



FACULTAD DE  
**MEDICINA**  
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE

**icbm.**  
INSTITUTO  
DE CIENCIAS  
BIOMÉDICAS

# Physiological adaptation to environmental stress in insects

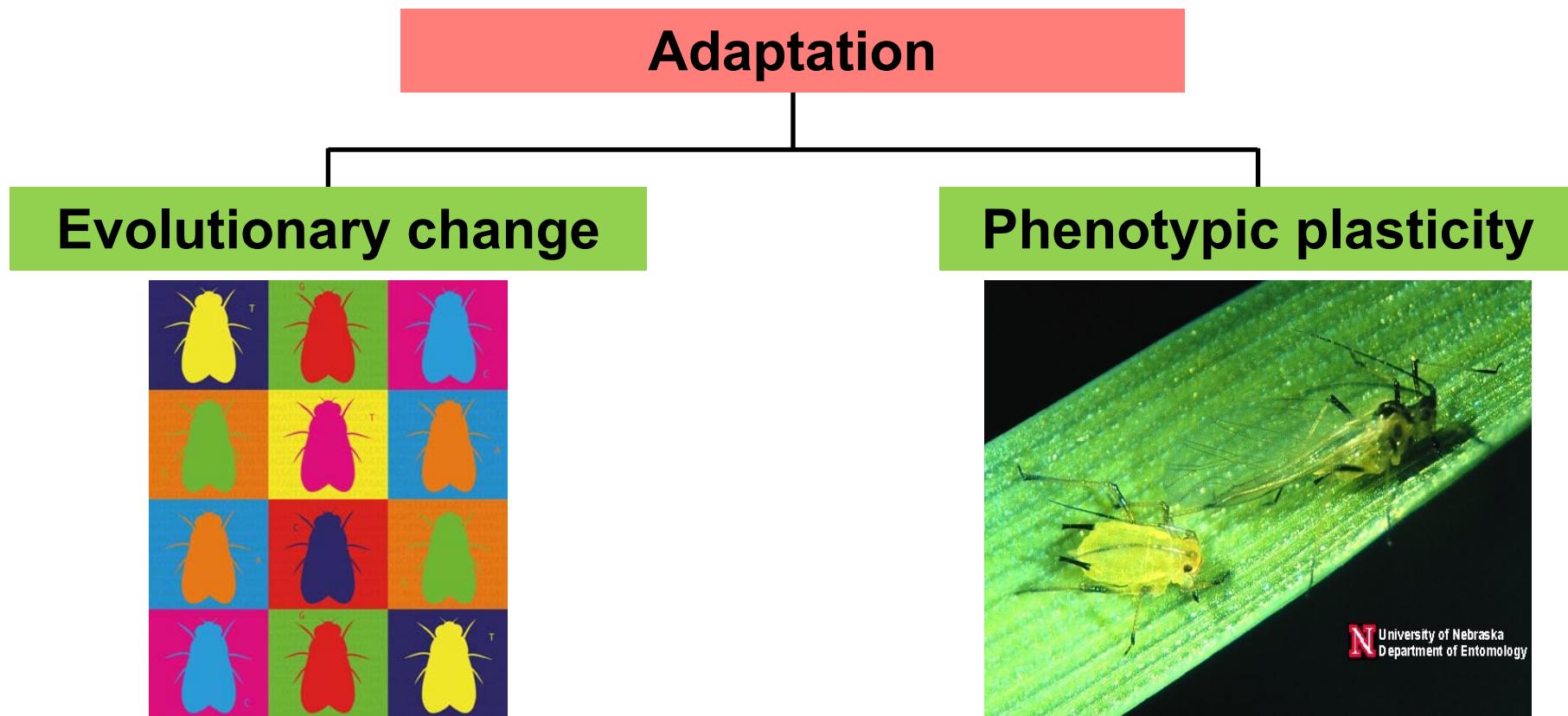
**Luis E. Castañeda**

*Laboratorio de Biología Integrativa, Instituto de Ciencias Biomédicas  
Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile*

*CBGP, France 2024*

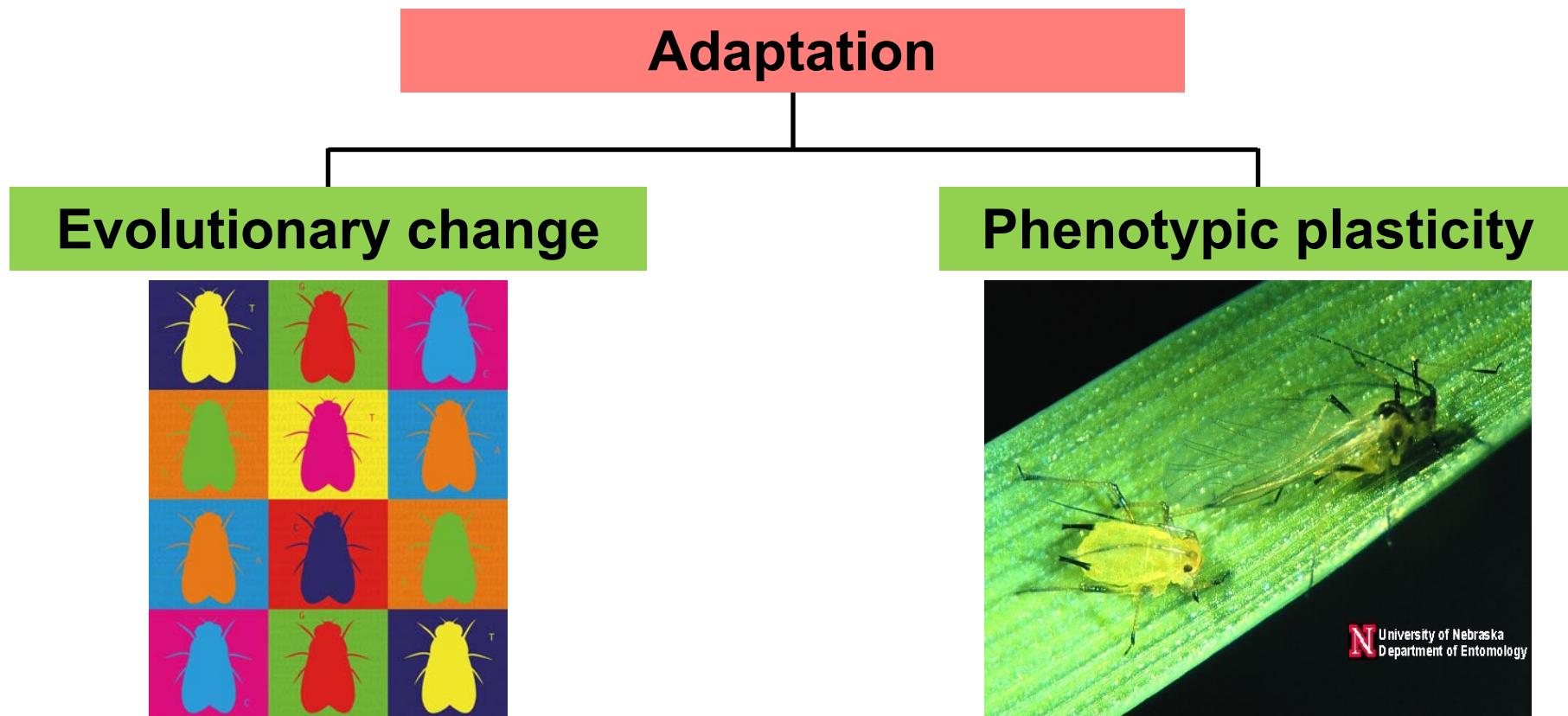
# Response to environmental stress

Adapt or become extinct

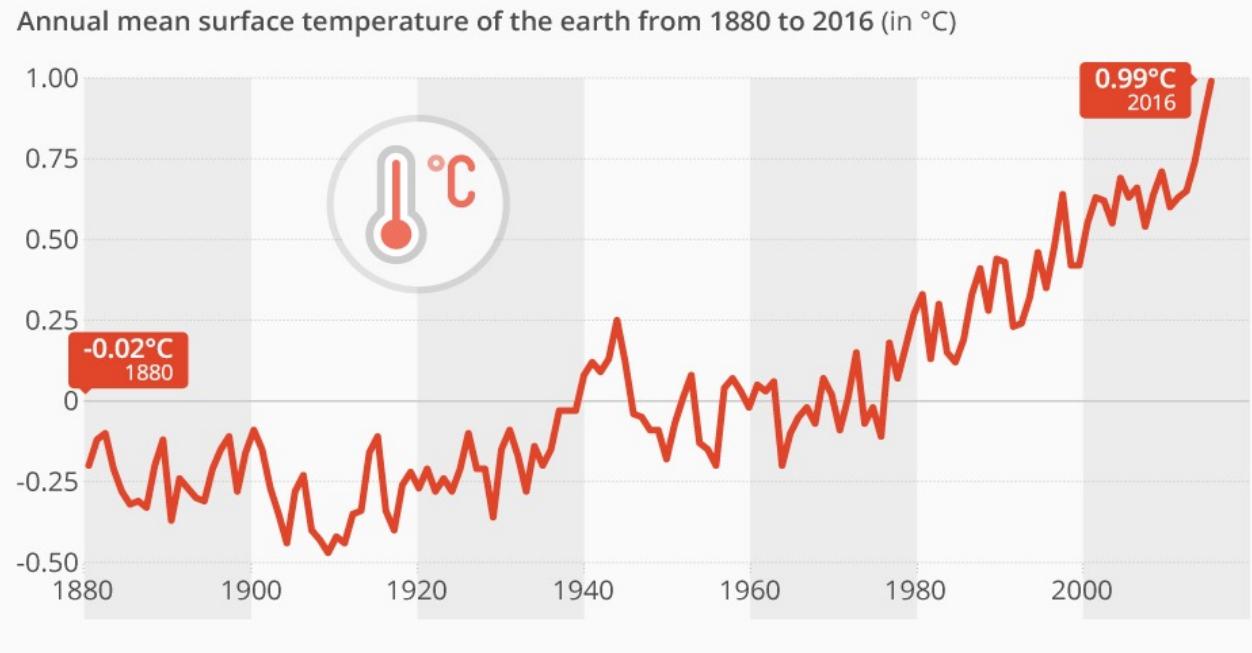


# Response to environmental stress

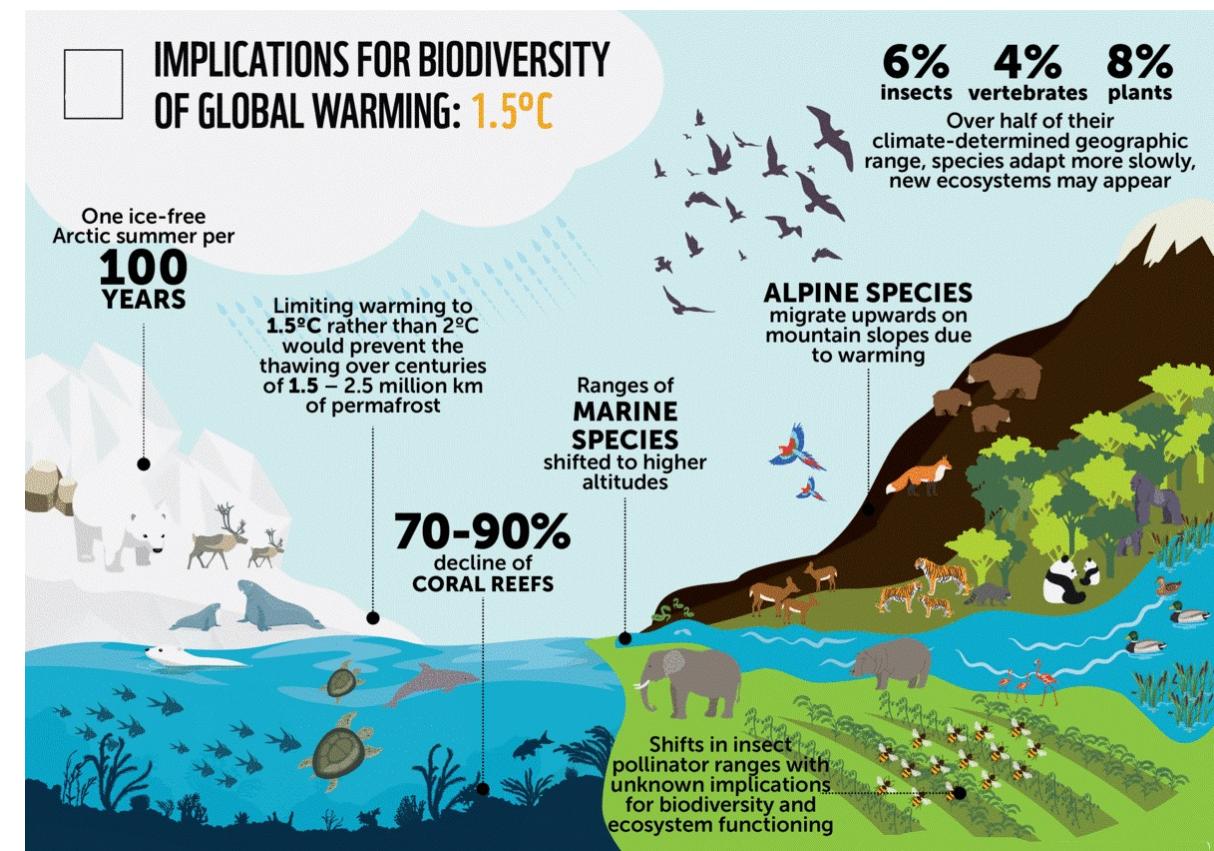
Adapt or become extinct



# The threat of global warming

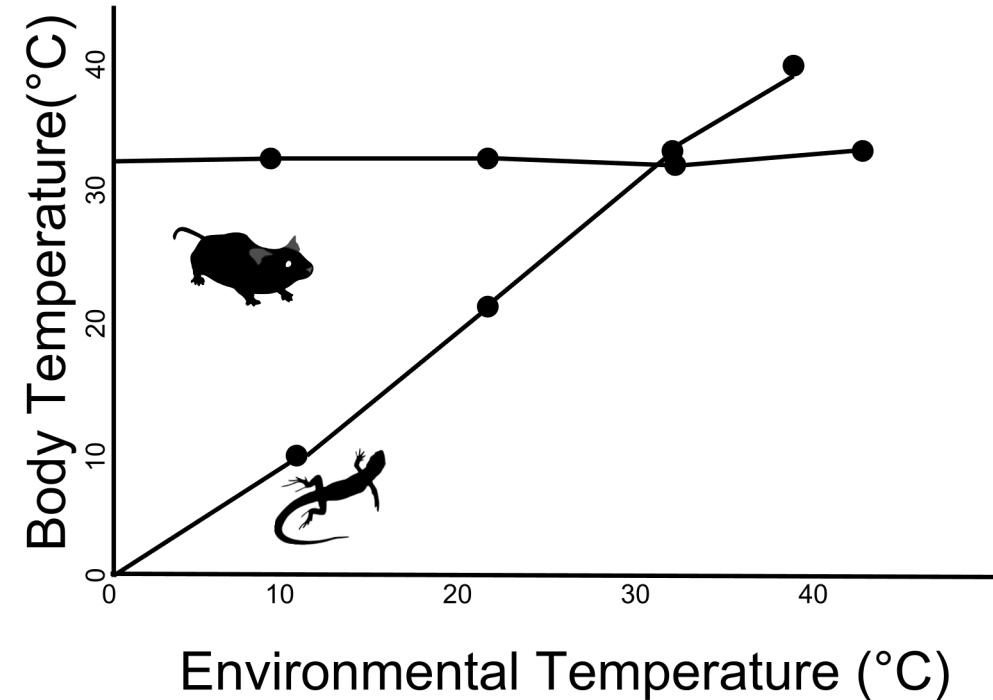
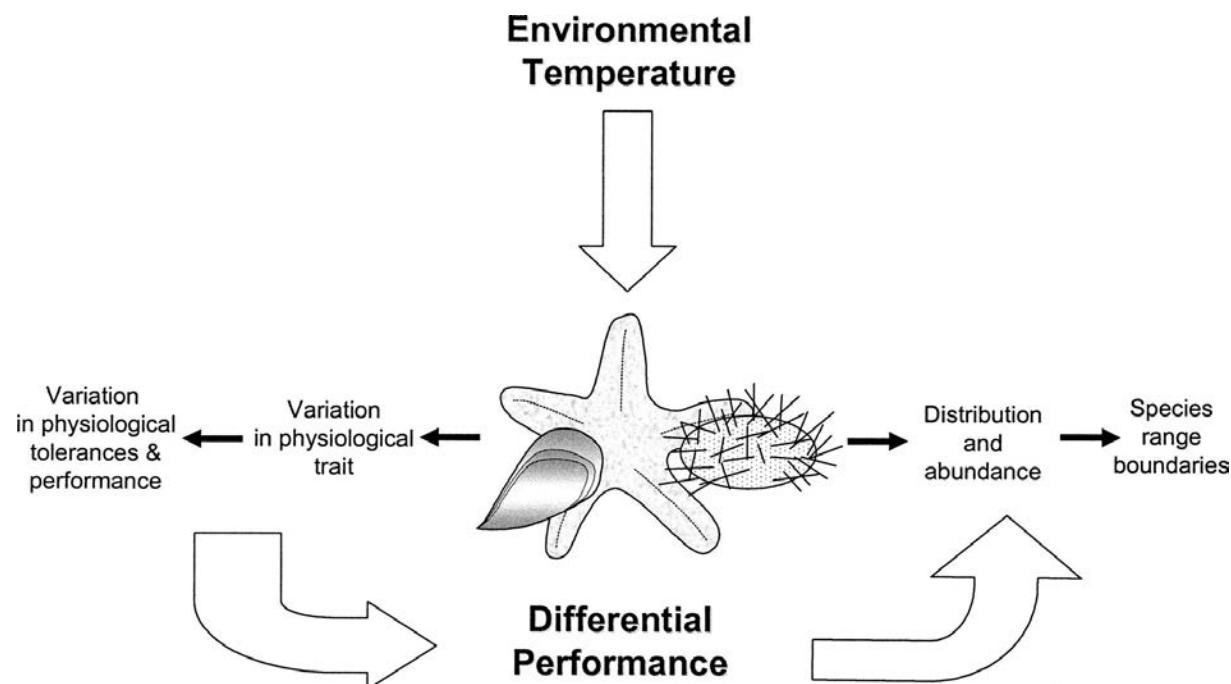


Rapid increase of environmental temperatures affects biodiversity

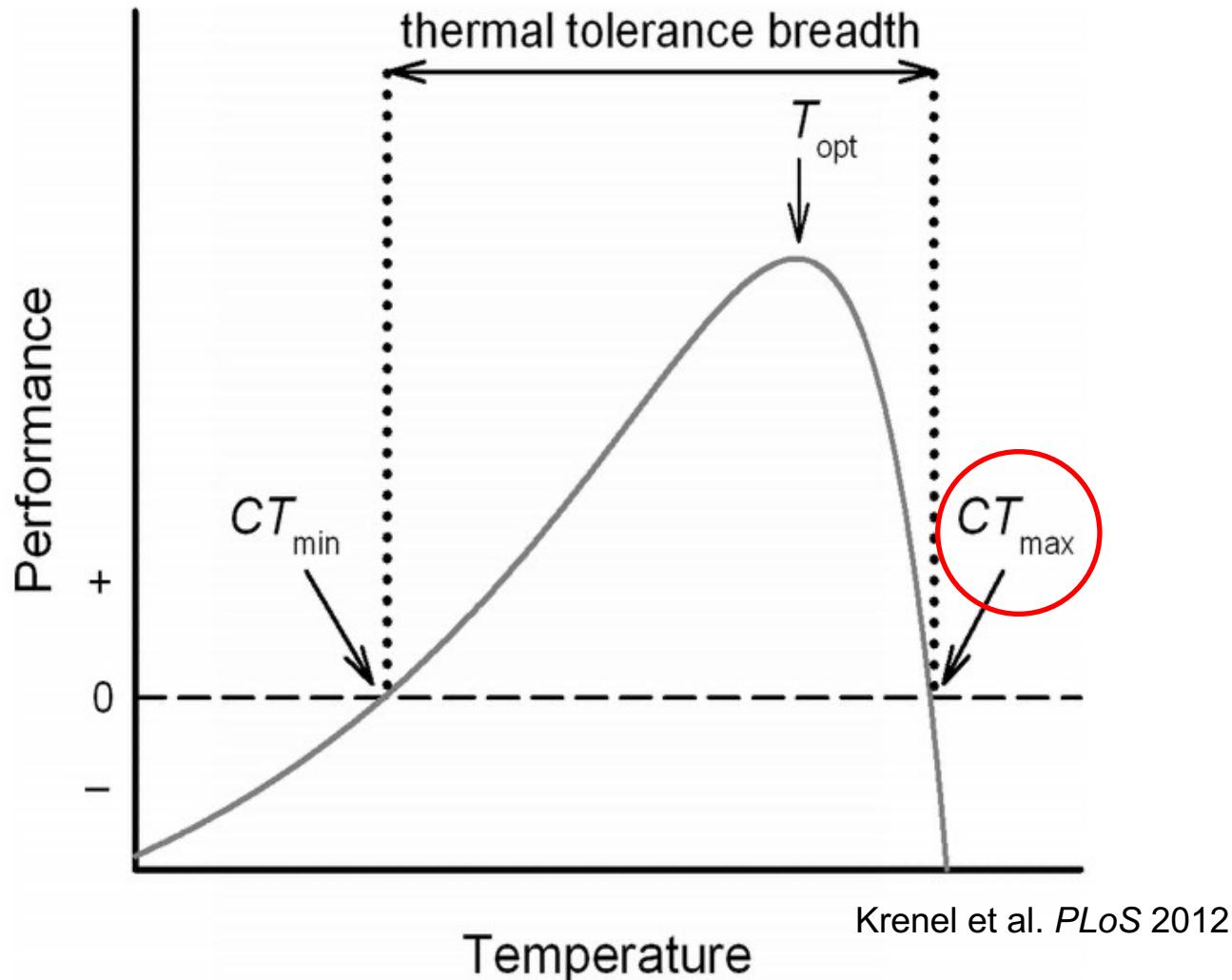


# The threat of global warming

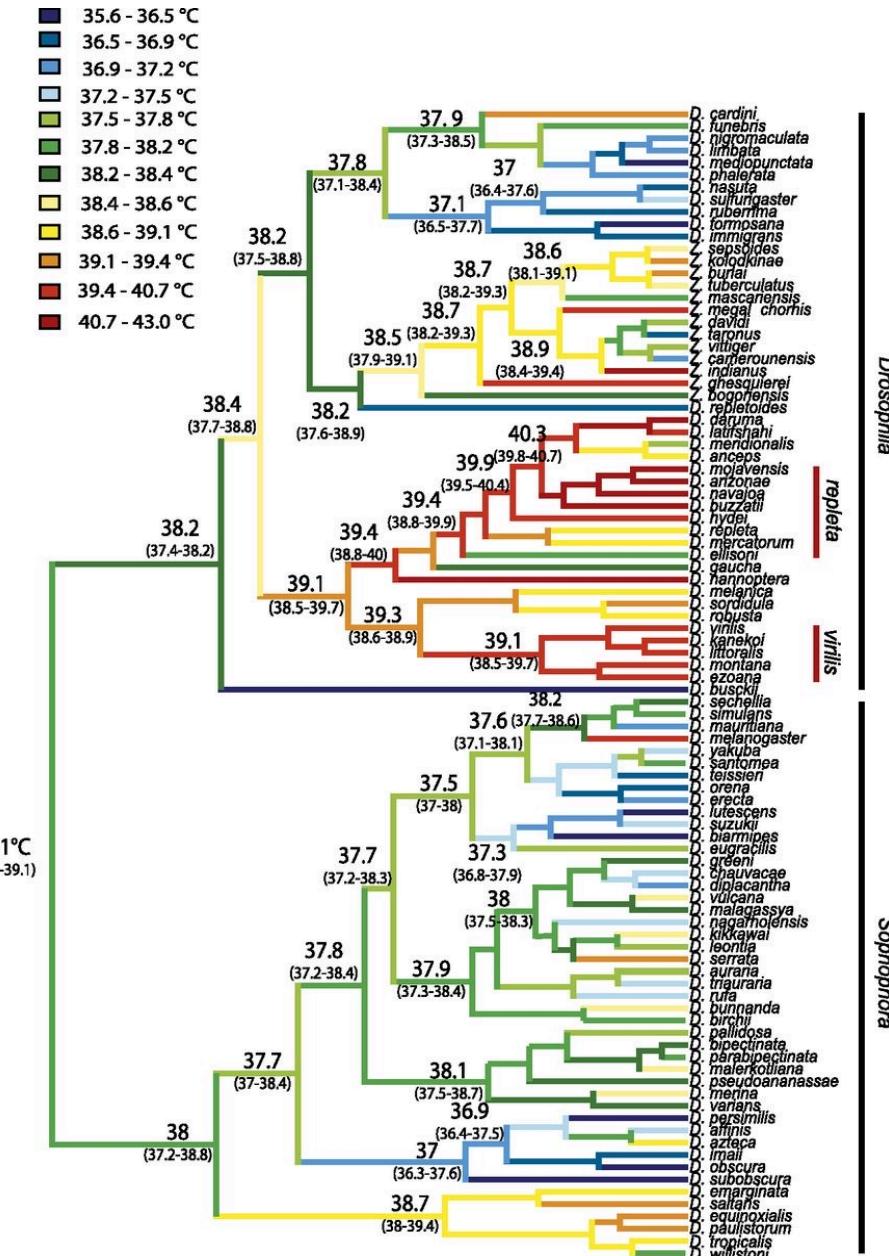
Extreme warming can be more important for ectotherms because their body temperature is directly influenced by the environmental temperature



# Thermal performance of ectotherms



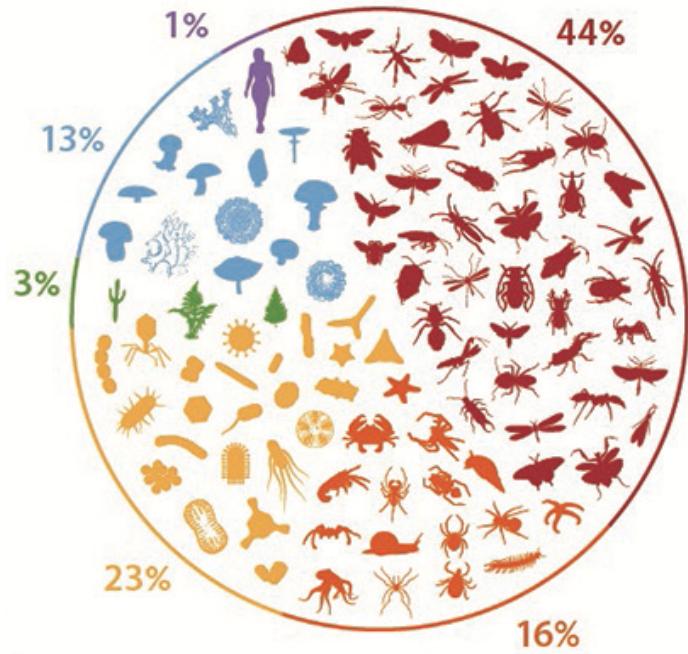
Thermal performance curve (TPC)



Kellermann et al. PNAS 2012

# Drosophila: a very diverse taxon

Insects represent one of the most taxonomic group on Earth



Drosophilidae > 4390 species

*Drosophila* > 1600 species

*Drosophila*  
*subobscura*



*Drosophila*



*Drosophila*  
*melanogaster*



*Drosophila*  
*suzukii*

# How we studied thermal adaptation in flies?

- Quantitative genetic studies
- Experimental selection
- Common-garden experiments

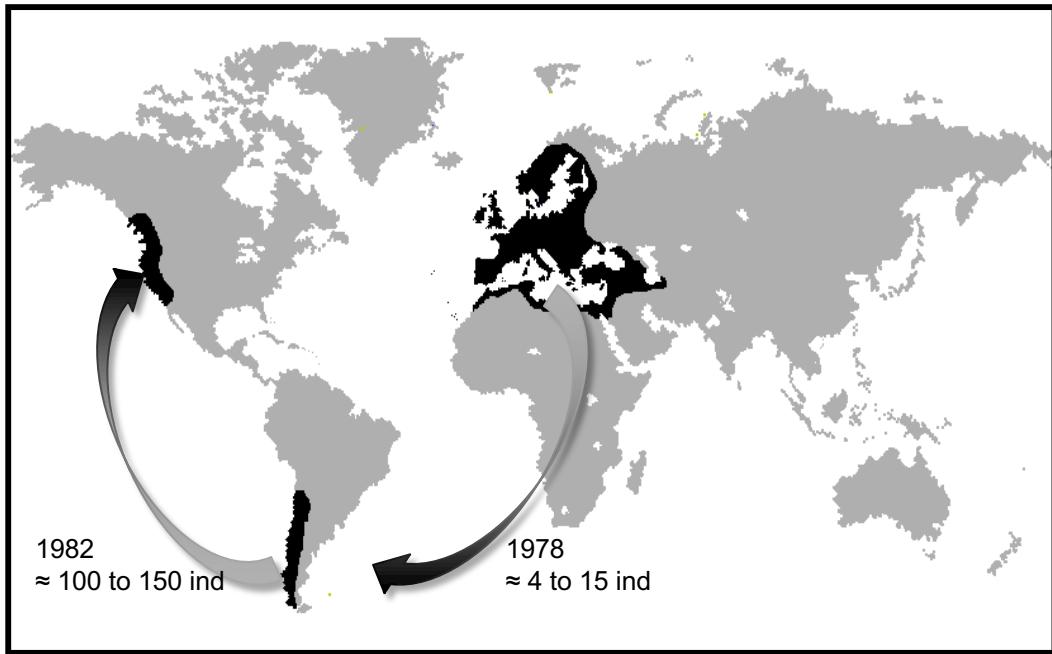


Félix P. Leiva



*Drosophila  
subobscura*

# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*



Pascual et al. *Mol Evol* 2007

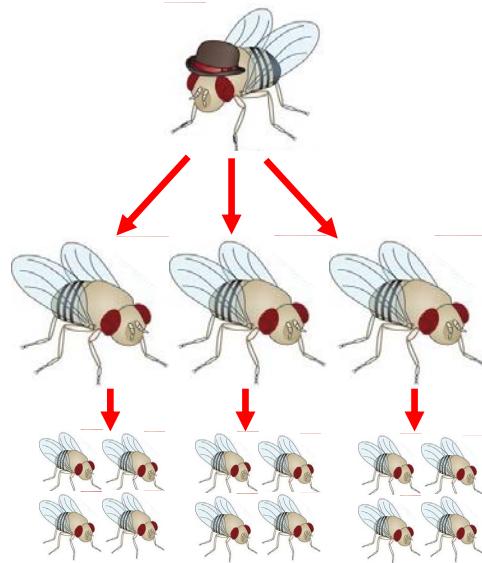
Despite strong bottleneck and founder effect on introduced populations (Pascual et al. *Mol Ecol* 2007), several phenotypic traits show latitudinal variation

- Polymorphism of chromosomal inversions (Huey et al. *Science* 2000; Balanyà et al. *Evolution* 2003)
- Body size (Balanyà et al. *Evolution* 2003)
- Thermal preference (Pascual & Huey *Ecology* 2009; Castañeda et al. *Am Nat* 2013)
- Thermal tolerance (Castañeda et al. *Evolution* 2015)
- Starvation resistance (Gilchrist et al. *Evol Appl* 2008)

# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*

60 full/half sibs

families



*Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 2019

## Evolutionary potential of thermal preference and heat tolerance in *Drosophila subobscura*

Luis E. Castañeda<sup>1</sup> | Valèria Romero-Soriano<sup>2</sup> | Andrés Mesas<sup>3</sup> | Derek A. Roff<sup>4</sup> | Mauro Santos<sup>5</sup>

Trait	$h^2 \pm SE$	P value
Thermal preference	$0.066 \pm 0.060$	0.22
Acute-stress resistance	$0.134 \pm 0.065$	0.05*
Chronic-stress resistance	$0.084 \pm 0.061$	0.16

Heat tolerance of *D. subobscura* has the potential to evolve

Experimental evolution in the lab!!

# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY  
**B**

Proc. R. Soc. B (2007) 274, 2935–2942  
doi:10.1098/rspb.2007.0985  
Published online 18 September 2007

## Critical thermal limits depend on methodological context

John S. Terblanche<sup>a\*</sup>, Jacques A. Deere, Susana Clusella-Trullas,  
Charlene Janion and Steven L. Chown

Functional Ecology 2009, 23, 133–140

doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2435.2008.01481.x

## Phenotypic variance, plasticity and heritability estimates of critical thermal limits depend on methodological context

Steven L. Chown<sup>1\*</sup>, Keafon R. Jumbam<sup>1</sup>, Jesper G. Sørensen<sup>2</sup> and John S. Terblanche<sup>3</sup>

Functional Ecology 2010

doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2435.2010.01778.x

## PERSPECTIVE

## Estimating the adaptive potential of critical thermal limits: methodological problems and evolutionary implications

Enrico L. Rezende<sup>1</sup>, Miguel Tejedo<sup>2</sup> and Mauro Santos<sup>\*1</sup>



Assessing population and environmental effects on thermal resistance in *Drosophila melanogaster* using ecologically relevant assays  
Johannes Overgaard<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Ary A. Hoffmann<sup>b</sup>, Torsten N. Kristensen<sup>b,c,d</sup>

doi: 10.1016/j.jtherbio.2011.07.001

## Thermal ramping rate influences evolutionary potential and species differences for upper thermal limits in *Drosophila*

Katherine A. Mitchell<sup>1,\*</sup> and Ary A. Hoffmann<sup>1,2</sup>

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY  
**B**

## Limited potential for adaptation to climate change in a broadly distributed marine crustacean

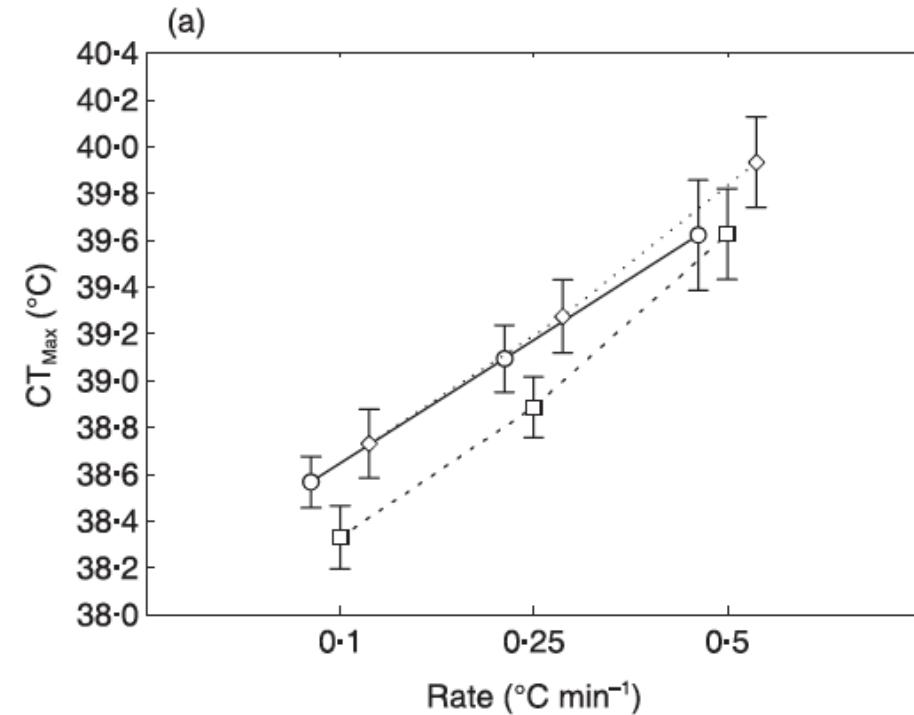
Morgan W. Kelly<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Eric Sanford<sup>1,2</sup> and Richard K. Grosberg<sup>1</sup>

Proc. R. Soc. B (2012) 279, 349–356  
doi:10.1098/rspb.2011.0542  
Published online 8 June 2011

Slower the ramping rate, longer the assay length.

Therefore, higher is the contribution of uncontrolled effects.

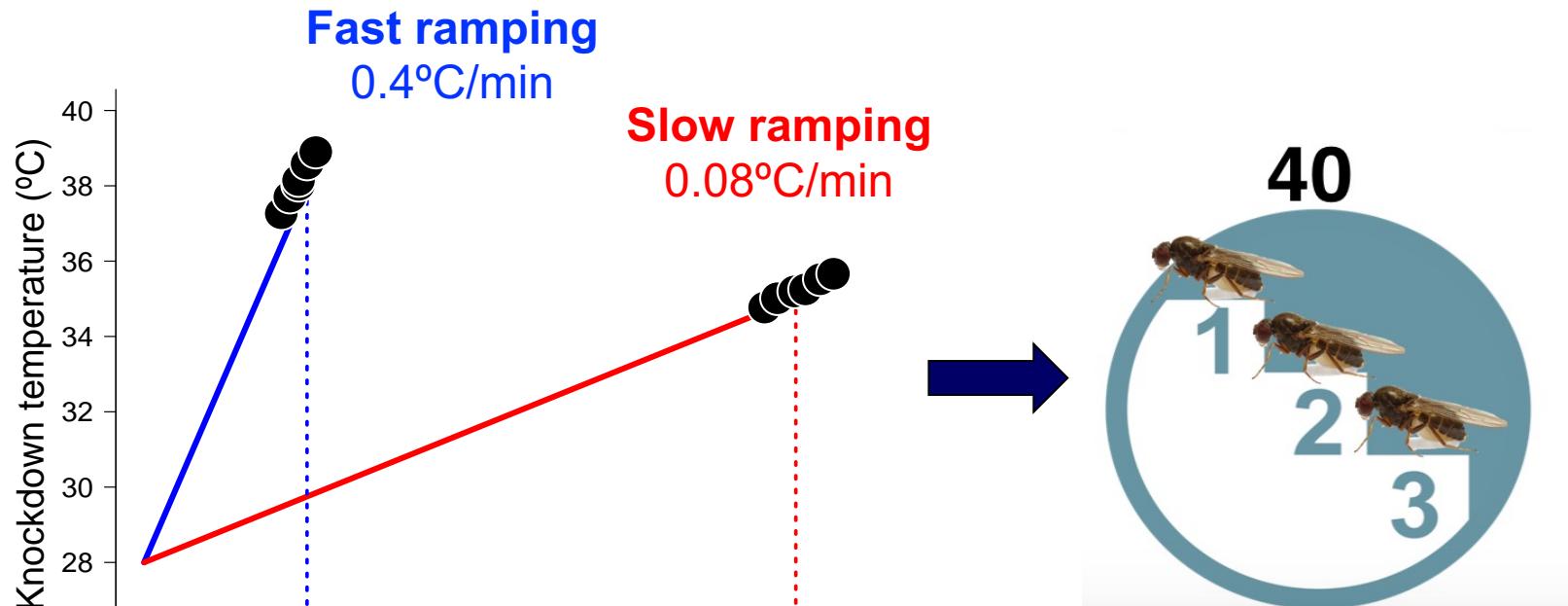
- Stochasticity.
- Resource depletion (fatigue, dehydration)
- Short-term acclimation (hardening).



# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*



Artificial selection for 16 generations



Hypothesis

Fast-ramping selected lines will evolve higher heat tolerance than slow-ramping selected lines because differences in their heritabilities

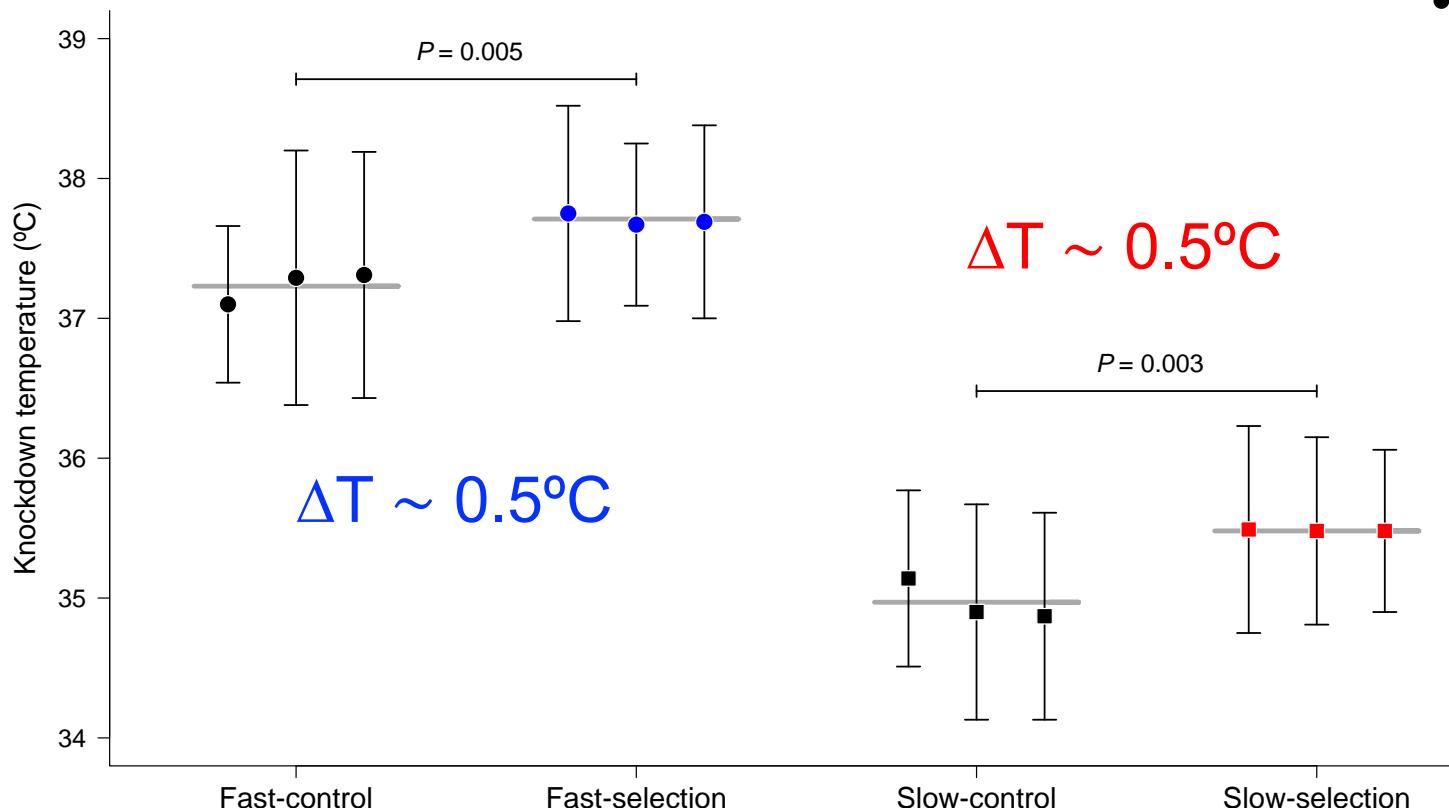
# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*

Journal of Evolutionary Biology 2021

Experimental evolution on heat tolerance and thermal performance curves under contrasting thermal selection in *Drosophila subobscura*



Andrés Mesas<sup>1</sup> | Angélica Jaramillo<sup>2</sup> | Luis E. Castañeda<sup>2</sup> 



- Evolution of heat tolerance but regardless ramping selection
- Significant realized heritability in both selection protocols

$$h^2_r = 0.191 \pm 0.013^{***}$$

$$h^2_r = 0.242 \pm 0.021^{***}$$

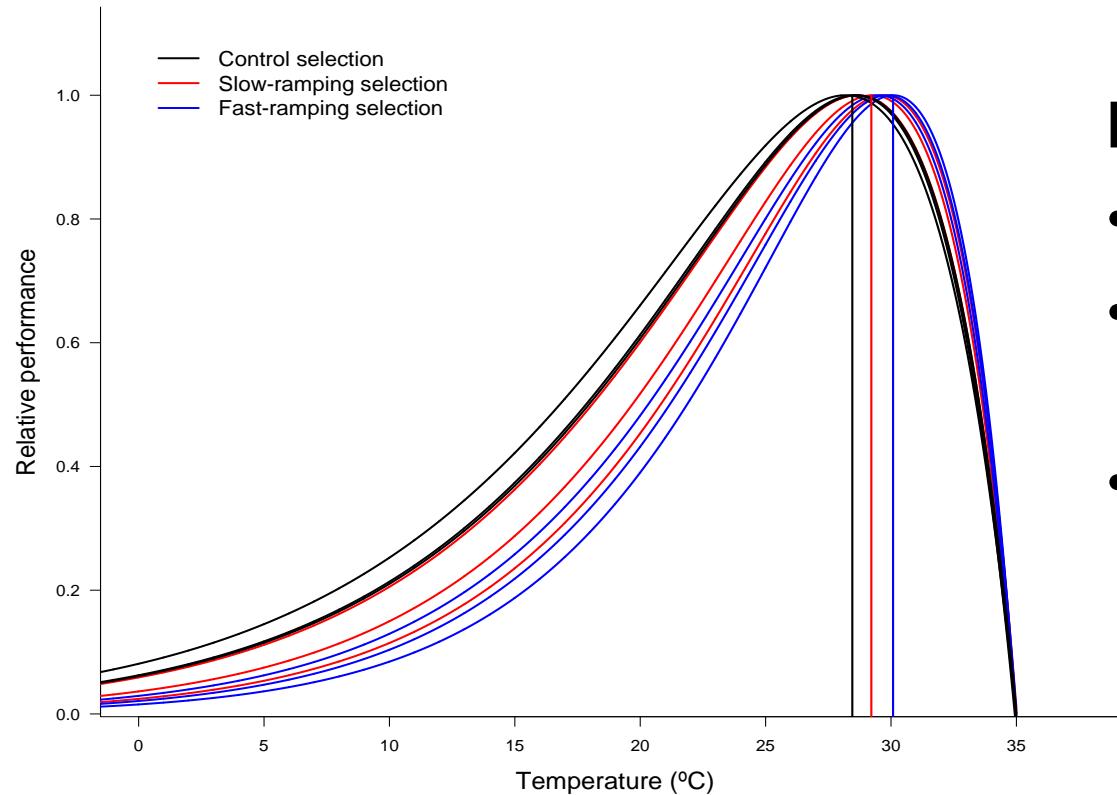
# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*

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## Evolution of TPC

- No changes of CTmax estimated from TPC
- Evolution of thermal optimum  
Fast > Slow = Control ( $P = 0.03$ )
- Evolution of thermal breadth  
Fast < Slow = Control ( $P = 0.04$ )

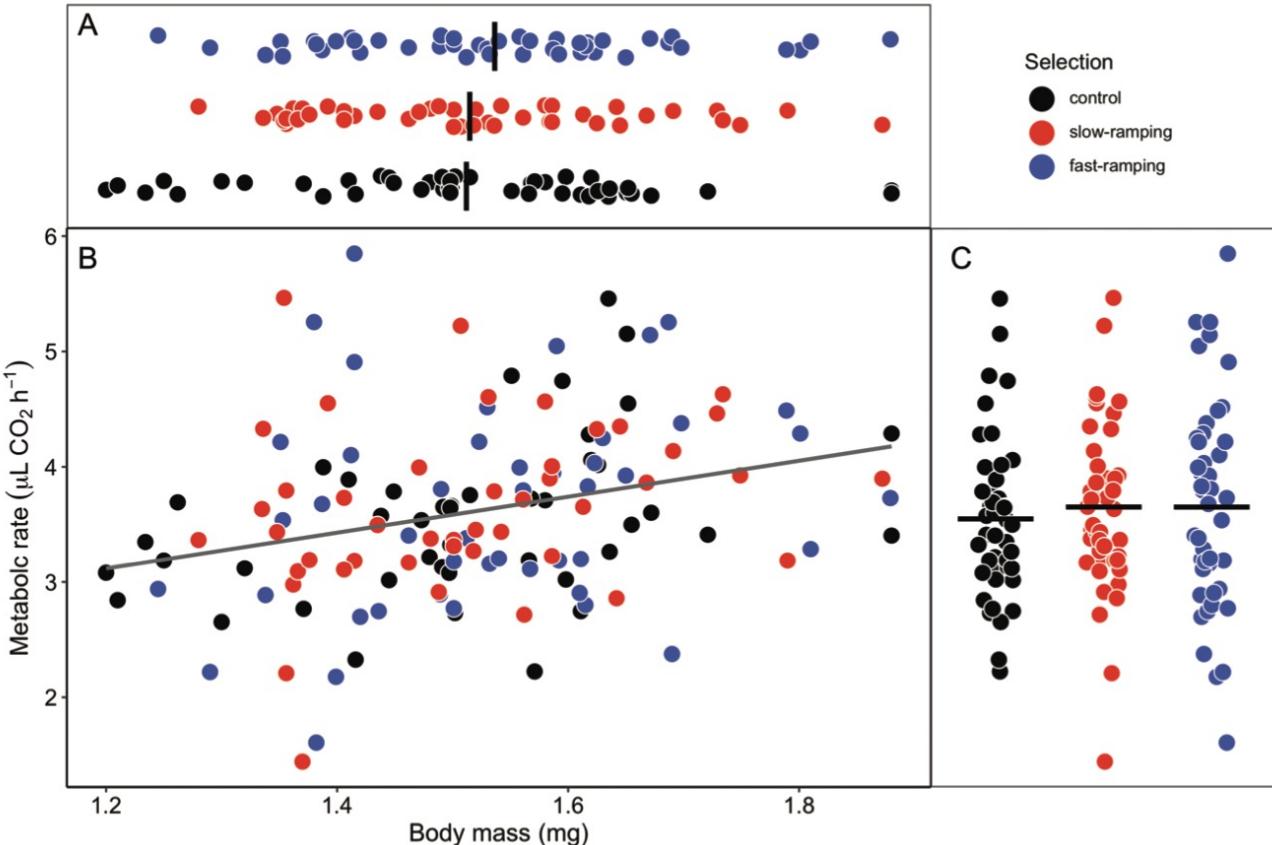
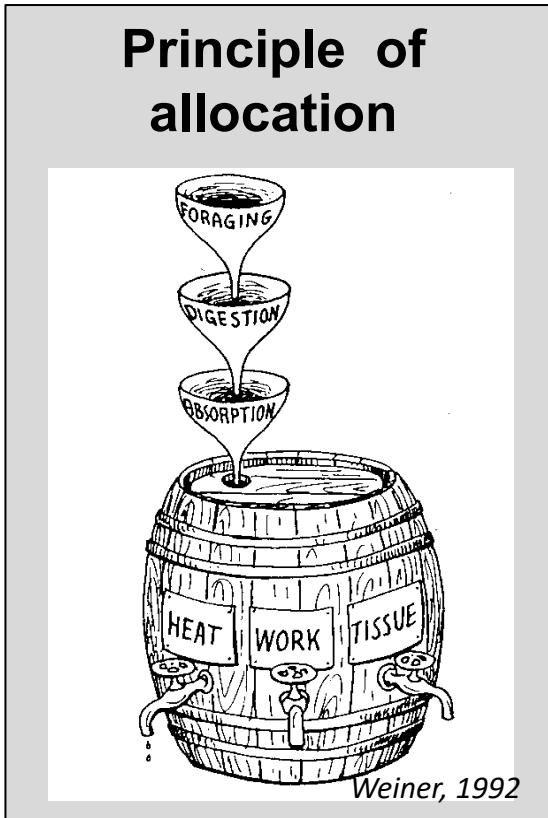
# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*

Evolution 2023



**Evolutionary responses of energy metabolism, development, and reproduction to artificial selection for increasing heat tolerance in *Drosophila subobscura***

Andrés Mesas<sup>1,2</sup> and Luis E. Castañeda<sup>3, ID</sup>



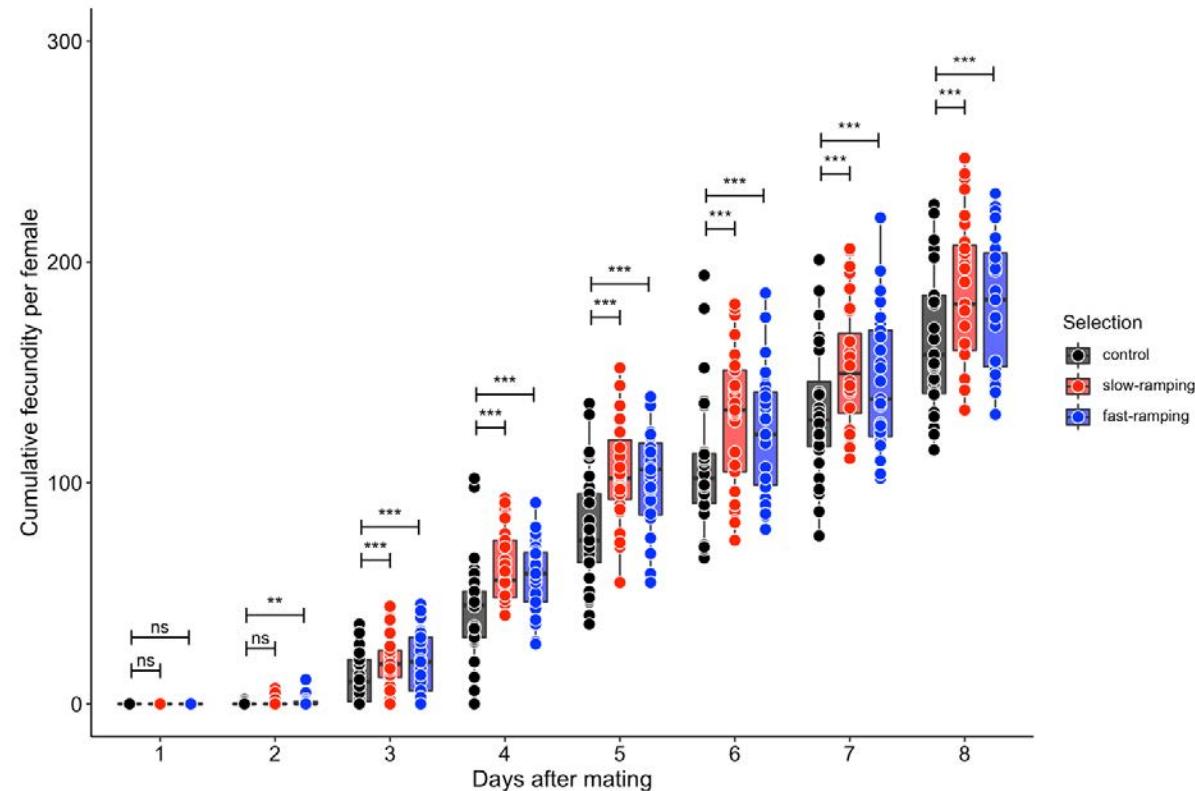
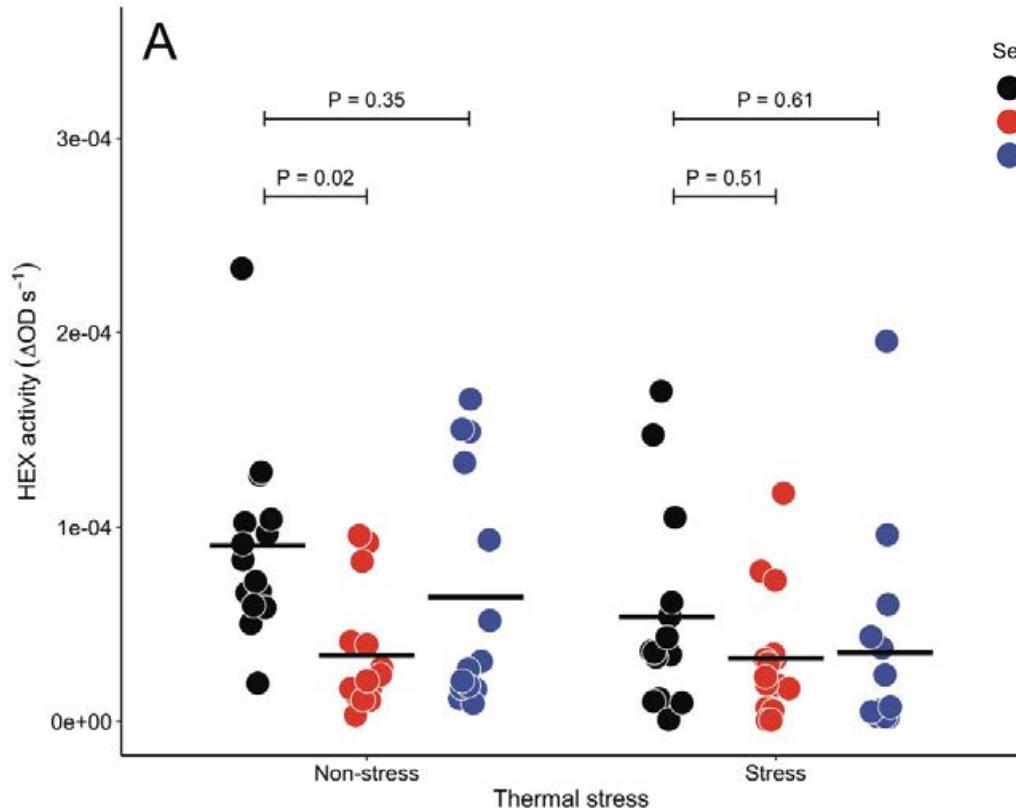
# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*

*Evolution* 2023

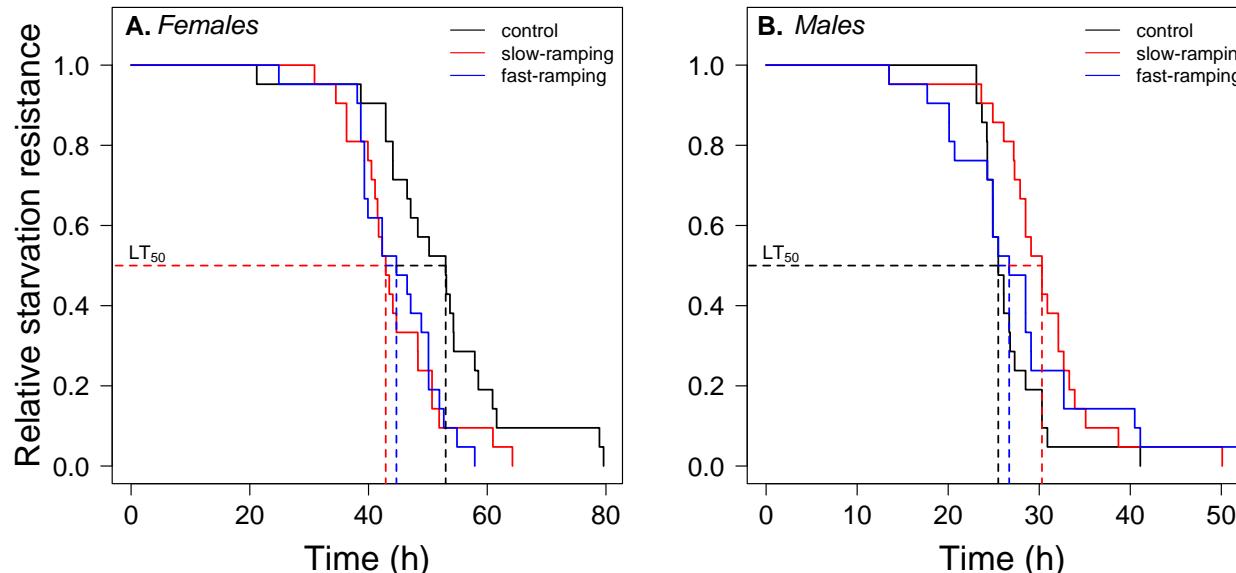
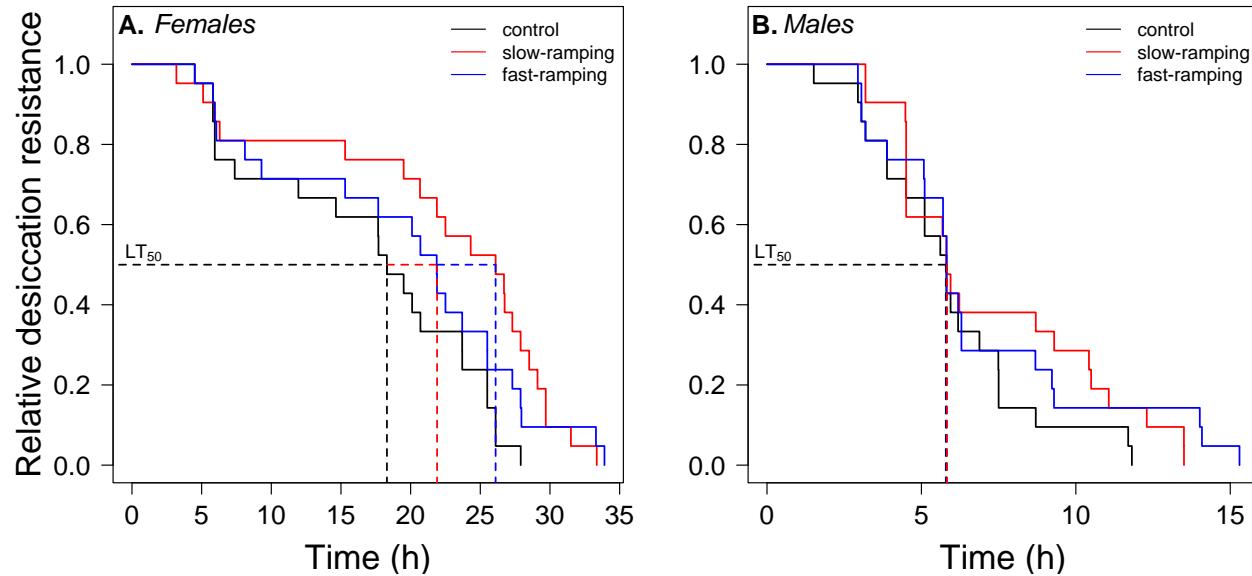


# **Evolutionary responses of energy metabolism, development, and reproduction to artificial selection for increasing heat tolerance in *Drosophila subobscura***

**Andrés Mesas<sup>1,2</sup> and Luis E. Castañeda<sup>3, ID</sup>**



# Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*



Evolutionary response of females and males was different:

- Sexual antagonistic selection
- Different rate of resource use

## Thermal evolution in *Drosophila subobscura*

Thermal tolerance has the capacity to evolve under temperature-related selection

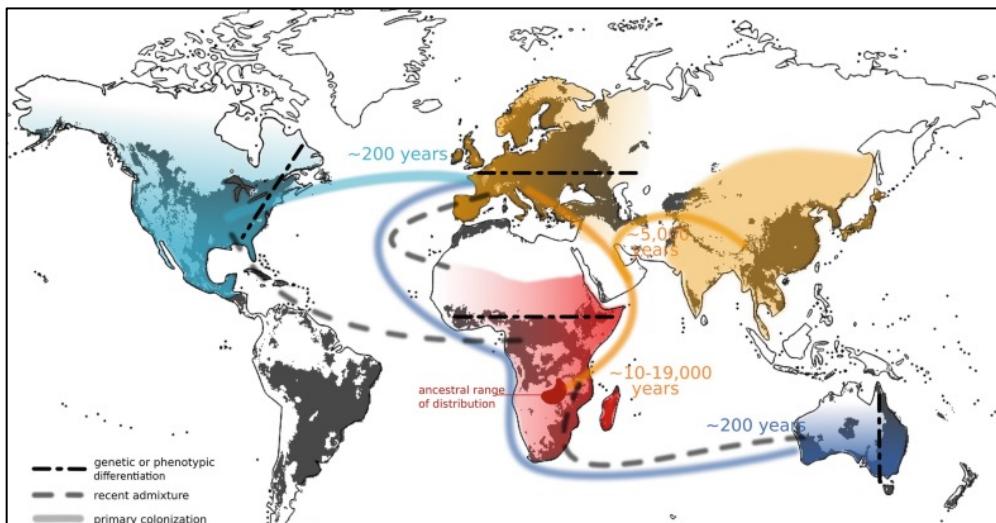
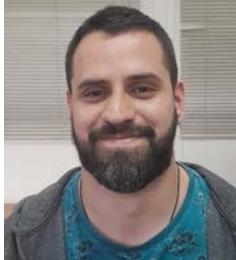
Thermal tolerance evolution impacts on other traits because (1) they share the same genetic architecture (e.g., locomotion) and/or (2) they have a functional relationship to energetic level (e.g., fecundity, viability)

Increased thermal tolerance is positively associated to fitness-related traits, which could facilitate the adaptive process in a warming world

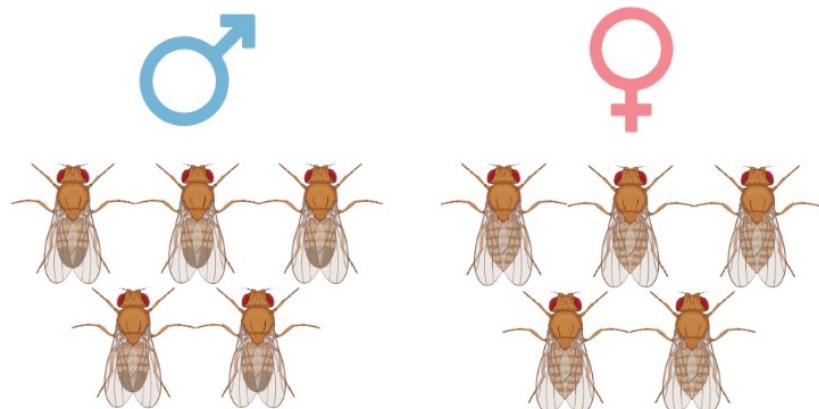


*Drosophila  
melanogaster*

# Genetics of thermal tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster*

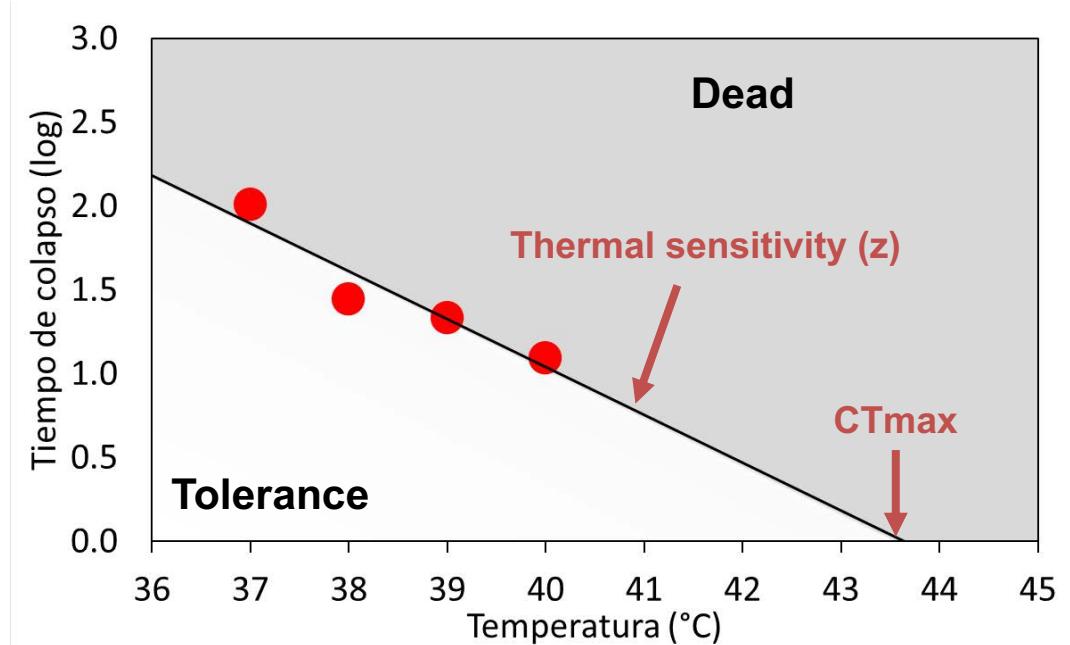


Haudry et al. *Evolution* 2020

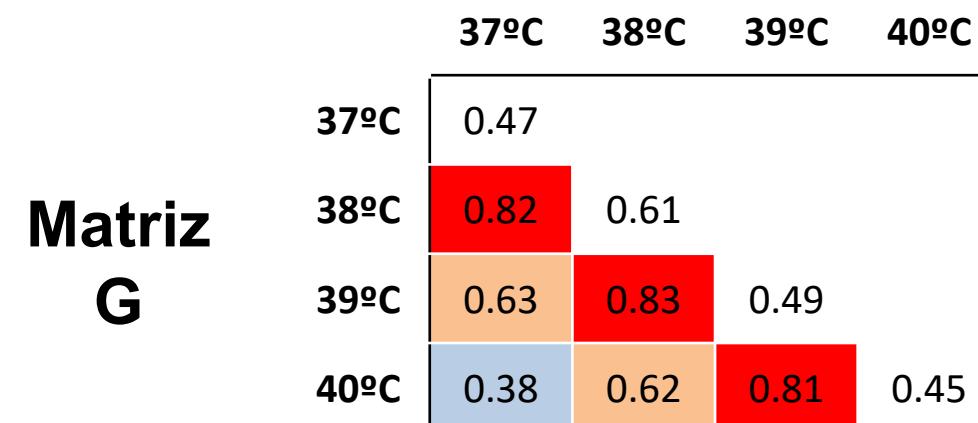
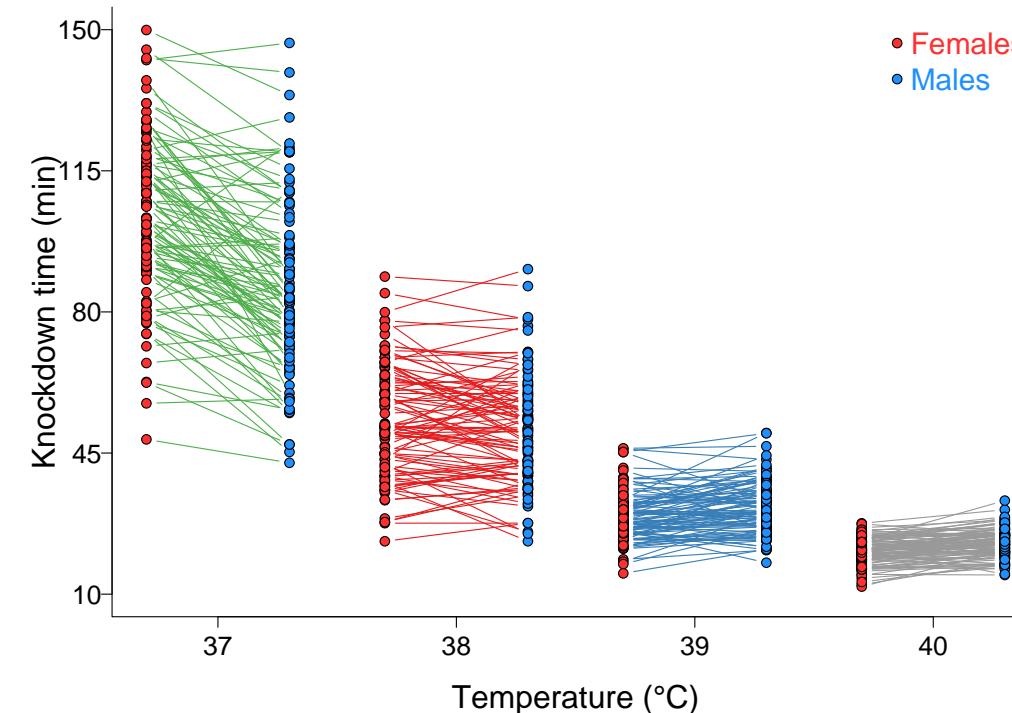
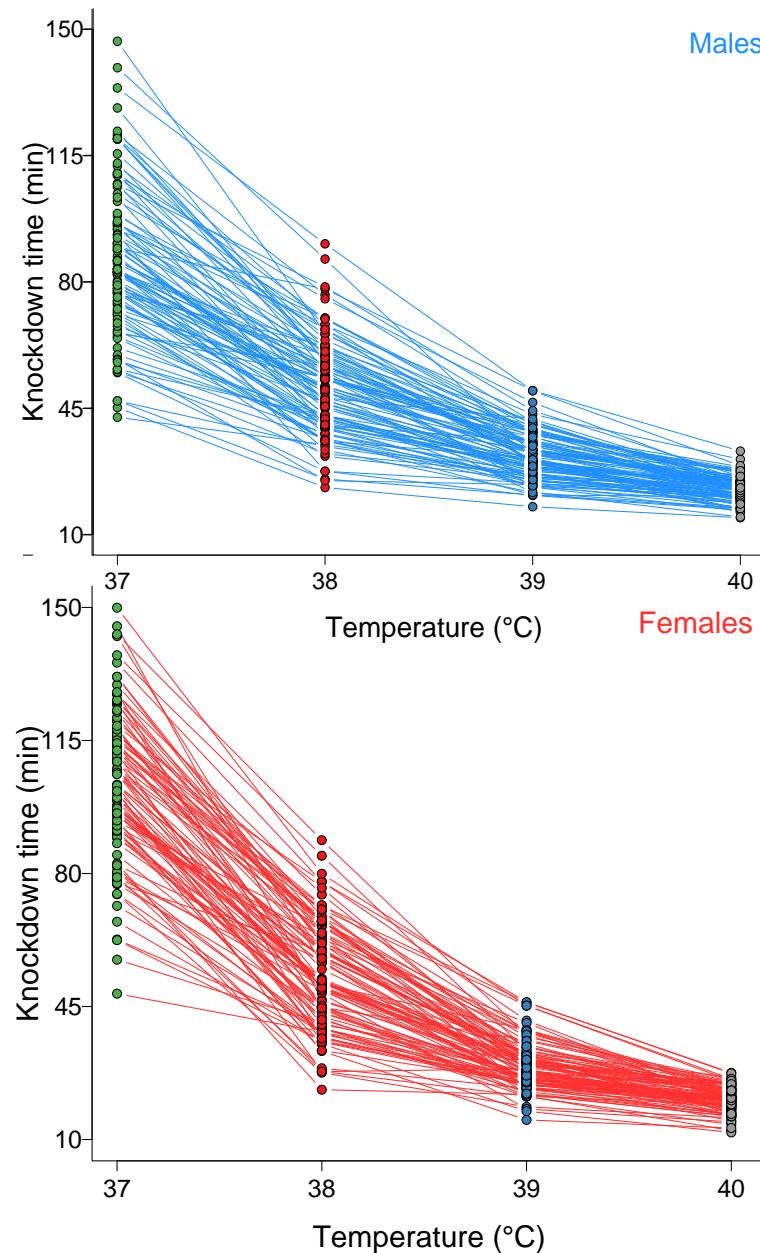
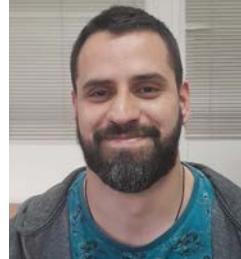


100 genotipos DGRP x 2 sexos x 4 temperaturas  
x 5 replicas = 4000 moscas!!

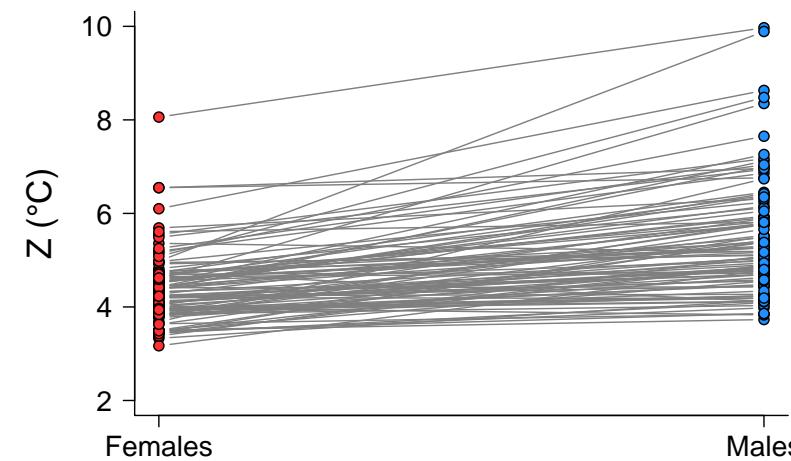
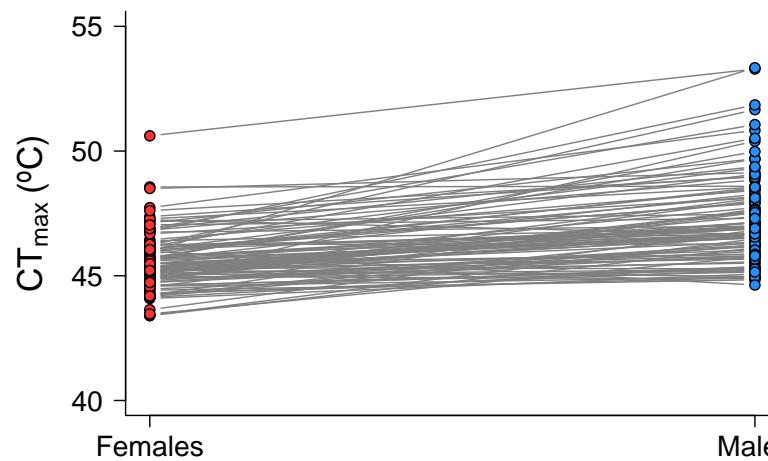
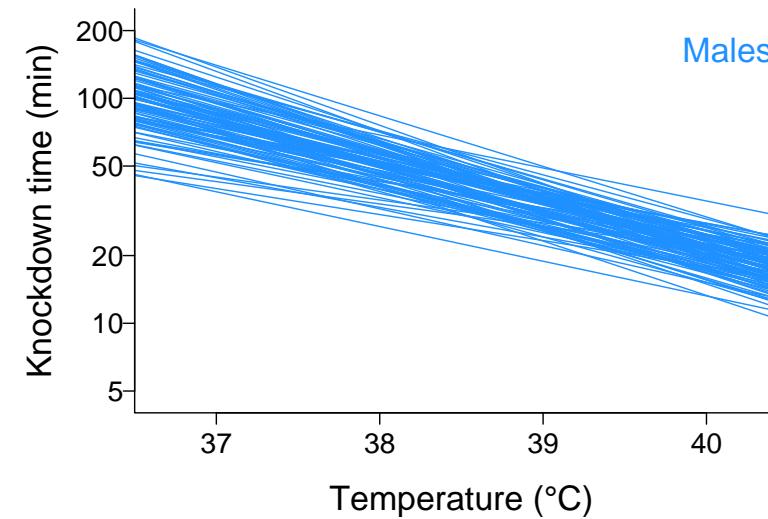
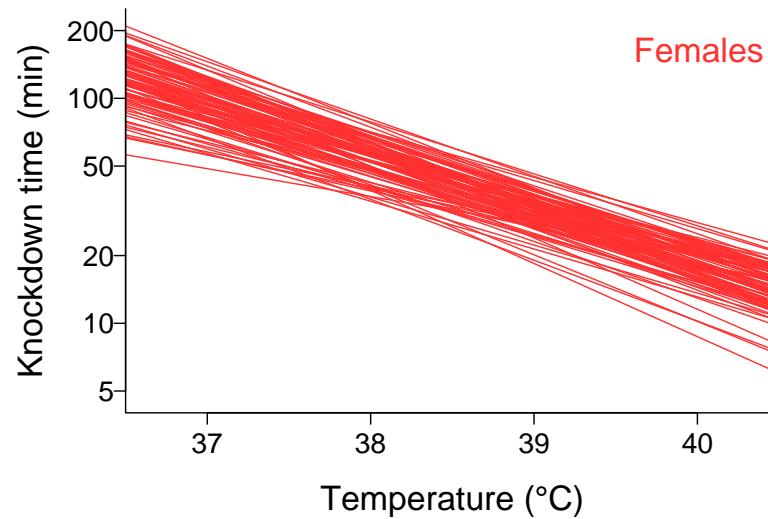
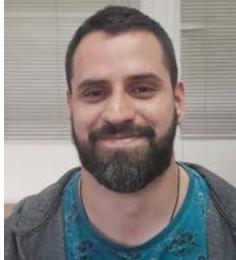
## *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel (DGRP)



# Genetics of thermal tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster*

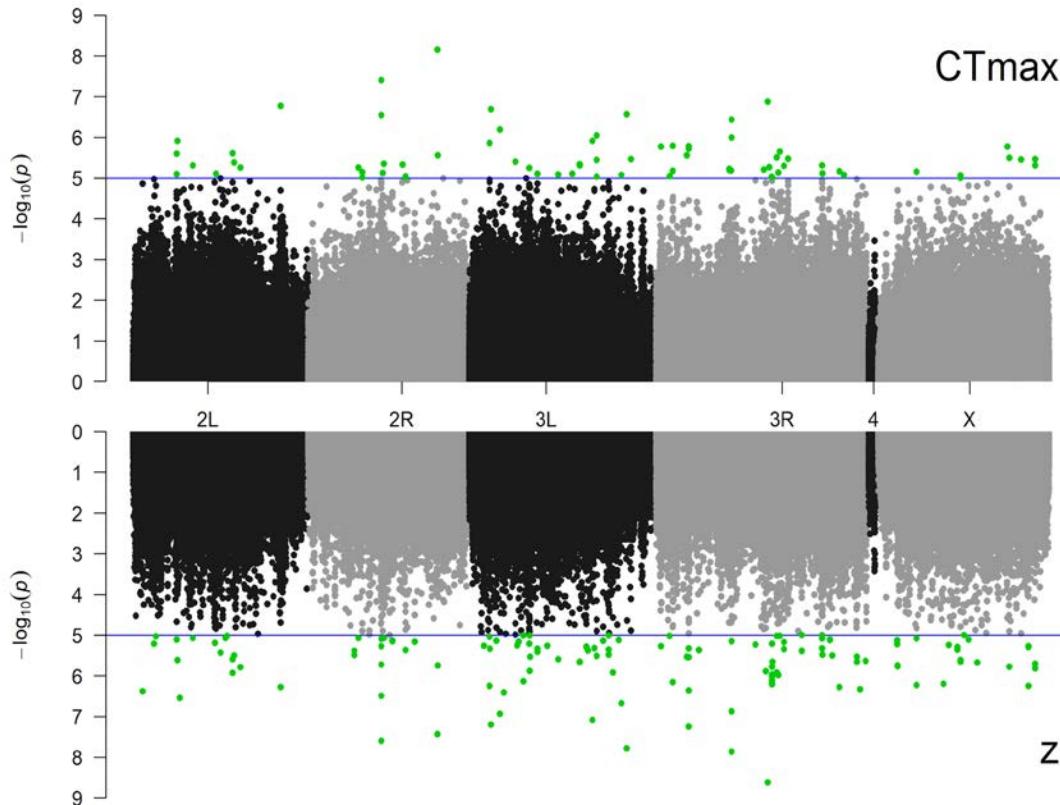


# Genetics of thermal tolerance landscape in *Drosophila melanogaster*



- Genetic variation on CT<sub>max</sub> ( $H^2 = 0.57$ ) and thermal sensitivity ( $H^2 = 0.60$ )
- Significant GxS on CT<sub>max</sub> and thermal sensitivity (z)

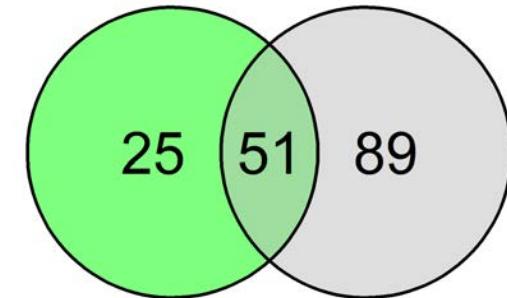
# Genetics of thermal tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster*



- Many candidate genes related to synapsis processing:  
*nAChRalpha5*: receptor subunits nicotinic acetylcholine  
*fife*: neurotransmitter release  
*syx6*: synaptic vesicles  
*cac*: presynaptic voltage-gated calcium channels

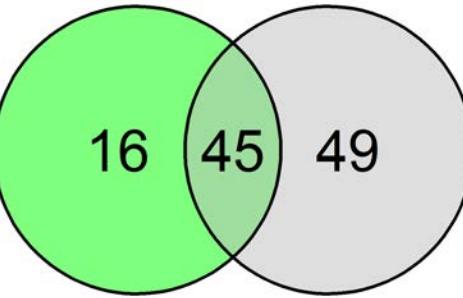
Allelic variants

CTmax Z



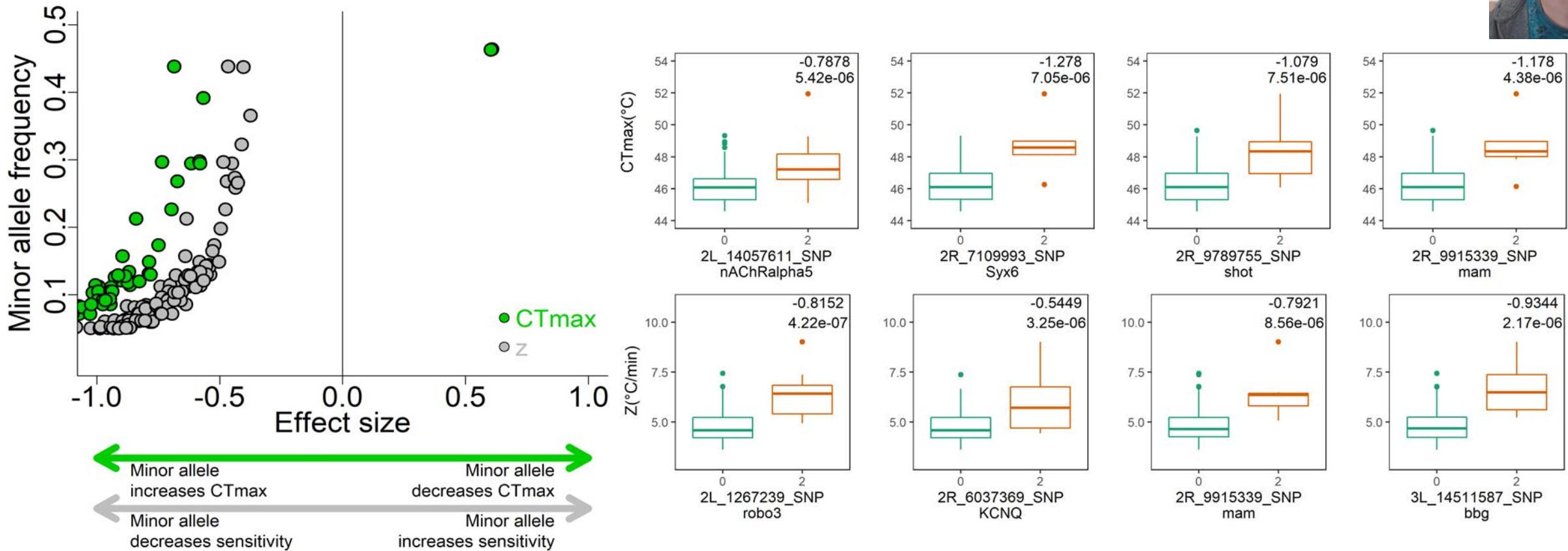
Candidate genes

CTmax Z



ID	Gene ontology	Genes	Expected	FDR
Biological processes				
GO:0008587	imaginal disc-derived wing margin morphogenesis	5	0.32	6.79×10 <sup>-2</sup>
GO:0007267	cell-cell signaling	10	1.83	6.62×10 <sup>-2</sup>
Cellular component				
GO:0030054	cell junction	12	2.7	7.88×10 <sup>-3</sup>
GO:0005886	plasma membrane	25	8.64	5.08×10 <sup>-4</sup>

# Genetics of thermal tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster*

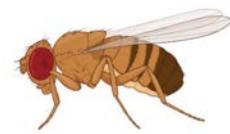


- Alleles with a high effect increasing  $CT_{max}$  are in low frequency in the DGRP.

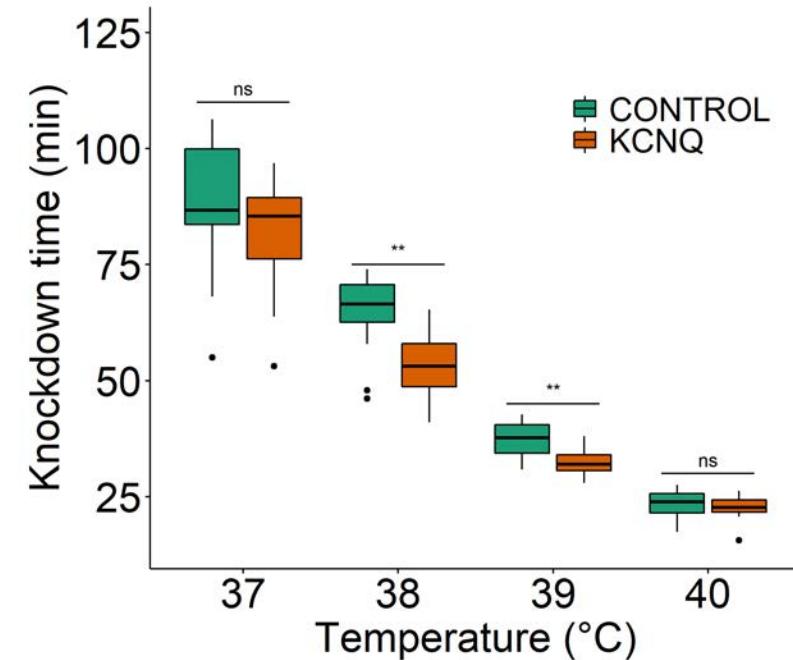
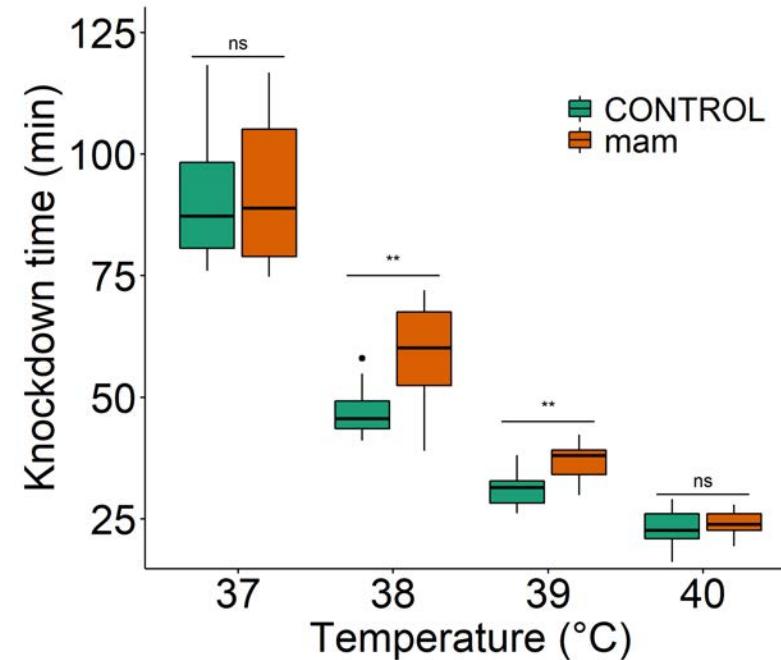
# Genetics of thermal tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster*



## Functional assays



Whole body knockdown  
(Tub-GAL4 driver)



Soto et al. In preparation

- 25% of candidate genes show latitudinal variation reported in previous studies:  
East US: *ip63E*, *Ino80* and *MCO3*, egg  
Europe: *mam*, *MCO3*, *corn* and *sug*
- Temporal variation between summer and autumn: *sgg*, *Eip74EF*, *tei*, *cac*, CG7737 and CG34354

# **Genetics of thermal tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster***

Thermal tolerance has the capacity to evolve under temperature-related selection

The thermal tolerance landscape exhibits phenotypic plasticity, which should contribute to the adaptation to global warming

Genotype-by-environment and genotype-by-sex interactions could contribute to the maintenance of genetic populations under thermal selection

Candidate genes associated with the thermal tolerance landscape could be under selection in natural populations

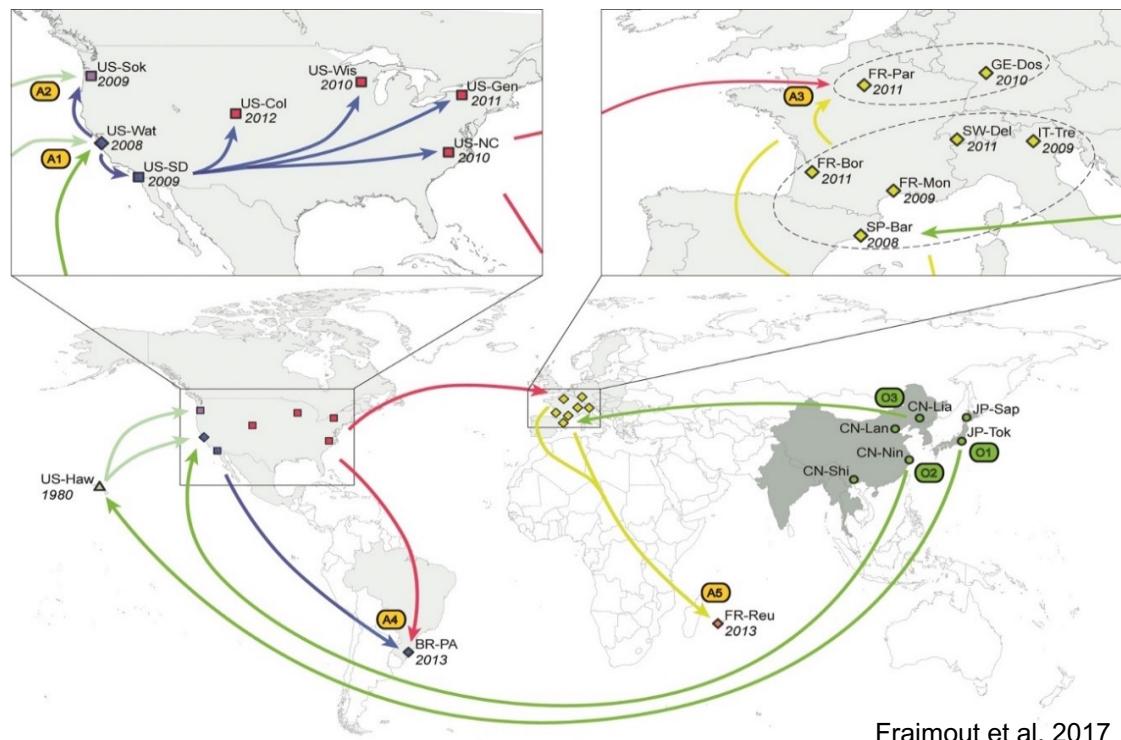


*Drosophila  
suzukii*

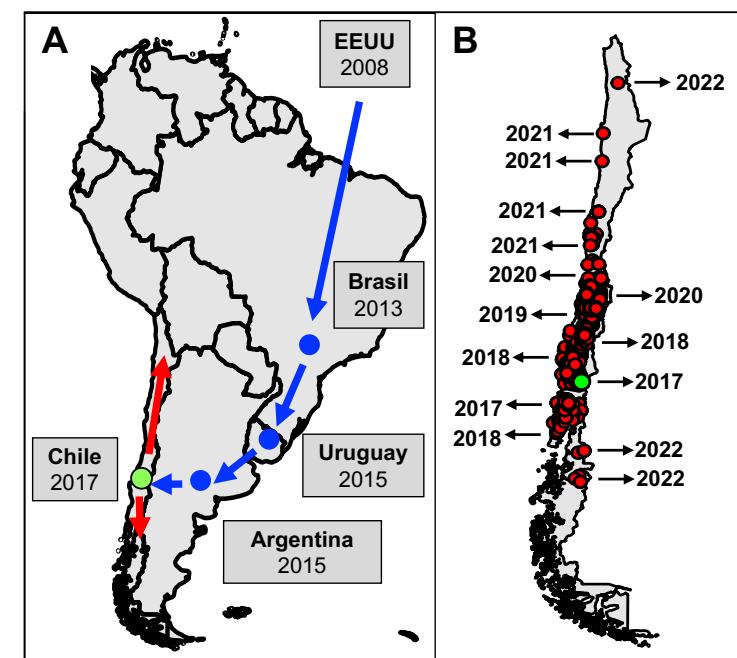
# Invasion of *Drosophila suzukii* in Chile



The spotted wing Drosophila has an important impact on berries production in the world.



Invasion in North America and Europe has been well studied, but information in South America is missing.



# Invasion of *Drosophila suzukii* in Chile



## Genetic variation at mitochondrial level (COI)

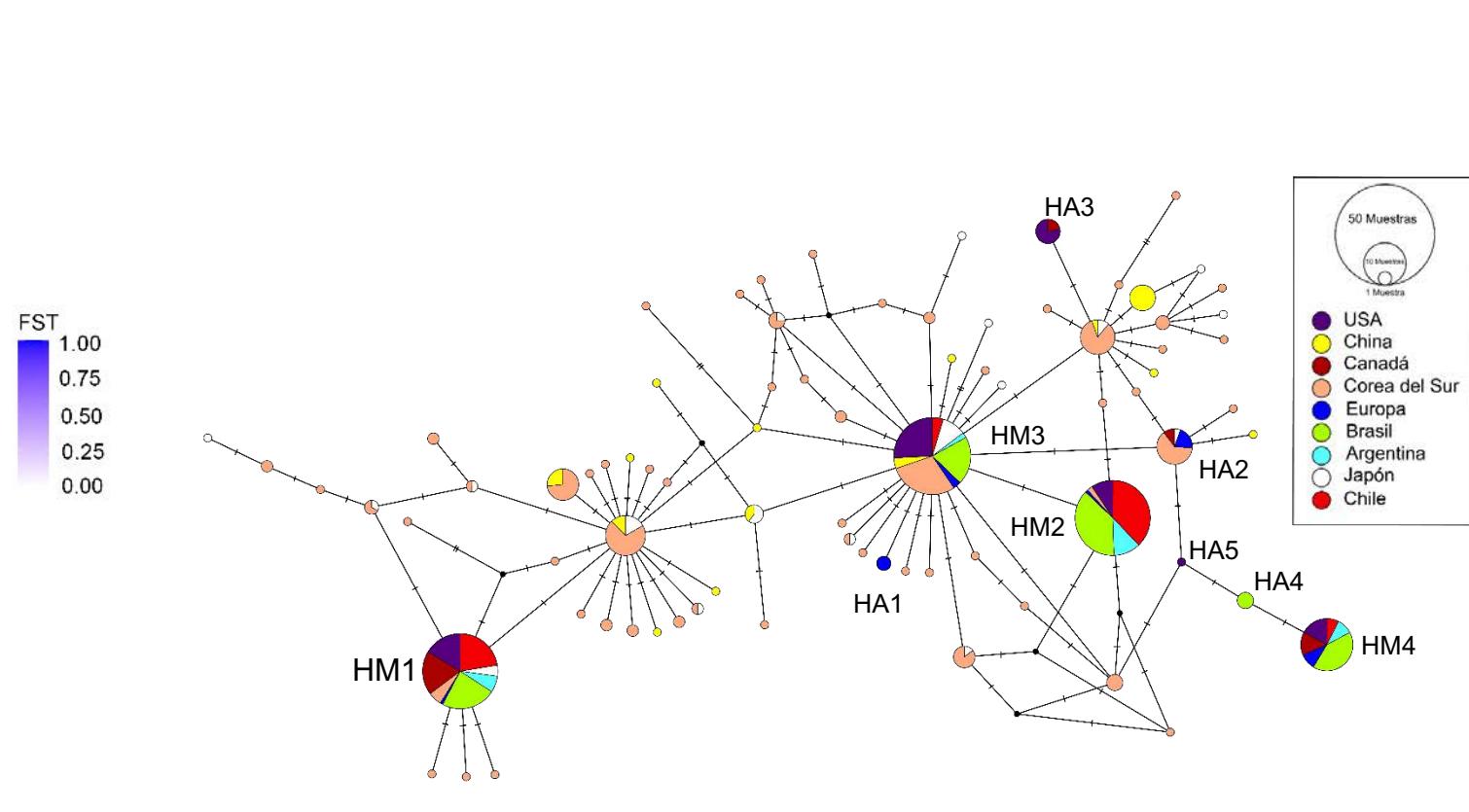
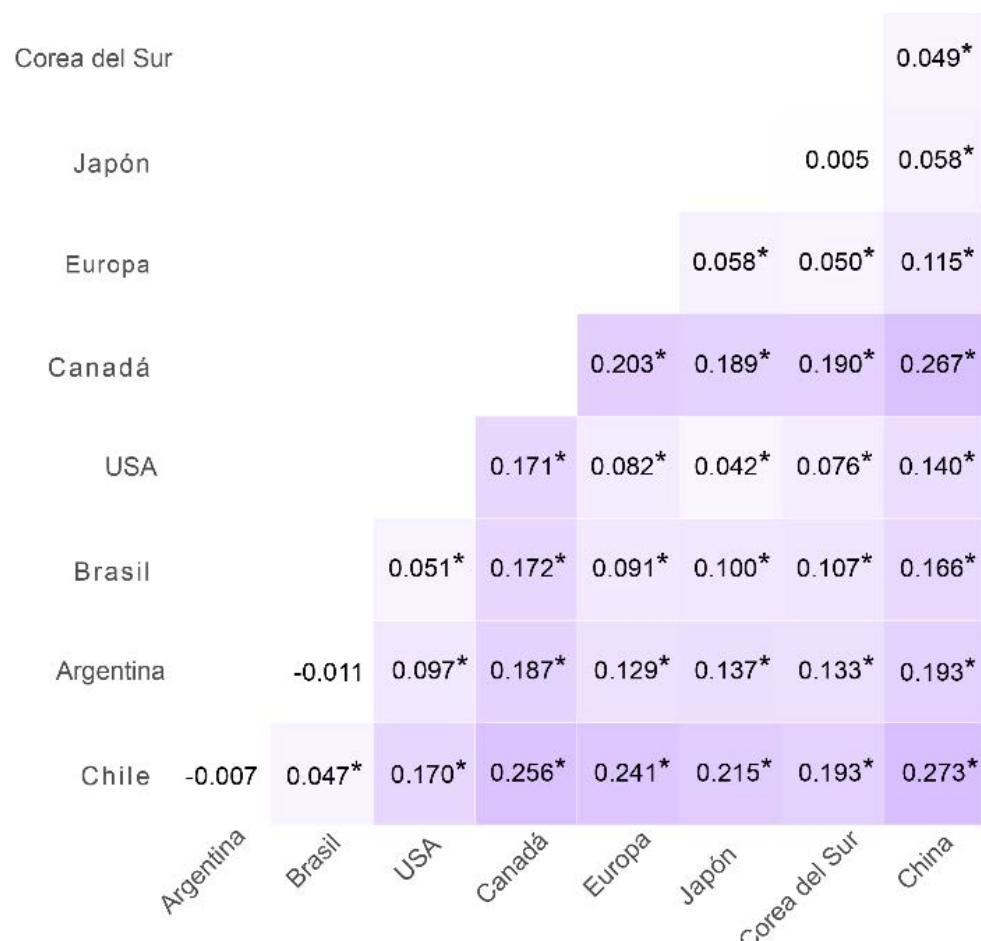
Population	samples size	Haplotypes	Diversity	Polymorphic sites	Range
Chile	58	4	0,591	7	Invasive
Argentina	22	4	0,710	7	Invasive
Brasil	91	5	0,760	7	Invasive
USA	60	6	0,766	9	Invasive
Canadá	26	4	0,578	8	Invasive
Europa	16	6	0,850	8	Invasive
China	32	14	0,877	13	Native
Japón	35	18	0,913	18	Native
Corea del Sur	159	58	0,942	39	Native

Invasive populations show a low number of haplotypes, low genetic diversity and reduced genetic polymorphism

# Invasion of *Drosophila suzukii* in Chile

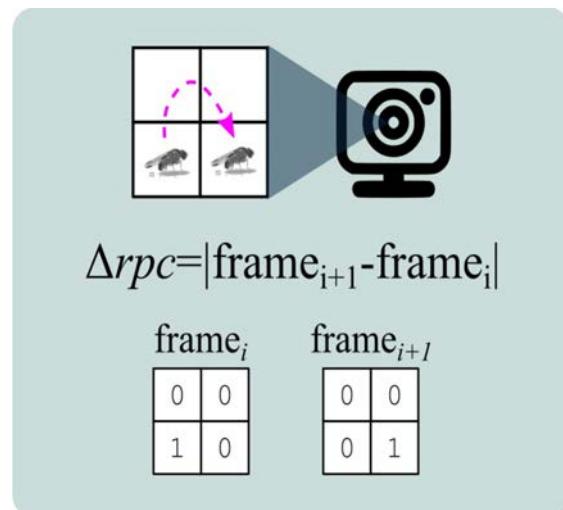
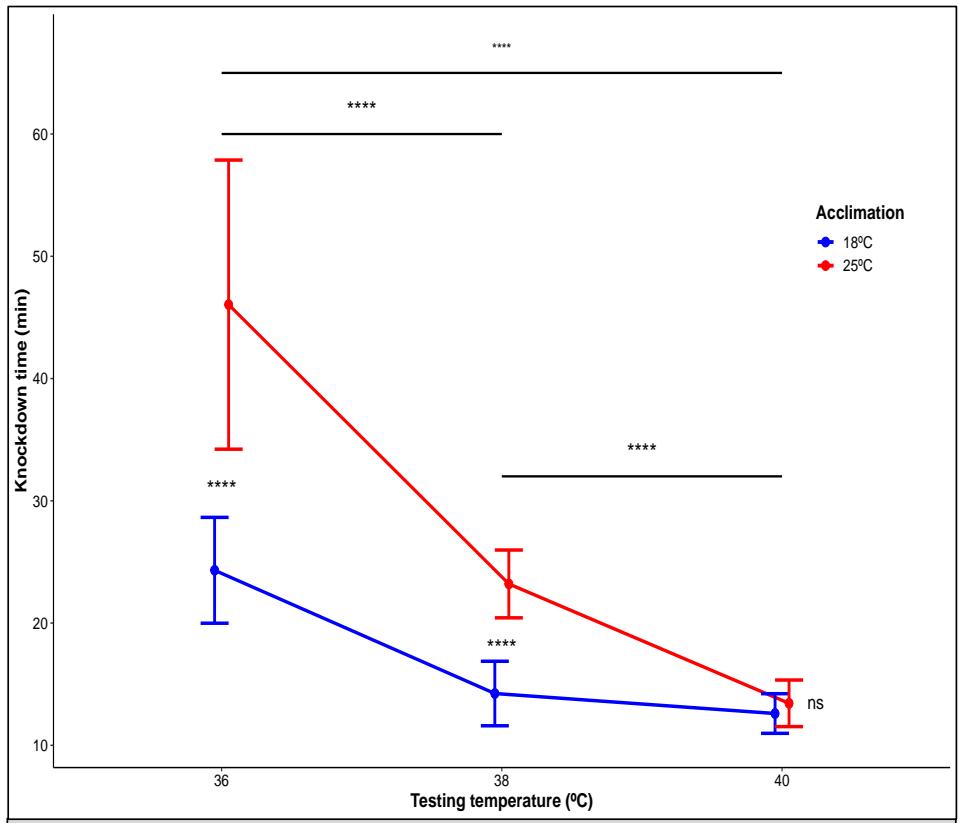
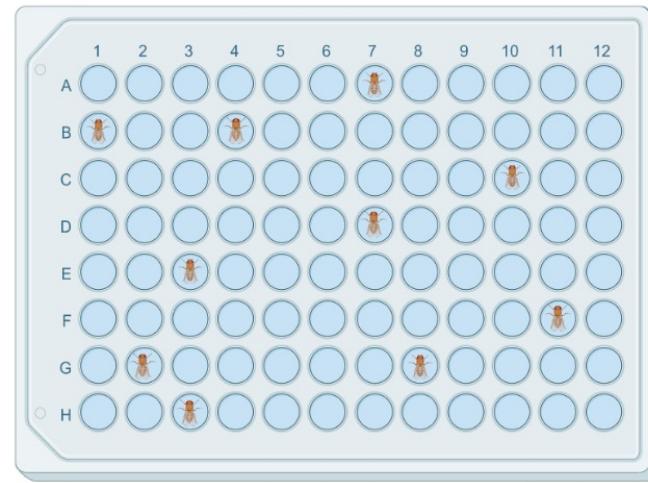
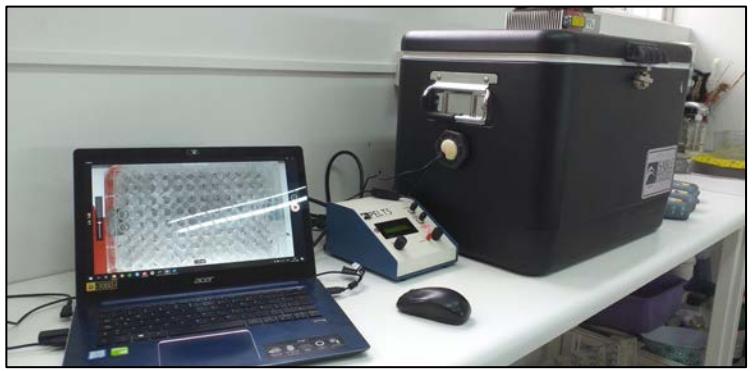


## Genetic differentiation at mitochondrial level (COI)



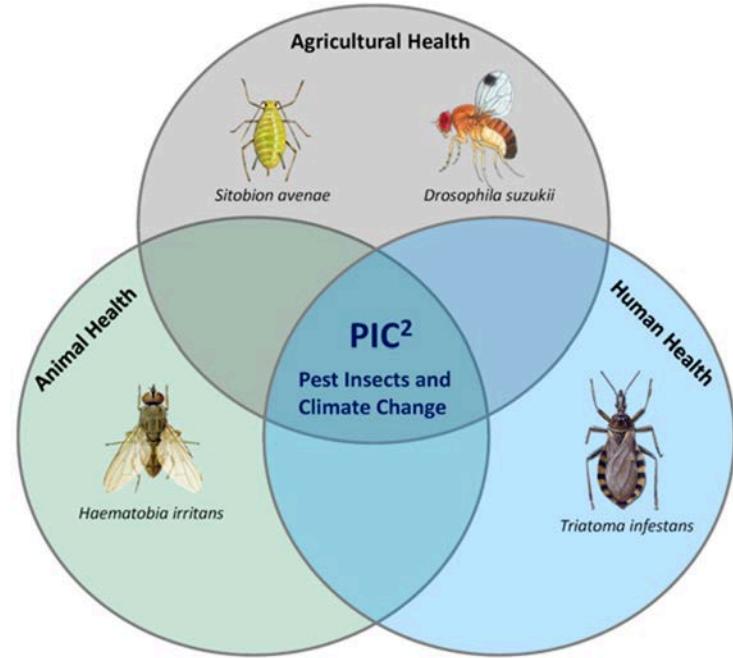
Chilean populations have the most common haplotypes and show a low differentiation with Argentinean populations.

# Thermal tolerance of *Drosophila suzukii*



Awde D et al. 2020. Journal of Visualized Experiments

# Research Ring in Pest Insects and Climate Change (PIC<sup>2</sup>)



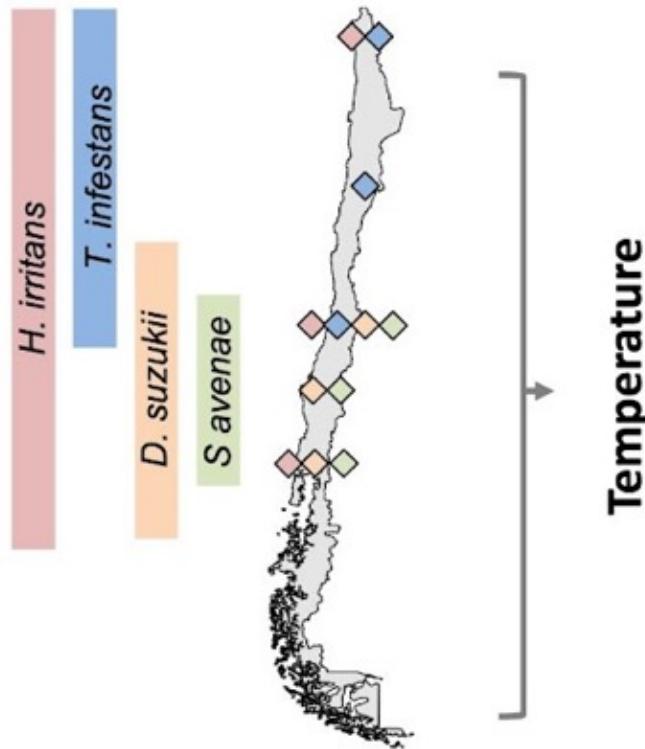
## MAIN GOAL

to investigate the genetic, phenotypic, and ecological bases explaining the redistribution and adaptations in response to temperature and management practices in pest insects relevant to food security and public health.



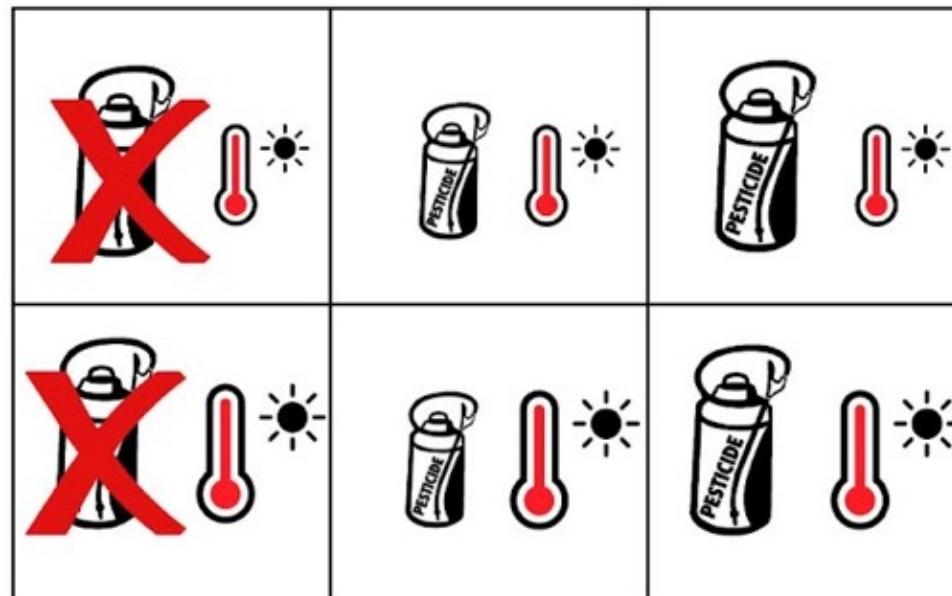
# Research Ring in Pest Insects and Climate Change (PIC<sup>2</sup>)

## Sampling



## Common-garden experiment

### Insecticide levels



## Phenotyping

Size and shape variation  
Fluctuating asymmetry

Metabolic rate  
Energy expenditure

Cold tolerance  
Heat tolerance

Gene expression  
candidate genes

Whole-genome sequencing

Metabarcoding

# Invasion of *Drosophila suzukii* in Chile

Recent introduction and rapid geographic expansion

Reduced genetic diversity

Phenotypic plasticity in physiological traits as thermal tolerance

Next steps include to investigate the contribution of local adaptation and phenotypic level to the rapid spreading and establishment of this invasive range in a extensive geographic/climatic range in Chile

# Acknowledgements

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Andres Mesas (ex-doctorado)

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Derek Roff (UCR)

Valèria Romero (UAB)

Patricio Olguín (UChile)

Paula Irles (UOH)

Francisco Pinilla

Catalina Baudoin

# Funding

FONDECYT 1140066

ENLACE VID-Uchile

Puente ICBM-Uchile

Anillo ATE-230025



UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE

Vicerrectoría  
Investigación y Desarrollo



# Integrative Biology Lab

- Under and Postgraduate students
- Postdocs (Anillo + FONDECYT)

[luis.castaneda@uchile.cl](mailto:luis.castaneda@uchile.cl)

