

# **Evolutionary Origins of Compartmentalized Cells**

**The prokaryote-to-eukaryote transition**

**The energetics of genome complexity**

**Bangalore 2012**



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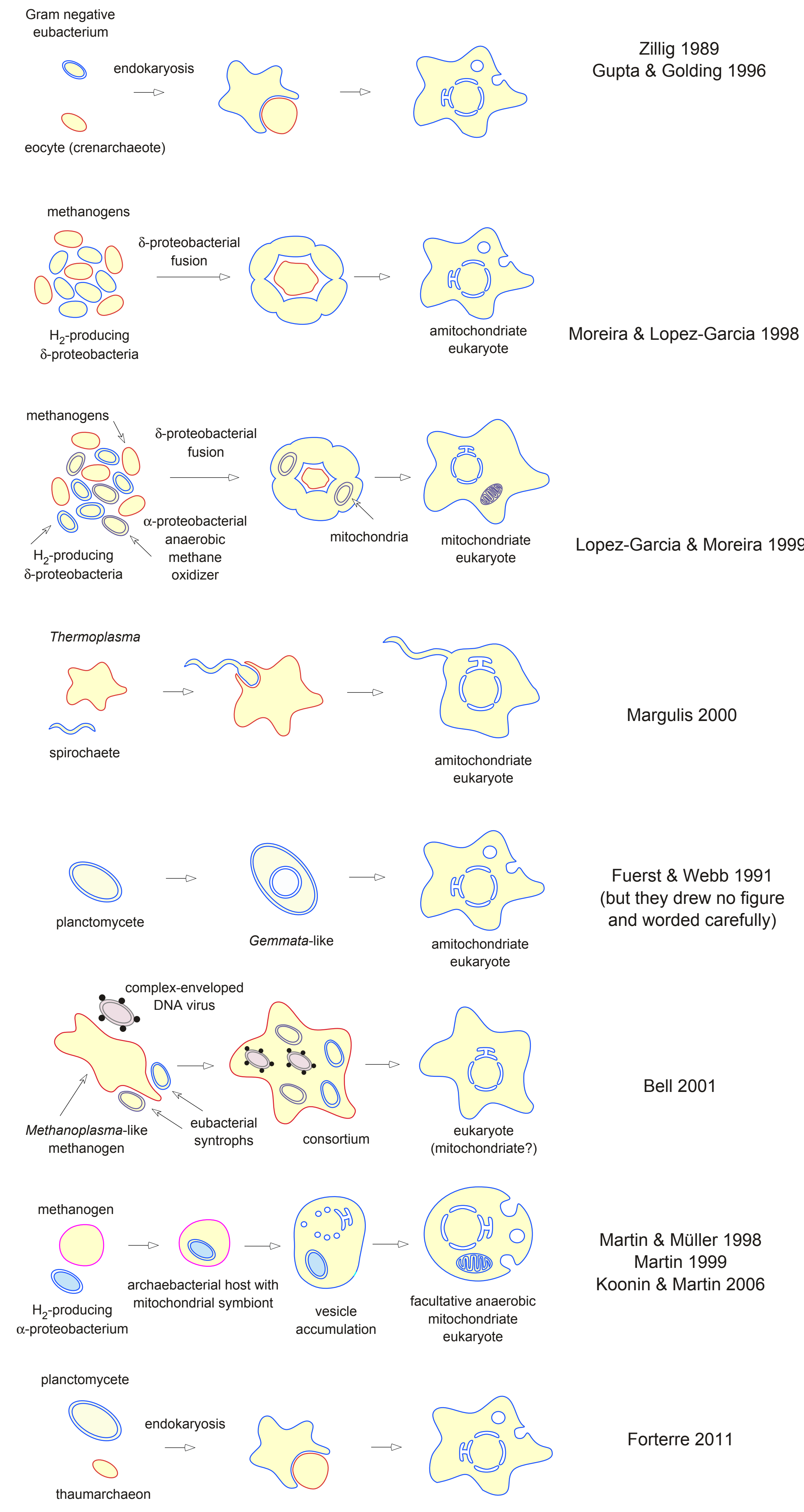
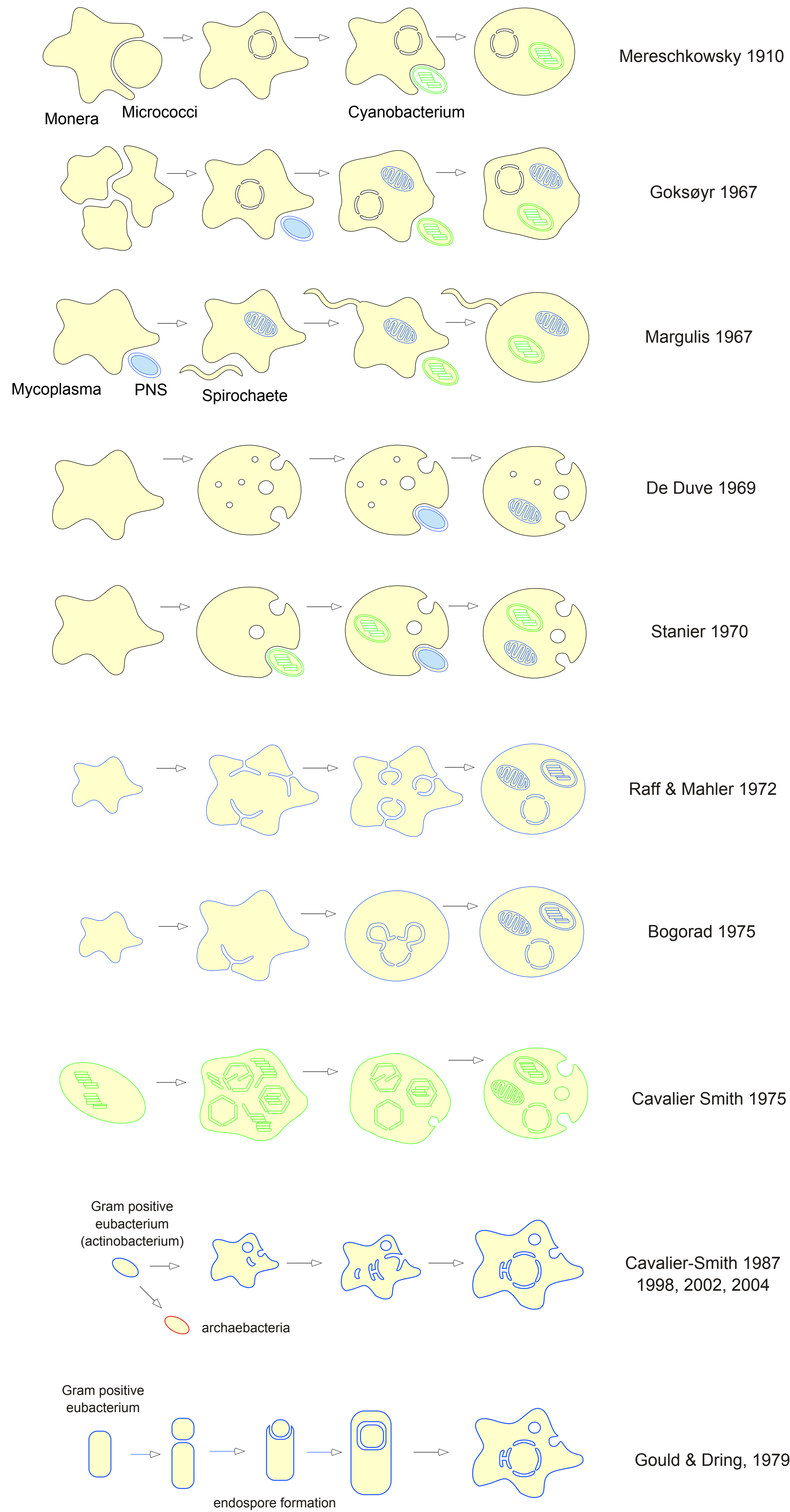
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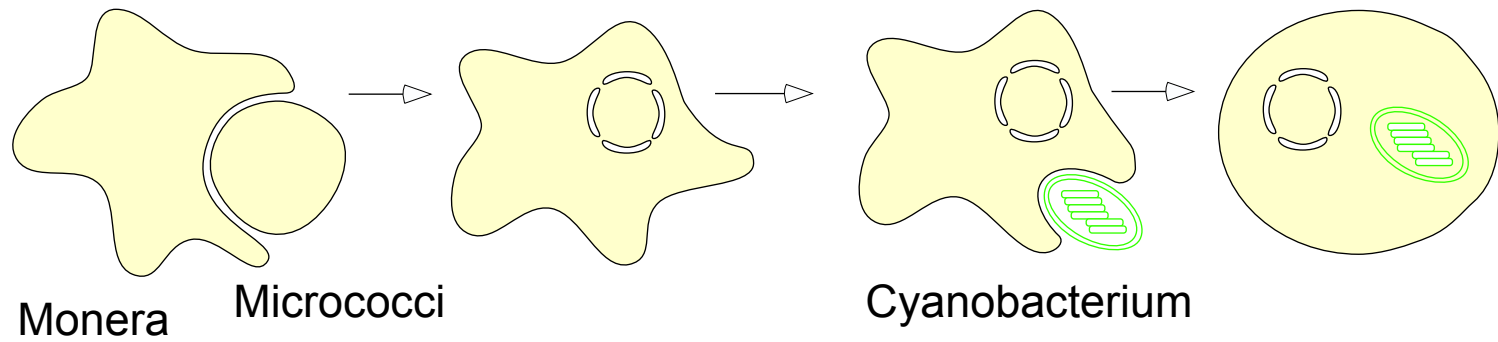
A well-nourished human makes ~60 kg ATP per day (~500 tonnes per generation).

Origin of compartmentation in eukaryotes, there are a lot of models

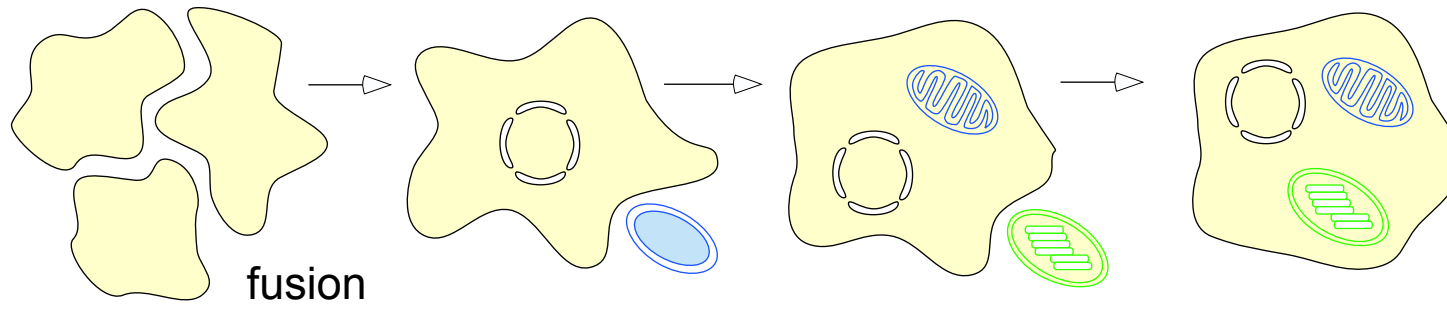


# Origin of compartmentation in eukaryotes, there are a lot of models

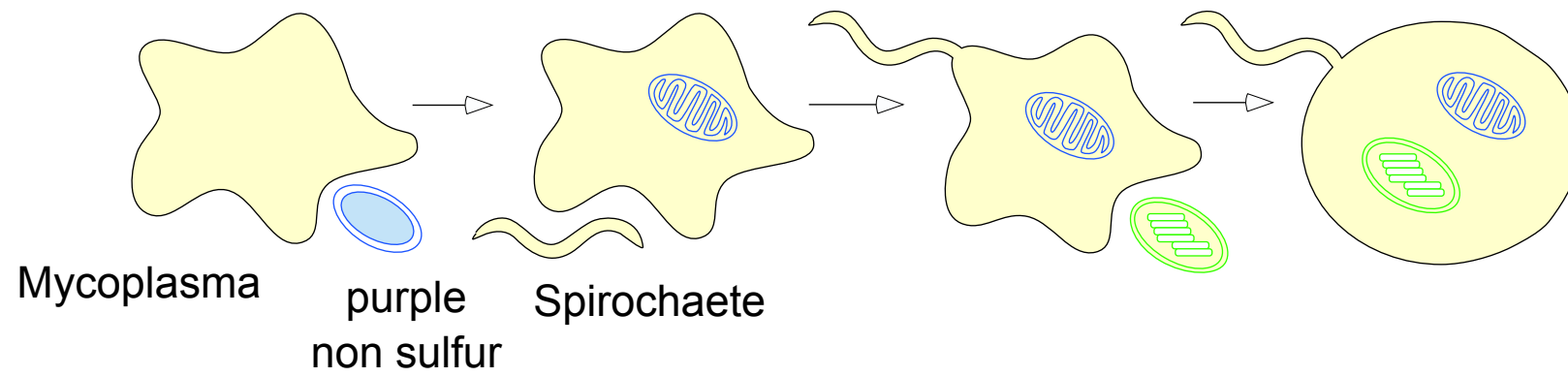




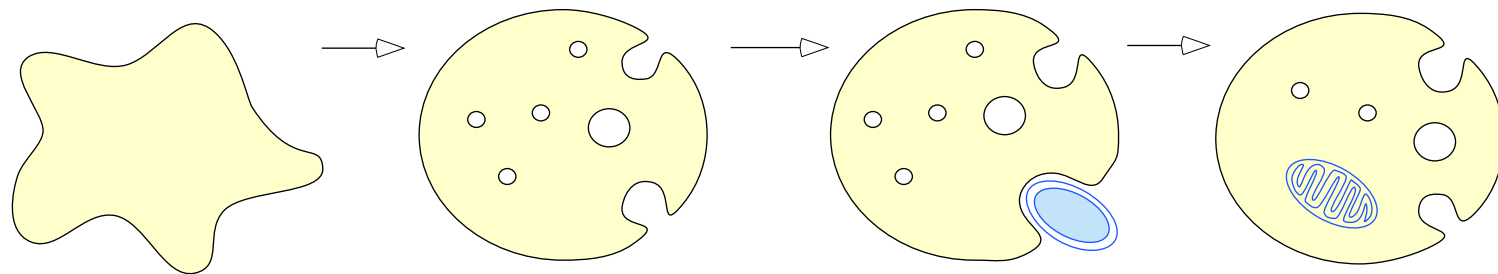
Mereschkowsky 1910



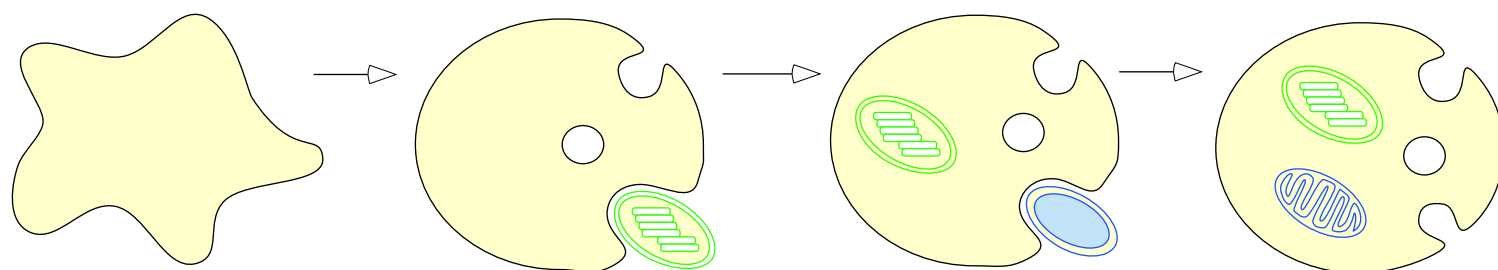
Goksøyr 1967



Margulis 1967

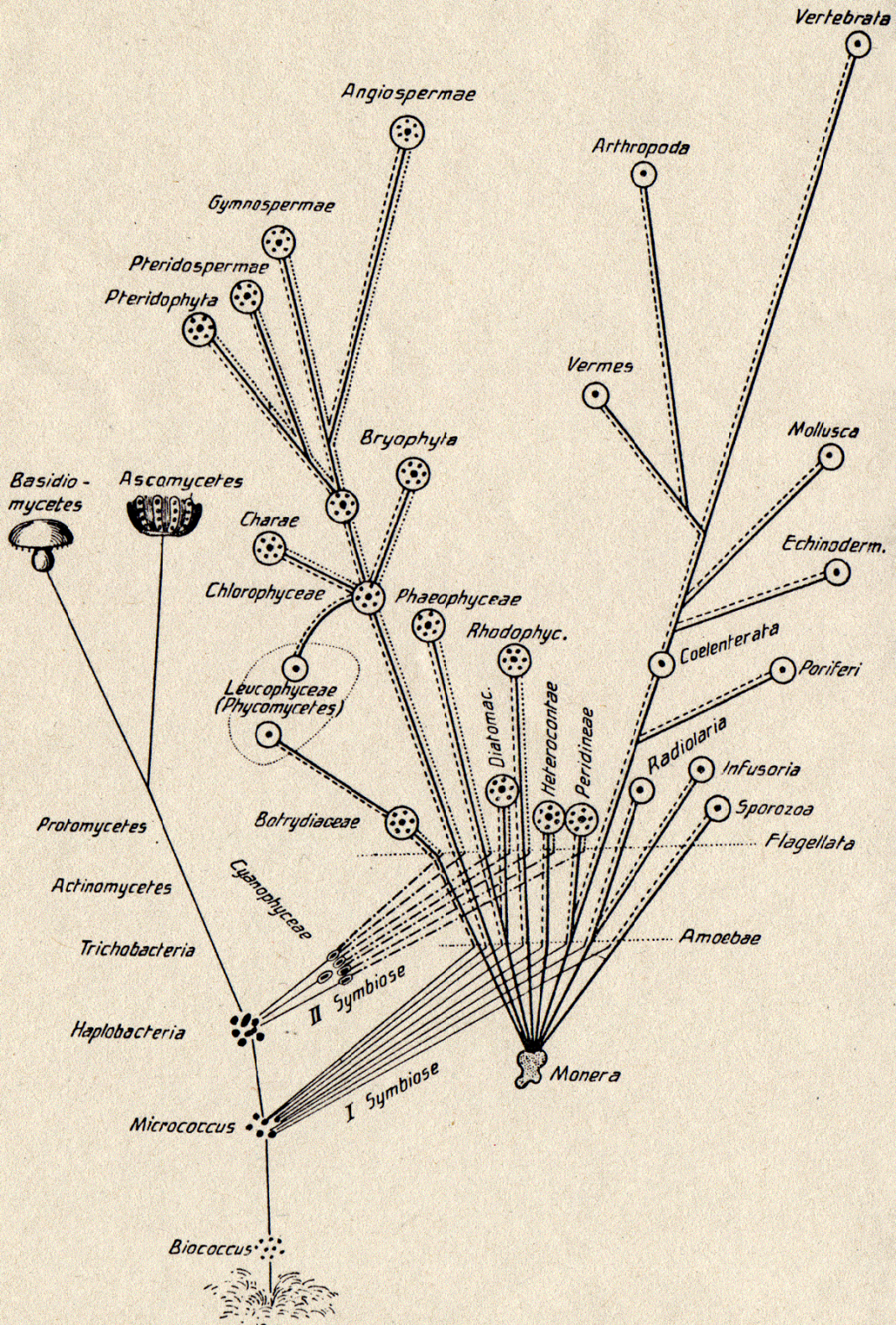


De Duve 1969



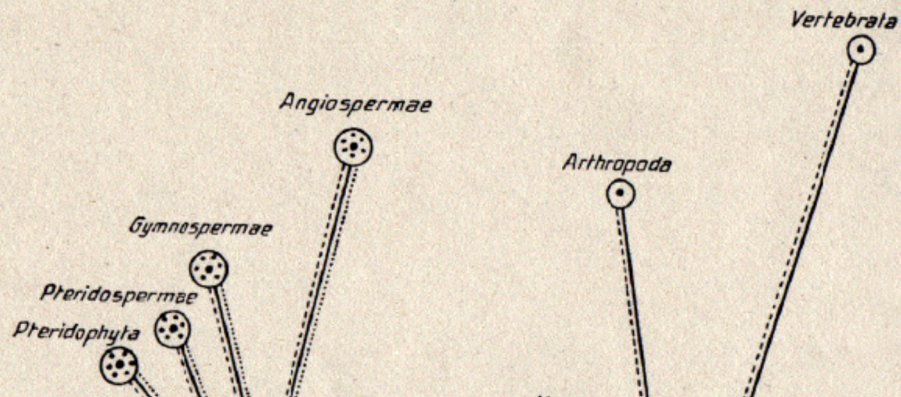
Stanier 1970

Noch eine Schlussfolgerung meiner Theorie ist die Aufhebung des Reiches der Protisten — dieser Zoophyten des 19. Jahrhunderts,



welche ein Reich von Übergangsorganismen vorstellen sollen, die sich noch nicht in echte Tiere oder echte Pflanzen differenziert hätten.

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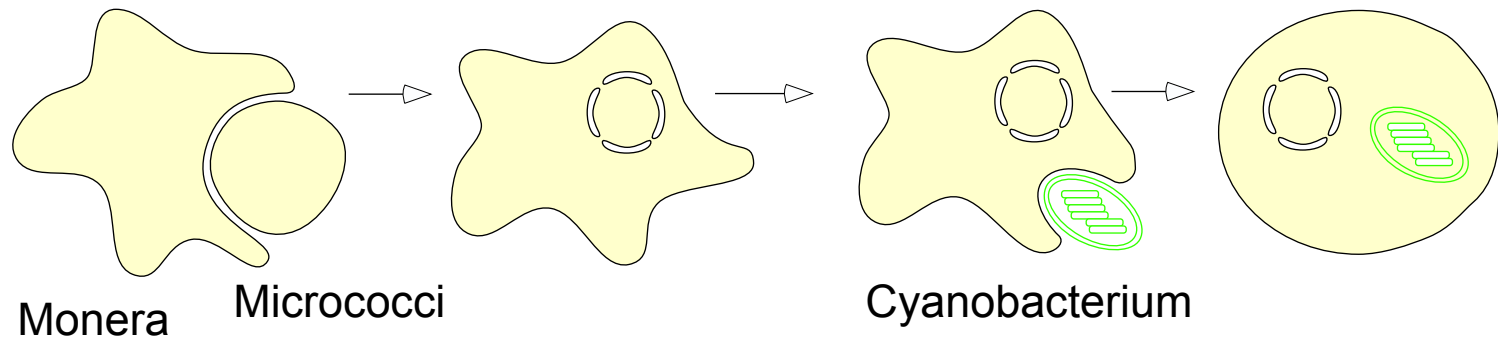
“Such an hypothesis [endosymbiosis] is of course unverifiable, and for this reason will to many appear worthless. .... To many no doubt, such speculations may seem too fantastic for mention in polite biological society; nevertheless it is within the range of possibility that they may someday call for more serious consideration.” (1926)

## THE CELL IN DEVELOPMENT AND HEREDITY

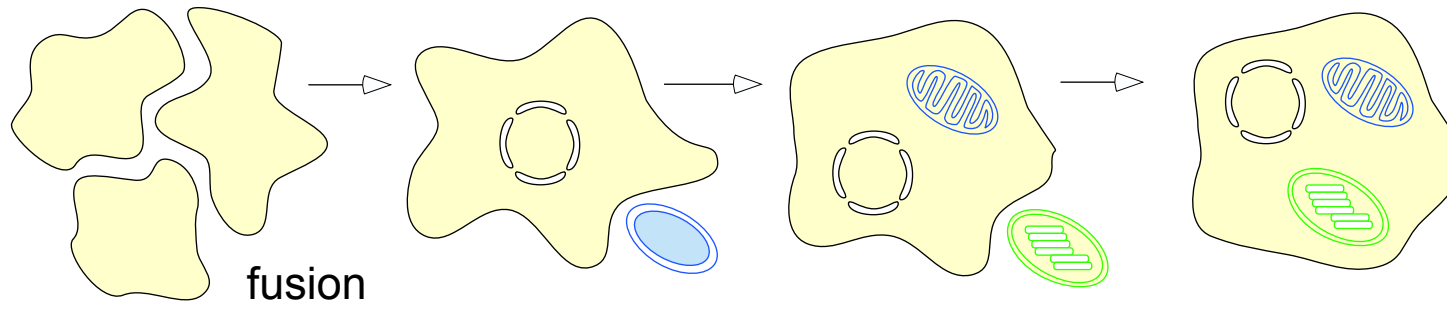
Edmund B. Wilson



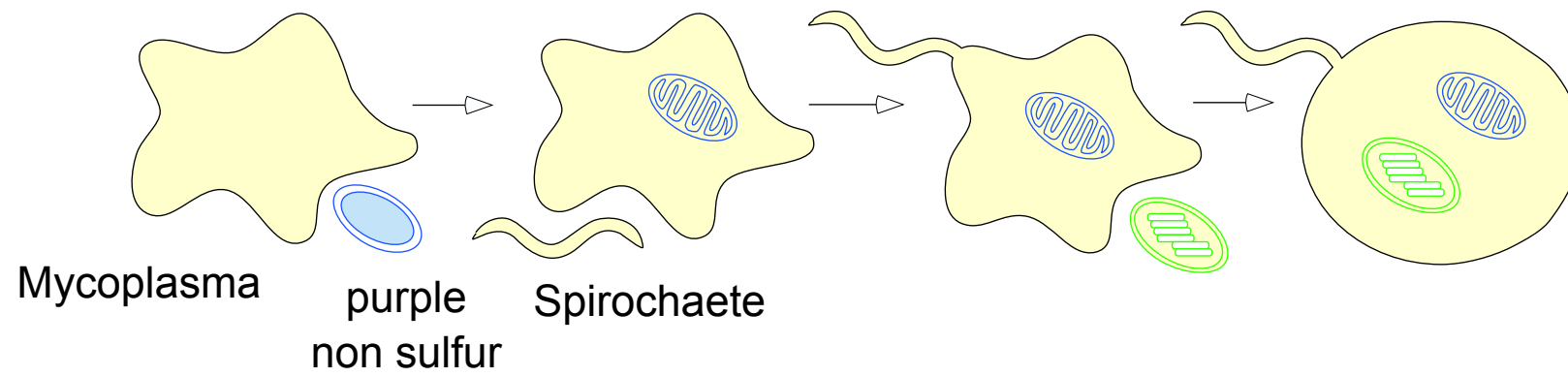
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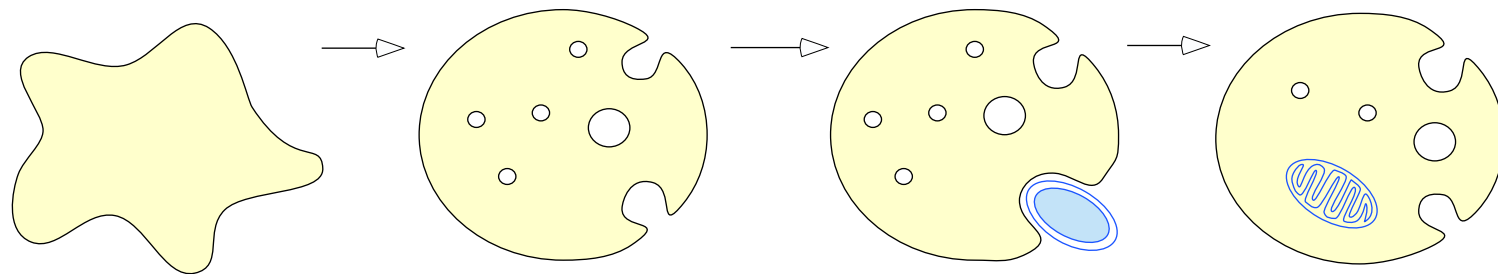
Mereschkowsky 1910



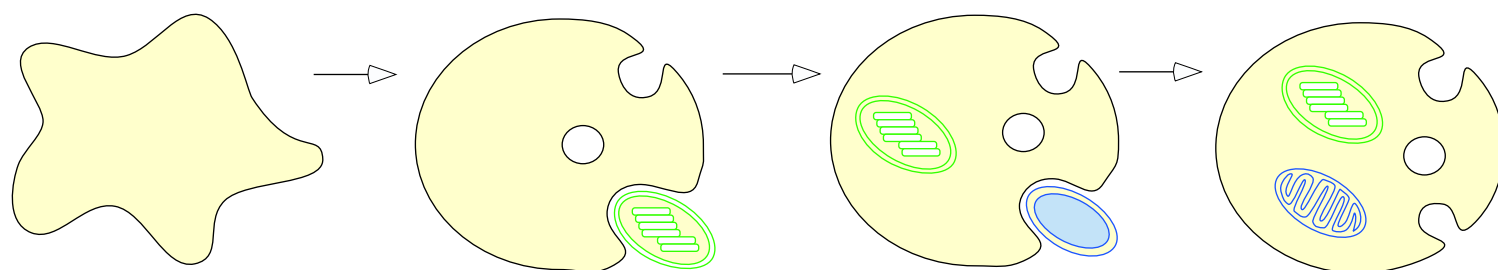
Goksøyr 1967



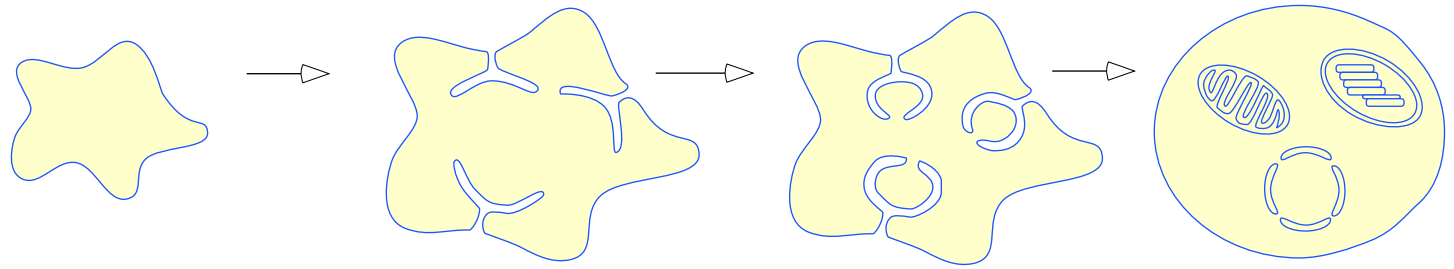
Margulis 1967



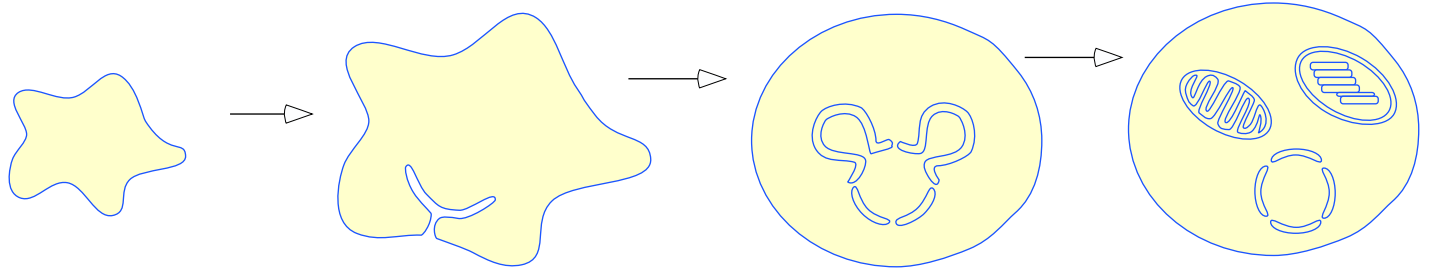
De Duve 1969



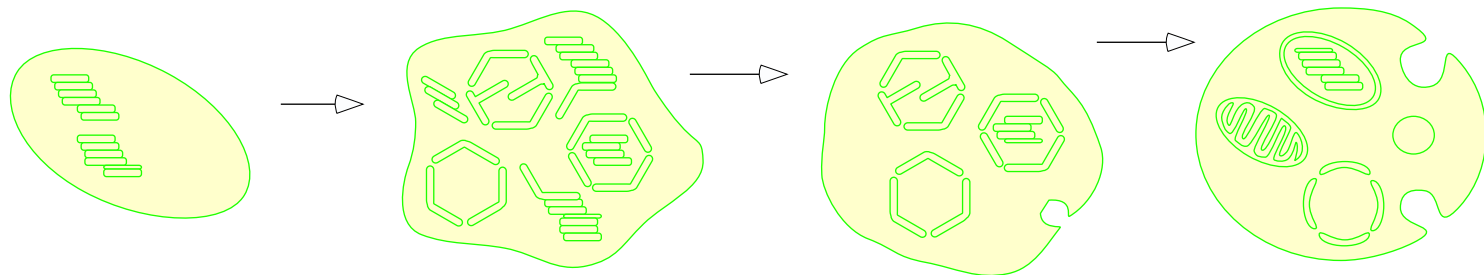
Stanier 1970



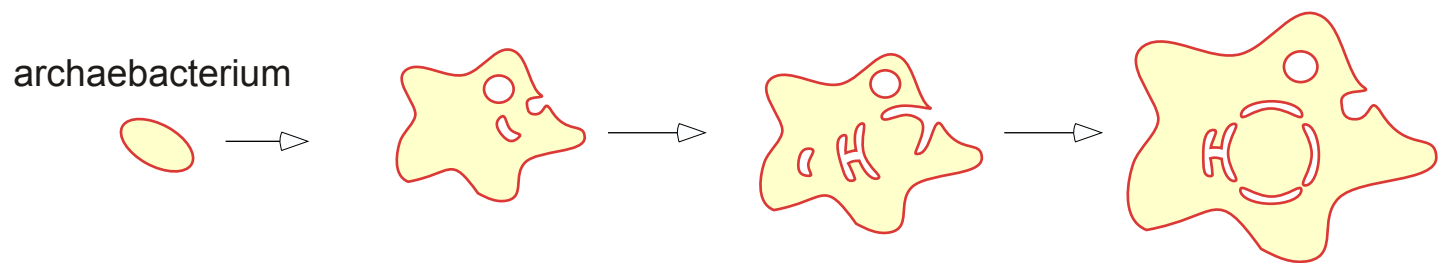
Raff & Mahler 1972



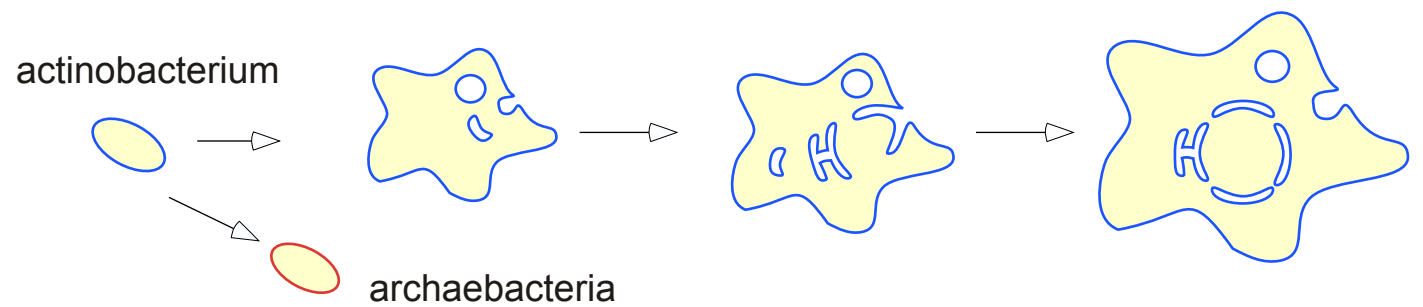
Bogorad 1975



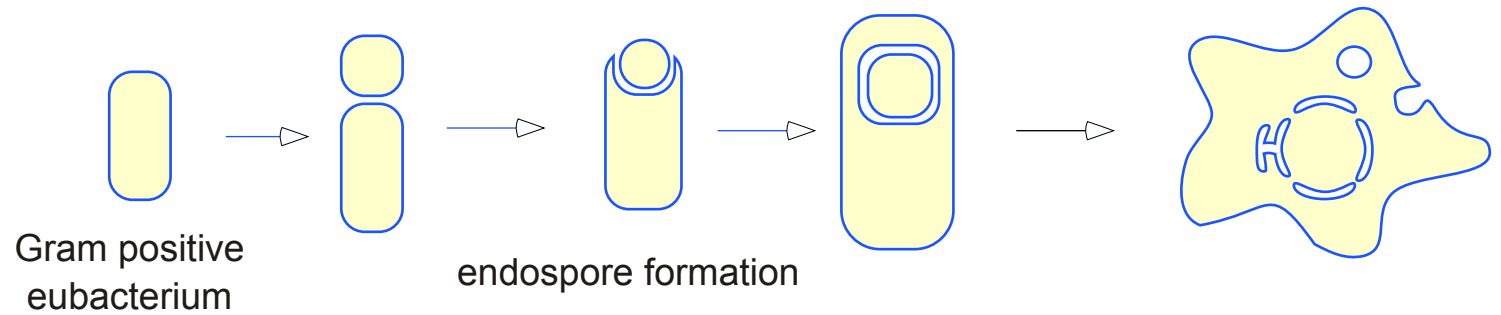
Cavalier Smith 1975



Van Valen and Maiorana 1980



Cavalier-Smith 1987  
1998, 2002, 2004

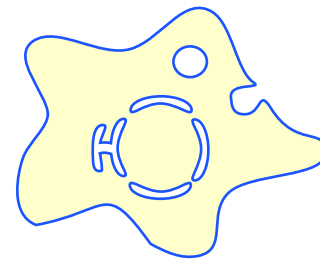
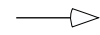
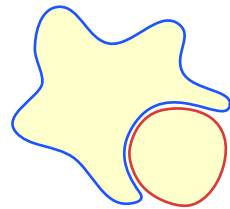


Gould & Dring, 1979

Gram negative eubacterium



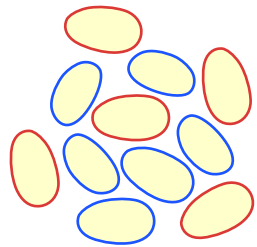
endokaryosis



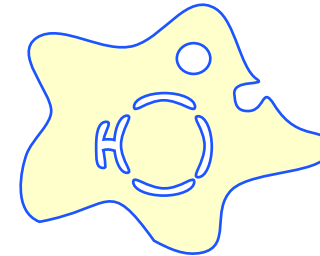
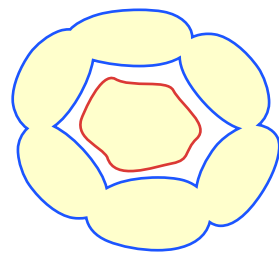
eocyte (crenarchaeote)

Zillig 1989  
Lake & Rivera 1994  
Gupta & Golding 1996

methanogens



$\delta$ -proteobacterial fusion

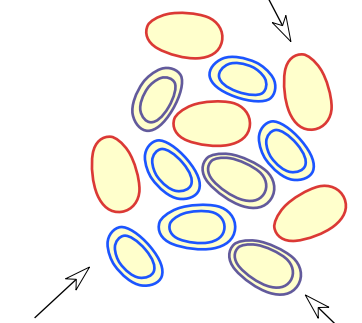


H<sub>2</sub>-producing  $\delta$ -proteobacteria

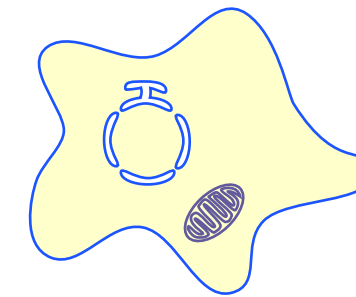
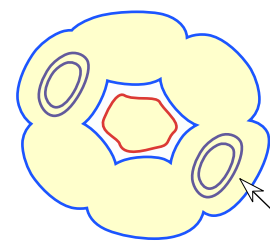
amitochondriate eukaryote

Moreira & Lopez-Garcia 1998

methanogens



$\delta$ -proteobacterial fusion



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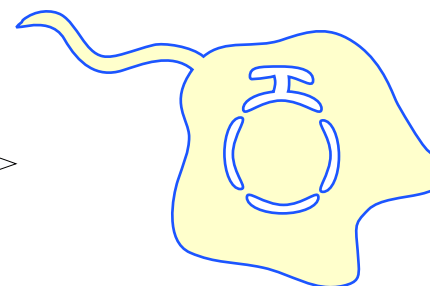
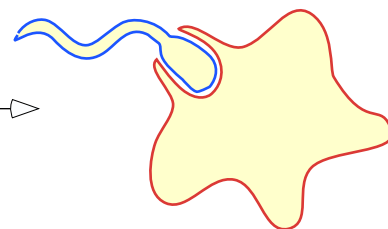
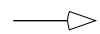
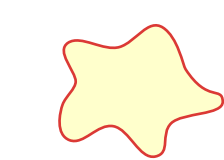
$\alpha$ -proteobacterial anaerobic methane oxidizer

mitochondria

mitochondriate eukaryote

Lopez-Garcia & Moreira 1999, 2006

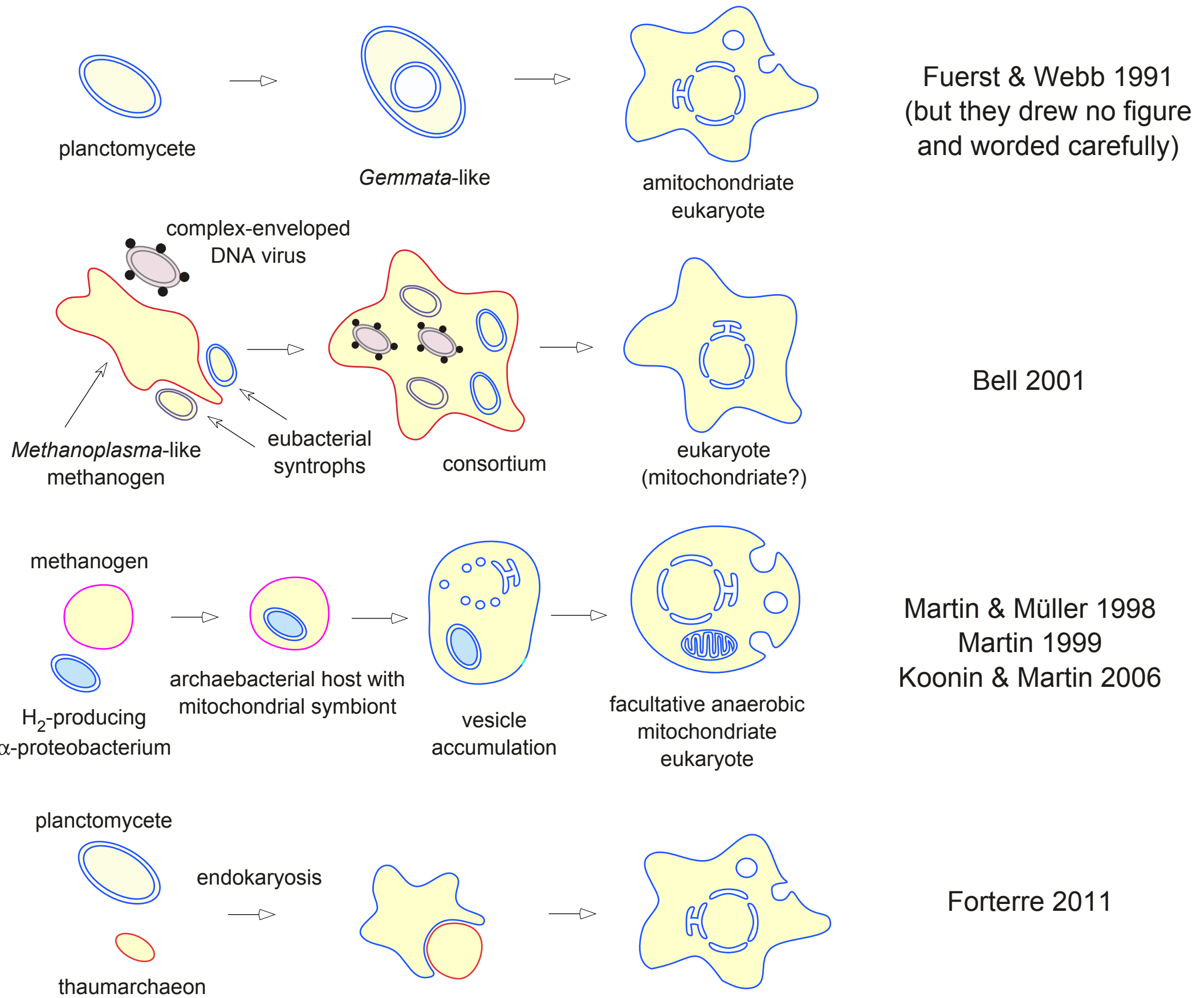
*Thermoplasma*



spirochaete

amitochondriate eukaryote

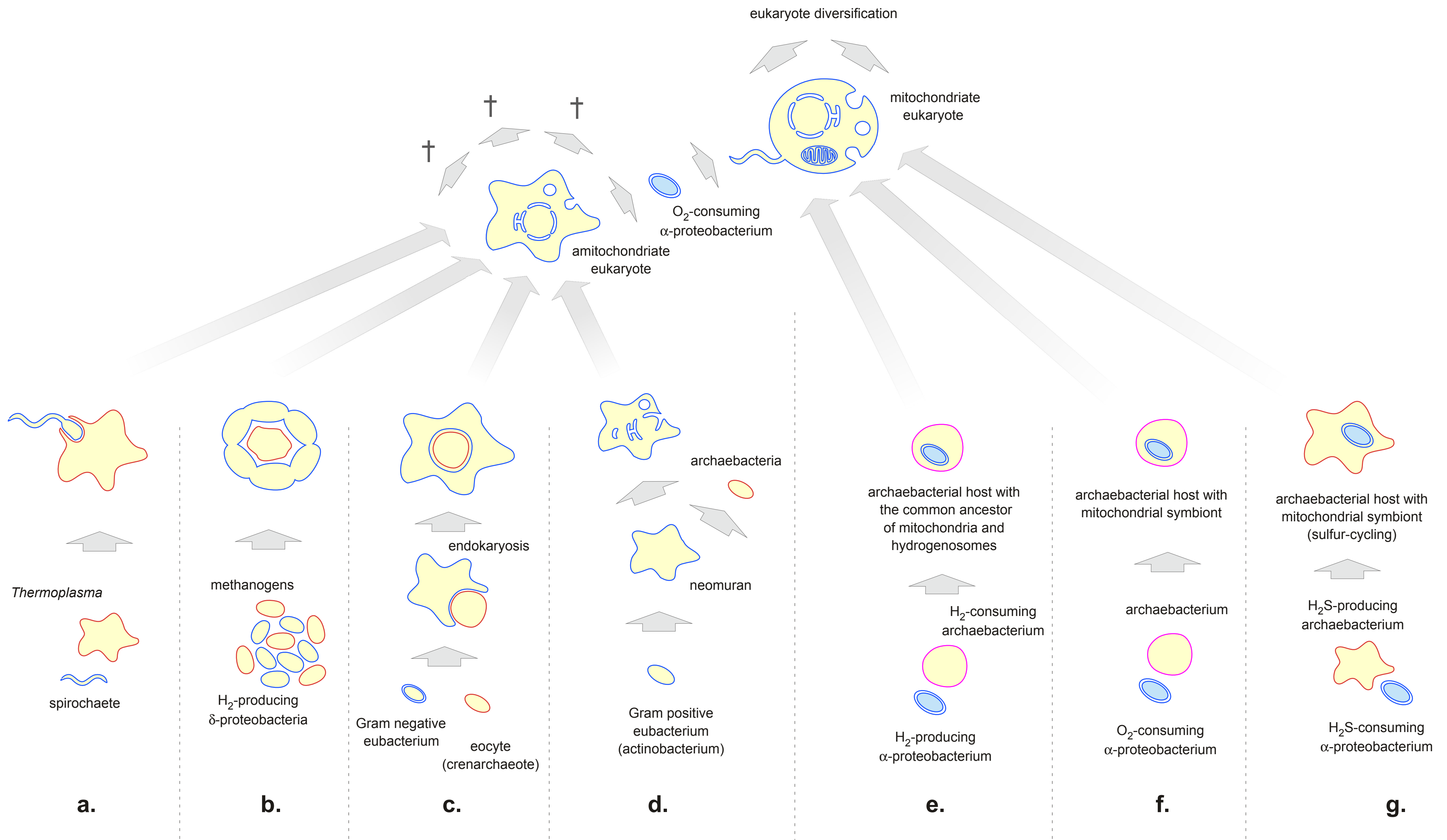
Margulis 2000



Martin et al. (2001) An overview of endosymbiotic models... Biol. Chem. 382:1521–1539

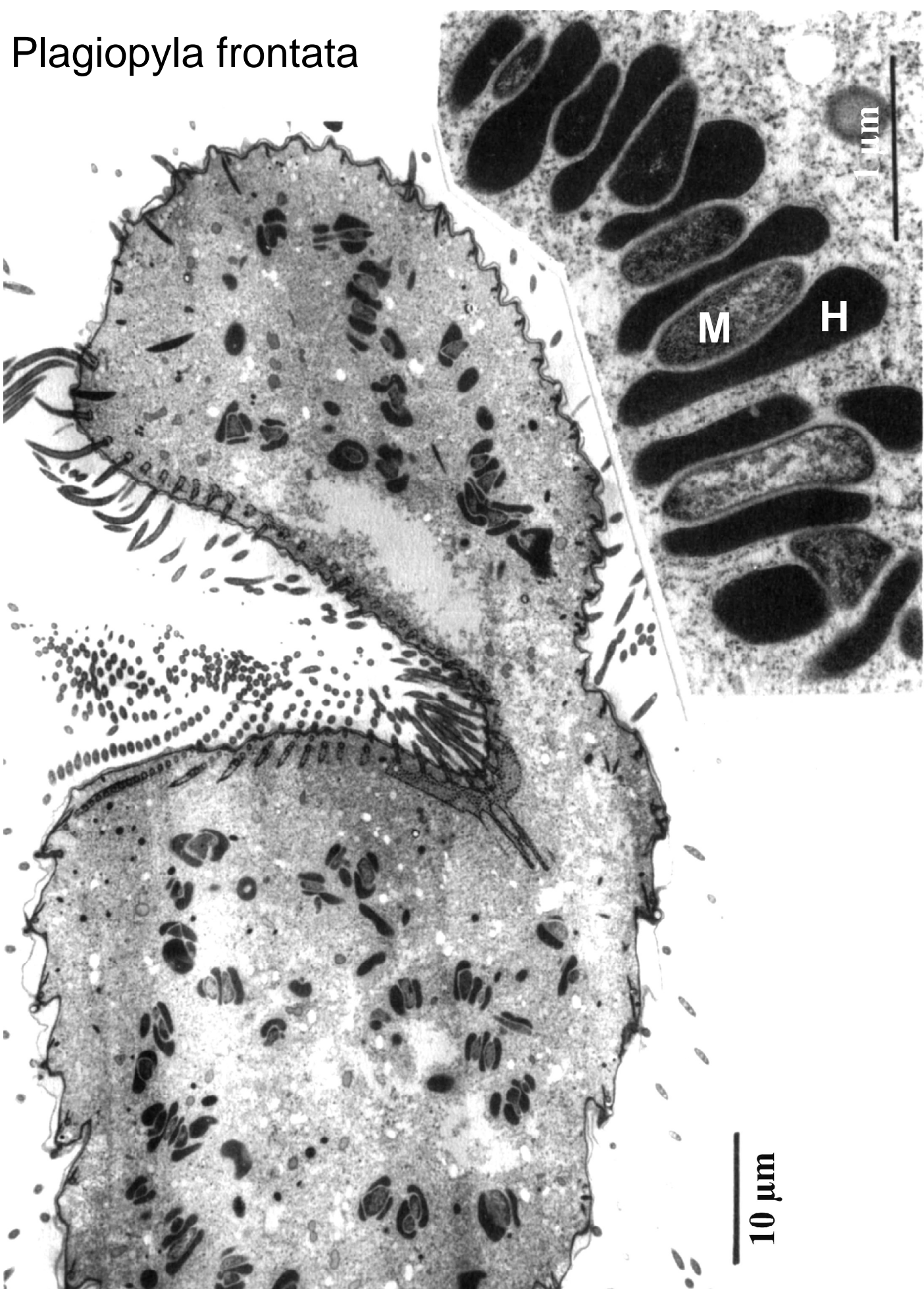
Martin (2005) Archaeobacteria (Archaea) and the origin of the eukaryotic nucleus. Curr Opin Microbiol. 8:630-637.

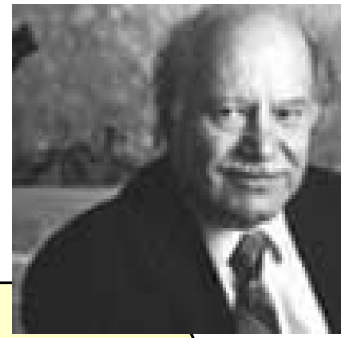




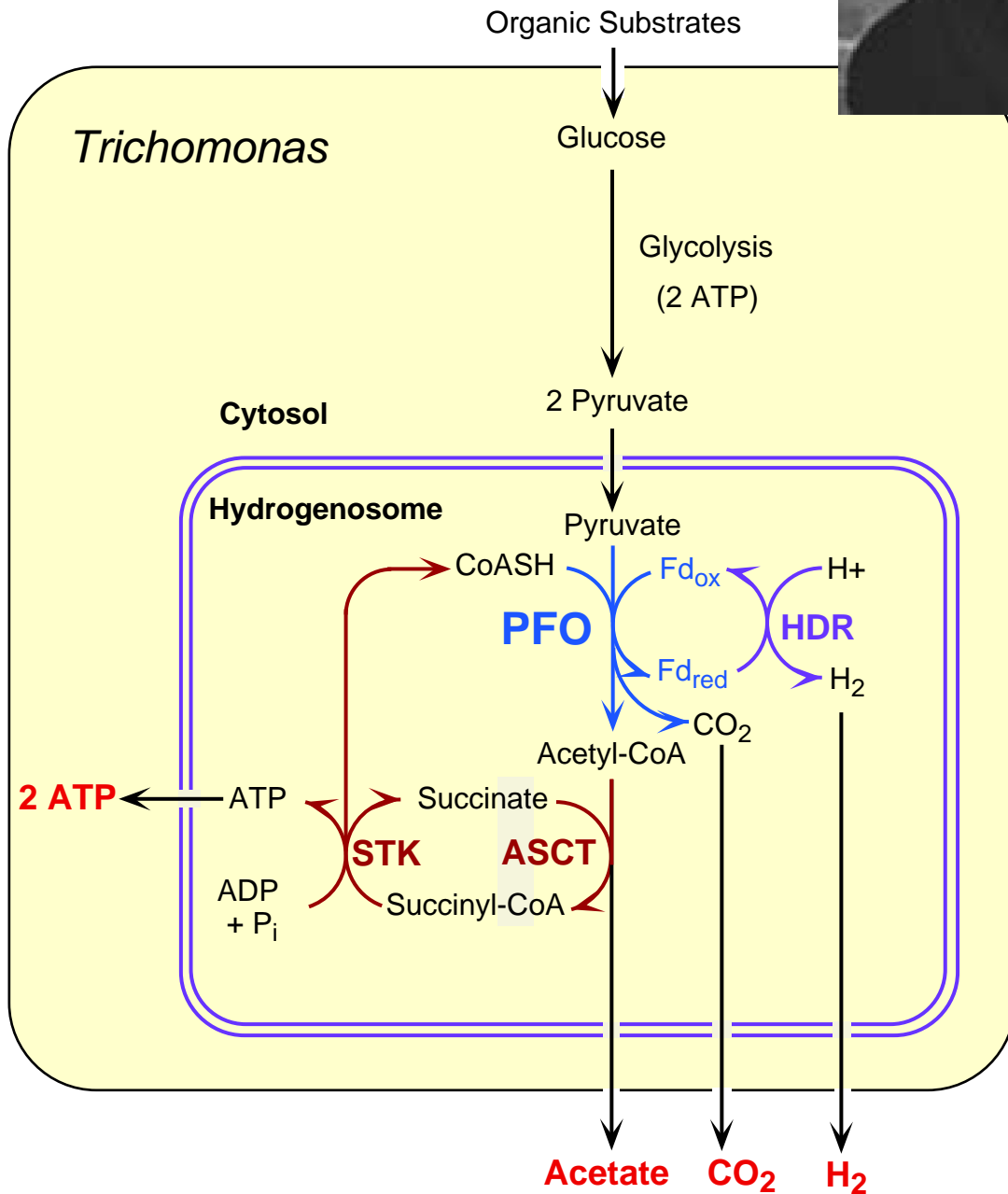
Embley & Martin. Eukaryotic evolution, changes and challenges *Nature* 2006

*Plagiopyla frontata*





Eukaryotes with Hydrogenosomes



Hydrogenosomal Enzyme

Occurrence in Mitochondria of:

HDR Hydrogenase [Fe]

*Nyctotherus*

ASCT Acetate:Succinate CoA-Transferase

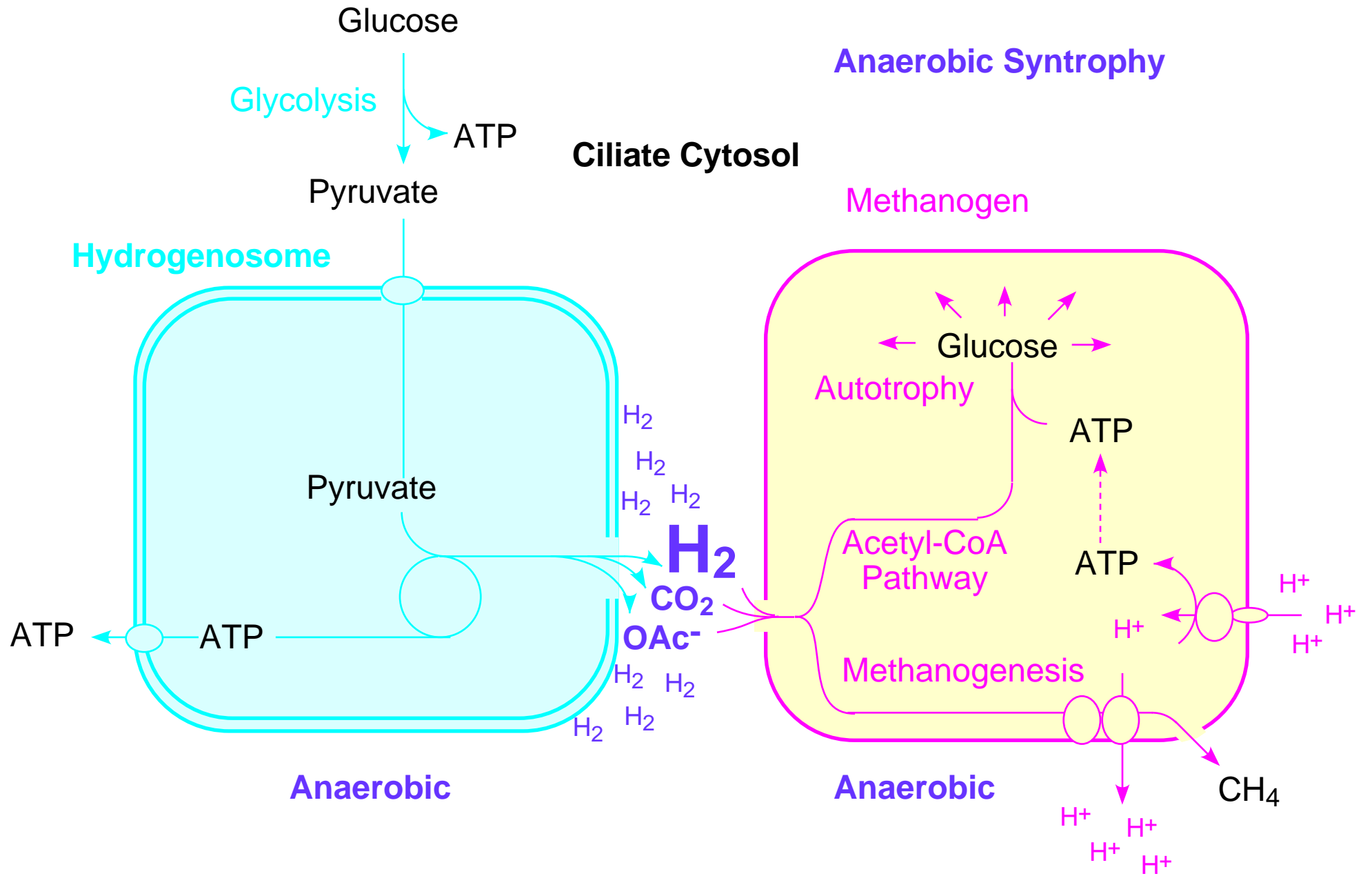
*Trypanosoma*

STK Succinate Thiokinase

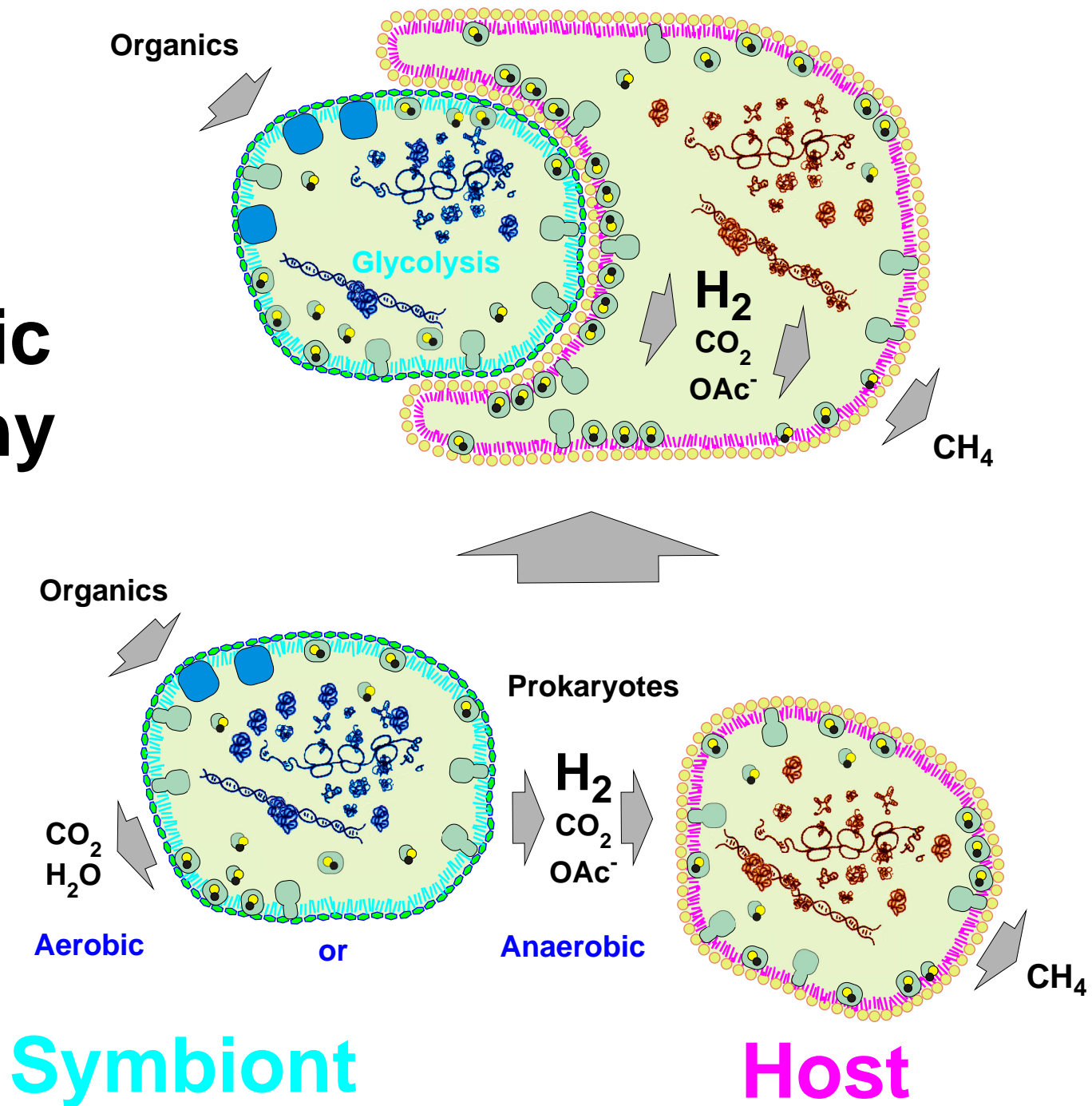
(many)

PFO Pyruvate:Ferredoxin Oxidoreductase

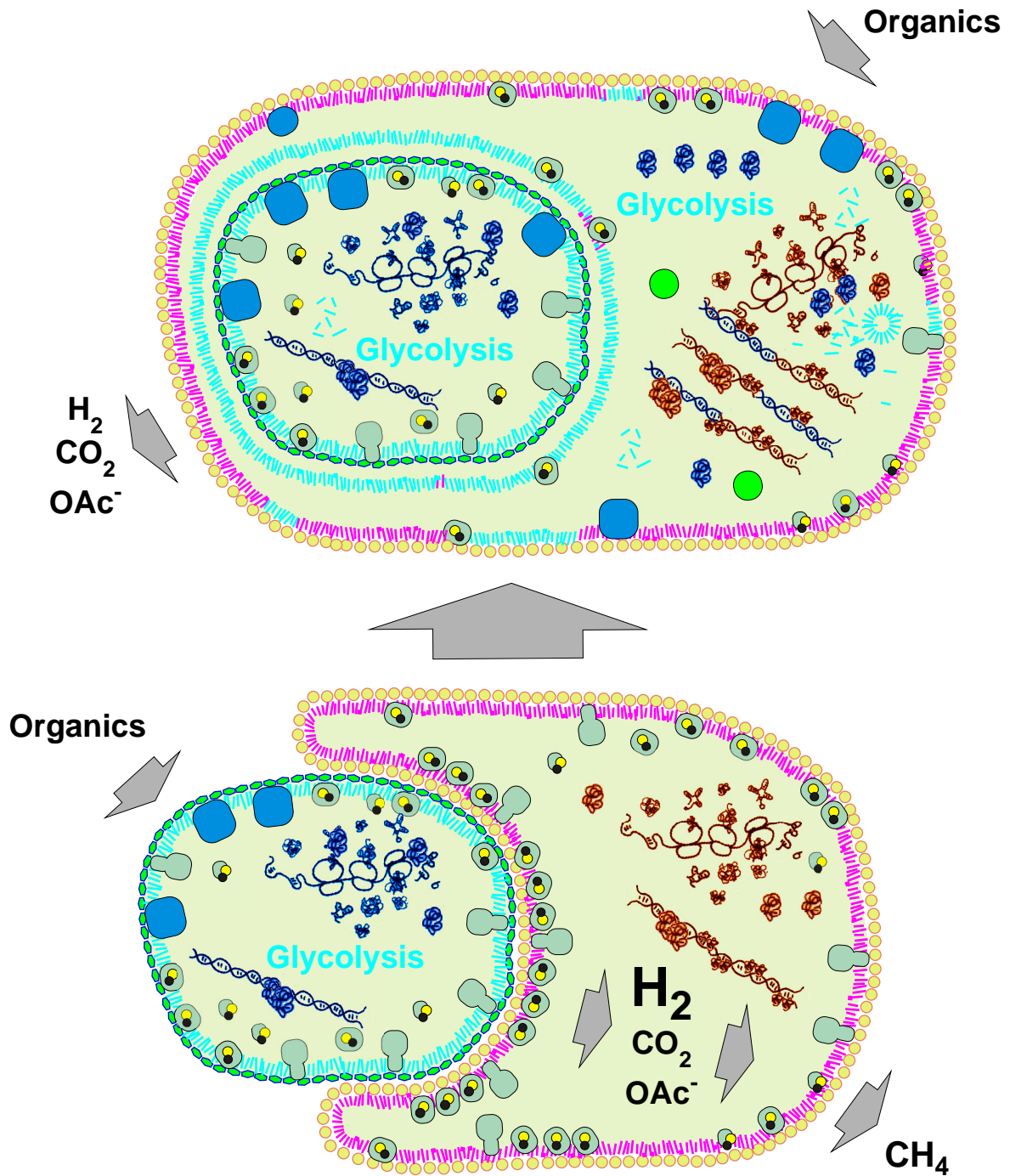
*Euglena* (as a Fusion)



# Anaerobic Syntrophy

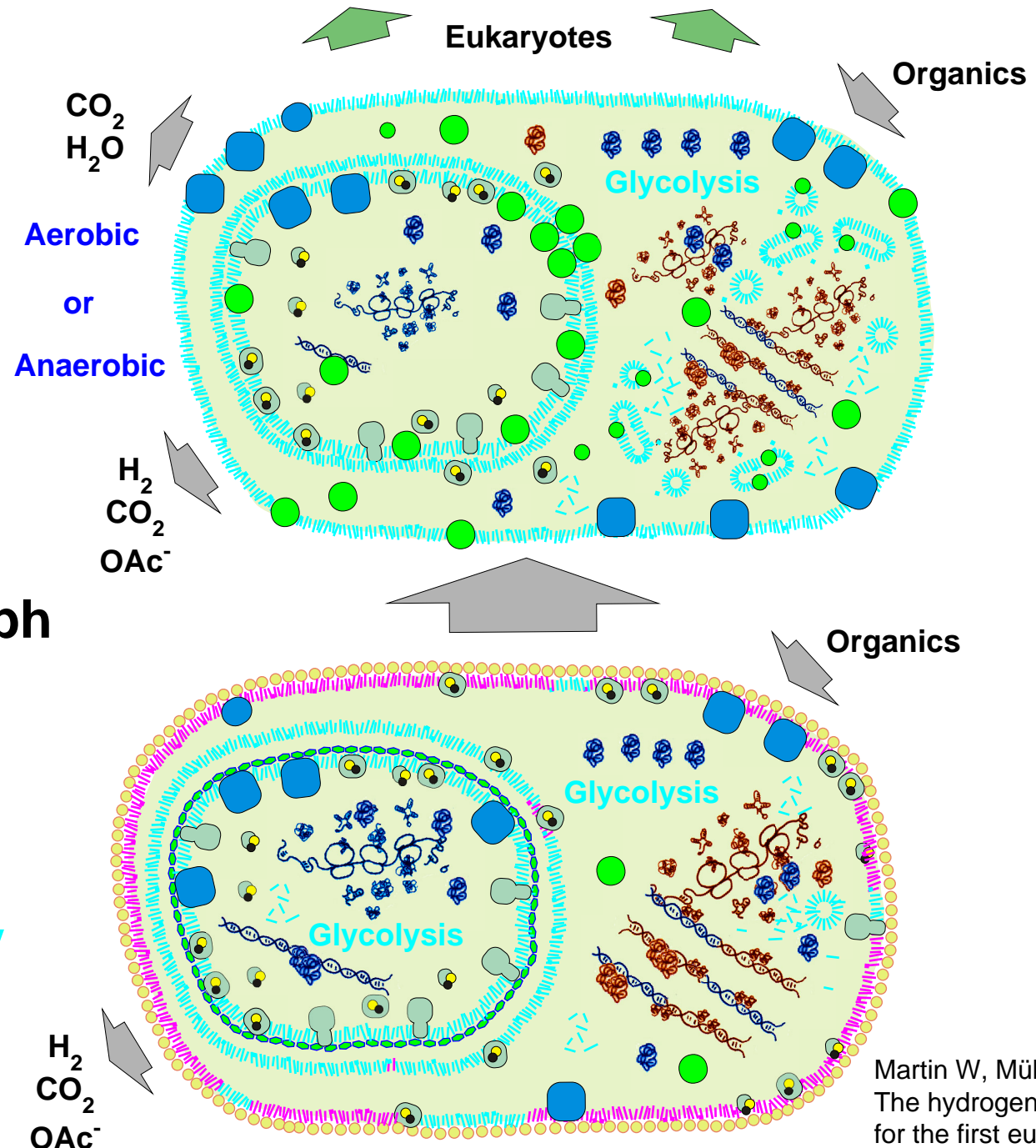


**Gene transfer from Symbiont to Host**



# Invention of eukaryotic novelties

A bipartite, facultatively anaerobic heterotroph with an archaeobacterial genetic apparatus and eubacterial energy metabolism



Martin W, Müller M (1998)  
The hydrogen hypothesis  
for the first eukaryote.  
Nature 392:37–41

## Reality Check (Testable Predictions)

	Hydrogen hypothesis	Neomuran theory et al.
Are hydrogenosomes <i>really</i> mitochondria?	yes	no comment
Do primitively amitochondriate eukaryotes exist?	<b>no</b>	<b>yes</b>
Eukaryotic aerobes and anaerobes in phylogeny	interleave	anaerobes basal
Genomically, eukaryotes should be chimaeras	yes <sup>1</sup>	well, it depends <sup>2</sup>

1. archaeobacterial genetic apparatus (euryarchaeotes)  
eubacterial energy metabolism (proteobacteria)  
plus lineage specific inventions (and allowing for LGT)

2. Eukaryotes should be genomically

Actinobacteria (TCS)

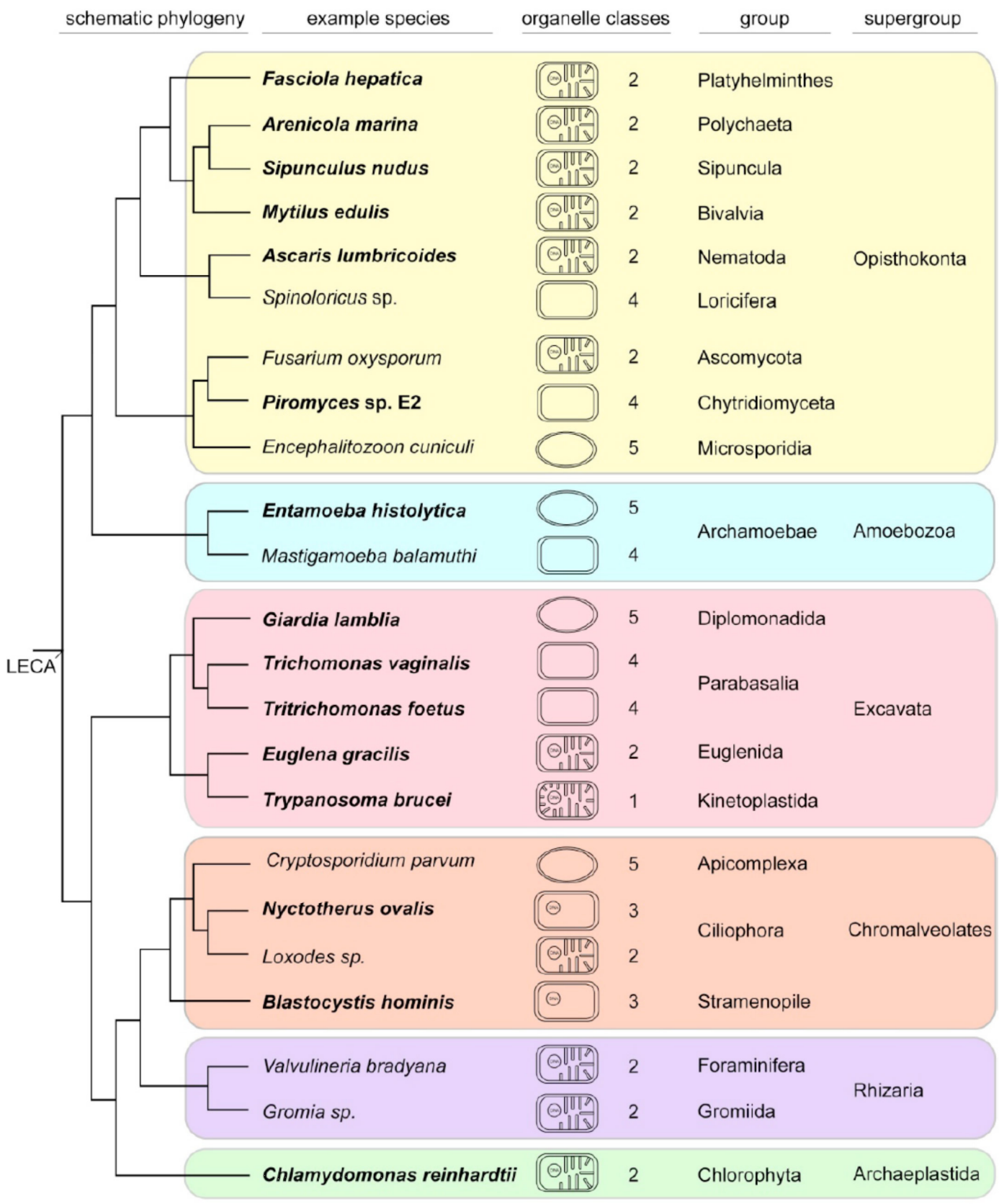
Planctomycetes...

*Clostridia...* etc. one must be explicit here, otherwise the theory

is not testable with gene data, hence not science.



Mentel & Martin Energy metabolism in eukaryotic anaerobes Phil Trans 2008



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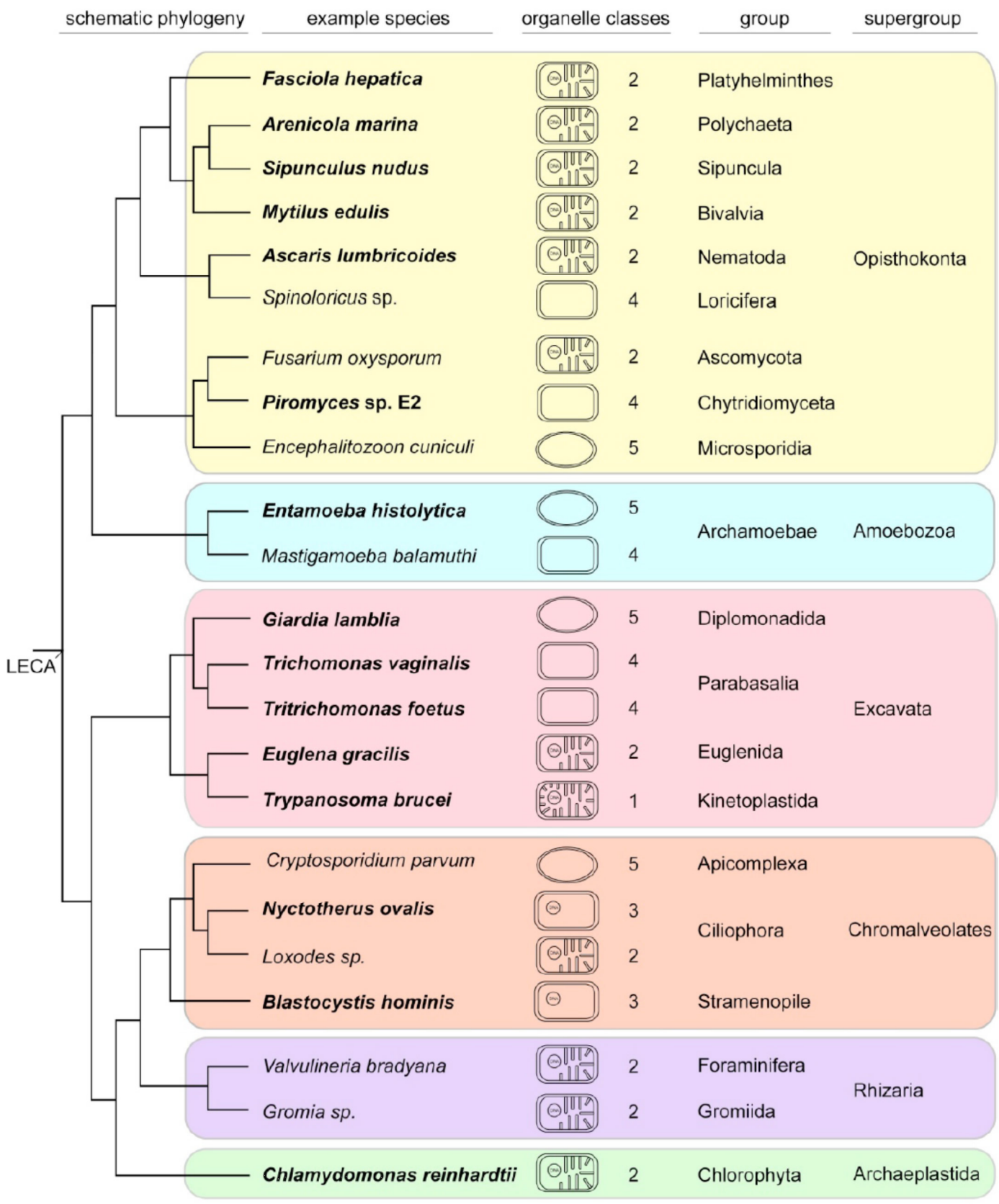
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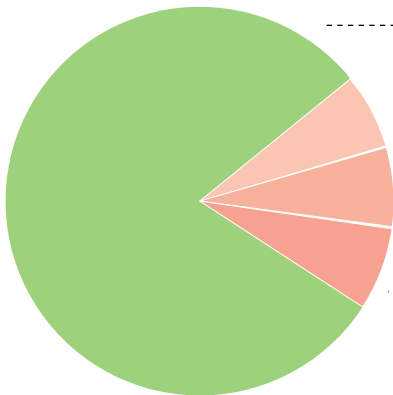


Thiergart et al. (2012) An evolutionary network of genes present in the eukaryote common ancestor... Genome Biol Evol

712 Cluster with prokaryotic homologs

 Eukaryotes monophyletic

 Eukaryotes not monophyletic



80.2%

571

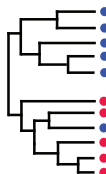
a)



6.5%

46

b)



6.5%

46

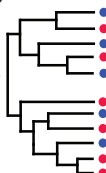
c)





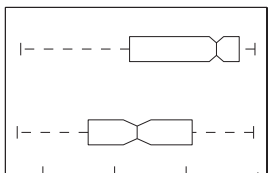
6.9%

49

d)



Eukaryotes   
Prokaryotes 

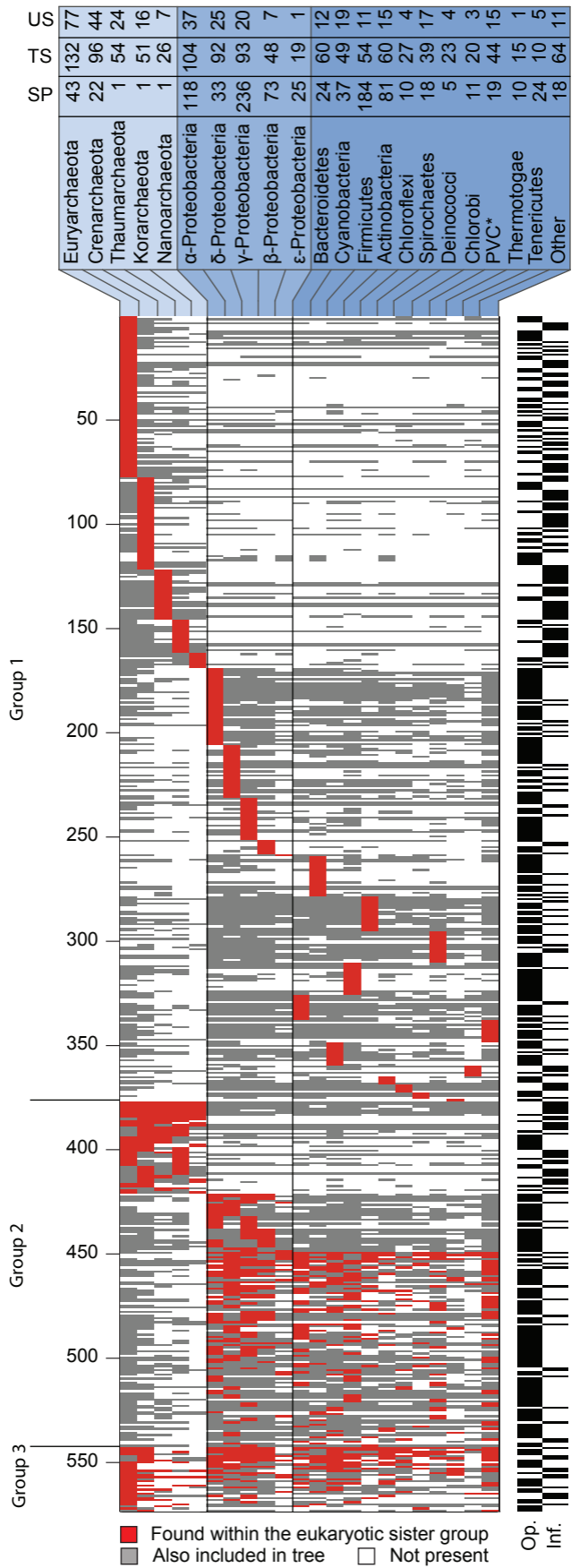


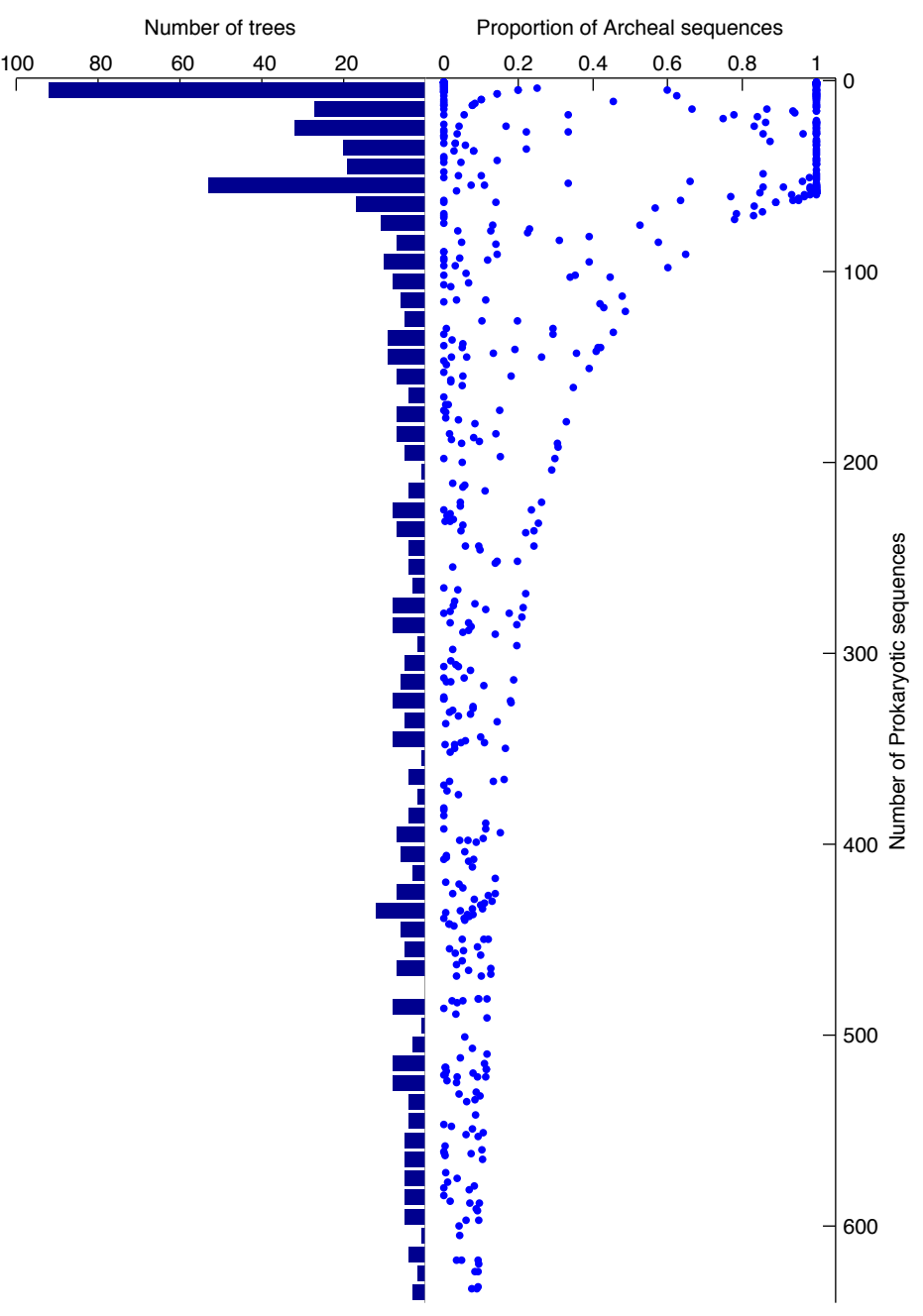
Eukaryotes monophyletic

Eukaryotes not monophyletic

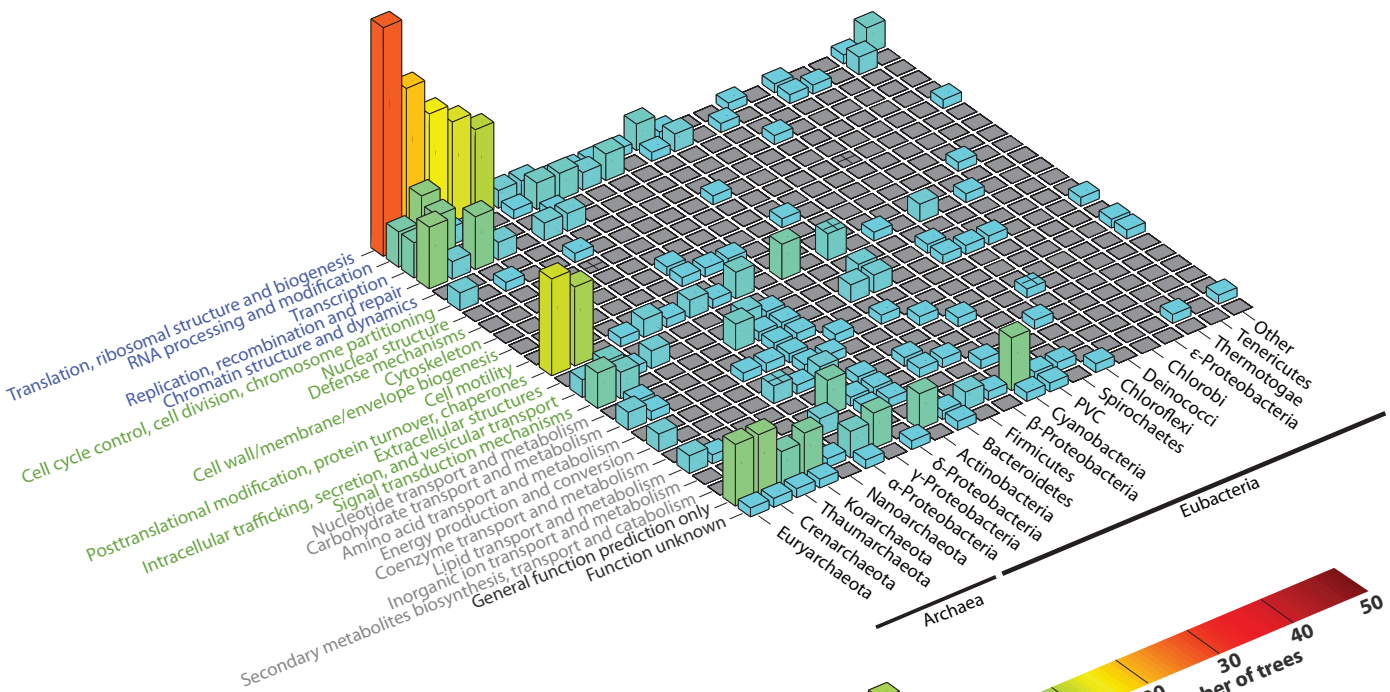
600 400 200 0

Number of OTUs

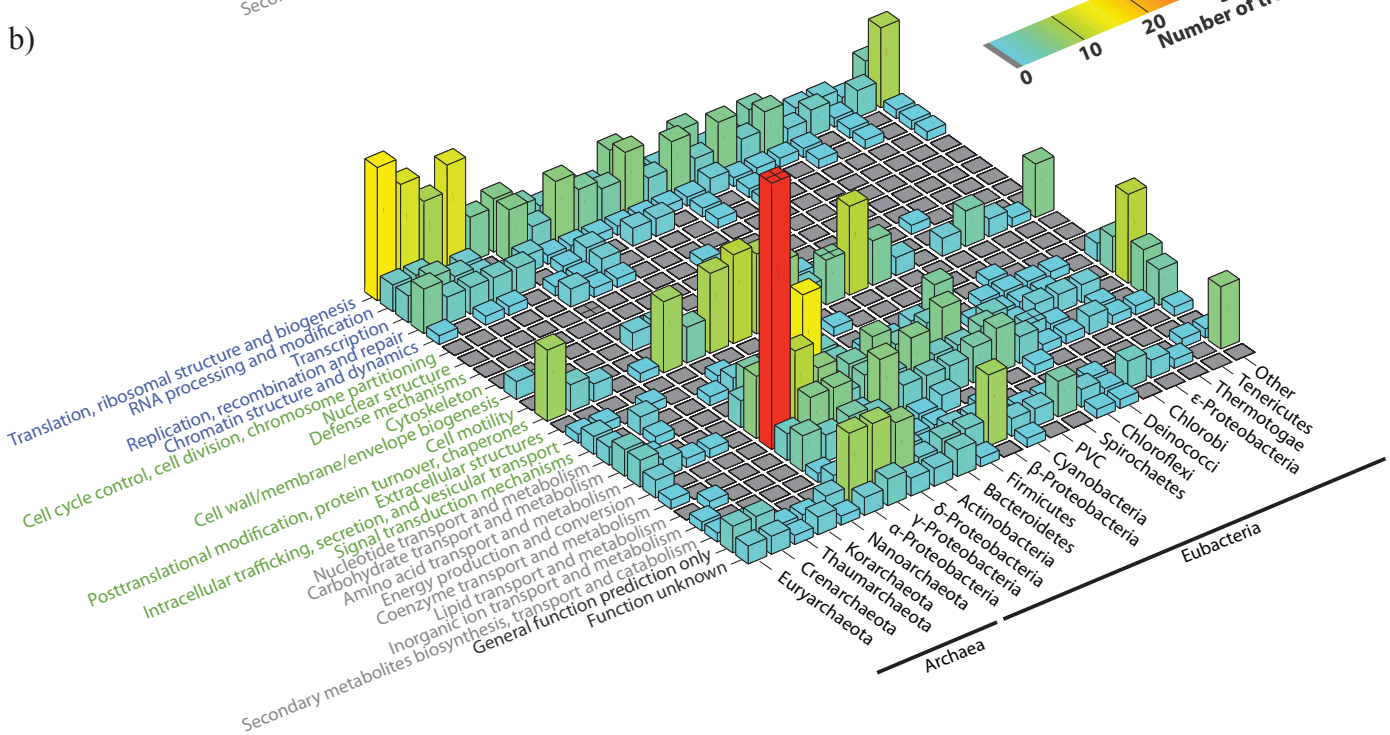


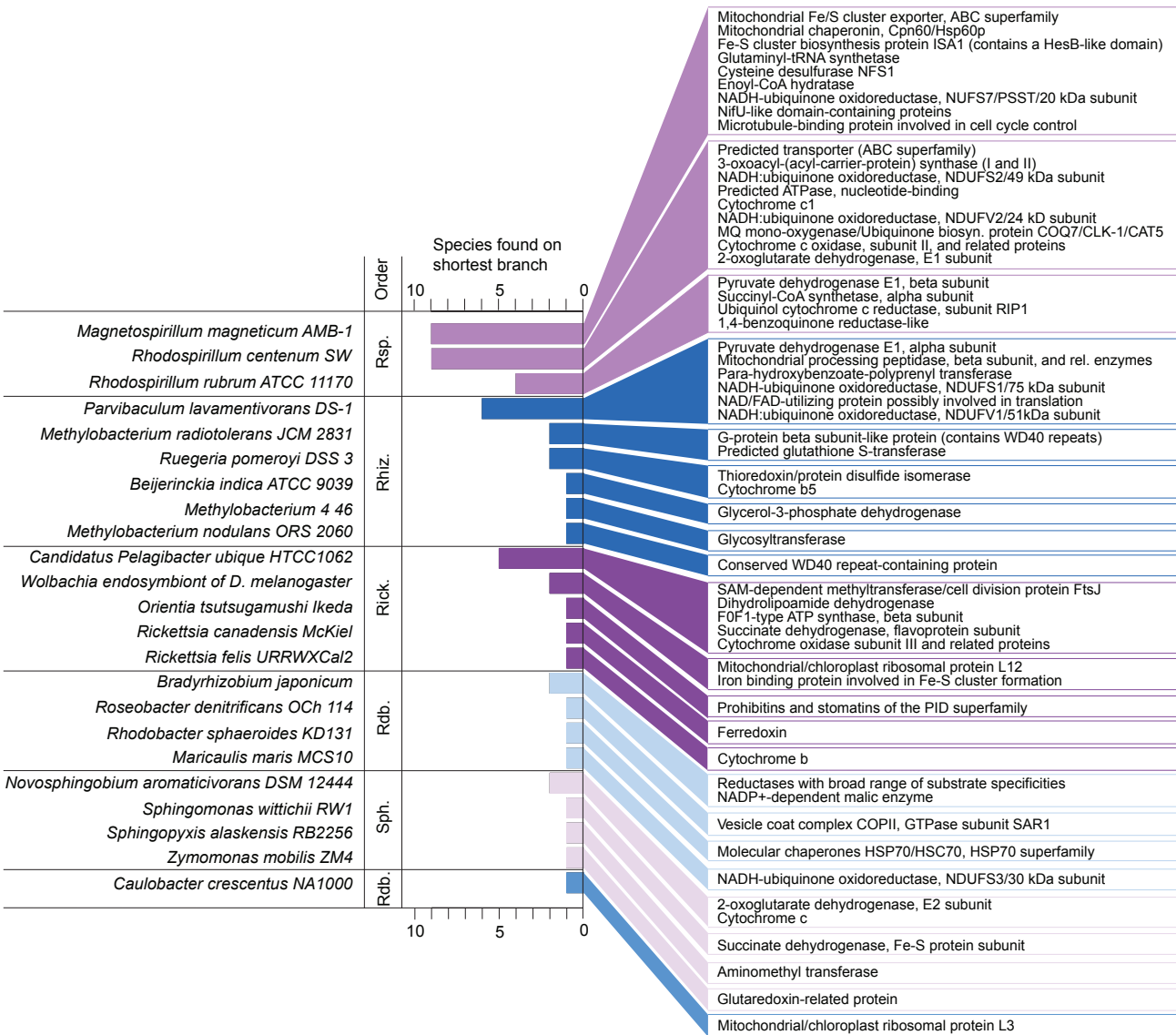


a)

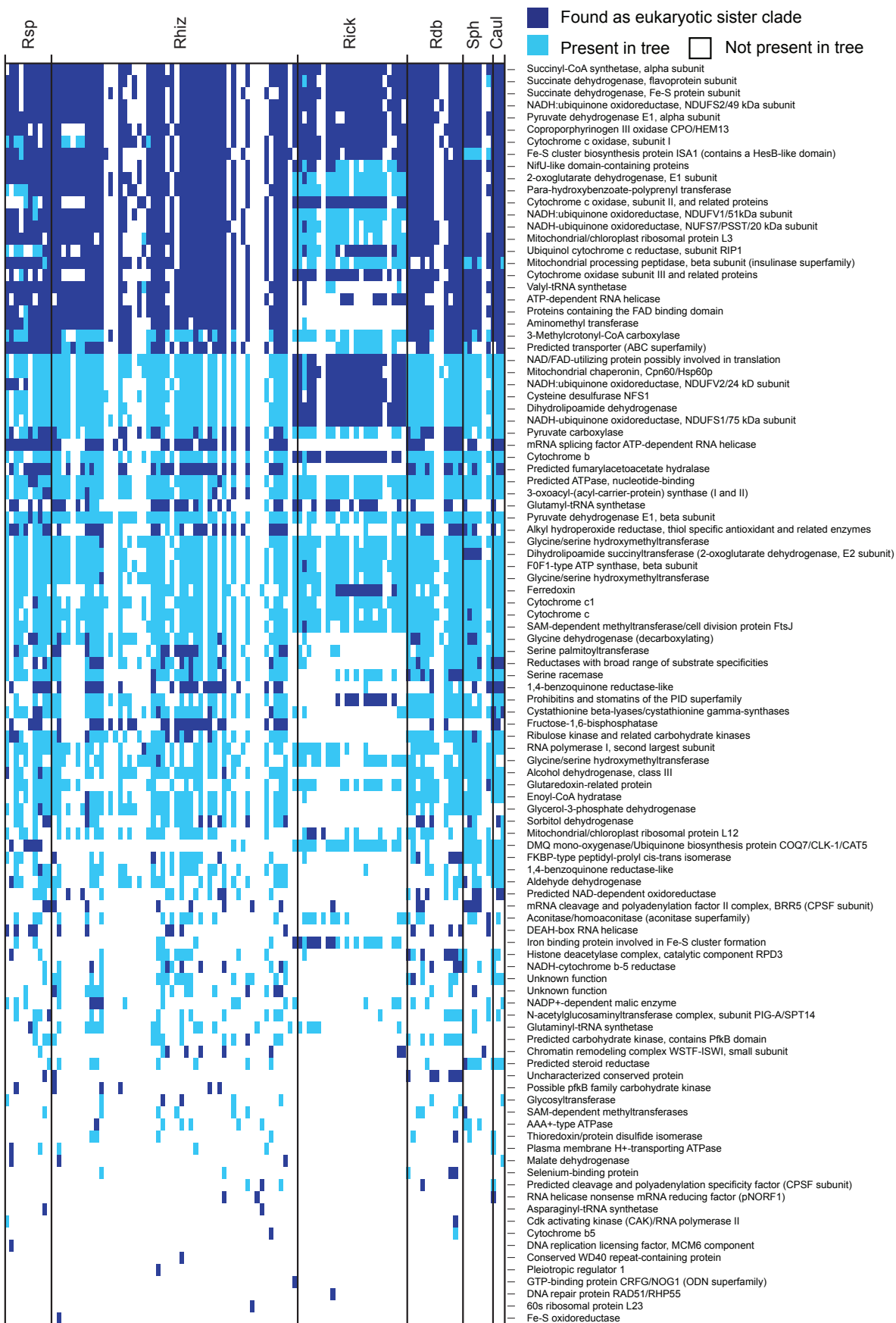


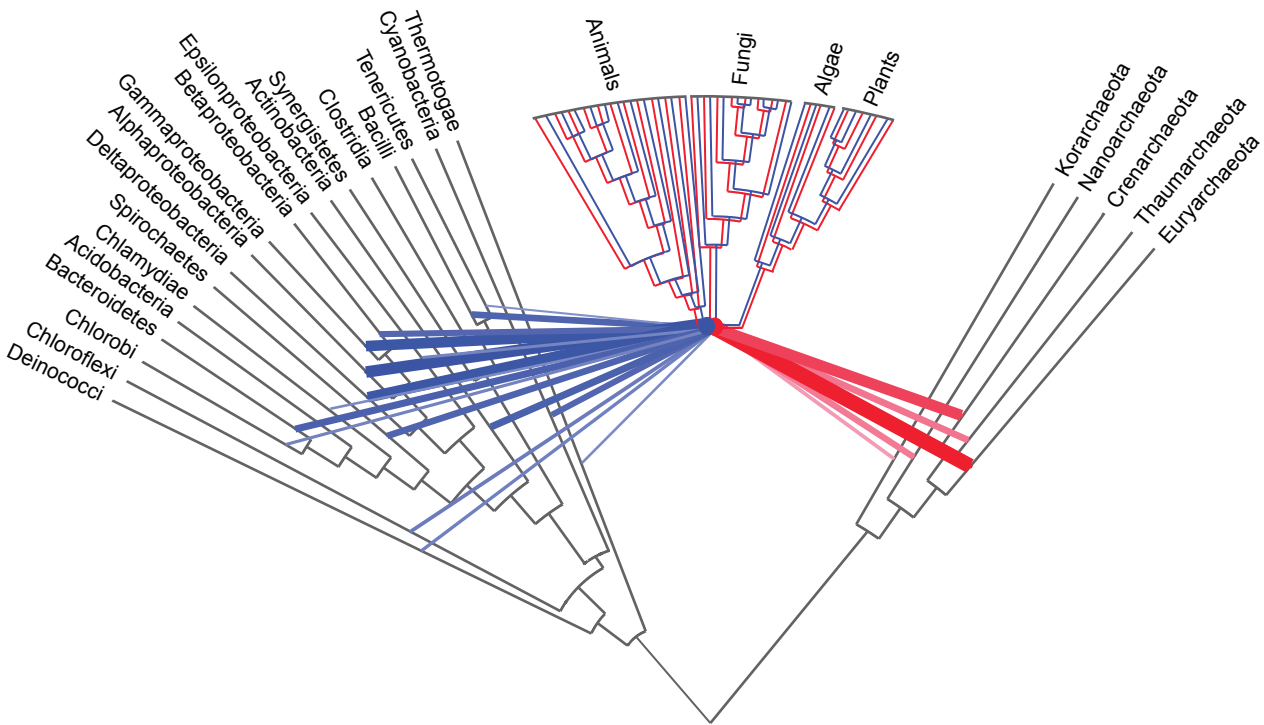
b)

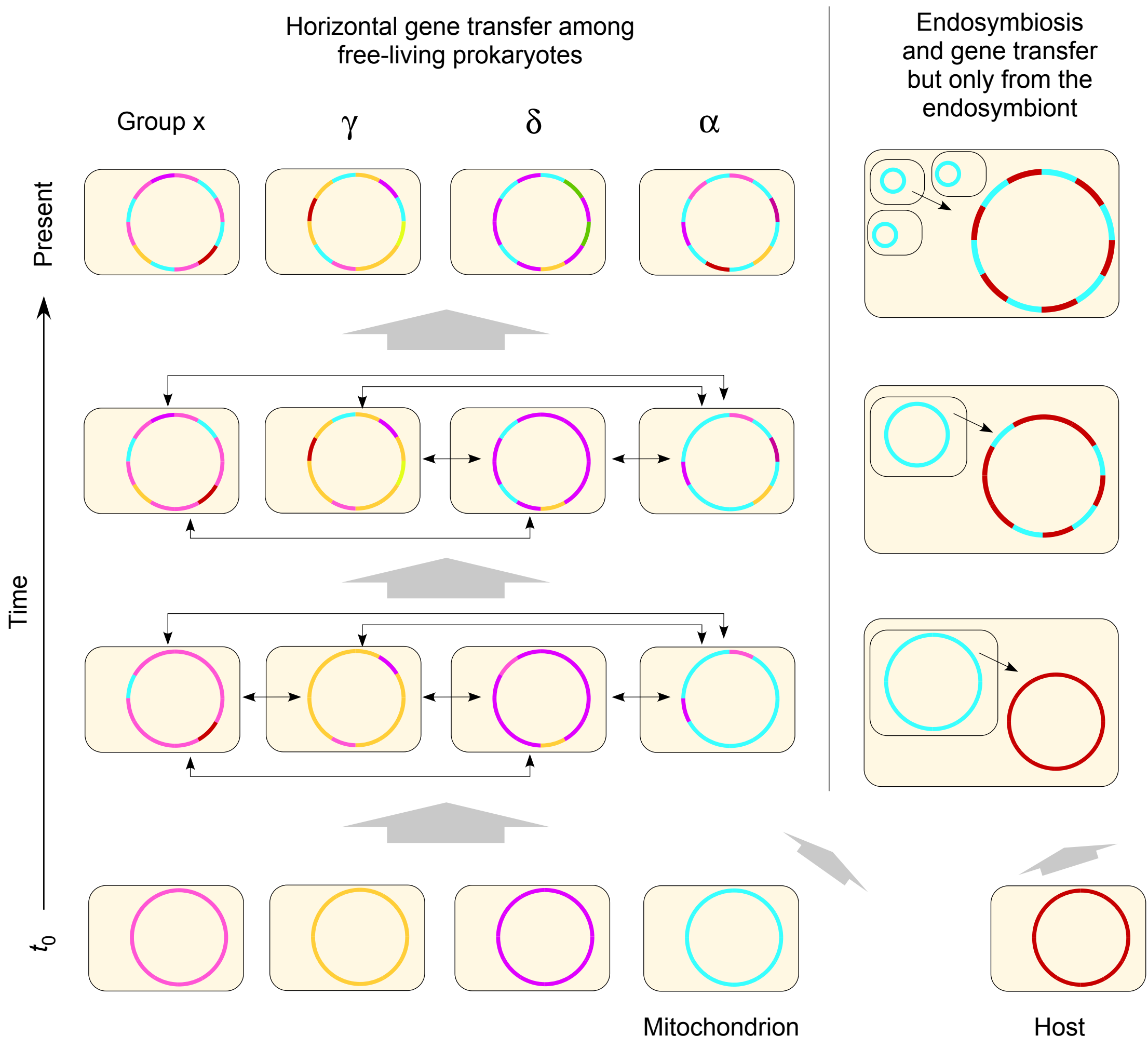












So, along with

a cell cycle,  
meiosis,  
mitosis,  
introns,  
spliceosomes,  
centrioles (including their fuzz),  
nucleus,  
ER,  
Golgi,  
full blown membrane traffic,  
flagellae,  
a eukaryotic cytoskeleton,



ca. 2000 novel gene families underpinning those massive evolutionary innovations,  
and >500 gene families with clear prokaryotic homologues (maybe “yawn” for  
cell biologists but crucial for evolutionary biologists probing this  
major evolutionary transition because they track our provenance)

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# Why?

# The energetics of genome complexity

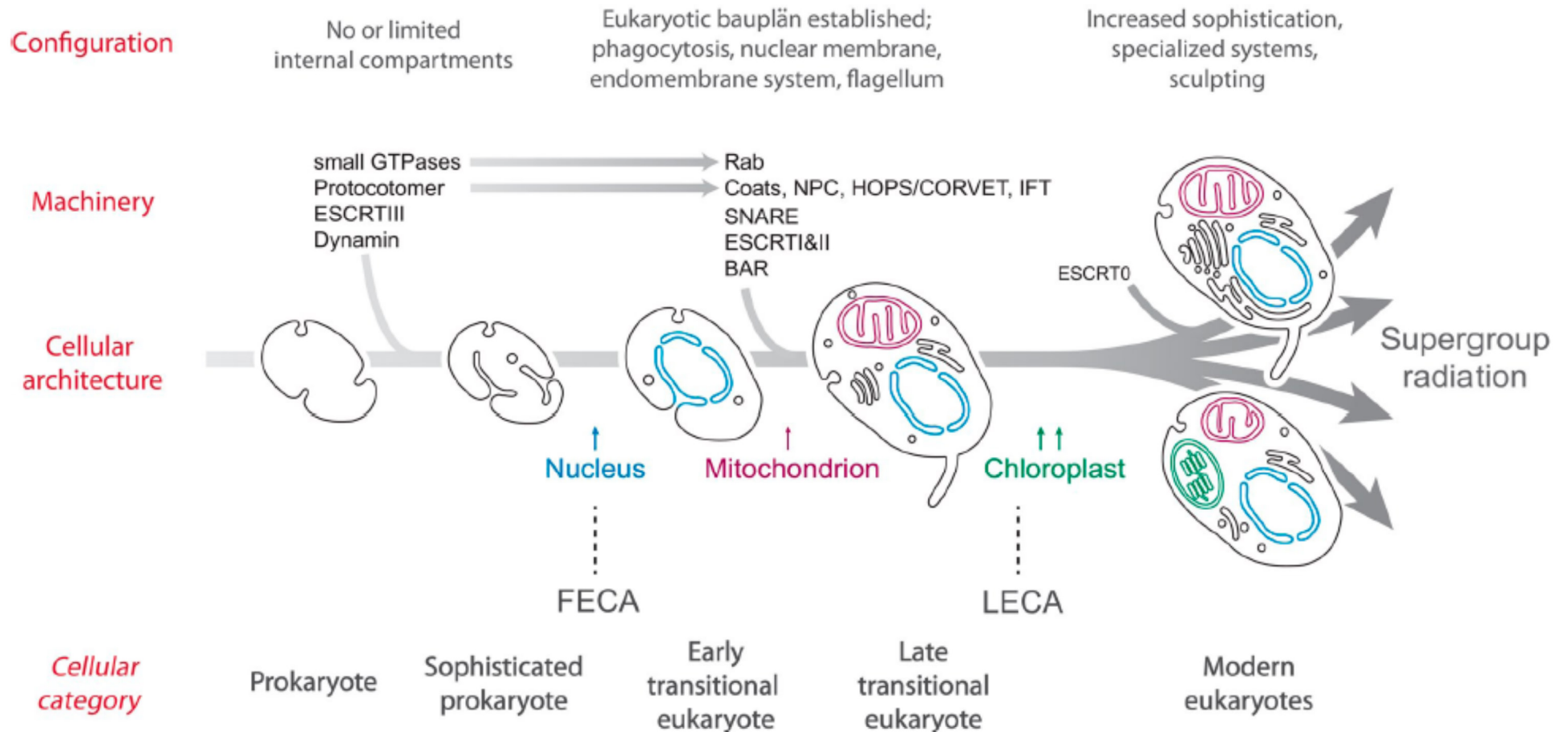
Nick Lane<sup>1</sup> & William Martin<sup>2</sup>

All complex life is composed of eukaryotic (nucleated) cells. The eukaryotic cell arose from prokaryotes just once in four billion years, and otherwise prokaryotes show no tendency to evolve greater complexity. Why not? Prokaryotic genome size is constrained by bioenergetics. The endosymbiosis that gave rise to mitochondria restructured the distribution of DNA in relation to bioenergetic membranes, permitting a remarkable 200,000-fold expansion in the number of genes expressed. This vast leap in genomic capacity was strictly dependent on mitochondrial power, and prerequisite to eukaryote complexity: the key innovation en route to multicellular life.

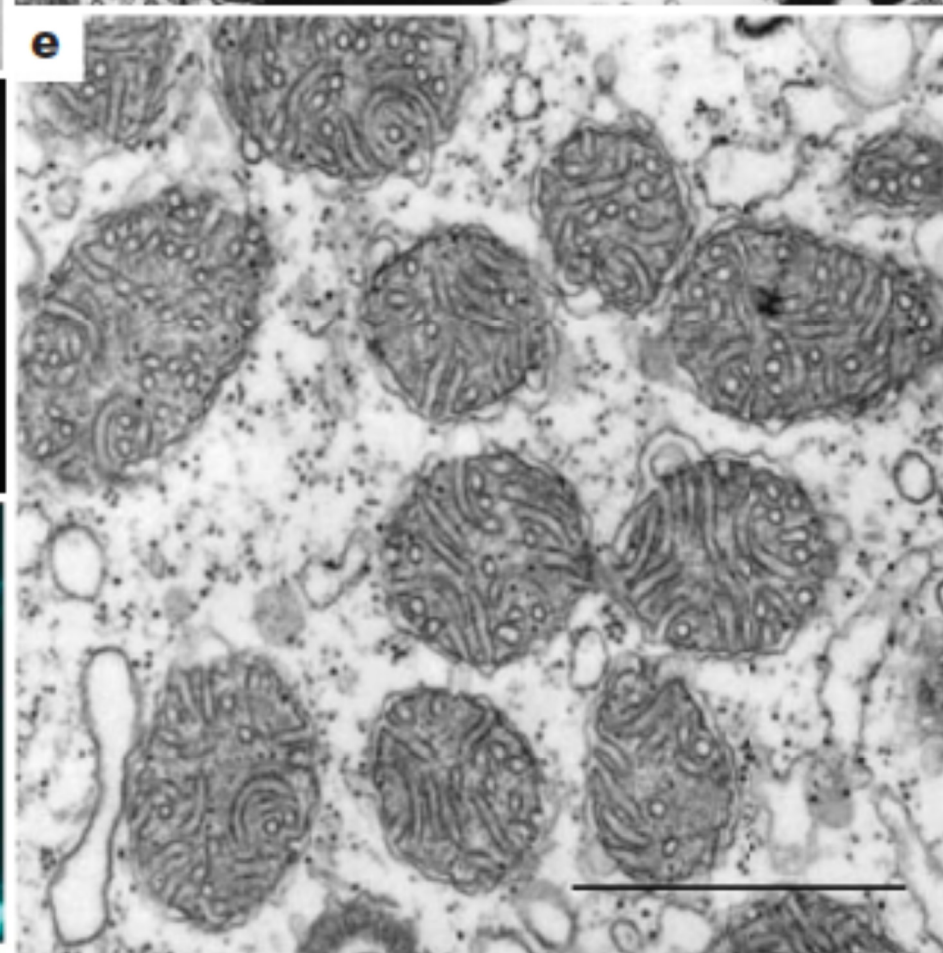
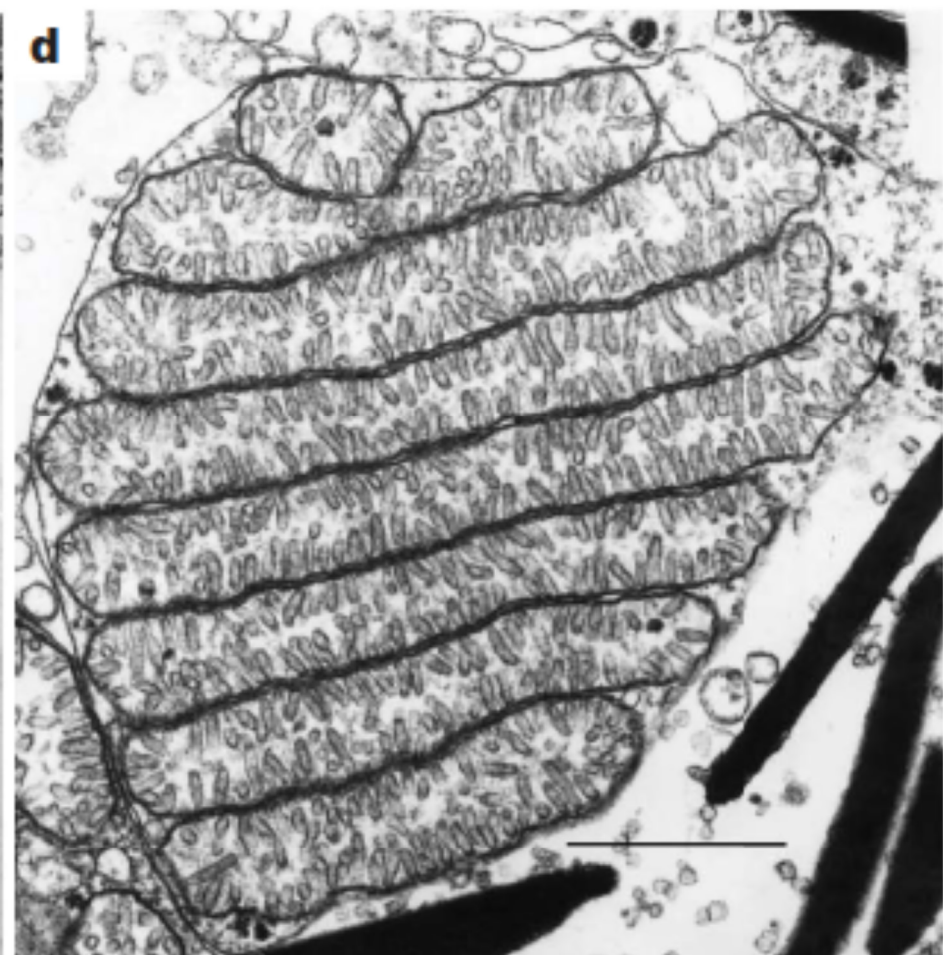
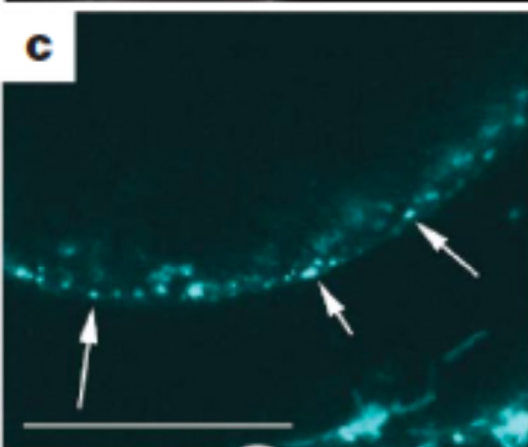
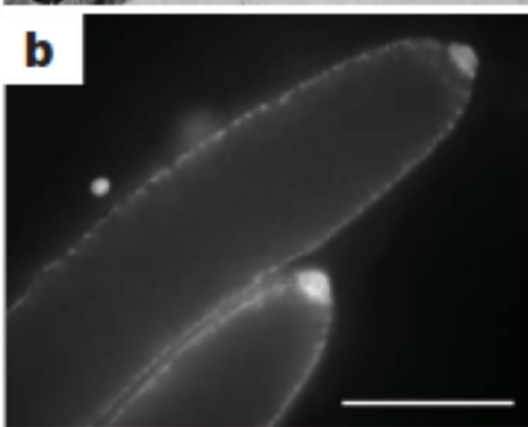
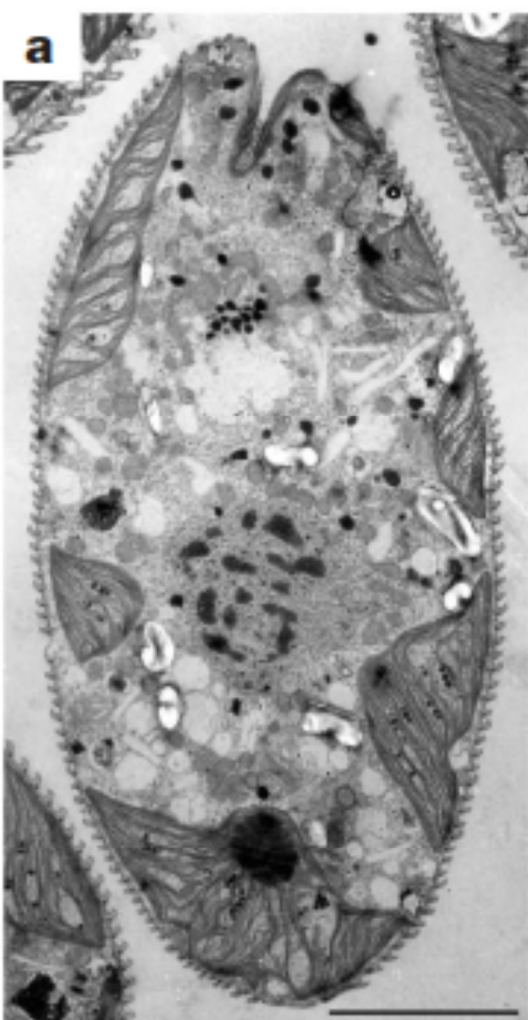
**Table 1 | Energetics of bacteria and eukaryotes by cell and genome size**

Parameter	Prokaryotes					Eukaryotes				
	Mean	S	M	L	XL	Mean	S	M	L	XL
Weight of cell ( $\times 10^{-12}$ g)	2.6	0.2	1.2	4	$1 \times 10^6$	40,100	250	7,000	33,000	$1 \times 10^6$
Power ( $\text{W g}^{-1}$ )	0.19	0.07	0.3	0.11	0.0005	0.06	0.09	0.03	0.05	0.01
Power per cell (pW)	0.49	0.014	0.36	0.44	500	2,286	21.5	224	1,782	10,000
Ploidy level	4	1	6	4	10,000	2	2	2	100	3
Haploid genome size (Mb)	6	1.9	4.6	9	7.5	3,000	300	3,000	100	11,000
Power per haploid Mb (pW)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.38	0.04	0.04	0.18	0.3
No. of haploid genes $\times 10^3$	5	2	4.4	6	6	20	12	20	25	15
Power per gene (fW)	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	57.15	0.90	5.6	0.71	222.2
Power per genome (fW)	0.12	0.01	0.06	0.11	0.05	1,143	10.75	112	17.8	3,333

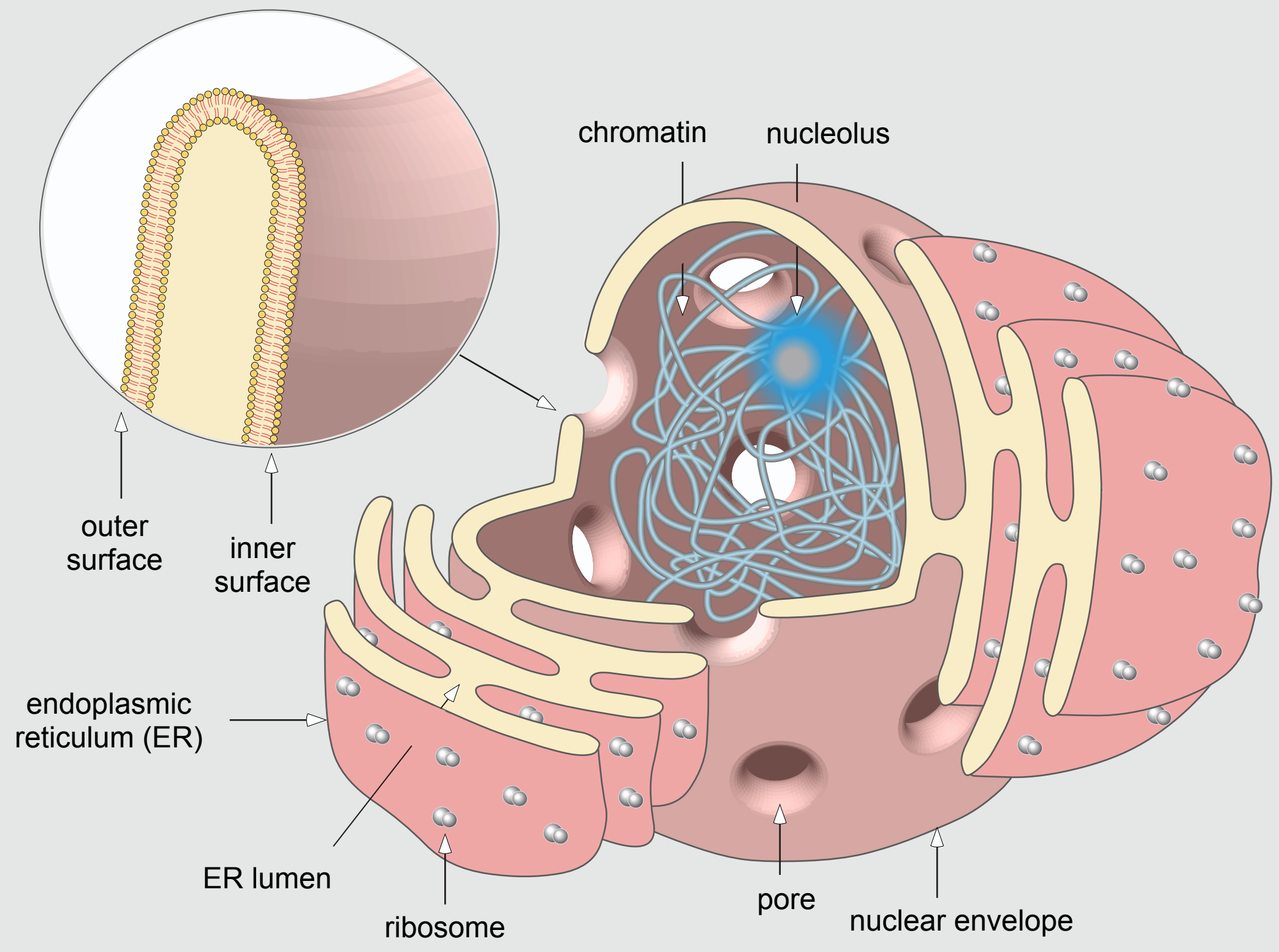
For prokaryotes, the mean is from 55 values given in ref. 32; specific examples are derived from ref. 32, Supplementary data. For eukaryotes, the mean is from 12 values re-calculated independently from ref. 3. Specific examples from data given in Table 1, ref. 33. We have converted from  $\text{nl O}_2$  per cell per hour to watts using the same conversion factor as Makarieva *et al.*<sup>31</sup> (complete aerobic oxidation of endogenous substrate yields 20 J per ml  $\text{O}_2$ ). Metabolic rate for *Thiomargarita namibiensis* is from ref. 73. The standard deviations in metabolic rate per gram (given in main text) are not transformed further here, but the variance of around twice the mean falls significantly short of the differences calculated. There is an appreciable range of uncertainty in measurement for both cell mass and metabolic rates for microbes: varying by one or two orders of magnitude might not be meaningfully different. Nonetheless, differences of four to six orders of magnitude, as calculated, certainly are. Power per gene depends partly on ploidy level, as in *Thiomargarita* (Schulz-Vogt, personal communication) and to a lesser extent *Bresslaia insidiatrix*<sup>24</sup>, lowers energy per gene. Genome sizes are from the Joint Genome Institute (<http://gi.doe.gov/cgi-bin/pub/main.cgi>). For prokaryotes: S, small (*Streptococcus pyogenes*); M, medium-sized (*Escherichia coli*); L, large (*Azospirillum lipoferum*); XL, very large (*Thiomargarita namibiensis*). For eukaryotes: S, small (*Ochromonas sp.*); M, medium-sized (*Euglena gracilis*); L, large (*B. insidiatrix*); XL, very large (*Amoeba proteus*). Power per genome is power per haploid gene times haploid gene number.



Field et al. 2011







## Introns in eukaryotic genes:

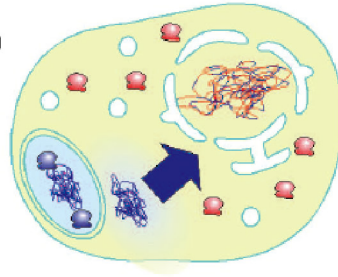
- interrupt the mRNA, removed by spliceosomes in the nucleus.
- Ca. 30% might be as old as eukaryotes themselves, because they share positional homology (conserved positions) across distant groups.
- the experts think that both spliceosomal RNAs and their cognate substrates originate from group II introns, that likely entered the eukaryotic lineage via the mitochondrion
- indeed  $\alpha$ -proteobacteria, antecedants of mitochondria, have the highest group II intron density among prokaryotes (>30 in *Sinorhizobium*)
- prokaryotes do not possess spliceosomes
- the “intron transition” thus took place in eukaryotic chromosomes
- but---spliceosomes are slow (ca. 1-7 min. per intron). while ribosomes are fast (ca. 10 AA per sec.).

....what happens if...?

Cellular processes

Host gene expression

Endomembrane accumulation  
Emergence of spliceosome, nuclear envelope, nuclear pores and RNA-export mechanisms  
Continued gene transfer through lysis

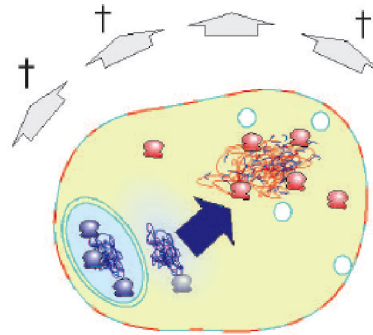


Separating splicing from translation solves the intron problem: transcription and splicing in the nucleus, translation in the cytosol

Most progeny do not survive



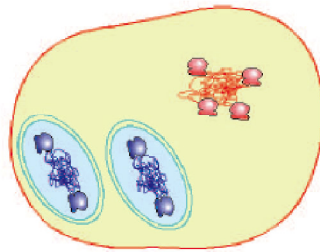
Gene transfer through occasional organelle lysis  
Genetic chimaerism  
Lipid replacement



Eubacterial genes and group II introns recombine into host chromosomes  
Introns disperse and degenerate  
Gene expression impeded by co-transcriptional translation of unspliced transcripts



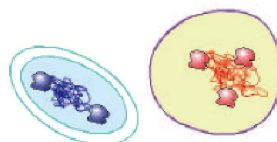
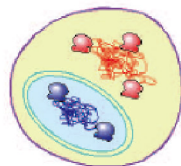
Coordination of division



Two independent prokaryotic gene expression systems

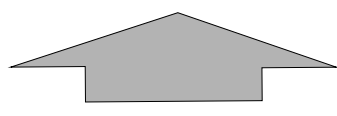
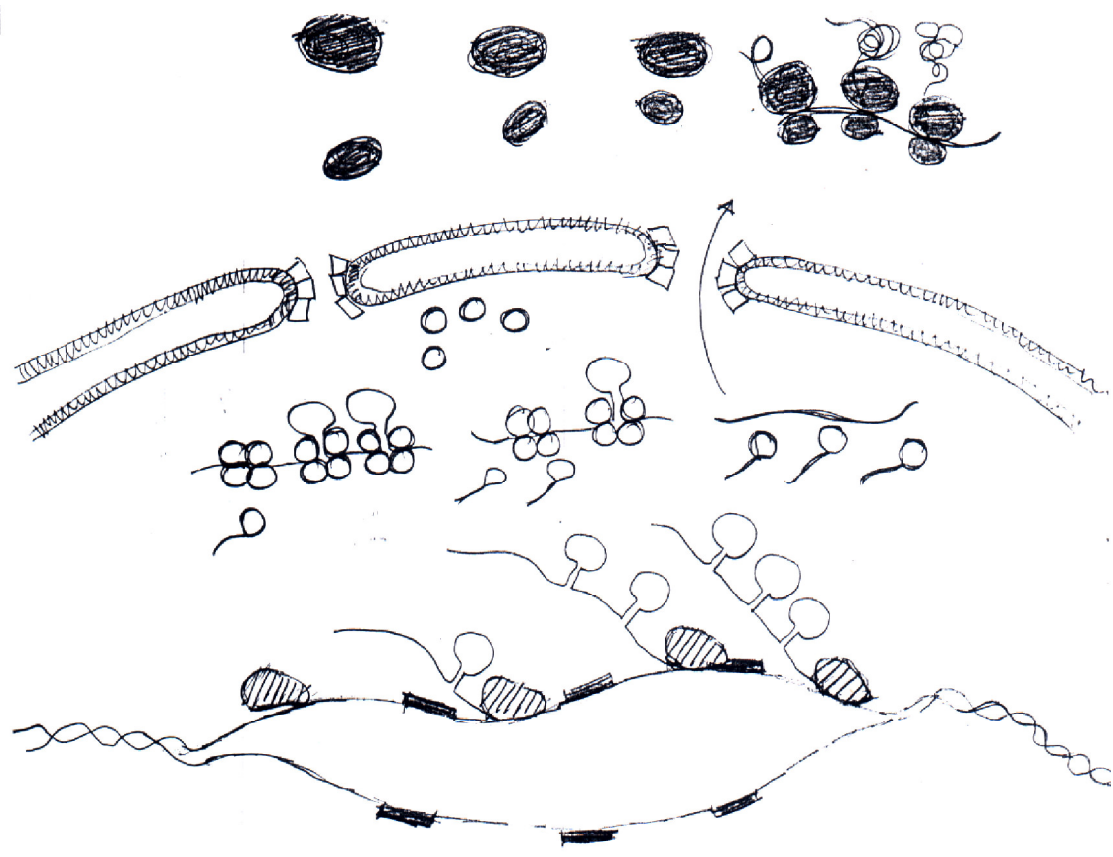


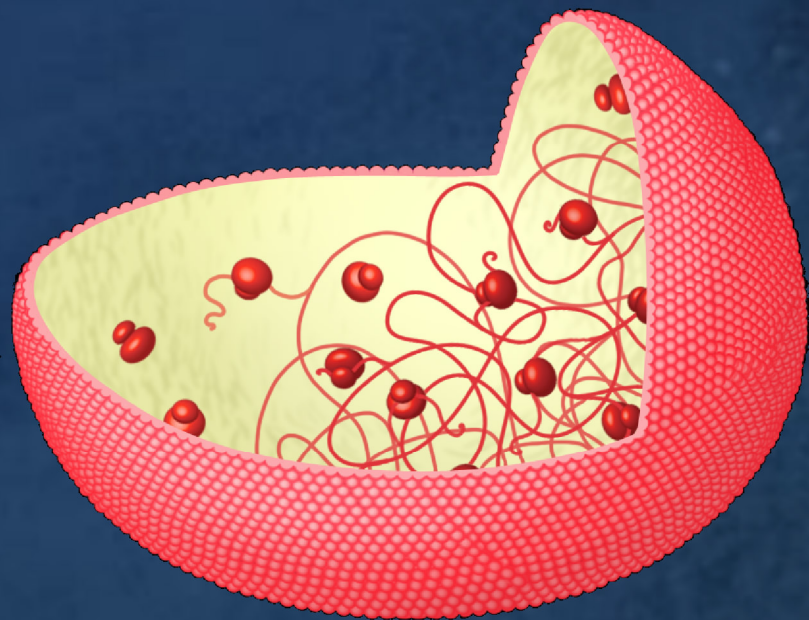
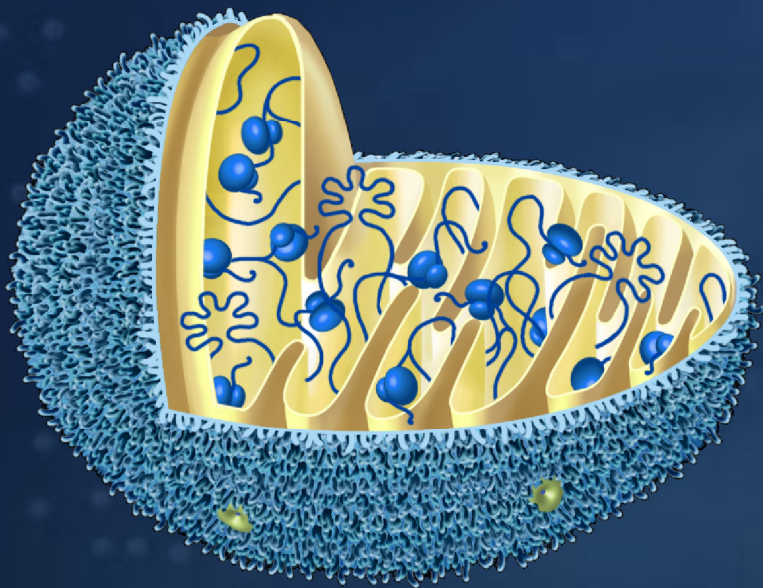
Prokaryotic host with prokaryotic symbiont  
Mechanism of entry unspecified, but with precedence among eubacteria in nature

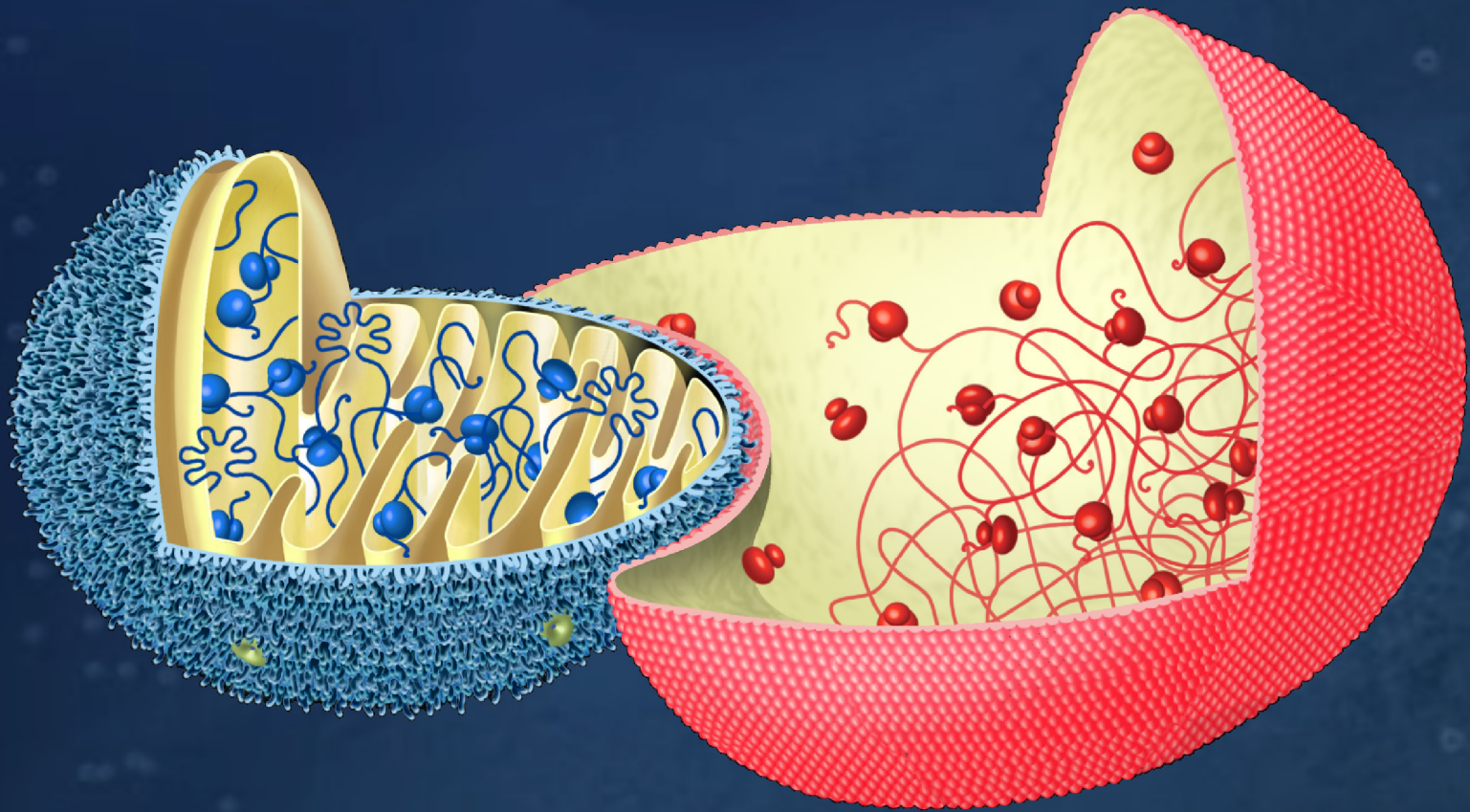


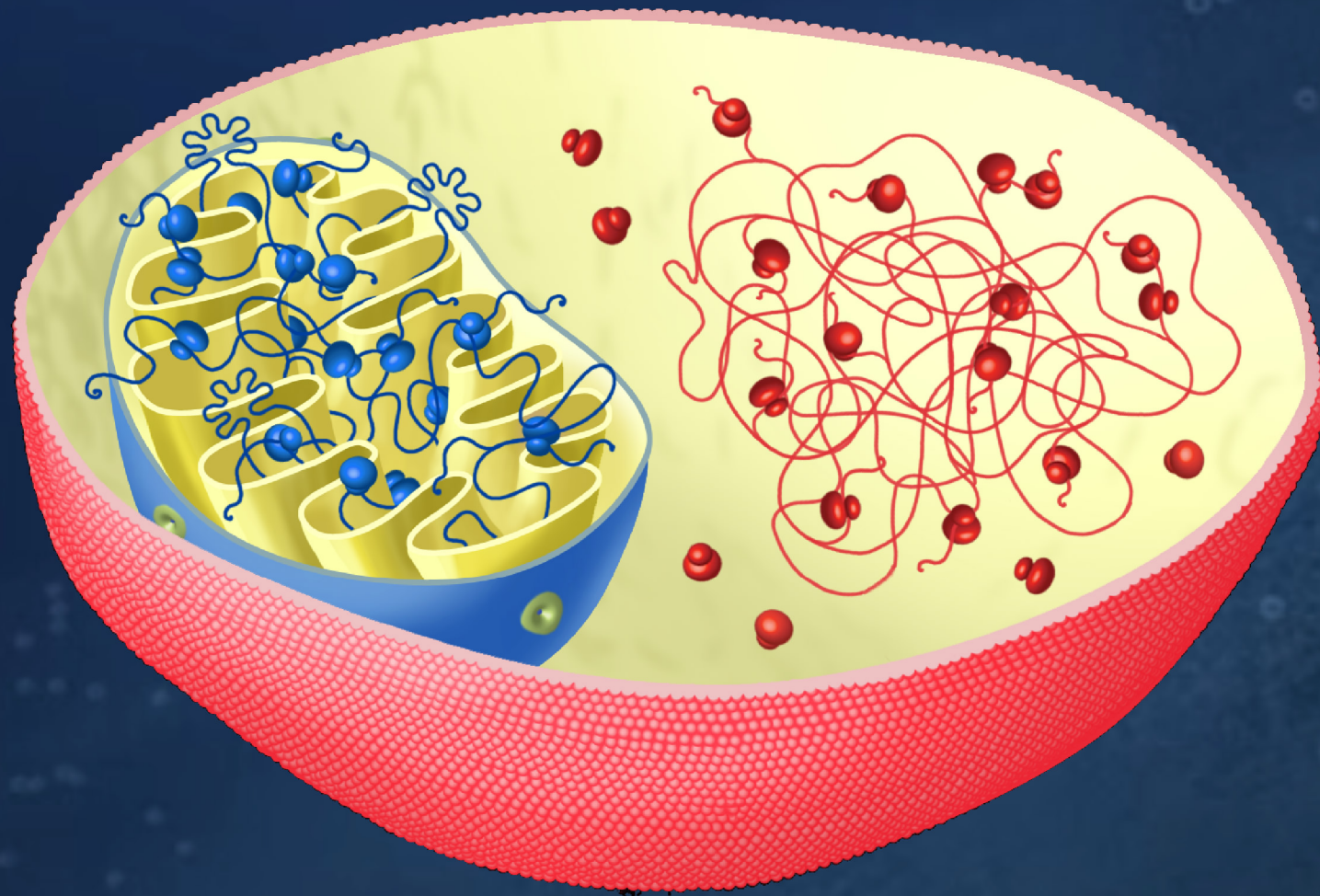
$\alpha$ -Proteobacterial symbiont      Archaeobacterial host

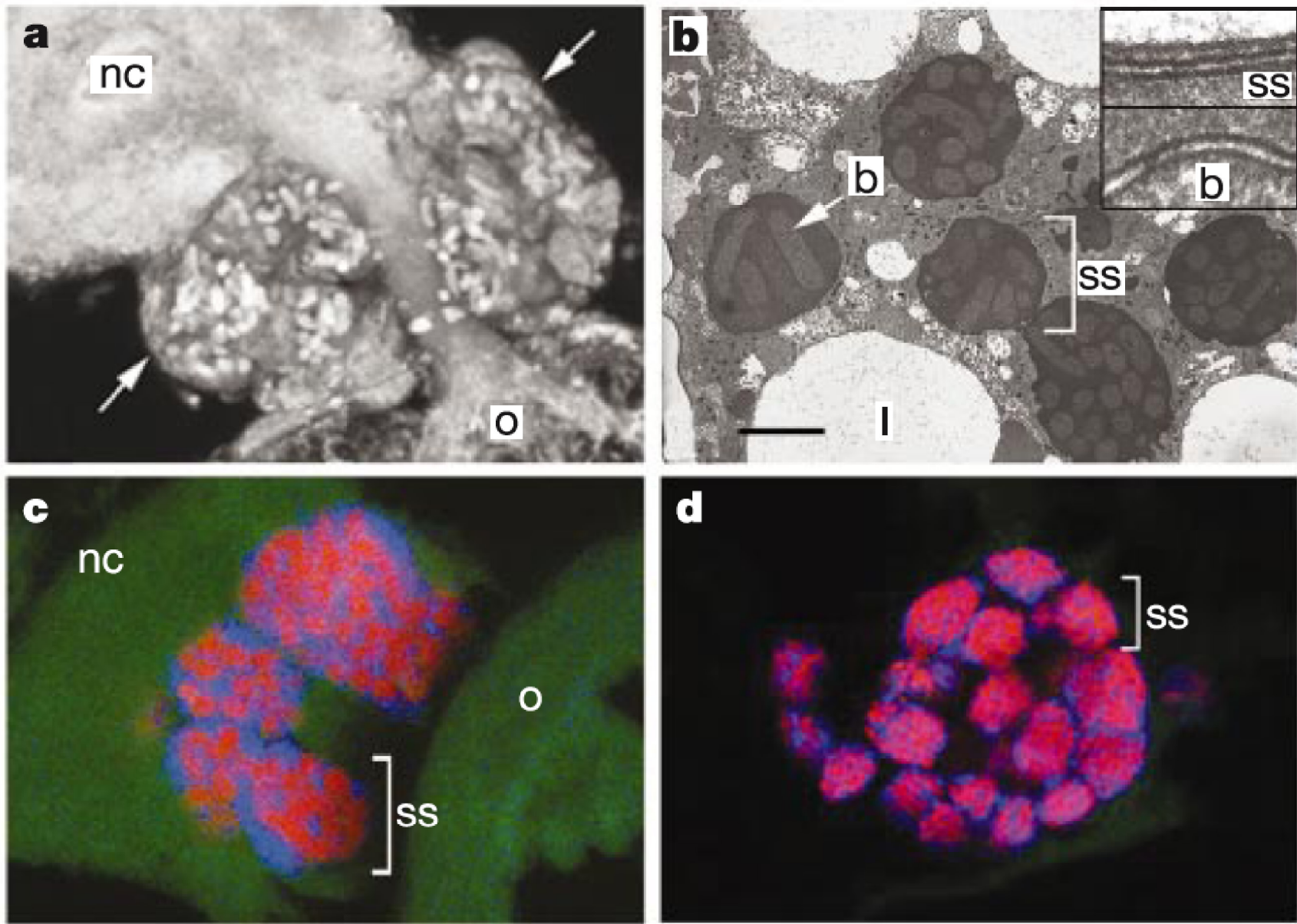
Martin W, Koonin EV (2006) Introns and the origin of nucleus-cytosol compartmentation. *Nature* 440:41-45.





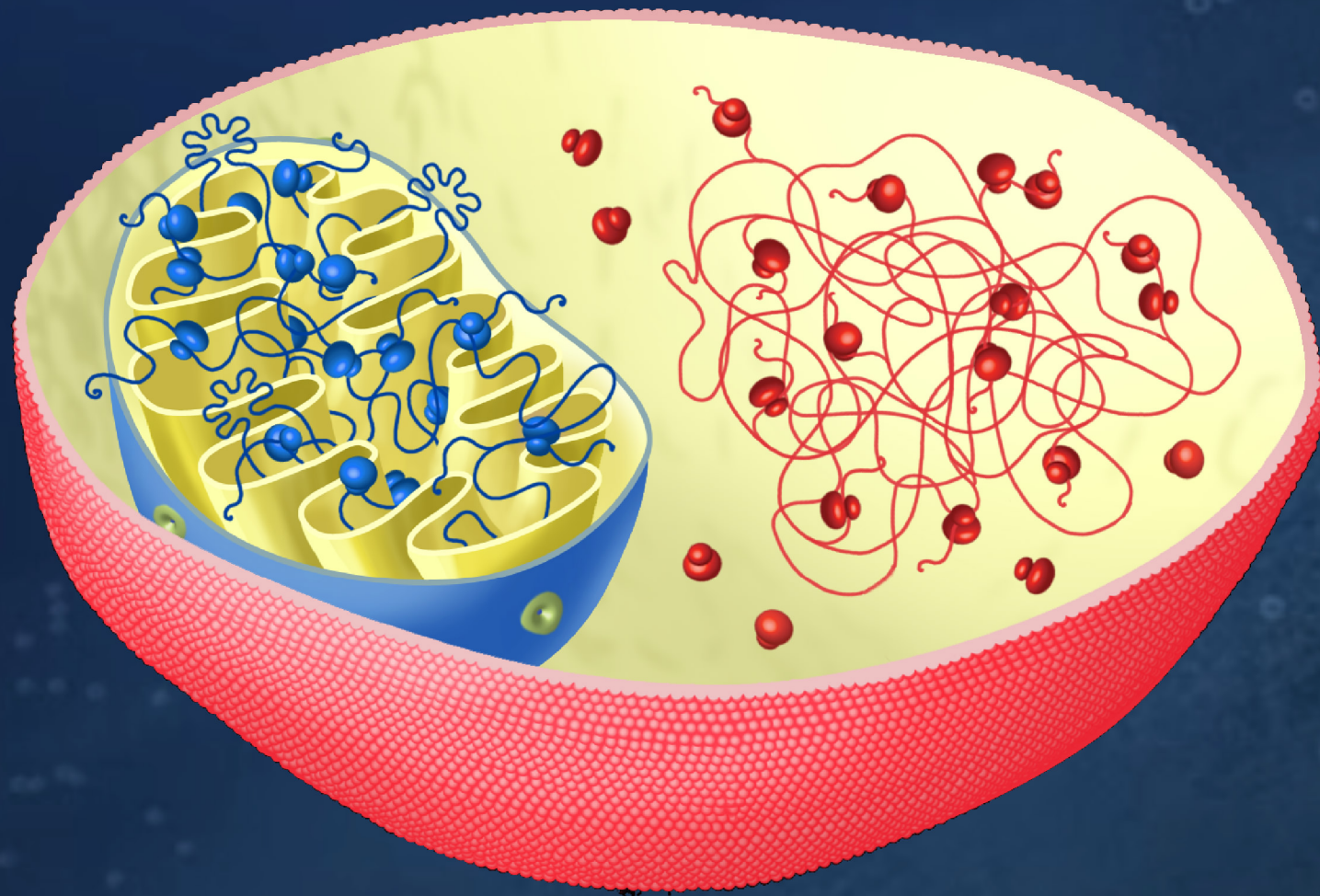


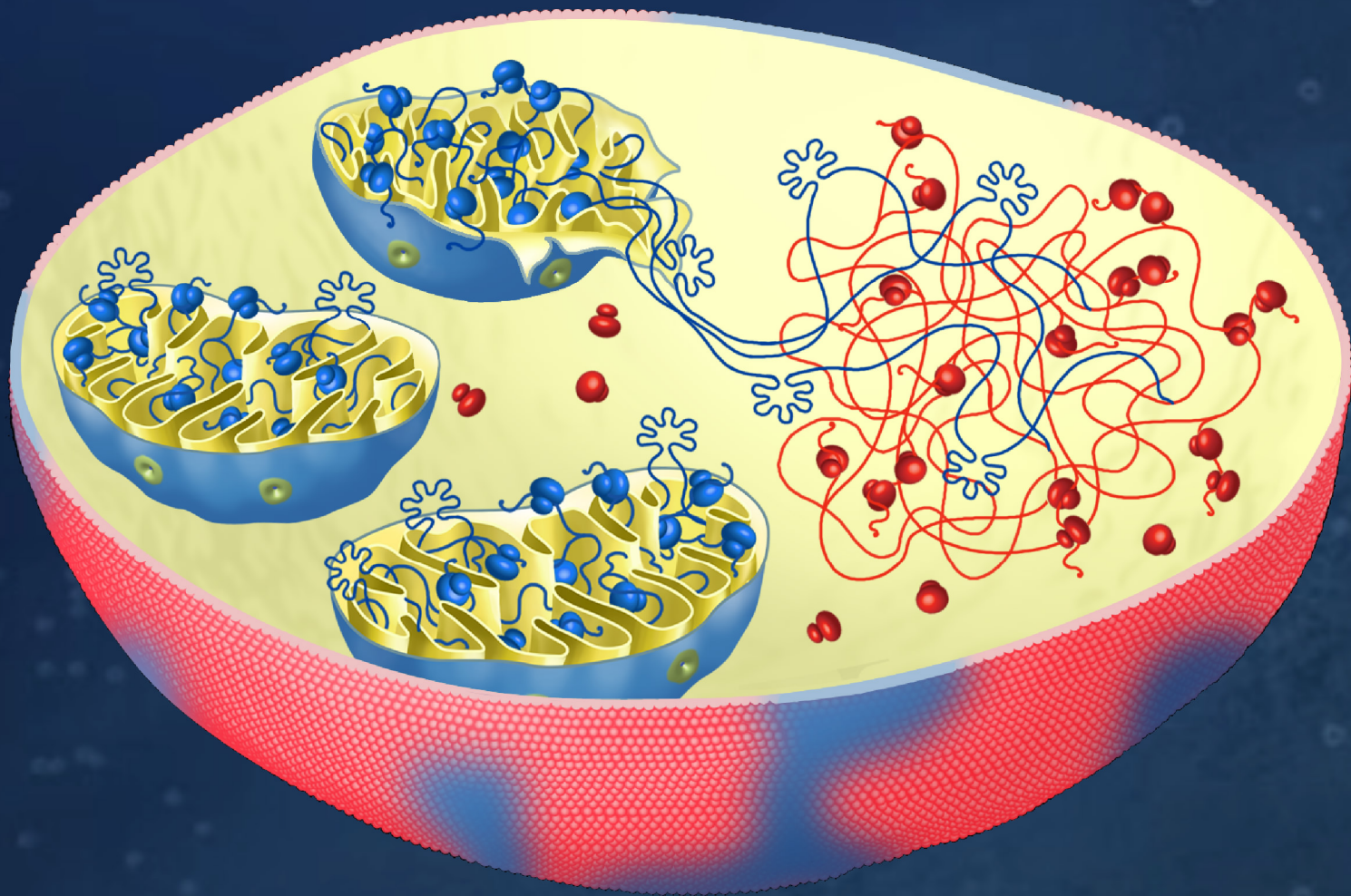


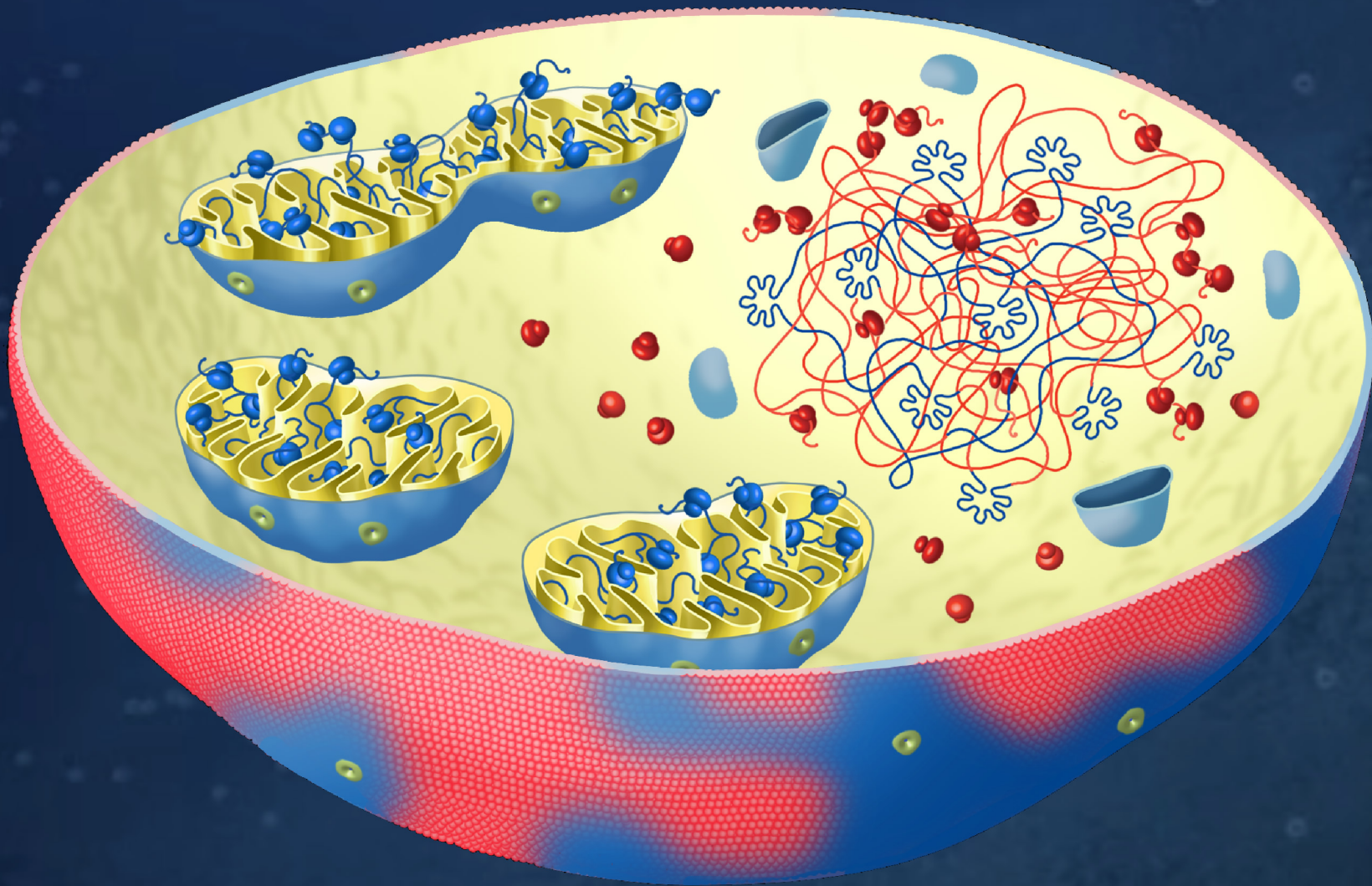


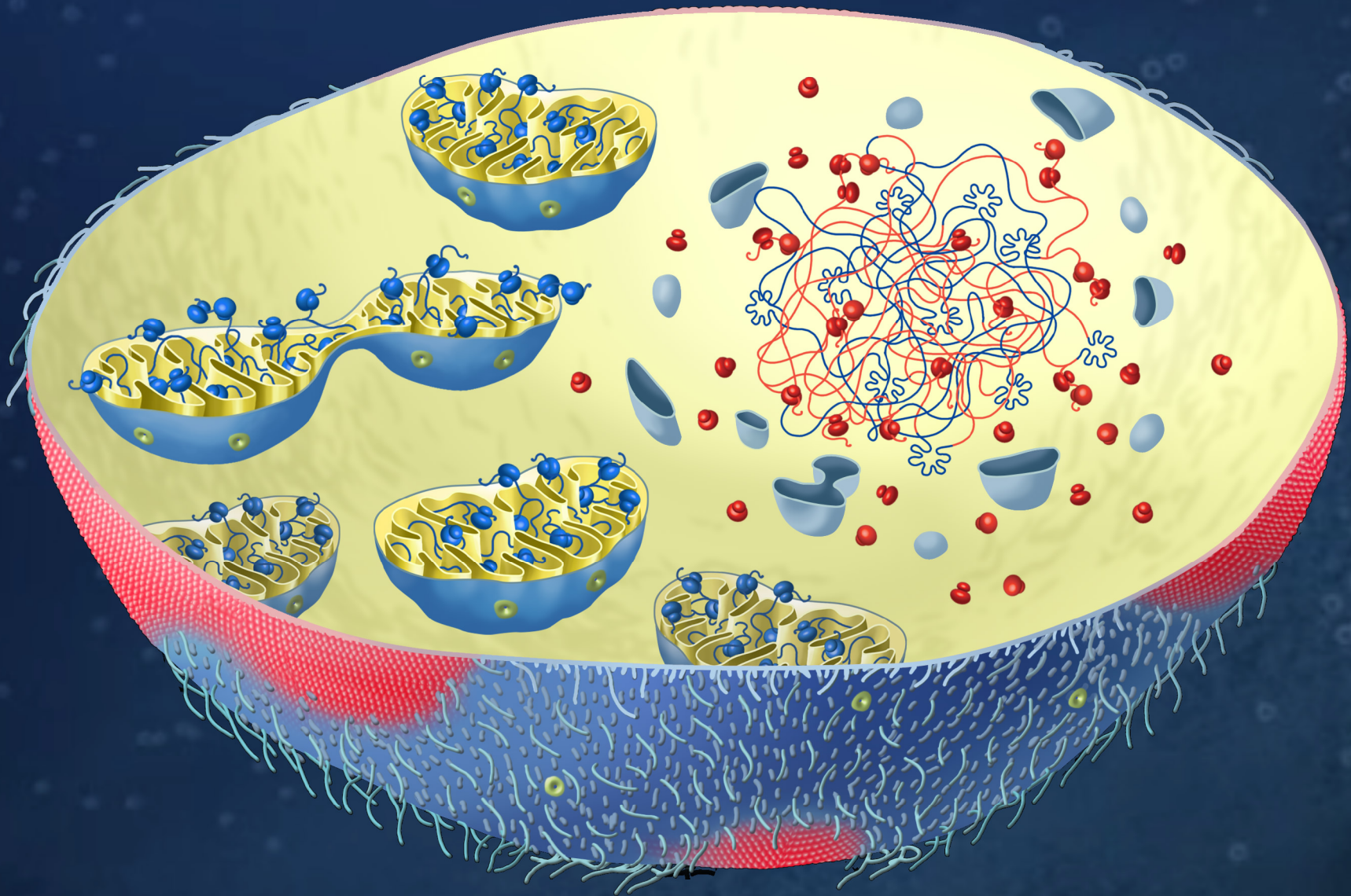
von Dohlen, C.D., Kohler, S., Alsop, S.T., and McManus, W.R. (2001) Mealybug  $\beta$ -proteobacterial endosymbionts contain  $\gamma$ -proteobacterial symbionts. *Nature* **412**: 433-436.

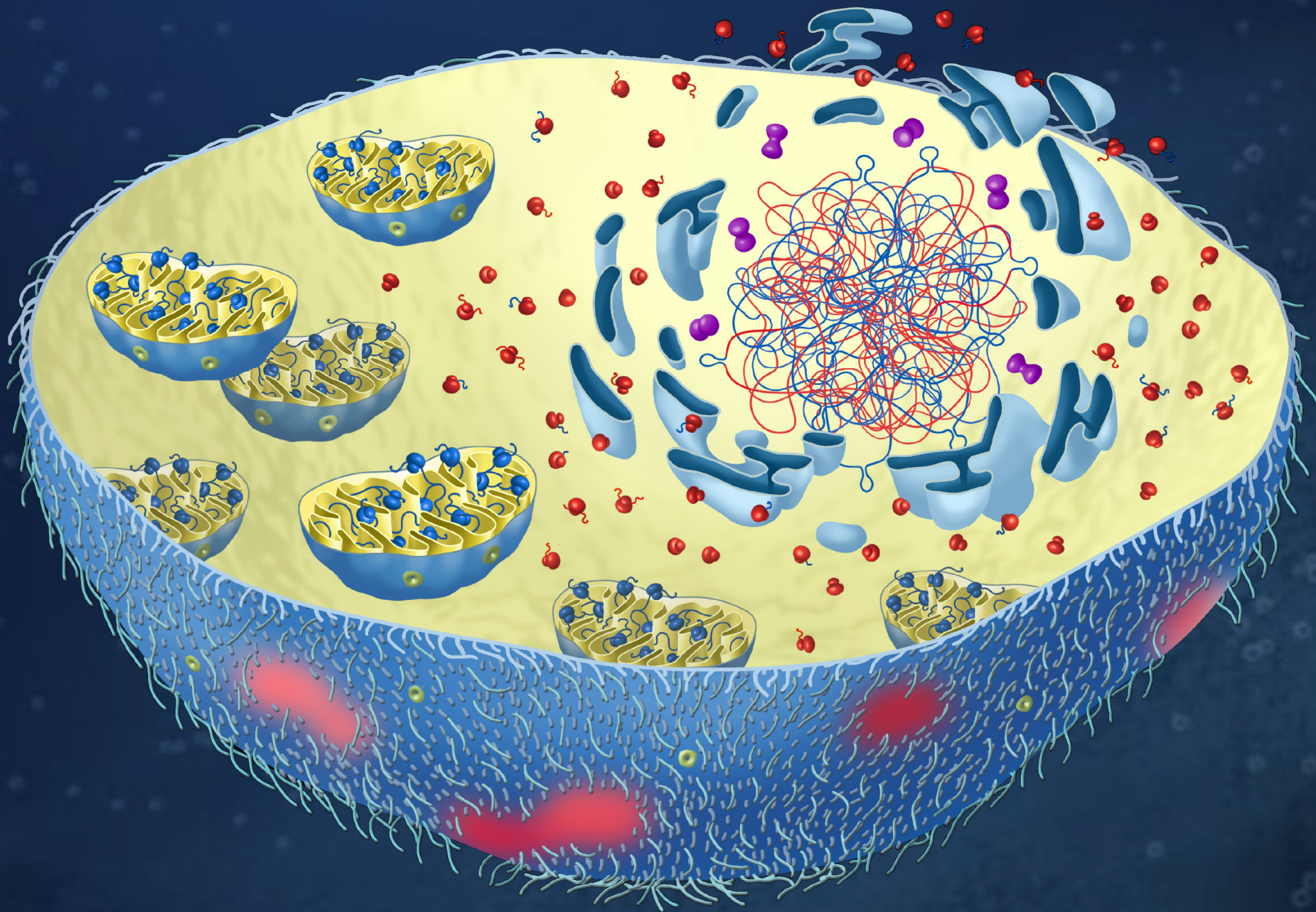


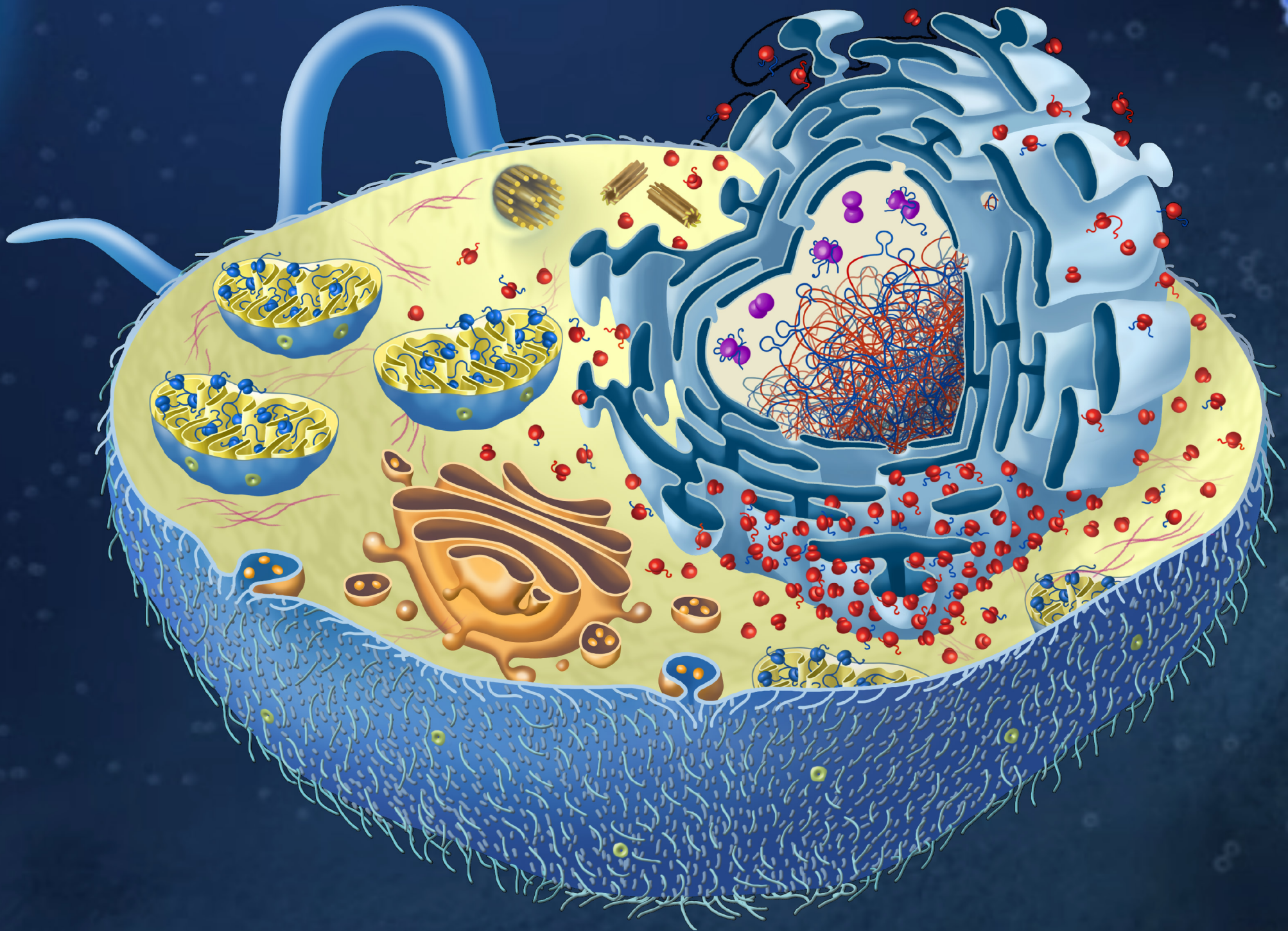












## friends and collaborators

Miklos Müller  
Nick Lane  
Martin Embley  
John F. Allen  
Louis Tielens  
Mark van der Giezen  
James McInerney  
Pete Lockhart  
Mike Steel  
John Archibald  
Ford Doolittle  
Eugene Koonin



## the team

Tal Dagan  
Marek Mentel  
Ariane Atteia  
Katrin Henze  
Giddy Landan  
Sven Gould  
Shijulal NS  
Thorsten Thiergart  
Thorsten Klösger  
Liat Shavit  
Peter Major  
Mayo Röttger

