## in silico strategies for target discovery

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A target is something you aim at.

## In the context of a pathology, a **target** can be

- a biological entity
- and/or a biological phenomenon

Intervention on the target depends on

- the level of knowledge of the disease,
- the cultural background of the physician
  - traditional medicine will focus more on the symptoms in order to end the symptoms.
  - allopathic (western, orthodox) medicine will focus on the causes (*i.e.* the etiology) in order to oppose the causes.
  - homeopathic medicine (in the sense of non-allopathic medicine) will focus on the etiology in order to **treat likes with likes**. In the widest sense of the word, vaccination is a category of homeopathic treatment.
- the technics and technologies for the intervention
  - without exogenous agents
    - musculoskeletal manipulations, surgery, diets
  - with exogenous biochemicals
    - natural substances based on traditional pharmacopoeia
    - drugs derived of traditional pharmacopoeia or from synthetic chemistry
    - vaccines
  - with exogenous genes (gene therapy)

Ontology Functional representations

## Malaria ?

In silico strategies for target discovery, should :

### 1) comply with knowledge of the disease in ETIOLOGIC terms

- objects, attributes and data that are consistent with

- **biological entities** (as defined or understood by bench biologists in reductionist terms); i.e. genes, RNA, proteins, solutes, cellular structures, tissues, organs, etc.

#### Ex.: a protein "E"

- and their measures, scales, i.e. concentration

- processes and functions that represent biological operations

-alterations over time (growth, transformations, movements) :

#### Ex.: a reaction "A $\rightarrow$ B"

- relations between objects and processes

Ex.: "C" controls "E" that catalyzes "A  $\rightarrow$  B"

If "B" is related to the pathology, "C" might be a target

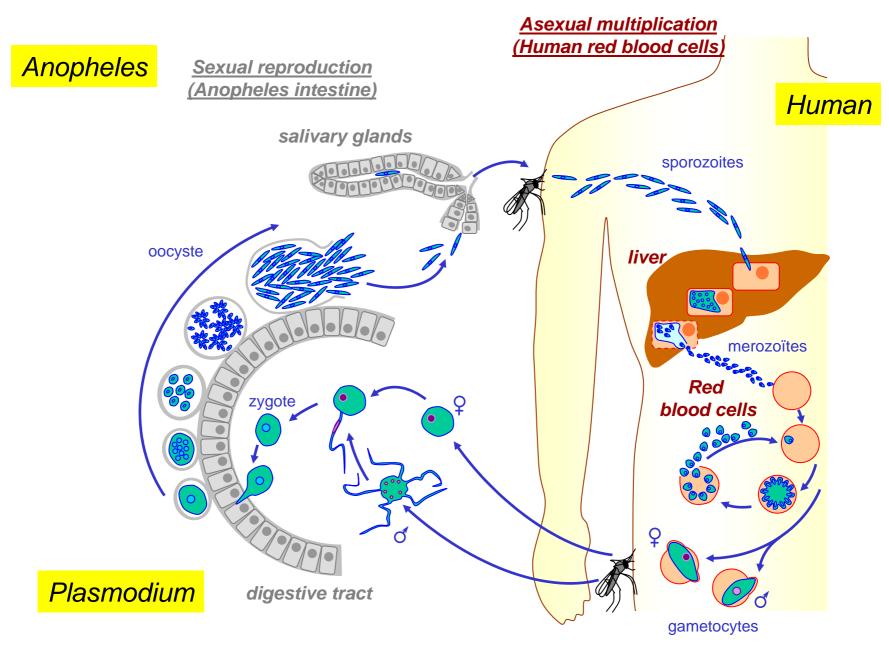
#### 2) benefit from biological knowledge in widest terms

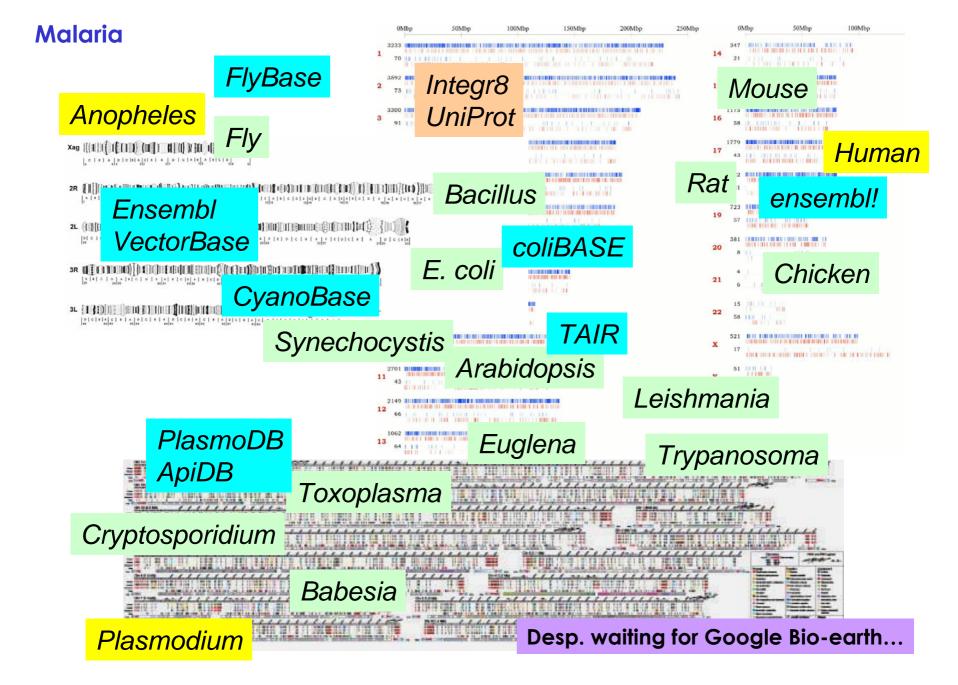
- access to all data, experiments, literature
- mining, comparisons, knowledge transfers

3) include, enable, enhance, maximize creative approaches

4) comply with feasibility of a treatment

- genetic variability of target? drug? vaccine? gene therapy?





## Anopheles



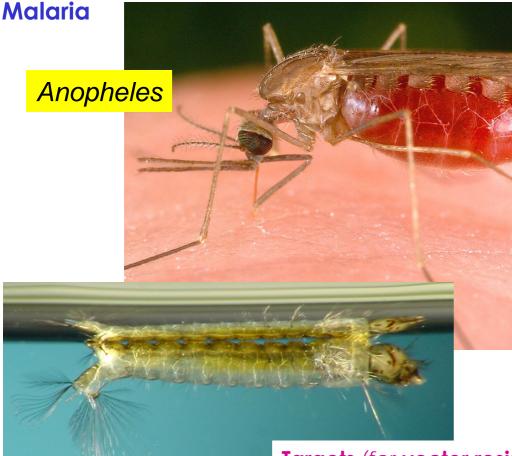
Strategy requiring an exploration of mosquito, but also fly, genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data



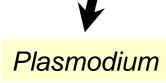
© 2002 Stephen L. Do



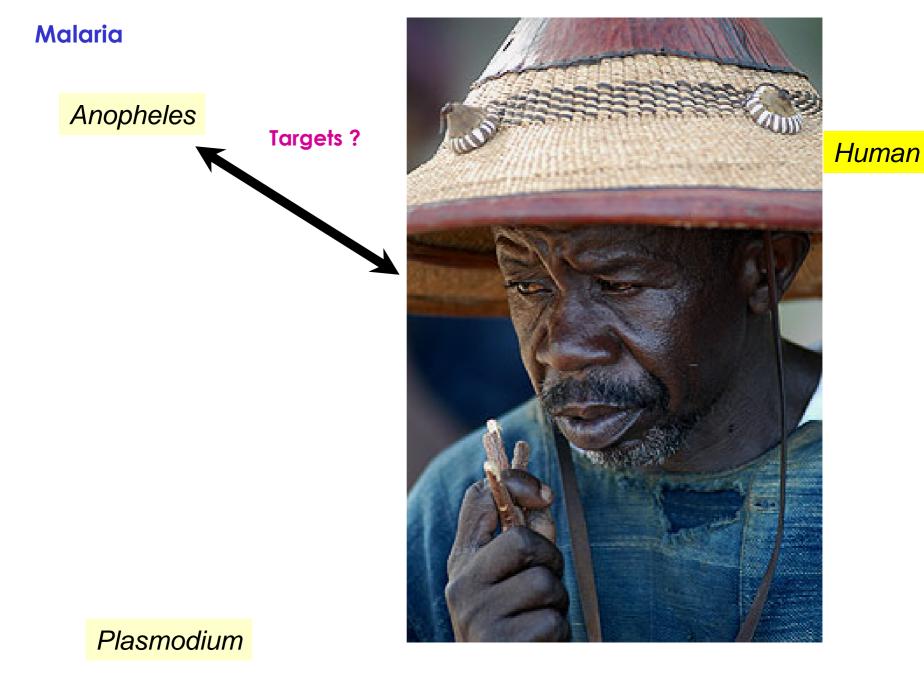
Plasmodium



Human



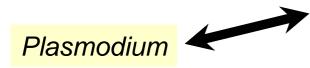
Targets (for vector resistance and population control): Anopheles genes introducing resistance to *Plasmodium* (with possible genetic manipulations to introduce this resistance) + fitness genes => promote the introduction of competing populations that resist to *Plasmodium*. Strategy requiring an exploration of mosquito genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data + *Plasmodium* genomic/postgenomic data focusing on parasitic stages within mosquitoes.

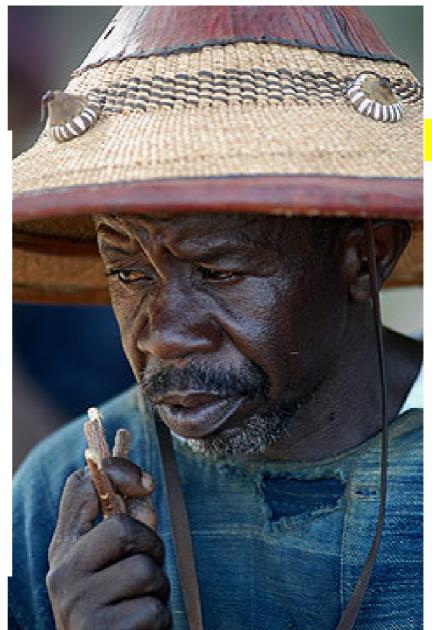


## Anopheles

Targets (for resistance): Human genes introducing resistance to *Plasmodium* (with possible genetic manipulations to introduce this resistance) => promote the human processes involved in resistance (with immune response enhancer, but also including gene therapy approaches on a long, long, long term...) Strategy requiring an exploration of human genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data + mouse/rat models requiring comparative tools (homologies, syntenies) + epidemiological information.

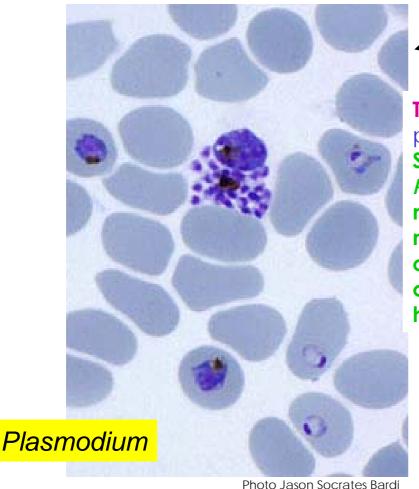
Chromosome 5q31-q33





## Human

## Anopheles



## Human

Targets (for drugs/vaccines): mostly vital processes - and genes -Strategy requiring an exploration of *Plasmodium (P. falciparum* and other malaria species), genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data + a study of genetic variations of the target candidate + a sufficient difference with human features to avoid toxicity.

**Targets** (for **insecticides**): mostly vital processes - and genes -Mosquito + fly, genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data

Anopheles

Targets (for vector resistance and

population control): Anopheles genes introducing resistance to Plasmodium + fitness genes Mosquito genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data + Plasmodium genomic/postgenomic data focusing on parasitic stages within mosquitoes + population genetic data

+ Experiments for Target validation (can be knock out but not only) + Experiment to develop treatment (drug discovery + development; vaccine development)

**Targets** (for resistance): Human genes introducing resistance to Plasmodium Human genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data + mouse/rat models requiring comparative tools (homolgogies, syntenies) + epidemiological information.

Human

Targets (for drugs/vaccines): mostly vital processes - and genes -

Plasmodium

Plasmodium (P. falciparum and other malaria species), genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data +human genomic/postgenomic data + a study of genetic variations of the target candidate

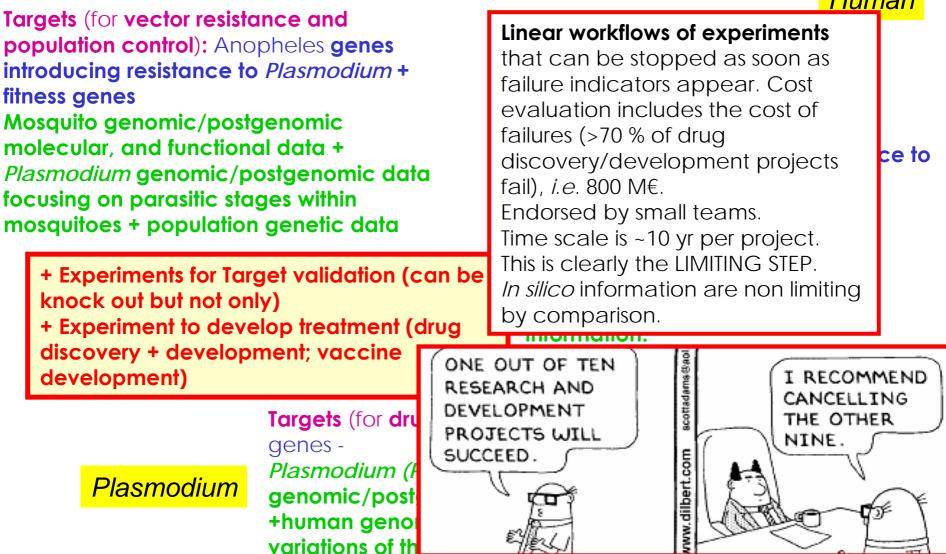
Malaria Anopheles	processes - Mosquito +	insecticides): mostly vital and genes – fly, genomic/postgenomic and functional data	
Targets (for vector resistance and population control): Anopheles g introducing resistance to Plasmo fitness genes Mosquito genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data Plasmodium genomic/postgeno focusing on parasitic stages with mosquitoes + population genetic		put some order in this avalanche of information. Endorsed by all	
		(gigantic); access considered as a « universal human right »; only limit	e): ucing resistance stgenomic tional data + equiring omolgogies, iological
+ Experiments for Target valid knock out but not only) + Experiment to develop treat discovery + development; var development)		maintenance, improvement and development of wise data storage models and systems, navigation maps and mining tools	
<u>Plasmodiu</u>	<mark>M</mark> genomi +humai	accesses (internet portals and grid distribution) dium (P. falciparum and other malar ic/postgenomic molecular, and func n genomic/postgenomic data + a str ns of the target candidate	tional data

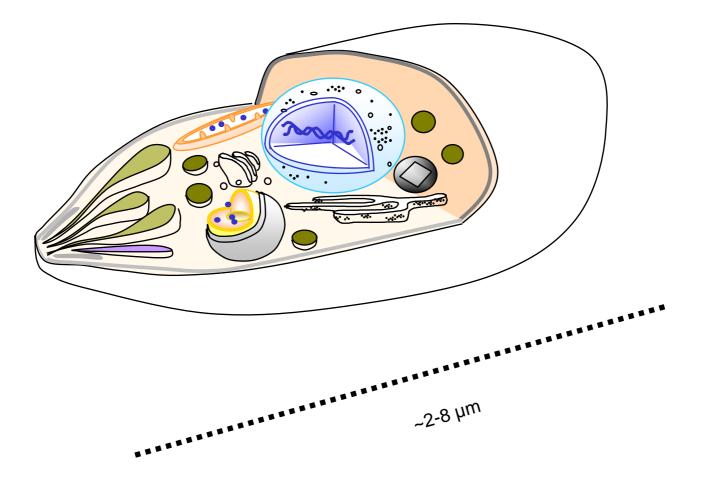
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aria

Targets (for insecticides): mostly vital processes - and genes – Mosquito + fly, genomic/postgenomic molecular, and functional data

Anopheles

Human





Plasmodium falciparum an apicomplexan



J. Protozool. 1991 38:243-5.

# The putative mitochondrial genome of *Plasmodium falciparum*.

## Feagin JE, Gardner MJ, Williamson DH, Wilson RJ.

Intraerythrocytic stages of mammalian malarial parasites employ glycolysis for energy production but some aspects of mitochondrial function appear crucial to their survival since inhibitors of mitochondrial protein synthesis and electron transport have antimalarial effects. Investigations of the putative mitochondrial genome of Plasmodium falciparum have detected organellar rRNAs and tRNAs encoded by a 35 kb circular DNA. Some features of the organization and sequence of the rRNA genes are reminiscent of chloroplast DNAs. The 35 kb DNA also encodes open reading frames for proteins normally found in chloroplast but not mitochondrial genomes. An apparently unrelated 6 kb tandemly repeated element which encodes two mitochondrial protein coding genes and fragments of rRNA genes is also found in malarial parasites. The malarial mitochondrial genome thus appears quite unusual. Further investigations are expected to provide insights into the possible functional relationships between these molecules and perhaps their evolutionary history.



J. Mol. Biol. (1996) 261, 155-172





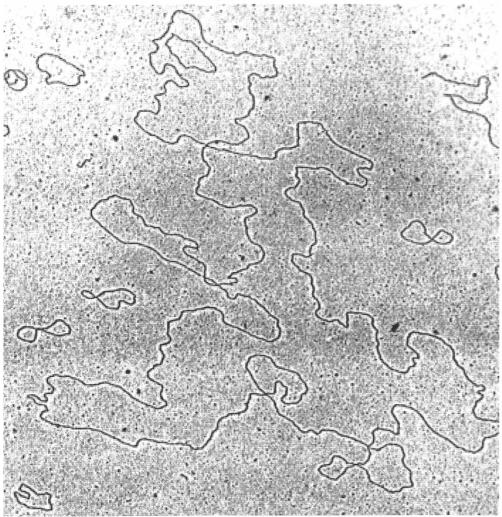
## Complete Gene Map of the Plastid-like DNA of the Malaria Parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*

R. J. M. (lain) Wilson\*, Paul W. Denny, Peter R. Preiser Kaveri Rangachari, Kate Roberts, Anjana Roy, Andrea Whyte Malcolm Strath, Daphne J. Moore, Peter W. Moore and Donald H. Williamson

National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London NW7 1AA, UK

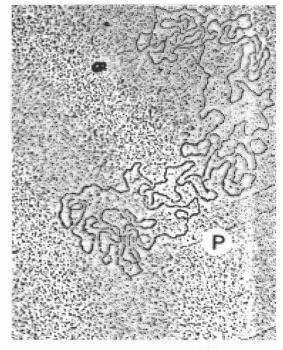
Malaria parasites, and other parasitic protists of the Phylum Apicomplexa, carry a plastid-like genome with greatly reduced sequence complexity. This 35 kb DNA circle resembles the plastid DNA of non-photosynthetic plants, encoding almost exclusively components involved in gene expression. The complete gene map described here includes genes for duplicated large and small subunit rRNAs, 25 species of tRNA, three subunits of a eubacterial RNA polymerase, 17 ribosomal proteins, and a translation elongation factor. In addition, it codes for an unusual member of the Clp family of chaperones, as well as an open reading frame of unknown function found in red algal plastids. Transcription is polycistronic. This plastid-like DNA molecule is conserved in several genera of apicomplexans and is conjectured to have been acquired by an early progenitor of the Phylum by secondary endosymbiosis. The function of the organelle (plastid) carrying this DNA remains obscure, but appears to be specified by genes transferred to the nucleus.

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Lettuce circular CpDNA ~140 kb (Kolodner and Tewari, 1975)





Plasmodium berghei ~35 kb (Yap et al., 1997)

Synechocystis	3500	kb
Lettuce	140	kb
Plasmodium	35	kb



#### A Plastid of Probable Green Algal Origin in Apicomplexan Parasites

Sabine Köhler,\*† Charles F. Delwiche,\*‡ Paul W. Denny, Lewis G. Tilney, Paul Webster, R. J. M. Wilson, Jeffrey D. Palmer, David S. Roos§

Protozoan parasites of the phylum Apicomplexa contain three genetic elements: the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes characteristic of virtually all eukaryotic cells and a 35-kilobase circular extrachromosomal DNA. In situ hybridization techniques were used to localize the 35-kilobase DNA of *Toxoplasma gondii* to a discrete organelle surrounded by four membranes. Phylogenetic analysis of the *tufA* gene encoded by the 35-kilobase genomes of coccidians *T. gondii* and *Eimeria tenella* and the malaria parasite *Plasmo-dium falciparum* grouped this organellar genome with cyanobacteria and plastids, showing consistent clustering with green algal plastids. Taken together, these observations indicate that the Apicomplexa acquired a plastid by secondary endosymbiosis, probably from a green alga.

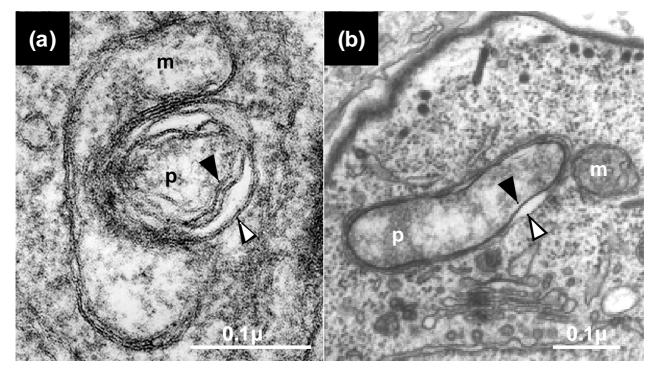
Apicomplexan parasites contain two maternally inherited extrachromosomal DNA elements (1). The mitochondrial genome is a multicopy element of  $\sim 6$  to 7 kb encod-

C. F. Delwiche and J. D. Palmer, Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA. P. W. Denny and R. J. M. Wilson, National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London NW7 1AA UK. P. Webster, Department of Cell Biology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT 06520, USA.

\*These authors contributed equally to this work. †Present address: School of Pharmacy, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143, USA. ‡Present address: Department of Plant Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA. §To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: droos@sas.upenn.edu ing three proteins of the respiratory chain and extensively fragmented ribosomal RNAs (2). In addition, these parasites contain a 35-kb circular DNA molecule with no significant similarity to known mitochondrial genomes. The 35-kb element is similar to chloroplast genomes, containing an inverted repeat of ribosomal RNA genes and genes typically found in chloroplasts but not mitochondria (*rpoB/C*, *tufA*, and *clpC*) (3). The 35-kb DNA is also predicted to encode a complete set of tRNAs, numerous ribosomal proteins, and several unidentified open reading frames (3).

We used in situ hybridization to determine whether the 35-kb DNA is found within the parasite nucleus, mitochondrion, or cytoplasm or, alternatively, whether this

S. Köhler, L. G. Tilney, D. S. Roos, Department of Biology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA.



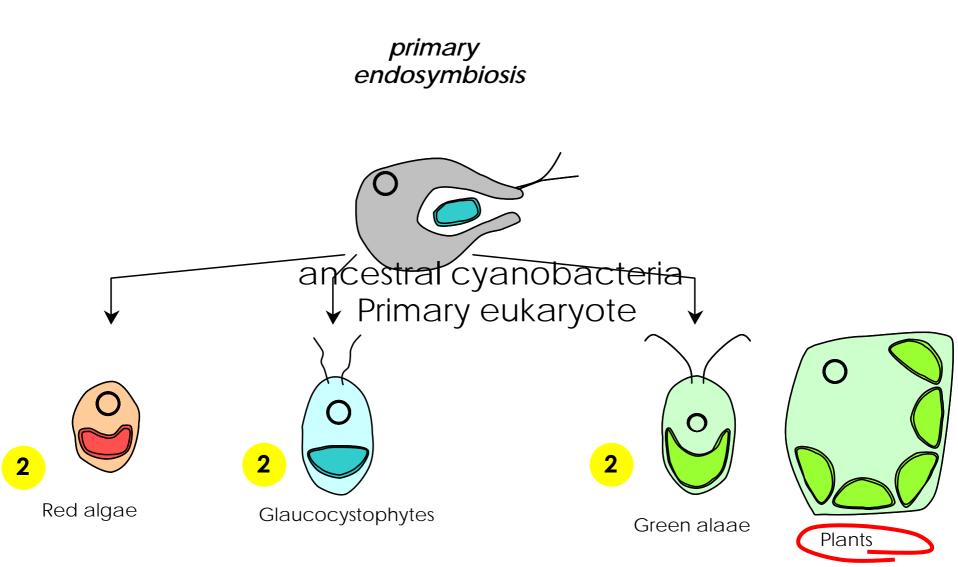
Plasmodium

Toxoplasma

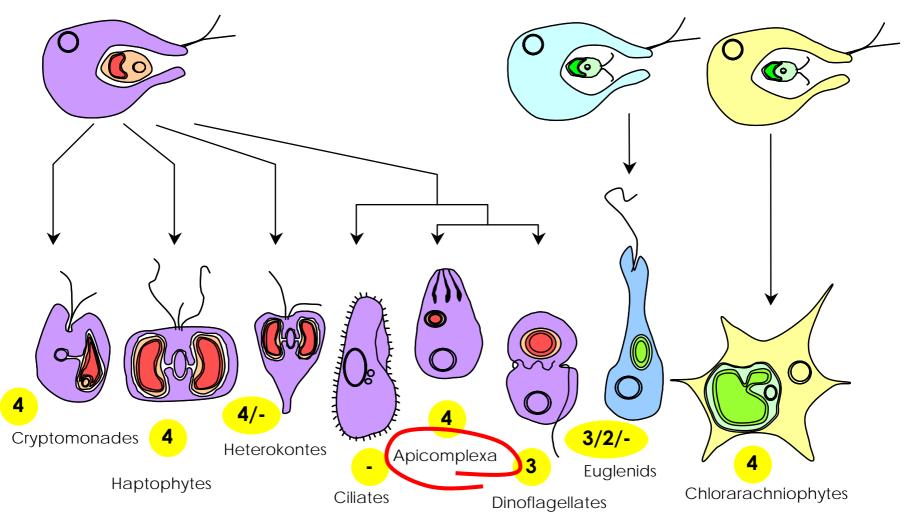
(Apicomplexans)

The apicoplast, a plastid limited by 3-4 membranes

What is the apicoplast origin ?



secondary endosymbiosis



The two contentious groups include parasites that cause diseases such as malaria and sleeping sickness; Adl hopes his classification will aid drug development. "Placing these organisms in the wrong group is in part responsible for the fact that we do not have specific drugs for these diseases, because of wrong assumptions about their biochemistry," he says.

enough for a consensus on a new regime, and fierce disagreements became common.

"Tve seen people throw things at each other," says Sina Adl, a soil-organism specialist at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, who coordinated the group of 28 protist experts that produced the new classification. It was commissioned by the International Society of irypanosomes (purple), which cause sleeping sickness, were one of the hardest protists to classify.

Protistologists and is published in *The Journal* of *Eukaryotic Microbiology* (S. M. Adl et al. J. Eukaryot. Microbiol. **52**, 399–451; 2005).

The experts have given protists a mighty four kingdoms out of six. Animals do not even get their own group — fungi and animals have

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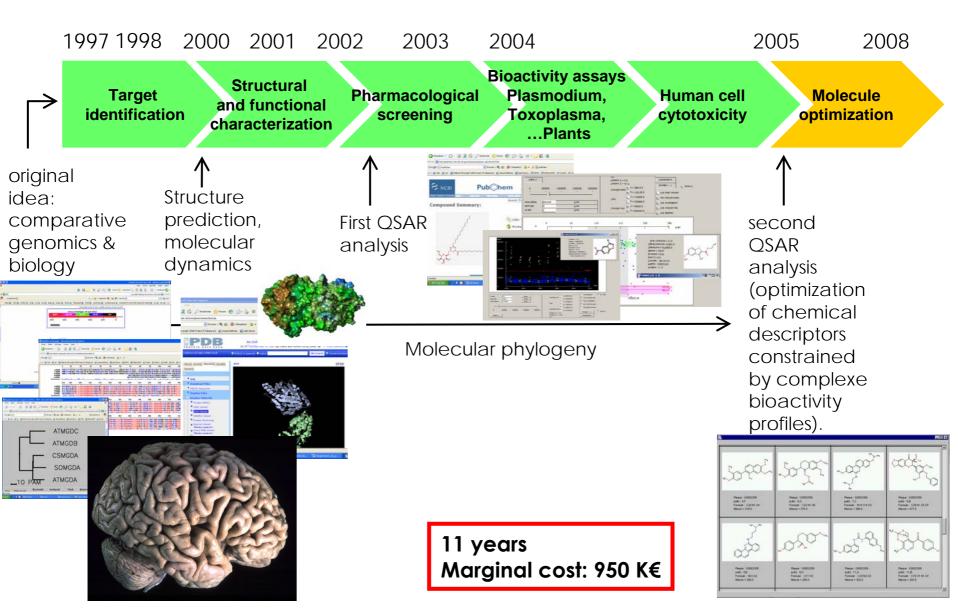
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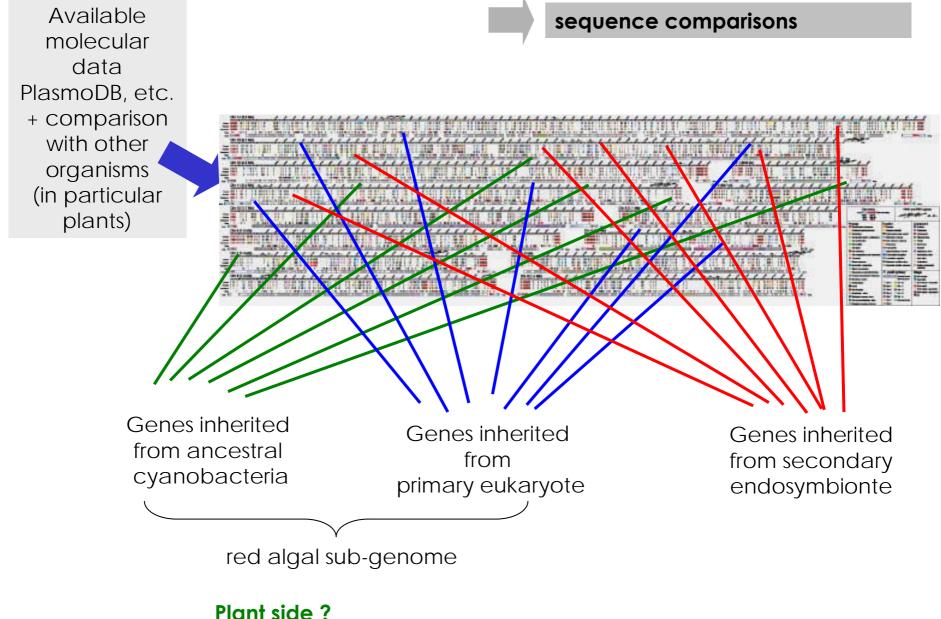


## Is the apicoplast a target ?

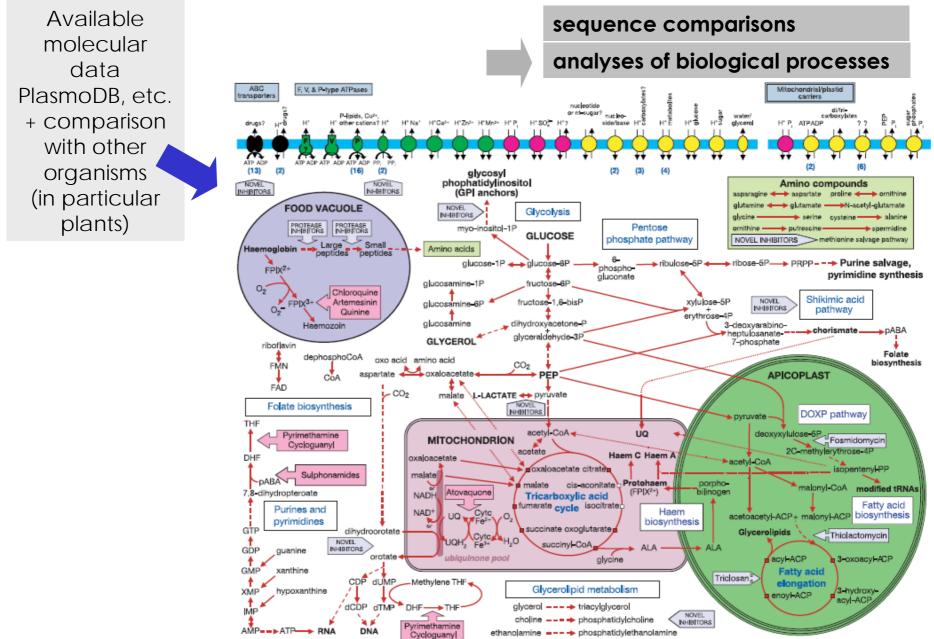
- **Fosmidomycin**, a **herbicide** targeting a plant chloroplast process (*i.e.* the non-mevalonate isoprenoid pathway), kills the parasite (Jooma et al., 1999, Science).
- •Genetic impairment of apicoplast division leads to cell with no apicoplast... that die (He et al., 2001, *EMBO J*)



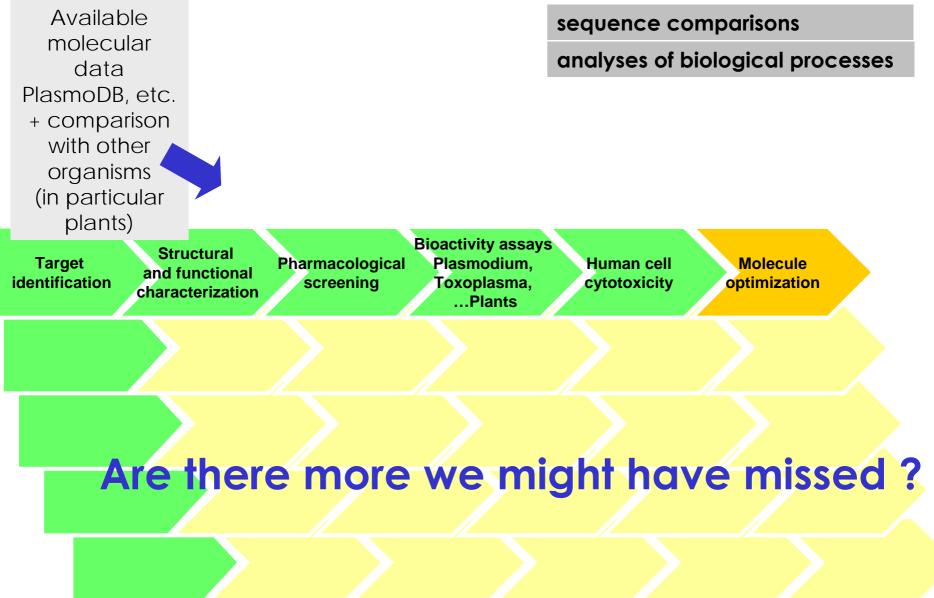
## Is the apicoplast a target ? (in more general term any plant-like process in Plasmodium)



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## Is the apicoplast a target ? (in more general term any plant-like process in Plasmodium)



Available molecular data PlasmoDB, etc. + comparison with other organisms (in particular plants)



#### sequence comparisons

Blast (+ motifs) searches

analyses of biological processes

~3200 sequences

#### Number of genes hit with hit with predicted to code genes with genes with no hit for proteins (in no known known original paper) function function ~30,000 (Craig et al., 2001) **Arabidopsis** (A.G.I., 2000) ~25,000

#### Plasmodium

Human

(Gardner et al., 2002)

~5,000

Available molecular data PlasmoDB, etc. + comparison with other organisms (in particular plants)



sequence comparisons

analyses of biological processes

~3200 sequences

Blast (+ motifs) searches

>87088036|chr11\_s259 Length = 17,424

Plus Strand HSPs:

Score = 79 (32.9 bits), Expect = 4.1, Sum P(2) = 0.98 Identities = 23/76 (30%), Positives = 42/76 (55%), Frame = +2

Query: 441 IAGQEAGNVPYVIENGIG--KYLKSPKEIAKTVSQWFGPKANELQIMSQNALKHARPDAV 498 I G+ G++ ++ N + KY KSP + KTVS FG ++ E ++ +H + + Sbjct: 2423 INGKNMGDLQSMLNNLLNSEKYKKSPYTLDKTVSSGFGSRSKESMLLEY--QHNKSEQ-2590

Query: 499 FKIVHDLDELV-RQKI 513 +I+ +L EL+ + KI Sbjct: 2591 -EILRELOELINKNKI 2635

Score = 54 (24.1 bits), Expect = 4.1, Sum P(2) = 0.98 Identities = 21/95 (22%), Positives = 45/95 (47%), Frame = +2

 Query:
 27
 NSSLHGNNSNGYSSFSSNSVHFGGLATQNRYKFVNSLSFSKEGSNLKRILSDFNRVIRL 85

 N++ + NN+N
 SS +++S + ++ N
 N+ + +K + ++++ + F+ +

 Sbjct:
 1745
 NNNNNNNNNSSNNNSSSNNNSSSNNNNSSNNNNAKAANPMEQLTNLFSHINNND
 1924

 Query:
 86
 HCDRI----PLGFSSIGLNSGESNGVSDNGHGVLE
 116

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 HHDEKGDGHPLEHIMNLFGQGHNNGDAKGGNNPLE
 2029

Available molecular data PlasmoDB, etc. + comparison with other organisms (in particular plants)

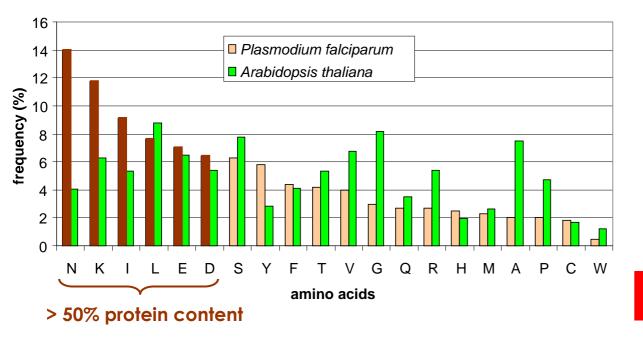


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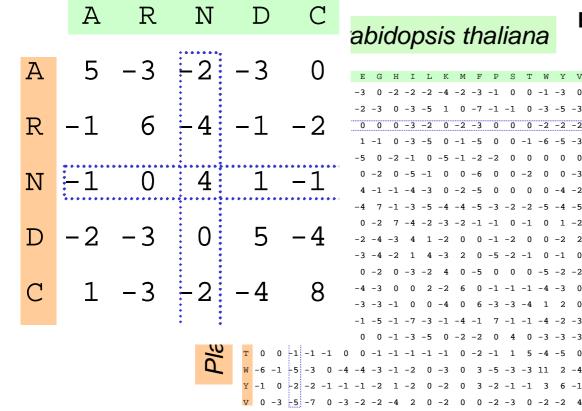
6 -1

-2 -2 4

#### sequence comparisons

analyses of biological processes

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~3200 sequences

Available molecular data PlasmoDB, etc. + comparison with other organisms (in particular plants)



sequence comparisons

analyses of biological processes

Blast (+ motifs) searches

## $\Rightarrow$ Sequence alignement methods ?

- $\checkmark$  Substitution matrices ?
  - Non-symetric matrices  $\Rightarrow$  in progress
- ✓ Score statistics?
  - E-value vs Z-score

 $\Rightarrow$  Z-score

 $\Rightarrow$  Use at massive scale in progress

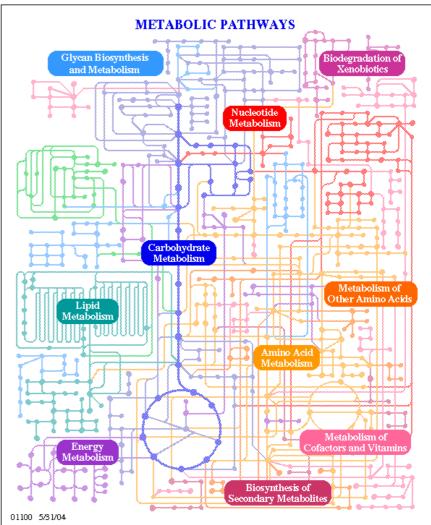
~3200 sequences

Available molecular data PlasmoDB, etc. + comparison with other organisms (in particular plants)



#### sequence comparisons

#### analyses of biological processes



## **FUTURE CHALLENGES**

Potential of *in silico* approaches for target discovery?



 $\Rightarrow$  more integration of genomic/post-genomic molecular and functional data  $\Rightarrow$  from user-friendly, but rigid, web portals to flexible & creativity-oriented knowledge accesses (with user-designed workflows, implying a strong interoperability)

 $\Rightarrow$  improved and new analyzing and mining tools

 $\Rightarrow$  integration of biological and chemical information (chemogenomic knowledge) and models for biological and chemical space intersects

- what biological space ? what chemical space ?
- bridging biological targets  $\rightarrow$  ligand
  - bridge #1: recorded effect of drugs/small molecules on known targets
  - bridge # 2: protein structure -small molecule structure (docking)
- bridging small molecule  $\rightarrow$  biological responses
  - OMIC functional responses
- implementing new predictions (*i.e.* druggability)

Comparative chemogenomics CEA Grenoble C Botté, O Bastien, N Saïdani, D. Grando, A. Zoppé, J Jouhet, H Valadié MA. Block, E Maréchal

Al for chemogenomics+cheminformatics CEA Grenoble S. Wieczorek, S. Aci, S Roy IMAG Grenoble G. Bisson, M. Gordon Université de Lille D Horvath

Functional chemogenomics **CEA Grenoble** L Lafanechère

Automated screening Cerep, France E Nicolaï, F Revah

Virtual screening IN2P3 Clermont-Ferrand V Kasam, V Breton

Diversity oriented chemistry CEA Saclay M Deligny, AL Bonneau, R Lasselin, B Rousseau, R Lopez Faculté de Pharmacie Meylan YS Wong Structural biology Cermav, Grenoble C Jouanneau, M Audry A Imberty, C Breton

Parasitology Grenoble C. Mercier, C. Bisanz, MF. Cesbron-Delauw Montpellier JF Dubremetz, H Vial Mexico R Mondragon Seattle J Feagin, Marburg N. Azzouz, R Schwarz,

Ontological status of plants Univ. J Fourier Grenoble N Aumonier

Bioinformatics + Post genomics analyses LIRMM Montpellier O. Gascuel, L. Bréhélin & team Gene-IT, France K Metayer, JJ Codani Pretoria, South Africa LM Birkholtz, F Joubert, B. Louw CEA Cadarache P Ortet

## CHEMOGÉNOMIQUE

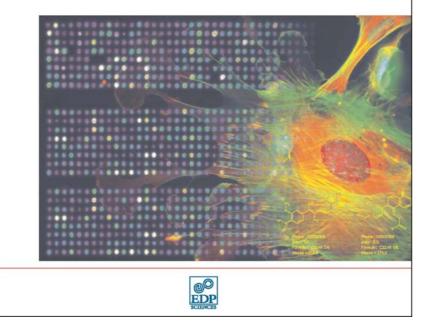
GRENOBLE

SCIENCES

#### DES PETITES MOLÉCULES POUR EXPLORER LE VIVANT

sous la direction de Eric MARÉCHAL Sylvaine ROY Laurence LAFANECHÈRE

COLLECTION DIRIGÉE PAR JEAN BORNAREL



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(Eds. Maréchal, Roy, Lafanechère) EDP Sciences, Collection Grenoble Science

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- Part II: High content screening and chemical genetic strategies
- Part III: toward an *in silico* exploration of the chemical and biological spaces
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16 authors (biologists, chemists, chemoand bioinformaticians).

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(Eds. Gascuel, Steel) Oxford University Press