

# Concepts of Biology: BIOL 111

## Study guide for Exam 2

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Lectures 8–16

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## Outline

# 1 Questions and answers

## 1.1 Exam 1

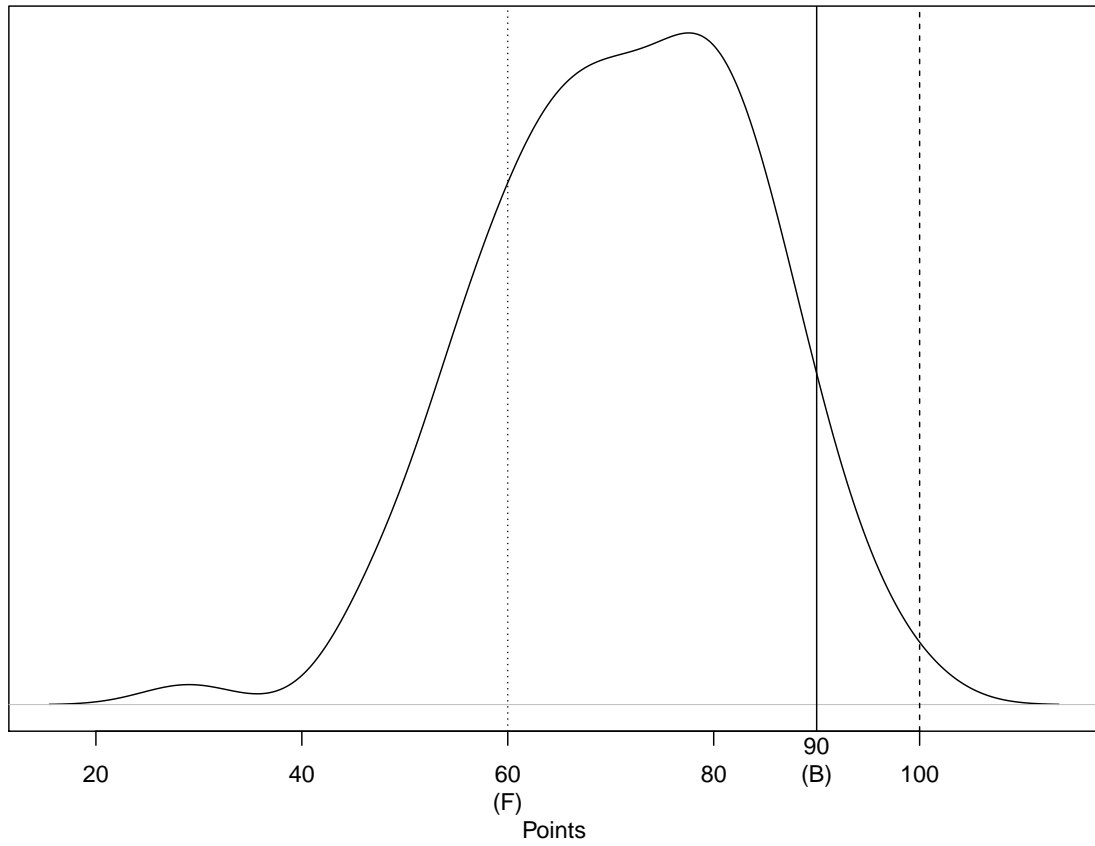
### Results of Exam 1: statistic summary

Summary:

Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3rd Qu.	Max.	NA's
29.00	63.00	72.00	71.41	81.00	100.00	7
Grades:						
F	D	C	B	max		

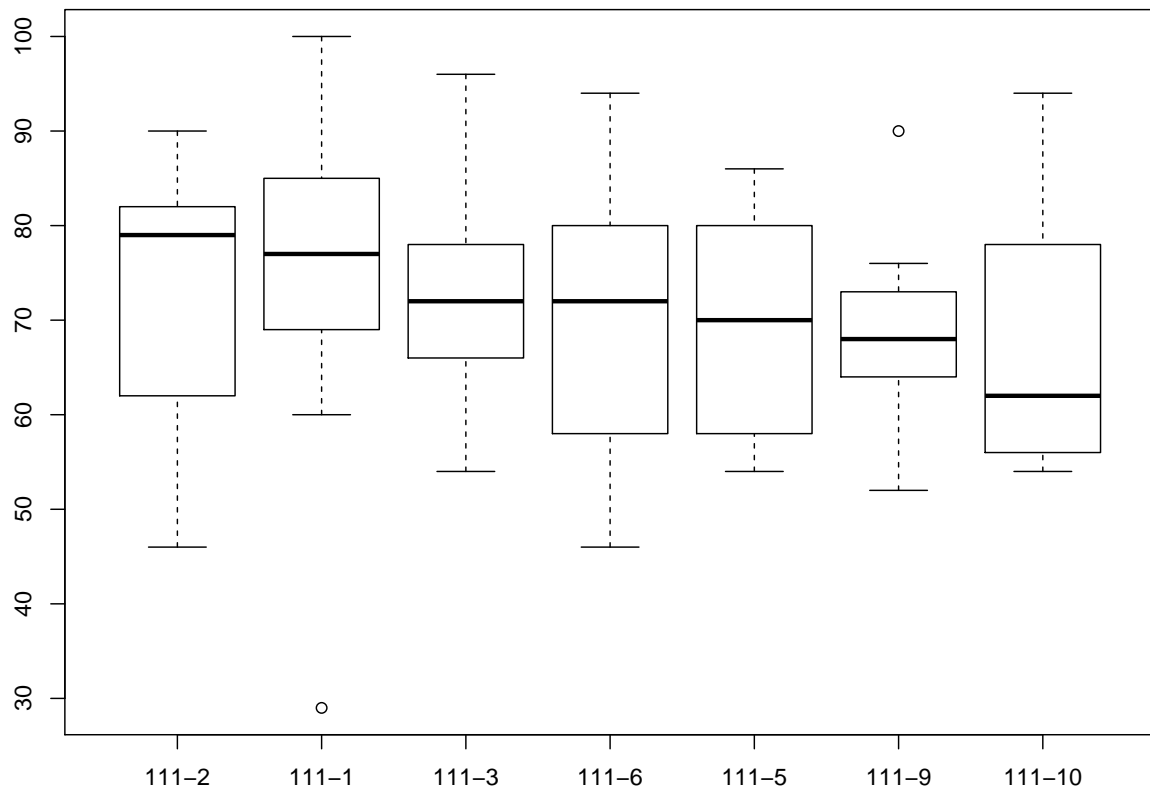
## Results of Exam 1: the curve

**Density estimation for Exam 1 (Biol 111)**



## Results of Exam 1: sections

### Competition between Biol 111 sections (Exam 1 )



### Results of Exam 1: some questions

6. Who told that “*Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution*”?
  - A. Bertrand Russel
  - B. Charles Darwin
  - C. **Theodosius Dobzhansky**
29. How many grams of phosphoric acid we should dilute in 1 liter of water to obtain 1 M concentration?
  - A. 7 g
  - B. 48 g
  - C. **98 g**
47. What is a most striking difference between carbohydrates and amino acids?
  - A. Carbohydrates are sweet, amino acids are not
  - B. **Amino acids contain nitrogen, carbohydrates do not**
  - C. Carbohydrates are hydrophobic, amino acids are not
49. Which basic feature of life is modeled in coacervates?
  - A. DNA → RNA → proteins
  - B. **Semi-permeable membrane**

## 2 Where we are?

### 2.1 Molecules of life

Four types of biomolecules form biological polymers

- Lipids
- Sugars make polysaccharides
- Amino acids make proteins
- Nucleotides make nucleic acids

Abiogenesis is the most feasible theory of life origin

- Primordial soup
- RNA world
- Proteins
- Cells: last universal common ancestor (LUCA)

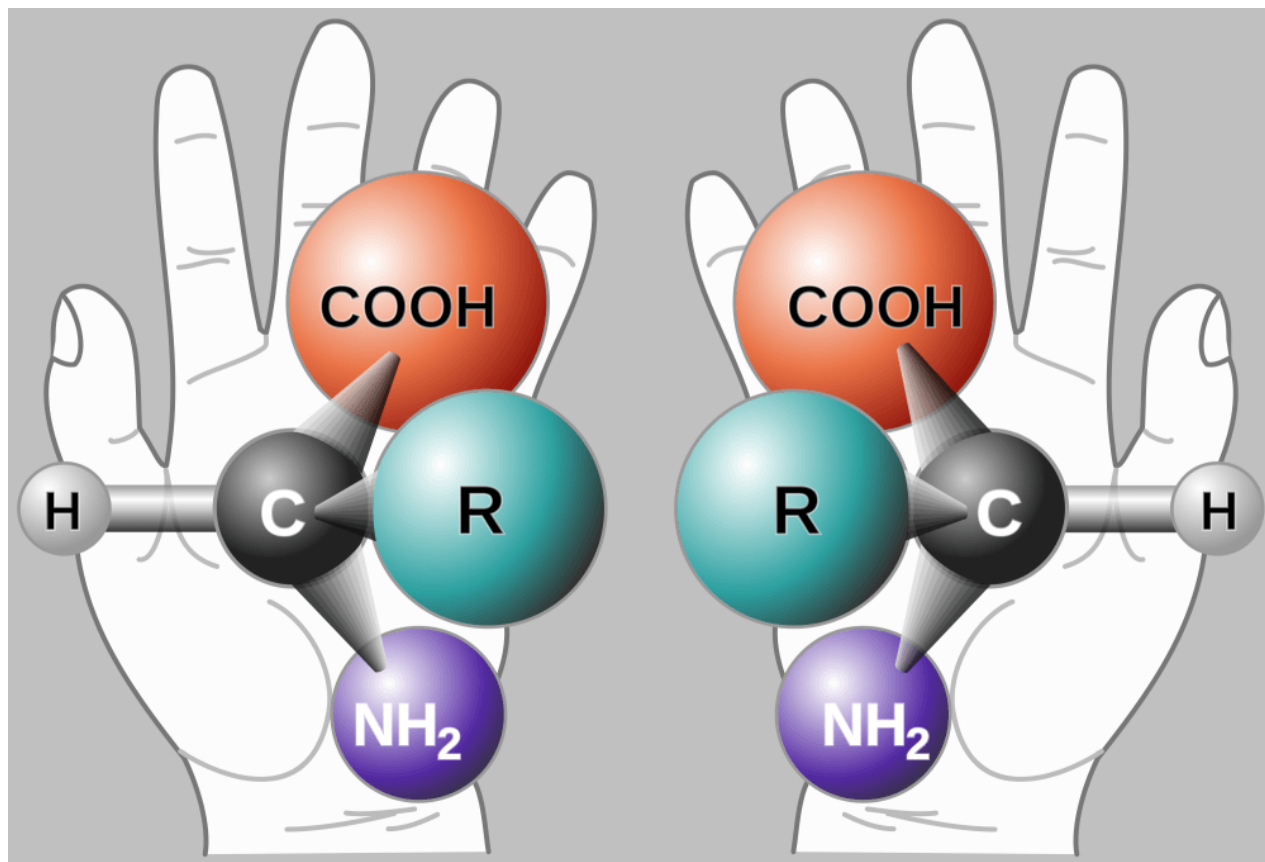
## 3 Origin of life

### 3.1 Alternatives and amendments to abiogenesis

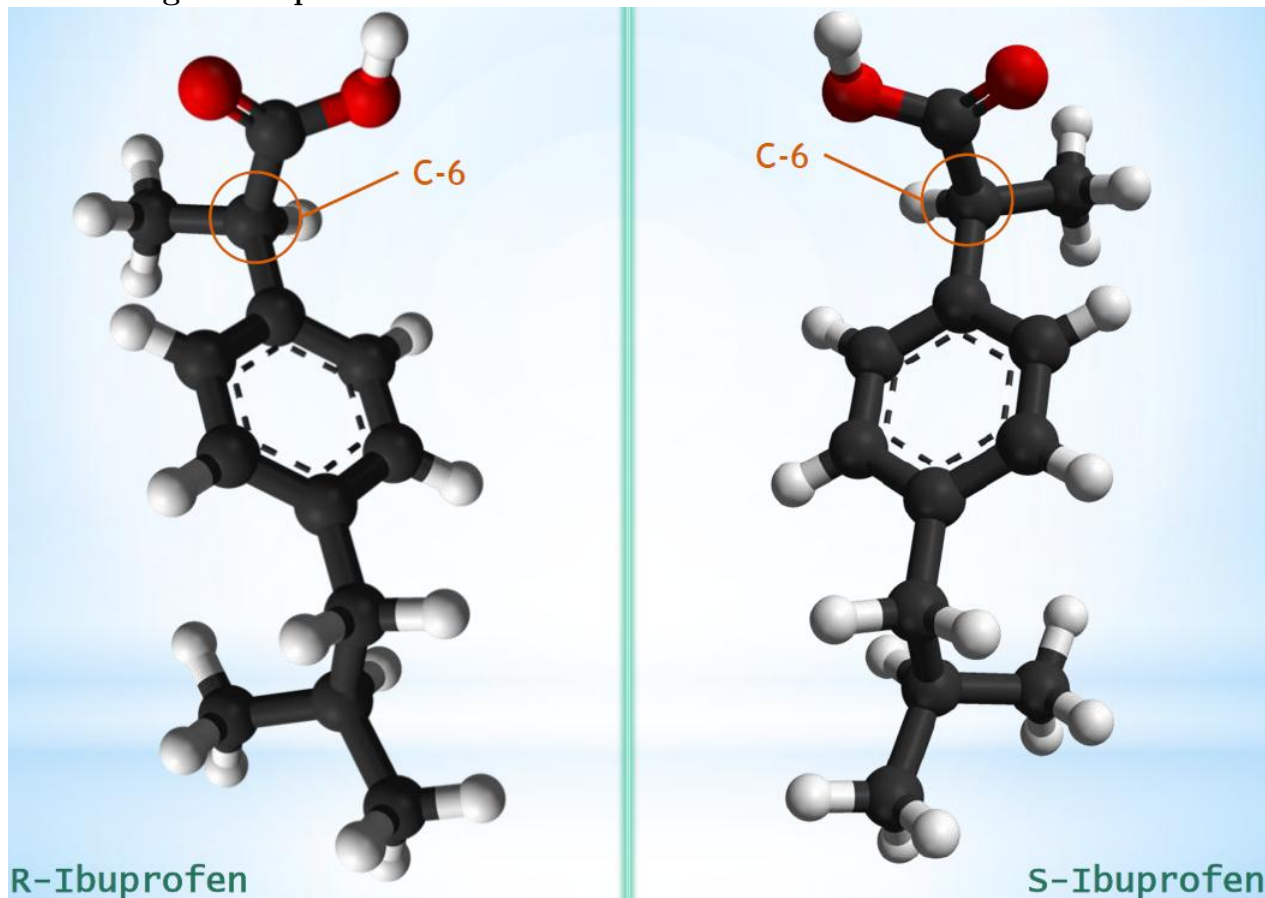
Problems of abiogenesis: chiral purity of life

- Most of amino acids and other biological molecules are **chiral**: they have “left” and “right” forms
- *All proteins from living organisms contain only “left” amino acids*
- Sugars (carbohydrates) could also be “left” and “right”
- *Nucleic acids contain only “right” sugars*

“Left” and “right” amino acids



“Left” and “right” ibuprofen



First is a drug, second is almost useless!

## Panspermia theory

- Life is a fundamental feature of Universe
- It always exists and constantly spreading

## Self-organization

- Lovelock's (1982) Gaia hypothesis: Earth is a living being
- Life is a way of stabilizing geological cycles on Earth
- Self-organization was based on the principles of Prigogine's **non-equilibrium thermodynamics**
- Life first, organisms second

# 4 First life

## 4.1 Hadean and Archean eons

### First evidences of life

- Earth age is usually estimated as 4600 Mya (million years ago), Hadean eon was the first epoch
- First minerals are  $\approx 4000$  Mya, they mark Archean eon

### Oldest evidences of life and photosynthesis

- The oldest organic carbon is  $\approx 3800$  Mya (Greenland, Mesoarchean)
- Organic carbon: carbon with  $^{13}\text{C}/^{14}\text{C}$  ratio like in living plants
- Oldest remnants of chlorophyll: 3100 Mya (Mesoarchean)

## Photosynthesis

- $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{\text{light, chlorophyll}} \text{carbohydrates} + \text{O}_2$
- Two stages:
  - A. Light-dependent: production of energy (ATP) and photolysis of water
  - B. Light-independent: assimilation of  $\text{CO}_2$  into carbohydrates
- Then carbohydrates are partly converting into lipids; with addition of N—into amino acids; with addition of N and P—into nucleotides

## Summary

- Photosynthesis changed the atmosphere of Earth

## For Further Reading

# References

[1] Photosynthesis. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosynthesis> (introduction)

## Outline

## 5 Where we are?

### 5.1 Photosynthesis

#### Photosynthesis

- $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{\text{light, chlorophyll}} \text{carbohydrates} + \text{O}_2$
- Two stages:
  - A. Light-dependent: production of energy (ATP) and photolysis of water
  - B. Light-independent: assimilation of  $\text{CO}_2$  into carbohydrates
- Then carbohydrates are partly converting into lipids; with addition of N—into amino acids; with addition of N and P—into nucleotides

#### ATP

- Universal energy source in the cell, “universal currency”
- $\text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{ADP} + \text{P} + \text{energy}$

## 6 Archean eon

### 6.1 First Life

#### Oxygen and iron

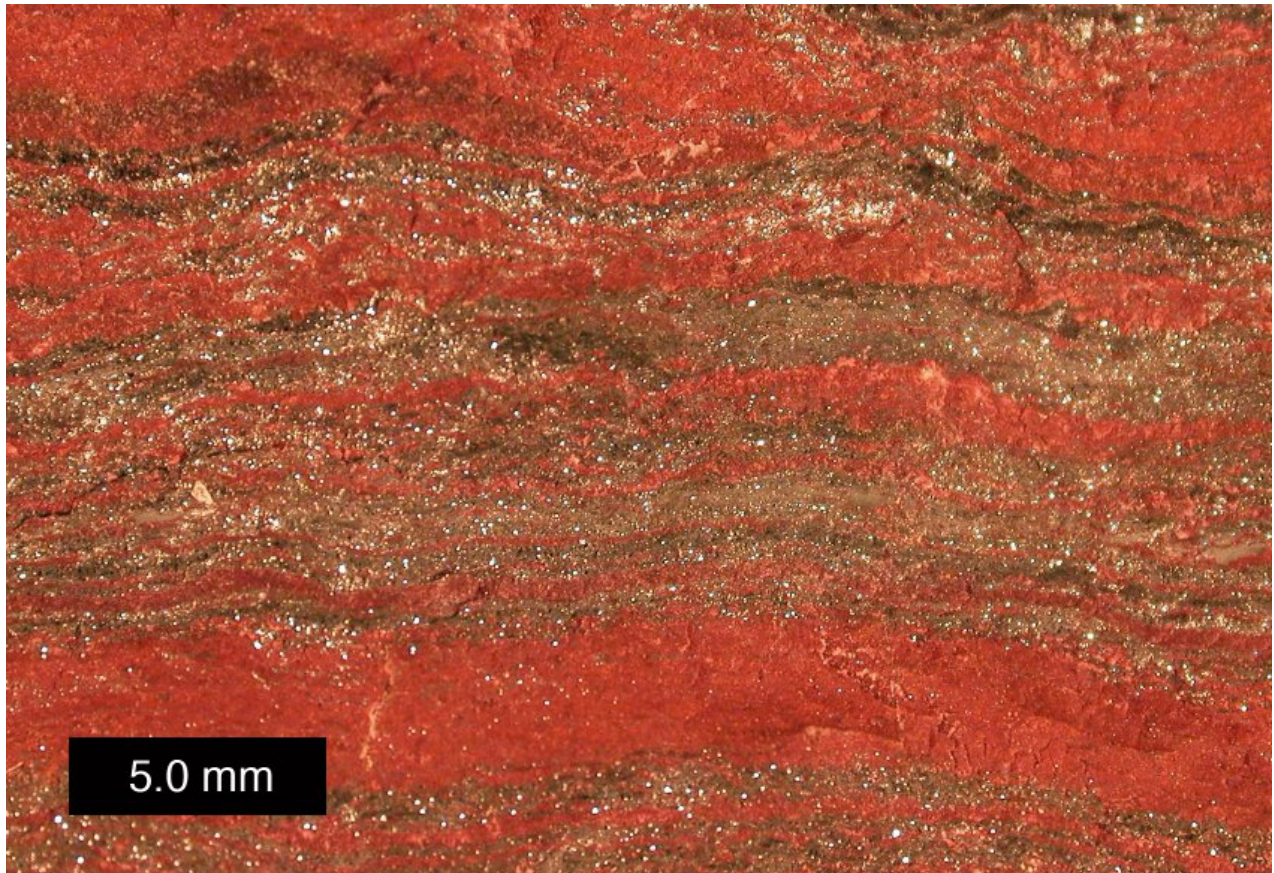
- Initially, Earth atmosphere contained no oxygen
- Photosynthetic oxygen oxidized free iron into quartzite-like rocks contained hematite and other iron minerals
- New iron was always replenished from ocean water
- However,  $\approx 2000$  Mya, when Proterozoic eon started, almost all iron went deeper into mantle and core



Wheeler Peak, NV



Hematite



### From oxygen oases to oxygen revolution

- In Archean, photosynthesis could only produce local “oxygen oases”
- But when no free iron was available anymore, atmosphere started to accumulate oxygen
- When oxygen reached 1% (Pasteur point), *aerobic life* started
- This was the **oxygen revolution** which allowed cells to obtain energy via *respiration*

### Fermentation *versus* respiration

- carbohydrates  $\rightarrow$  CO<sub>2</sub> + ethanol + 2 ATP
- carbohydrates + O<sub>2</sub>  $\rightarrow$  CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O + 38 (!!!) ATP

Which is better? Do not forget however that oxygen is highly poisonous and destructive molecule.

## 6.2 First fossil cells

### First and second

- Stromatolites: microbial mats from (mostly) cyanobacteria (photosynthetic bacteria)
- *Metallogenium* and others: proteobacteria (e.g., aerobic metal-oxidizing bacteria)

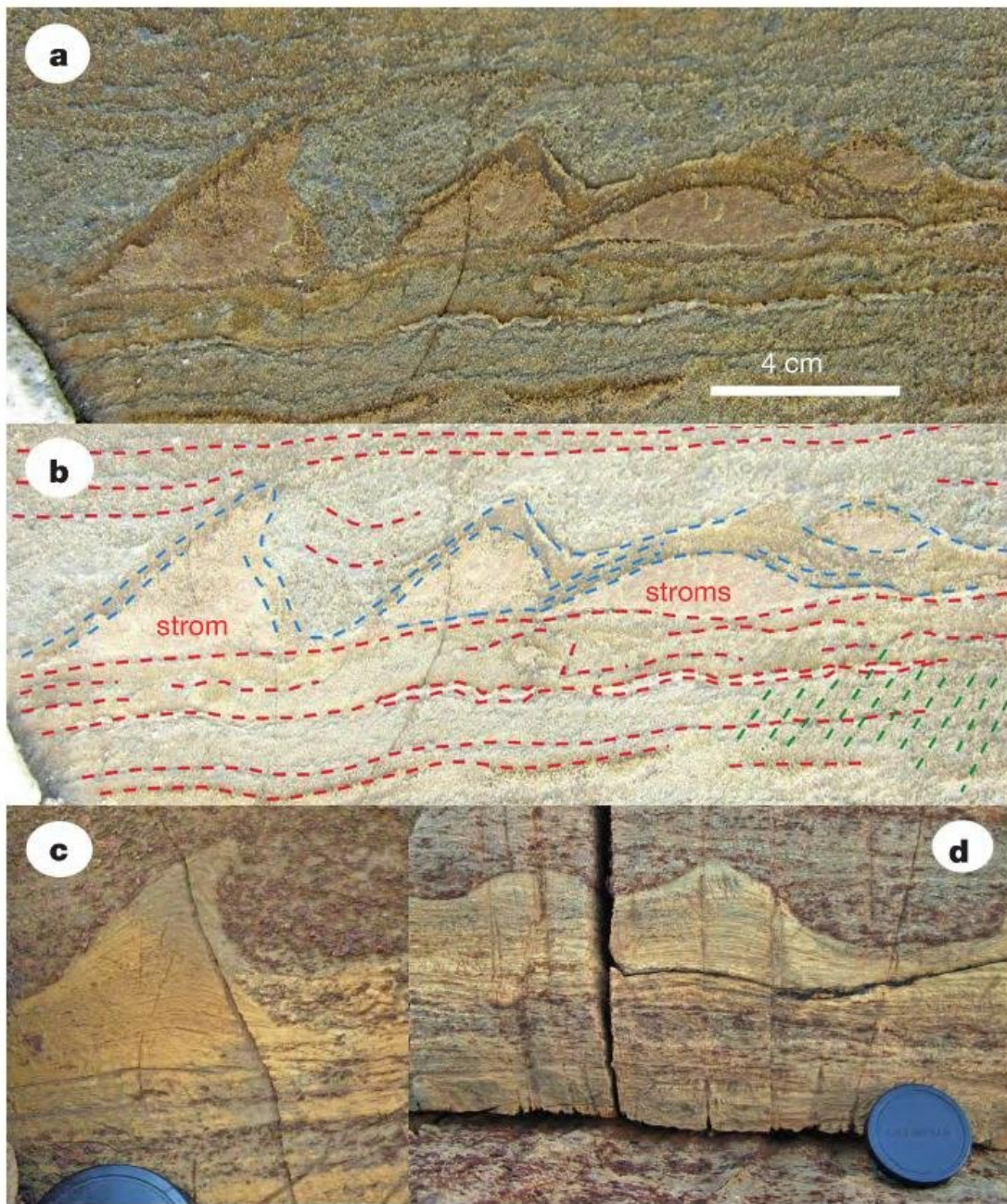


## Fossil stromatolite



Oldest stromatolite: Isua, Southern Greenland





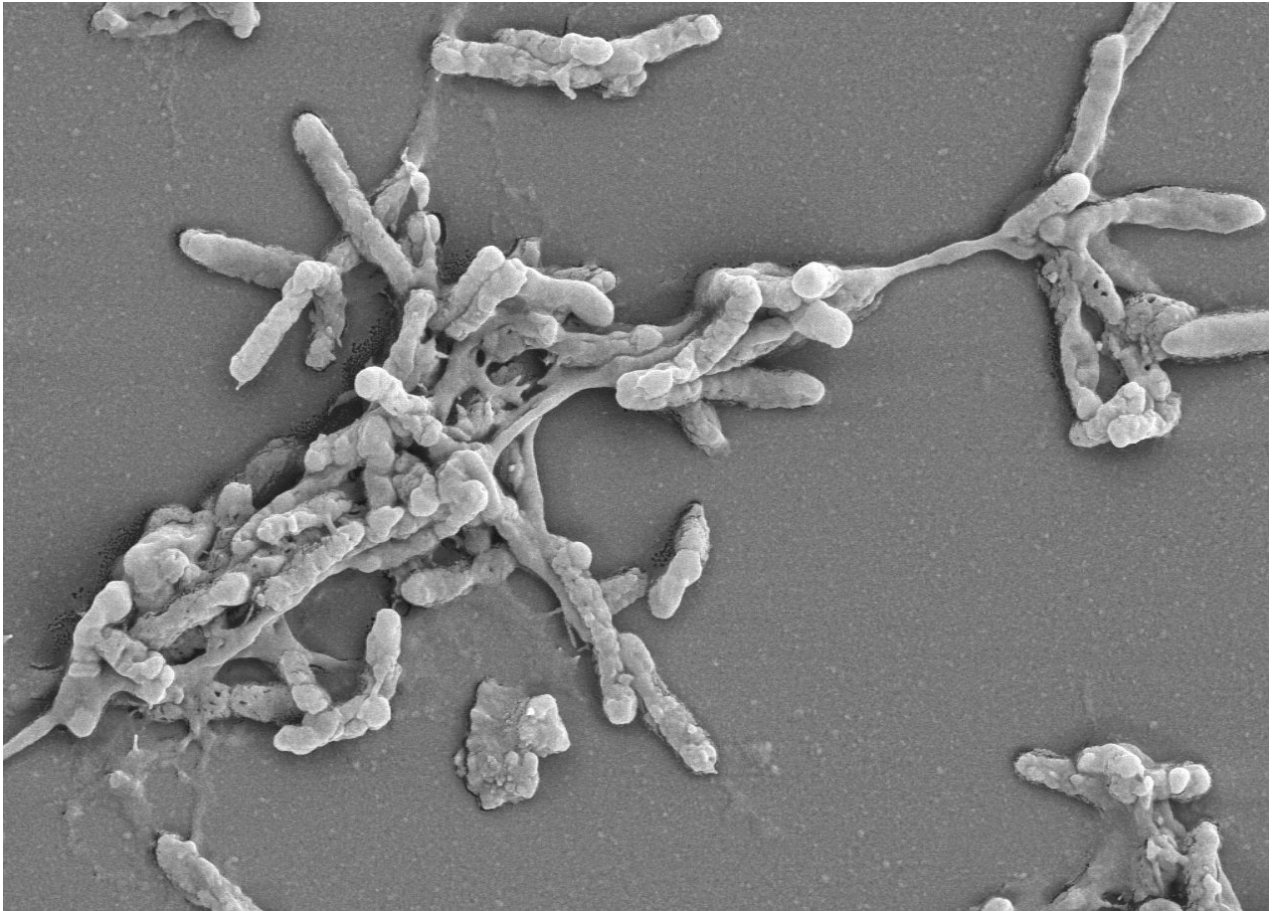
3.7 Myr!

Present-day stromatolite (Shark Bay, Australia)

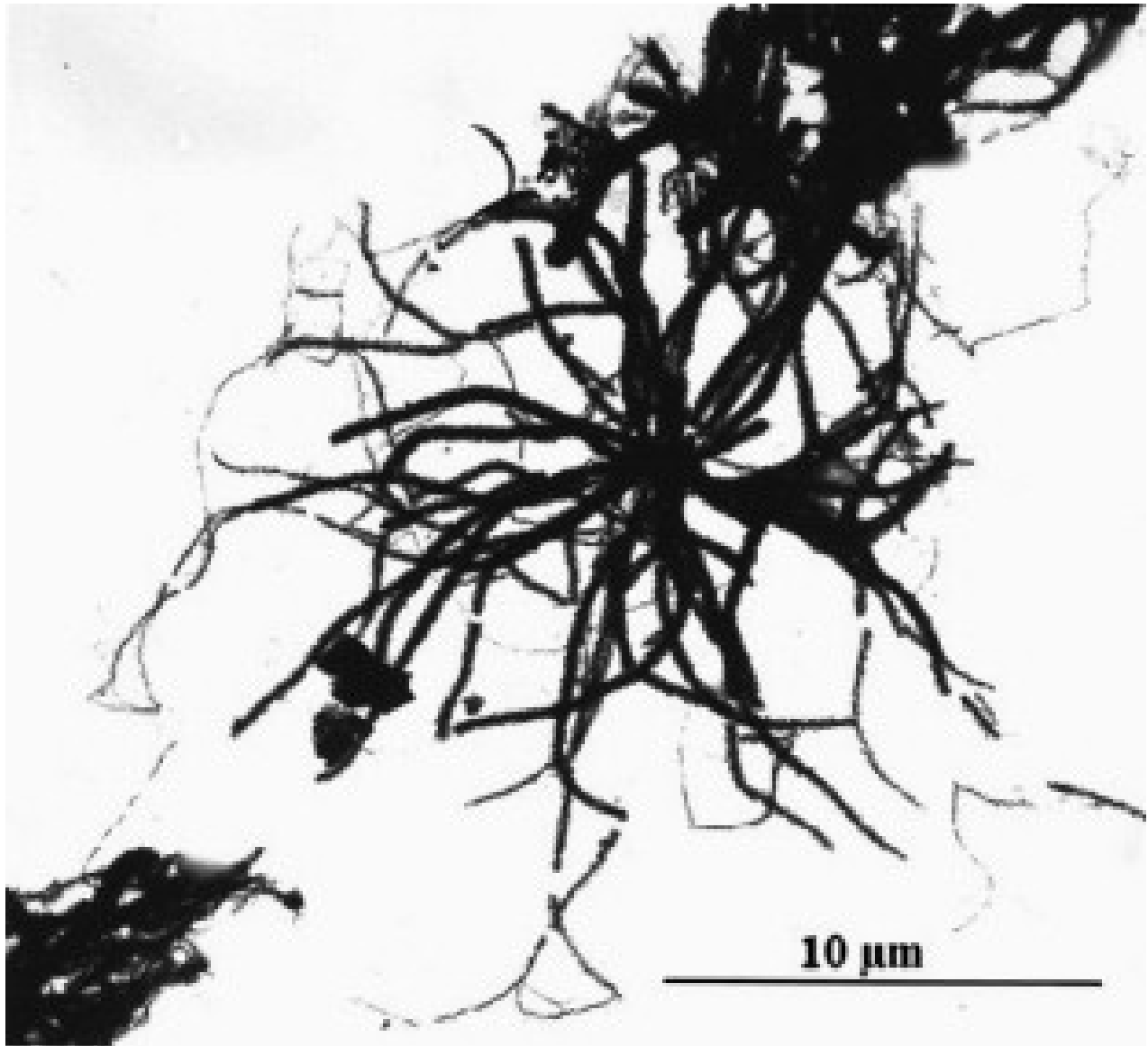


Present-day iron-oxidizing bacteria





Fossil *Metallogenium*



## First life

- In Archaean, cyanobacteria (fossilized as stromatolites) were first
- Photosynthesis changed the atmosphere
- Aerobic life respire to obtain more ATP

## 7 Cell

### 7.1 Prokaryotic cell

*Prokaryotic cell*

#### Main components of prokaryotic cell

- Cell wall

- Membrane
- Cytoplasm
- DNA
- Ribosomes
- Membrane folds and pockets
- Vesicles
- Flagella

## 7.2 How to be a prokaryote

### How to make energy

Two ways:

- Cell respiration and other destructive processes make ATP for all cell
- Photosynthesis and other synthetic processes make ATP (but later, they spend it)

### How to make proteins

To build factory, we need energy (see before) and also need *machines*. These are *proteins*. To build machines from scratch, we need *instruction* books. This is *DNA*. To work with instructions, it is better to keep them in library but copy only some *pages* for immediate use. These are *RNAs*.

- DNA and RNA contain four types of nucleotides
- The sequence of nucleotides is a cypher
- Each three nucleotides will encode amino acid (“genetic code”)
- Ribosomes translate triplets into amino acids and make proteins

### Summary

- Bacteria were first
- Photosynthesis changed the atmosphere
- Aerobic life respire to obtain more ATP
- Prokaryotic cells are simplest cells

### For Further Reading

## References

- [1] Photosynthesis. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosynthesis> (introduction)
- [2] Cellular respiration. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cellular\\_respiration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cellular_respiration) (introduction)



## Outline

# 8 Where we are?

## 8.1 How to be a cell

### Main duties

- Making energy: fermentation/respiration or photosynthesis
- Making proteins
- Digesting food
- Constructing body
- Multiplying
- Making sex

### How to make proteins

To build factory, we need energy (see before) and also need *machines*. These are *proteins*. To build machines from scratch, we need *instruction* books. This is *DNA*. To work with instructions, it is better to keep them in library but copy only some *pages* for immediate use. These are *RNAs*.

- DNA and RNA contain four types of nucleotides
- The sequence of nucleotides is a cypher
- Each tree nucleotides will encode amino acid (“genetic code”)
- Ribosomes translate triplets into amino acids and make proteins

### How to take food

- Digestive proteins are transported outside membrane
- They destroy polymers into monomers
- Monomers then are pumping through membrane into the cell
- If cell is photosynthetic, it produce monomers itself

### How to make body

- Monomers could be spend:
  - in destructive reactions to obtain ATP, **or**
  - in synthetic reactions to make new polymers. These reactions are using ATP

## How to multiply

- DNA is a double helix which may copy itself
- Two copies of DNA untangled and separated, then cytoplasm and membrane divide
- Of course, these processes spend lots of ATP

## 9 How to make proteins

### 9.1 More details

#### How to make proteins I

- Proteins are chemical machines of cell
- Each machine is described in gene
- The only way to make them is DNA  $\rightarrow$  RNA  $\rightarrow$  proteins
- DNA is a folded double spiral; it has two chains
- Every chain consists of four “letters”—nucleotides (A, T, G, C)
- Two chains are complimentary, and only A–T and G–C pairs are possible

#### How to make proteins II

- DNA may duplicate, then new DNAs will build complimentary chains and become exact copies
- DNA may also “produce” RNA: one of chains serves as matrix for new RNA
- RNA also has four letters (A, U, G, C)
- When RNA is building on DNA, RNA’s “U” will be complimentary with DNA’s “A”; all other rules are the same

#### How to make proteins III

- New RNA is a messenger RNA (mRNA)
- It will come into ribosome, and ribosome will translate every three letters (triplet) into amino acid
- mRNA moves within ribosome, and new amino acids are joining into growing protein
- Translation rules are known as “genetic code”
- There are 64 possible triplets and only 20 amino acids—genetic code is redundant

## Translation rules: “genetic code”

	U		C		A		G		
U	UUU	Phe	UCU	Ser	UAU	Tyr	UGU	Cys	U
	UUC	Phe	UCC	Ser	UAC	Tyr	UGC	Cys	C
	UUA	Leu	UCA	Ser	UAA	STOP	UGA	STOP	A
	UUG	Leu	UCG	Ser	UAG	STOP	UGG	Trp	G
C	CUU	Leu	CCU	Pro	CAU	His	CGU	Arg	U
	CUC	Leu	CCC	Pro	CAC	His	CGC	Arg	C
	CUA	Leu	CCA	Pro	CAA	Gln	CGA	Arg	A
	CUG	Leu	CCG	Pro	CAG	Gln	CGG	Arg	G
A	AUU	Ile	ACU	Thr	AAU	Asn	AGU	Ser	U
	AUC	Ile	ACC	Thr	AAC	Asn	AGC	Ser	C
	AUA	Ile	ACA	Thr	AAA	Lys	AGA	Arg	A
	AUG	Met	ACG	Thr	AAG	Lys	AGG	Arg	G
G	GUU	Val	GCU	Ala	GAU	Asp	GGU	Gly	U
	GUC	Val	GCC	Ala	GAC	Asp	GGC	Gly	C
	GUA	Val	GCA	Ala	GAA	Glu	GGA	Gly	A
	GUG	Val	GCG	Ala	GAG	Glu	GGG	Gly	G

## Translation rules: “genetic code” (another variant)

		Second letter						
		U	C	A	G			
First letter	U	UUU } Phe	UCU } Ser	UAU } Tyr	UGU } Cys	U		
		UUC } Phe	UCC } Ser	UAC } Tyr	UGC } Cys		C	
		UUA } Leu	UCA } Ser	UAA Stop	UGA Stop			A
		UUG } Leu	UCG } Ser	UAG Stop	UGG Trp			
	C	CUU } Leu	CCU } Pro	CAU } His	CGU } Arg	U		
		CUC } Leu	CCC } Pro	CAC } His	CGC } Arg		C	
		CUA } Leu	CCA } Pro	CAA } Gln	CGA } Arg			A
		CUG } Leu	CCG } Pro	CAG } Gln	CGG } Arg			
	A	AUU } Ile	ACU } Thr	AAU } Asn	AGU } Ser	U		
		AUC } Ile	ACC } Thr	AAC } Asn	AGC } Ser		C	
		AUA } Ile	ACA } Thr	AAA } Lys	AGA } Arg			A
		AUG Met	ACG } Thr	AAG } Lys	AGG } Arg			
	G	GUU } Val	GCU } Ala	GAU } Asp	GGU } Gly	U		
		GUC } Val	GCC } Ala	GAC } Asp	GGC } Gly		C	
		GUA } Val	GCA } Ala	GAA } Glu	GGA } Gly			A
		GUG } Val	GCG } Ala	GAG } Glu	GGG } Gly			

## Summary

- Prokaryotic cells are simplest cells. They produce energy, obtain monomers, synthesize polymers, e.g. proteins from DNA and RNA, and sometimes also make monomers themselves (with photosynthesis), divide and even perform a sexual process (recombine DNA between cells)

## For Further Reading

## References

- [1] Genetic code. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic\\_code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_code)
- [2] Protein biosynthesis. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protein\\_biosynthesis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protein_biosynthesis)

## Outline

# 10 Where we are?

## 10.1 How to be a cell

### Main duties

- Making energy
- Making proteins
- Digesting food and constructing body
- Multiplying
- Making sex

### How to make proteins III

- RNA synthesized from DNA is a *messenger RNA* (mRNA)
- It comes into ribosome, and ribosome translates every three letters (triplets) into amino acid
- mRNA moves within ribosome, and new amino acids are joining into growing protein
- Translation rules are known as “genetic code”
- There are 64 possible triplets and only 20 amino acids—genetic code is *redundant*

### Translation rules: “genetic code”

	U		C		A		G		
U	UUU	Phe	UCU	Ser	UAU	Tyr	UGU	Cys	U
	UUC	Phe	UCC	Ser	UAC	Tyr	UGC	Cys	C
	UUA	Leu	UCA	Ser	UAA	STOP	UGA	STOP	A
	UUG	Leu	UCG	Ser	UAG	STOP	UGG	Trp	G
C	CUU	Leu	CCU	Pro	CAU	His	CGU	Arg	U
	CUC	Leu	CCC	Pro	CAC	His	CGC	Arg	C
	CUA	Leu	CCA	Pro	CAA	Gln	CGA	Arg	A
	CUG	Leu	CCG	Pro	CAG	Gln	CGG	Arg	G
A	AUU	Ile	ACU	Thr	AAU	Asn	AGU	Ser	U
	AUC	Ile	ACC	Thr	AAC	Asn	AGC	Ser	C
	AUA	Ile	ACA	Thr	AAA	Lys	AGA	Arg	A
	AUG	Met	ACG	Thr	AAG	Lys	AGG	Arg	G
G	GUU	Val	GCU	Ala	GAU	Asp	GGU	Gly	U
	GUC	Val	GCC	Ala	GAC	Asp	GGC	Gly	C
	GUA	Val	GCA	Ala	GAA	Glu	GGA	Gly	A
	GUG	Val	GCG	Ala	GAG	Glu	GGG	Gly	G

# 11 Sexual process

## 11.1 Prokaryotic sex

### How to make sex

- If DNA will stay unchanged, cells cannot evolve
- To make evolution possible, there are processes which modify DNA:
  - Mutations
  - Recombinations
- Sexual process allows DNA recombination
- Prokaryotic cells simply connect and exchange pieces of DNA (“bacterial conjugation”)

# 12 Basics of ecology

## 12.1 Ways of life

### Ways of life

- How to obtain energy?
  - A. From sun light: **phototrophy**
  - B. From chemical reactions with inorganic matter (“rocks”): **lithotrophy**
  - C. From breaking organic molecules into inorganic (typically, carbon dioxide and water): **organotrophy**
- How to obtain building blocks?
  - A. From assimilation of carbon dioxide: **autotrophy**
  - B. From other living beings: **heterotrophy**

### Six life styles

	Phototrophs	Lithotrophs	Organotrophs
Autotrophs	...	...	...
Heterotrophs	...	...	...

## 12.2 Ecological interactions

### Two-species model

- Species I and species II may influence each other differently
- For example, species I may facilitate the increase the number of species II individuals (+ interaction)
- At the same time, species II could be neutral to species I (0 interaction)

## Six basic ecological interactions

	+	0	−
+	mutualism	commensalism <sup>1</sup>	exploitation <sup>2</sup>
0	...	neutralism	amensalism
−	...	...	interference <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Includes phoresy (transportation), inquilinism (housing) and “sponging”

<sup>2</sup> Includes predation, parasitism and phytophagy

<sup>3</sup> Includes competition, allelopathy and aggression

## Summary

- Prokaryotic cells are simplest cells. They produce energy, obtain monomers, synthesize polymers, e.g. proteins from DNA and RNA, and sometimes also make monomers themselves (with photosynthesis), divide and even perform a sexual process (recombine DNA between cells).
- Sexual process is the requirement for evolution.

## For Further Reading

## References

[1] Genetic code. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic\\_code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_code)

[2] Bacterial conjugation. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacterial\\_conjugation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacterial_conjugation)

## Outline

# 13 Where we are?

## 13.1 Ways of life

### Ways of life

- How to obtain energy?
  - A. From sun light: **phototrophy**
  - B. From chemical reactions with inorganic matter (“rocks”): **lithotrophy**
  - C. From breaking organic molecules into inorganic (typically, carbon dioxide and water): **organotrophy**
- How to obtain building blocks?
  - A. From assimilation of carbon dioxide: **autotrophy**
  - B. From other living beings: **heterotrophy**

## 14 Basics of ecology

### 14.1 Ecological interactions

#### Two-species model

- Species I and species II may influence each other differently
- For example, species I may facilitate the increase the number of species II individuals (+ interaction)
- At the same time, species II could be neutral to species I (0 interaction)

#### Six basic ecological interactions

	+	0	−
+	mutualism	commensalism <sup>1</sup>	exploitation <sup>2</sup>
0	...	neutralism	amensalism
−	...	...	interference <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Includes phoresy (transportation), inquilinism (housing) and “sponging”

<sup>2</sup> Includes predation, parasitism and phytophagy

<sup>3</sup> Includes competition, allelopathy and aggression

## 15 Origin of eukaryotes

### 15.1 Microbial mats

#### Microbial mats complexity

- Mats were not only cyanobacteria (aerobic photosynthetic autotrophs), but also
- anaerobic photosynthetic bacteria and
- heterotrophic and chemotrophic bacteria
- All these bacteria form the first **ecosystem**

#### Layers in microbial mat



## 15.2 First eukaryotes = first predators

### *Bdellovibrio*

- Bacteria are small and rigid, there is only one example of bacteria which can “eat” others
- However, this *Bdellovibrio* will only eat in the space between membrane and cell wall

### *Bdellovibrio* invading the prey





## Antibiotics

- The other problem was chemicals which bacteria are using to win a competition: antibiotics
- Most of antibiotics change the process of protein synthesis or cell wall construction

## Proterozoic challenge

- Archean ecosystems were based on “clone wars” using antibiotics, horizontal transfer of genes and splitting jobs. However, they were incomplete: no predators.
- To predate, one need to *make large cell and invent the phagocytosis* (cellular “swallowing”)
- To escape from antibiotics, one need a different chemical machines for protein biosynthesis

However,

- Large and complicated cell needs more DNA—but how to divide it equally?
- Horizontal transfer will hinder evolution towards something unusual—but how to stop it?
- Large and complicated cells need much more ATP—how to make it?

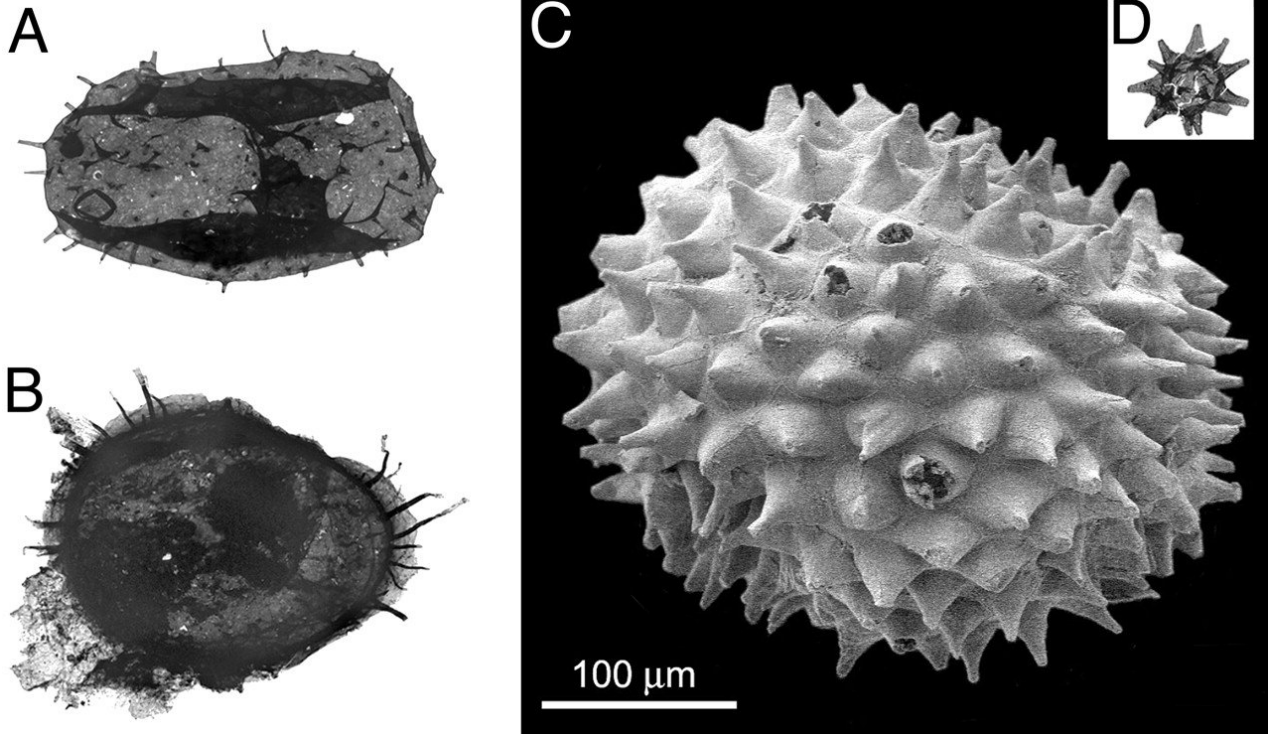
## Two most essential problems

- How to escape from antibiotics?
- How to predate?

## Eukaryotic cell as a response to Proterozoic challenge

- Predators
- New pathways of protein synthesis
- Cytoskeleton allows for cytoplasm motility
- Nucleus for DNA security and distribution
- Mitochondria make ATP

## Acritarchs in Proterozoic (1,900 Mya)



## 16 Eukaryotic cell

### 16.1 Organelles and their functions

#### *Eukaryotic cell*

#### Membrane and cytoplasm

- Cytoplasm is constantly flowing
- Membranes are used for construction of multiple internal organelles

## Summary

- All life styles were exist before eukaryotic origin
- The only interaction absent in prokaryotic communities was predation
- Microbial mats were first ecosystems
- To predate, bacteria must develop the enhanced cell
- Eukaryotic cell is a “second-level”, enhanced cell

## For Further Reading

## References

- [1] Ecological interactions. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biological\\_interaction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biological_interaction)
- [2] Eukaryote. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eukaryote>

## Outline

# 17 Where we are?

## 17.1 Eukaryotic cell

### *Eukaryotic cell*

- *Cytoplasm is constantly flowing*
- *Membranes are using for construction of multiple internal organelles*

# 18 Eukaryotic cell

## 18.1 Organelles and their functions

### Cytoskeleton

- Microtubules and microfilaments
- Phagocytosis
- Motility
- No cell wall (but note that plants and fungi developed cell wall again)
- Flagella “oar” which has no similarity with “rotor” flagella of prokaryotes

## **Nucleus**

- Transcription and translation separated
- Cell division destroys nucleus
- Pores control all ins and outs

## **Mitochondria**

- Respiration machines, make ATP
- Mitochondrial DNA

## **Taking mitochondria: symbiogenesis**

- Mitochondria were separate organisms
- Eukaryotic cell is a “second-level” cell, cell from cells

## **Internal membrane system**

- Vesicles: vacuoles, lysosomes etc.
- ER: canals
- AG: membrane stacks

Both ER and AG control transportation of proteins and carbohydrates

## **Ribosomes**

- Bigger than prokaryotic
- Associated with ER

## **Eukaryotic cell: pluses and minuses**

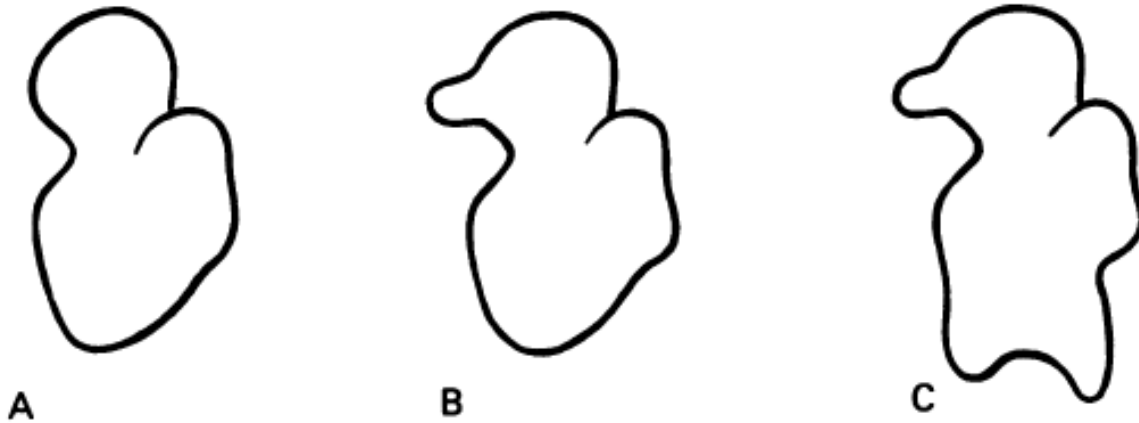
- Flexible, but bigger and no cell wall
- Nucleus, but so many DNA poses a problem
- Mitochondria are very effective, but less controlled

## **18.2 Evolutionary steps towards the eukaryote**

### **Antibiotic resistance and actin**

- Archebacteria were probably first prokaryotes who changed their biosynthetic pathways in order to become resistant to majority of antibiotics
- They also invented actin, the main protein of cytoskeleton

Ribosomes of core bacteria (A), archebacteria (B) and eukaryotes (C)



## 18.3 Cell division

### Cell cycle

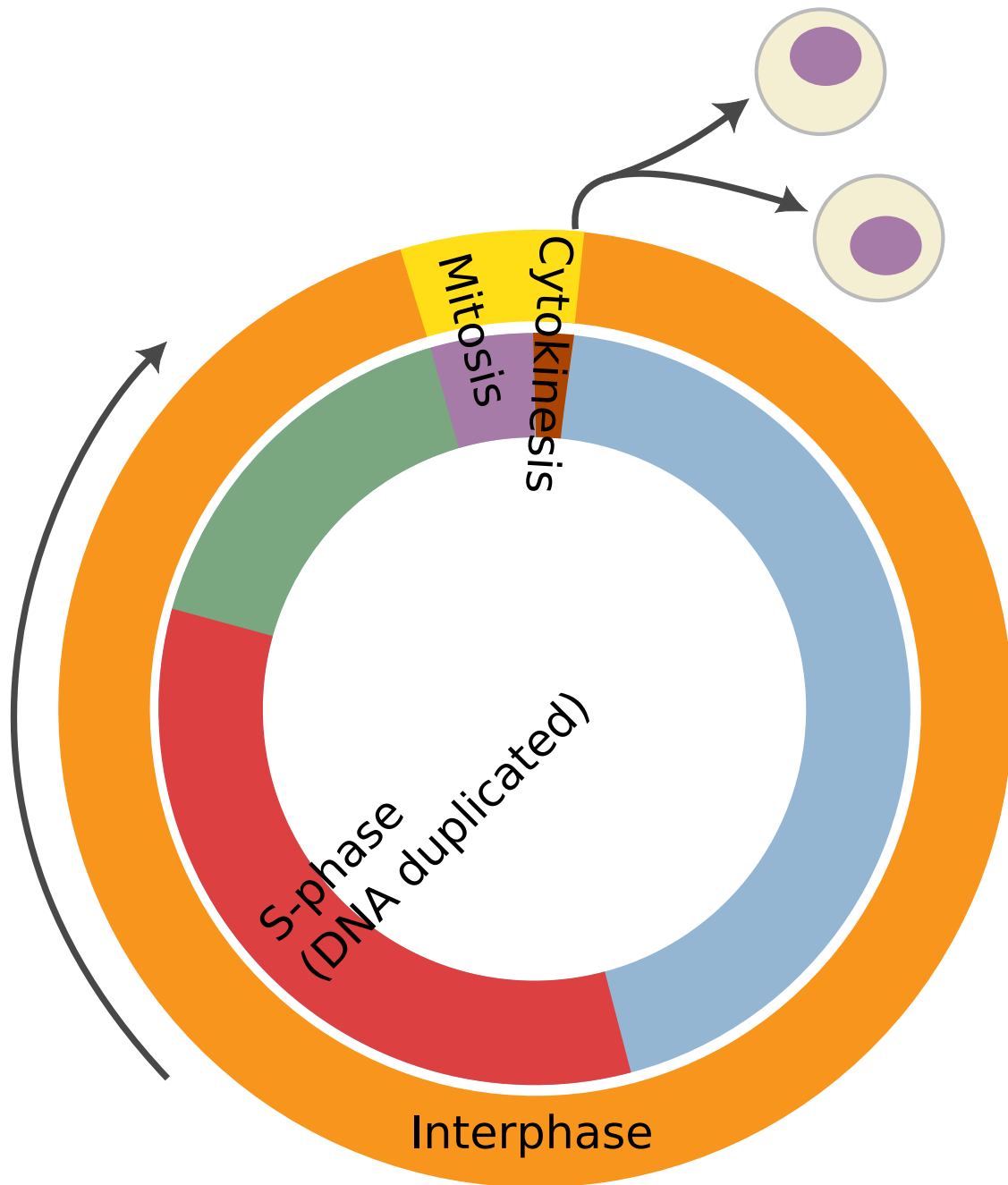
- To multiple, cell should first store energy for DNA duplication
- Then duplicate DNA during S-phase, synthetic phase (period)
- And only then to divide DNA (mitosis) and then rest of cell (cytokinesis)

This is the **cell cycle**

### Mitosis

- Mitosis is an equal division of nucleus where daughter cells will receive the same DNA information as mother cell
- **The goal of mitosis** is the equal distribution of pre-duplicated DNA
- Time between two cell divisions is called **interphase** so cell cycle = interphase + mitosis + cytokinesis

### Cell cycle

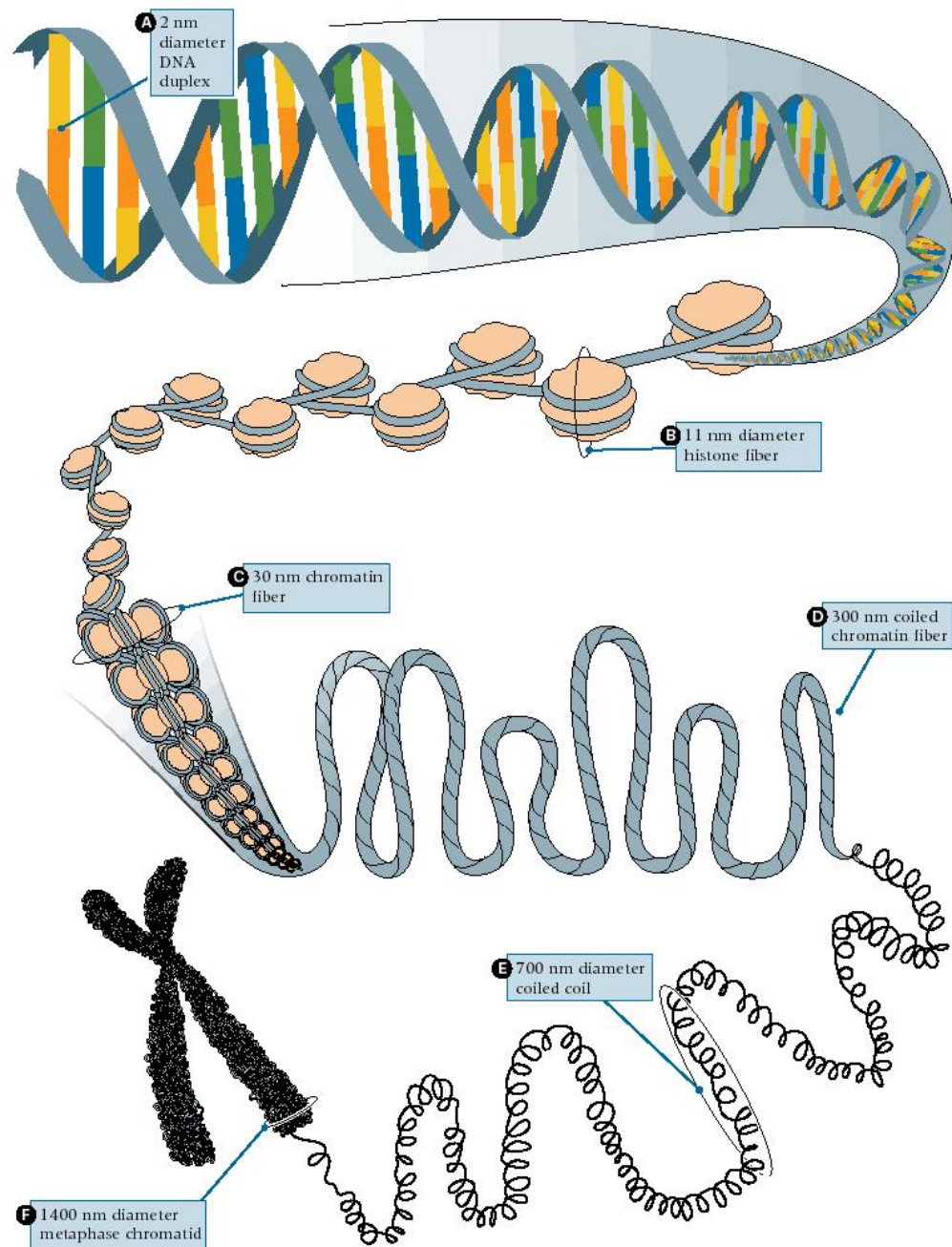


## 18.4 Mitosis

### Stages of mitosis

- Prophase
- Metaphase
- Anaphase
- Telophase

Super-coiling of DNA into chromosome



*Stages of mitosis*

## Summary

- Eukaryotic cell is a “second-level”, enhanced cell
- Symbiogenesis is one of evolutionary steps towards eukaryote
- Mitosis is an equal division of nucleus

## For Further Reading

# References

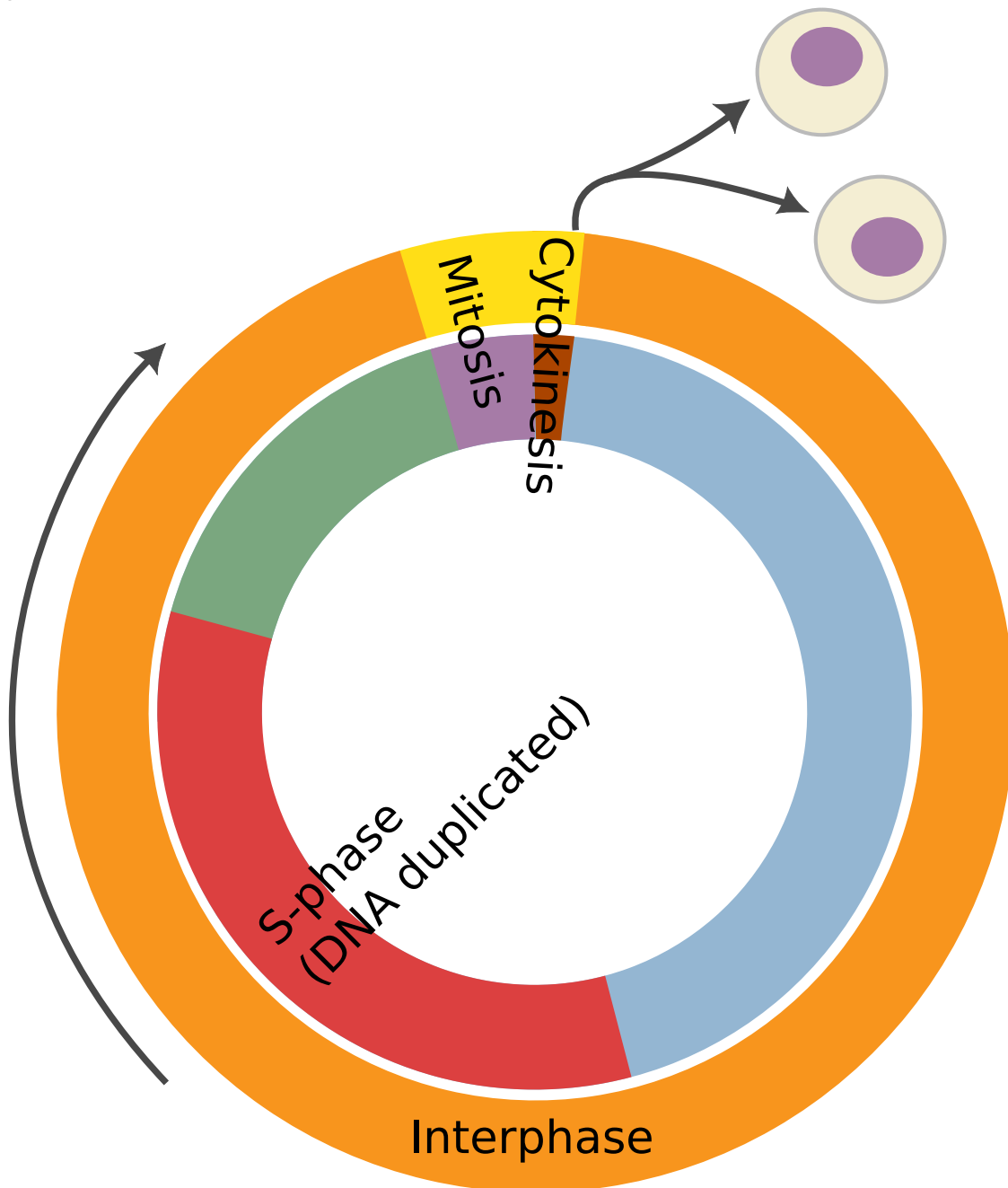
- [1] Eukaryote. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eukaryote>
- [2] Symbiogenesis. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endosymbiotic\\_theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endosymbiotic_theory)
- [3] Mitosis. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitosis>

## Outline

### 19 Where we are?

#### 19.1 Cell cycle

##### Cell cycle





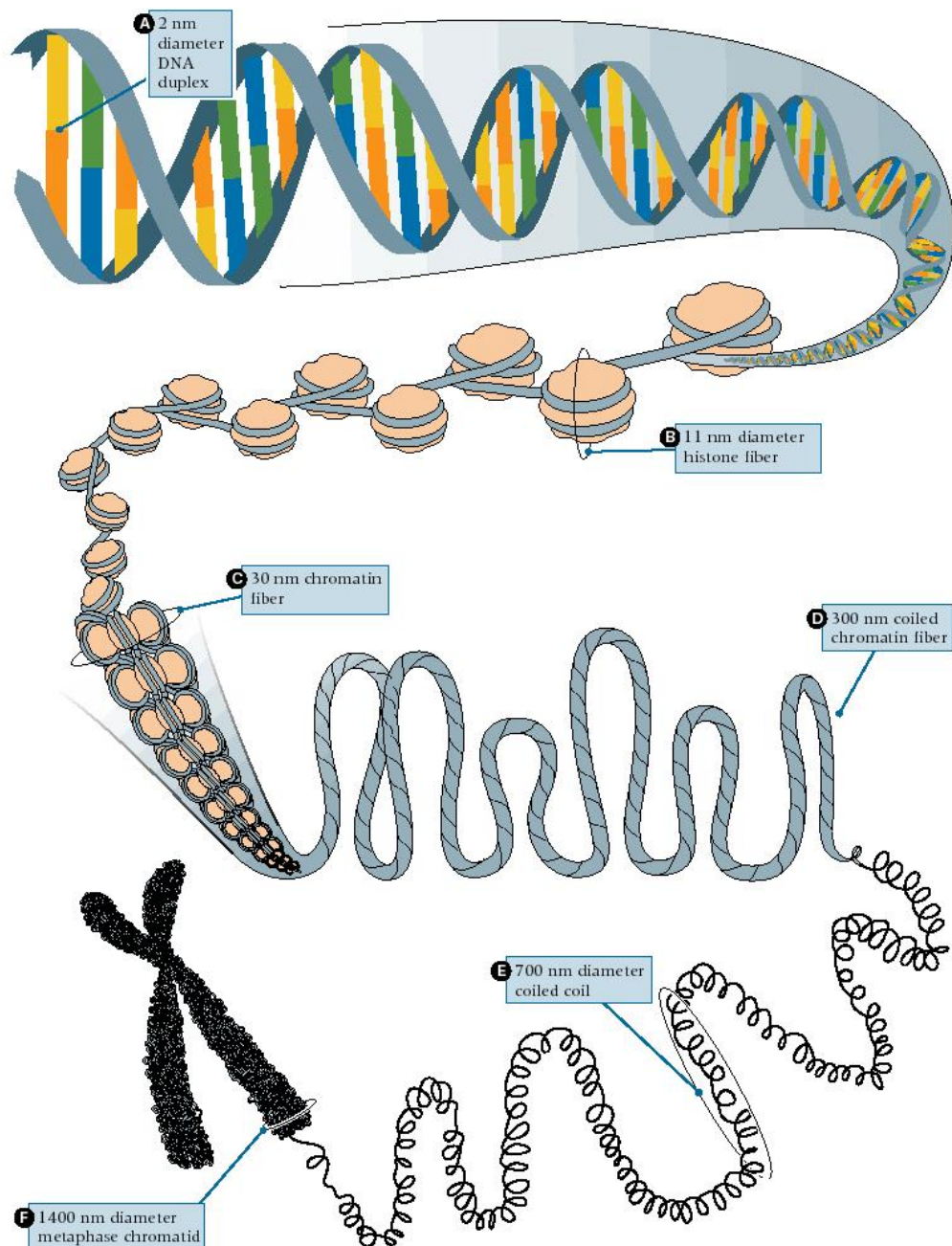
## 20 Cell division

### 20.1 Mitosis

#### Stages of mitosis

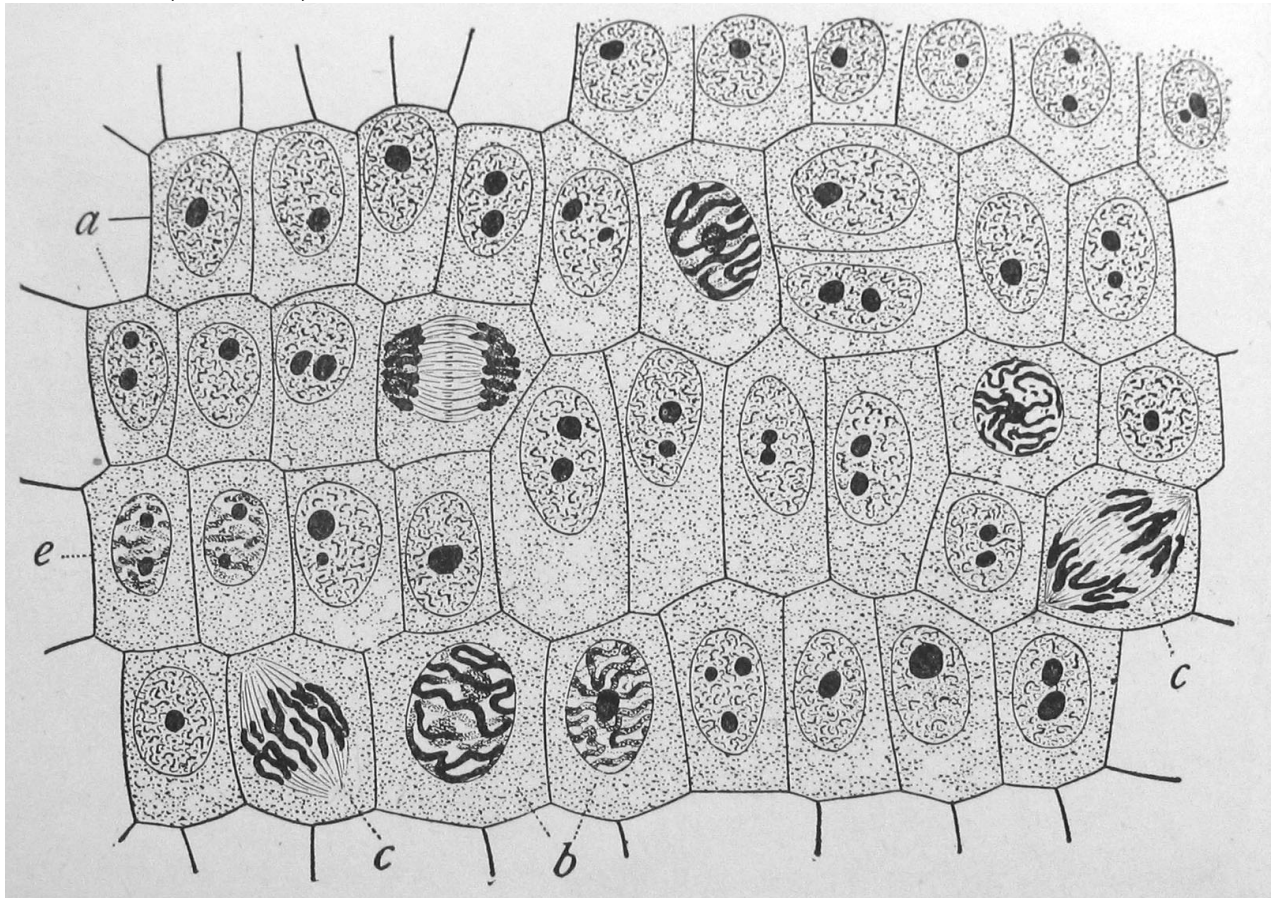
- Prophase
- Metaphase
- Anaphase
- Telophase

#### Super-coiling of DNA into chromosome

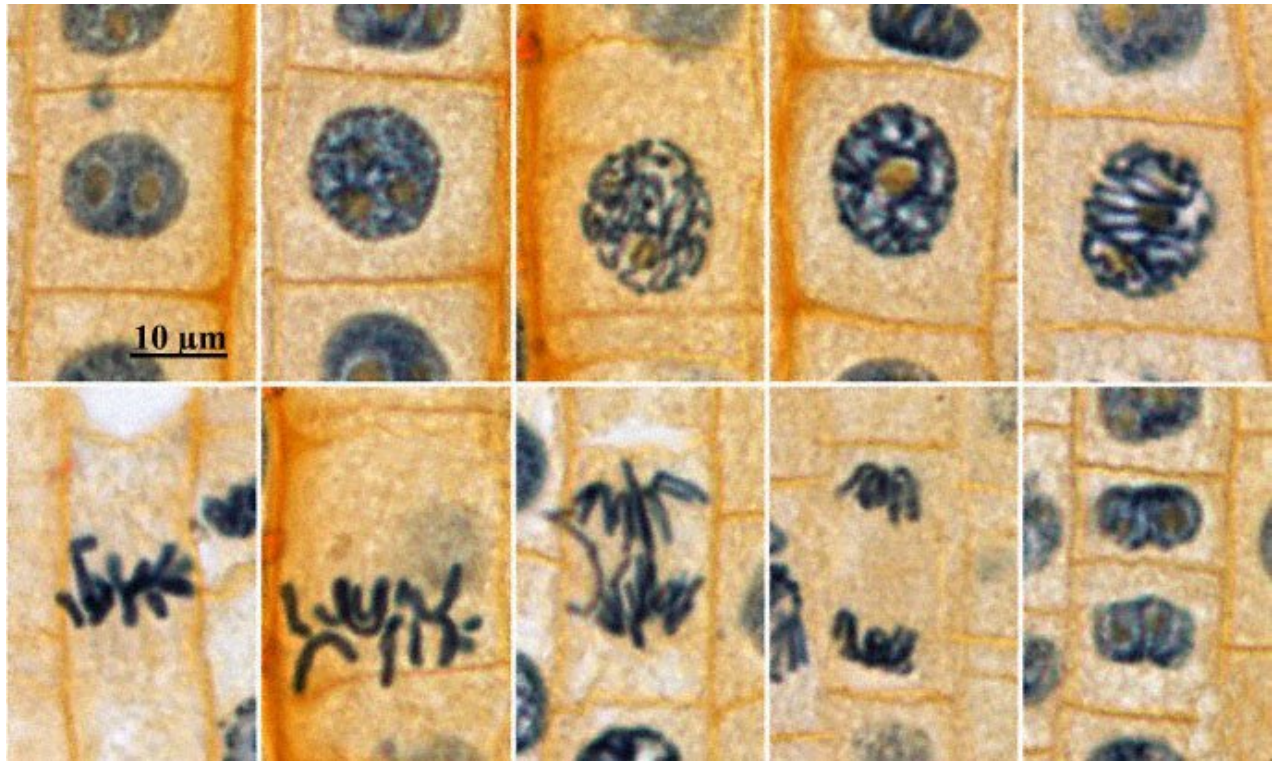


*Stages of mitosis*

Which stage? (drawing)



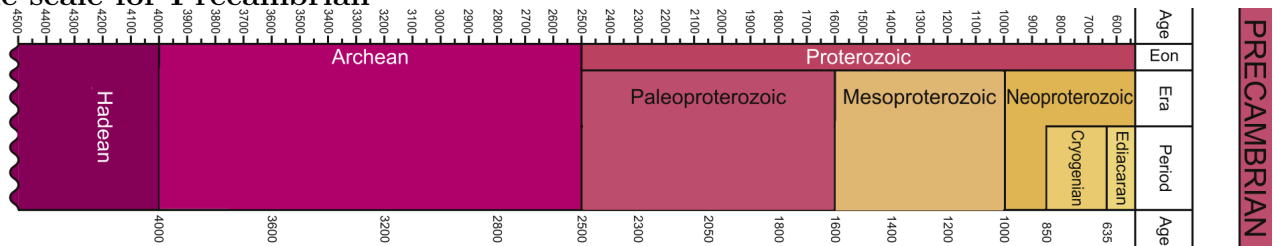
Which stage? (photo)



## 21 Life in late Precambrian

### 21.1 Cryogenian period and Snowball Earth

#### Time scale for Precambrian



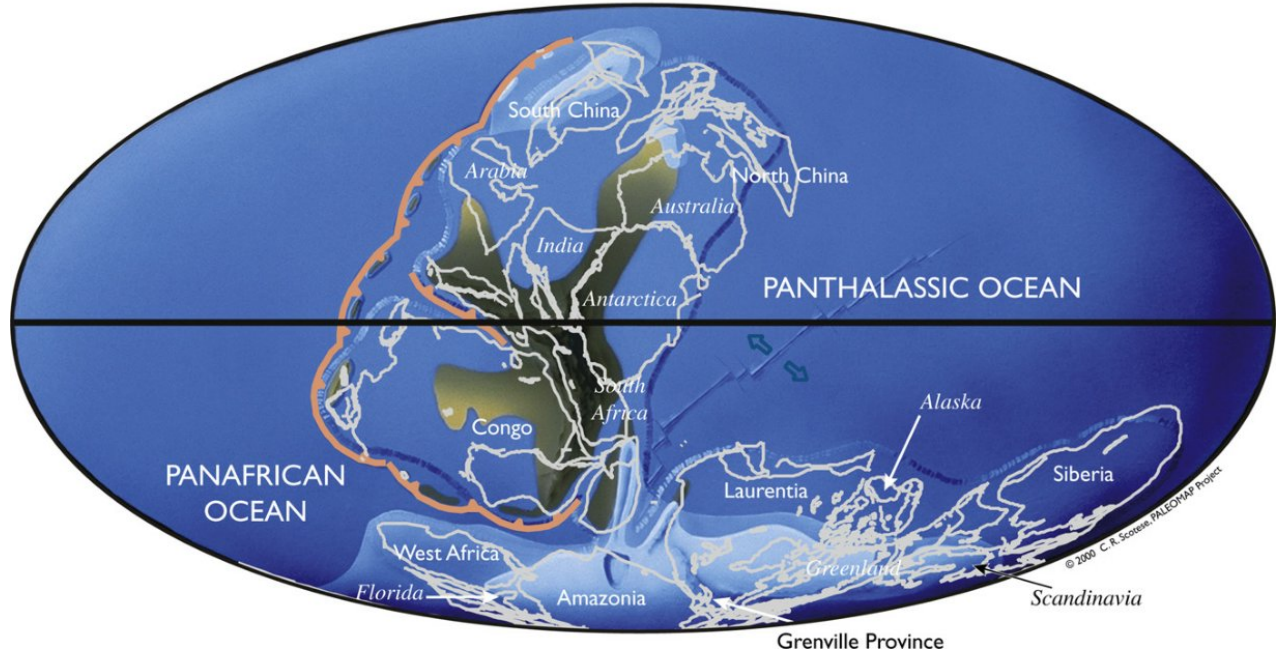
#### Rodinia—the super-continent

- Tectonic plates formed (and will form) one continent several times
- 650 Mya this continent—Rodinia was formed right over the South Pole

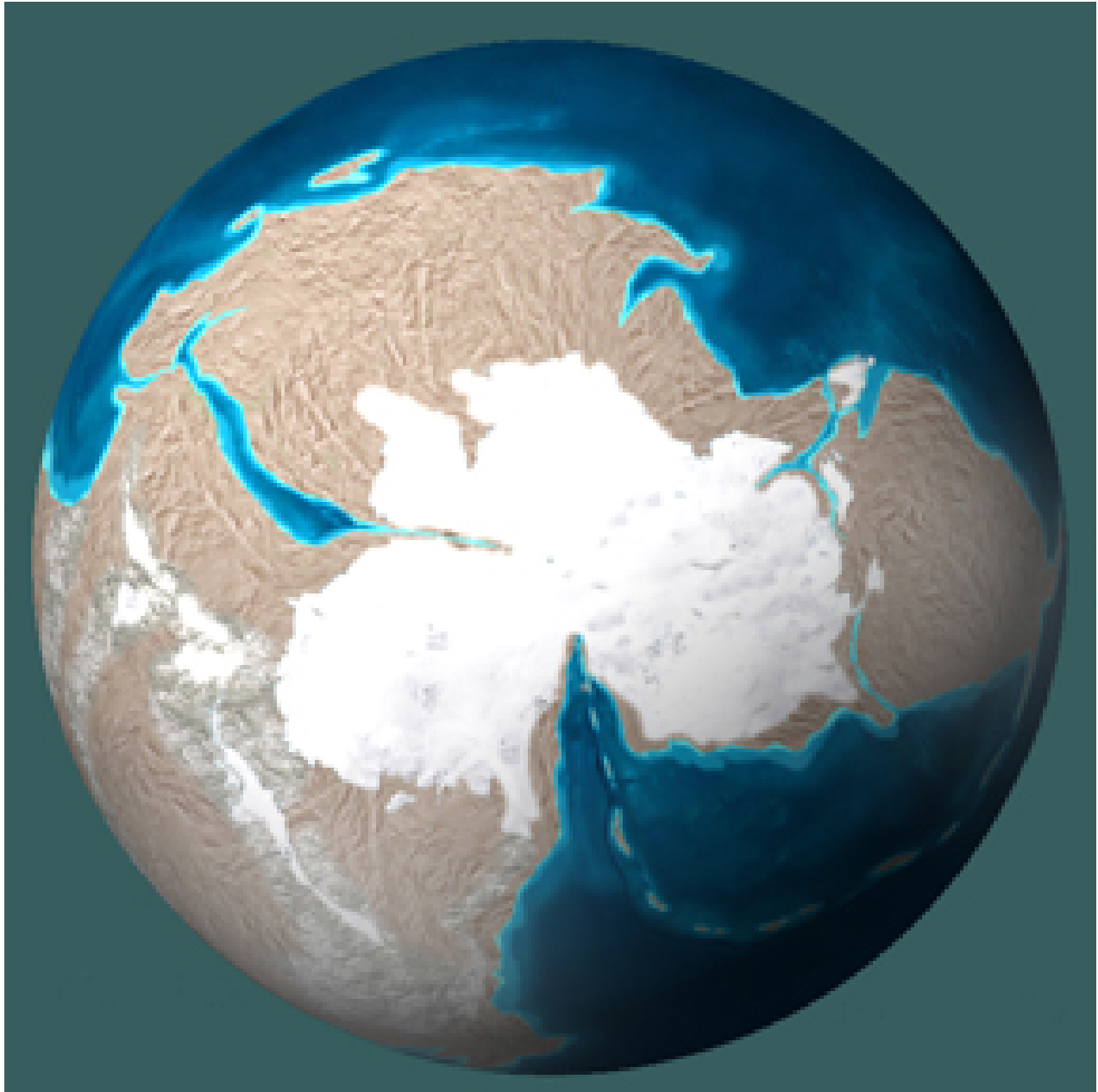
#### Cryogenian continents which formed Rodinia



650 Ma Cryogenian



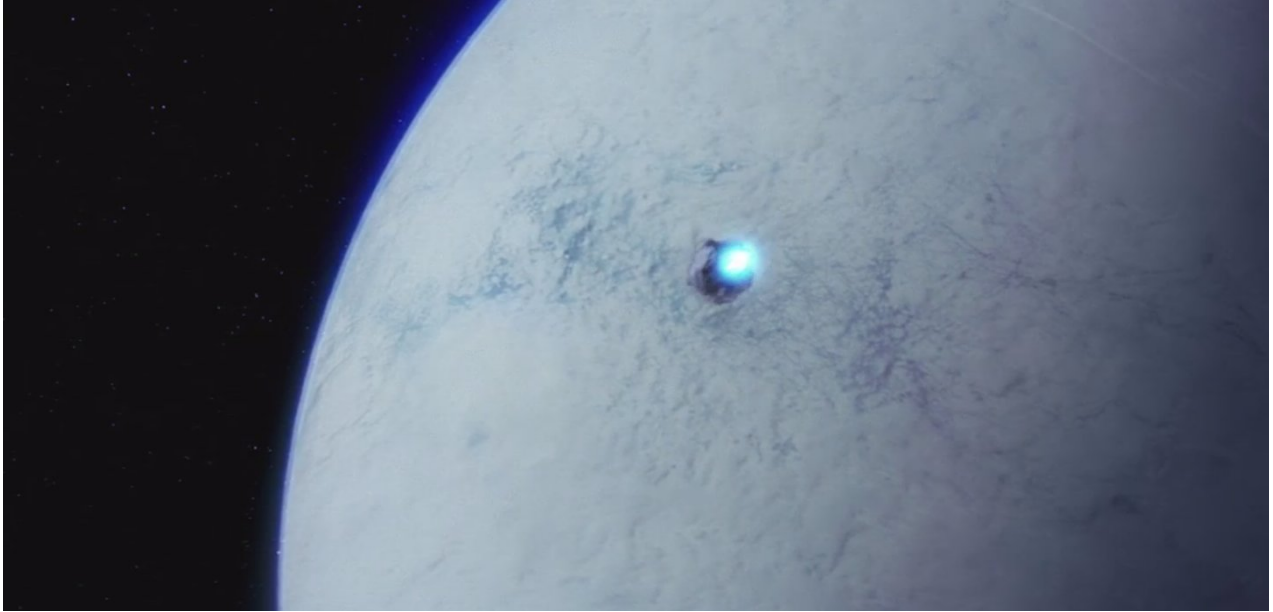
Rodinia: view from South Pole



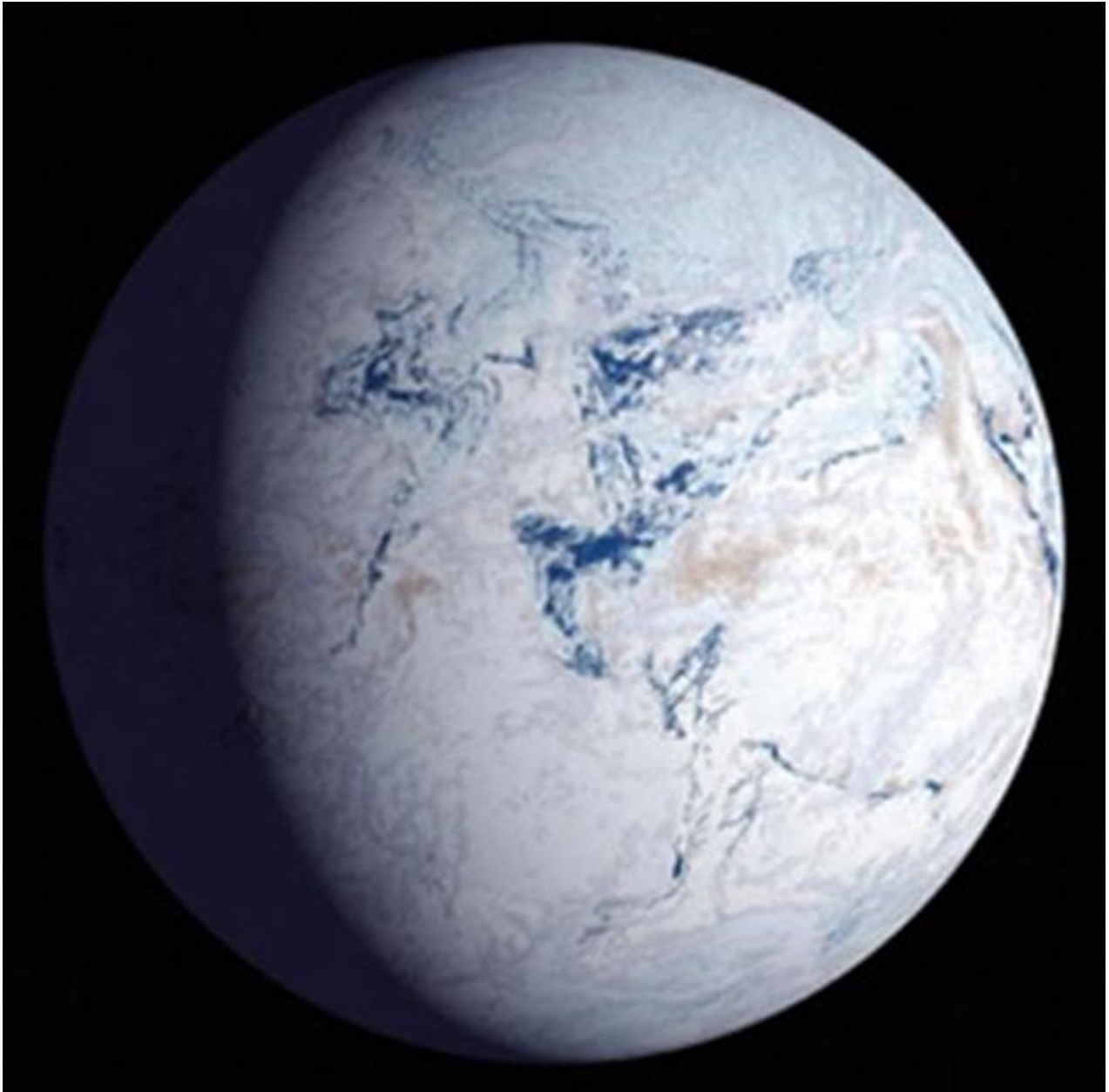
### **Marionan glaciation: Snowball Earth**

- First global glaciation was started because ice started to concentrate over the pole and increase Earth albedo (this is the positive feedback)
- And because the configuration of continents blocked the equatorial warm current
- And because concentration of oxygen was high but greenhouse gases (like CO<sub>2</sub>)—small
- As a result, from time to time Earth was completely covered with ice sheet 1 km tall!

### **“Star Wars” Hoth, the ice planet**



Snowball Earth

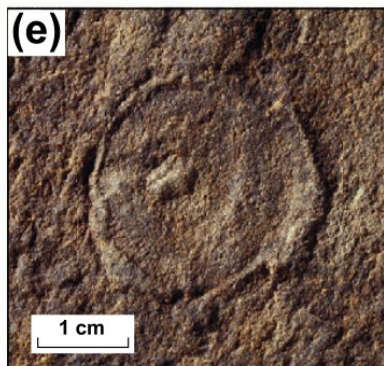
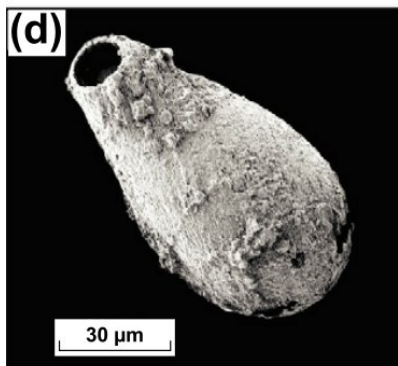
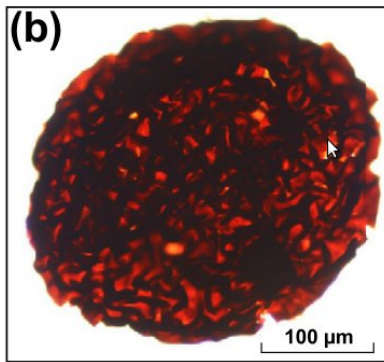
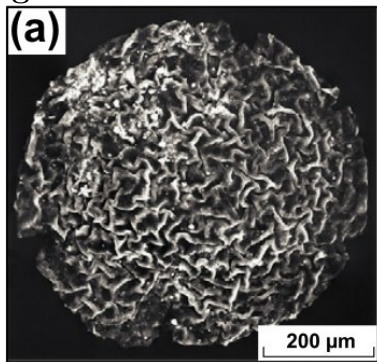


The evidence of Marinoan glaciation: diamictite layers everywhere on Earth





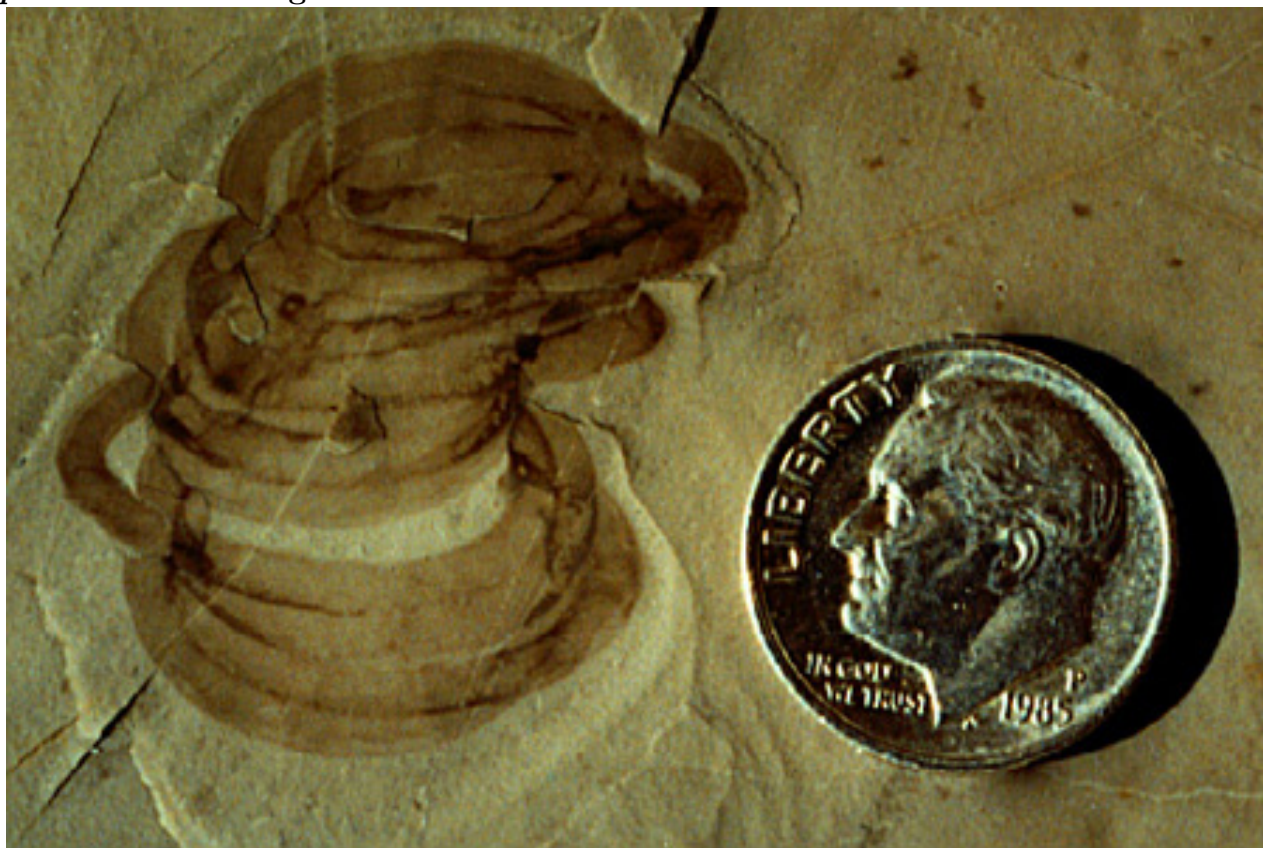
Cryogenian fossils



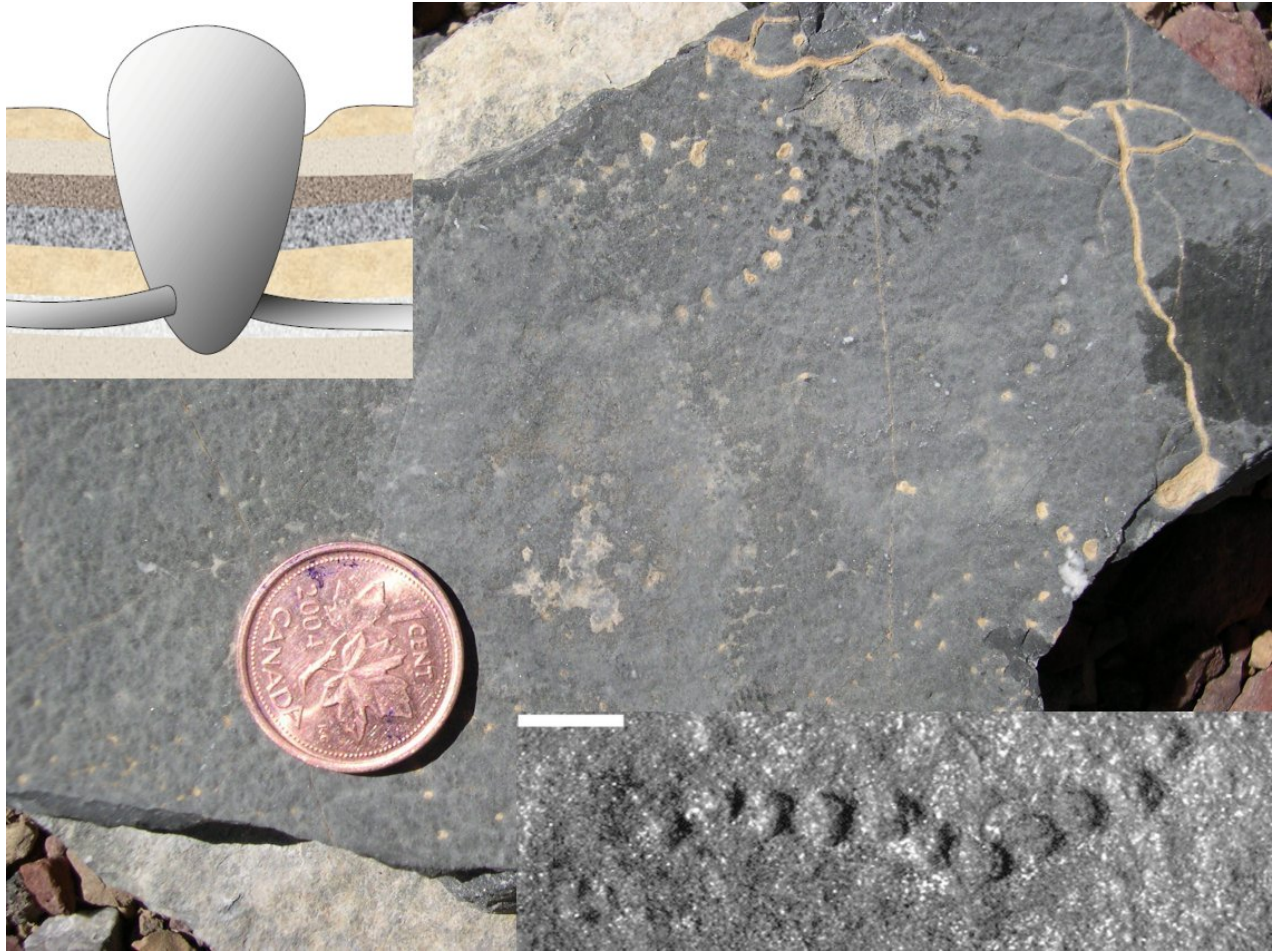




*Grypania*—the first alga?



*Horodyskia* and its interpretations



### Multicellularity and origin of death

- Ediacarian fossils (and maybe some Cryogenian) were most likely **multicellular**
- Multicellular assemblages were probably originated from incompletely divided cells
- Initially, those assemblages were only benefit from their size, this is the example or race of arms between predator and prey
- Then, they started to use a division of labor: differentiated into somatic and germ cells
- Wheres germ cells are specialized for multiplication and will continue to “live” in next generations, somatic bodies have to die
- Unicellular living organisms are still potentially immortal

### Lantian (China) macroscopic algae

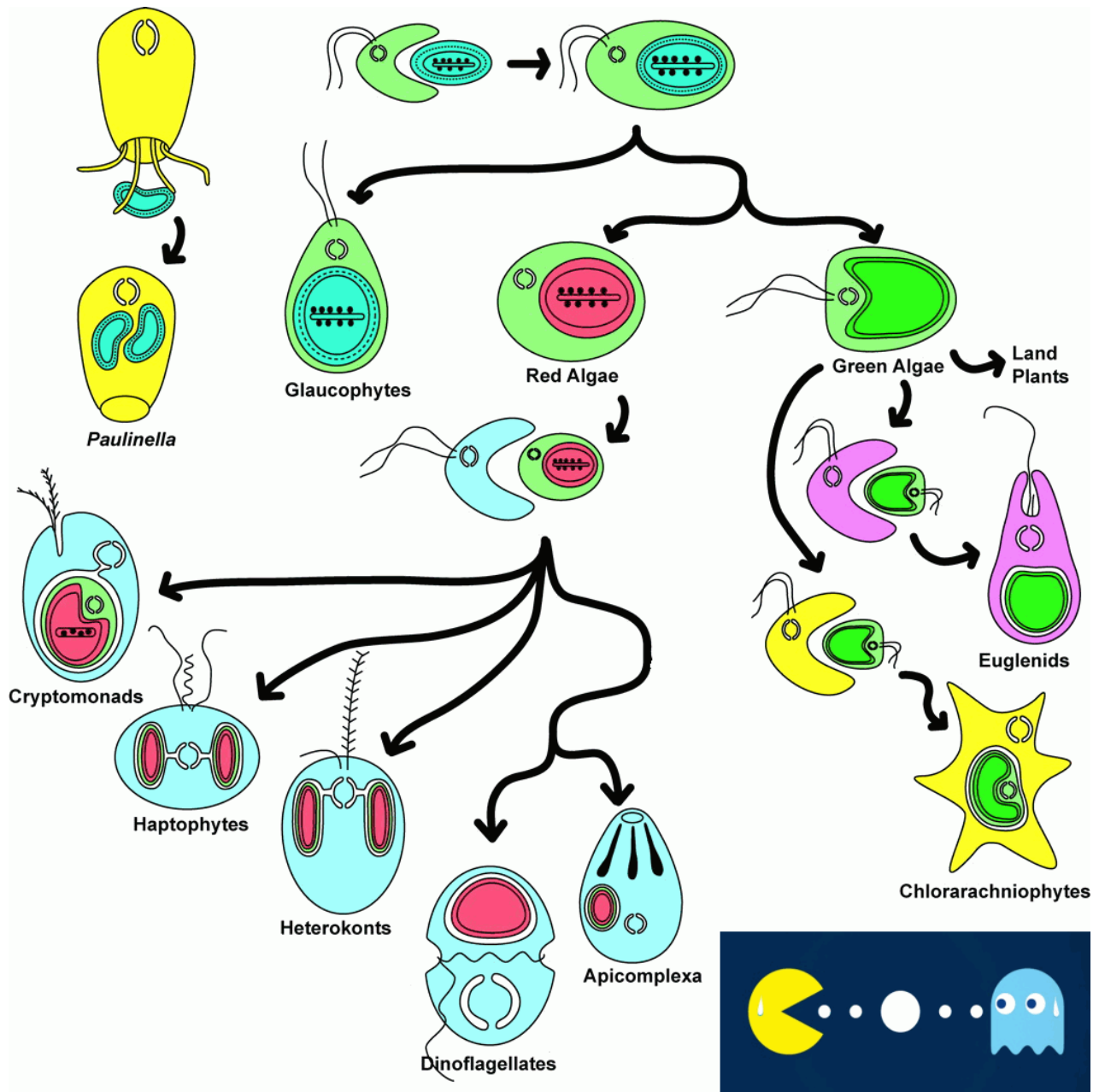




## What are algae?

- Eukaryotes which are capable for photosynthesis with chloroplasts
- All chloroplasts were symbiotic (cyanobacteria in the past), and some even secondary symbiotic (other alga in the past)

“Pacman game” of algae origin



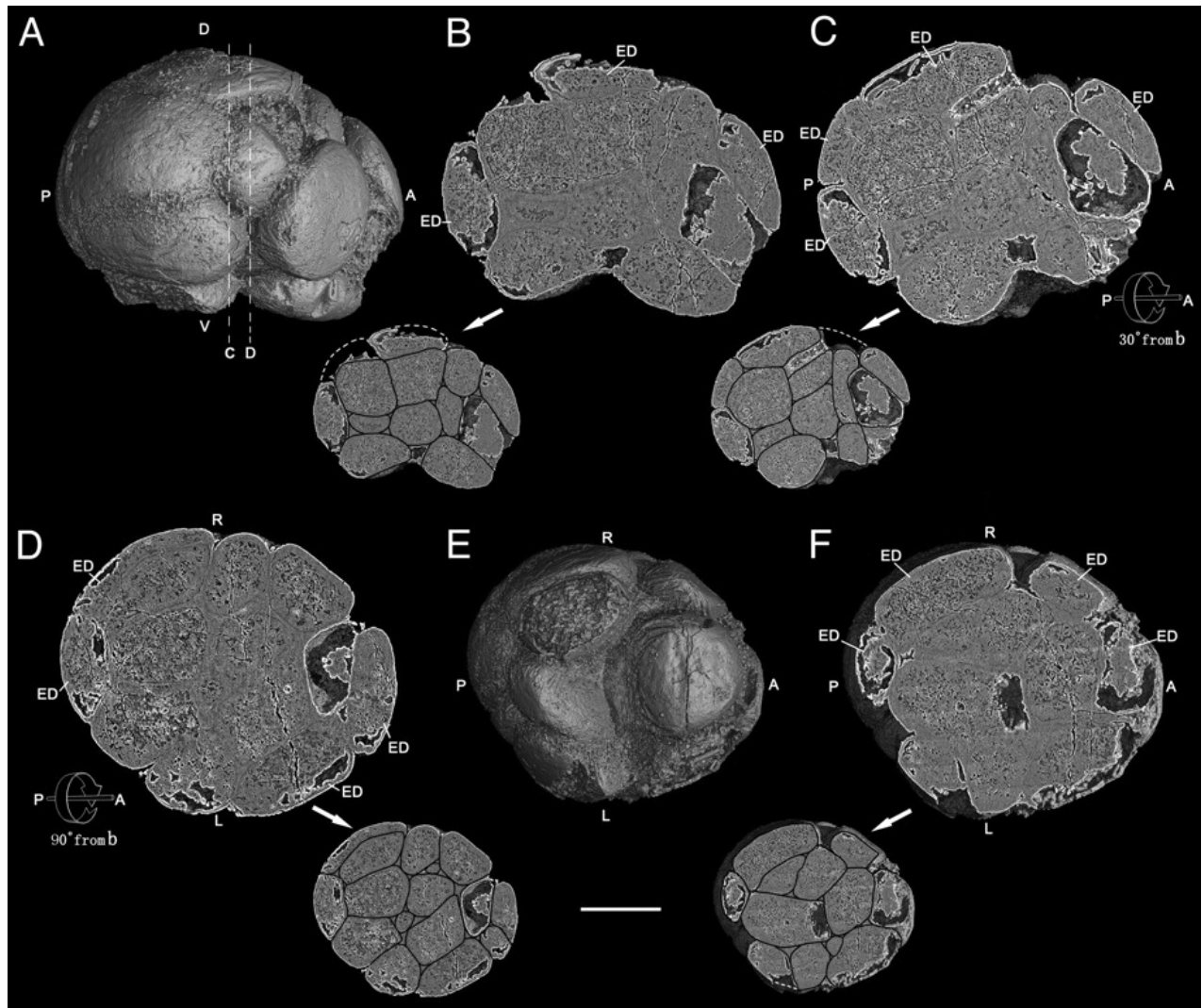
Lantian algae: probably, life without animals



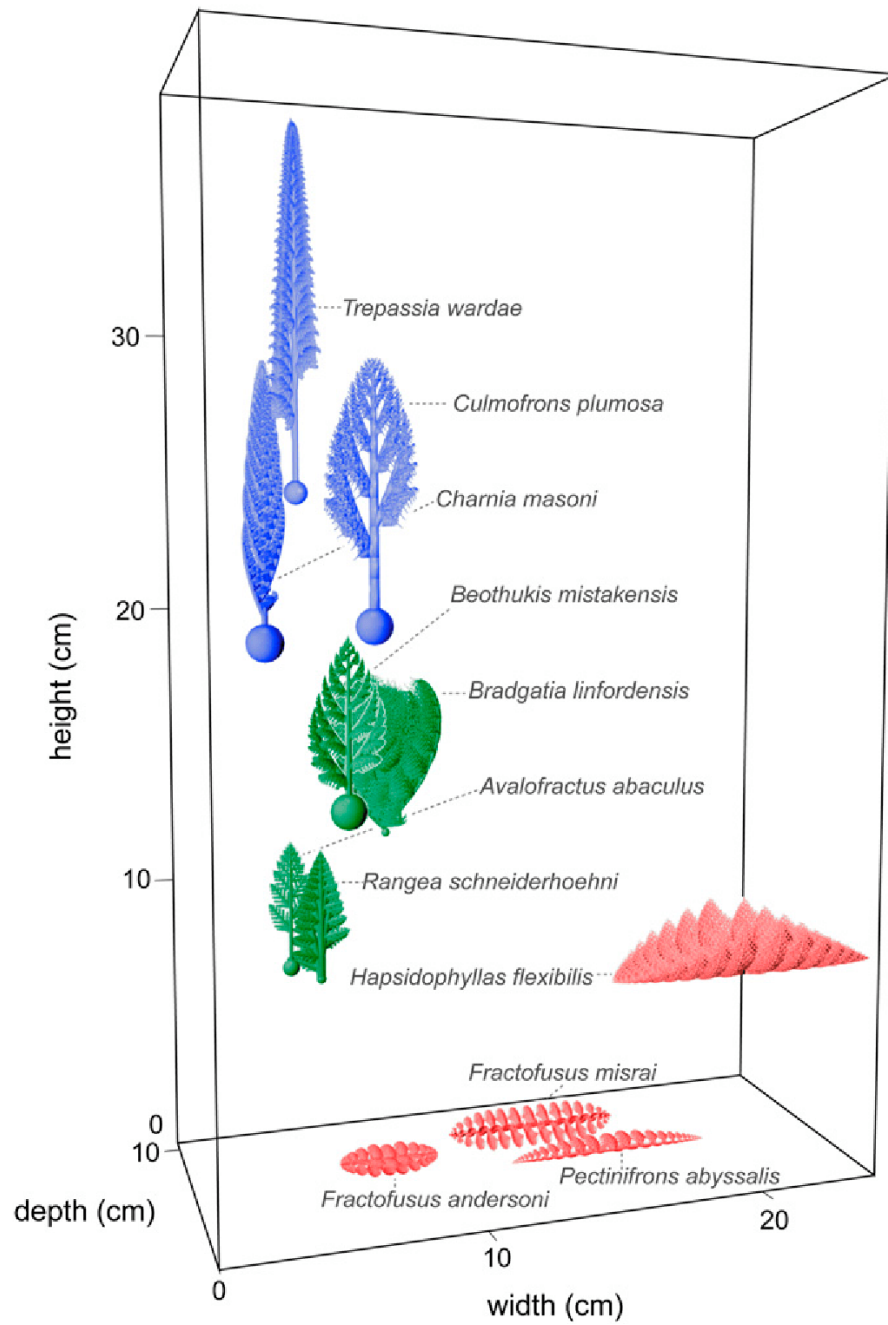


### 21.3 First animals

Doushantuo (China) “embryos”—first animals?



Mistaken Point (Canada) fauna: rangeomorphs

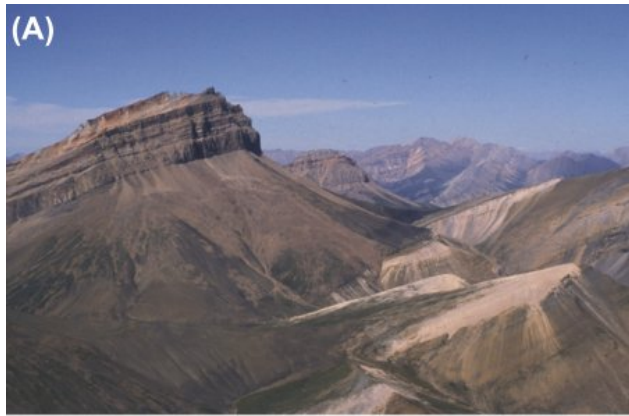


Extant sea pen (Pennatulacea soft corals)



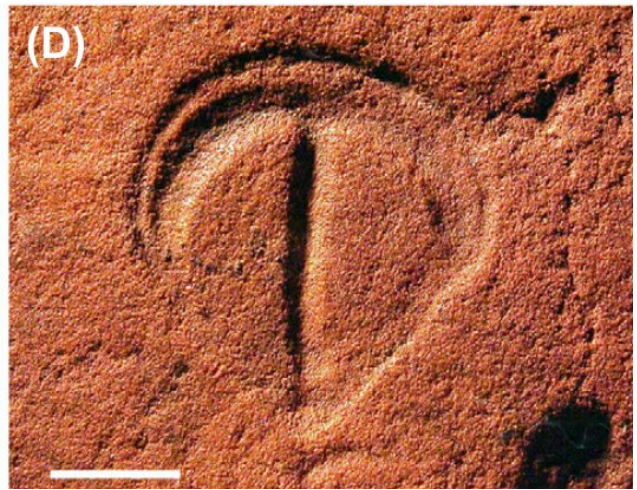
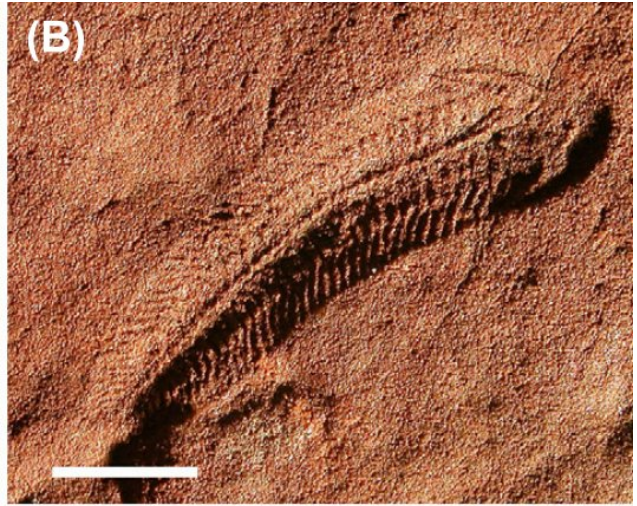
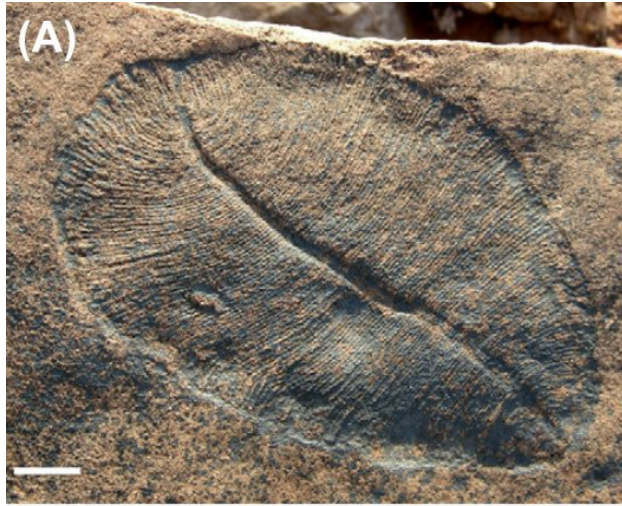


Finding Ediacara biota



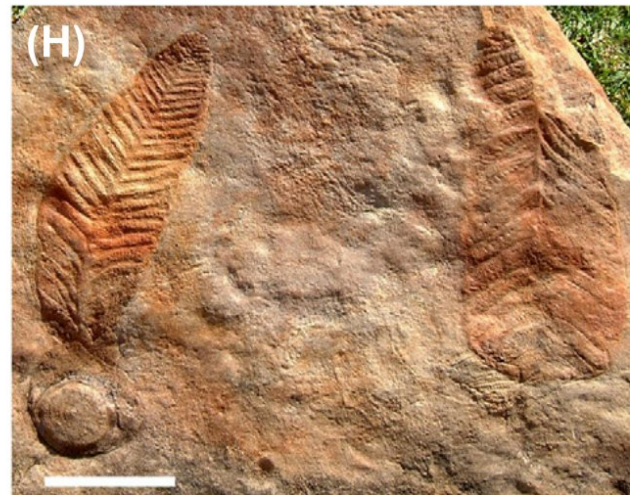
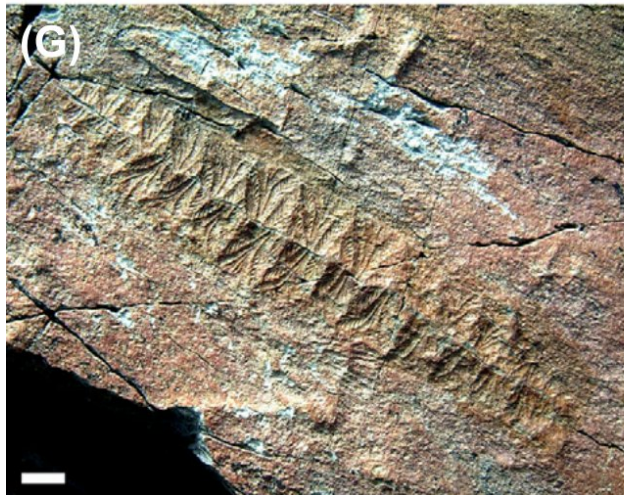
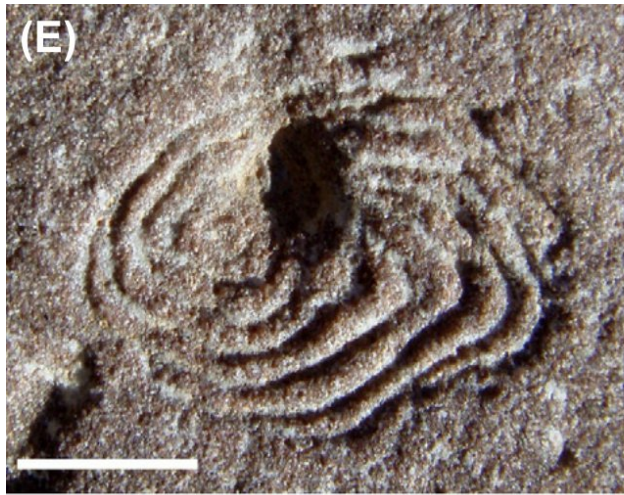
Ediacara Garden: *Dickinsonia*, *Spriggina* etc.



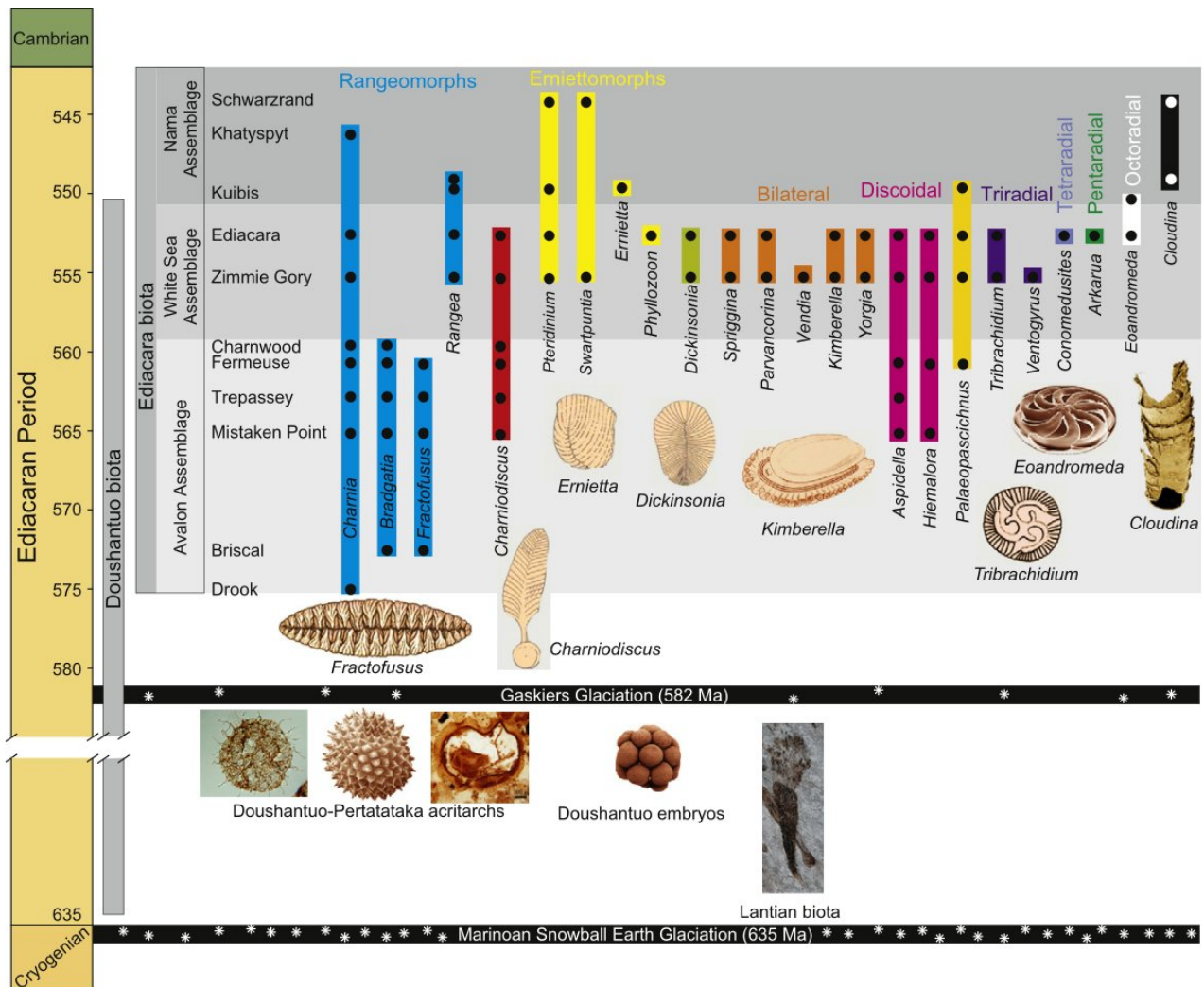


Ediacara Garden: *Eoandromeda*, *Charniodiscus* etc.



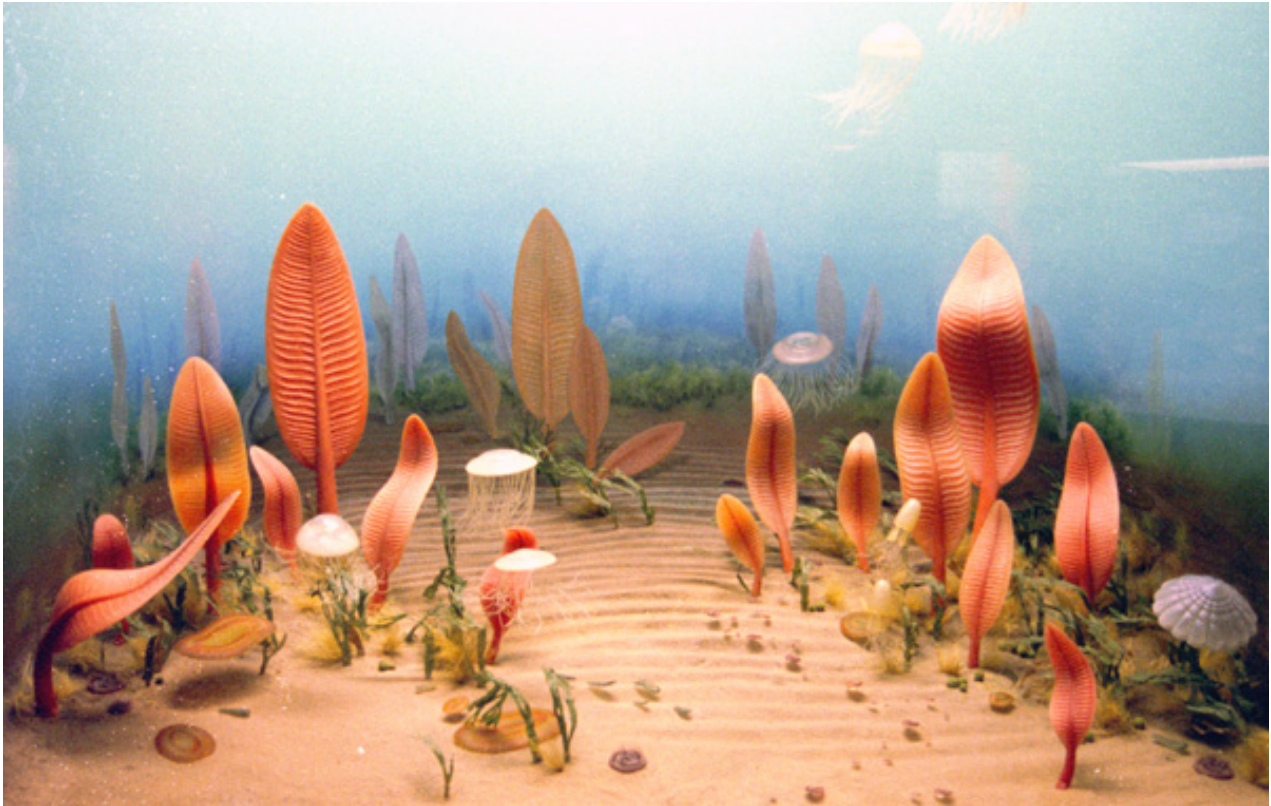


Life in Ediacarian



Ediacara “garden”—no predators of macroscopic size, nobody had skeleton





## Origin of tissues—the most important event in late Precambrian

- **Tissues** are assemblages of similar cells doing the similar job
- Tissues are one level more over the eukaryotic cells
- Multicellular animals also have multiple tissues whereas multicellular algae and cyanobacteria are still on pre-tissues level of complexity
- **Multi-tissued** body is a great achievement, except for cancer...

## Summary

- Mitosis is an equal division of nucleus
- In Cryogenian, Marinoan glaciation covered the whole Earth
- In Ediacarian, multi-tissued eukaryotes appeared

## For Further Reading

## References

- [1] Mitosis. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitosis>
- [2] Ediacara biota. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ediacara\\_biota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ediacara_biota)

## 22 Movies

- BBC: First Live, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First\\_Life\\_\(TV\\_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Life_(TV_series)). Episode 1. Arrival. 00:00:00–00:46:00 (*Spriggina*).
- BBC: First Live, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First\\_Life\\_\(TV\\_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Life_(TV_series)). Episode 2. Conquest. 00:00:00–00:45:00 (velvet worm)