



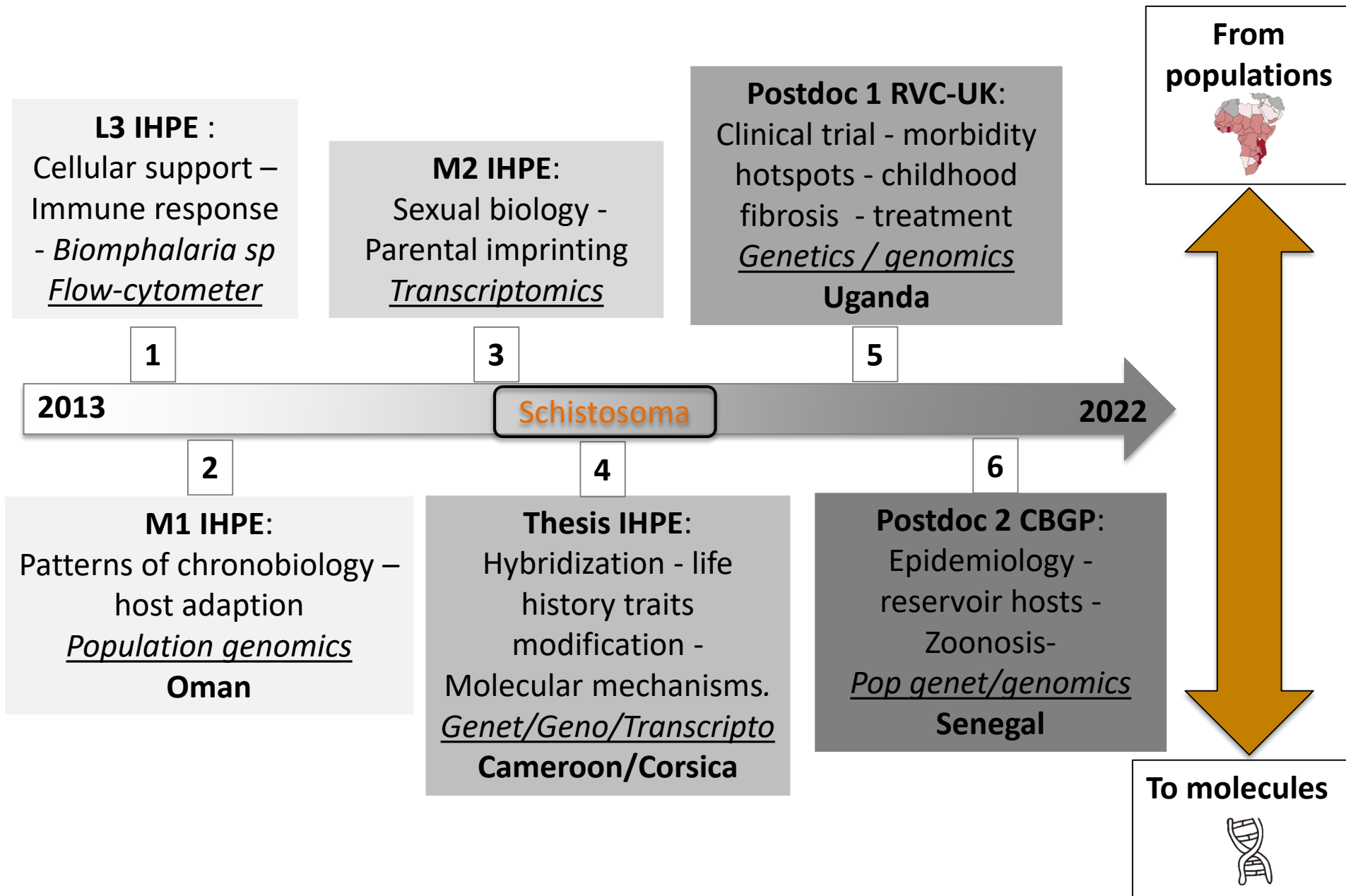
Schistosomiasis, hybridization & zoonosis : towards an integrative view of the pathosystem



Julien Kincaid-Smith

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Previous research activities

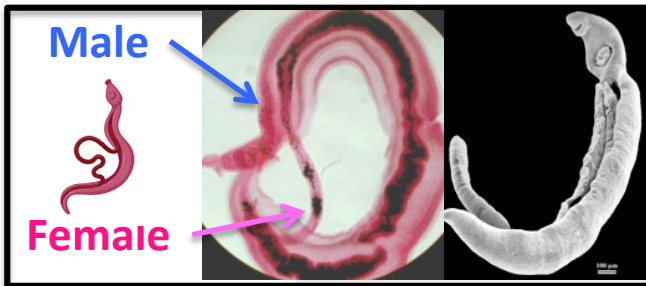


Schistosomes: causative agents of schistosomiasis

Phylum **Platyhelminths**, Class **Trematoda**

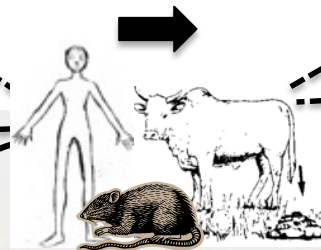
Schistosoma sp : 23 species that infect humans, les animals, zoonotic

Schistosome adulte worms

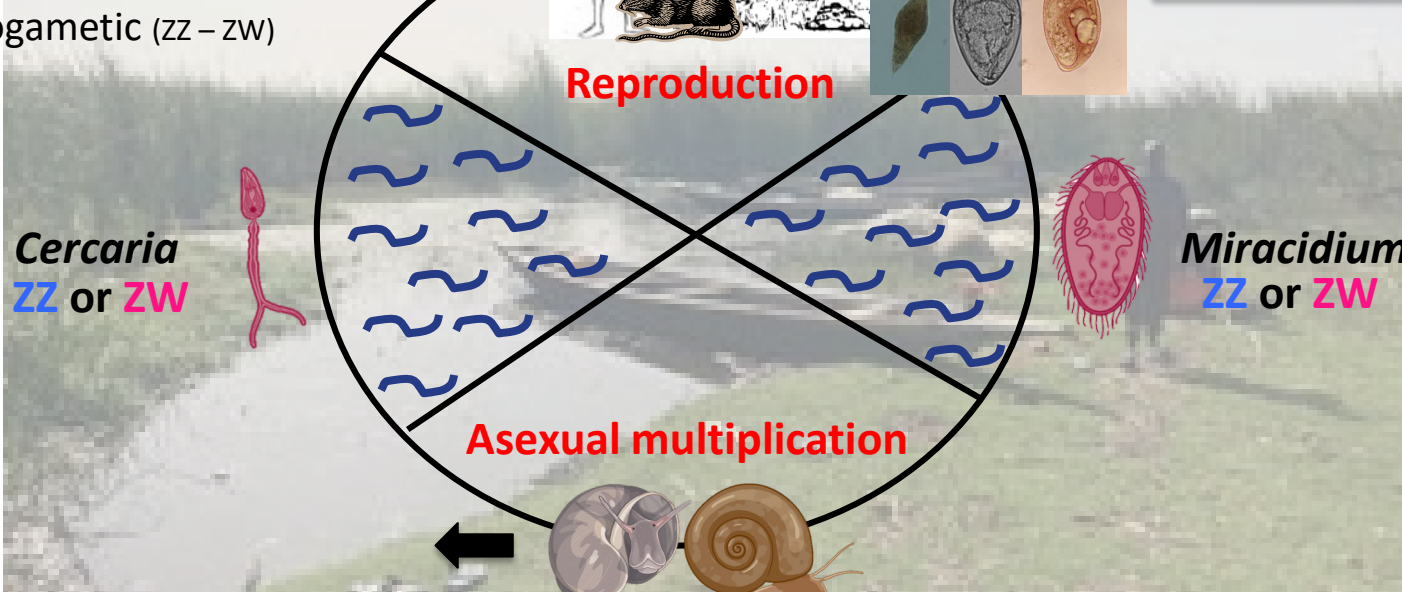
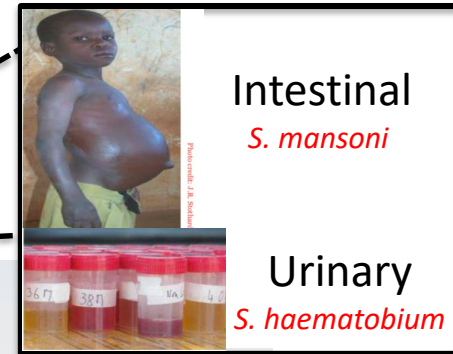
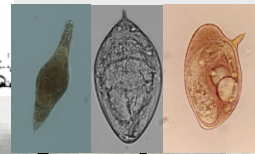


- Gonochoric
- Female heterogametic (ZZ – ZW)

Vertebrate definitive hosts



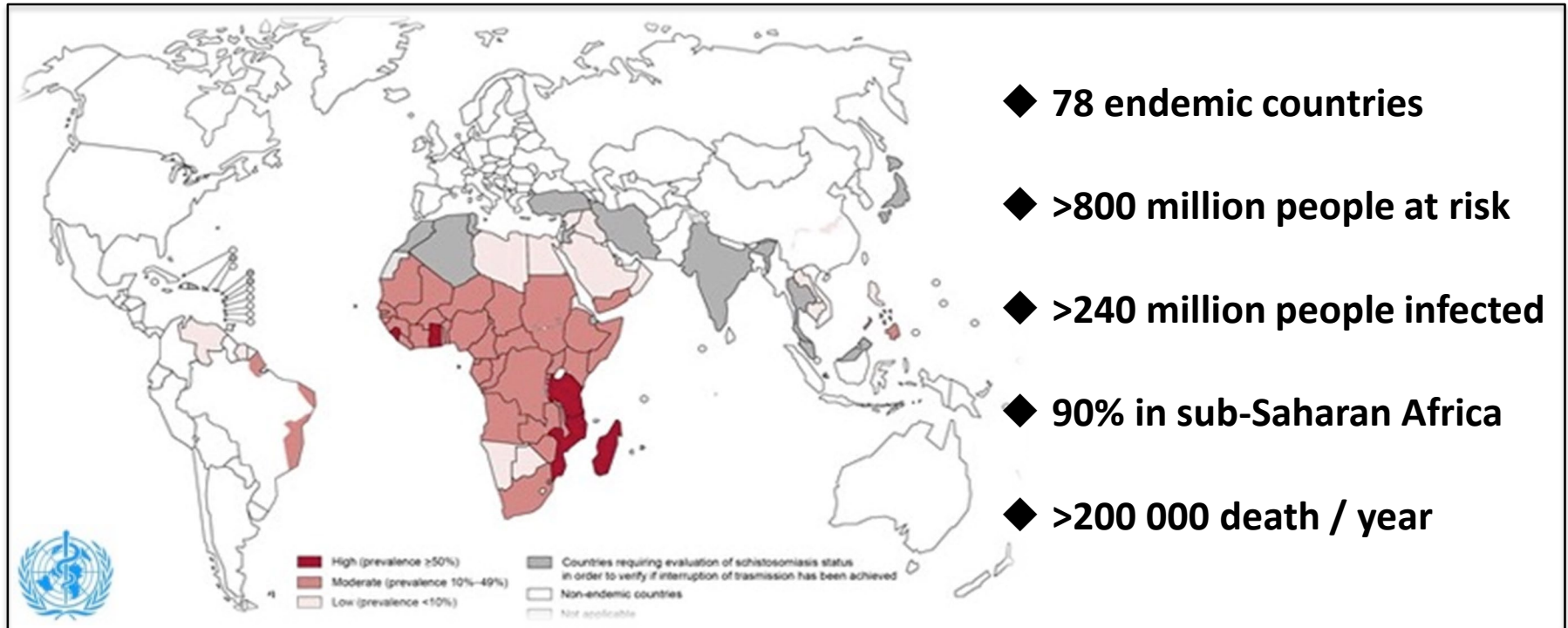
Eggs



Mollusc intermediate hosts (vectors)

Schistosomiasis : a public health problem in the tropics

2nd human parasitic disease (Neglected **Tropical Disease**)



Global changes (climate + human movements) may promote modifications in hosts and parasites distribution

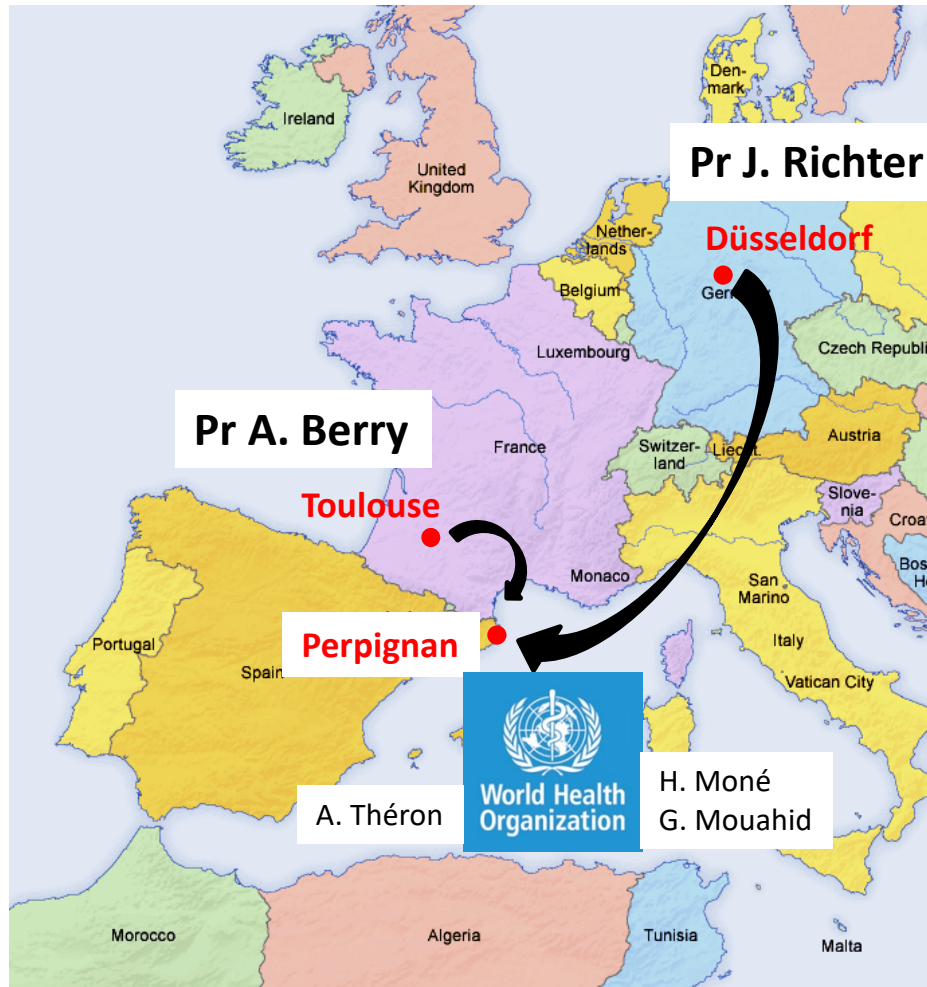
Disease spread and emergence

Emergence of urinary schistosomiasis in Corsica : biological invasion & sanitary risks

Julien Kincaid-Smith, Eve Toulza, Olivier Rey, Anne Rognon, Jean-Francois Allienne & Jérôme Boissier

University of Perpignan, FRANCE

April 2014: Clusters of urogenital schistosomiasis diagnosed in French and German hospitals

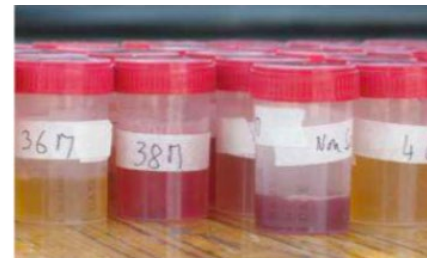


- Düsseldorf (Pr J. Richter)
Boy, 12yo with macroscopic haematuria

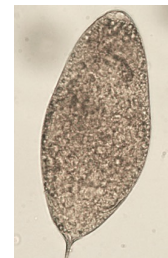
Richter et al. 2016

- Toulouse (Pr A. Berry)
Girl, 4yo avec with macroscopic haematuria
schistosomes eggs in the bladder (biopsy) +
urine

Berry et al 2014



S. haematobium
(human urine)

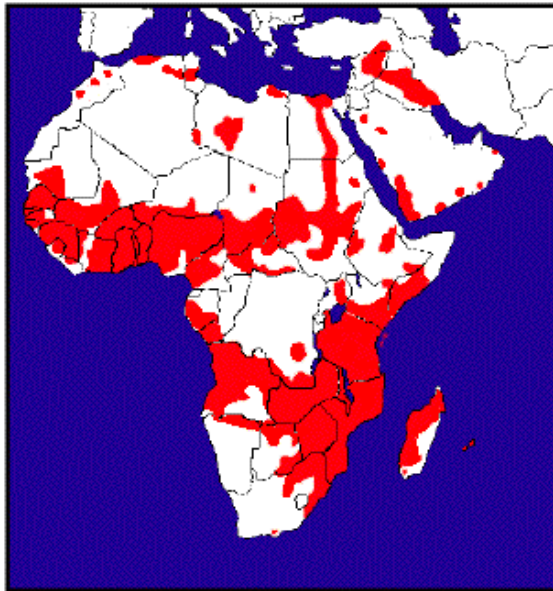


Elliptical shape
Terminal spine

Imported cases of schistosomiasis in Europe ?

Patients had no travel history of schistosomiasis endemic countries

Distribution of *S. haematobium*



Anamnesis of patients :

- Tunisia
- Ile Maurice
- Iles des Baléares
- Brazil
- Albania
- Other European countries...

But, one common destination...

They had spent summer 2013 in Corsica: a popular French Mediterranean island



North Porto-Vecchio
The Cavu river



Most frequented river in Southern Corsica :
3.000 to 5.000 people/day in summer

The vector snails (*Bulinus truncatus*) are present in Corsica

Brumpt 1930

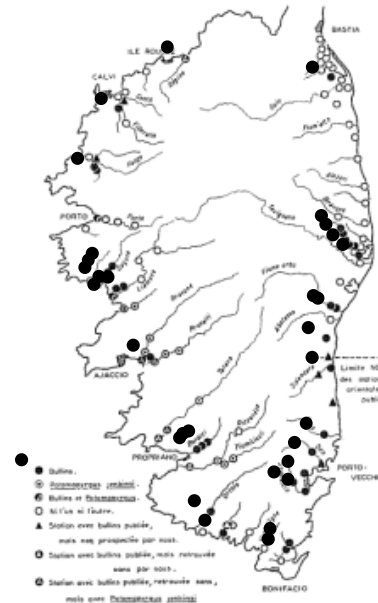
CYCLE ÉVOLUTIF COMPLET DE *SCHISTOSOMA BOVIS*
Infection naturelle en Corse et infection expérimentale
de *Bulinus contortus*
Par E. BRUMPT



Bullins et bilharzioses en Corse

Répartition, fréquence et biologie de « *Bulinus truncatus* »

Par J.-M. DOBY, B. RAULT, S. DEBLOCK et A. CHABAUD (1)



2014: Cavu river



“Le premier cas certain de bilharziose humaine autochtone n'est donc pas inconcevable...”

Doby et al. 1966

Bulinus truncatus

Where have the contaminations occurred?

Schistosomiasis reaches Europe

Boissier et al. Lancet ID 2015

✓ Pictures from tourists



4 families

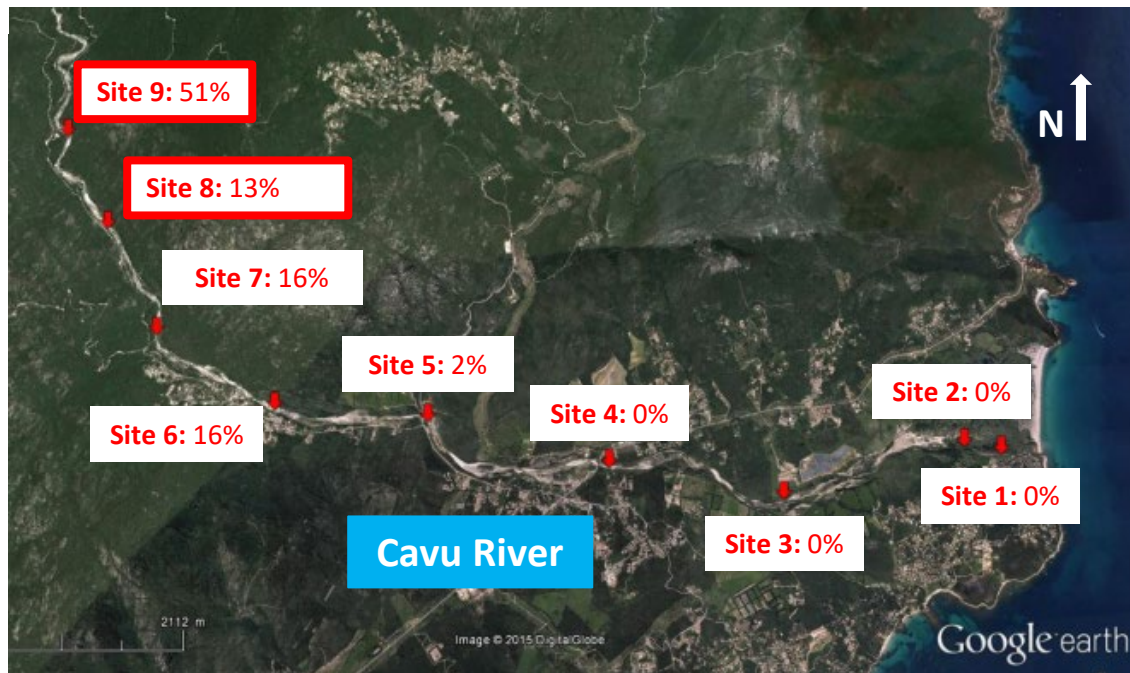
✓ Meeting along the river with locals



✓ 31 oral testimonies

Boissier et al Lancet ID 2016

9 potential transmission sites (12km long river)



National survey : 54% and 38% of infected patients – frequented sites 9 and 8, respectively

Noel et al. 2017



Site 8

Site 9

No snails were found naturally infected

Summer 2014 : 3,544 molluscs tested (cercarial emission)

UMR5244 – IHPE : mandated by the Regional Health Agency (ARS) to monitor the snail populations

Summer 2015 : 1,965 molluscs tested (cercarial emission)

Summer 2016 : 3,453 molluscs tested (PCR)

Summer 2017 : 5,364 molluscs tested (PCR)

Summer 2018 : 4,329 molluscs tested (PCR)

Summer 2019 : 5,100 molluscs tested (PCR)

Summer 2020 : 3,500 molluscs tested (PCR)

Summer 2021 :



0 positif / > 30 000

Experimental infections confirm the role of local snails



Infected patient from Corsica

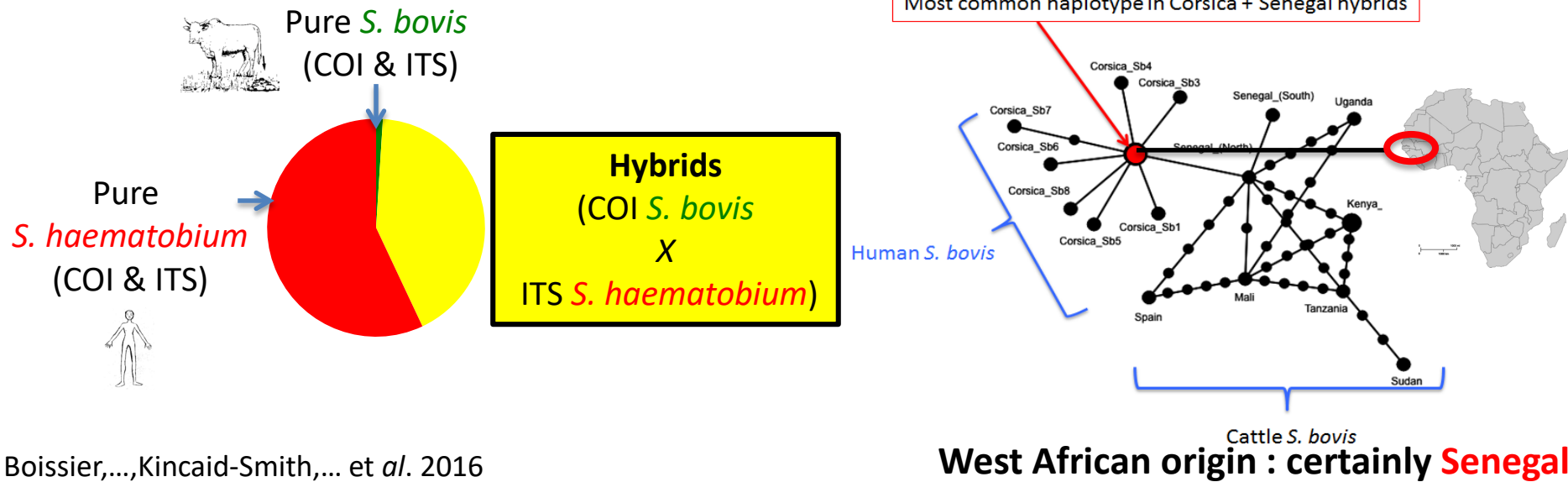


13-24% positive

*Boissier et al. 2016
Kincaid-Smith et al. 2018*

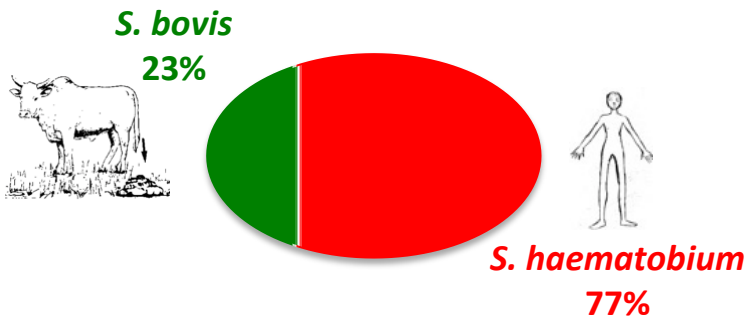
What is the parasite's origin ?

✓ Genetic characterisation of the parasites (ITS & COI sequencing), 12 patients, 73 sequences:



✓ Genomic characterisation of the hybrids (WGS)

Complex admixture of parental species



Confirmation of ancient/imported hybrid parasites

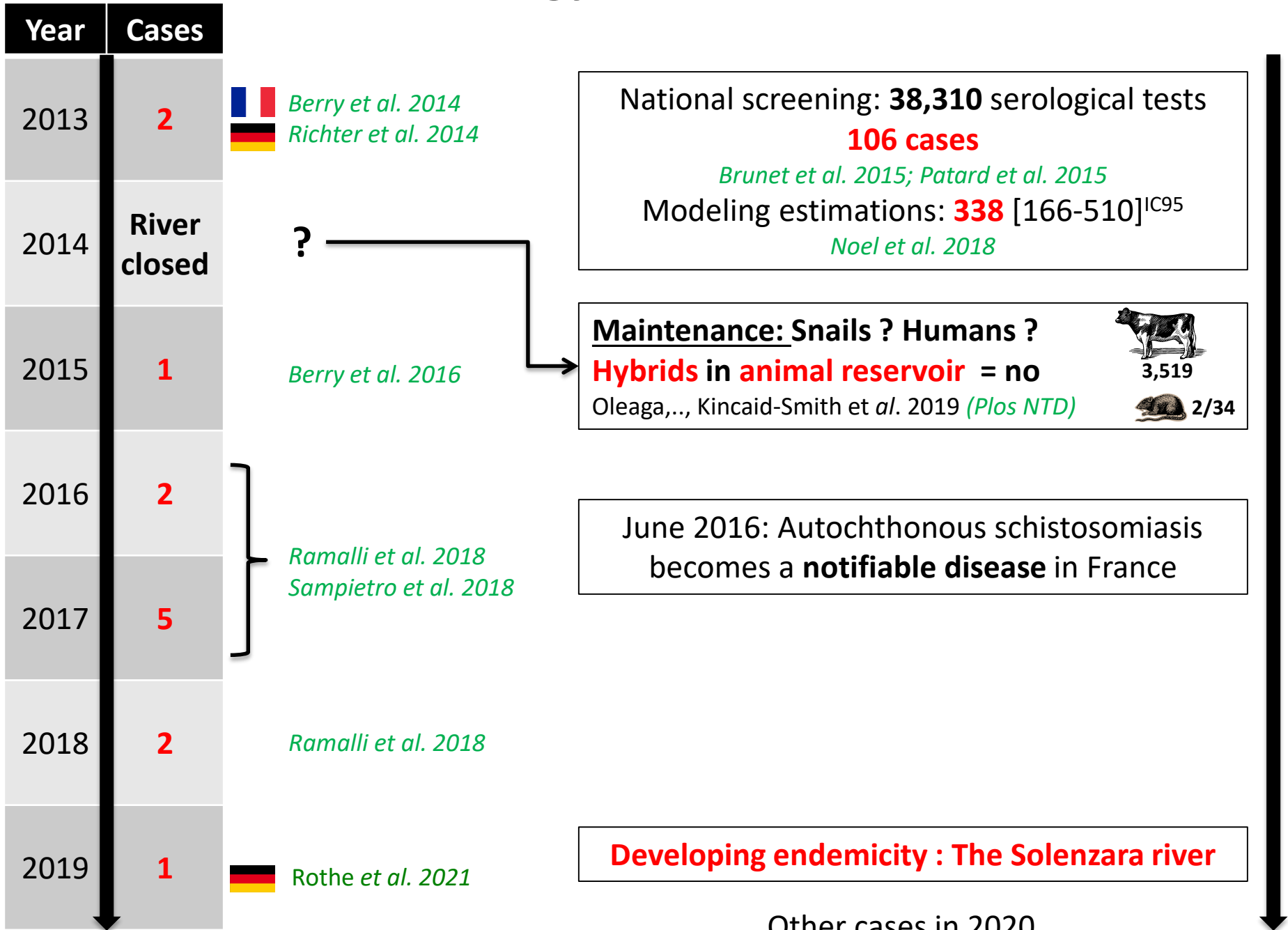
Hybrid vigour (heterosis) / adaptive introgression

- Virulence - Host spectrum - Invasive capacity ?

Risk of animal reservoir & zoonotic transmission

Kincaid-Smith et al. 2018, 2021

Chronology of the outbreak



This biological invasion raised several important questions

- 1) What is the invasive capacity of the parasite in Europe ?
- 1) Is there a link between the “hybrid” form of the parasite and the outbreak in Corsica ?
- 1) Are *S. haematobium* x *S. bovis* hybrids more fit than parental species (heterosis or hybrid vigor)

**Identification of hybrid life history trait modifications
and their molecular bases**

Kincaid-Smith 2018 (Thesis)

HySWARM project

AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE
ANR

J. Boissier - IHPE

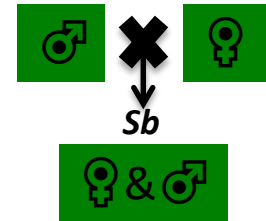
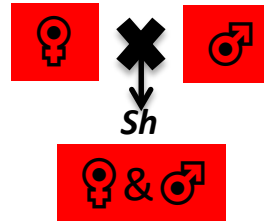
Experimental evolution protocol

First step : recover parental species & identify molecular sex markers (Kincaid-Smith et al. 2016)

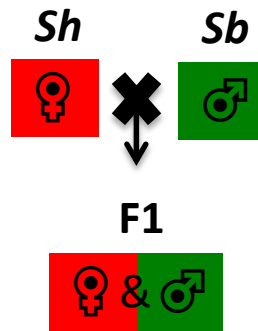
S. haematobium (*Sh*)

S. bovis (*Sb*)

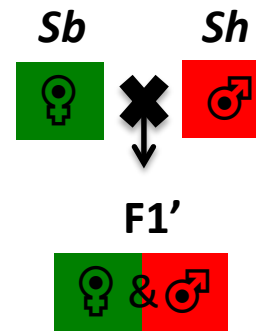
Parental sp
(consanguine
line)



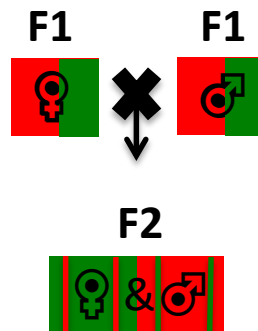
1st
generation



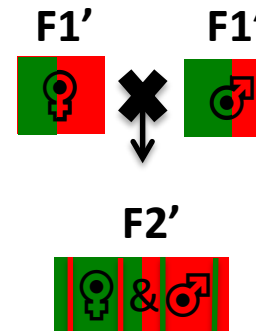
Reciprocal
crosses



2nd
generation



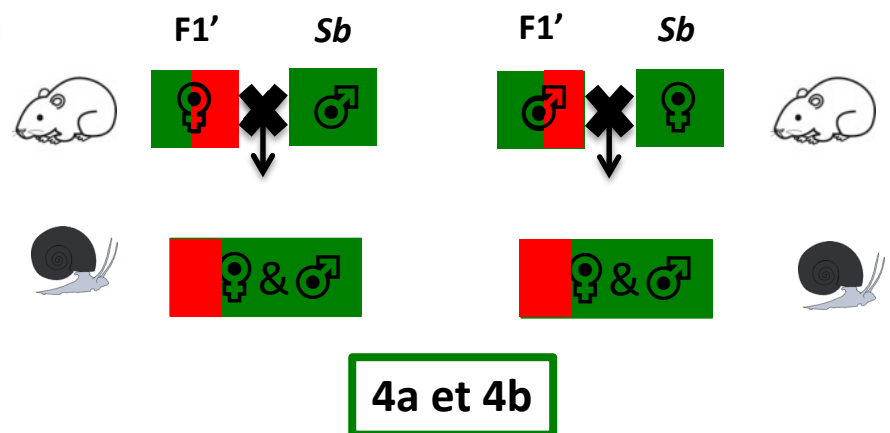
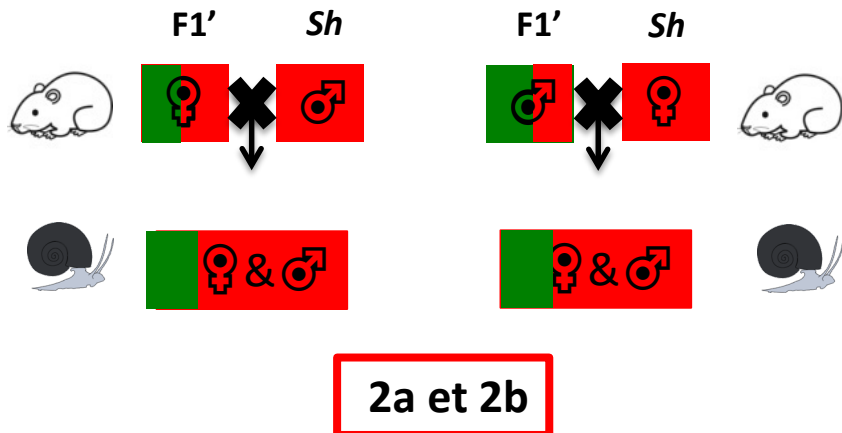
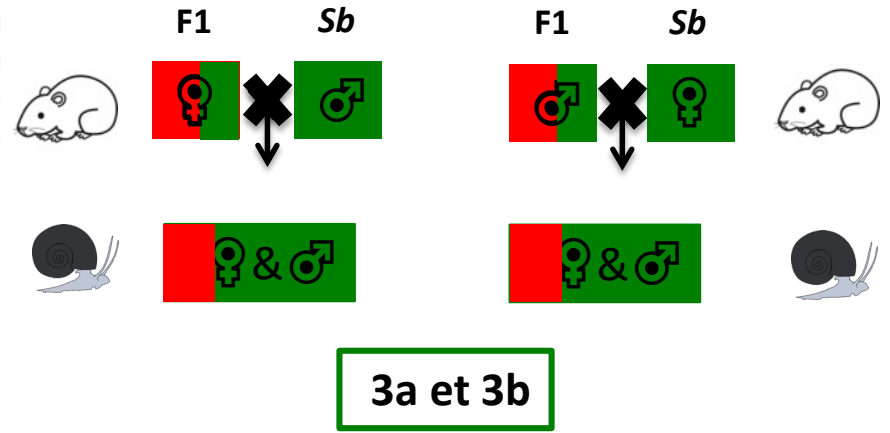
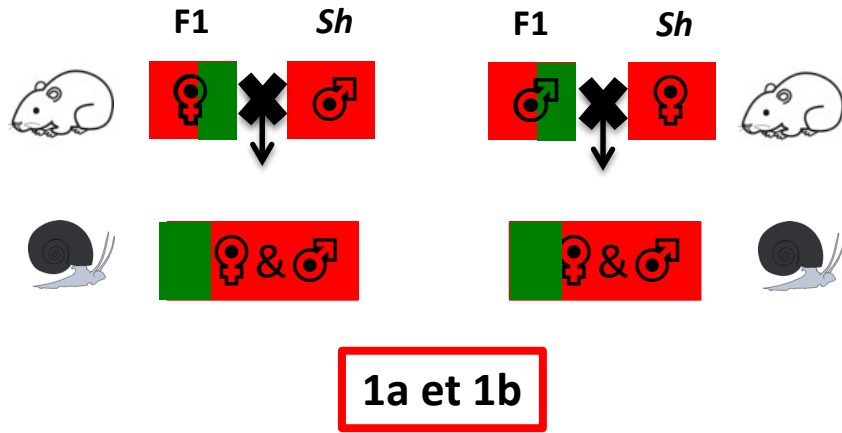
Reciprocal
crosses



Backcrosses

1st generation with
S. haematobium

1st generation with
S. bovis



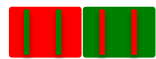
Lines obtained

15 parasite lines to characterize:

S. haematobium



F1



F2

S. bovis

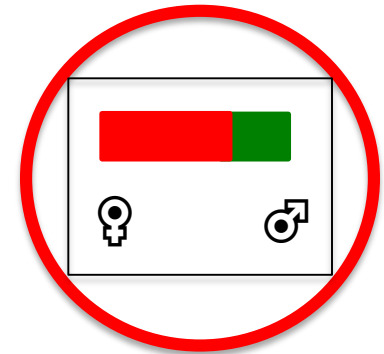


F1'



F2'

Comparison with the Corsican hybrids



S. haematobium Backcrosses



♀ F1 x ♂ sh



♂ F1 x ♀ sh



♀ F1' x ♂ sh



♂ F1' x ♀ sh

S. bovis Backcrosses



♀ F1 x ♂ sb



♂ F1 x ♀ sb



♀ F1' x ♂ sb



♂ F1' x ♀ sb

Life history traits analysis

Definitive host

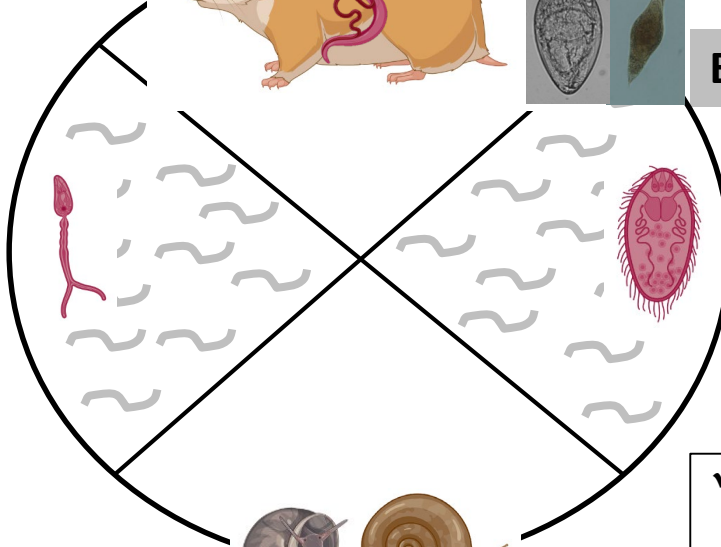
Hamster containing
adult worms



Eggs

- ✓ Sexual interaction
- ✓ *Cercaria* infectivity
- ✓ Females prolificacy
- ✓ Induced pathology/morbidity
- ✓ Egg morphology

Cercaria



Miracidium

Molluscs

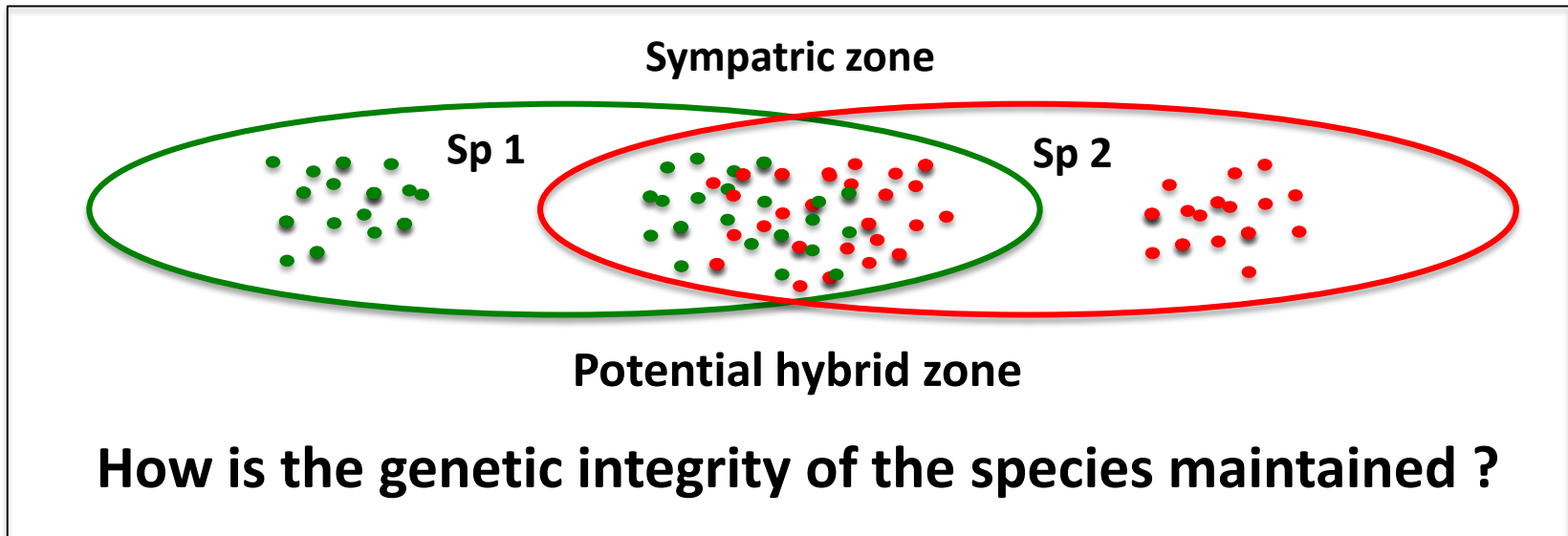
Intermediate hosts

- ✓ Prevalence
- ✓ Host spectrum (*Bulinus*, *Planorbarius*)

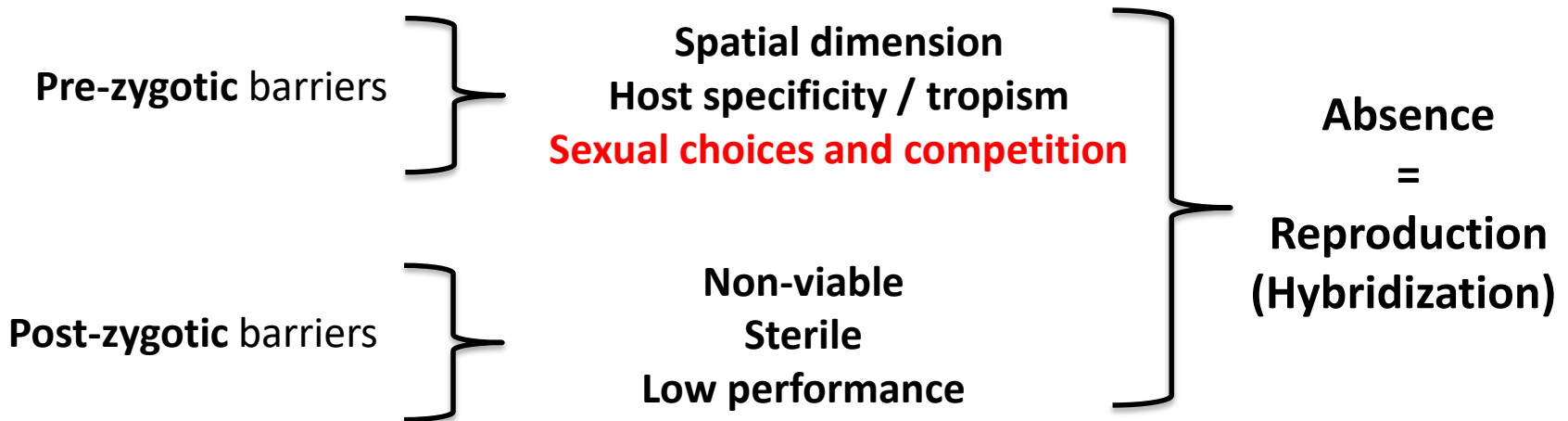
B.t: *Bulinus* (*S. haematobium* & *S. bovis*) ; *Planorbarius* : (*S. bovis* only)

Are there any barriers to hybridization ?

Determine the potential occurrence of the phenomenon *in natura*



Reproductive isolation mechanisms:

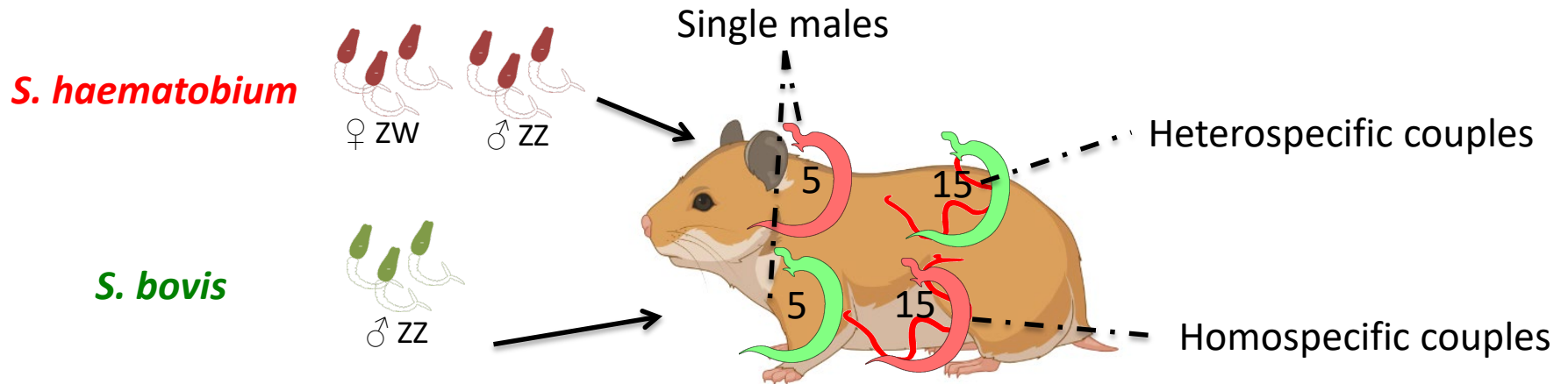


Are there any barriers to hybridization ?

1) Mating choices

Mate recognition system ? Pairing preference ?

- Exp 1 & 2: Male choice *
- Exp 3 & 4: Female choice *
- Exp 5: Full choice (all species and sex combined)+



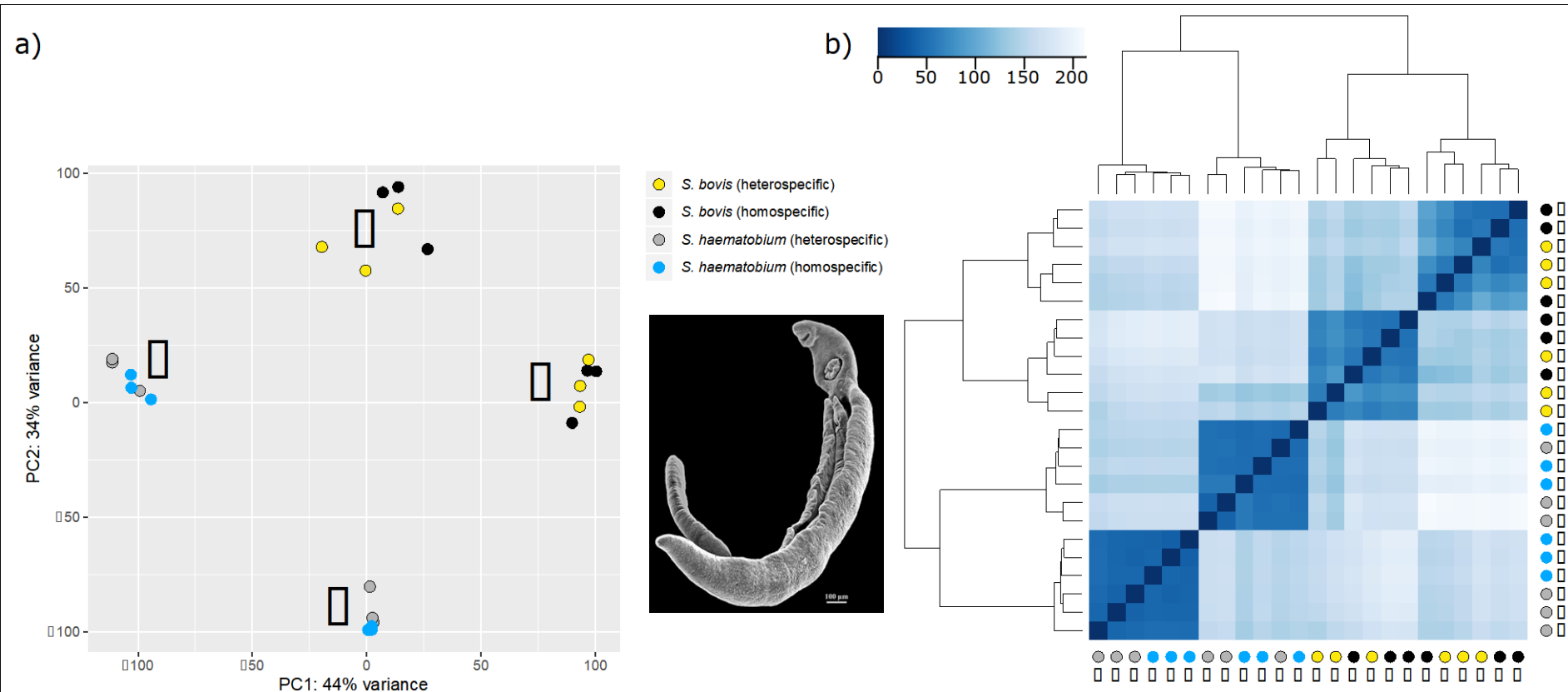
Example of *S. haematobium* female choice

ALL experiments show random pairing between *S. haematobium* & *S. bovis*

*null hypothesis of random pairing
+Chi-square tests.

Are there any barriers to hybridization ?

2) Transcriptomic analyse of homo- vs. hetero-specific male and female



Few genes affected (DGE) - Log2 ratio low : some genes known in male-female interactions

Conclusion

- No pre-zygotic barrier (sexual choice + DGE) = Importance of host specificity
 - Hybridization may be frequent (**which host ?**)

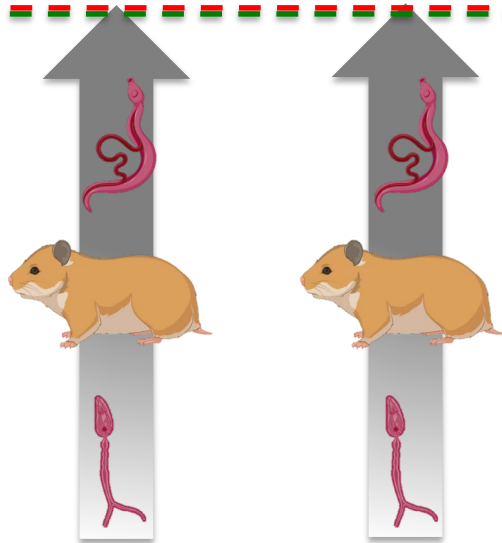
Cercaria infectivity

Significant (KW = 30,08: $p = 0,003$) but pair comparison NS (premature death / high variance / low sampling)

Pure parasites

21%

19%



38%

30%

24%

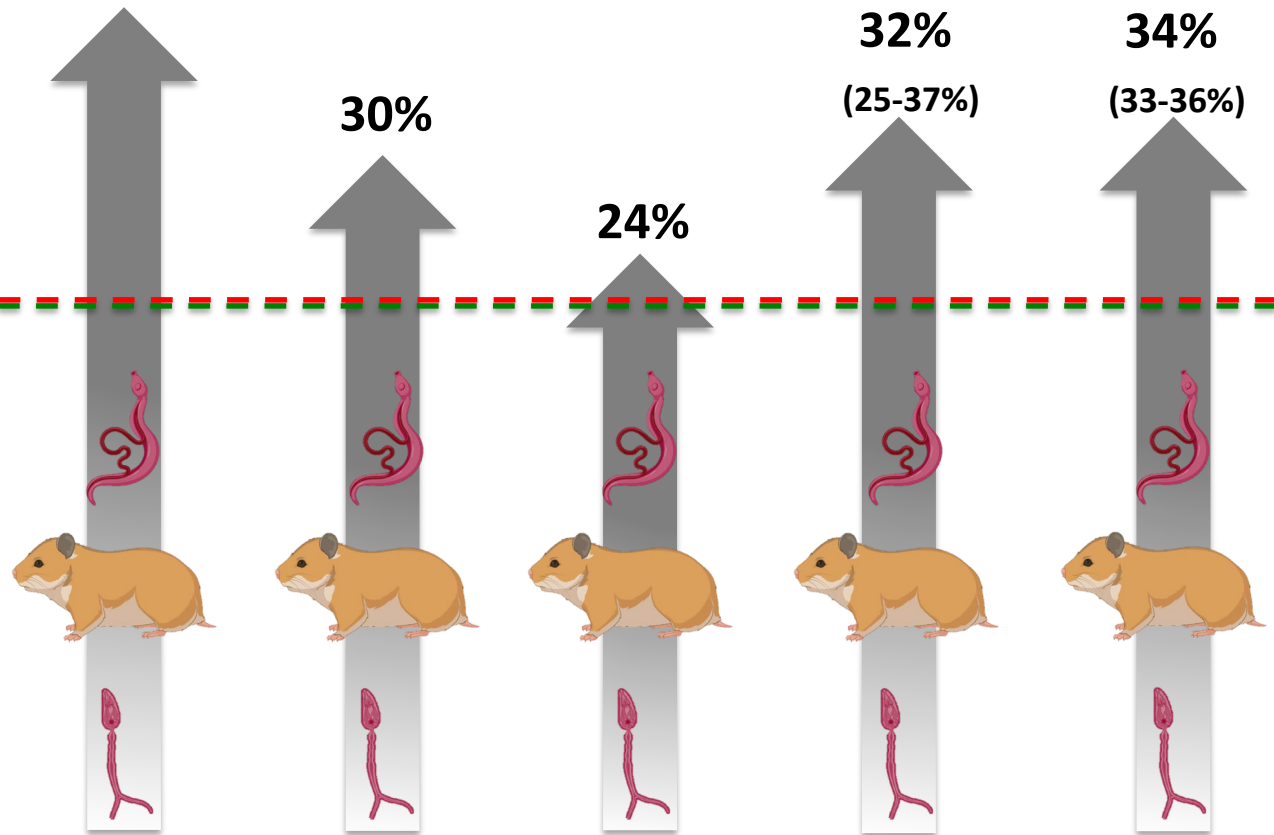
32%

(25-37%)

34%

(33-36%)

Hybrid parasites



F1

F1'

Corse

Retro *S. h*

Retro *S. b*

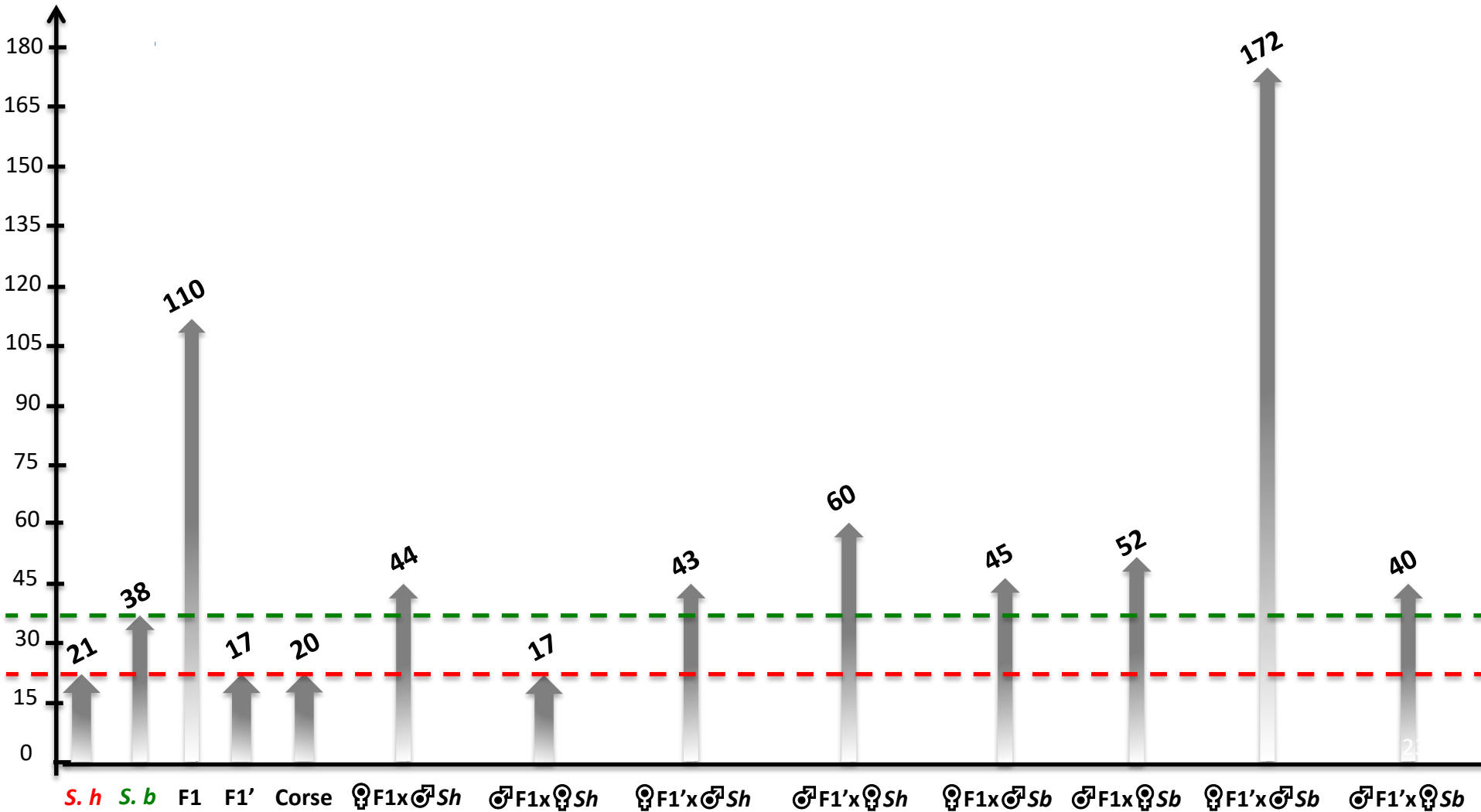
S. haematobium *S. bovis*

Female prolificacy

Number of eggs per day per female.

Significant difference (KW: 41.348; $p < 0.001$) but pair comparison NS

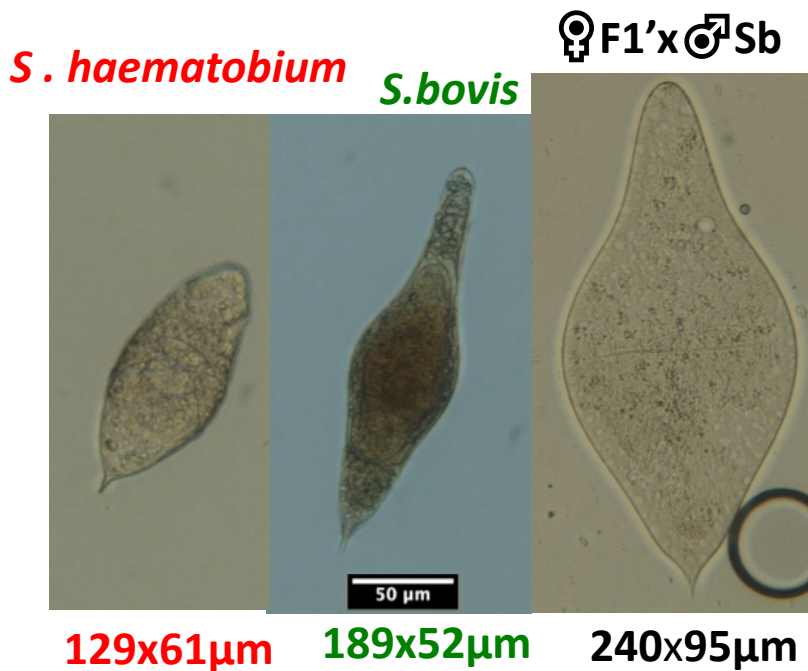
Prolificacy



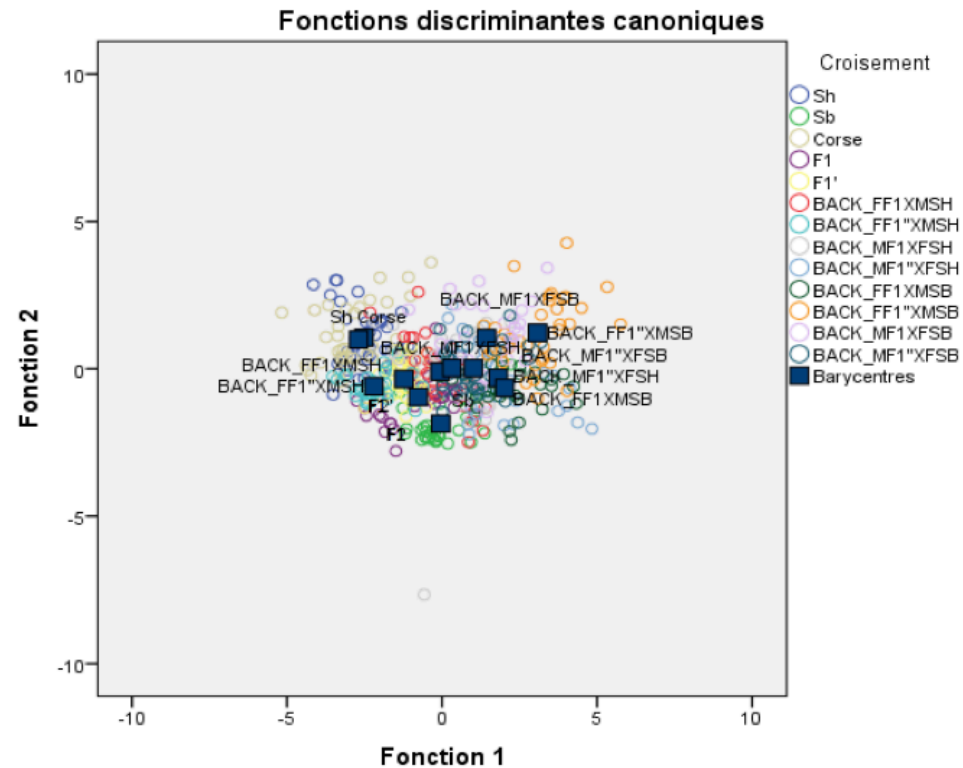
Egg morphology

- Parasitological diagnostic gold standard
- Responsible for pathology

Length / Width / Size of the spur / Area (μm^2)



Significant increase in egg size
 Together with prolificacy = increased pathology
 ⇒ Evolutionary dead end ?



Egg morphology is not an indicator of hybridization

Life history traits analysis

Definitive host

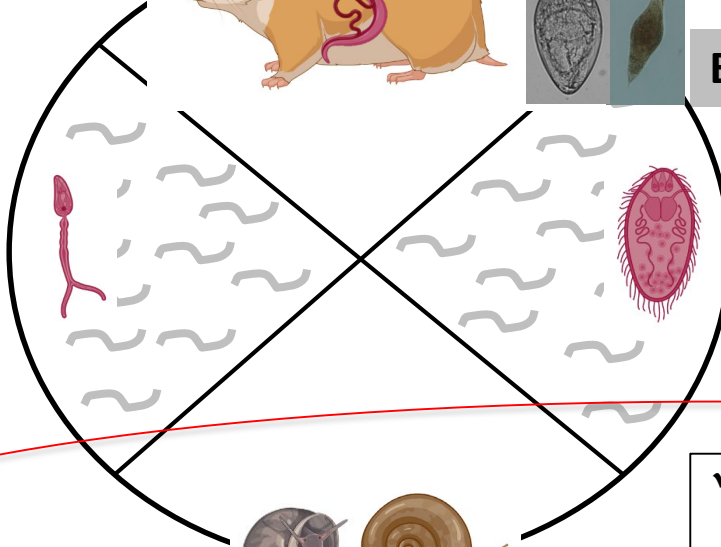
Hamster containing
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Eggs

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Cercaria



Miracidium

Molluscs

- ✓ Prevalence
- ✓ Host spectrum (*Bulinus*, *Planorbarius*)

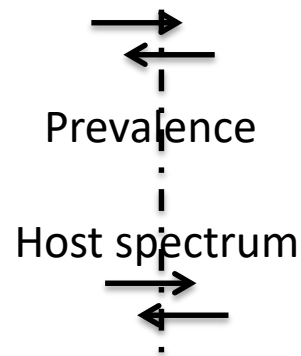
Intermediate hosts

B.t: *Bulinus* (*S. haematobium* & *S. bovis*) ; *Planorbarius* : (*S. bovis* only)

Parasites-molluscs interaction

15
Parasite lines

4 molluscs
strains

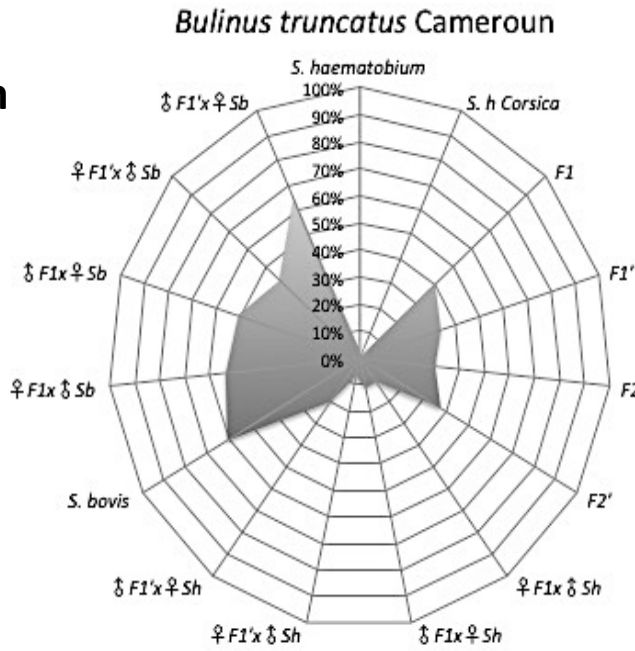


B.t: *Bulinus truncatus* (*S. haematobium* & *S. bovis*) ; *P.m*: *Planorbis metidjensis* (*S. bovis* only)

Parasites-molluscs interaction

Bulinus from Cameroon

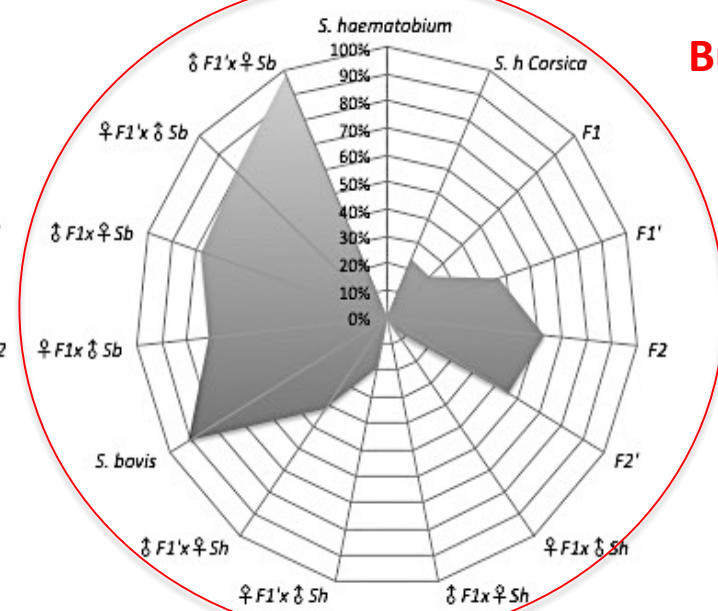
32%



Bulinus truncatus Corse

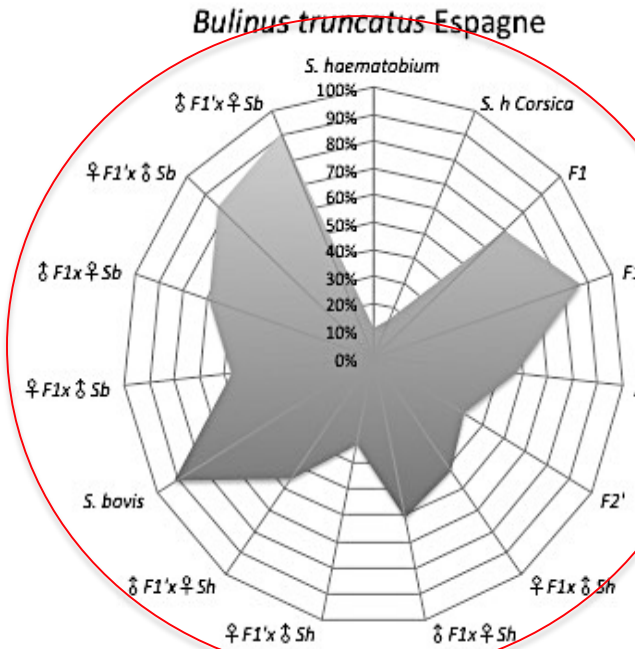
Bulinus from Corsica

45%



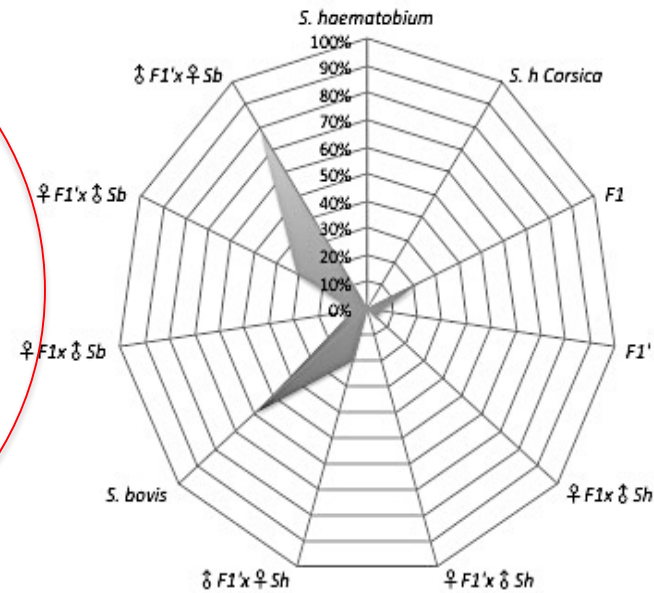
Bulinus from Spain

48%



Planorbarius metidjensis Espagne

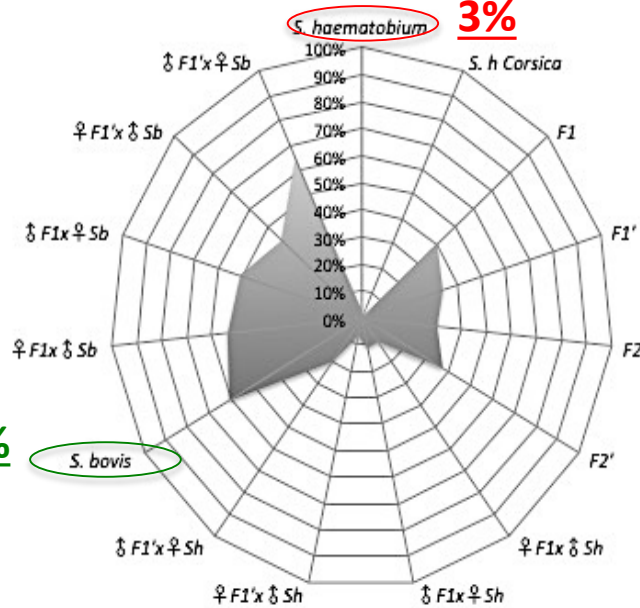
20%



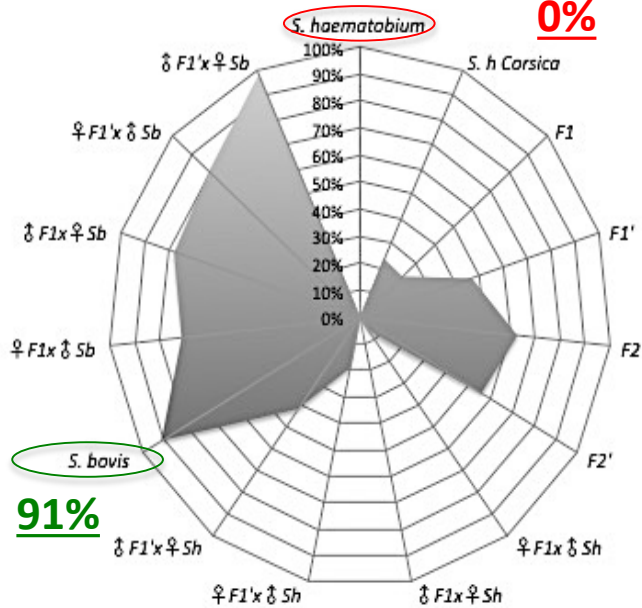
Planorbarius from Spain

Parasites-molluscs prevalence and host spectrum

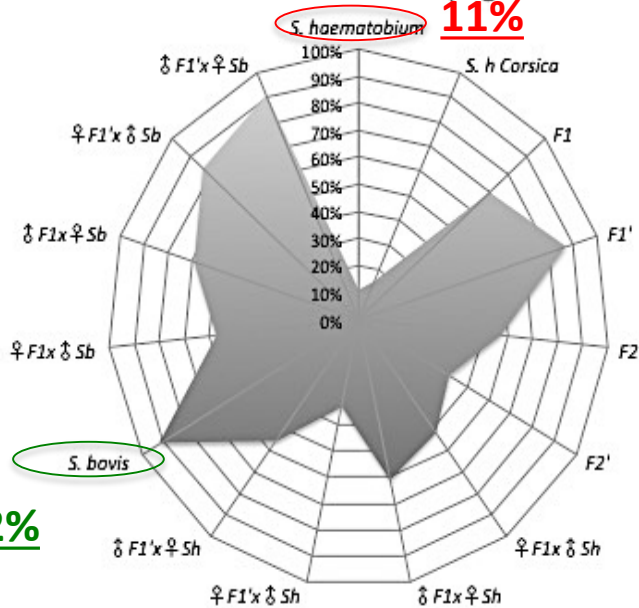
Bulinus truncatus Cameroun



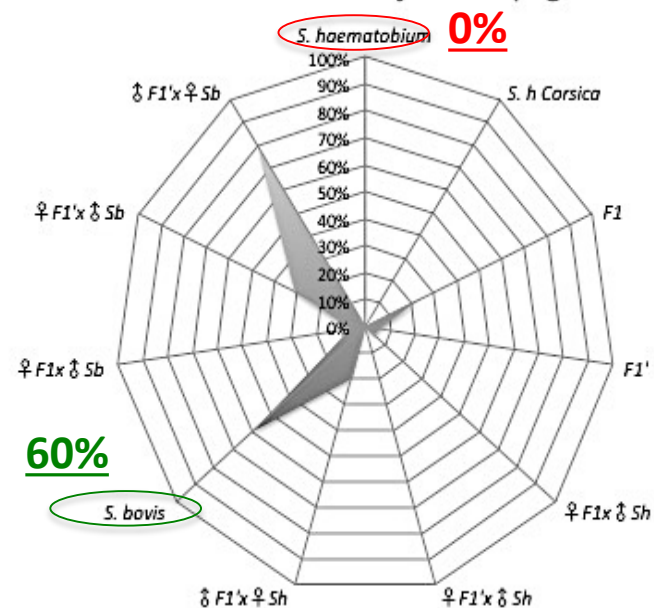
Bulinus truncatus Corse



Bulinus truncatus Espagne

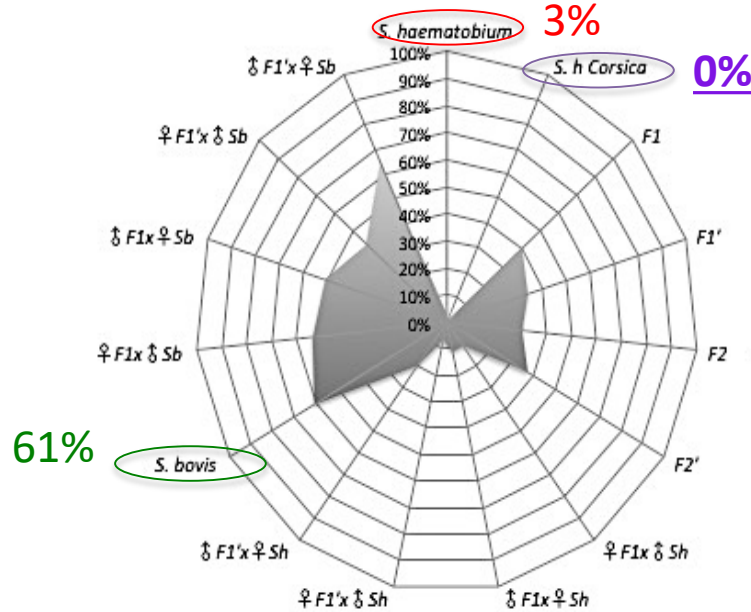


Planorbarius metidjensis Espagne

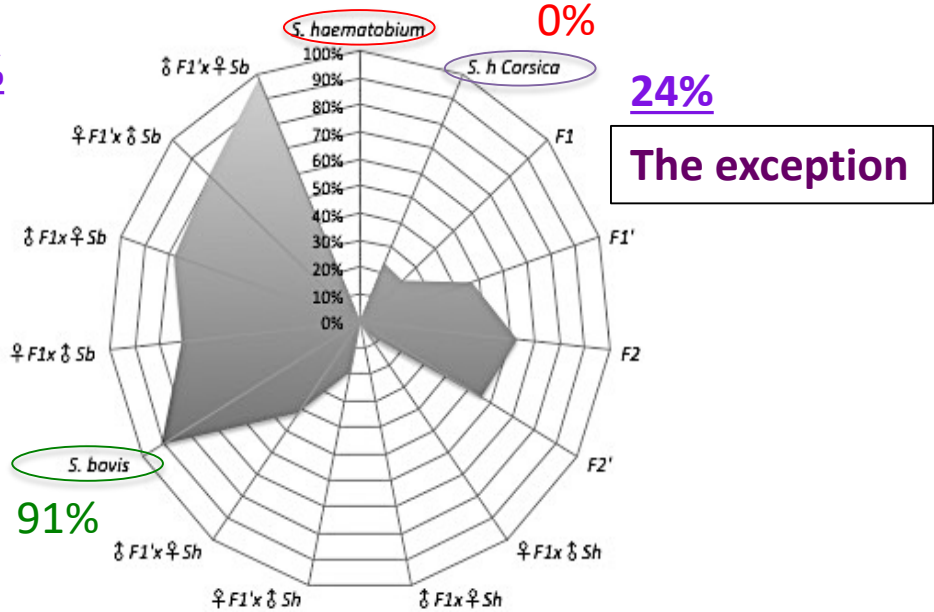


Parasites-molluscs prevalence and host spectrum

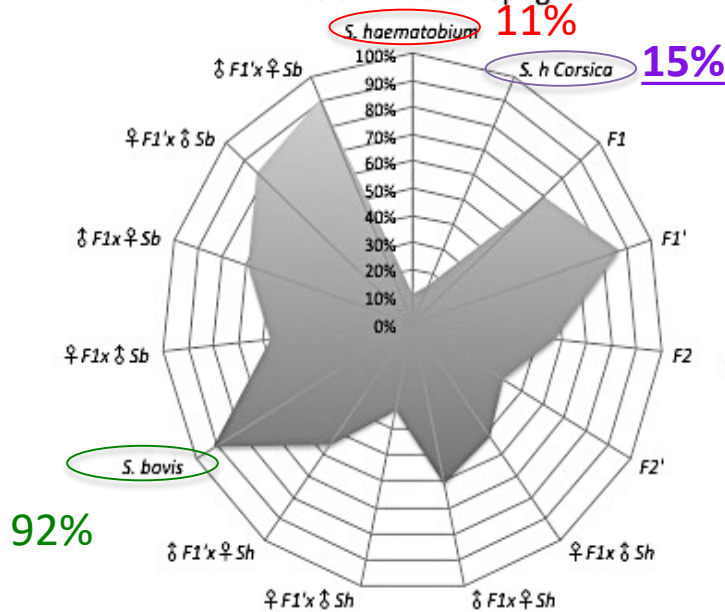
Bulinus truncatus Cameroun



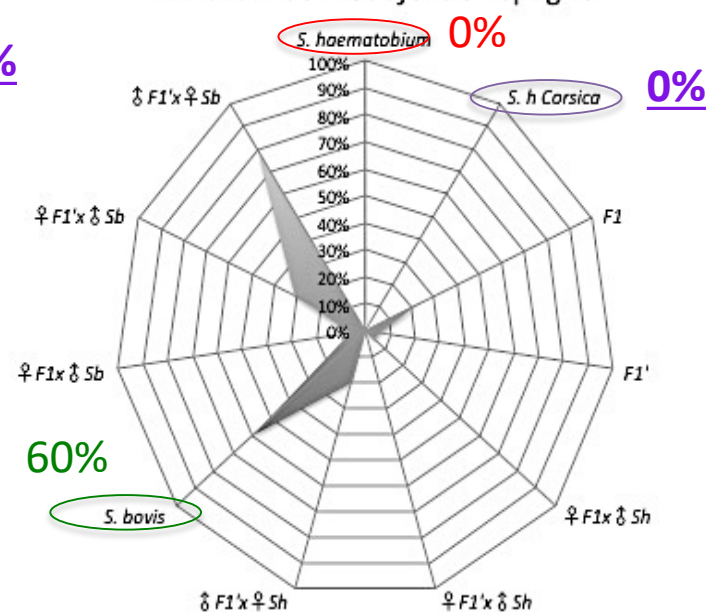
Bulinus truncatus Corse



Bulinus truncatus Espagne

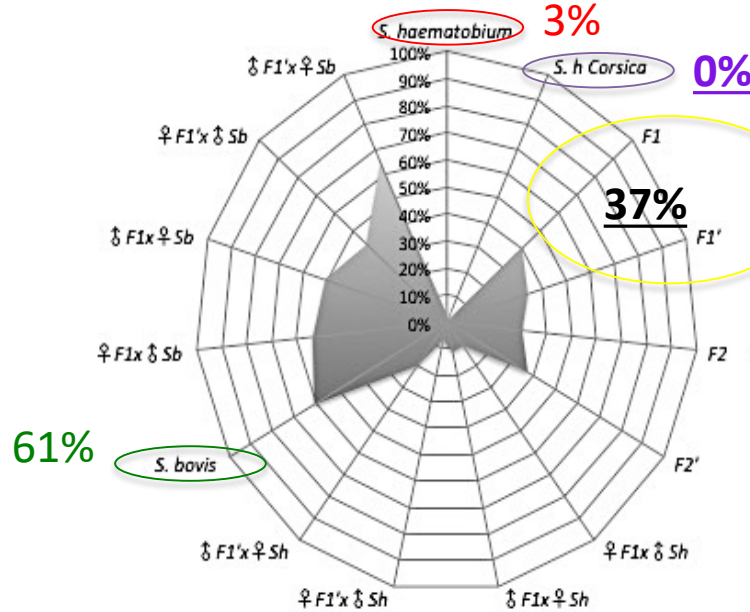


Planorbarius metidjensis Espagne

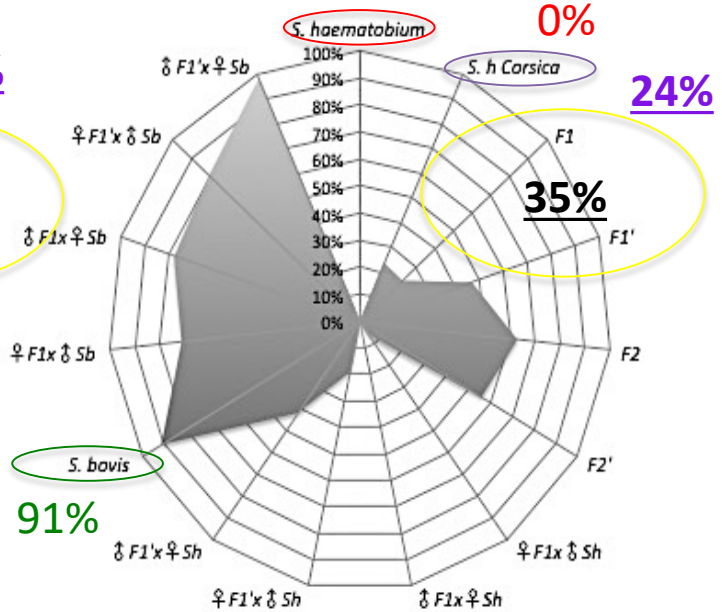


Parasites-molluscs prevalence and host spectrum

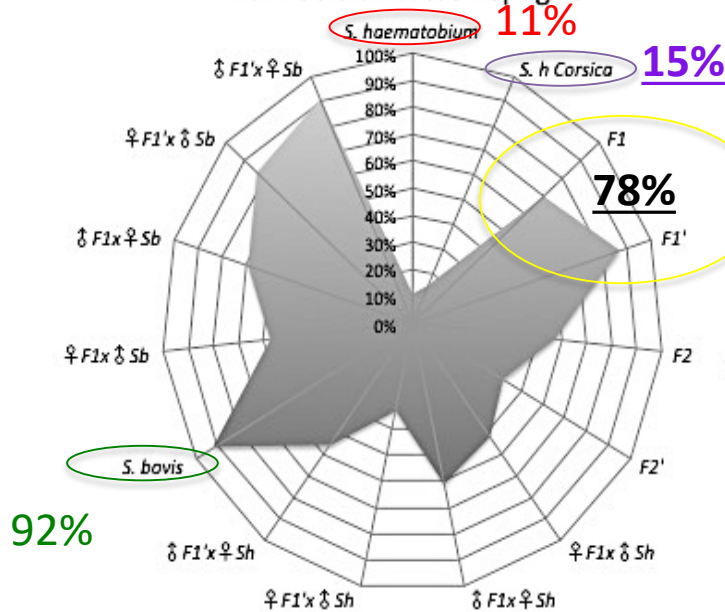
Bulinus truncatus Cameroun



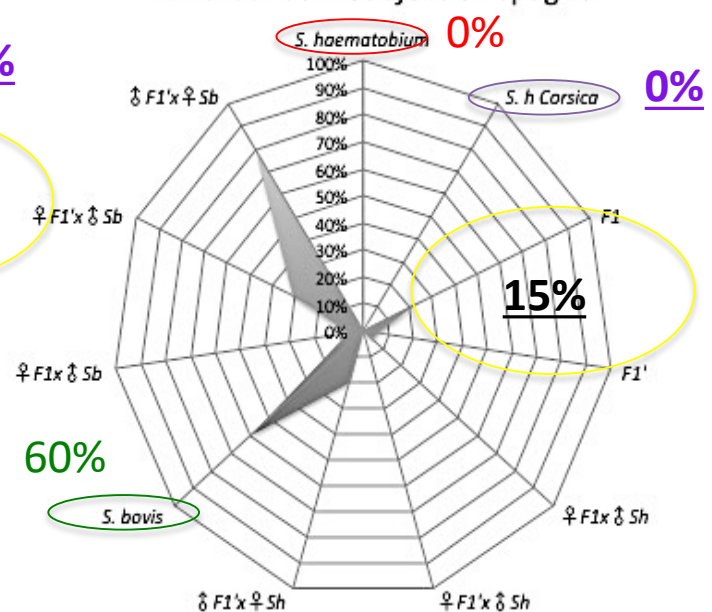
Bulinus truncatus Corse



Bulinus truncatus Espagne

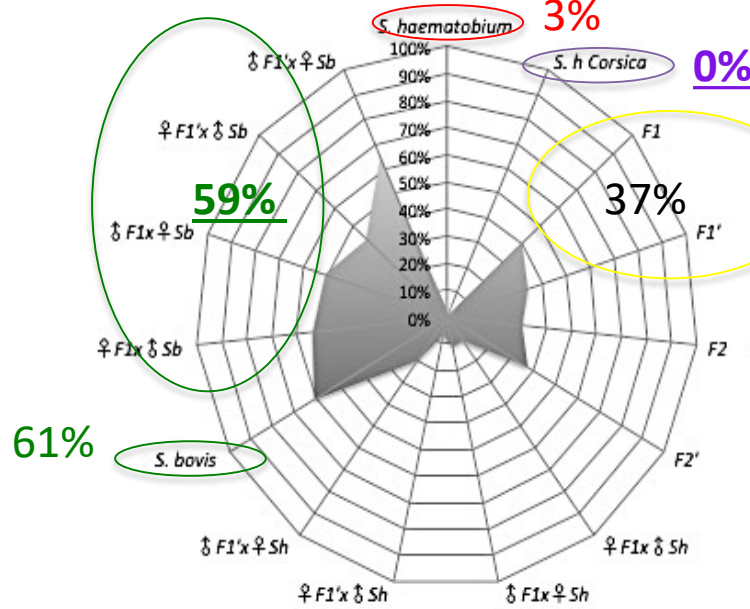


Planorbarius metidjensis Espagne

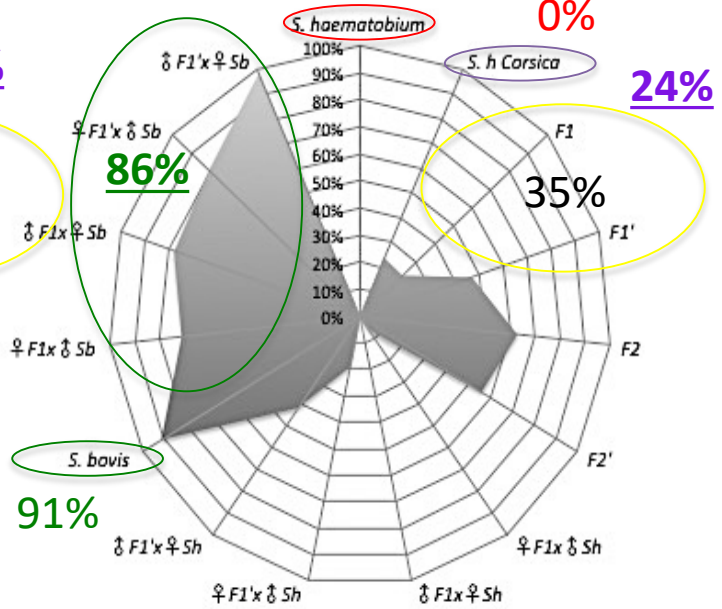


Parasites-molluscs prevalence and host spectrum

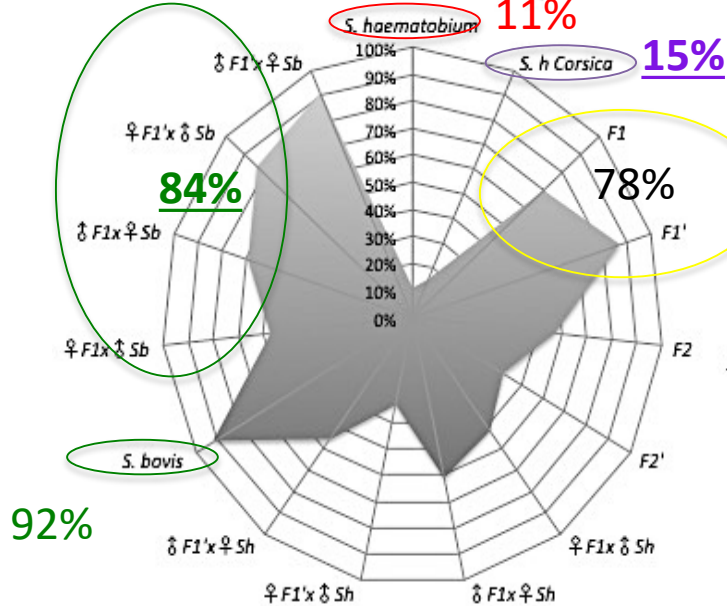
Bulinus truncatus Cameroun



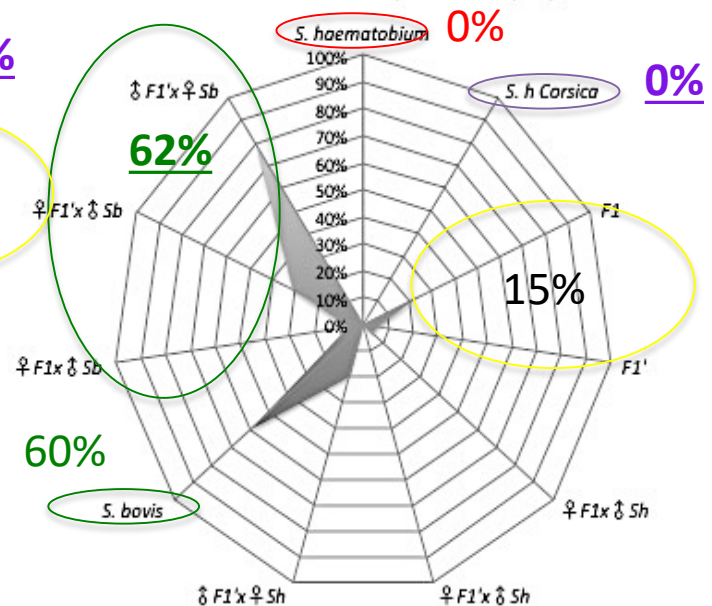
Bulinus truncatus Corse



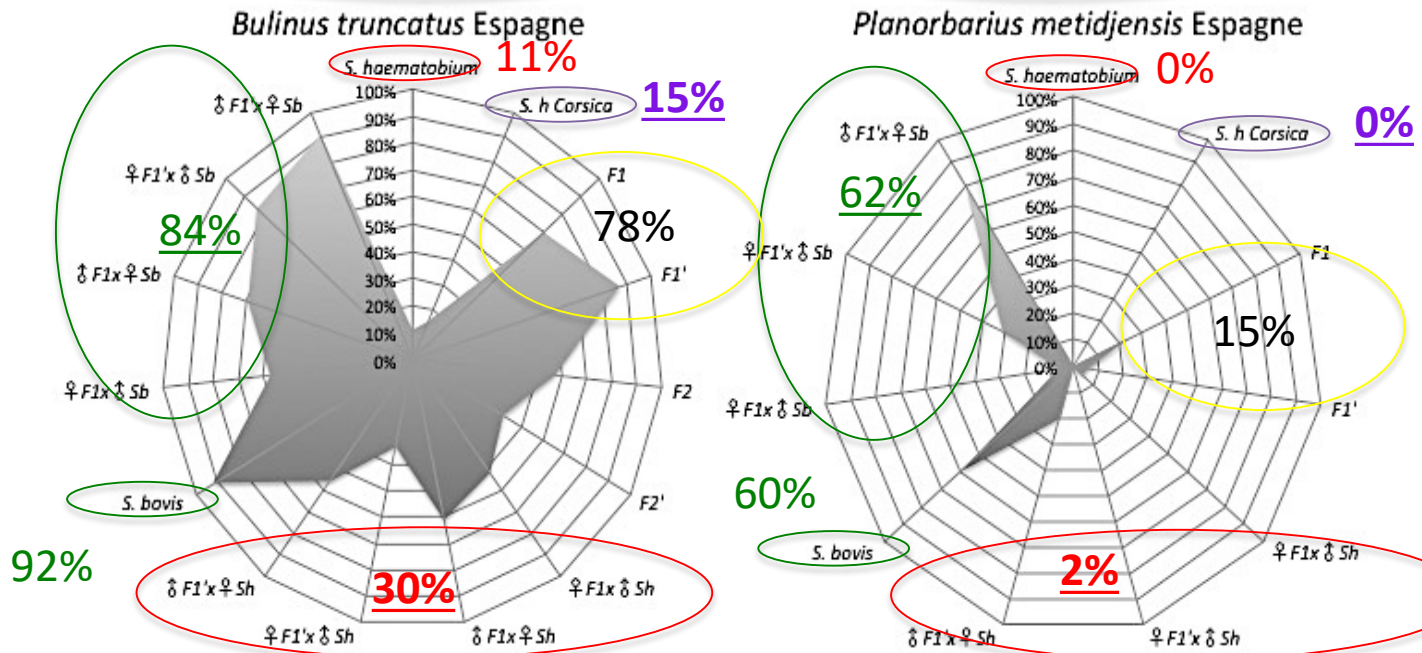
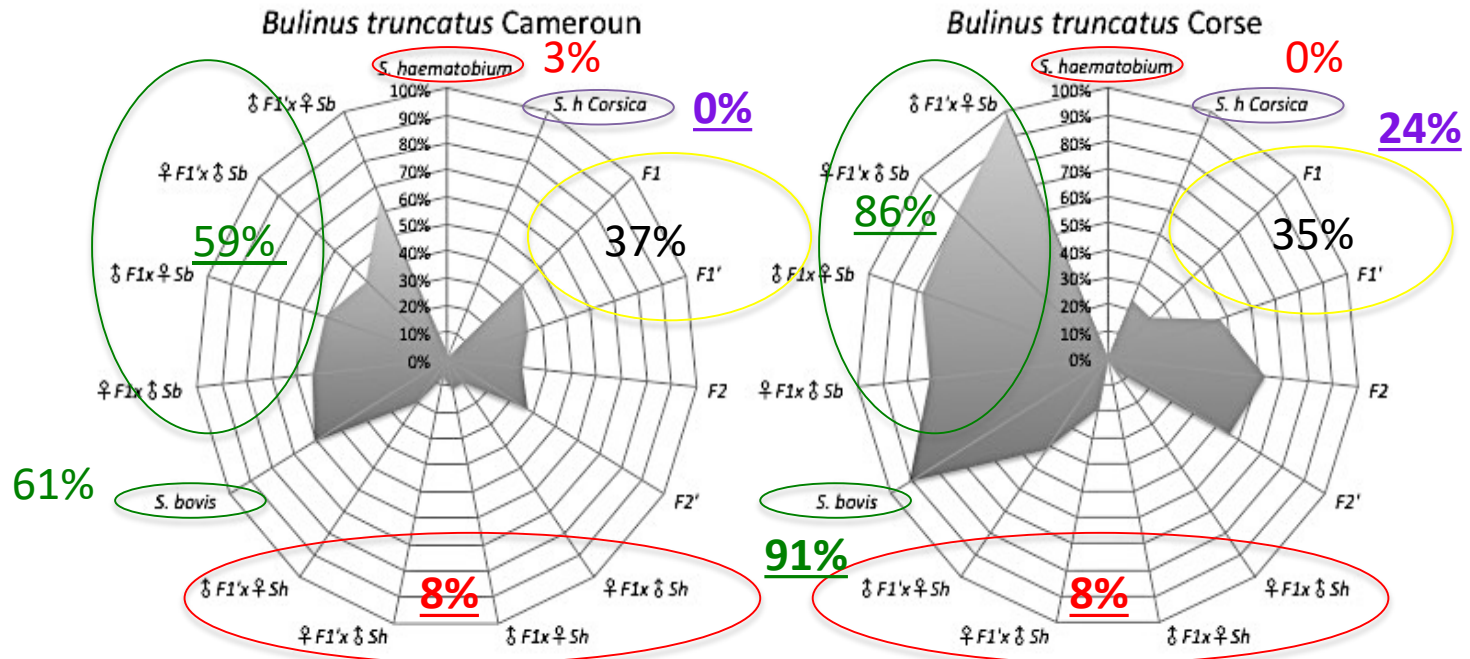
Bulinus truncatus Espagne



Planorbarius metidjensis Espagne



Parasites-molluscs prevalence and host spectrum



Conclusions:

Schistosomiasis is no longer restricted to tropical and sub-tropical areas

The emergence in Corsica is not a coincidence

✓ European snails compatible with African parasites (Corsica, **Spain at risk**)

In which hosts are the parasites maintained over the years ??



Mouflon



Hedgehogs



Local Humans



Molluscs that overwinter

✓ Importance to consider hosts/vectors current and future **distribution** (Africa, Europe)

Trends in Parasitology

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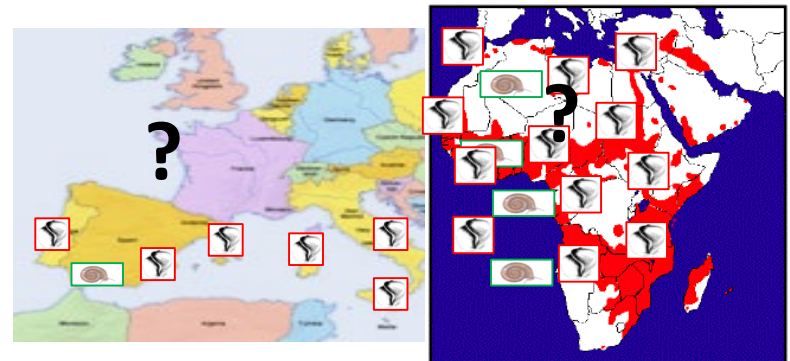


Opinion

Emerging Schistosomiasis in Europe: A Need to Quantify the Risks

Julien Kincaid-Smith^{1,†}, Olivier Rey^{1,†}, Eve Toulza¹, Antoine Berry², Jérôme Boissier^{1,✉}

Monitoring
&
Surveillance
Kincaid-Smith et al. 2017



✓ Host-parasite **compatibility** : anticipate risks of emergence, in and out of endemic areas

Conclusions: what role for hybridization?

The hybrids isolated in Corsica are similar to *S. haematobium* (phenotypes and genome) but compatibility with the Corsican *Bulinus* (fortuitous or genes of *S. bovis* ?)

Experimental hybridization *S. haematobium* x *S. bovis* = hybrid vigour

Regarding the vertebrate :



- ✓ Sexual choices : not a barrier (post-zygotique ?)
- ✓ Higher infectivity
- ✓ Females more prolific
- ✓ Extreme phenotypes (eggs)
 - ✓ Increased morbidity and mortality

↗ Occurrence
of hybridization

↘ Transmission

Regarding the molluscs :



- ✓ Broader hosts spectrum (both parental snails)
- ✓ Increased prevalence

↗ Transmission
&
Invasive capacities

Complex parental effects: phenotypes depend on direction of the cross & introgression levels

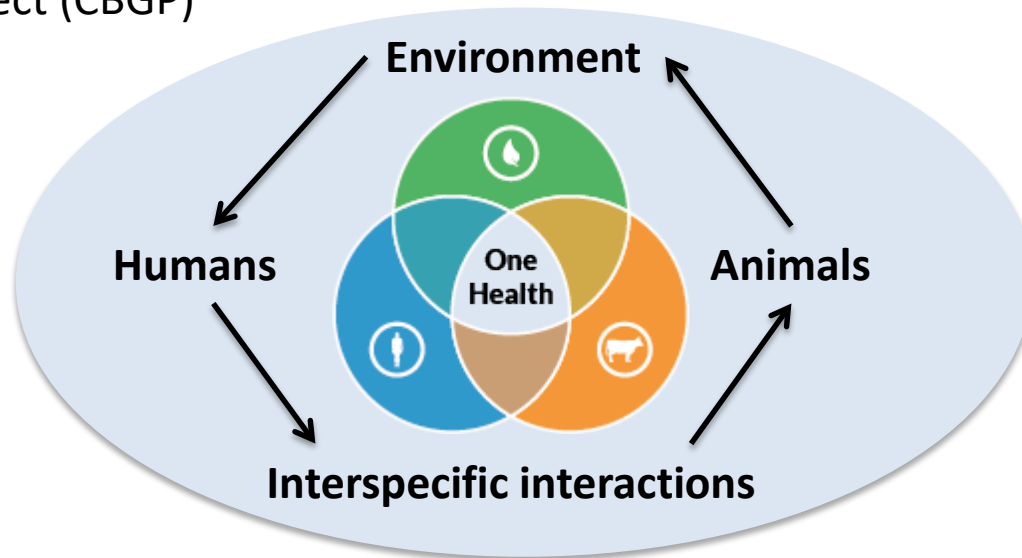
Many other life history traits to explore

- ✓ More field data required (distribution & hybridization dynamics)
- ✓ Assess if hybridization is affecting transmission and morbidity
- ✓ Diagnostics and treatment with PZQ (unique drug available)
- ✓ Zoonotic transmission & animal reservoir

Perspectives for a sustainable disease management and control

Projects that aim for an integrative view of the pathosystem

- Postdoctoral project (CBGP)
- IRD proposal





Postdoctoral project

Implication des rongeurs dans la transmission et l'hybridation des schistosomes au Sénégal : des marqueurs du risque sanitaire ?

CBGP : J. Kincaid-Smith L. Granjon, M. Kane, Y. Niang,
C. Tatard, P. Gauthier, C. Brouat

IHPE-UPVD – J. Boissier
JEAI ESBILH-SEN – B. Senghor

Postdoctoral Project CBGP

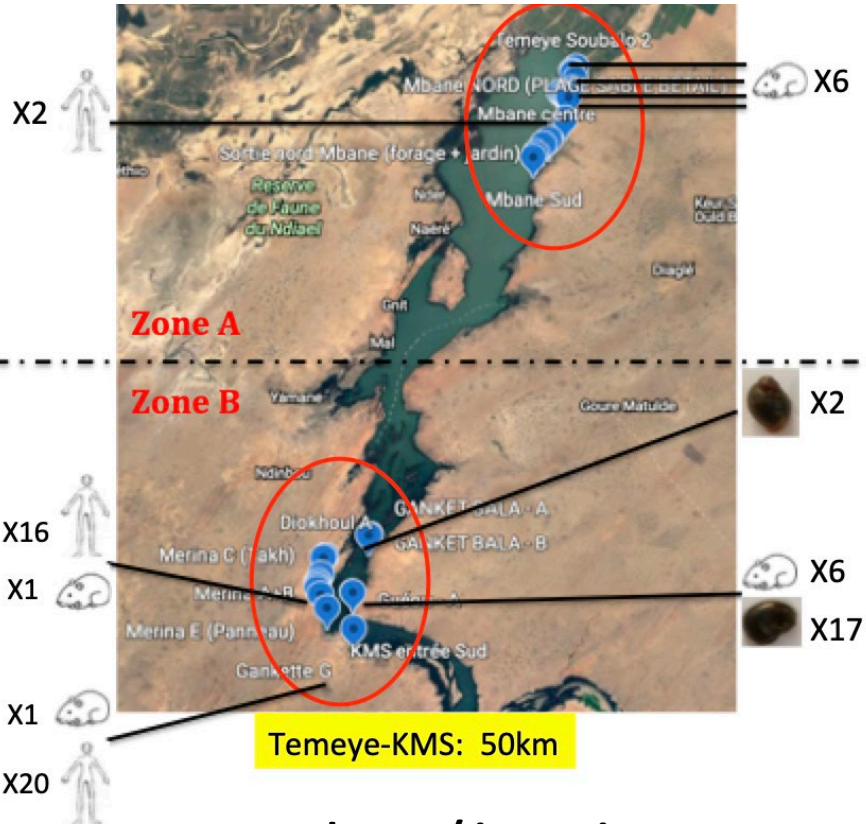
From populations (field)

To molecules

Epidemiology & Spatio-temporal dynamics

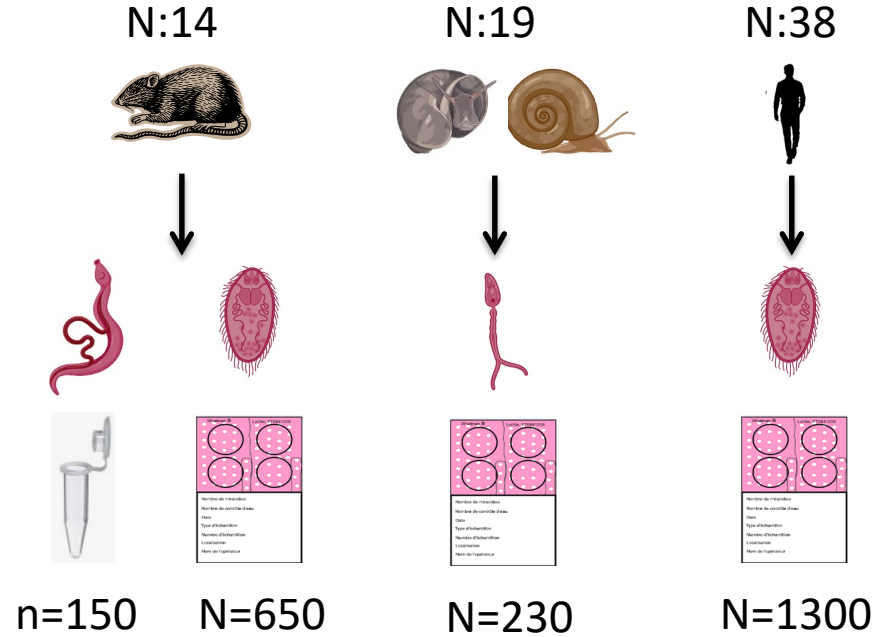
Molecular characterization of *S. mansoni* populations

Lac de Guiers - Senegal



- Prevalence / intensity

Sh, *S.h* x *S.b* hybrids and *S.m* in humans
Only *S.m* in rodents



- **Genetics:** (Cox-ITS) – **Species ID**
- **Genomics** (RADseq) - **Structure**

- **Experimental procedure**
(RAD optimisation & amplification bias)

One Health approach of zoonotic schistosomiasis in Senegal : a study from populations to molecules



3 BONNE SANTÉ
ET BIEN-ÊTRE



2 FAIM
« ZÉRO »



1 PAS
DE PAUVRETÉ

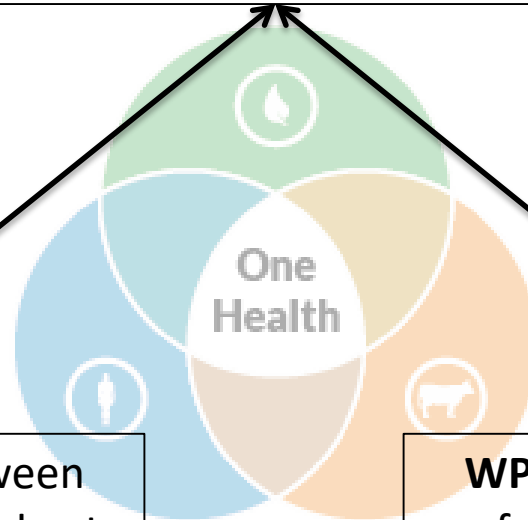


WHO roadmap for schistosomiasis elimination as a public health problem (2030)

Objectives: Assess the role of schistosomiasis zoonotic transmission in the persistence of the health risk and its consequences in terms of control.

Articulation of the proposal

WP1: Determine at a local scale the spatio-temporal dynamics of infection and parasitic gene flows at the human-animal-environment interface



WP3: Assess relationships between mass treatment of human pops, host changes and the risks of reduced parasite susceptibility to treatment

WP2: Identify the eco-evolutionary factors linked to schistosomiasis zoonotic transmission to anticipate and prevent health risks locally

IMPACTS: reduce the risks & provide decision-makers / local actors information for sustainable control and elimination of schistosomiasis



J. Boissier E. Toulza



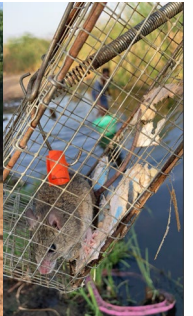
Thanks for your attention !



C. Brouat

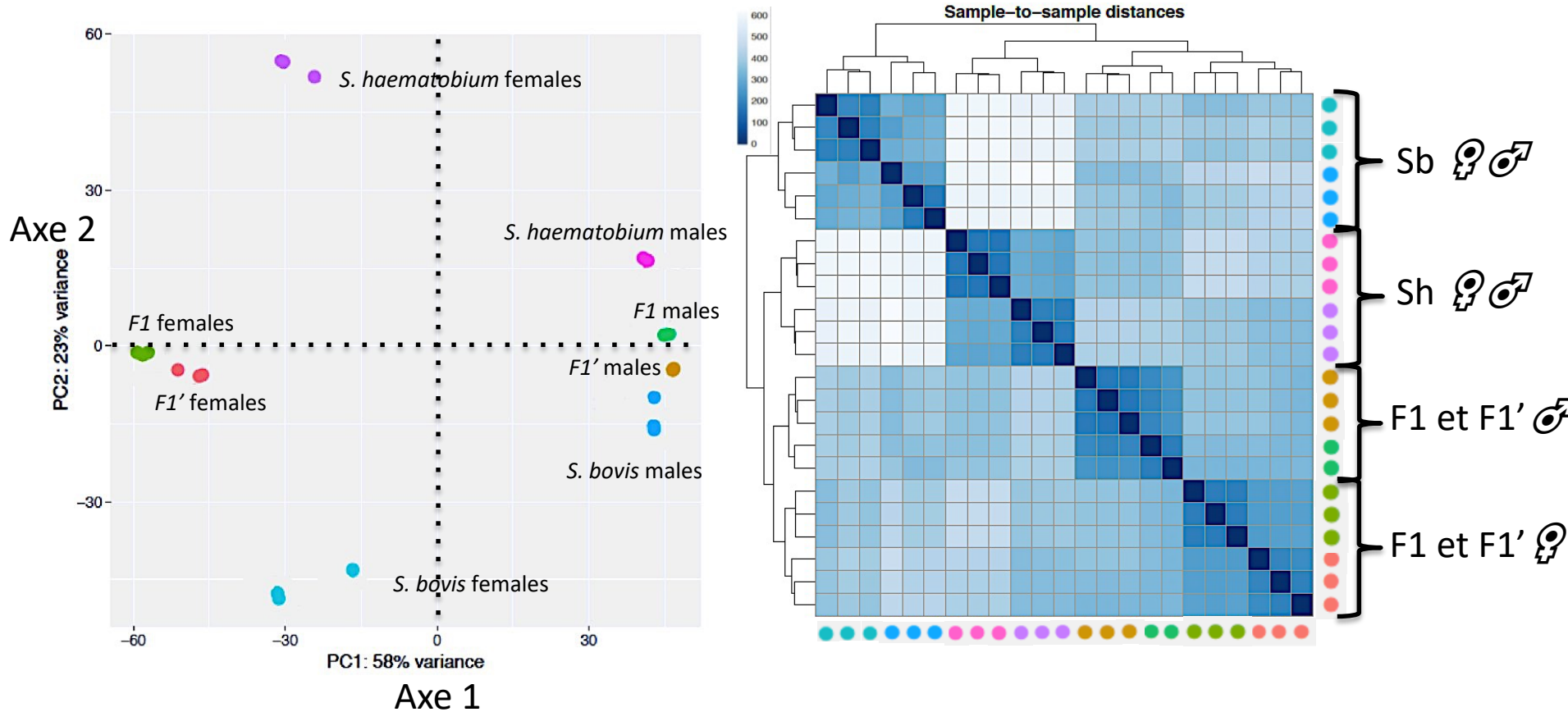


L. Granjon



Transcriptomic analysis between F1 and parents

- *De novo* assembly (common ref to all comparisons)
- Differential gene expression (perspectives : allele specific expression)

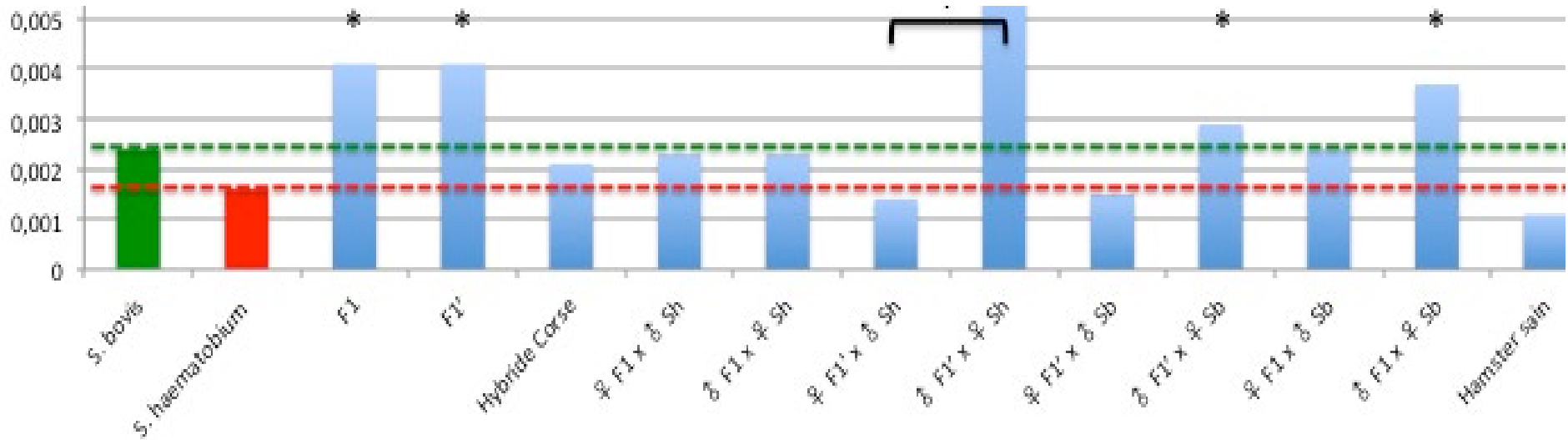


F1 intermediate = half of each parent's genes

Significant reprogramming of transcriptome (paper upcoming) « Genomic shock » (McClintock 1984)

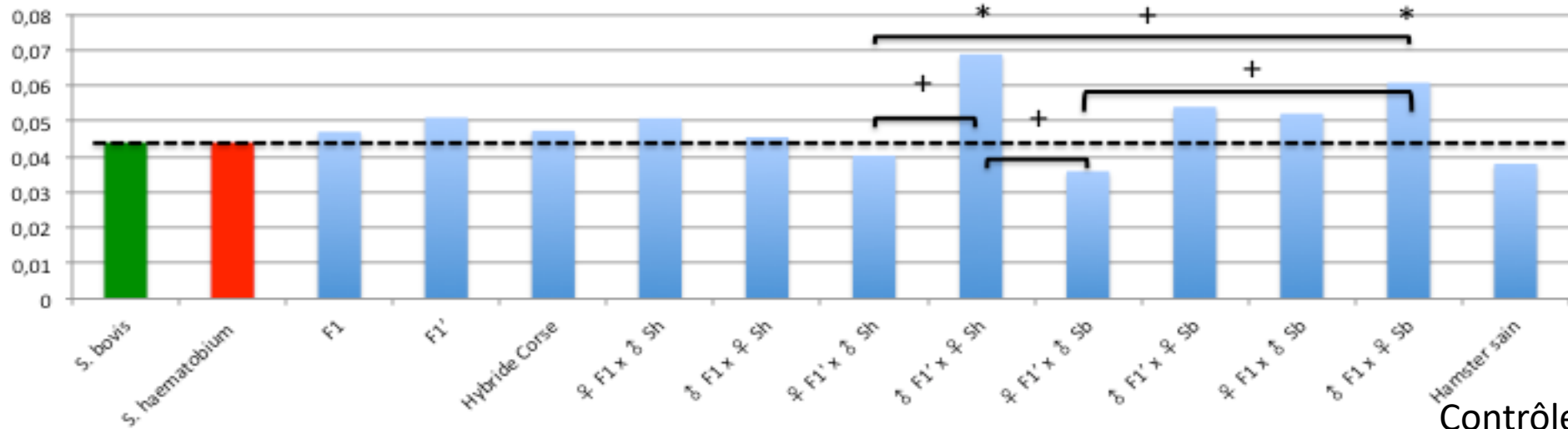
Pathologie induite

Mesures de splénomégalie



Contrôle

Mesures de l'hépatomégalie



Contrôle

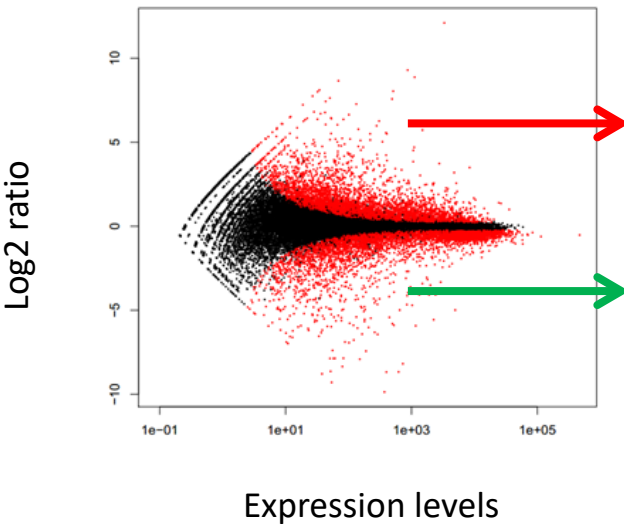
(*) Différences significatives avec les hamsters sains, (+) Différences significatives entre hybrides

Table 8: Host Induced Mortality. The lines are classified according to the host-induced mortality. Hamsters with an early perfusion date are animals for which we were able to measure all life traits in contrast to dead animals.

Lines	Number of infested animals	Number of dead hamsters	Hamsters perfused early (Nb. days after infestation)
♀ F1' x ♂ Sb	6	4	2 (63-67 days)
♂ F1' x ♀ Sh	6	3	1 (85 days)
♂ F1 x ♀ Sb	6	2	1 (82 days)
F1	7	2	1 (67 days)
F1'	7	2	1 (81 days)
♂ F1' x ♀ Sb	6	1	1 (80 days)
♀ F1 x ♂ Sh	6	1	0
♀ F1' x ♂ Sh	6	0	1 (85 days)

Mécanismes de régulation de l'expression génique

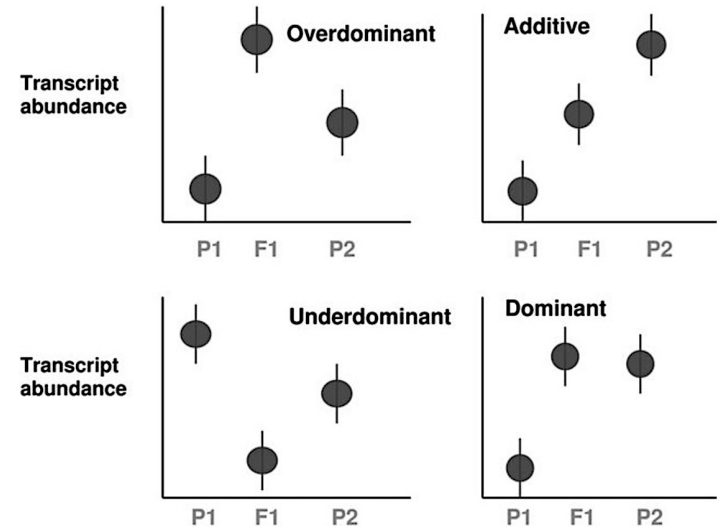
- Analyse du différentiel d'expression



S. haematobium

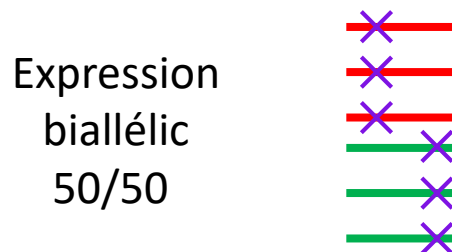
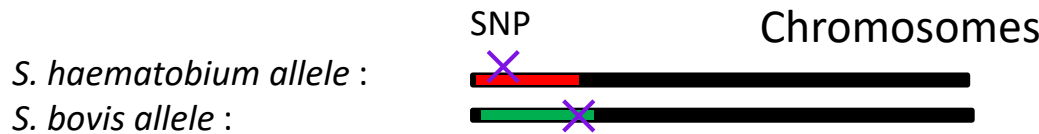
S. bovis

Modes d'actions des gènes

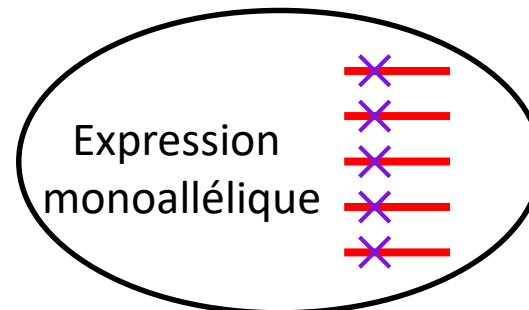


Autres mécanismes:

- Expression génique allèle spécifique et conflit allélique
- Gènes à expression espèce-spécifique: *S. haematobium* ou *S. bovis*



or

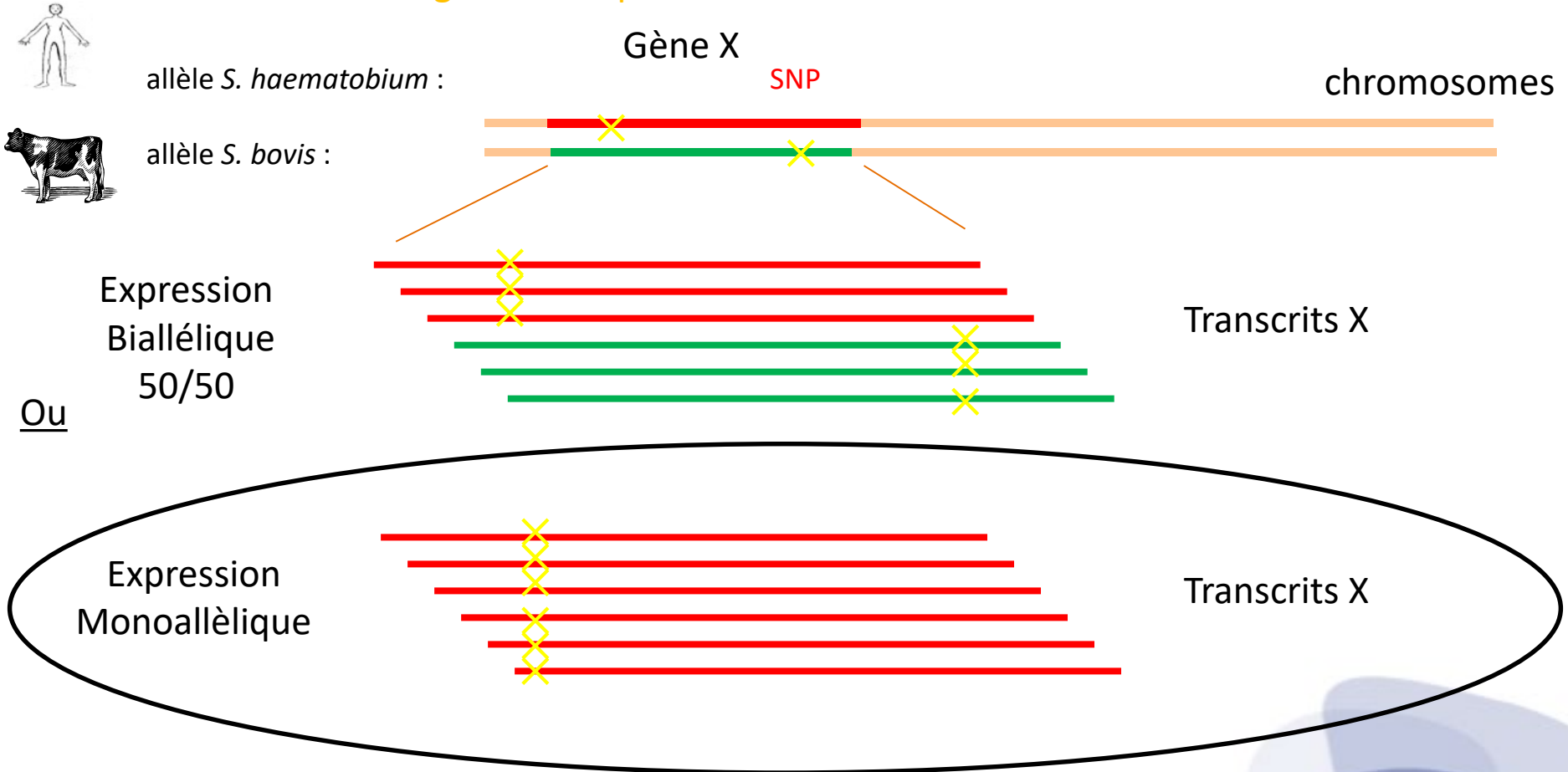


Expression de l'allèle *S. haematobium*

Gène de virulence ?

Analyse transcriptomique

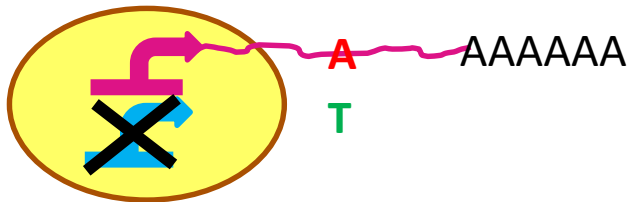
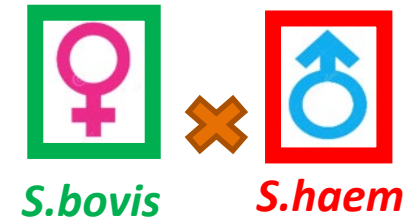
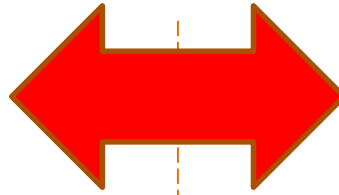
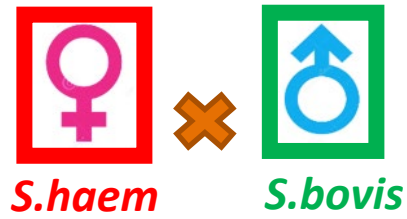
Quel génome impose son allèle dans la descendance ?



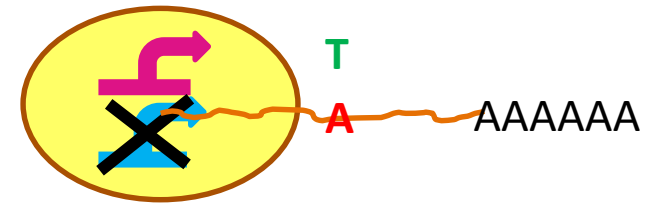
Effet de l'espèce *S. haematobium*

Gène de virulence?

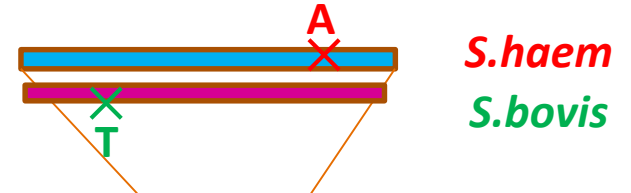
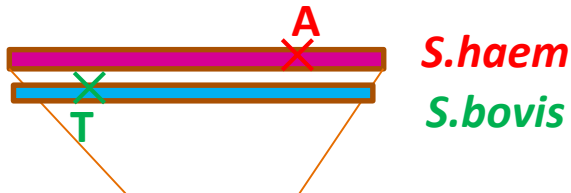
Comparaison entre croisements réciproques



Expression de l'allèle *S. haem* / Maternel



Expression de l'allèle *S. haem* / Paternel



Effet de l'espèce *S. haematobium*