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## What is molecular ecology?

Artificially delimited discipline – ecological and evolutionary questions are answered by molecular-genetic approaches.



Classical problems and questions of ecology (zoology, evolutionary biology)

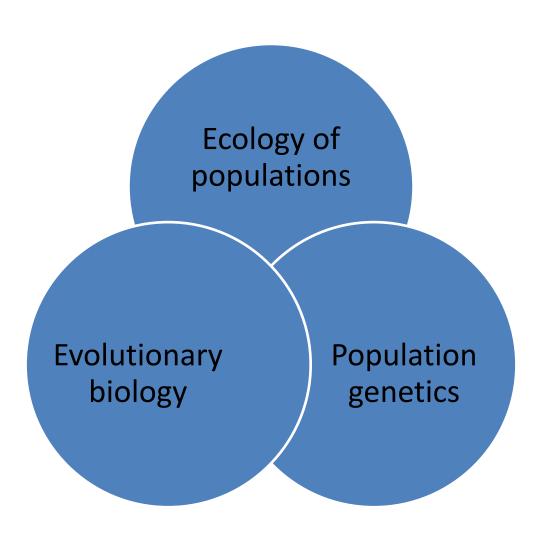


Molecular-genetic data and population-genetic analyses

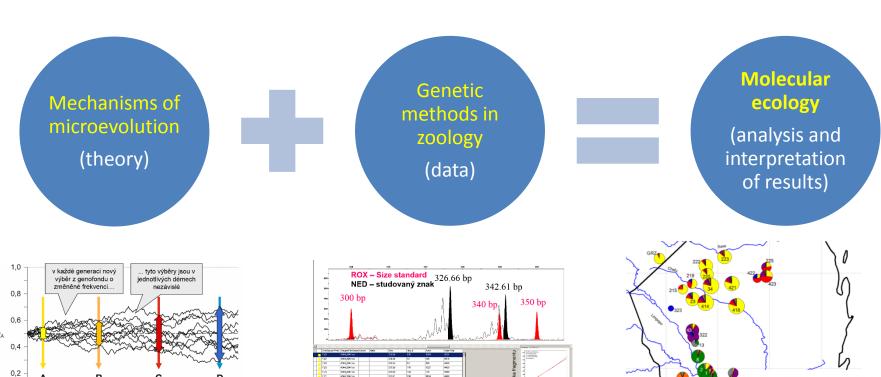
It works on different levels of DNA variability (genome, individuals, populations, groups of populations or closely related species)

It is in fact applied population genetics – analyses and interprets moleculargenetic data

## Interdisciplinary



## Molecular ecology



Genotyp mikrosatelitu na lokusu NED = 326/342 nebo 327/343

Programy: GeneMapper, Genotyper, Geneious, GeneMarker, ...

Závěr 9: Drift vede k divergenci mezi démy.

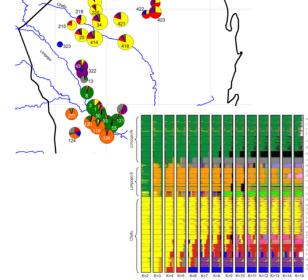
120

Generace

160

200

0,0



## It is popular ...

- journal Molecular Ecology (from 1992) now 24 issues/year
- **Textbooks**

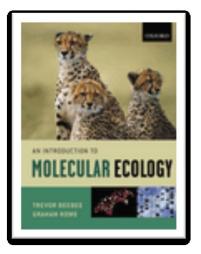
#### **MOLECULAR ECOLOGY**

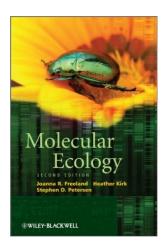
MOLECULAR **ECOLOGY** 

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#### Volume 21







Issue 3 - Special Issue Issue 4

















Issue 12





Issue 14



Issue 15



Issue 16







Issue 19







Issue 22



Issue 23



Issue 24

#### MOLECULAR ECOLOGY RESOURCES

Editors-in-Chief: Shawn Narum and Ben Sibbett

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#### Latest issue

Volume 25, Issue 7 October 2025

- Molecular Ecology Resources encourages development of broad resources for the community including computer programs, statistical and molecular advances, and extensive molecular tools. The journal is a vehicle for dissemination of these resources, targeting a wide audience of researchers in the fields of evolution, ecology, and conservation. Articles in Molecular Ecology Resources are intended to facilitate studies addressing consequential questions in these fields.
- In addition to novel resource articles, *Molecular Ecology Resources* publishes relevant Reviews, Opinions, and Comments. The journal also publishes occasional Special Issues that emphasize development of resources in a particular area.

Versite 4, Norther 2 March 2003

#### **Environmental DNA**

Stores Administra

Dedicated to the study and use of environmental DNA for basic and applied sciences

Editor-in-Chief, Louis Beautotes.







- Experimental eDNA work: Testing the impact of physico-chemical factors (e.g. natural biogeochemistry and PCR pollutants) on eDNA, degradation, transport, shedding and detection rate, comparing detectionand abundance estimate with conventional methods.
- Trophic and community ecology: Ecosystem dynamics, functional diversity, predator-prey interactions (e.g. diet analysis), host-associated microbiota.
- Palaeo-environments: Past species and community diversity and abundance measurements, inference in space and time.
- Biomonitoring, conservation biology: Single- and multi-species detection, comprehensive biodiversity at different scales, abundance estimates, detection of rare, cryptic and endangered species, non-invasive sampling, management (e.g. fisheries), occurrence and detection estimates.
- Invasion biology: Early species detection at low abundance, passive surveillance, impacts on ecosystems, vectors and pathways of dispersal.
- Environmental assessment: Impacts of pollutants and other environmental disturbance on species and communities, microbial source tracking (fecal bacteria or pathogens).
- Physical eDNA properties: Uptake and transformation based on geochemistry, particles, organic chemistry or microbial community.
- **Techniques and methods:** Engineering development, developing, testing and evaluating eDNA biotechnology and biostatistical approaches.
- ◆ Applications in citizen science and biodiversity education

#### Why use genetic methods in ecology?

- No other choice
- cryptic species
- paternity mating is elusive and not always lead to fertilization
- identification (species, sex, individual) from feaces or feathers
- barriers to gene flow not obvious from other data
- number of migrants
- genetic basis of adaptations (e.g. immune genes)

#### Why use genetic methods in ecology?

- ecological, evolutionary, and population genomics
- population structure and phylogeography
- landscape genomics
- community ecology and coevolution
- reproductive strategies
- relatedness and kin selection
- sex allocation
- population genetic theory
- analytical methods development
- conservation genetics
- speciation and hybridization
- microbial biodiversity
- evolutionary dynamics of QTLs
- ecological interactions
- molecular adaptation and environmental genomics
- impact of genetically modified organisms
- indigenous perspectives/methodologies

#### **MOLECULAR ECOLOGY**

# How to obtain genetic data – viz Genetic methods in zoology

### Genotyping – analysis of genotypes

- identification of specific form of particular DNA molecule/fragment (=alele or haplotype) - selection of the marker type depends on the level of genetic variability in population/species
- 1) DNA extraction from tissues
- 2) PCR amplification (in PCR-based methods)
- 3) analysis of marker (lokus) variability

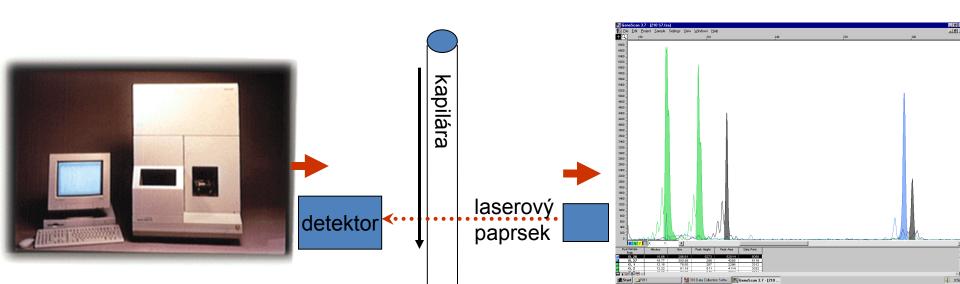
### "Molecular genetic" methods

- analysis of DNA polymorphism
- length polymorfism (e.g. microsatellites)

## CGCACATCTCTAGCTTCGATTCAGGAA CGCATCTCTAGCTTTGATTCAGGAA

#### Separation of DNA fragments according their size

- Agarosa up to 15 bp difference
- Polyacrylamide more precise (4 bp)
- Capillary electrophoresis even 1bp differences (fluorescently-labelled fragments)



## "Molecular-genetic" methods

- analysis of DNA polymorphism
- sequence polymorphism ("SNPs"):

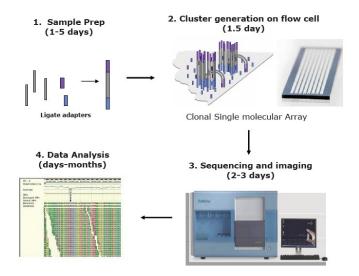
CGCATCTCTAGCTTCGATTCAGGAA

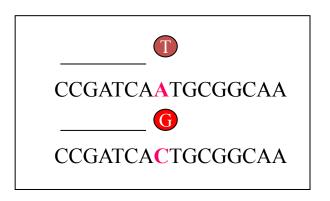
CGCATCTCTAGCTTTGATTCAGGAA

diploid genotype: C/T

#### Methods for analysis of sequence variability

- Sanger sequencing (very good for mtDNA, less for nDNA problém with heterozygotes)
- SNP ("single nucleotide polymorphism") genotyping např. RFLP, SSCP, microarrays – chips, atd.
- high-throughput sequencing





#### Population-genetic datasets

#### microsatellites

Ind	Marker 1	Marker 2
Ind_1	170/172	133/136
Ind_2	168/172	133/139
Ind_3	168/168	136/139

#### SINE

Ind	Marker 1	Marker 2
Ind_1	+/-	-/-
Ind_2	+/+	+/+
Ind_3	-/-	+/-

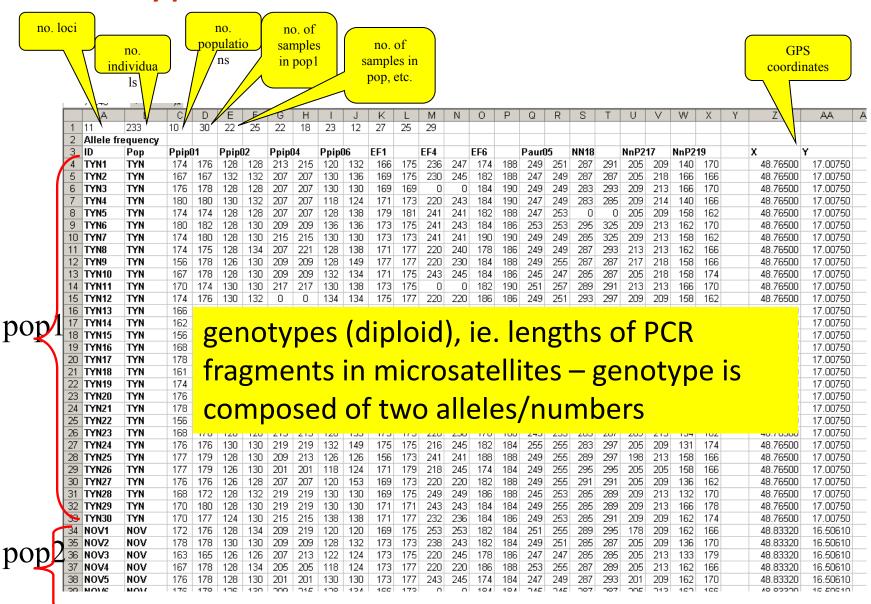
#### **SNPs**

Ind	Marker 1	Marker 2
Ind_1	A/T	C/T
Ind_2	A/T	T/T
Ind_3	T/T	C/T

#### **AFLP**

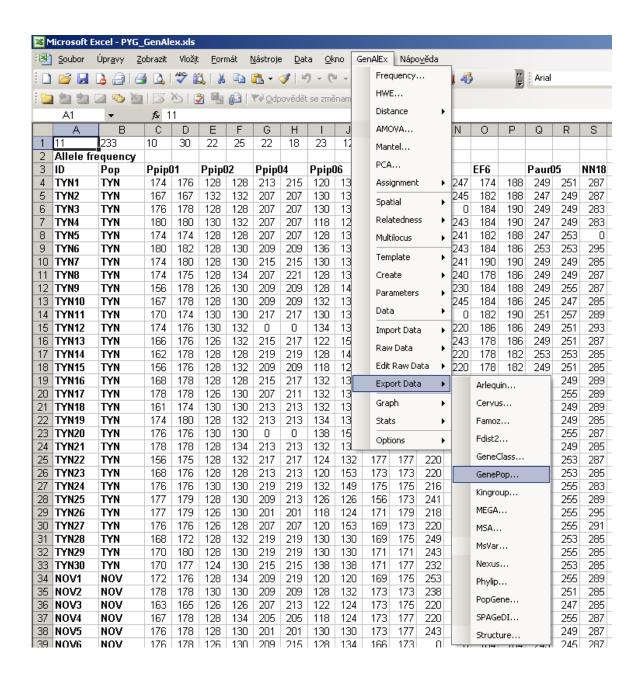
Ind	Marker 1	Marker 2
Ind_1	+	-
Ind_2	+	+
Ind_3	-	-

### Types of data – codomiant markers



#### GenAlex





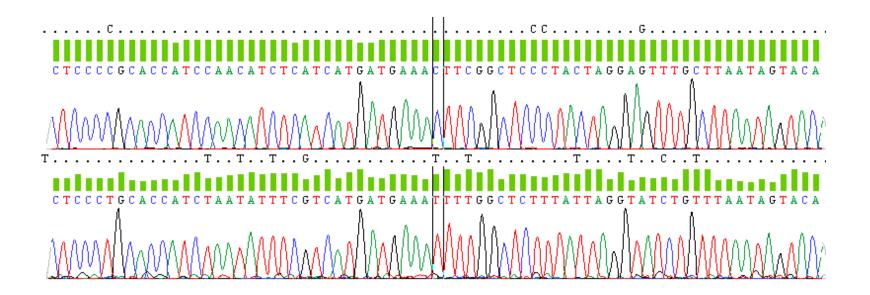
http://www.anu.edu.au/BoZo/GenAlEx/

```
Soubor Úpravy Formát Zobrazení Nápověda
Title line: "Genotype file for Pipistrellus data
|Ppip01
Ppip02
Ррір04
Ppip06
EF1
EF4
EF6
Paur 05
NN18
NnP217
NnP219
  Pop1, 1820 0505 0809 0511 0308 1321 0209 0506 0608 1214 0513
  Pop1, 1111 0707 0505 1013 0508 0920 0609 0405 0606 1219 1212
  Pop1, 2022 0505 0505 1010 0505 0000 0710 0505 0409 1416 1213
  Pop1, 2424 0607 0505 0407 0607 0419 0710 0405 0405 1417 0512
  Pop1, 1818 0505 0505 0914 1011 1717 0609 0407 0000 1214 1011
  Pop1, 2426 0506 0606 1313 0708 1719 0708 0707 1014 1416 1113
  Pop1, 1824 0506 0909 1010 0707 1717 1010 0505 0514 1416 1011
  Pop1, 1819 0508 0512 0914 0609 0416 0408 0505 0609 1616 1112
             0406 0606 0919 0909 0409 0709 0508 0606 1819 1012
  Pop1, 1122 0506 0606 1112 0608 1920 0708 0304 0506 1219 1014
Pop1, 1418 0606 1010 1014 0708 0000 0610 0609 0708 1616 1213
  Pop1, 1820 0607 0000 1212 0809 0404 0808 0506 0911 1414 1011
  Pop1, 1020 0407 0910 0621 0505 0419
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        0722 0505 1111 0919 0709 0404 0406 0707 0505 0212 1212
        0220 0507 0606 0409 0910 0404 0406 0506 0514 1616 1214
  Pop1, 1222 0505 0910 1112 0708 1919 0404 0405 0707 1214 1113
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  Pop1, 1824 0507 0808 1212 0505 0404 0206 0505 0505 1416 0101
  Pop1, 2020 0606 0000 1420 0606 2121 0809 0508 0606 1414 0112
  Popl. 2222 0508 0808 1112 0607 2020 0509 0405 0506 1414 0609
  Pop1, 0219 0507 1010 0711 0909 0404 0506 0607 0611 1418 1313
  Pop1, 1220 0505 0808 0521 0707 0413 0405 0307 0506 1416 0911
  Pop1, 2020 0606 1111 1119 0808 0220 0607 0808 0411 1214 0114
  Popl, 2123 0506 0608 0808 0207 1717 0909 0508 0711 0916 1012
  Pop1, 2123 0406 0202 0407 0610 0320 0207 0508 1010 1212 1012
  Pop1, 2020 0405 0505 0521 0507 0404 0609 0508 0808 1214 0411
  Popl, 1216 0507 1111 1010 0508 2222 0809 0307 0507 1416 0213
  Popl, 1424 0506 1111 1010 0606 1919 0707 0508 0507 1416 1216
  Popl, 1421 0306 0909 1414 0609 1113 0708 0507 0508 1414 1114
  Pop2, 1620 0508 0611 0505 0508 2323 0607 0608 0710 0214 1112
Pop2, 2222 0606 0606 0911 0707 1419 0607 0506 0506 1214 0413
  Pop2, 0809 0404 0508 0607 0708 0420 0408 0404 0505 1216 0317
  Pop2, 1122 0508 0404 0407 0709 0404 0809 0708 0607 1216 1112
              0506 0202 1010 0709 1920 0207 0405 0609 1014 1113
              0406 0609 0912 0307 0000 0707 0303 0606 1216 1112
  Pop2, 1414 0506 0000 1111 0709 2020 0206 0307 0606 1012 1212
              0505 0710 1111 0708 2020 0709 0305
        2020 0405 0208 1021 0606 0412 0607 0305 0606 1212 1012
  Pop2, 1820 0505 0808 0809 0709 0319 0710 0407 0000 1212 0212
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  Pop2, 2024 0607 1010 1212 0307 1920 0809 0407 0505 1414 1213
  Pop2, 2024 0509 0202 1515 0206 0420 0307 0508 0707 1414 1112
  Pop2, 1624 0507 0205 1115 0208 0420 0709 0205 0707 1214 1215
  Pop2, 1621 0607 1010 0921 0609 2222 0708 0707 1415 1416 1113
Pop2, 1616 0506 0508 1010 0607 0517 0306 0509 0608 1117 1215
  Pop2, 1420 0507 0909 1010 0708 0416 0710 0506 0506 1214 0912
  Pop2, 2024 0405 1111 0910 0507 1921 0709 0105 0607 1014 0912
  Pop2, 1620 0508 0611 0406 0511 0319 0610 0506 0610 0212 0211
  Pop2, 1220 0505 0609 0909 0809 1717 0208 0708 0606 1416 0412
  Pop2, 2222 0506 0808 1010 0608 1919 0708 0307 0506 1114 0210
  Pop3, 2125 0407 0000 0606 0606 0000 0409 0708 0406 1616 0513
  Pop3, 1620 0405 0609 1414 0708 1418 0203 0405 0505 1015 1011
  Pop3, 1818 0205 0910 1010 0307 0505 0609 0411 0410 1115 1112
  Pop3, 1823 0406 1010 0306 0810 1420 0208 0303 0809 1212 0712
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                                             GMZ_lectures
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## Genepop file format – simple ASCI .txt

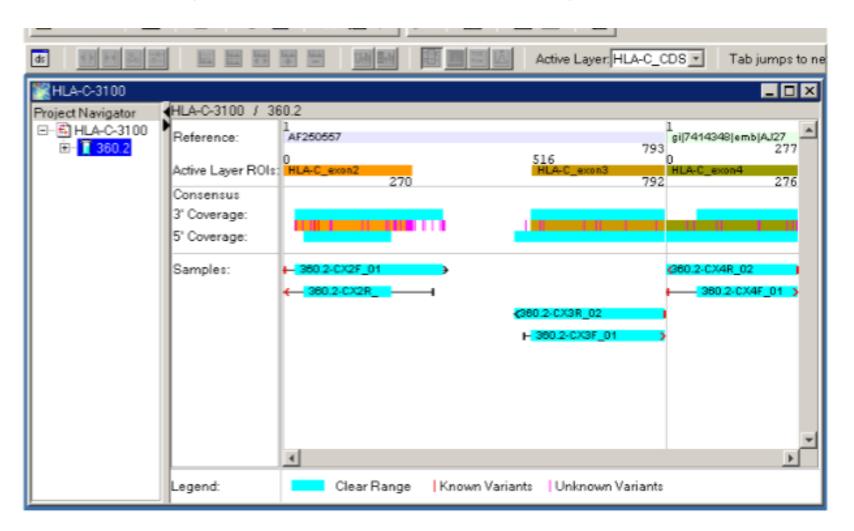
alely for each locus are ranked according size and renumbered
eg. 128/130 is transformed to 10/11

#### **Sanger sequencing**



#### **DNA** sequences

"Alignment" → contig (different sequencing reactions from multiple PCR from the same specimen)



#### Illumina fastq format

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 @HWI-ST226:253:D14WFACXX:2:1101:2743:29814 1 N:0 ATCACG

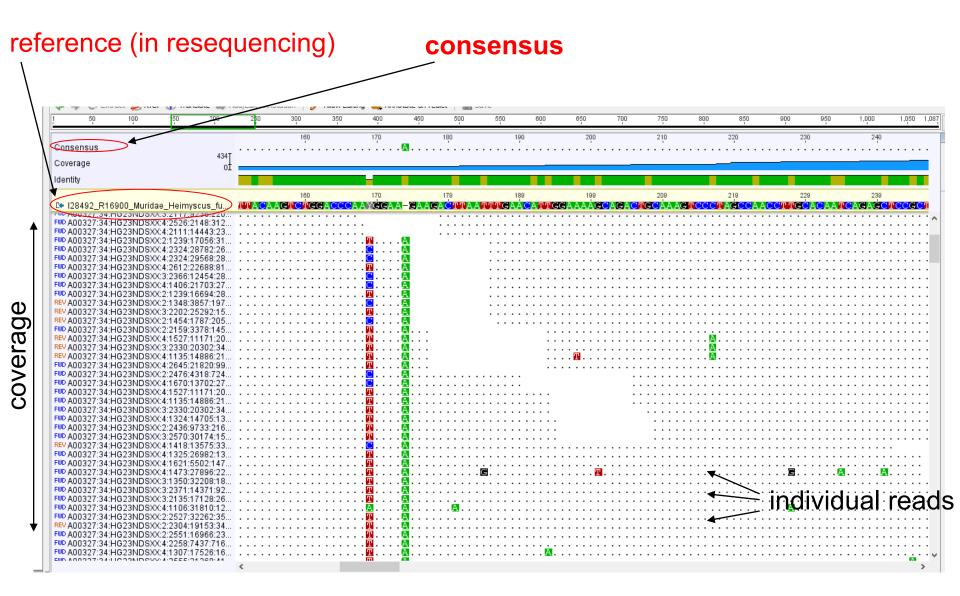
TGCGGAAGGATCATTGTGGAATTCTCGGGTGCCAAGGAACTCCAGTCACATCACGATCTCGTATGCCGTCTTCTGCTT

+

B@CFFFFFHHFFHJIIGHIHIJJIJIIJJGDCHIIIJJJJJJJJGJGIHHEH@) =F@EIGHHEHFFFFDCBBD:@CC@C :<CDDDD50559<B##########

- unique instrument ID and run ID
- Flow cell ID and lane
- 3. tile number within the flow cell lane
- 4. 'x'-coordinate of the cluster within the tile
- 'y'-coordinate of the cluster within the tile
- 6. the member of a pair, /1 or /2 (paired-end or mate-pair reads only)
- N if the read passes filter, Y if read fails filter otherwise
- Index sequence

## Contig from "reads" obtained by HTS (high-throughput sequencing)

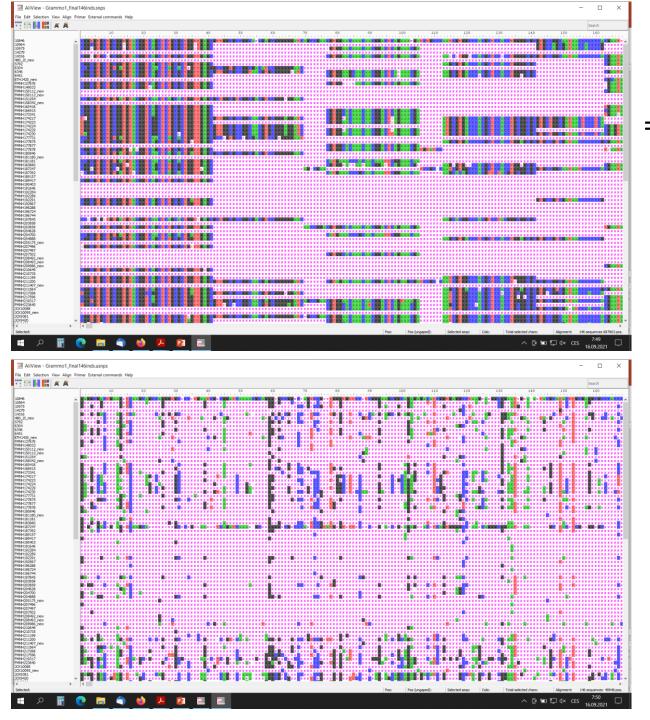


## Comparison of sequences between different individuals



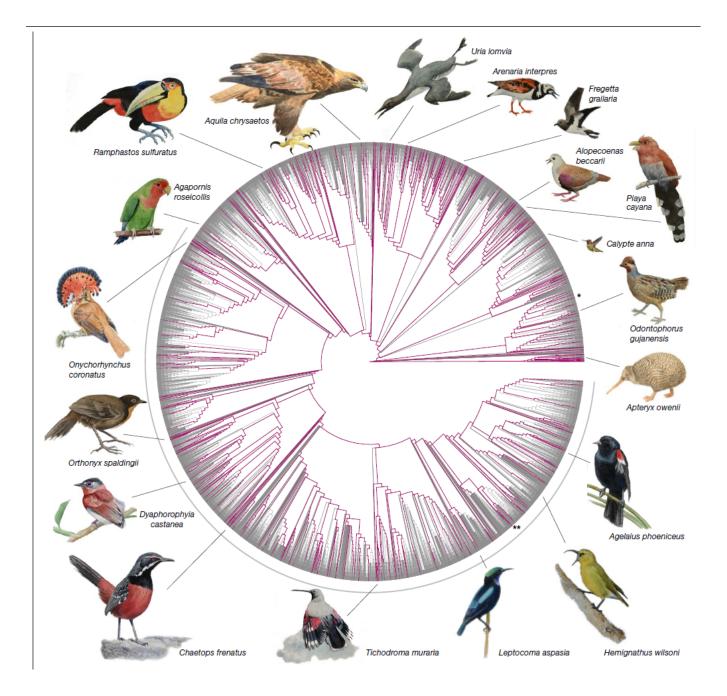
1\_Introduction11 [Re... 2\_Analyza DNA II\_se...

CS 🔇 🛜 🍒 🥦 🤣 7:3



ddRAD
("snps" file)
= 500 000 bp (závisí na intenzitě sekvenování etc.)
1 row = 1 specimen

ddRAD ("usnps" file) = 1 SNP/locus = 50 000 SNPs



complete genomes (Feng et al. 2020 Nature)

# So, what now with these datasets ...