# Parallel Adaptations to High Temperatures in the Archean Eon

Bastien Boussau<sup>1\*</sup>, Samuel Blanquart<sup>2\*</sup>, Anamaria Necșulea<sup>1</sup>, Nicolas Lartillot<sup>2</sup>, Manolo Gouy<sup>1</sup>

> <sup>1</sup>LBBE, CNRS, Lyon; <sup>2</sup>LIRMM, CNRS, Montpellier \*These authors contributed equally to this work.

> > Saturday, June 25th 2008

## Thermophiles in the tree of life



Bastien Boussau (LBBE, CNRS, Lyon) Parallel Adaptations to High Temperatures

Pace, *Science* 1997.

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## Sequence composition and temperature



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## Sequence composition and temperature



## rRNA and protein compositions can be used as independent molecular thermometers

#### **Ribosomal RNA**

Galtier *et al.*, 1999: non-hyperthermophilic LUCA

#### Proteins

Di Giulio 2003, Brooks *et al.* 2004: hyperthermophilic LUCA Gaucher *et al.* 2003, 2008: hyperthermophilic bacterial ancestor

## Gaucher et al. 2008



Gaucher *et al.* observe a decrease in optimal growth temperatures from the ancestor of Bacteria to extant organisms.

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#### Differences

Non-homogeneous model of evolution

Homogeneous or non-stationary models of evolution



#### Homogeneous model



Non-stationary model



Non-stationary model

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## rRNA evolution model: Galtier and Gouy model (1998)



- 1 model per branch
- each model is characterized by an equilibrium G+C content

#### Parameters



parameters	symbol	number
ancestral G+C %	ω	1
branch lengths	λί	2n - 3
root location	φ	1
Ts/Tv ratio	к	1
equilibrium G+C %	θι	2n - 2
		4n - 2

κ

#### Ability of the GG98 model to estimate the root G+C



Boussau and Gouy, Syst. Biol. 2006.

#### A protein alignment



Not all amino-acids are allowed at a given position in a protein

#### Profiles of amino-acids

profile of amino-acids = vector of amino-acid equilibrium frequencies.



#### CAT model



- Gamma model: mixture model over rates of evolution
- CAT model: mixture model over profiles of amino-acids



Blanquart and Lartillot, Mol. Biol. Evol., 2008.

### Results



## The evolution of Thermophily



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## The evolution of Thermophily



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## The evidence for parallel adaptations



## The evidence for parallel adaptations: models



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- robust to the removal of rare amino-acids

## A pressure for parallel adaptations

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- Non-homogeneous models find evidence for two phases in the history of thermophily:
  - first an increase from LUCA to its direct descendants
  - then a decrease from the bacterial ancestor to extant species
- Such a scenario is in agreement with several hypotheses concerning the early evolution of the Earth and of life

#### Authors

## Bastien Boussau\*, Samuel Blanquart\*, Anamaria Necșulea, Nicolas Lartillot, Manolo Gouy

\* These authors contributed equally to this work.

#### Many thanks to ...

Céline Brochier-Armanet, David Bryant, Marc Chaussidon, Nicolas Galtier, Antonio Lazcano, Mathilde Paris, and members of the BBE Laboratory.



#### 2 Materials and methods







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## The evidence for parallel adaptations: roots

