



2016 Invasive Species Webinar Series

Gene Editing: A Next Generation Tool for Invasive Species Management?

Thursday, February 18, 2016
2:00pm – 4:00pm Eastern Time
(speaking will begin at 2:03)

Co-hosted by the Environmental Law Institute &
The National Invasive Species Council

To join the ELI Invasive Species Seminar Series mailing list, please email lerner@eli.org



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NOW SPEAKING:

Stas Burgiel

Assistant Director for Prevention and Budgetary Coordination,
National Invasive Species Council (NISC)

Stas Burgiel serves as the NISC policy lead on issues related to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species with a focus on the pathways for their movement. He coordinates a prevention committee convened jointly with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and also oversees the collation of information on NISC member agency budgets related to invasive species issues. Key areas of interest and activity include the role of trade agreements, links to climate change and multi-level stakeholder coordination.

Stas received his Ph.D. in international service from the American University and a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College. He has worked and consulted for a range of nongovernmental, governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including the Global Invasive Species Programme, the Nature Conservancy, the UNEP/World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the New Zealand government, on invasive species and other environmental policy issues.



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INTRODUCING:

Karl Campbell

Project Director, Island Conservation, Galapagos

Karl Campbell is a Project Director for Island Conservation in the Galapagos. Mr. Campbell has a Ph.D. from the University of Queensland, Australia. As part of his doctoral work, he developed advanced Judas goat methods involving sterilization, pregnancy termination and hormone therapy, which he applied to increase the effectiveness of Judas goats in large scale campaigns he was managing in the Galapagos Islands. Mr. Campbell has worked for 17 years on some of the world's largest and most complex eradication campaigns of invasive mammals, preventing the extinction of hundreds of species. His role typically involves identifying sites and partners, detailing a strategy, plan and budget, fundraising, managing field operations and refining strategies as required. In projects he's been involved with, new techniques or refinements to existing techniques have been made in aerial hunting, dog training, toxic baiting, trapping, Judas animals, detection probability tools, and the use of GPS, GIS and digital data collection and management technologies. Scalability and cost effectiveness are two key philosophies that he takes to each project. In 2011, Mr. Campbell initiated Island Conservation's Innovation Program and chairs the committee that oversees this initiative. He has worked on restoration projects in over a dozen countries and has published over 50 scientific and popular articles.

Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Rodents Program





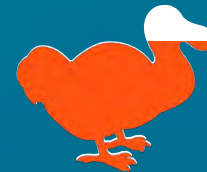
Islands Represent



Less than 5% of land mass



40% of endangered
species



80% of extinctions since
1500

Invasive Species

Predation

Competition

Disrupt ecological
function



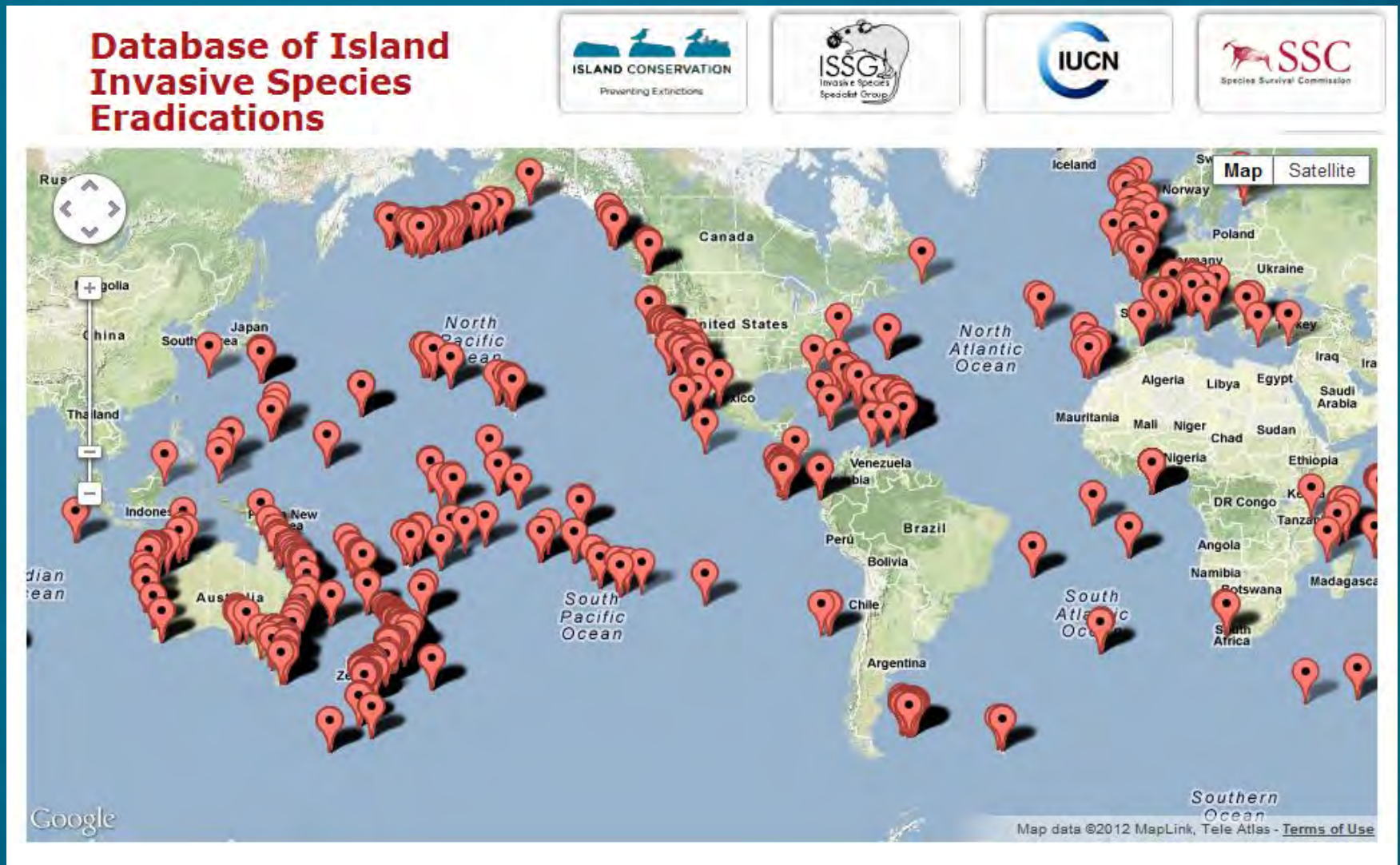


IAV Eradications

One of the most effective ways to:

Protect IUCN Red
List Species

1100 successful eradications to date...



<http://diise.islandconservation.org/>

Assessing the global need...



...2000 islands, 1100 species

<http://tib.islandconservation.org>



ISLAND CONSERVATION

Mission: to prevent extinctions by
removing invasive species from islands



Parque Nacional
GALAPAGOS
Ecuador



ISLAND CONSERVATION



Pinzon Giant Tortoise

Pinzon Island, Galapagos

Current methods

- Reliant on application to every rodent territory
- Not species specific
- Humane issues
- Inhabited islands
- Perception of poisons



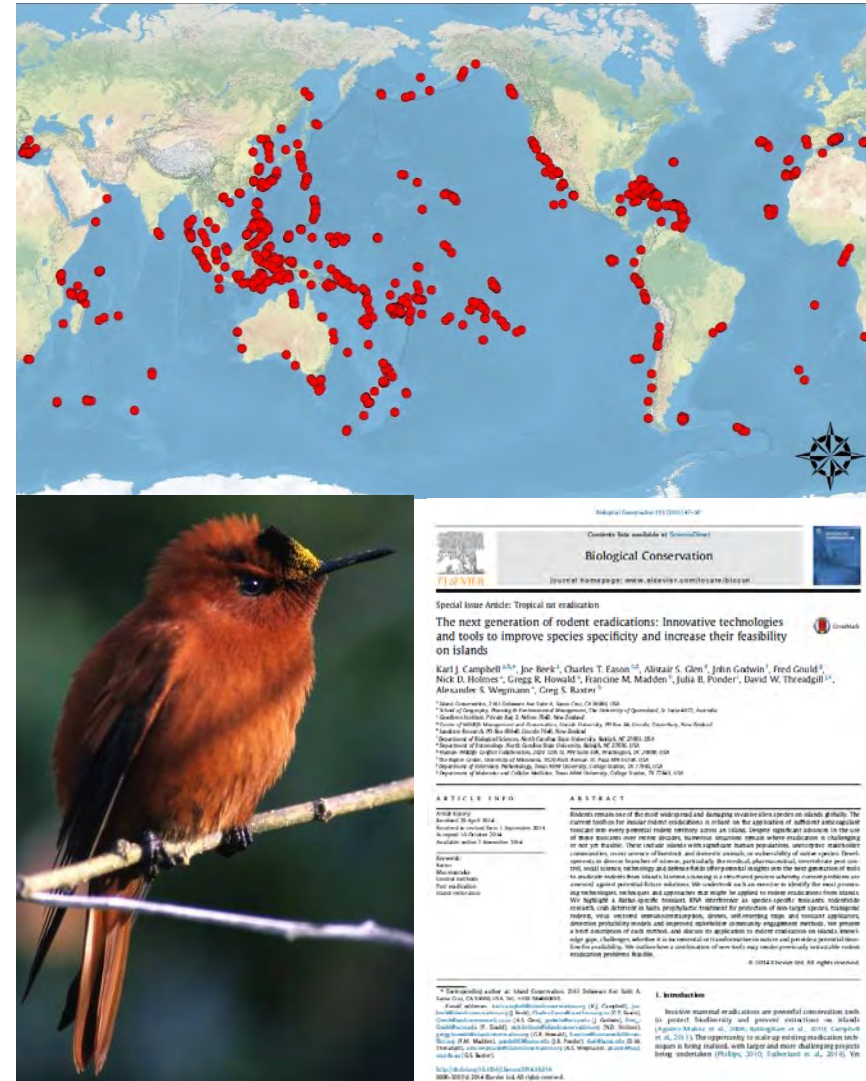
Limitations of today's methods

	Mice	Black rat
GTIB species impacted	555	638



Innovation Strategy

- Identify point of greatest impact
 - Invasive rodents
- Match technology to the need
 - Horizon scanning
- Select investment targets
 - Incremental
 - Transformative
- How might we catalyze?



Opportunity

- No pesticides or killing
- Humane and target specific
- Big picture
 - Reduce risks
 - Increase impact



Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Rodents Program

- Prevent extinctions on islands
- Agriculture, food security
- Human health



Why might this work?

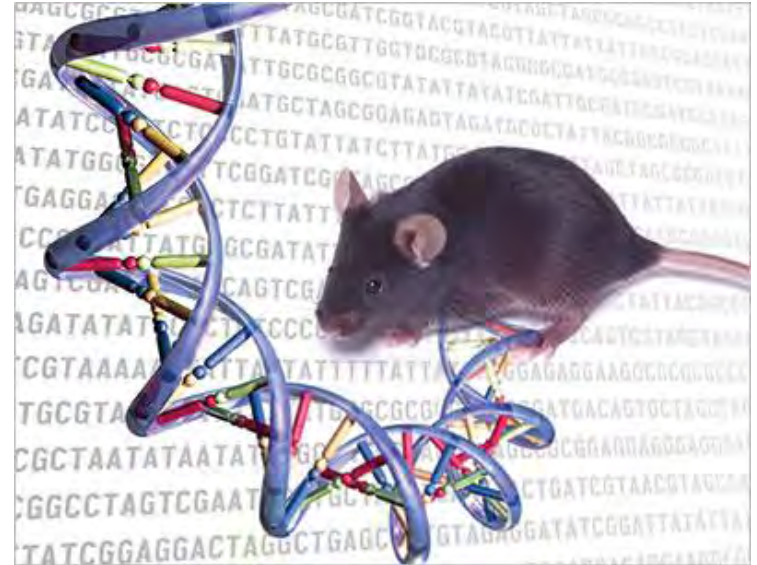
Isle of May, Orkney

- 57 ha
- Population ~1000 house mice
- Released 42 male & 35 female mice from Eday Island
- After 18 months, all mice trapped were hybrids (n=70)
- Males were disproportionately responsible for 'invasion'
- Leverage biology and promiscuity



Technical approach - Start with mice

- Model vertebrate for genetics
- Possess a short generation-time
- Are small and husbandry is straight-forward
- Invasive and non-native in many countries



Technical approach – Staged

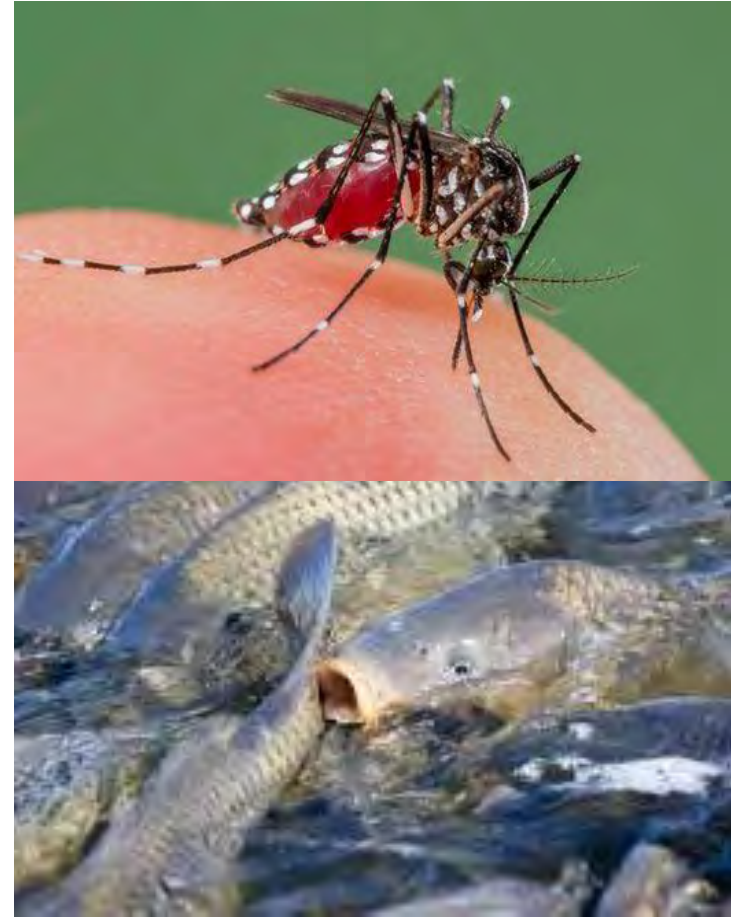
At proof-of-concept

- Sry is master 'switch' for sex determination in most mammals
- Sex reversal possible through translocating 10kb Sry fragment
- Match with gene drive
 - T-complex
 - CRISPR-Cas
- All male population dies out



Approach

- Interested in pro-actively and transparently identifying any potential risks
- Precedents and lessons learned
- Partnership with policy makers and regulators
- We're yet to identify any deal-breakers



Opportunity

- No pesticides or killing
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INTRODUCING:

Fred Gould

Professor, Department of Entomology, North Carolina State University
Co-director, Genetic Engineering and Society Center

Fred Gould is a Distinguished University Professor in the Entomology Department of North Carolina State University and Co-director of the Genetic Engineering and Society Center. In the past, Dr. Gould has assisted in the development and deployment of insecticidal transgenic crops in ways that suppress the evolution of pest resistance, among other subjects. He is now focused on the potential for engineering insect pests to suppress disease and crop loss, and to protect endangered species. Dr. Gould has served on a number of US National Research Council and EPA committees addressing regulation of genetic technologies in agriculture. Dr. Gould has received the Alexander von Humboldt award for most significant agricultural research over a five-year period, the Sigma Xi George Bugliarello Prize for written communication of science, and the O. Max Gardner Award for the University of North Carolina faculty member with the greatest contribution to human welfare. He was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 2011 and serves on the National Research Council Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Mr. Gould graduated from Queens College in New York City in 1971 with a BS in Biology and from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1977 with a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Can Genetically Engineered Pests Save Biodiversity?

**Fred Gould
NCSU
Genetic Engineering
& Society Center**



NC STATE UNIVERSITY



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Two General Approaches



**Suppression
or
Local Eradication**

**Strain
Replacement**

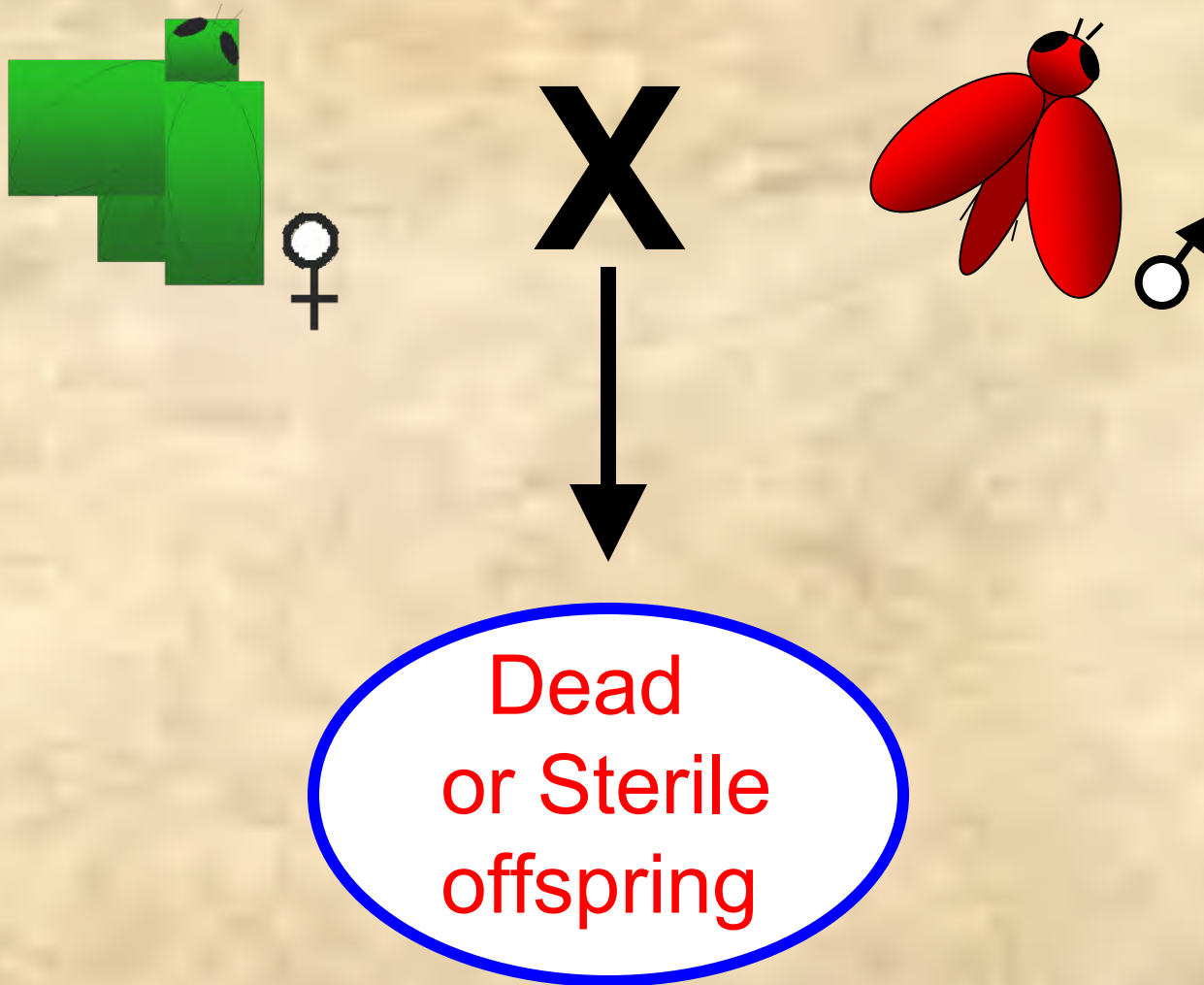
Suppression or Local Eradication

**Edward F.
Knipling
1950's**

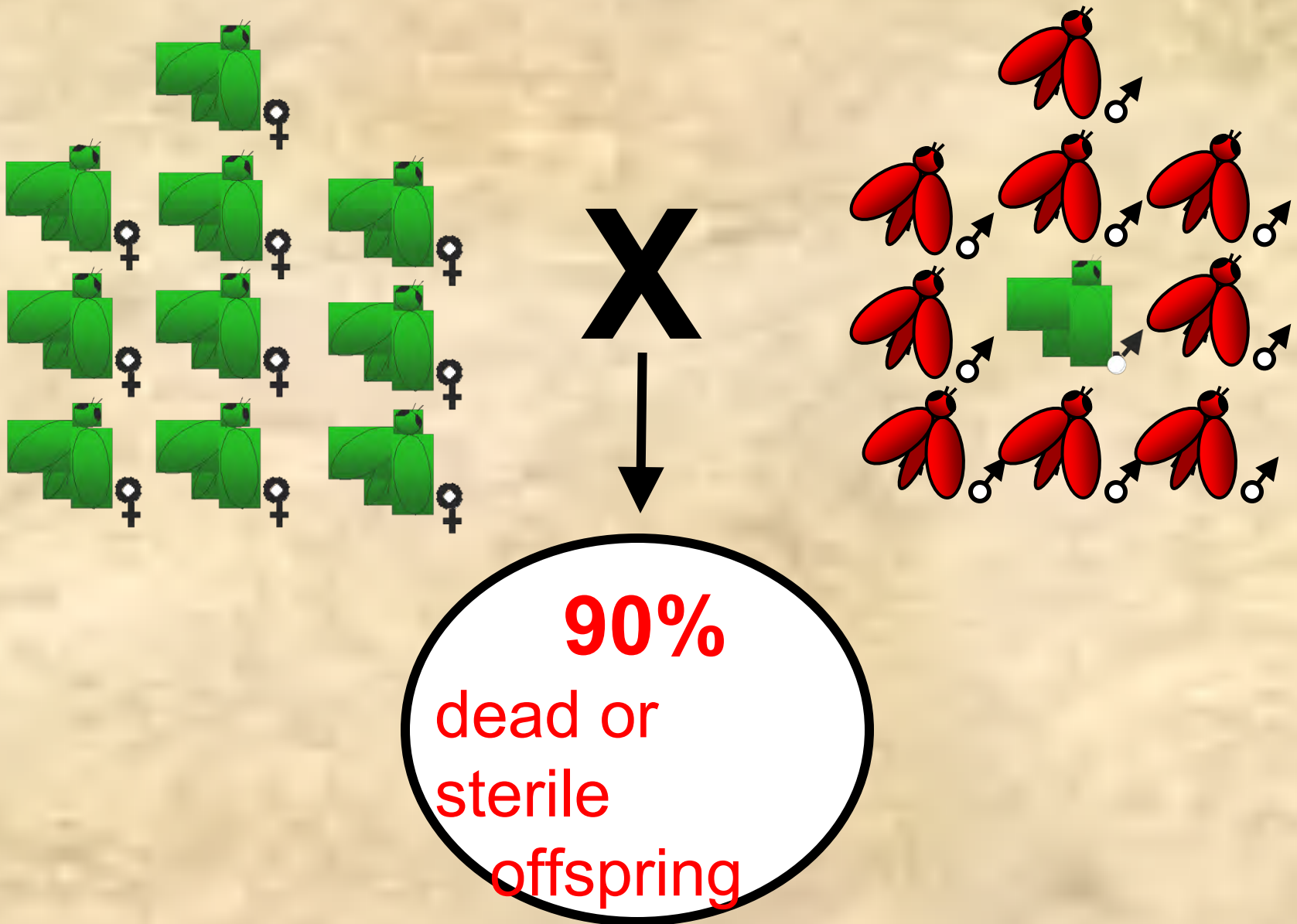
1992 World Food Prize



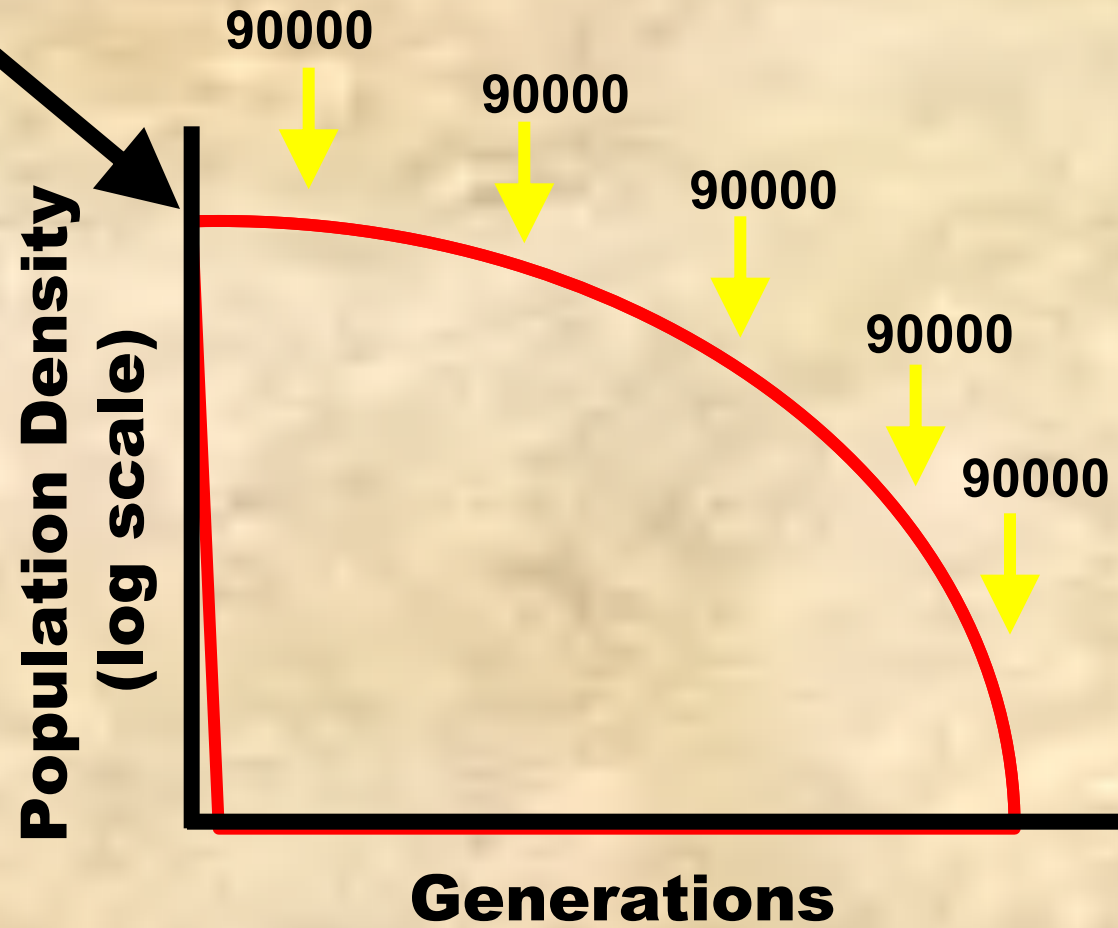
The sterile insect release technique

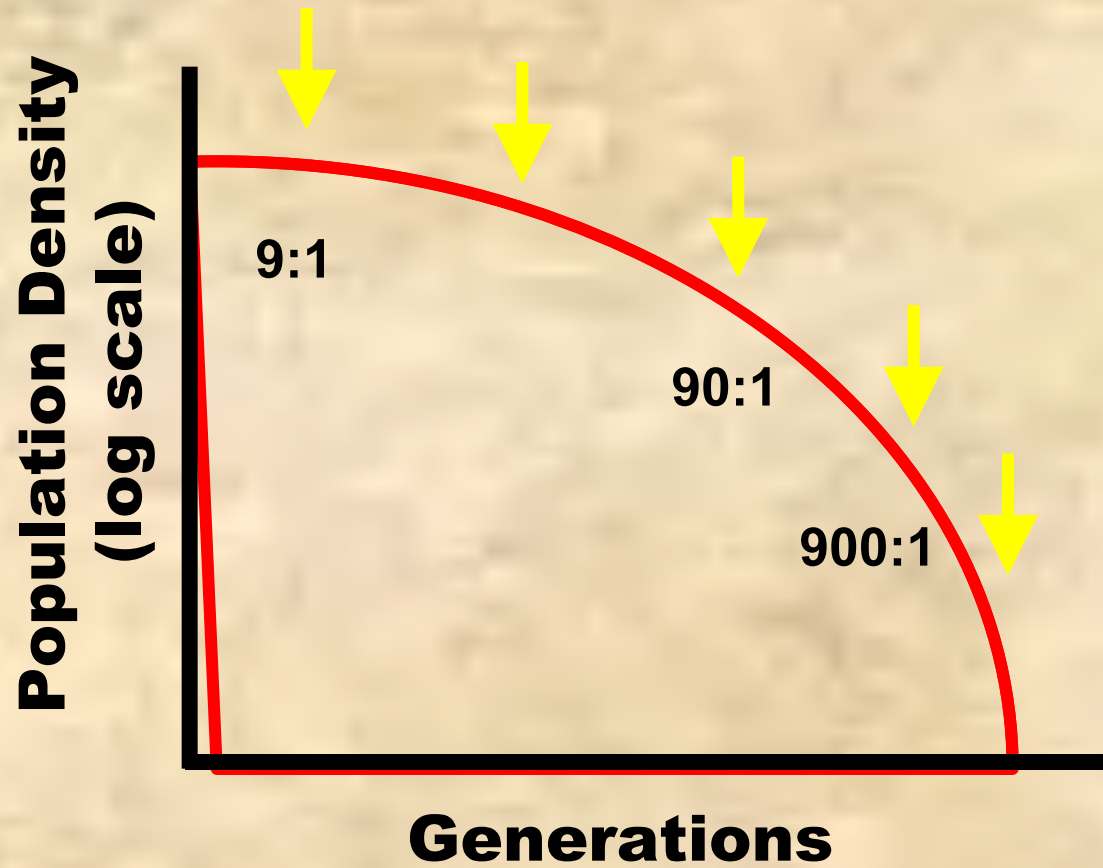


9:1 sterile male release



**Local population
10,000 males**





Some Initial Successes:

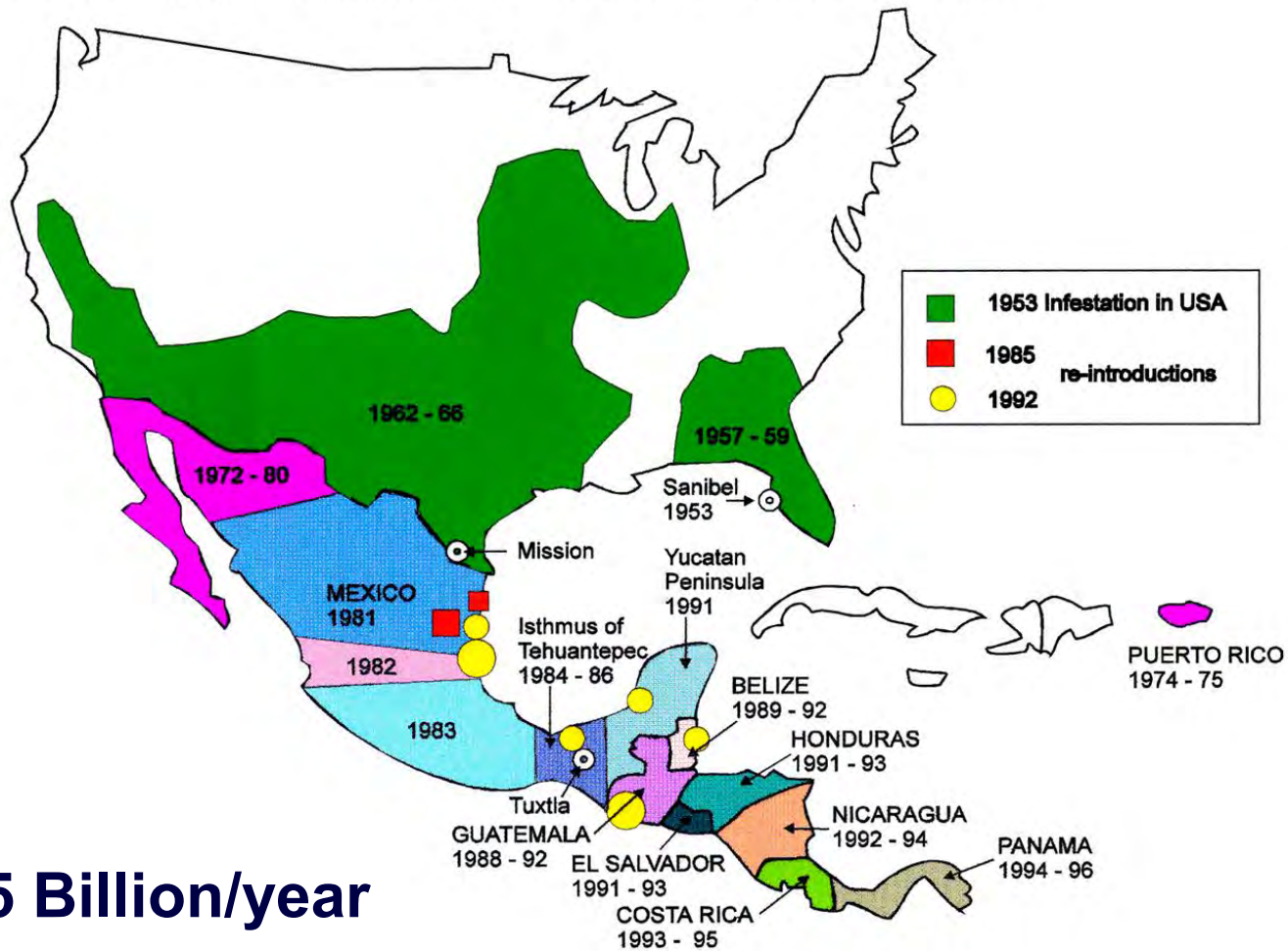
Screwworm Fly



1960's – 1980's



Screw-worm fly, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, distribution and eradication



1.5 Billion/year

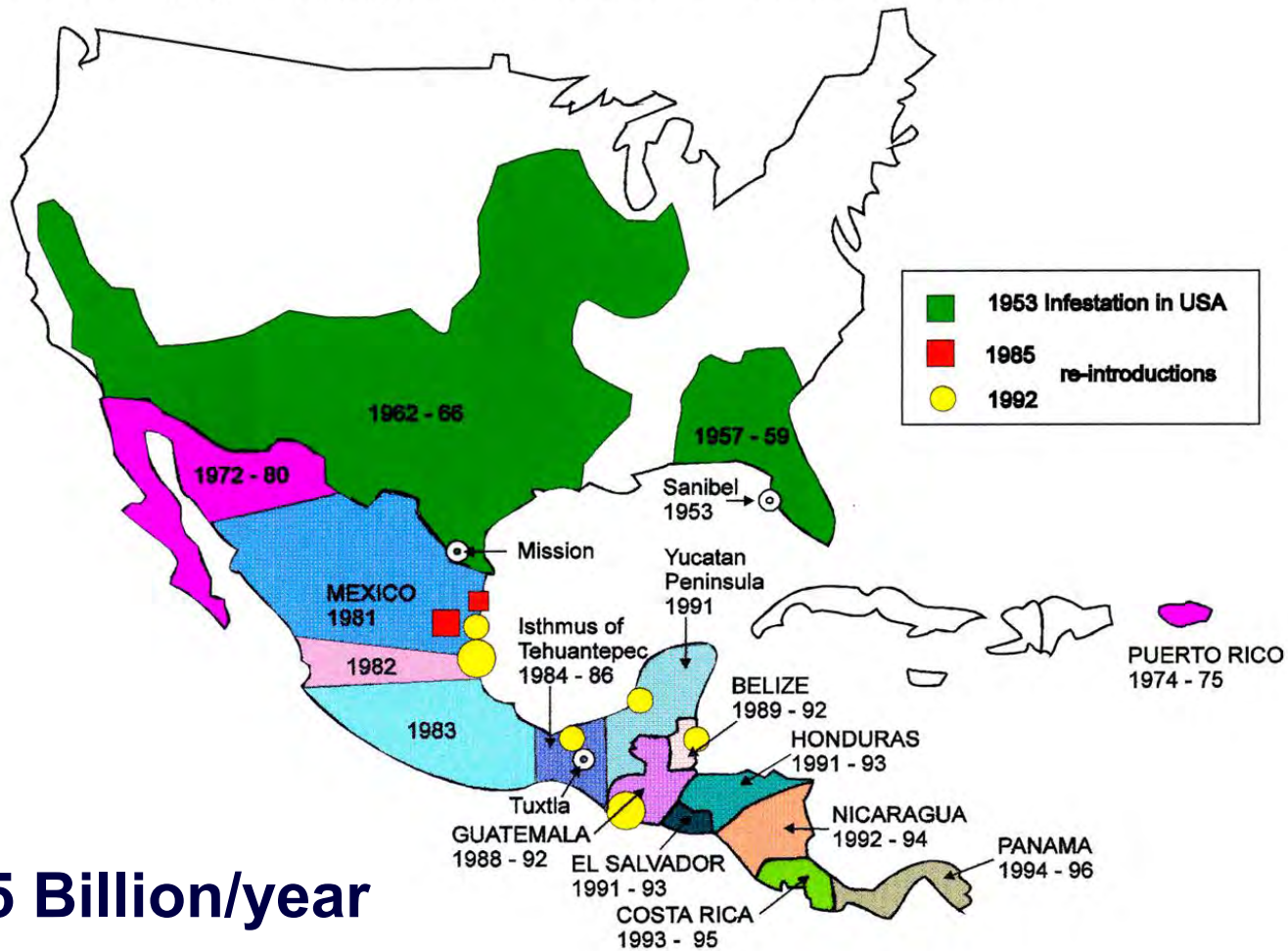
CSIRO map



60-120 million
per week

USDA-Panama Screwworm Facility

Screw-worm fly, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, distribution and eradication

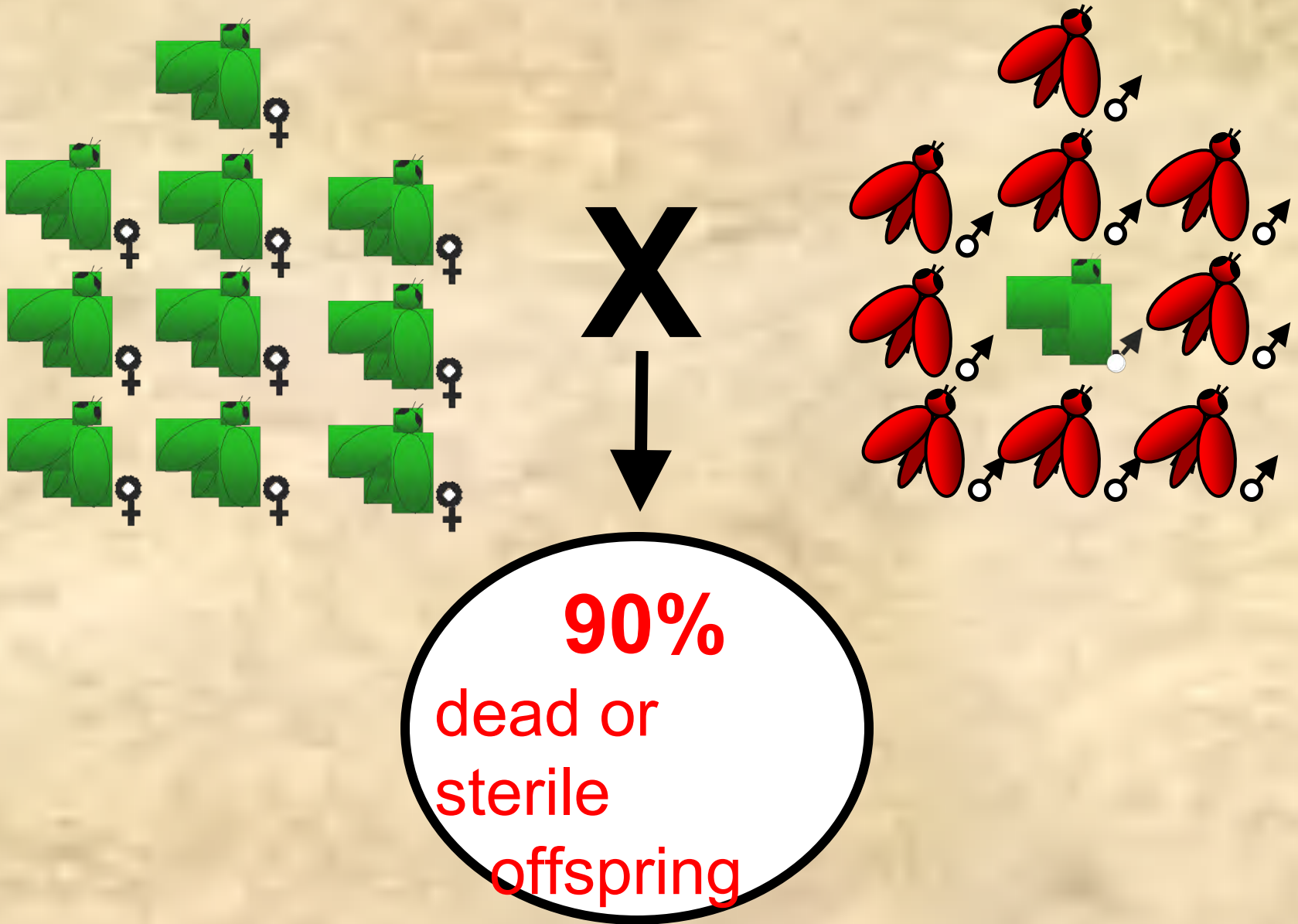


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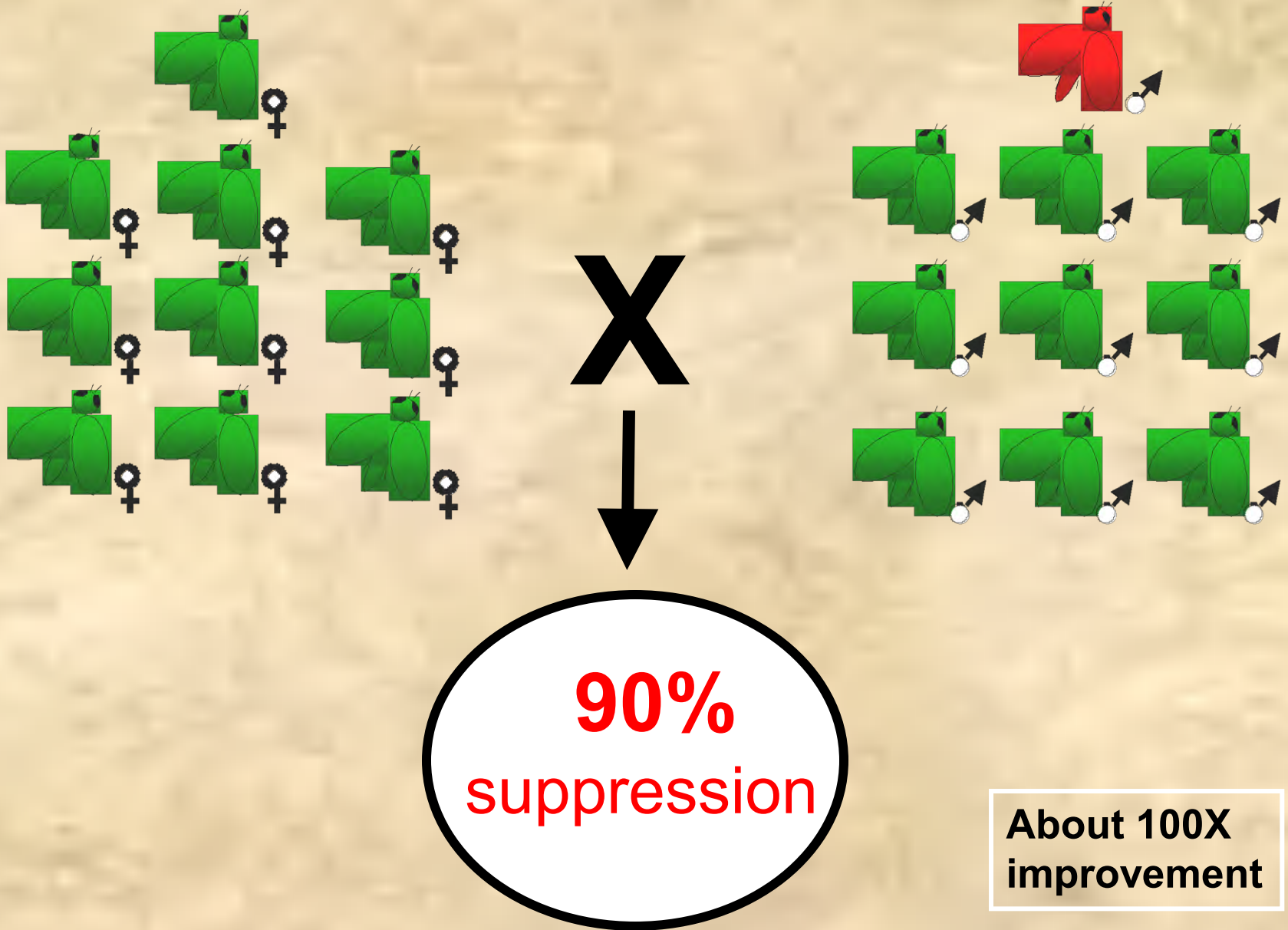
CSIRO map

**Can We Improve Efficiency
and Guard Against
Environmental Impacts?**

9:1 sterile male release



Can We Improve Efficiency?



Two General Approaches



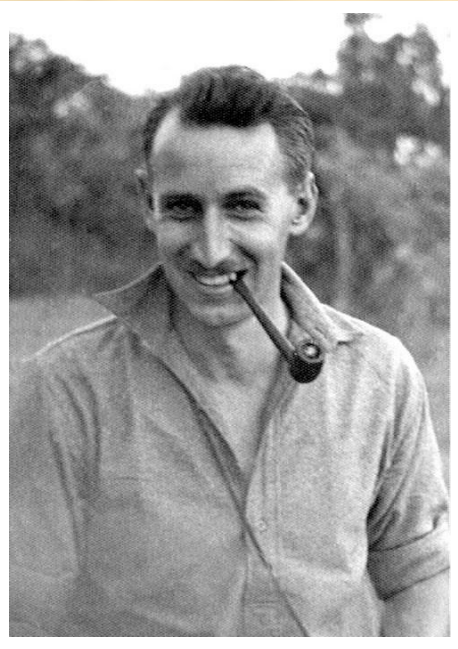
**Suppression
or
Local Eradication**

**Strain
Replacement**

Strain Replacement

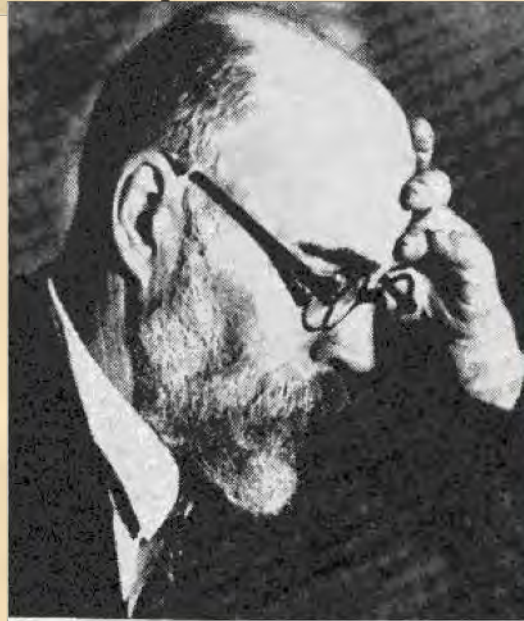
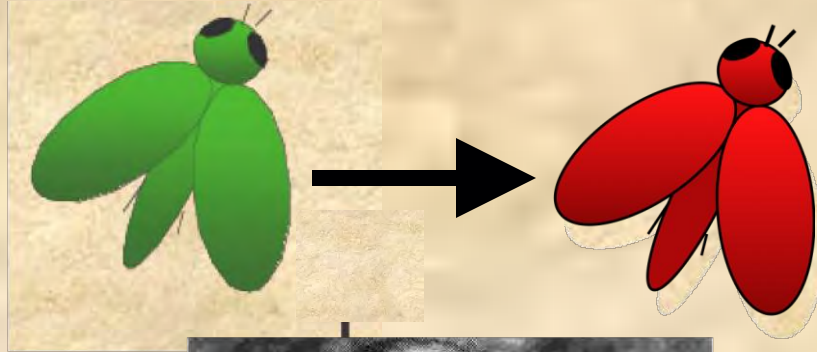


Strain Replacement



**F.L.
Vanderplank**

Hybrids of
Tsetse fly
species

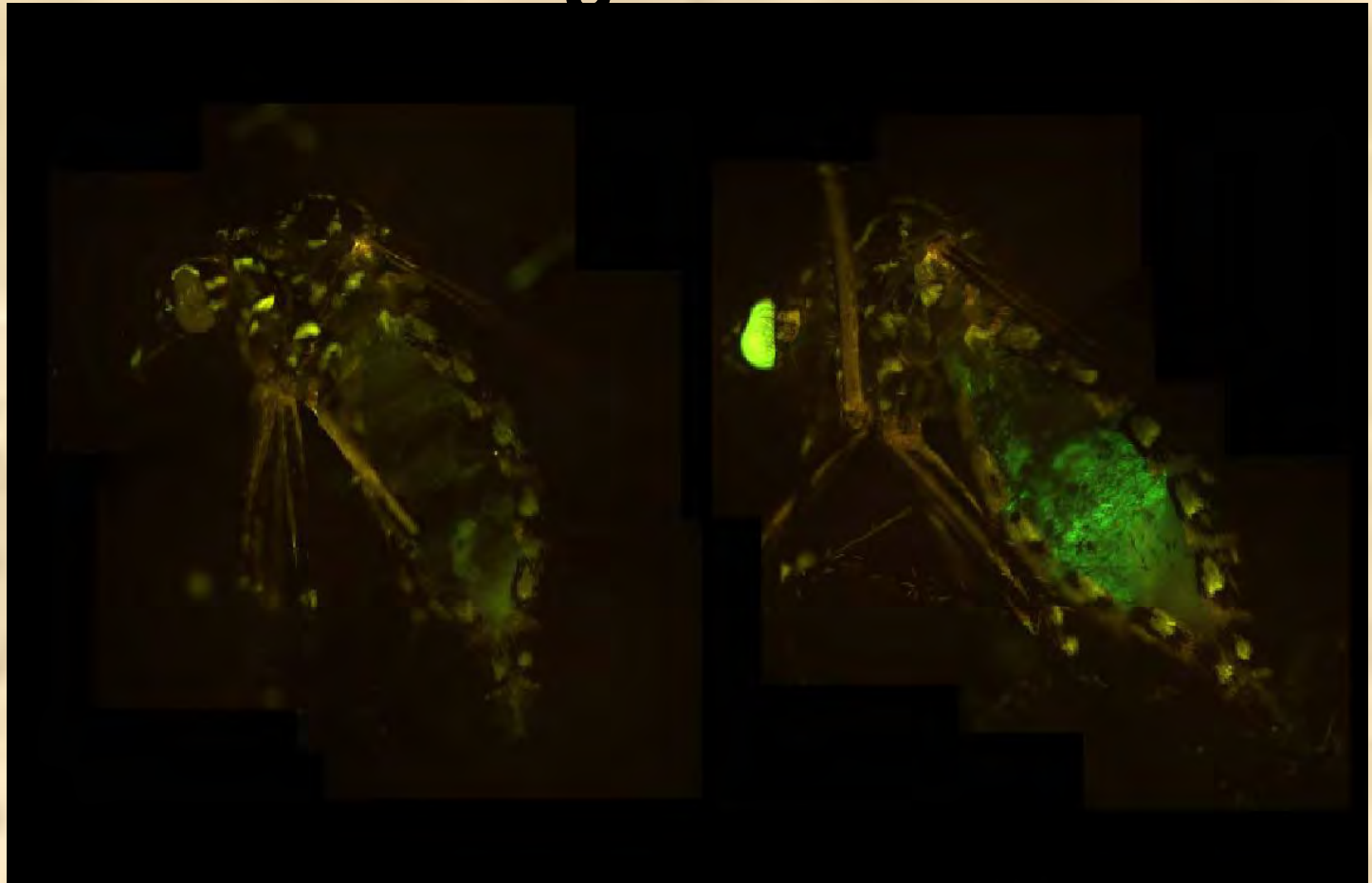


A. S. Serebrovski
Soviet Union - Lysenko era
1940's Translocations



Chris Curtis
UK
1960's

Transgenic Pests

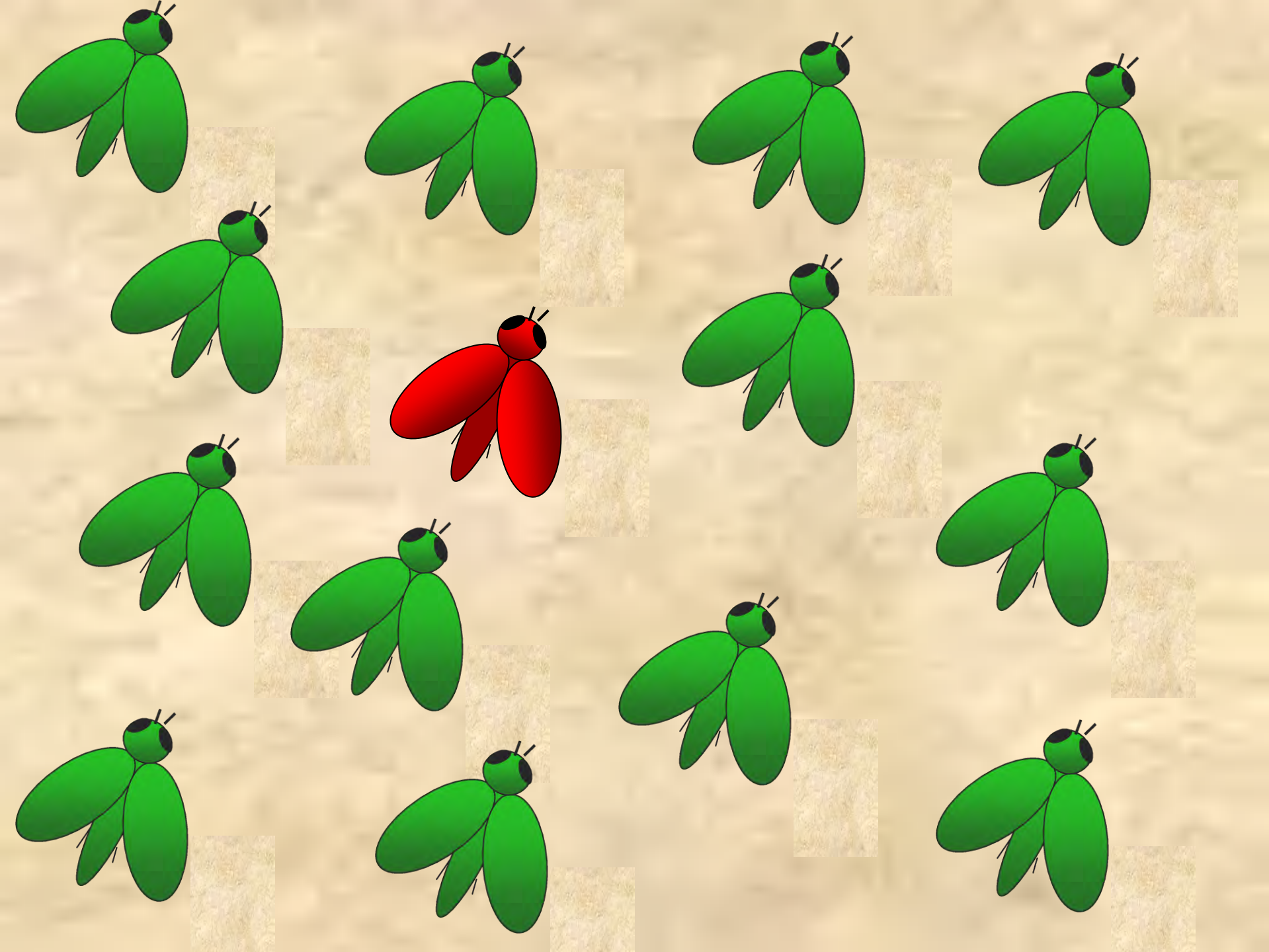


ne

Dengue---Flaviviridae; *Flavivirus*;

Aedes aegypti

by Alexander Franz





Suppression or Local Eradication

- 1) Sterile insect approach

Strain Replacement

- 1) Translocations
- 2) Interspecific underdominance

Suppression or Local Eradication

- 1) Conditional Lethality**
- 2) Female Killing Systems**
- 3) Sex Ratio Alteration**
- 4) *Medea* elements**
- 5) Homing Endonucleases**
- 6) CRISPRs**

Strain Replacement

- 1) Meiotic Drive**
- 2) Engineered Underdominance**
- 3) Transposons**
- 4) *Wolbachia***
- 5) *Medea* elements**
- 6) Killer-Rescue**
- 7) Homing Endonucleases**
- 8) CRISPRs**

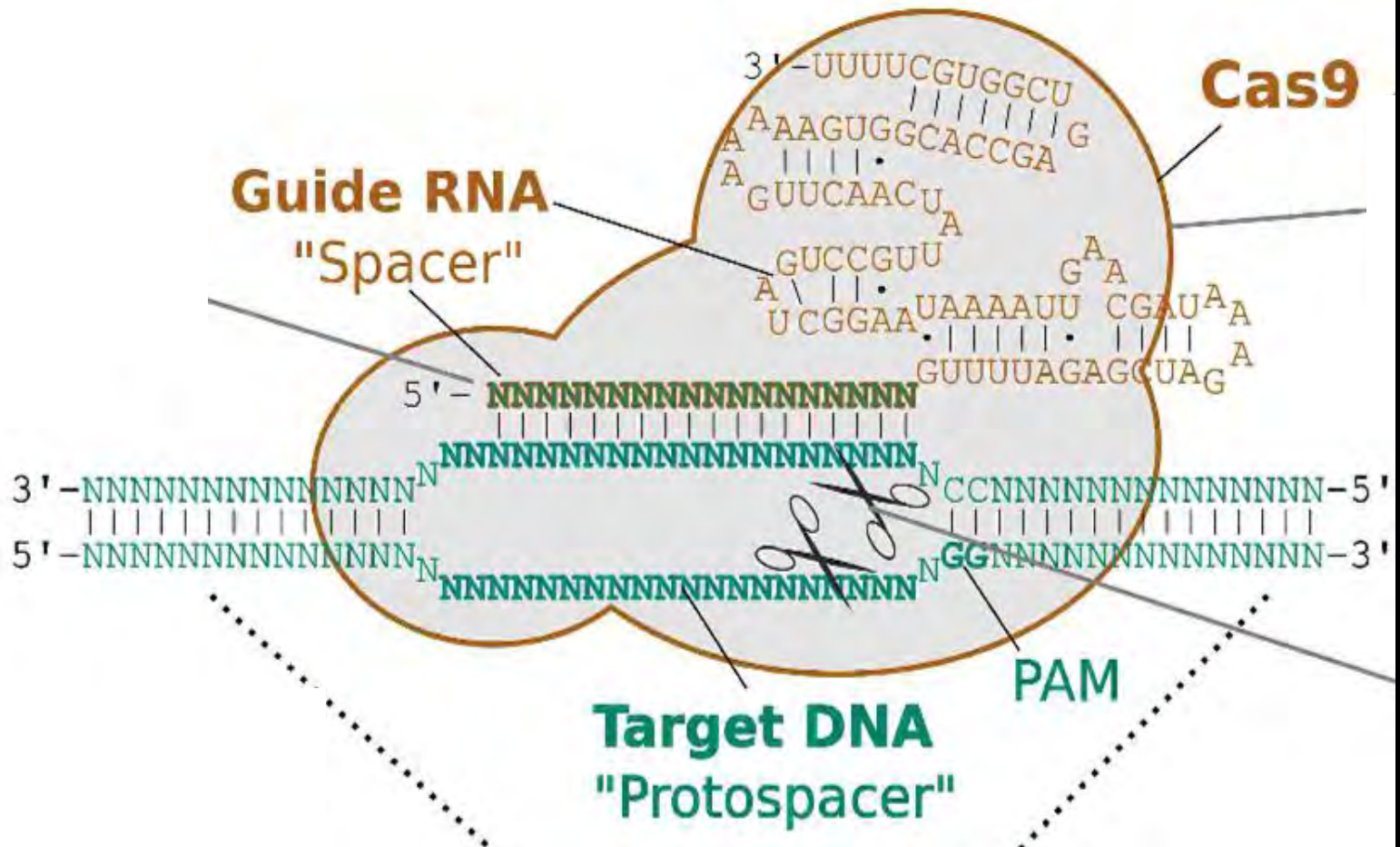
Suppression or Local Eradication

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- 6) **CRISPRs**

Strain Replacement

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- 4) *Wolbachia*
- 5) *Medea* elements
- 6) Killer-Rescue
- 7) Homing Endonucleases
- 8) **CRISPRs**

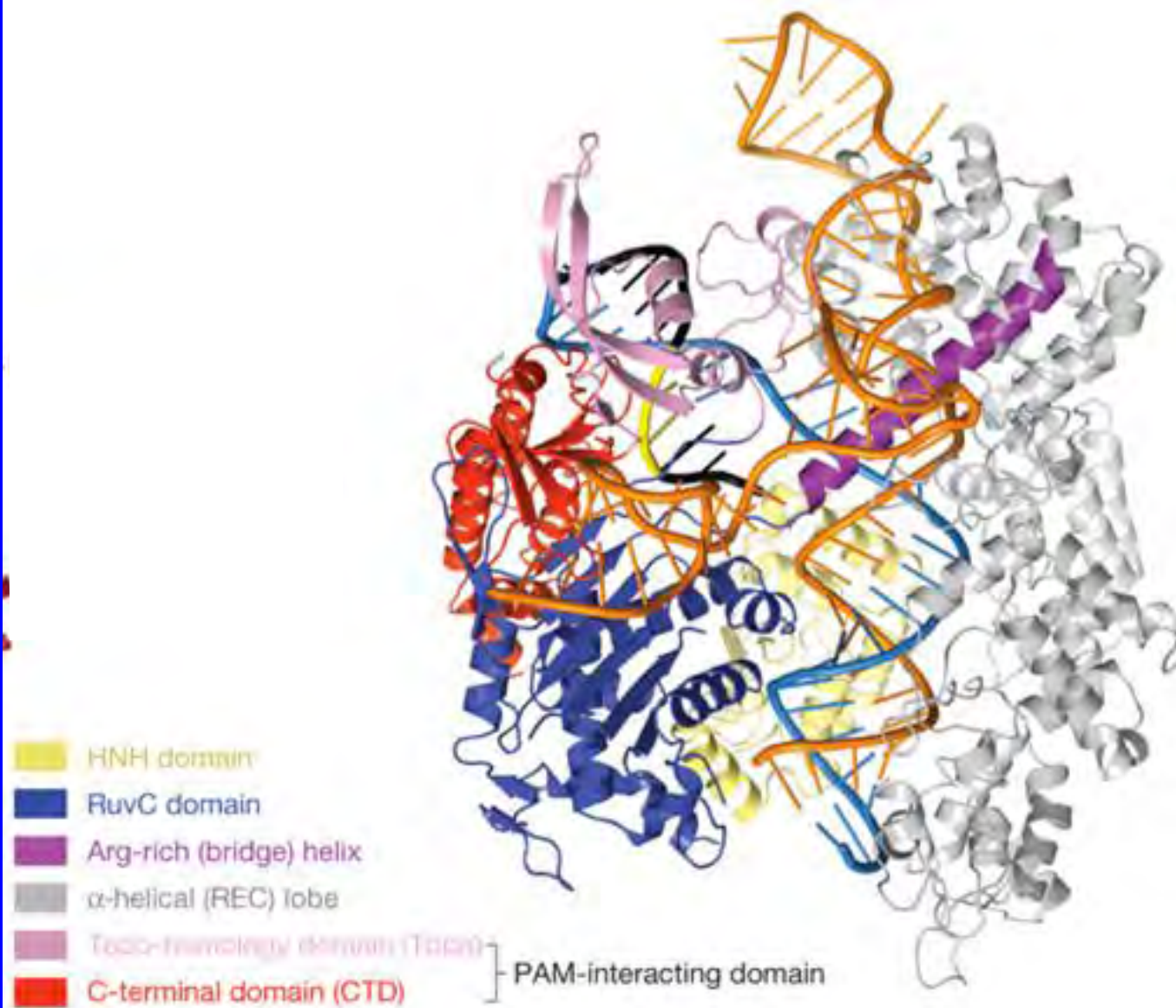
CRISPR/Cas9



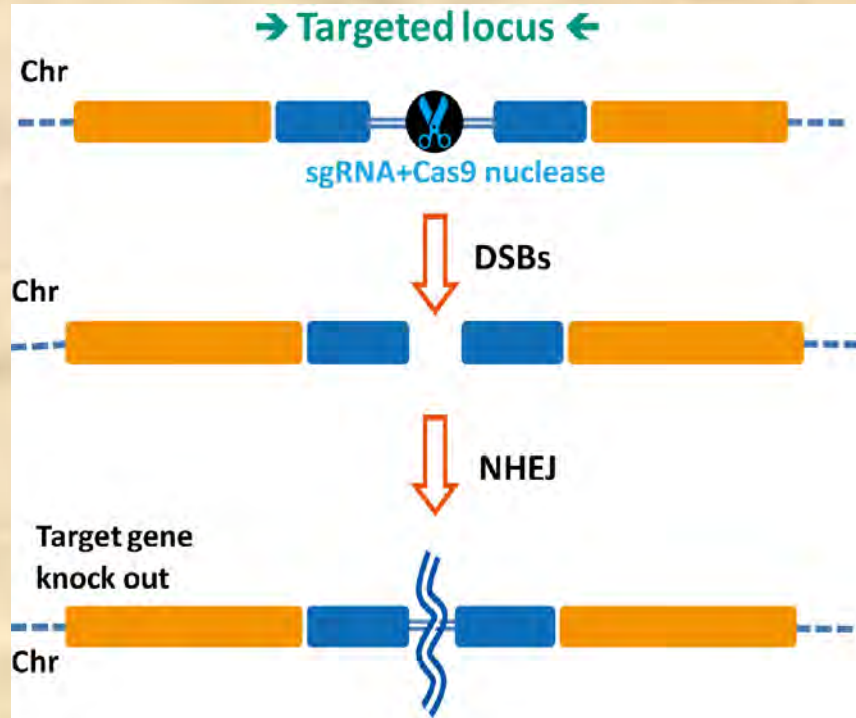
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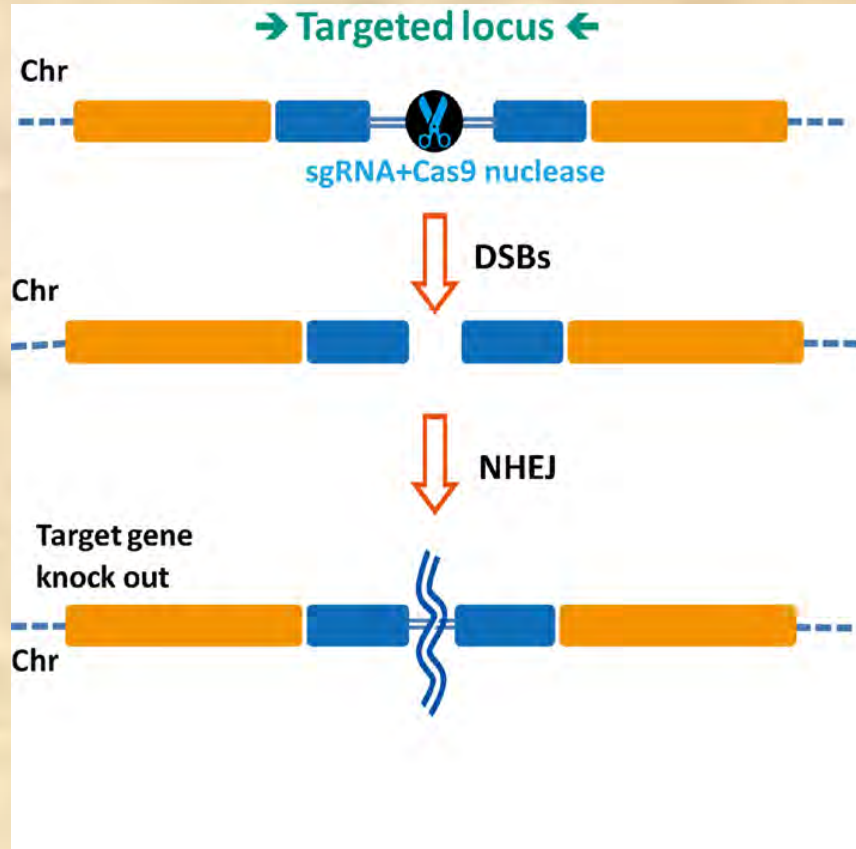
CRISPR/Cas9



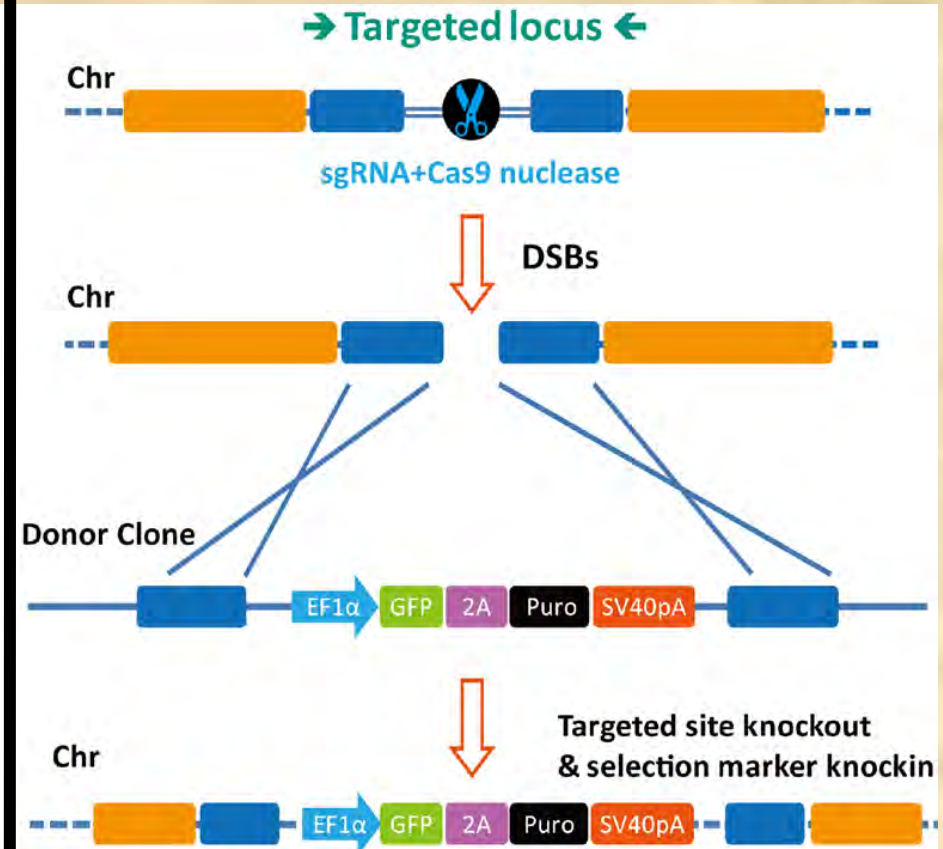
Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)

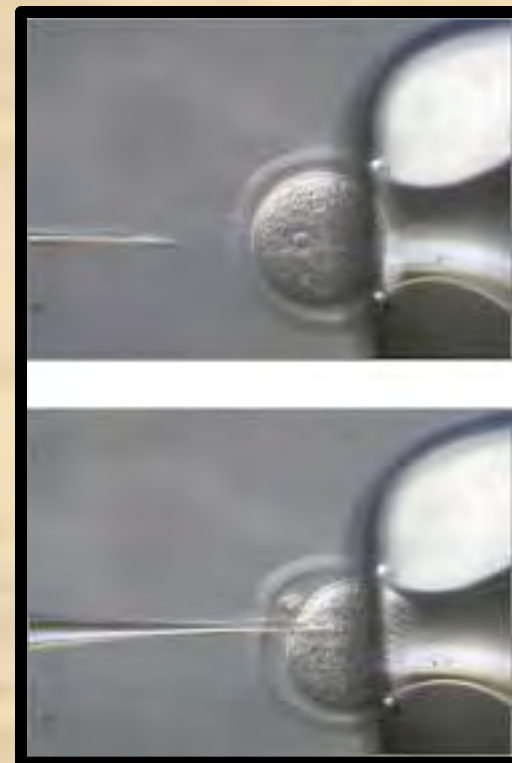
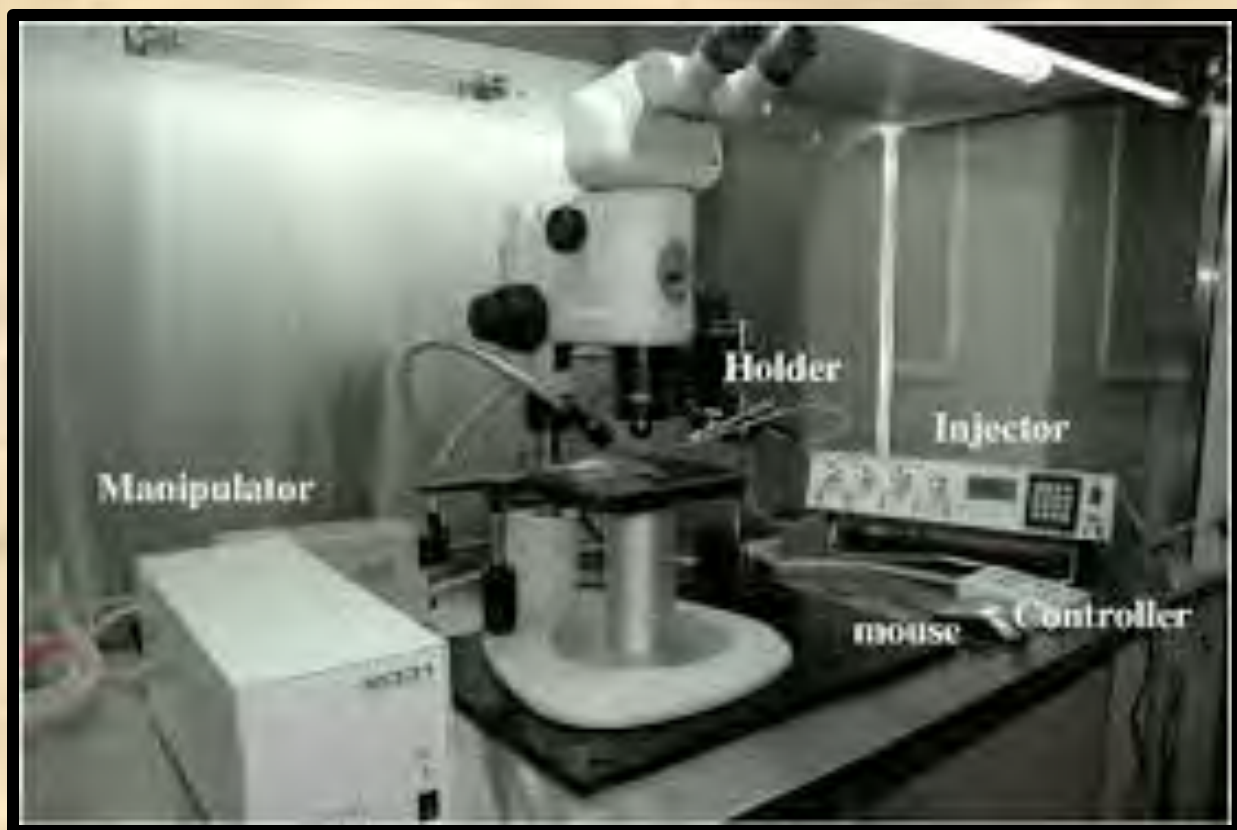


Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)



Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)





The mutagenic chain reaction: A method for converting heterozygous to homozygous mutations

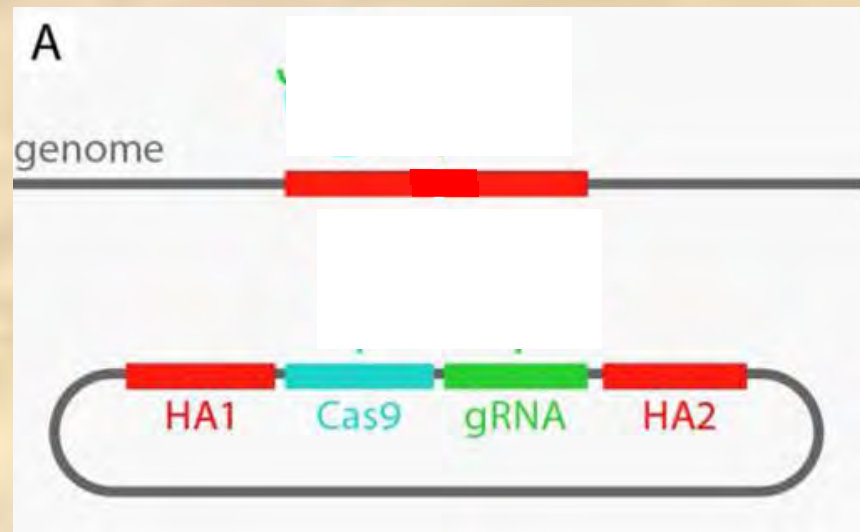
Valentino M. Gantz* and Ethan Bier*

Section of Cell and Developmental Biology, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92095, USA.

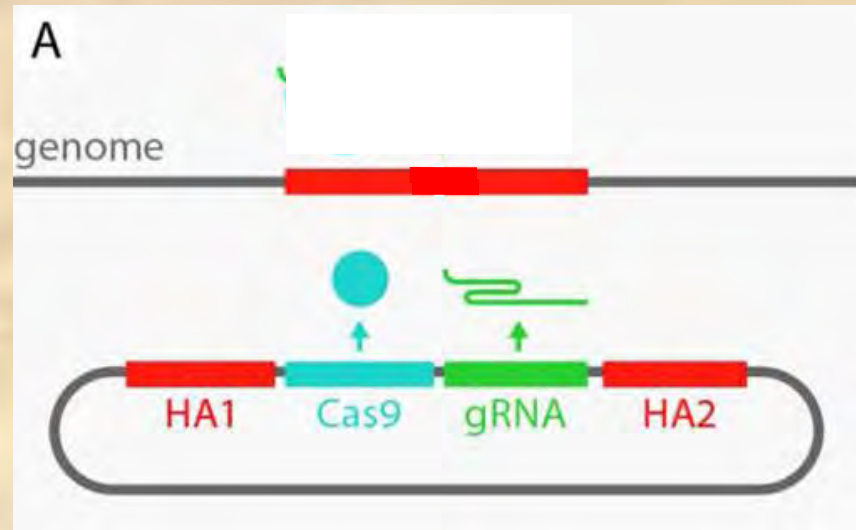
*Corresponding author. E-mail: vgantz@ucsd.edu (V.M.G.); ebier@ucsd.edu (E.B.)

An organism with a single recessive loss-of-function allele will typically have a wild-type phenotype while individuals homozygous for two copies of the allele will display a mutant phenotype. Here, we develop a method that we refer to as the mutagenic chain reaction (MCR), which is based on the CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing system for generating autocatalytic mutations to generate homozygous loss-of-function mutations. We demonstrate in *Drosophila* that MCR mutations efficiently spread from their chromosome of origin to the homologous chromosome thereby converting heterozygous mutations to homozygosity in the vast majority of somatic and germline cells. MCR technology should have broad applications in diverse organisms.

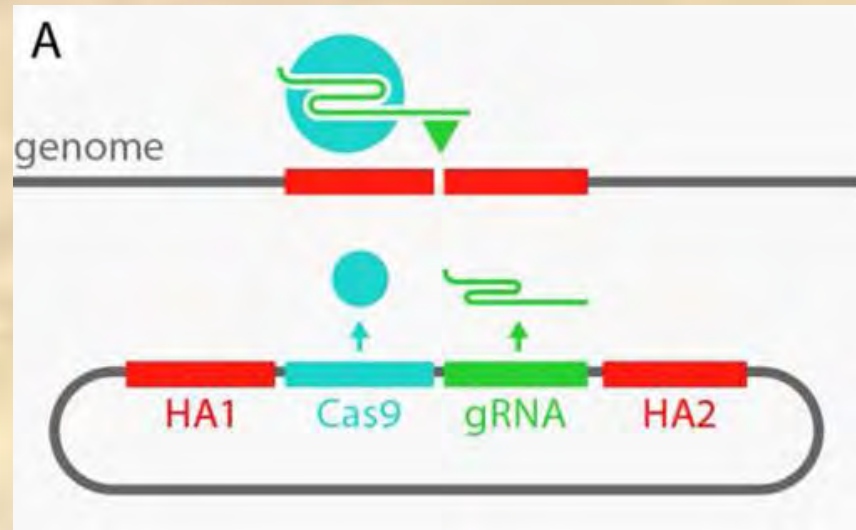
Homologue #1

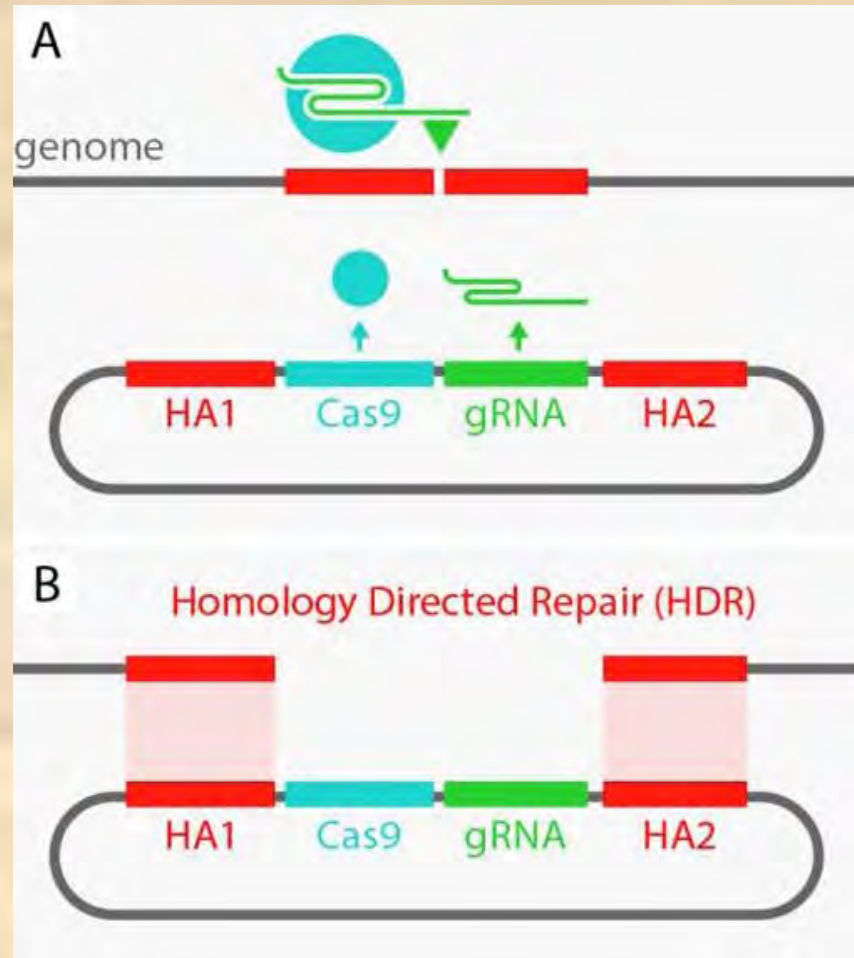


Homologue #1

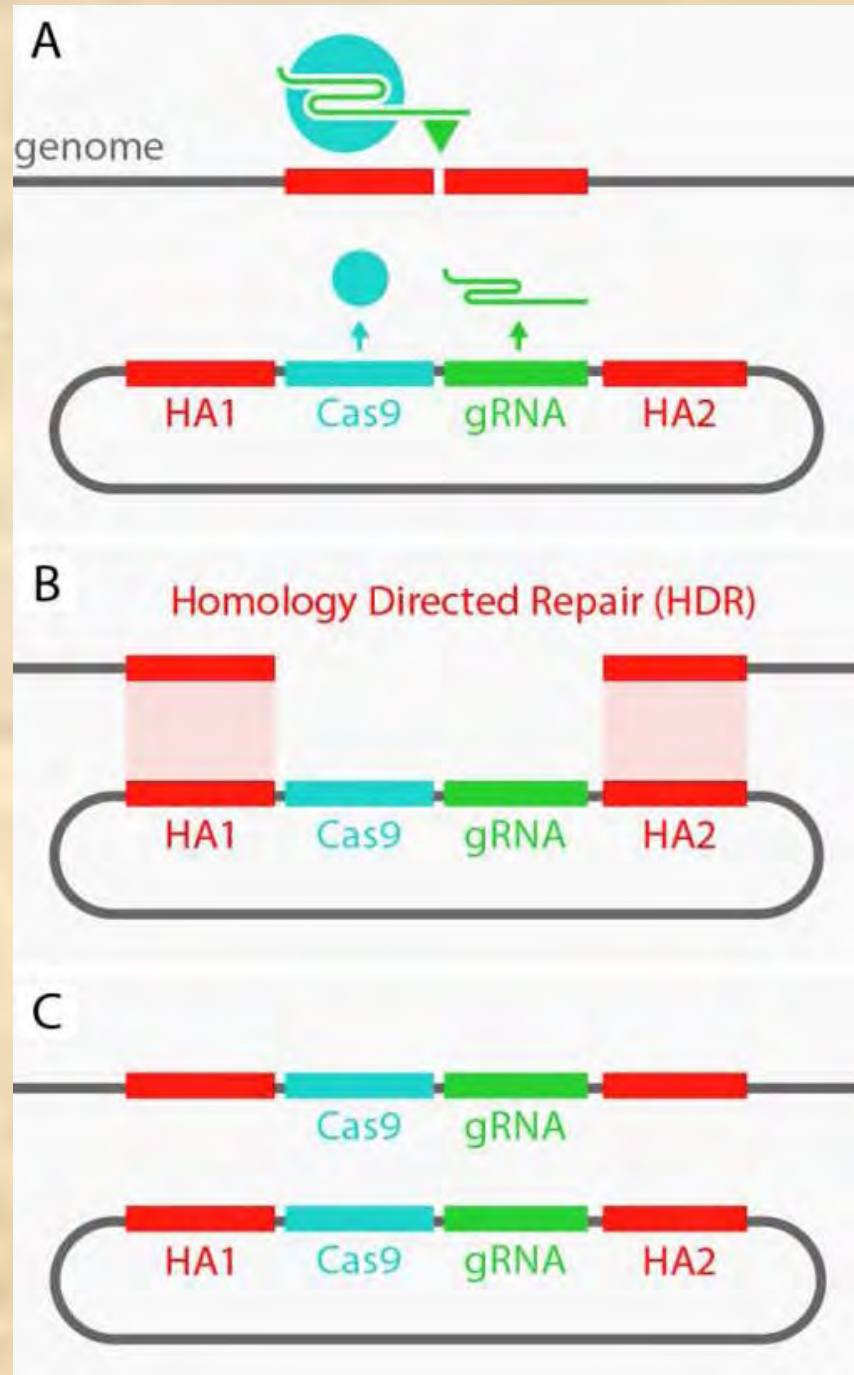


Homologue #1





Homologue #1



Homologue #1



Homologue #2

Homologue #1

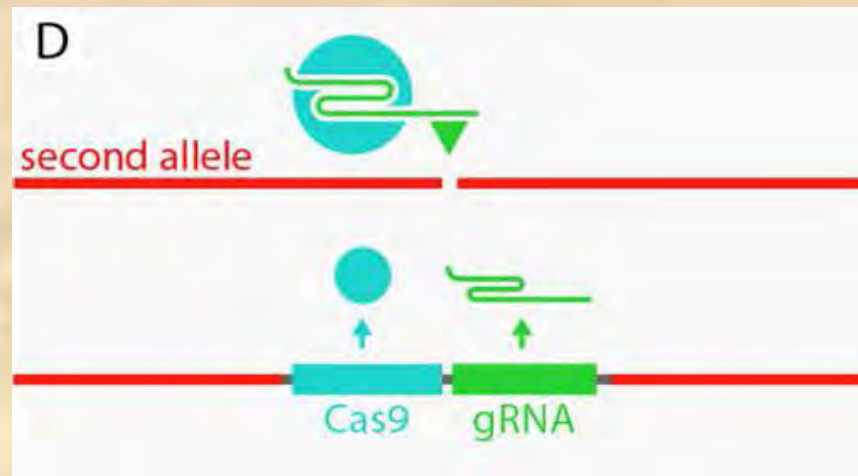


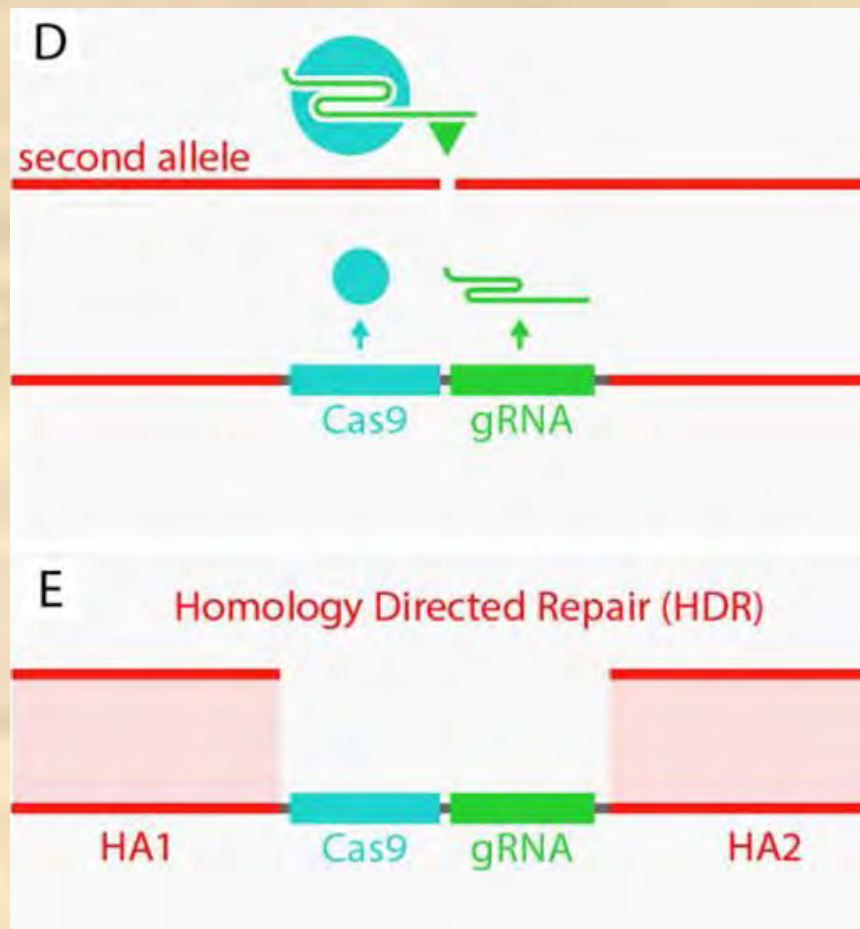
Homologue #2

Homologue #1

Homologue #2

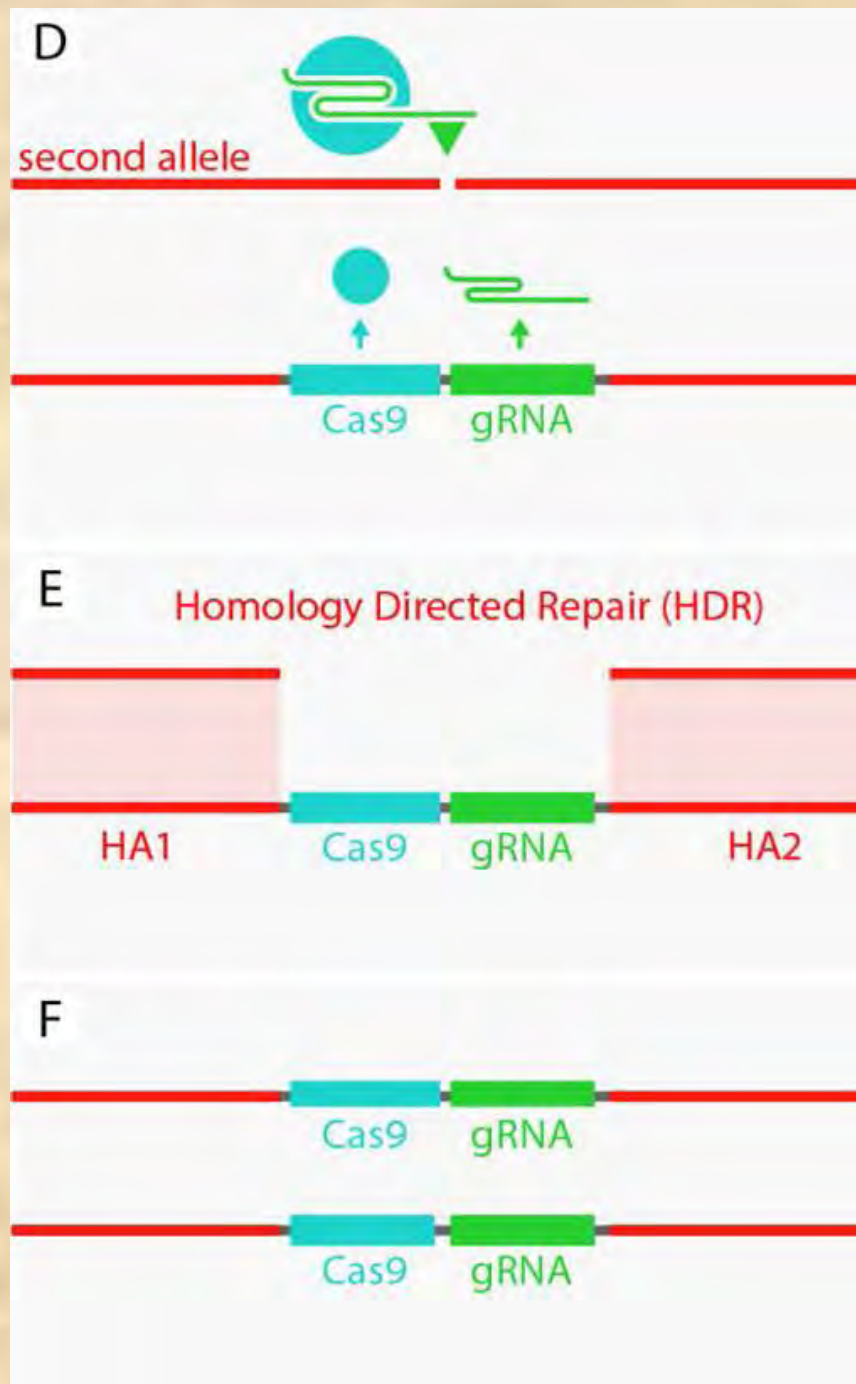
Homologue #1





Homologue #2

Homologue #1



Homologue #2

Homologue #1

The mutagenic chain reaction: A method for converting heterozygous to homozygous mutations

Valentino M. Gantz* and Ethan Bier*

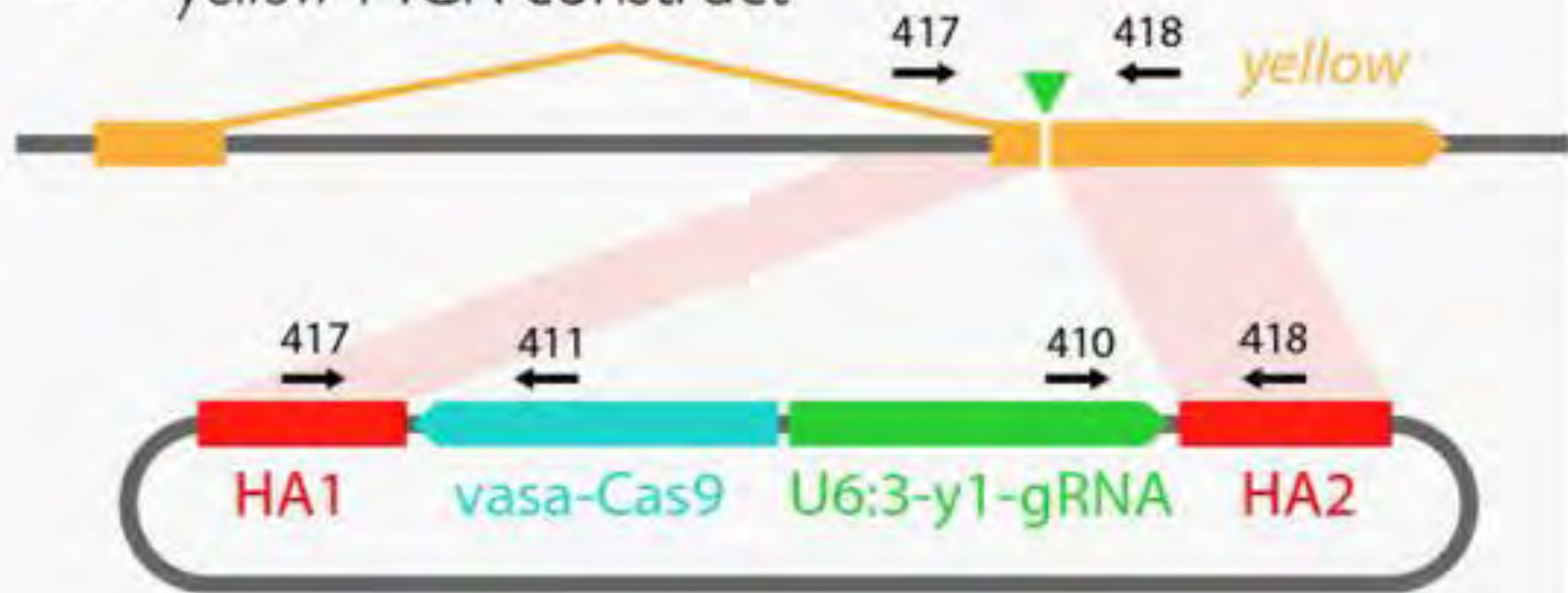
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*Corresponding author. E-mail: vgantz@ucsd.edu (V.M.G.); ebier@ucsd.edu (E.B.)

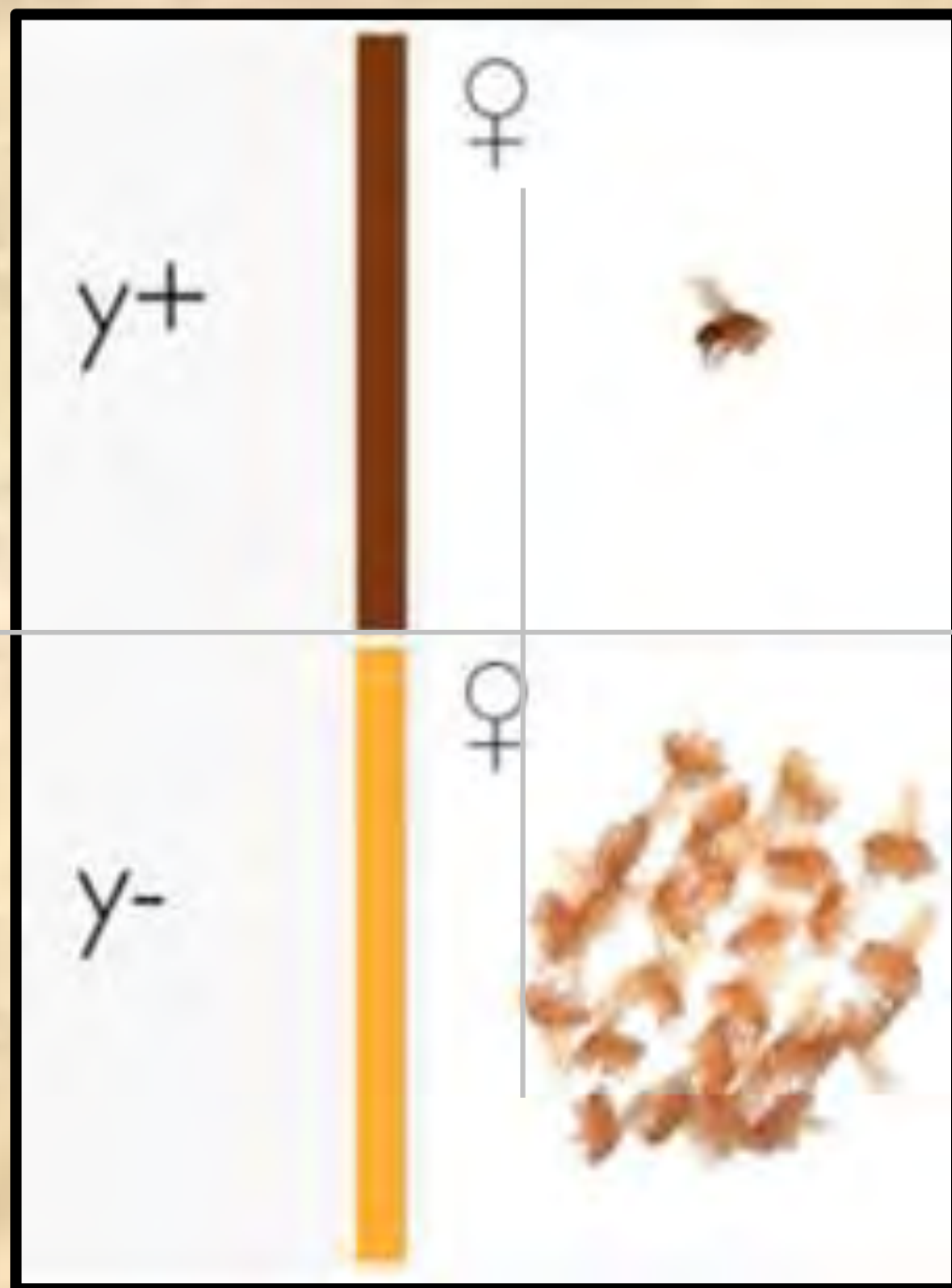
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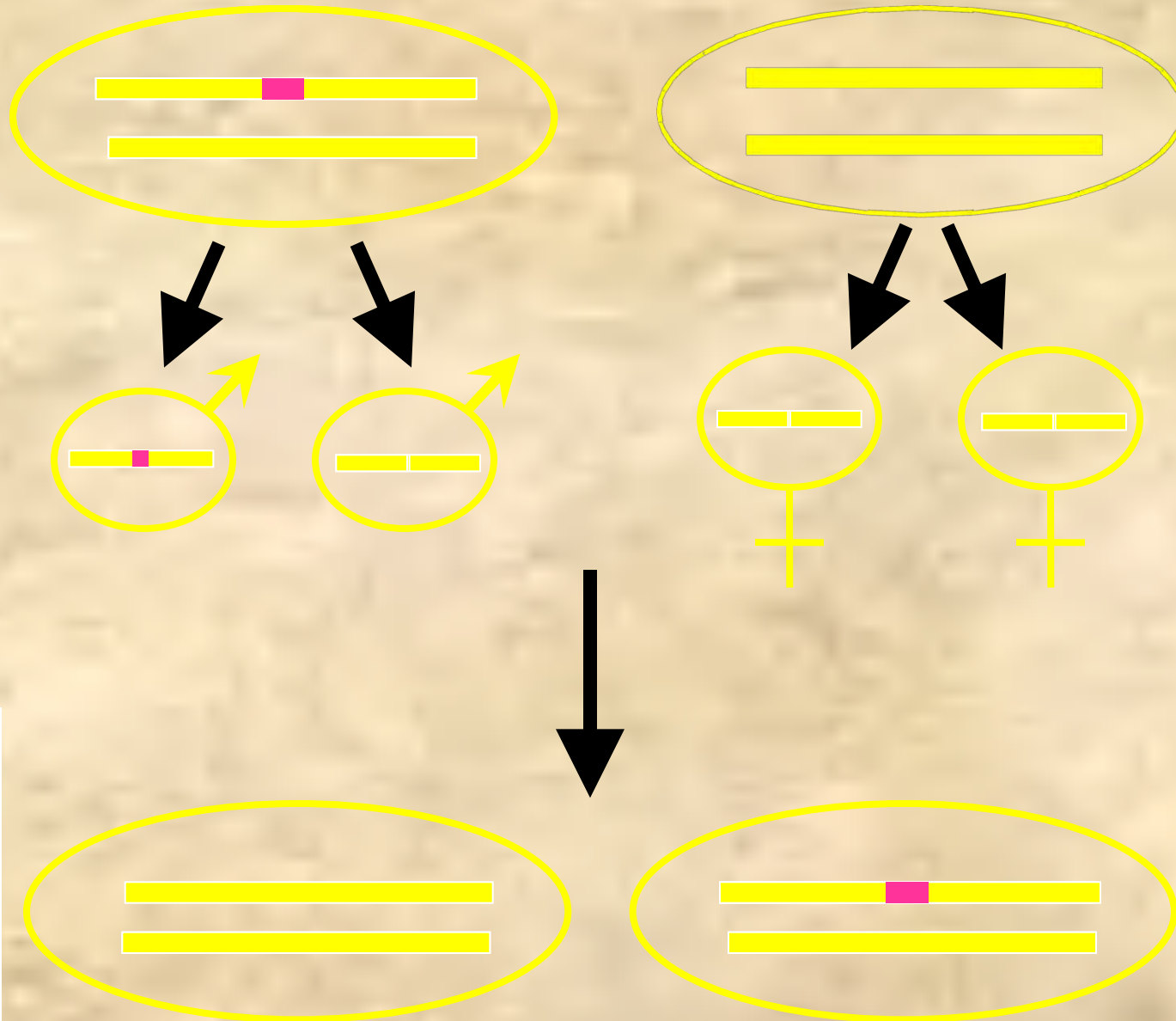
yellow MCR construct





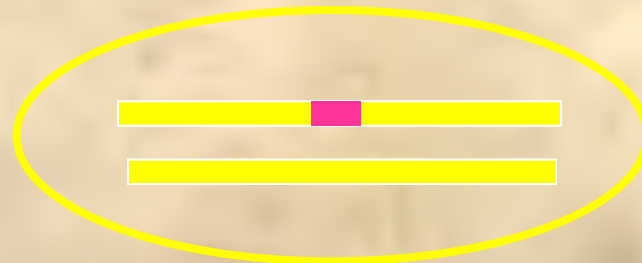
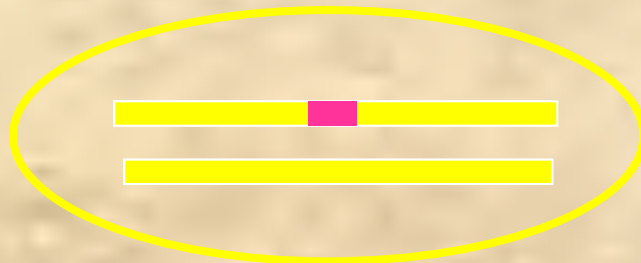
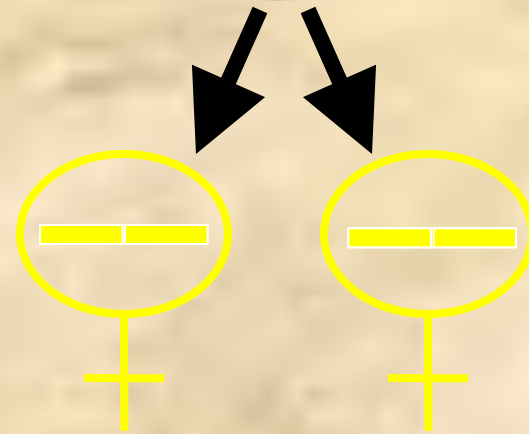
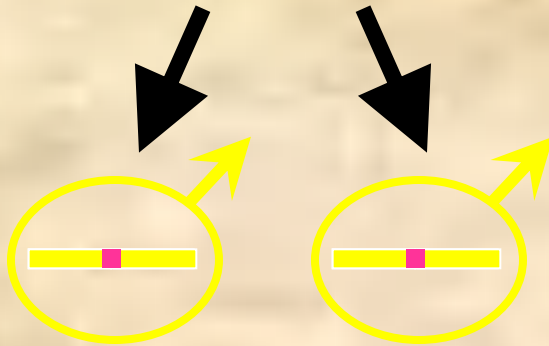
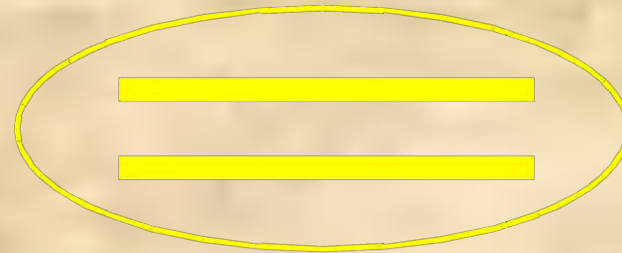
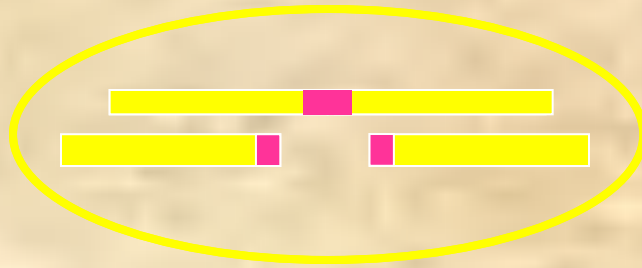


Mendelian Inheritance



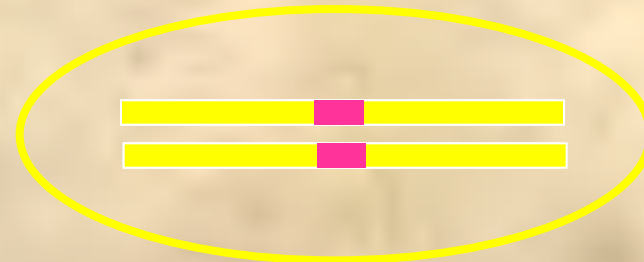
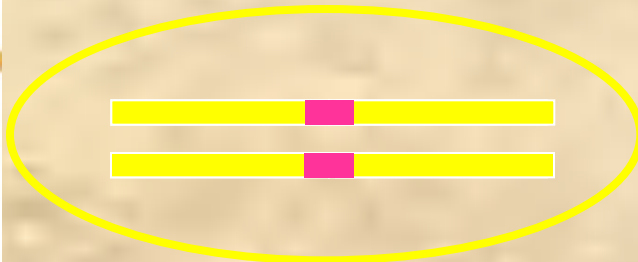
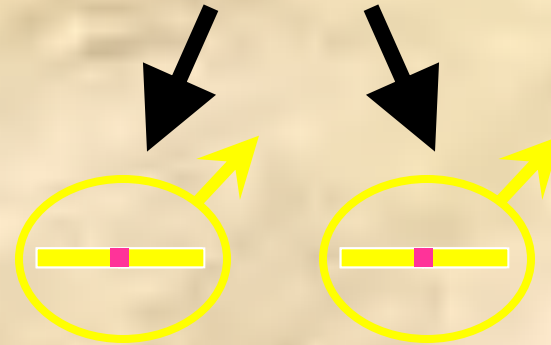
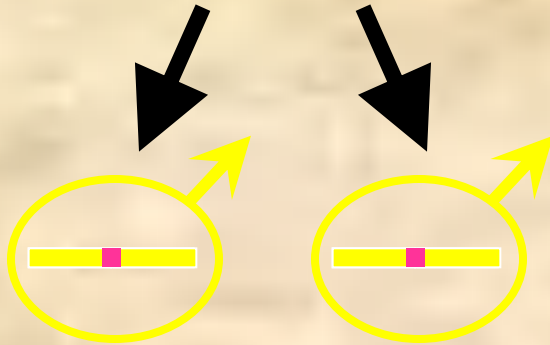
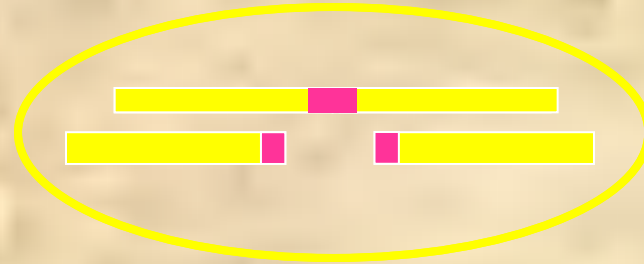
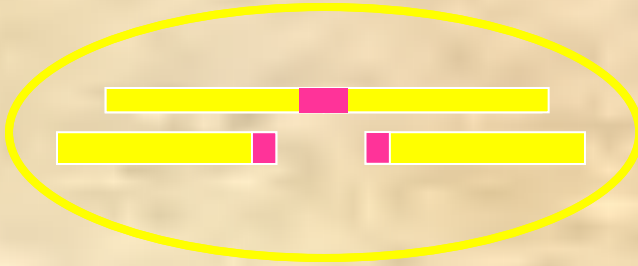
Male

Female



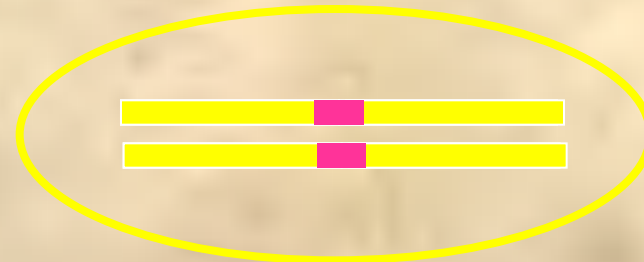
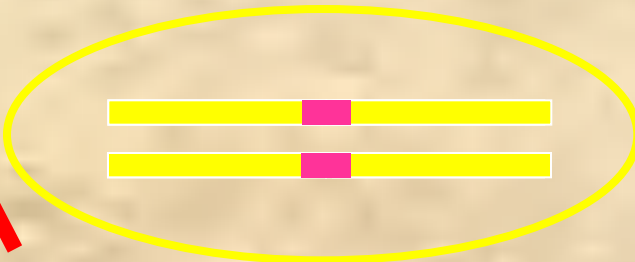
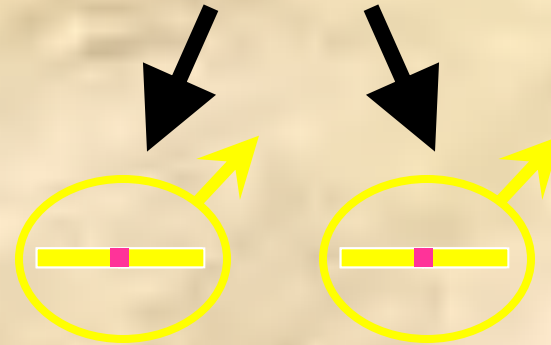
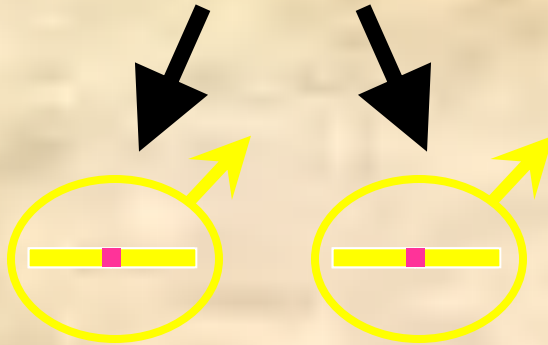
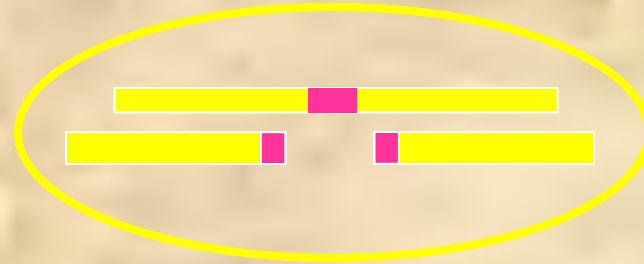
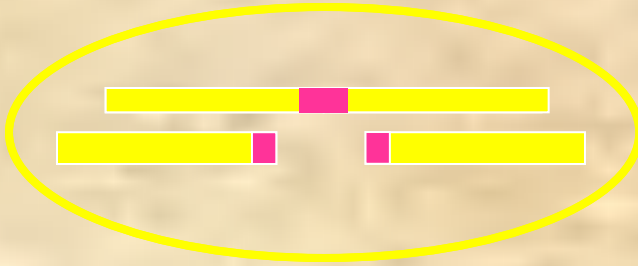
Male

Female

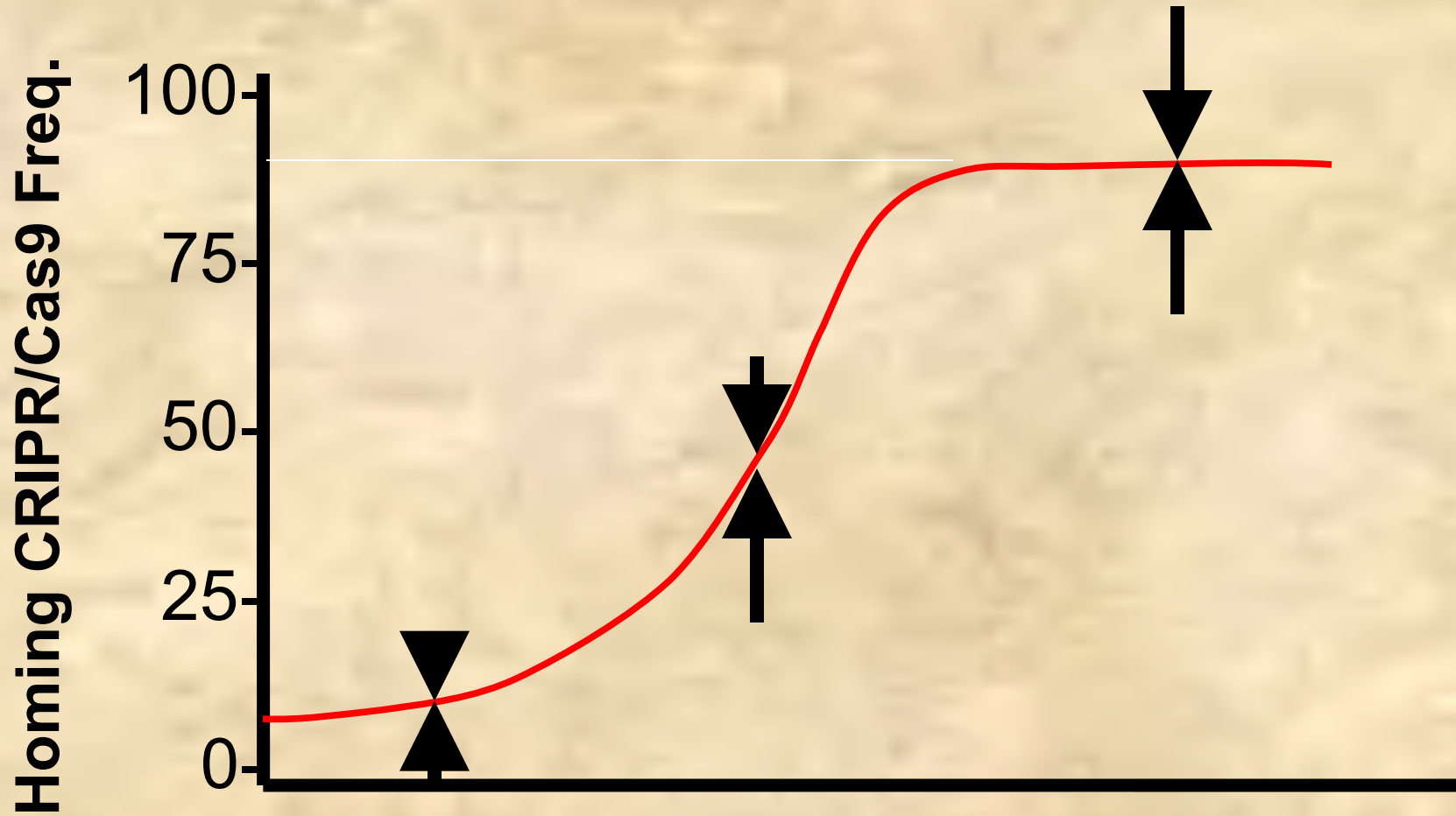


Male

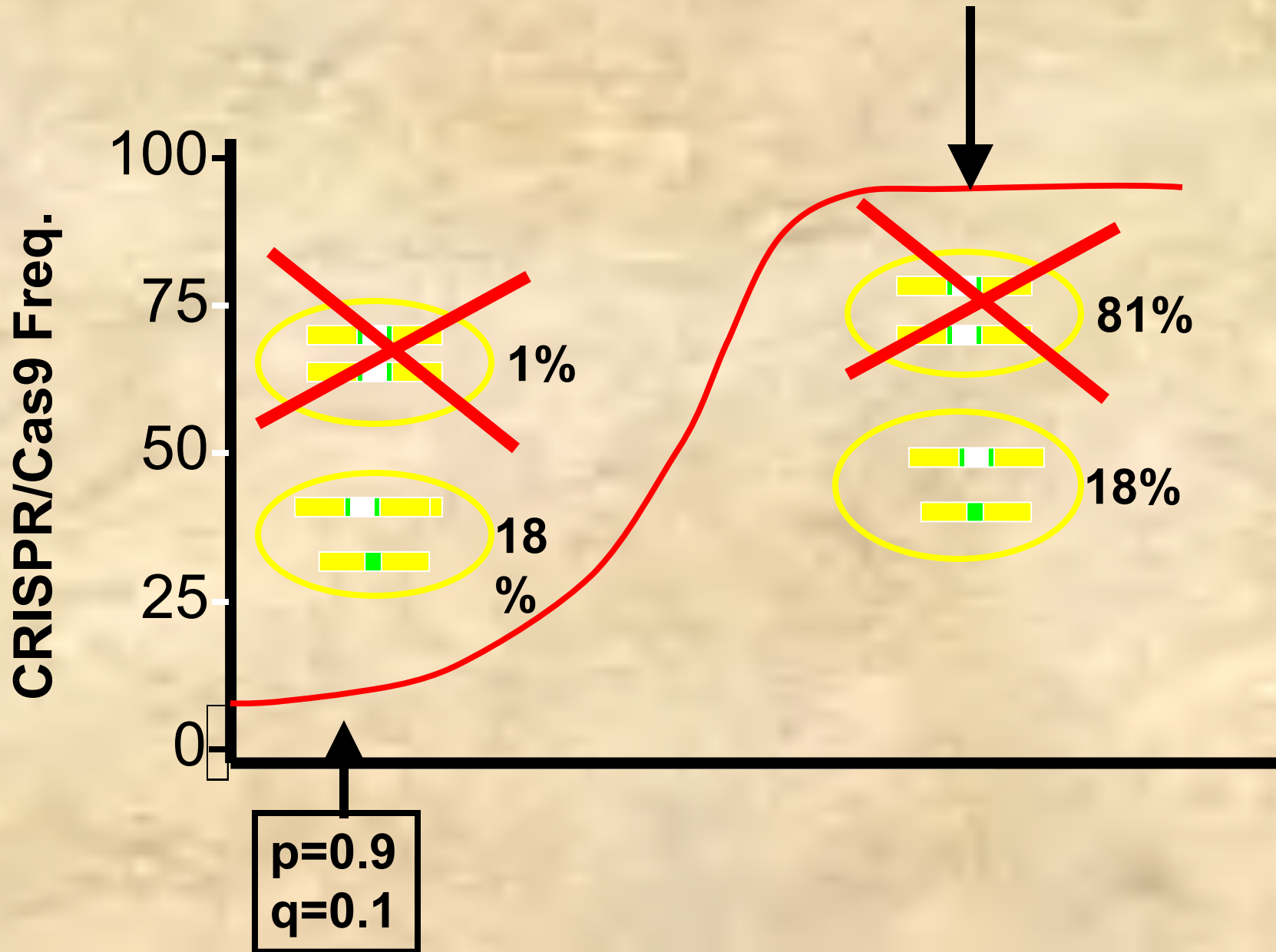
Female

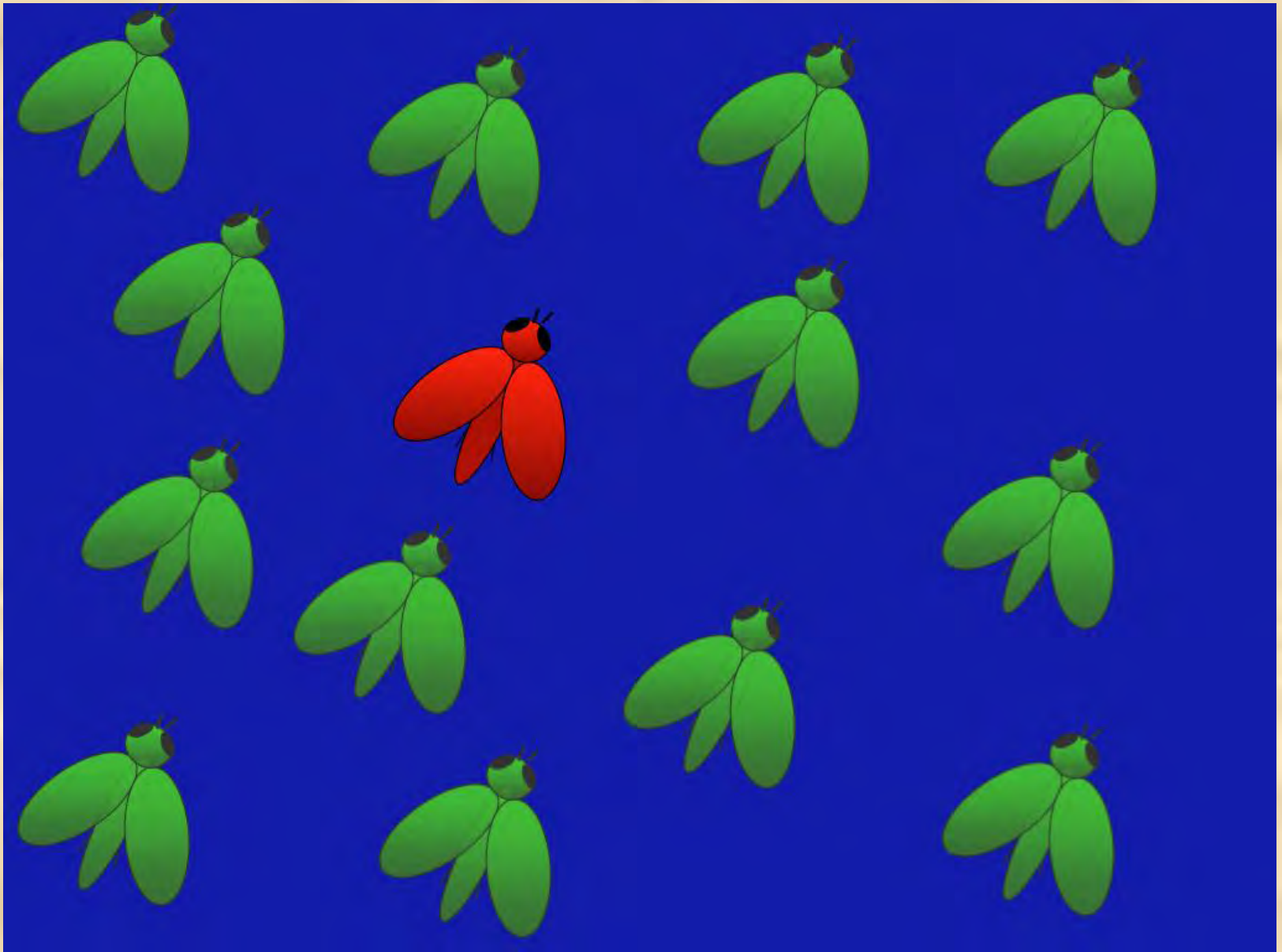


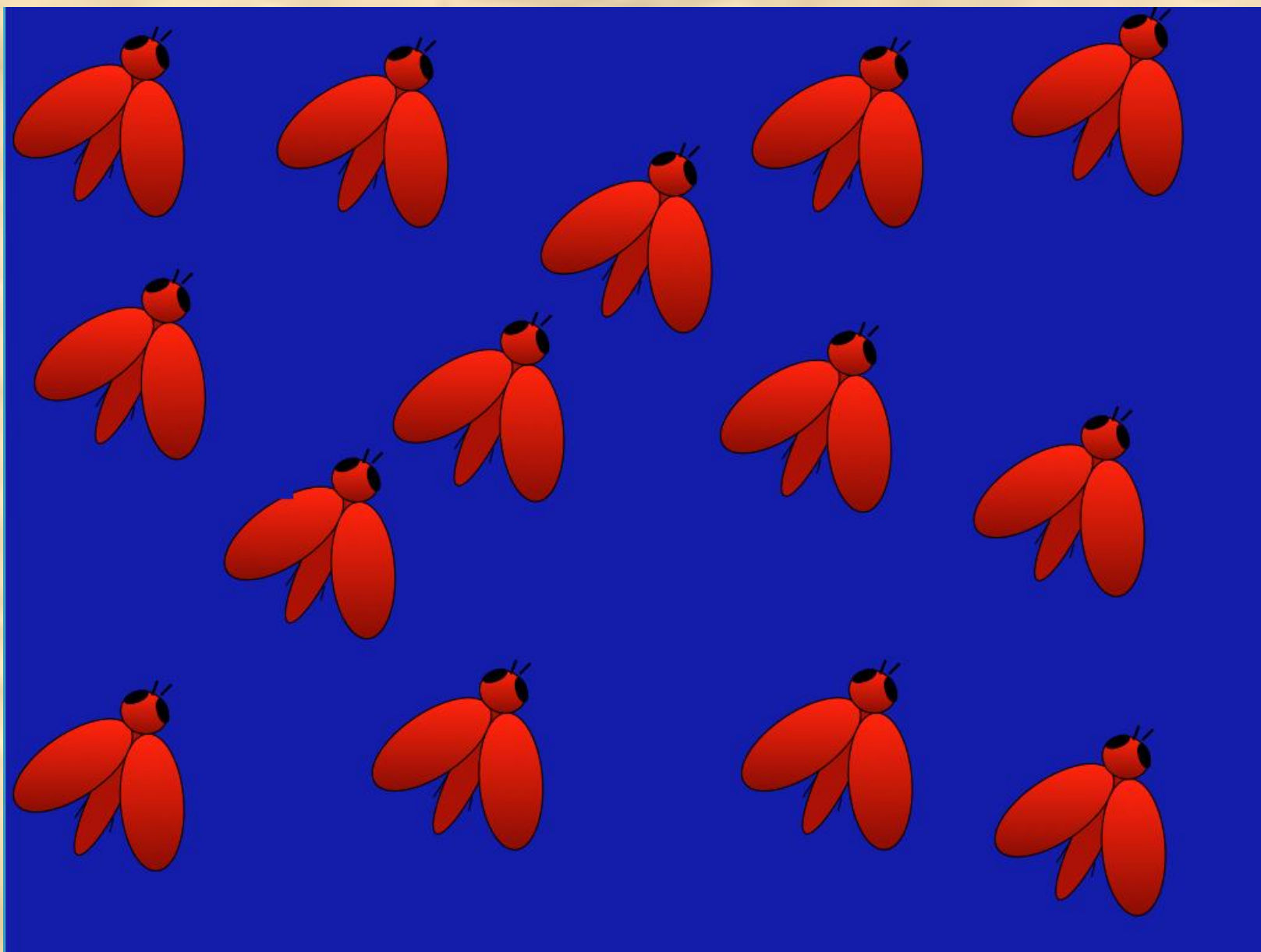
$$1.0 = p^2 + 2pq + q^2$$



$$1.0 = p^2 + 2pq + q^2$$





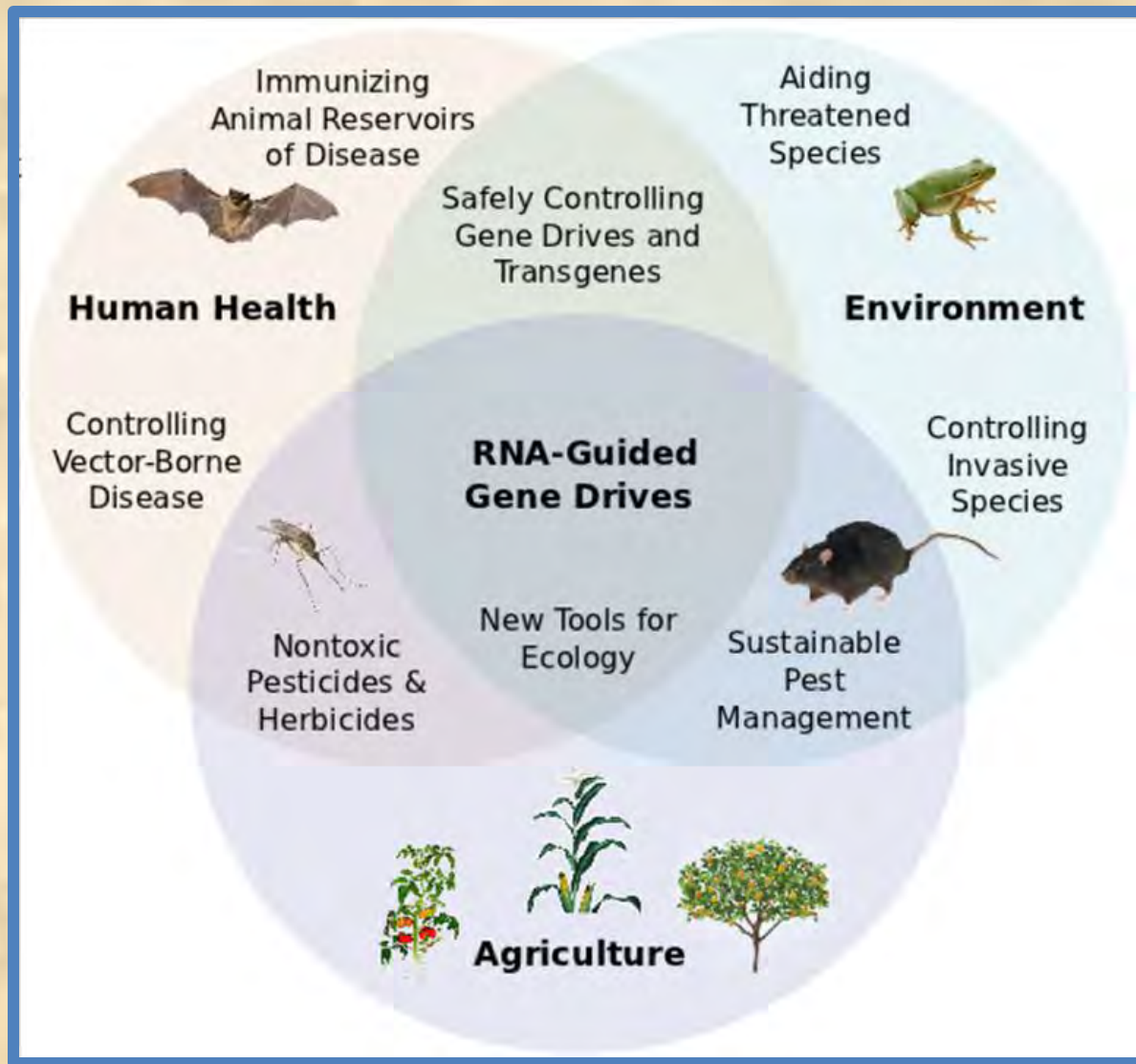


**What are good and
Not so good
Targets for
Genetic Pest Management?**

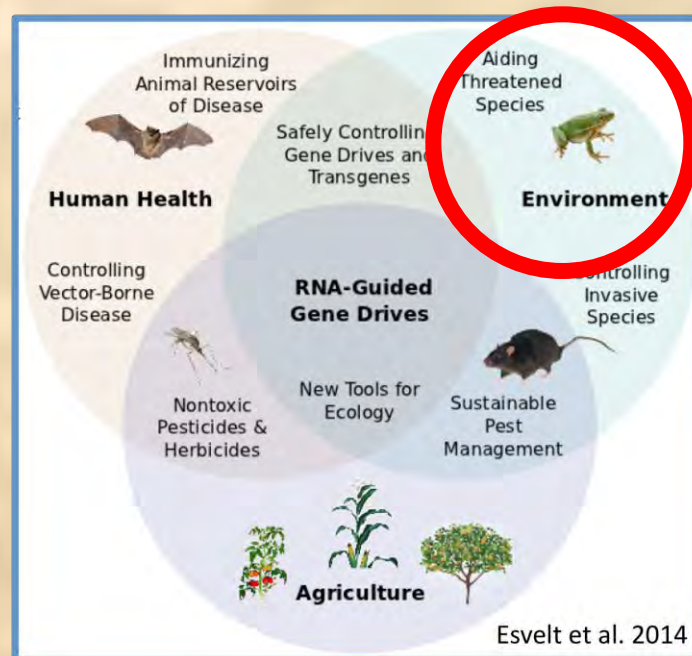
<http://longnow.org/revive/about-the-workshop-sb/>



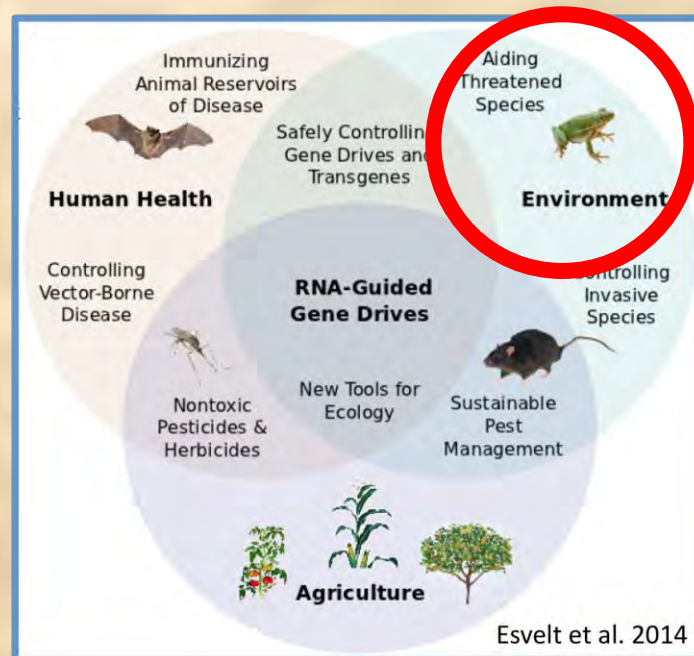
**April
2015**



Esvelt et al. 2014



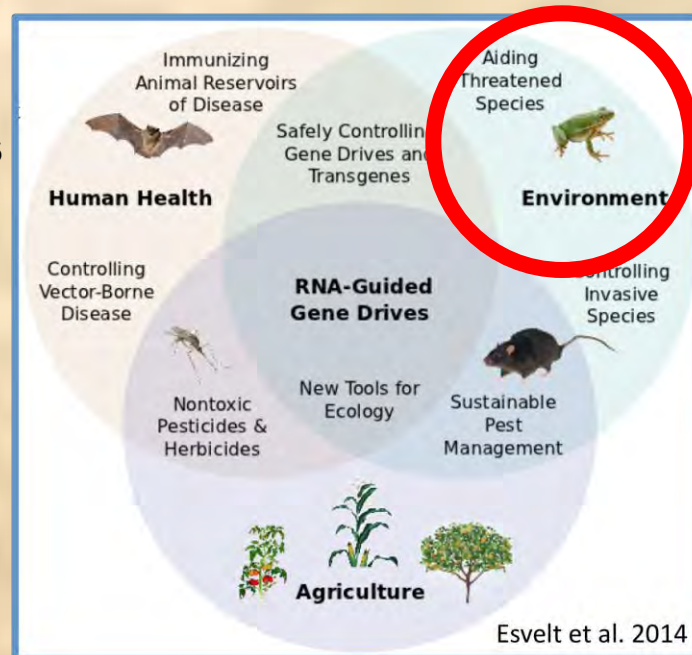
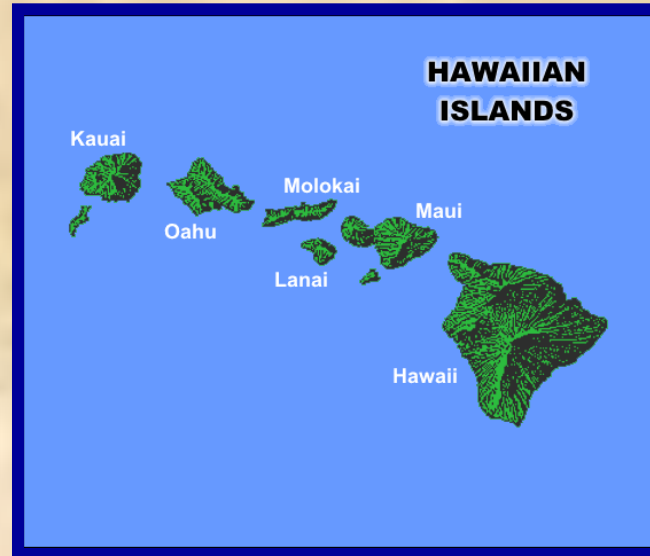
Chytrid Fungus





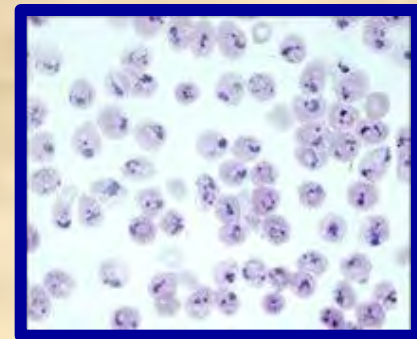


Hawaiian Honeycreepers



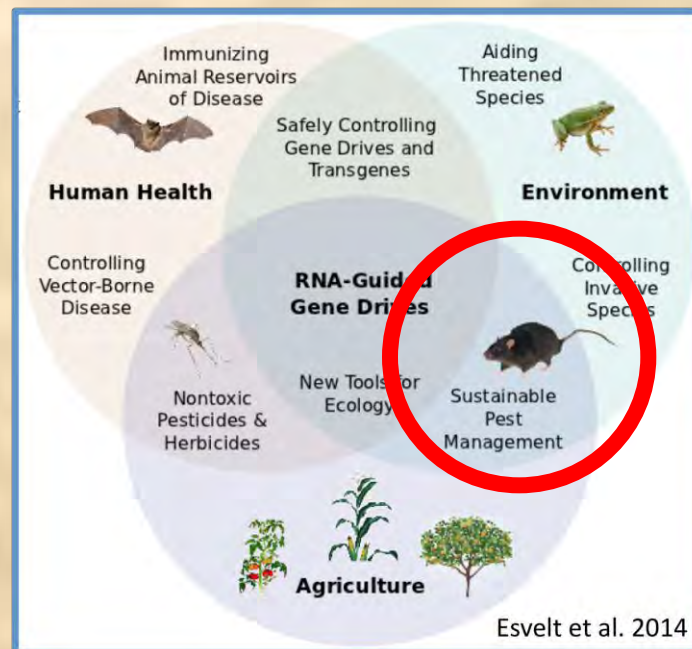
Esvelt et al. 2014

Plasmodium relictum



Culex quinquefasciatus
Southern house mosquito

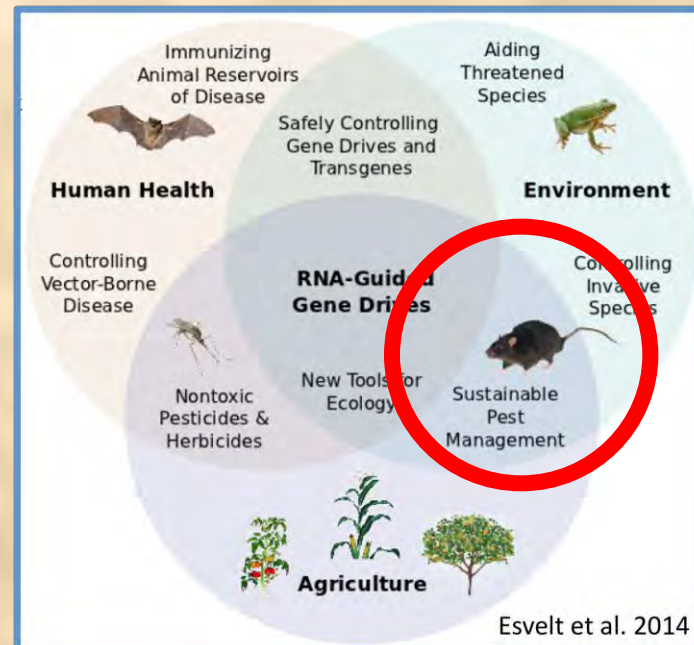
**Also transmits
West Nile**

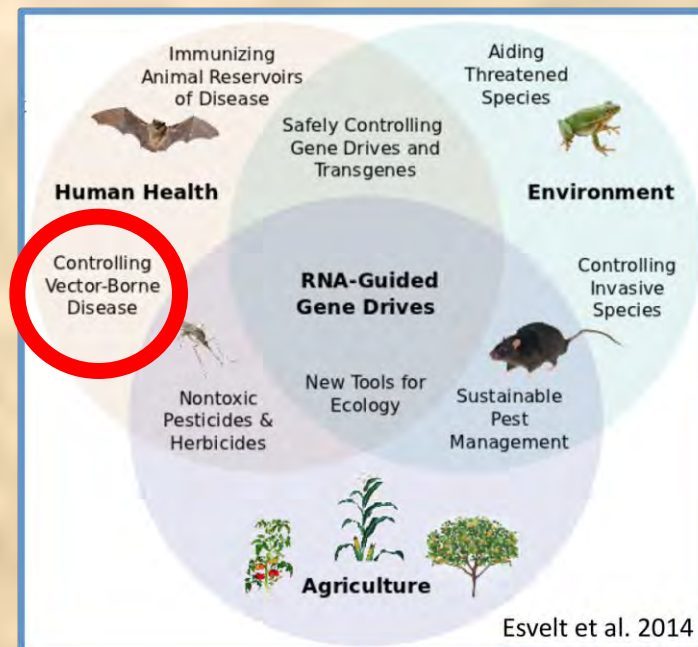




ISLAND CONSERVATION

Preventing Extinctions

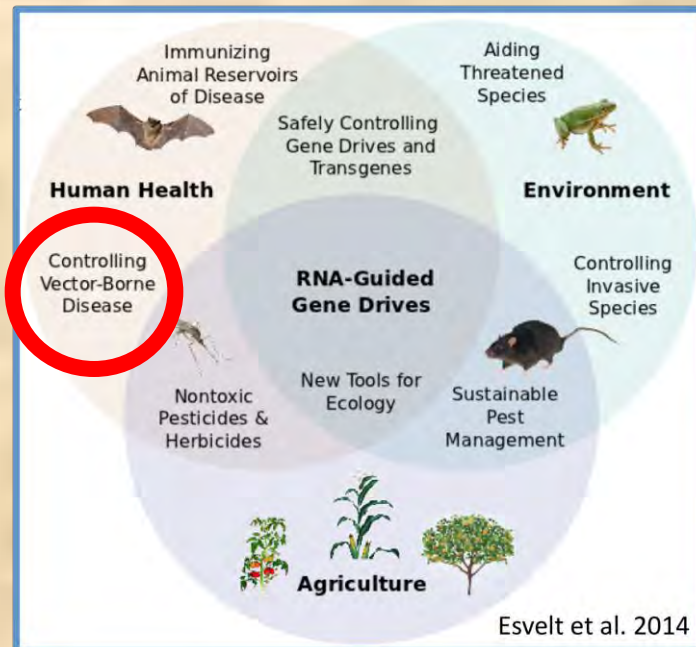
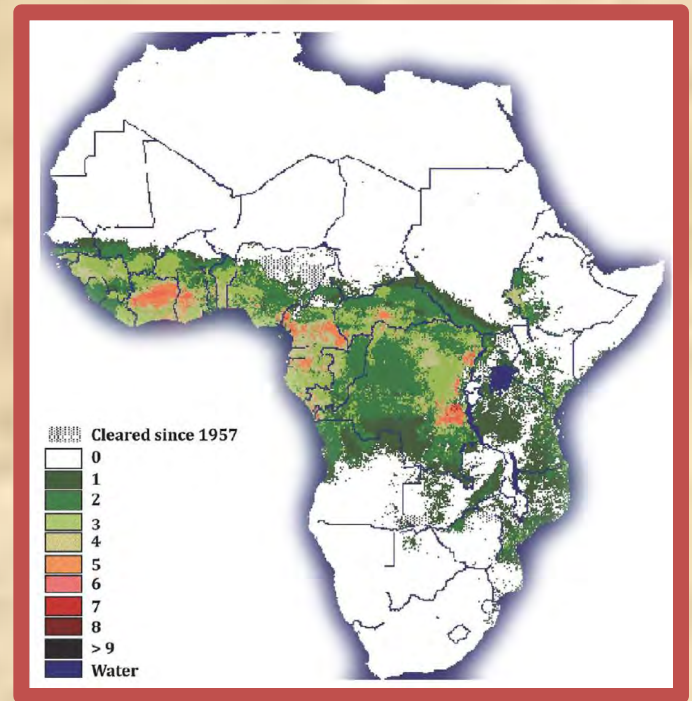
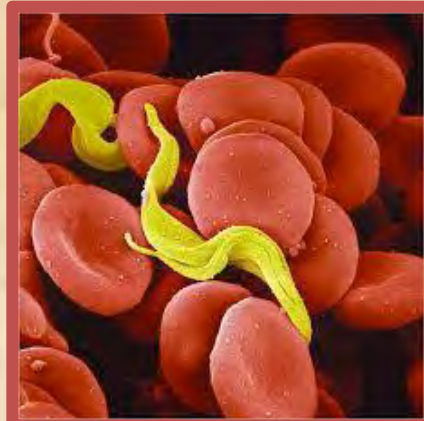


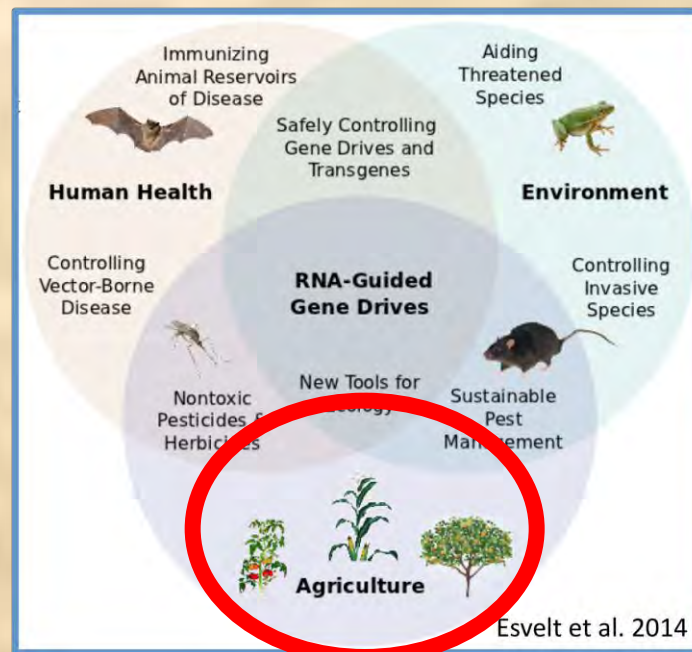


African Trypanosomiasis



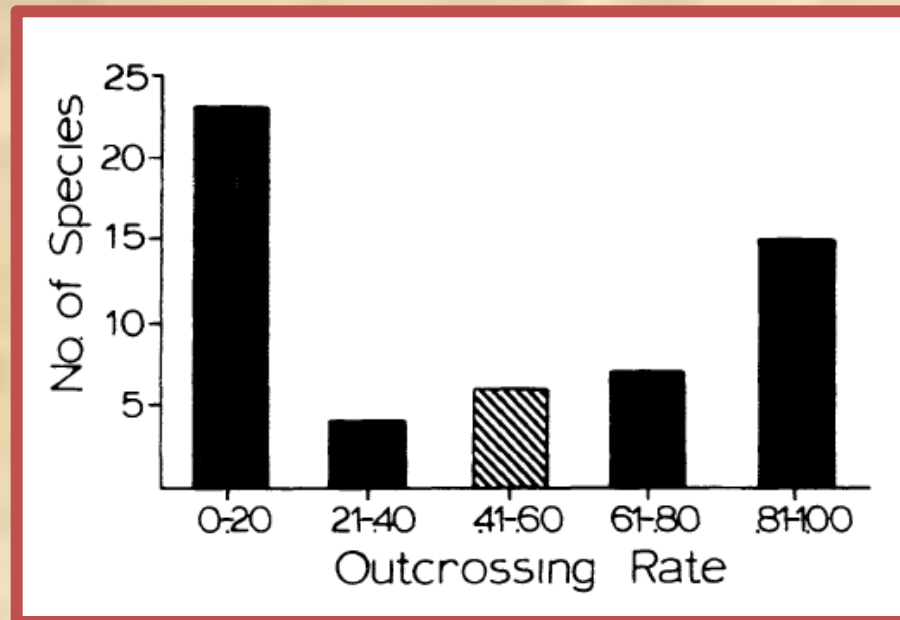
Tsetse fly



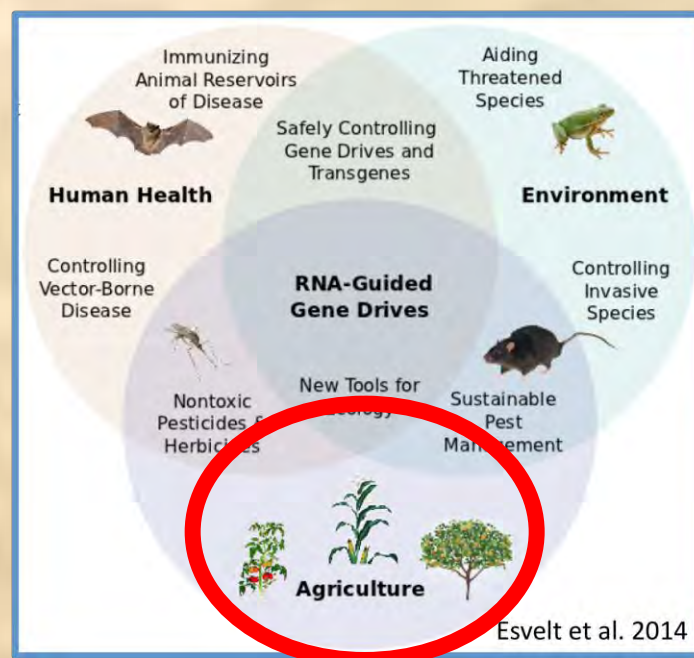




Scotch broom, *Cytisus scoparius*

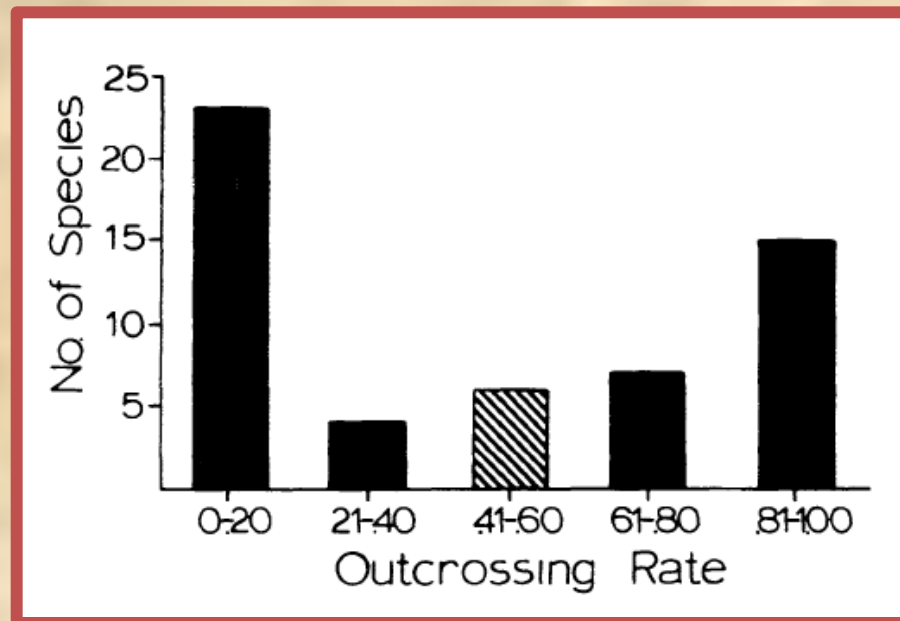


Schemske and Lande 1985





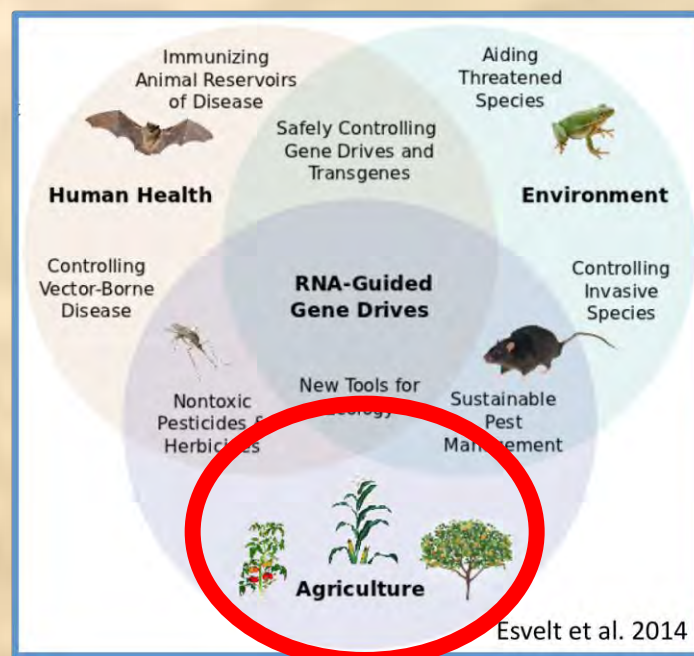
Scotch broom, *Cytisus scoparius*



Schemske and Lande 1985



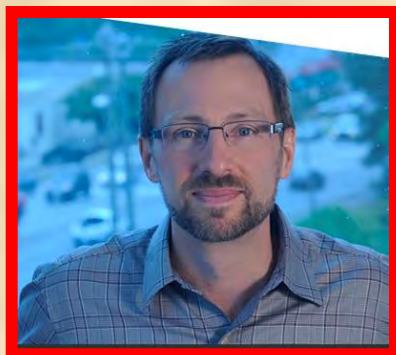
Amaranth



Morning glory

Genetic Engineering and Society: The case of transgenic pests





Jason Delborne



Jennifer Kuzma



Zack Brown

Bill Kinsella

Nora Haenn

David Berube

Nils Peterson

Jade Berry-James

Carolyn Miller

Andrew Binder

Matthew Booker

Mike Cobb

Wally Thurman

Mary Kath Cunningham

Will Kimler

Jane Hoppin

Alun Lloyd

Marce Lorenzen

Max Scott

Nick Haddad

Jim Mahaffey

Kevin Gross

Yasmin Cardoza

Mike Roe

Hannah Burrack

David Threadgill

Jim Gilliam

**Molecular &
Population
Genetics**

Ecology

**Policy
Social Issues
Ethics**

Fred Gould

Lisa McGraw

John Godwin





2016 Invasive Species Webinar Series

Gene Editing: A Next Generation Tool for Invasive Species Management?

Thursday, February 18, 2016 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET

INTRODUCING:

Dr. Todd Kuiken

Senior Program Associate, Science and Technology Innovation Program,
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Dr. Todd Kuiken is the principal investigator on the Wilson Center's Synthetic Biology Project, where he has numerous projects evaluating and designing new research and governance strategies to proactively address the biosafety, biosecurity and environmental risks associated with synthetic biology and bridge the gaps between scientific research, environmental protection, conservation and public policy. He is collaborating with DIYbio.org on a project to ensure safety within the rapidly expanding community of amateur biologists and the growing network of community laboratories. Dr. Kuiken was recently appointed to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group and has provided expert testimony in front of the U.S. National Security Agency Advisory Board, the U.S. National Academies of Science, the United Nations Bioweapons Convention, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. He earned his B.S. in Environmental Management and Technology at Rochester Institute of Technology a M.A. in Environmental and Resource Policy from The George Washington University and his Ph.D. from Tennessee Tech University where his research focused on the air/surface exchange of mercury associated with forest ecosystems.

CRISPR and Gene Drives: Using nature as a bioweapon/solution?



The Wilson
Center

Todd Kuiken, Ph.D.
todd.kuiken@wilsoncenter.org
202-691-4398

Pace

New Actors



eLife Feature article Ecology / Genes and chromosomes

Article

Figures & data

Metrics

Article & author info

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Concerning RNA-guided gene drives for the alteration of wild populations

Kevin M Esvelt , Andrea L Smidler, Flaminia Catteruccia, George M ChurchDOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7554/eLife.03401>

Published July 17, 2014

Cite as eLife 2014;10:7554/eLife.03401

Download PDF

Abstract

Gene drives may be capable of addressing ecological problems by altering entire populations of wild organisms, but their use has remained largely theoretical due to technical constraints. Here we consider the potential for RNA-guided gene drives based on the CRISPR nuclease Cas9 to serve as a general method for spreading altered traits through wild populations over many generations. We detail likely capabilities, discuss limitations, and provide novel precautionary strategies to control the spread of gene drives and reverse genomic changes. The ability to edit populations of sexual species would offer substantial benefits to humanity and the environment. For example, RNA-guided gene drives could potentially prevent the spread of disease, support agriculture by reversing pesticide and herbicide resistance in insects and weeds, and control damaging invasive species. However, the possibility of unwanted ecological effects and near-certainty of spread across political borders demand careful assessment of each potential application. We call for thoughtful, inclusive, and well-informed public discussions to explore the responsible use of this currently theoretical technology.

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cient conversion in individuals expressing Cas9 only in the germ line, males and females derived from transgenic females, which are expected to have drive component molecules in the egg, produce progeny with a high frequency of mutations in the targeted genome sequence, resulting in near-Mendelian inheritance ratios

An. stephensi is both an established and emerging malaria vector. It is estimated to be responsible for ~12% of all transmission in India, mostly in urban settings, accounting for a total of ~106,000 clinical cases in 2014 (3, 16–18), and also may be responsible for recent epidemic outbreaks in Africa (19). Laboratory strains of *An.*

Todd





Synthetic Biology

based on standard parts



Community Labs – Science is for EVERYONE



CHARLOTTESVILLE Open Bio Labs

Welcome to Charlottesville's Biotechnology Exploration Center

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Come to our GRAND OPENING on Friday, October 16th @ 6pm

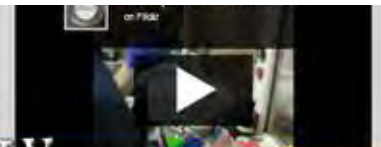
Berkeley



BUGSS
Genetics, Reproduction, and Natural Selection
Technology, Ethics, and Society
Inside SpongeBob...

At Genspace it still is.

Genspace is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting education in molecular biology for both children and adults. We work inside and outside of traditional settings, producing science, sharing it.



A place for creative biology

101 North Haven St, Baltimore, MD

BUGSS is a Maryland nonprofit corporation,
BUGSS is entirely run by unpaid volunteers, and



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PAILLASSE

Funded! This project was successfully funded on June 7, 2013.



8,433

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If you had access to modern synthetic biology tools, what would you create?

#science #diy #biohacking

\$60,884 USD

total funds raised

InDemand

Original campaign was 333% funded on December 8, 2015

\$6 USD

Biohacker Stickers

Our cool Biohacker logo, Stickers that say "Create Something Beautiful" and "BioHack the Planet" for you to stick anywhere (we recommend most places except for faces of friends).

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Ships Worldwide

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[? How does this work?](#)

Gene Drives in the context of CBD

- AHTEG met September 2015
- SBSTTA meeting April 2016
- COP/MOP December 2016
- Other treaties (ENMOD)?



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Large-Scale Range Collapse of Hawaiian Forest Birds under Climate Change and the Need 21st Century Conservation Options

Lucas B. Fortini^{1,2*}, Adam E. Vorsino³, Fred A. Amidon³, Eben H. Paxton¹, James D. Jacobi¹

1 U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America, **2** Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America, **3** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Strategic Habitat Conservation Division, Pacific Islands Office, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America

* lfortini@usgs.gov



OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Fortini LB, Vorsino AE, Amidon FA, Paxton EH, Jacobi JD (2015) Large-Scale Range Collapse of Hawaiian Forest Birds under Climate Change and the Need 21st Century Conservation Options. *PLoS ONE* 10(10): e0140389. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0140389

Editor: Mariana M. P. B. Fuentes, Florida State University, UNITED STATES

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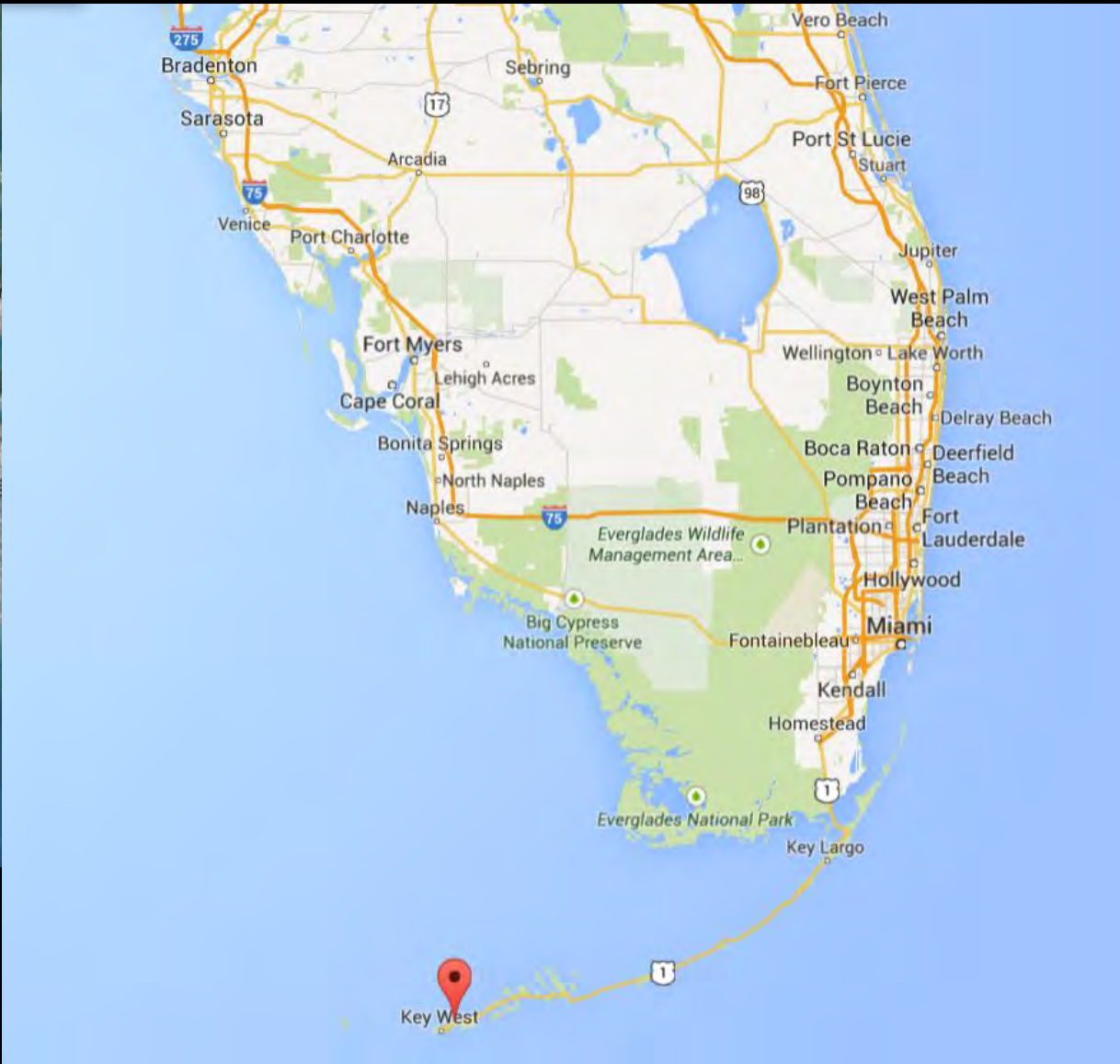
Data Availability Statement: Species location, climate predictor datasets and related R scripts are available at www.sciencebase.gov, the data portal for U.S. Department of the Interior scientific efforts. Information resides at <http://dx.doi.org/10.5066/77804281>. Data for this research are available at www.sciencebase.gov.

Abstract

Hawaiian forest birds serve as an ideal group to explore the extent of climate change impacts on at-risk species. Avian malaria constrains many remaining Hawaiian forest bird species to high elevations where temperatures are too cool for malaria's life cycle and its principal mosquito vector. The impact of climate change on Hawaiian forest birds has been a recent focus of Hawaiian conservation biology, and has centered on the links between climate and avian malaria. To elucidate the differential impacts of projected climate shifts on species with known varying niches, disease resistance and tolerance, we use a comprehensive database of species sightings, regional climate projections and ensemble distribution models to project distribution shifts for all Hawaiian forest bird species. We illustrate that, under a likely scenario of continued disease-driven distribution limitation, all 10 species with highly reliable models (mostly narrow-ranged, single-island endemics) are expected to lose >50% of their range by 2100. Of those, three are expected to lose all range and three others are expected to lose >90% of their range. Projected range loss was smaller for several of the more widespread species; however improved data and models are necessary to refine future projections. Like other at-risk species, Hawaiian forest birds have specific habitat requirements that limit the possibility of range expansion for most species, as projected expansion is frequently in areas where forest habitat is presently not available (such as recent lava flows). Given the large projected range losses for all species, protecting high elevation forest alone is not an adequate long-term strategy for many species under climate change. We describe the types of additional conservation actions practitioners will likely need to consider, while providing results to help with such considerations.



Dengue (Zika) Control



Oxitec Solution for Dengue (Zika)?

- Until 2009, no reports of Dengue since 1934
 - 2009 – 22 people; 2010 – 66 cases in Florida
 - 136 cases in Hawaii (as of Dec 4th)
- *Aedes aegypti*
 - Feed mostly on humans
 - Only females bite
- Key Haven Florida – 444 houses
- Petition – 149,000 signatures
- 1600 emails to mosquito control district

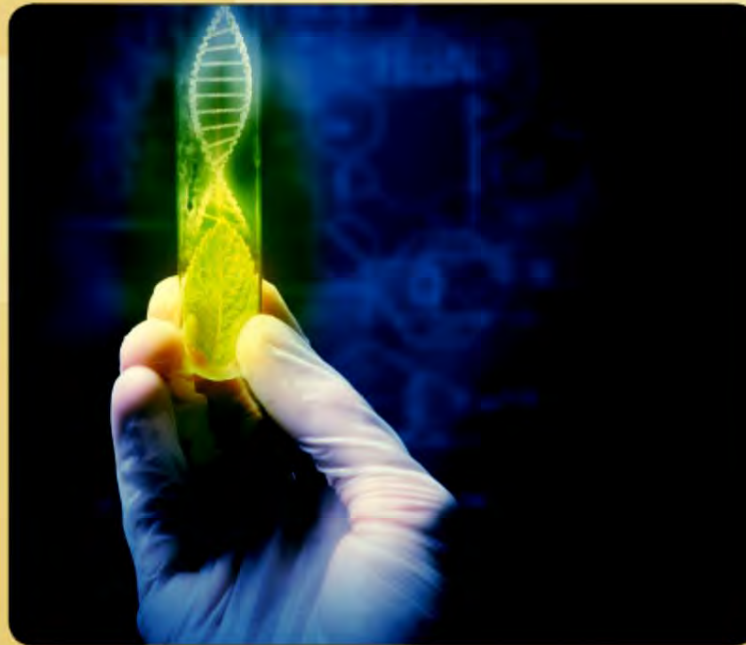
New poll on CRISPR (human)

- Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about this new technique for changing an organism's DNA?
 - Total Positive Development – 20%
 - Total Mixed both a positive and a negative development – 62%
 - Total Negative Development – 18%

Moratorium?

- Please indicate below to what degree you favor or oppose temporarily stopping research using these techniques on humans until ethical guidelines and safety controls are in place.
 - **Total Favor – 45%**
 - **Total Oppose – 12%**
 - **Total Favor with Leaners – 72%**
 - **Total Oppose with Leaners – 28%**

THE DNA OF THE U.S. REGULATORY SYSTEM: ARE WE GETTING IT RIGHT FOR SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY?



October 2015



Synthetic
BIOLOGY
PROJECT

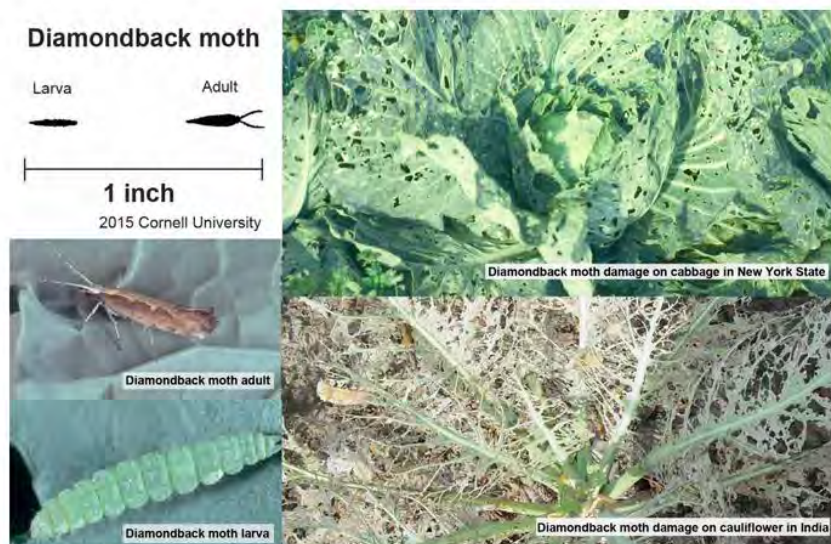
W | **Wilson**
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BIOTECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, PEST MANAGEMENT

DIAMONDBACK MOTH PROJECT AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY IN 2015

🕒 JUNE 17, 2015 📧 AMS5@CORNELL.EDU



What is a Diamondback Moth?

The diamondback moth (DBM) (*Plutella xylostella*) is the world's worst insect pest of brassica crops (cabbages, canola, broccoli,

Are our risk assessment frameworks keeping pace?

- Oxitec mosquito is at FDA/Oxitec moth is at USDA
- How will current risk assessments deal with CRISPR kits?
- Malaria/song birds...where does this fall?
- Time frame of assessment versus immediate threats to conservation and biodiversity?
- How do we deal with biology moving (moving risk)?
 - Local to State to National to International?

New plans are possible?

- Past models will take us only so far...may need new ones; ones which include the public (indigenous knowledge) in risk assessments
- Risk assessment needs to incorporate ecological time scales, both in terms of assessing risk but also risk of inaction (in relation to CBD issues)
- U.N. could establish an ecological risk research station (ELA type reservation)?
- Establish a coordinated research strategy that co-funds ecological risk research (too avoid duplication and recognizing limited research funds)
- Recognize that traditional governance mechanisms may not reach all the actors participating in the field

vig·i·lan·te

/, vijə'lan(t)ē /

noun: vigilante; plural noun: vigilantes

a member of a self-appointed group of citizens who undertake law enforcement in their community without legal authority, typically because the legal agencies are thought to be inadequate.



2016 Invasive Species Webinar Series

Gene Editing: A Next Generation Tool for Invasive Species Management?

Thursday, February 18, 2016 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET

Q & A Session

Questions for the panelists? Submit via the “Questions” box or raise your hand by clicking on the hand icon.

Please visit the event page (<http://tinyurl.com/eligeneediting>) for background materials and resources.



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