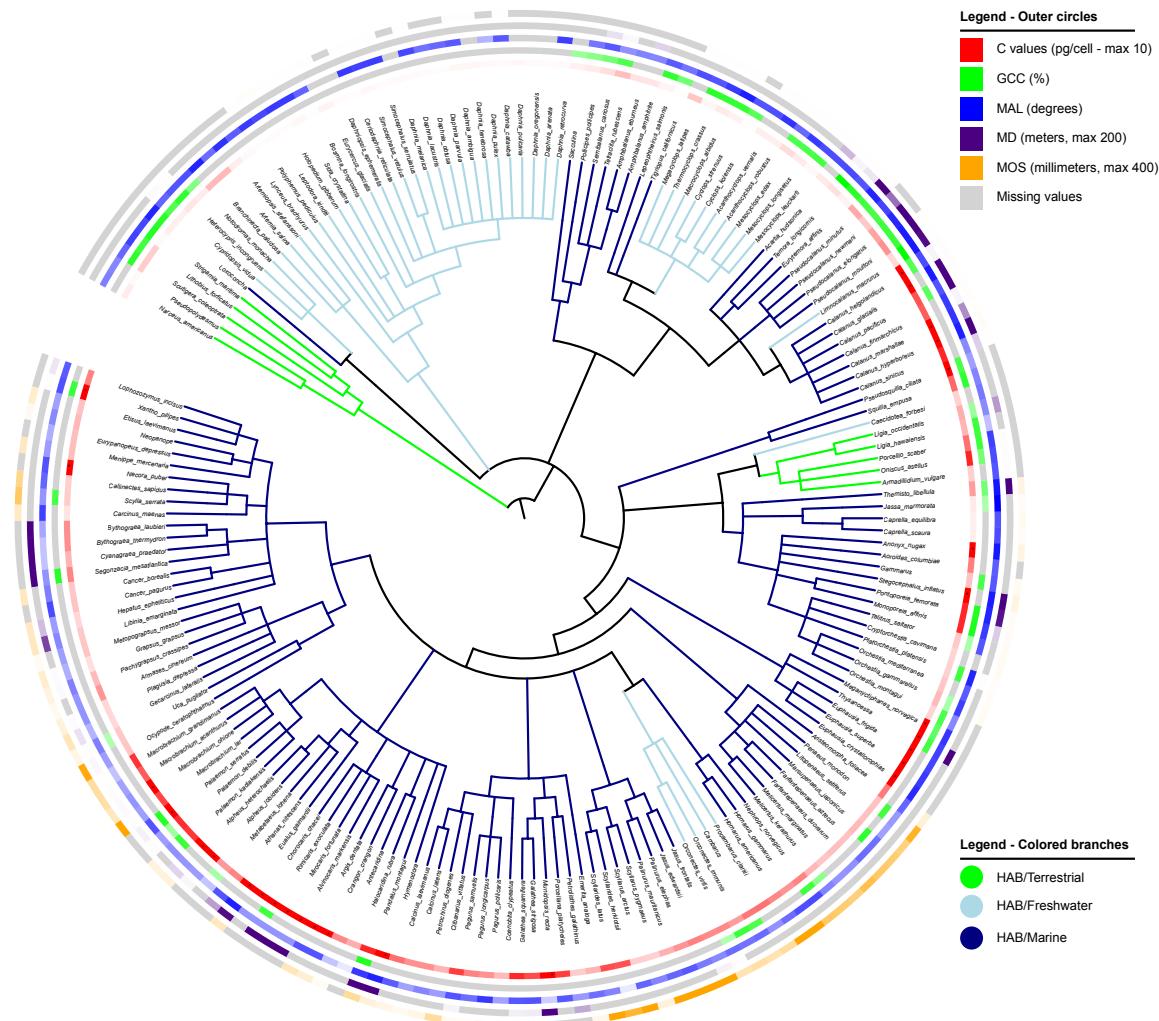
Genomic streamlining: a different process

Comparison of mean aquatic- and terrestrial-developing seasonal temperature–body size gradients (% change in mass per $^{\circ}\text{C}$ \pm 95% CI, left-hand y-axis) in arthropods with laboratory T-S responses (% change in mass per $^{\circ}\text{C}$ \pm 95% CI, left-hand y-axis) and L-S clines (% change in mass per $^{\circ}\text{latitude}$ \pm 95% CI, right-hand y-axis) for multivoltine species, using data from this study and Horne et al. [13].

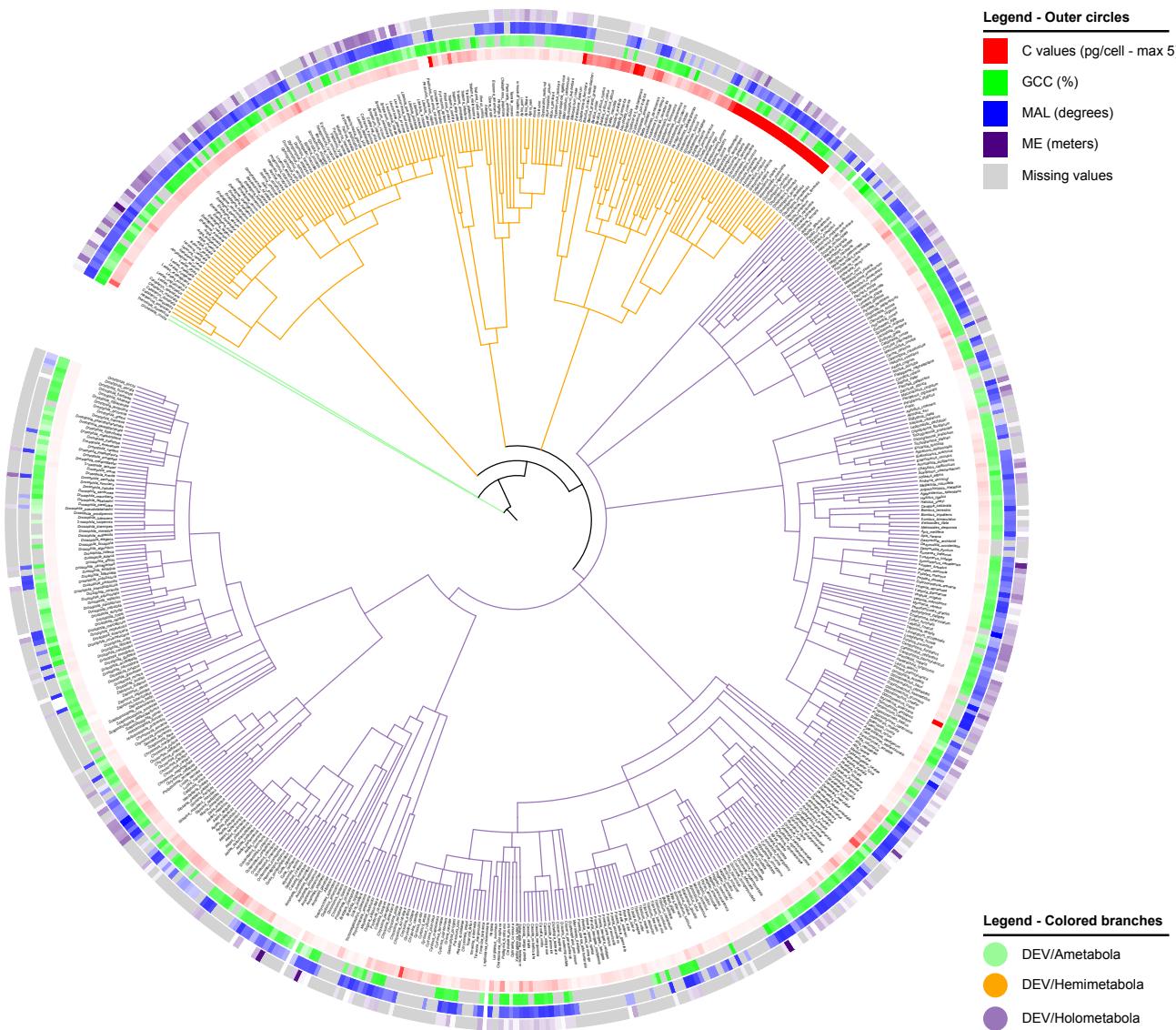


Curtis R. Horne et al. Proc. R. Soc. B 2017;284:20170238

Phylogeny or ecology- crustacea?



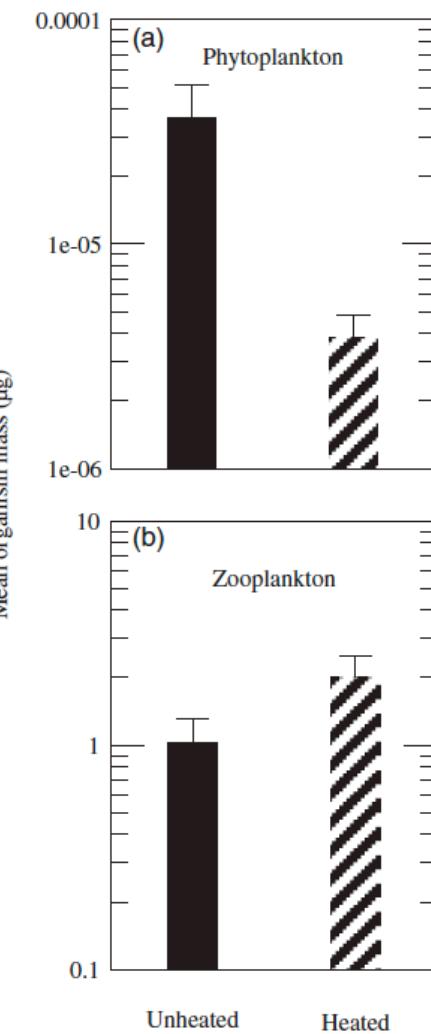
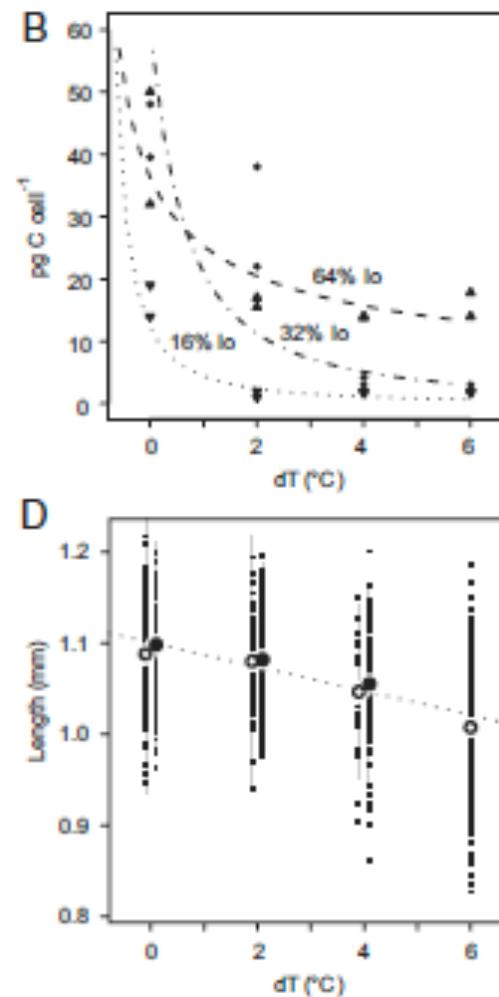
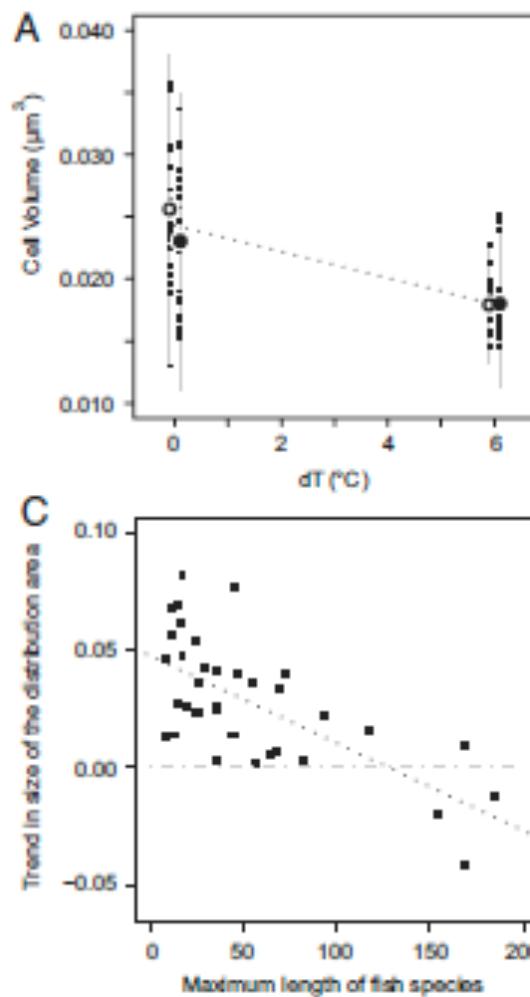
Phylogeny or ecology- insects?



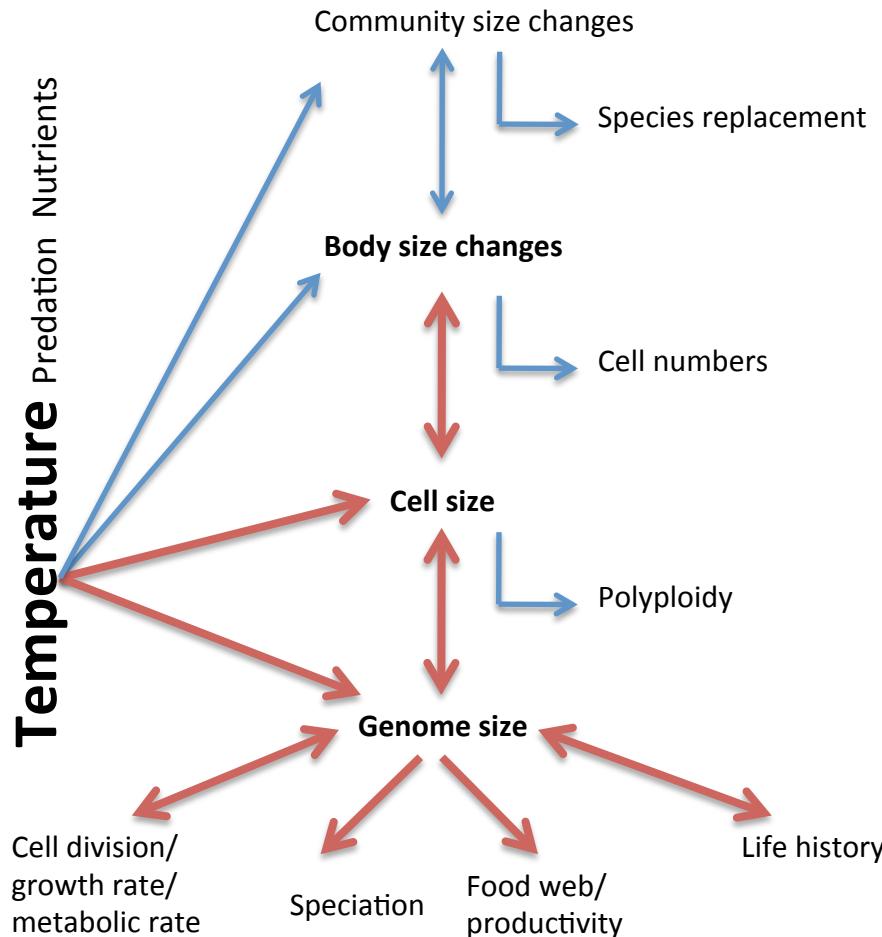
Size effects: Temperature, nutrients, O₂ – or grazers.....

- A risk of confounding factors: Increased temperature gives increased thermal stability, surface nutrient scarcity, and smaller cells due to surface-volume ratio.
- Community shifts and species “shrinking”: different routes to smaller cells
- Temp and P could pull in the same direction
- Other confounding factors: grazing, dissolved O₂...

Recent studies suggest smaller cells at higher temp



Temperature and size: causes and consequences



Thanks to the DWARF consortium

