

Genetics Underlying de novo  
Origins of Multicellularity  
Dr. Kimberly Chen



Georgia Tech Astrobiology

1  
00:00:00,820 --> 00:00:08,980

[Music]

2  
00:00:18,260 --> 00:00:12,799

Thank You Candace so Pedro makes the

3  
00:00:21,050 --> 00:00:18,270

transition to organizers so how why the

4  
00:00:25,330 --> 00:00:21,060

more complex life has evolved over time

5  
00:00:28,130 --> 00:00:25,340

back in 1995 - made and thought Mary

6  
00:00:30,859 --> 00:00:28,140

proposes this can be can be achieved

7  
00:00:33,770 --> 00:00:30,869

through a serious major evolutionary

8  
00:00:37,040 --> 00:00:33,780

transitions including the origins of

9  
00:00:37,869 --> 00:00:37,050

cells genomes genetic code eukaryotes

10  
00:00:40,639 --> 00:00:37,879

sex

11  
00:00:42,110 --> 00:00:40,649

multicellularity social groups such as

12  
00:00:45,920 --> 00:00:42,120

social insects

13  
00:00:49,639 --> 00:00:45,930

among those transitions the origin of

14

00:00:53,930 --> 00:00:49,649

motifs errantly and allows opportunities

15

00:00:57,200 --> 00:00:53,940

for further complexity to evolve and led

16

00:01:02,330 --> 00:00:57,210

to more complex life we see today like

17

00:01:05,410 --> 00:01:02,340

animals and plants across the Tree of

18

00:01:08,750 --> 00:01:05,420

Life our earth multicellularity has

19

00:01:12,859 --> 00:01:08,760

originated independently a number of

20

00:01:16,460 --> 00:01:12,869

times the thing we want to know is that

21

00:01:20,929 --> 00:01:16,470

what our minimum necessary steps that

22

00:01:23,690 --> 00:01:20,939

are required at first usually people do

23

00:01:27,280 --> 00:01:23,700

this by comparing those Modi's thermal

24

00:01:29,840 --> 00:01:27,290

images with their unicellular relatives

25

00:01:31,969 --> 00:01:29,850

but the problem is that those things

26  
00:01:35,719 --> 00:01:31,979  
happened long time ago and many changes

27  
00:01:39,560 --> 00:01:35,729  
have occurred in the extant species and

28  
00:01:45,289 --> 00:01:39,570  
which makes a typical to infer infirmity

29  
00:01:48,230 --> 00:01:45,299  
happens in the beginning so one of those

30  
00:01:50,210 --> 00:01:48,240  
multicellular lineages it's green algae

31  
00:01:54,020 --> 00:01:50,220  
which includes bobasa

32  
00:01:57,289 --> 00:01:54,030  
LG this group of algae contains species

33  
00:02:00,050 --> 00:01:57,299  
with different levels of complexity from

34  
00:02:01,310 --> 00:02:00,060  
unicellular Chlamydomonas to fully

35  
00:02:05,120 --> 00:02:01,320  
differentiated

36  
00:02:09,619 --> 00:02:05,130  
Volvox so with this unicellular algae

37  
00:02:11,500 --> 00:02:09,629  
and how we can replay lights - like tape

38  
00:02:12,890 --> 00:02:11,510

to see how mori celerity

39

00:02:18,830 --> 00:02:12,900

originates

40

00:02:21,890 --> 00:02:18,840

in the first place the model species of

41

00:02:26,210 --> 00:02:21,900

the unicellular algae is law

42

00:02:29,530 --> 00:02:26,220

chemita Moniz Ryan hardy I it's a model

43

00:02:33,589 --> 00:02:29,540

system for photosynthesis and motility

44

00:02:36,199 --> 00:02:33,599

their vegetative cells or asexual cells

45

00:02:40,699 --> 00:02:36,209

are haploid and their genome has been

46

00:02:42,979 --> 00:02:40,709

sequenced and annotated which make them

47

00:02:45,619 --> 00:02:42,989

a great system to do evolution

48

00:02:47,390 --> 00:02:45,629

experiment experiment ways so that we

49

00:02:52,699 --> 00:02:47,400

can see how they are phenotypes and

50

00:02:56,119 --> 00:02:52,709

genotypes change in real time among the

51  
00:02:59,449 --> 00:02:56,129  
possible selective pressures and might

52  
00:03:02,119 --> 00:02:59,459  
generate multicellularity predation has

53  
00:03:05,390 --> 00:03:02,129  
long been her has hypothesized as a

54  
00:03:08,449 --> 00:03:05,400  
major cause for motor celerity because

55  
00:03:11,420 --> 00:03:08,459  
it favors bigger sites such as groups of

56  
00:03:12,289 --> 00:03:11,430  
cells over single cells so here's a

57  
00:03:16,069 --> 00:03:12,299  
picture of

58  
00:03:16,789 --> 00:03:16,079  
Silius and algae those feed her feelings

59  
00:03:19,580 --> 00:03:16,799  
ciliates

60  
00:03:22,670 --> 00:03:19,590  
they are also until they can feed on

61  
00:03:26,270 --> 00:03:22,680  
those single-celled algae however if we

62  
00:03:29,030 --> 00:03:26,280  
continuously exposing those algae to

63  
00:03:32,479 --> 00:03:29,040

ciliates and that will generate the

64

00:03:38,170 --> 00:03:32,489

selective pressure to make them become

65

00:03:44,890 --> 00:03:42,289

so a few years ago my advisor matt and

66

00:03:48,199 --> 00:03:44,900

jacob a graduate student in our lab

67

00:03:50,930 --> 00:03:48,209

disease evolution experiments to say

68

00:03:55,520 --> 00:03:50,940

select four multicellularity using

69

00:03:58,849 --> 00:03:55,530

predators so the experiment was started

70

00:04:01,159 --> 00:03:58,859

with out cross population by making two

71

00:04:04,039 --> 00:04:01,169

different algae strands so we have

72

00:04:06,920 --> 00:04:04,049

genetic diversity in the beginning the

73

00:04:09,229 --> 00:04:06,930

starting population was split into five

74

00:04:11,990 --> 00:04:09,239

experimental probation that were

75

00:04:14,240 --> 00:04:12,000

cultured with predators and three

76  
00:04:18,050 --> 00:04:14,250  
control populations that were cultured

77  
00:04:20,810 --> 00:04:18,060  
without predators those cultures were

78  
00:04:22,159 --> 00:04:20,820  
transferred into fresh media every week

79  
00:04:26,570 --> 00:04:22,169  
over a year

80  
00:04:29,899 --> 00:04:26,580  
at the end of the experiment we two of

81  
00:04:33,230 --> 00:04:29,909  
the experimental populations P 2 and P

82  
00:04:36,529 --> 00:04:33,240  
five population they involve those multi

83  
00:04:41,899 --> 00:04:36,539  
cellular structures not observed in any

84  
00:04:46,760 --> 00:04:41,909  
of the control populations so here's a

85  
00:04:50,149 --> 00:04:46,770  
time-lapse video over 72 hours of a

86  
00:04:52,640 --> 00:04:50,159  
unicellular algae strip strength so you

87  
00:04:54,709 --> 00:04:52,650  
can see that when cells go through cell

88  
00:04:58,249 --> 00:04:54,719

division there are some little clumsy

89

00:05:06,439 --> 00:04:58,259

but soon after that the total cells will

90

00:05:09,070 --> 00:05:06,449

separate and console division here's one

91

00:05:12,019 --> 00:05:09,080

of our evolved more tea seller strengths

92

00:05:15,469 --> 00:05:12,029

and you can see that the cells stayed

93

00:05:18,980 --> 00:05:15,479

together for a while and then they start

94

00:05:25,820 --> 00:05:18,990

to pop out those smaller multicellular

95

00:05:28,640 --> 00:05:25,830

puppeteers here's another multicellular

96

00:05:32,709 --> 00:05:28,650

strands from the other extreme to

97

00:05:35,420 --> 00:05:32,719

population p5 they also stay together

98

00:05:38,689 --> 00:05:35,430

for a while and then they start to pop

99

00:05:41,149 --> 00:05:38,699

out single motile cells and then they

100

00:05:44,800 --> 00:05:41,159

start to form those multi solar coasters

101  
00:05:47,179 --> 00:05:44,810  
again so there are these two the

102  
00:05:50,360 --> 00:05:47,189  
medicinal strands from those two

103  
00:05:53,149 --> 00:05:50,370  
populations differ in their life cycles

104  
00:05:55,490 --> 00:05:53,159  
but they both from those structures by

105  
00:05:59,570 --> 00:05:55,500  
the failure of daughter cells to

106  
00:06:01,760 --> 00:05:59,580  
separate among cell division and most

107  
00:06:03,980 --> 00:06:01,770  
importantly they from those structures

108  
00:06:05,329 --> 00:06:03,990  
in even when their predators are not

109  
00:06:07,689 --> 00:06:05,339  
around anymore

110  
00:06:12,909 --> 00:06:07,699  
meaning that there's a genetic basis

111  
00:06:19,189 --> 00:06:15,829  
so to find out what kind of mutations

112  
00:06:22,360 --> 00:06:19,199  
happened in those evolved LG LG strands

113  
00:06:26,119 --> 00:06:22,370

with it Illumina whole genome sequencing

114

00:06:28,790 --> 00:06:26,129

so for the 2x raindrop operation one

115

00:06:31,699 --> 00:06:28,800

control population we pick up multiple

116

00:06:34,580 --> 00:06:31,709

colonies to do whole genome sequencing

117

00:06:37,280 --> 00:06:34,590

we also sequence the

118

00:06:40,480 --> 00:06:37,290

- ancestral strength to know what

119

00:06:43,430 --> 00:06:40,490

genetic gration existed in the beginning

120

00:06:50,660 --> 00:06:43,440

so that we can know what actually

121

00:06:54,020 --> 00:06:50,670

happened in those evolved algae so what

122

00:06:56,870 --> 00:06:54,030

we found out is that appear that is two

123

00:07:00,200 --> 00:06:56,880

different genetic basis underlying two

124

00:07:03,740 --> 00:07:00,210

origins of multicellularity in your

125

00:07:07,490 --> 00:07:03,750

experiment so here are the mutations

126  
00:07:11,180 --> 00:07:07,500  
occurring each strand each Royces is an

127  
00:07:14,020 --> 00:07:11,190  
evolved isolate the first four are from

128  
00:07:16,940 --> 00:07:14,030  
the beetle permission that about

129  
00:07:19,400 --> 00:07:16,950  
medicinal properties the next four are

130  
00:07:22,940 --> 00:07:19,410  
from the be pipe operation that part

131  
00:07:25,730 --> 00:07:22,950  
about single cell properties and the

132  
00:07:28,790 --> 00:07:25,740  
last four are come from control

133  
00:07:32,120 --> 00:07:28,800  
population that are Romanian insulin and

134  
00:07:35,540 --> 00:07:32,130  
each prize mutation happened in their

135  
00:07:39,610 --> 00:07:35,550  
genomes and you can see that for the

136  
00:07:42,910 --> 00:07:39,620  
multicellular isolate in the b2 and b5

137  
00:07:46,820 --> 00:07:42,920  
populations they shared certain set of

138  
00:07:49,910 --> 00:07:46,830

mutation all together suggesting that

139

00:07:56,750 --> 00:07:49,920

those are or any thousand are important

140

00:08:00,710 --> 00:07:56,760

for those medicinal phenotypes so how do

141

00:08:03,530 --> 00:08:00,720

we know that which which mutations are

142

00:08:06,820 --> 00:08:03,540

actually responsible for those most

143

00:08:11,330 --> 00:08:06,830

logical changes with it so these

144

00:08:15,470 --> 00:08:11,340

analyzers code park second analyzes the

145

00:08:19,610 --> 00:08:15,480

idea is that say let free meat mutations

146

00:08:24,290 --> 00:08:19,620

in all evolve isolate and we want to

147

00:08:27,140 --> 00:08:24,300

know whether it's a PC or a BP CAC or

148

00:08:29,930 --> 00:08:27,150

ABC together that are you responsible

149

00:08:33,230 --> 00:08:29,940

for the phenotype you can make it with

150

00:08:35,540 --> 00:08:33,240

the wild-type strength to generate a

151  
00:08:38,600 --> 00:08:35,550  
group of cells with different

152  
00:08:41,900 --> 00:08:38,610  
combinations of those mutations and then

153  
00:08:44,780 --> 00:08:41,910  
we can select full of phenotype we are

154  
00:08:48,500 --> 00:08:44,790  
interested in put summary cell phenotype

155  
00:08:51,610 --> 00:08:48,510  
and then those

156  
00:08:57,200 --> 00:08:51,620  
you know hats associate associated with

157  
00:09:00,680 --> 00:08:57,210  
phenotype huapi imaged this way so to

158  
00:09:03,770 --> 00:09:00,690  
actually do this with LG we made it our

159  
00:09:07,100 --> 00:09:03,780  
evolved multi server phenotypes with the

160  
00:09:10,730 --> 00:09:07,110  
unicellular strand to generate an actual

161  
00:09:14,750 --> 00:09:10,740  
population with different combination of

162  
00:09:19,060 --> 00:09:14,760  
the mutations so some details are multi

163  
00:09:22,010 --> 00:09:19,070

seller and something on unit cell and

164

00:09:25,610 --> 00:09:22,020

then we select the multi cellular

165

00:09:27,500 --> 00:09:25,620

phenotype by centrifugation briefly so

166

00:09:31,280 --> 00:09:27,510

that's the bigger one should sink to the

167

00:09:33,650 --> 00:09:31,290

bottom more quickly and then so that the

168

00:09:36,920 --> 00:09:33,660

bottom ones go to the multi seller pool

169

00:09:40,130 --> 00:09:36,930

and the cells aren't have go to the

170

00:09:44,060 --> 00:09:40,140

single cell pool by repeating this for

171

00:09:47,930 --> 00:09:44,070

multiple times we can enrich the multi

172

00:09:51,230 --> 00:09:47,940

seller genotypes and unison what is the

173

00:09:54,770 --> 00:09:51,240

genotypes and then we sequence is two of

174

00:09:56,840 --> 00:09:54,780

pools of cells to see the allele

175

00:10:02,930 --> 00:09:56,850

frequency differences across their whole

176

00:10:05,840 --> 00:10:02,940

genomes and it turns out there are

177

00:10:08,690 --> 00:10:05,850

multiple regions in those LG's genome

178

00:10:11,960 --> 00:10:08,700

responsible for the motor severity

179

00:10:15,830 --> 00:10:11,970

evolved in your lab so it's a result

180

00:10:20,260 --> 00:10:15,840

from the multicellular isolates from the

181

00:10:23,840 --> 00:10:20,270

p2 population the y-axis means that

182

00:10:28,270 --> 00:10:23,850

given the overall allele frequency in

183

00:10:32,210 --> 00:10:28,280

both unicellular and multicellular pool

184

00:10:34,910 --> 00:10:32,220

these allele the transit alia appear in

185

00:10:38,900 --> 00:10:34,920

the MOTC report and the higher the dots

186

00:10:41,240 --> 00:10:38,910

are the laurel urchins are and the more

187

00:10:45,650 --> 00:10:41,250

likely they are associated with the

188

00:10:48,410 --> 00:10:45,660

multi cellular phenotypes so you can see

189

00:10:50,570 --> 00:10:48,420

several peaks here and three of them

190

00:10:52,280 --> 00:10:50,580

also match to the mutations we

191

00:10:57,150 --> 00:10:52,290

identified through whole genome

192

00:11:00,450 --> 00:10:57,160

sequencing approach and then there also

193

00:11:03,090 --> 00:11:00,460

other pics they're suggesting certain

194

00:11:08,190 --> 00:11:03,100

genetic background is important for

195

00:11:12,600 --> 00:11:08,200

those mute new mutations to arise here's

196

00:11:14,820 --> 00:11:12,610

the results from the b5 isolate and the

197

00:11:17,490 --> 00:11:14,830

other population that you bought

198

00:11:20,580 --> 00:11:17,500

multicellularity and we also see a

199

00:11:23,820 --> 00:11:20,590

similar trend so while the pigs match to

200

00:11:27,110 --> 00:11:23,830

one of the mutations we identified well

201  
00:11:29,670 --> 00:11:27,120  
there are several other pics that

202  
00:11:32,480 --> 00:11:29,680  
suggesting its ancestral genetic

203  
00:11:37,830 --> 00:11:32,490  
background plot the mute mutations

204  
00:11:40,260 --> 00:11:37,840  
responsible for those phenotypes both

205  
00:11:44,340 --> 00:11:40,270  
these mutations and the why I showed in

206  
00:11:47,070 --> 00:11:44,350  
the last slide now then they are either

207  
00:11:50,730 --> 00:11:47,080  
in introns or intergenic regions or none

208  
00:11:53,580 --> 00:11:50,740  
of them change amino acid sequences so I

209  
00:11:58,670 --> 00:11:53,590  
still working on what they actually do

210  
00:12:02,670 --> 00:11:58,680  
to change those phenotypes to summarize

211  
00:12:05,490 --> 00:12:02,680  
we evolved multicellularity black with

212  
00:12:09,240 --> 00:12:05,500  
predators we have identified mutations

213  
00:12:13,590 --> 00:12:09,250

that ever happened in those evolved

214

00:12:16,910 --> 00:12:13,600

algae appear that is two different

215

00:12:21,180 --> 00:12:16,920

genetic bases undesigned those two

216

00:12:24,120 --> 00:12:21,190

different origins of multicellularity we

217

00:12:28,560 --> 00:12:24,130

are working on the functional relevance

218

00:12:31,800 --> 00:12:28,570

of those mutations at the moment for

219

00:12:34,950 --> 00:12:31,810

future directions now that we have

220

00:12:38,100 --> 00:12:34,960

evolved those simple modular structures

221

00:12:41,940 --> 00:12:38,110

we want to know how cellular

222

00:12:44,520 --> 00:12:41,950

differentiation would evolve and another

223

00:12:46,860 --> 00:12:44,530

postdoc in your lab is working on this

224

00:12:49,170 --> 00:12:46,870

project right now she's pretending a

225

00:12:54,780 --> 00:12:49,180

poster today if you haven't talked to

226

00:12:56,550 --> 00:12:54,790

her you should so what I presented today

227

00:13:00,260 --> 00:12:56,560

is multiple people's work especially

228

00:13:03,450 --> 00:13:00,270

Matt who oversees this whole project and

229

00:13:04,140 --> 00:13:03,460

we also like to paint our funding

230

00:13:09,810 --> 00:13:04,150

sources

231

00:13:09,820 --> 00:13:13,290

[Applause]

232

00:13:13,300 --> 00:13:19,520

we have time for some questions

233

00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:31,220

[Laughter]

234

00:13:36,100 --> 00:13:33,770

[Music]

235

00:13:38,230 --> 00:13:36,110

great talk thank you much I know you're

236

00:13:40,990 --> 00:13:38,240

working on hallucinating the genetic

237

00:13:42,760 --> 00:13:41,000

basis for the drive towards

238

00:13:45,190 --> 00:13:42,770

multicellularity under these

239

00:13:48,430 --> 00:13:45,200

circumstances but do you have any sort

240

00:13:51,700 --> 00:13:48,440

of predictions or hypotheses about what

241

00:13:54,630 --> 00:13:51,710

the phenotypic you know results of these

242

00:13:56,170 --> 00:13:54,640

genetic mutations are what would drive

243

00:14:04,660 --> 00:13:56,180

the con

244

00:14:08,710 --> 00:14:04,670

you know the collective nature can be

245

00:14:12,880 --> 00:14:08,720

something evolving cell lung cell cycle

246

00:14:14,740 --> 00:14:12,890

that one day what usually when cell goes

247

00:14:17,350 --> 00:14:14,750

through division there will from those

248

00:14:21,400 --> 00:14:17,360

two four or eight cell

249

00:14:23,830 --> 00:14:21,410

cops but then something else mutations

250

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:23,840

might affect this process so that they

251  
00:14:28,180 --> 00:14:28,010  
couldn't separate after that great thank

252  
00:14:32,020 --> 00:14:28,190  
you

253  
00:14:37,890 --> 00:14:32,030  
but they don't look like it's in the

254  
00:14:53,470 --> 00:14:49,540  
other questions I have a question Green

255  
00:14:57,430 --> 00:14:53,480  
now is a bicones and all know this other

256  
00:15:00,160 --> 00:14:57,440  
organism say unique wants so is there

257  
00:15:04,180 --> 00:15:00,170  
any way that you can try to do any

258  
00:15:08,320 --> 00:15:04,190  
Studies on some single seller unicorns

259  
00:15:10,500 --> 00:15:08,330  
and try to see if you can do sort of

260  
00:15:15,500 --> 00:15:10,510  
explore the origin of multicellularity

261  
00:15:30,550 --> 00:15:18,710  
it's a fool major clades of eukaryotic