

# Metamorphosis or the larval-juvenile transition: Steering the future of the foodfish industry



Image from Larvanet

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2) NIFES

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Bergen

Norway

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



An underwater photograph showing a large, bushy green seaweed plant in the foreground. In the background, a fish with orange and white stripes is visible, swimming in clear blue water. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**FOCUS: metamorphosis and development, growth, reproduction**

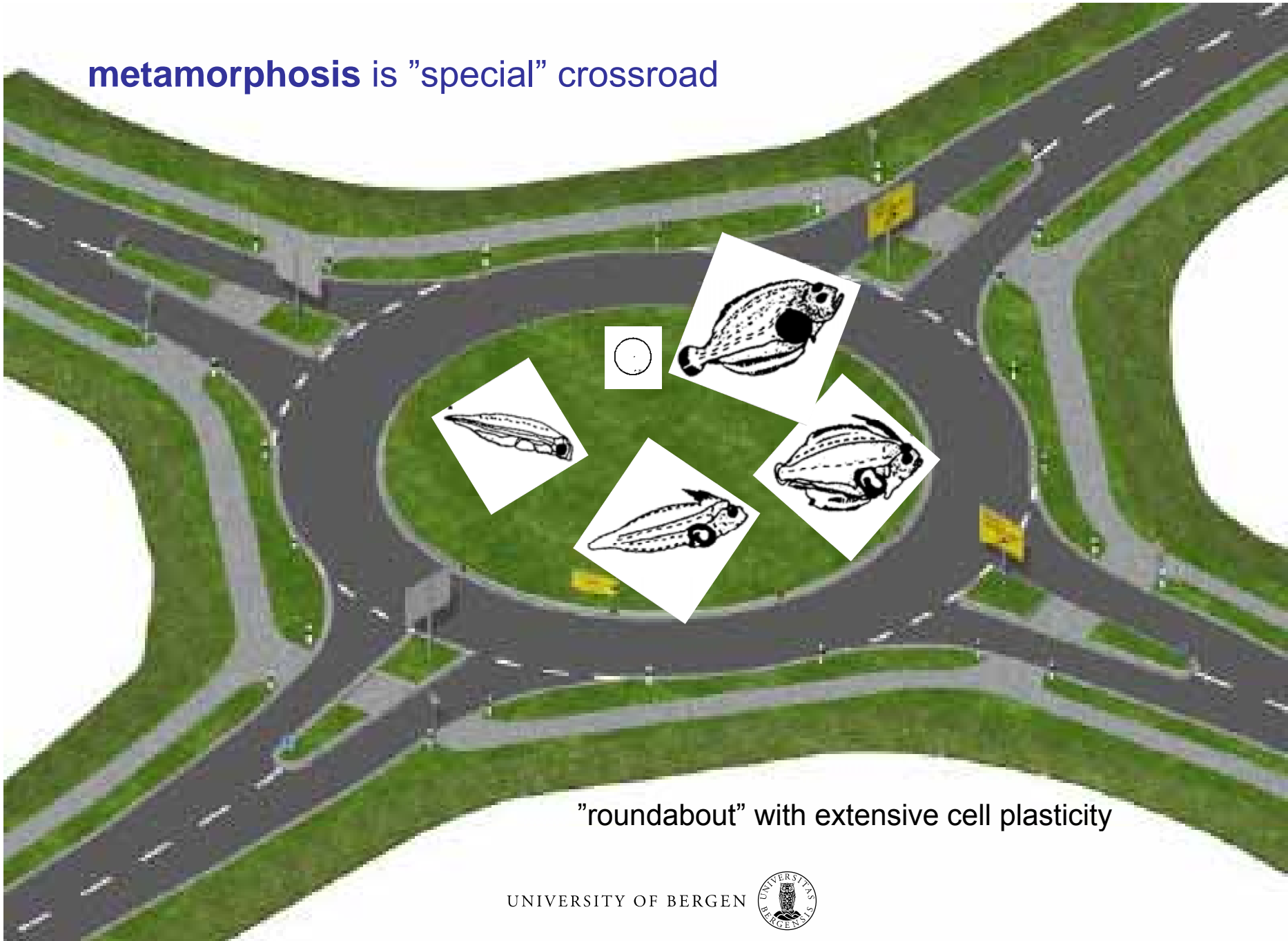
**sampling and interpretation**

**Stages, metamorphosis, cell plasticity**

**Epigenetics, environment and 3R: model vs target fish**

**Multigenerational effects on foodfish production**

metamorphosis is "special" crossroad



"roundabout" with extensive cell plasticity





# Metamorphosis or the larval-juvenile transition

## Organogenesis:

brain, eyes, notochord,

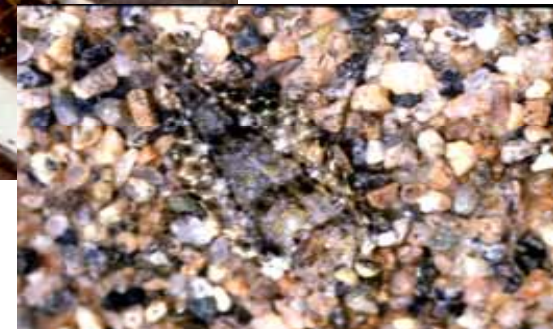
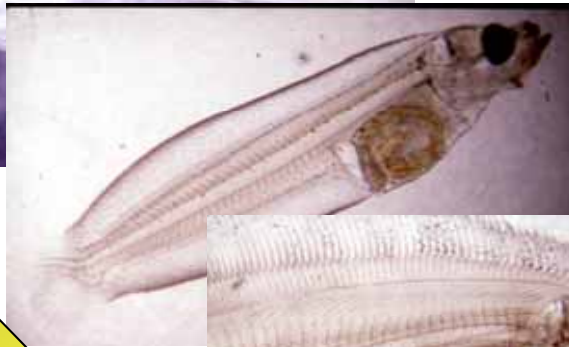
gut, endocrine systems,

cranial skeleton,

gills, blood cells, skin,

gonads, axial skeleton

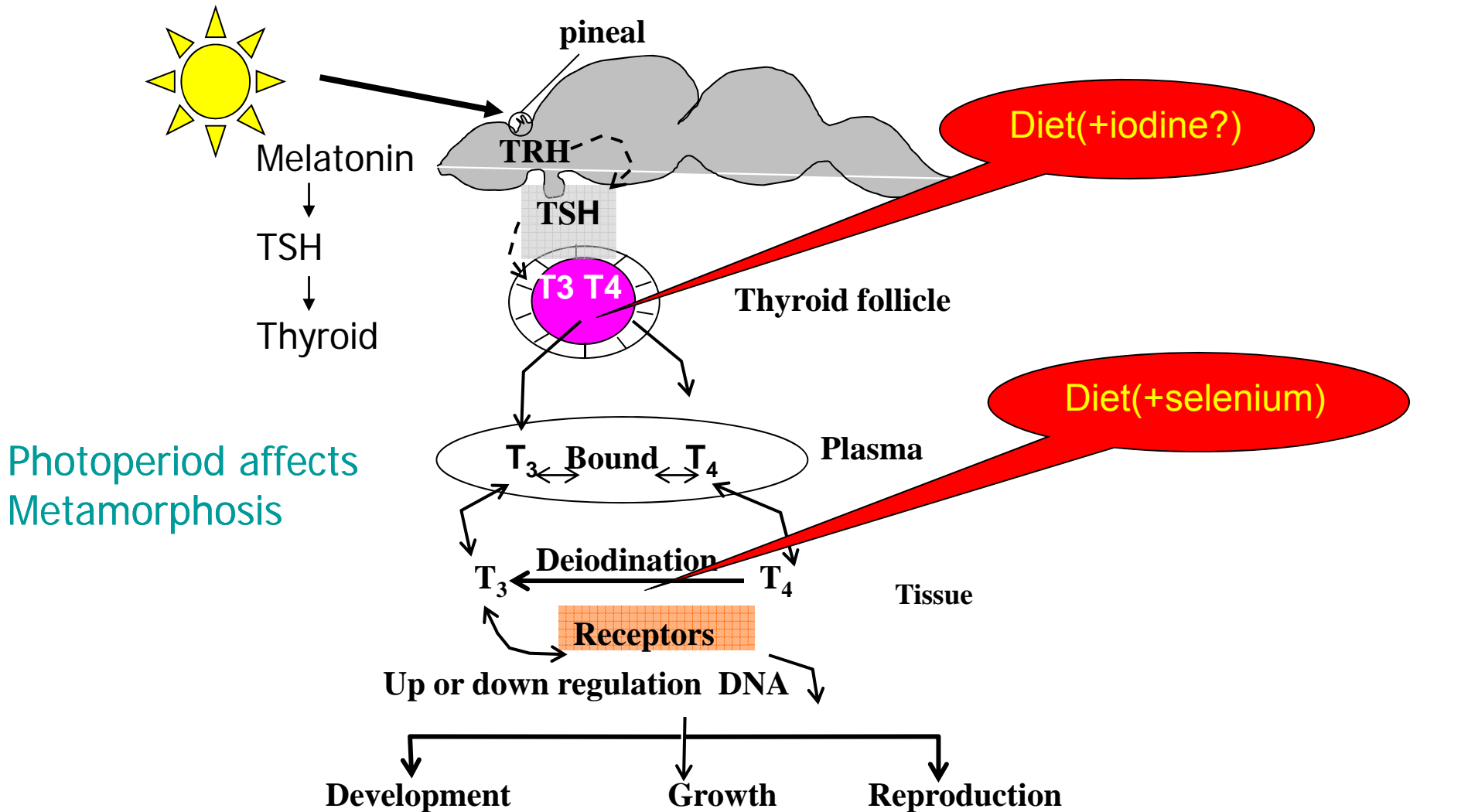
(endocrine controlled)



*Cell plasticity*

*Cell determination*

# MODEL Hypothalamus-pituitary-thyroid axis directs transformation from larva to juvenile

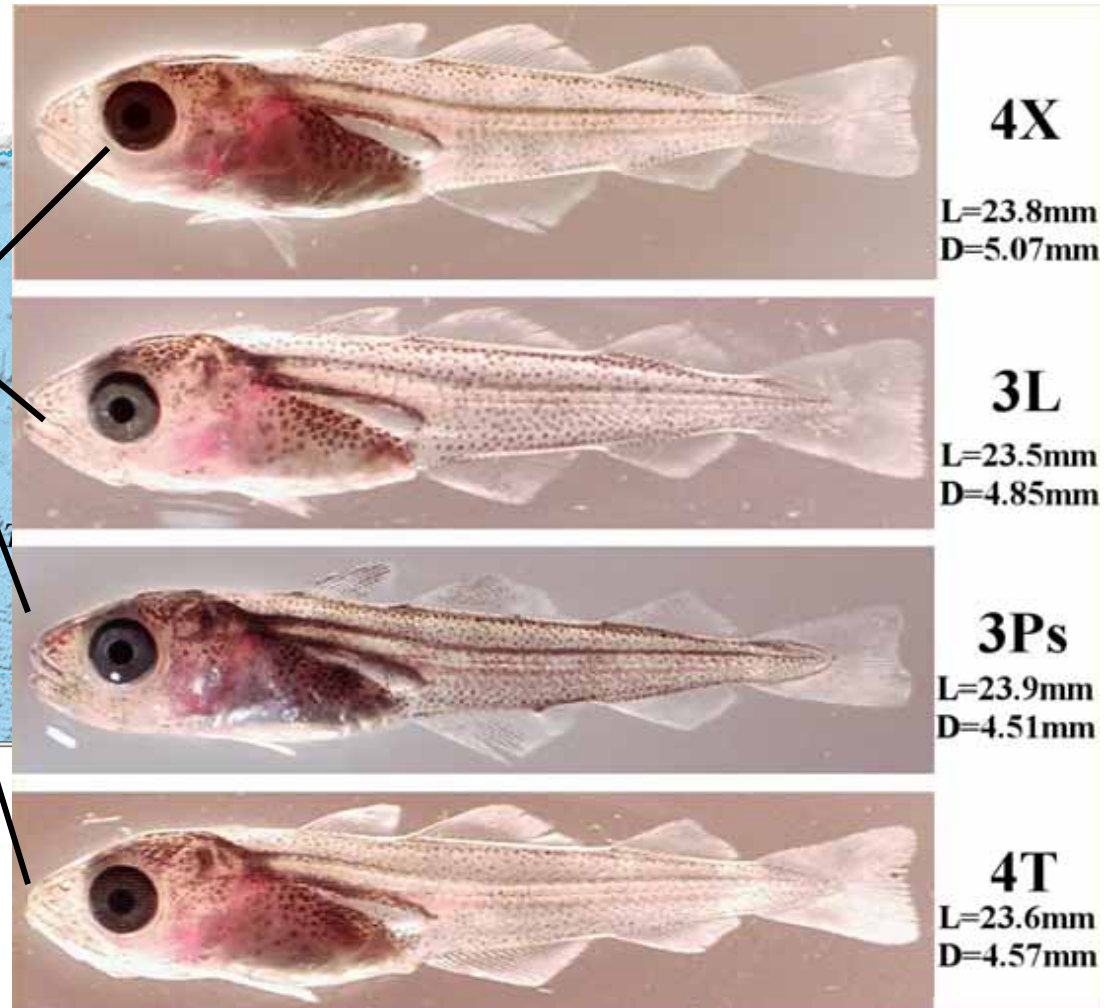


Model addresses several levels of organization

# POPULATION: developmental differences begin before juvenile is established



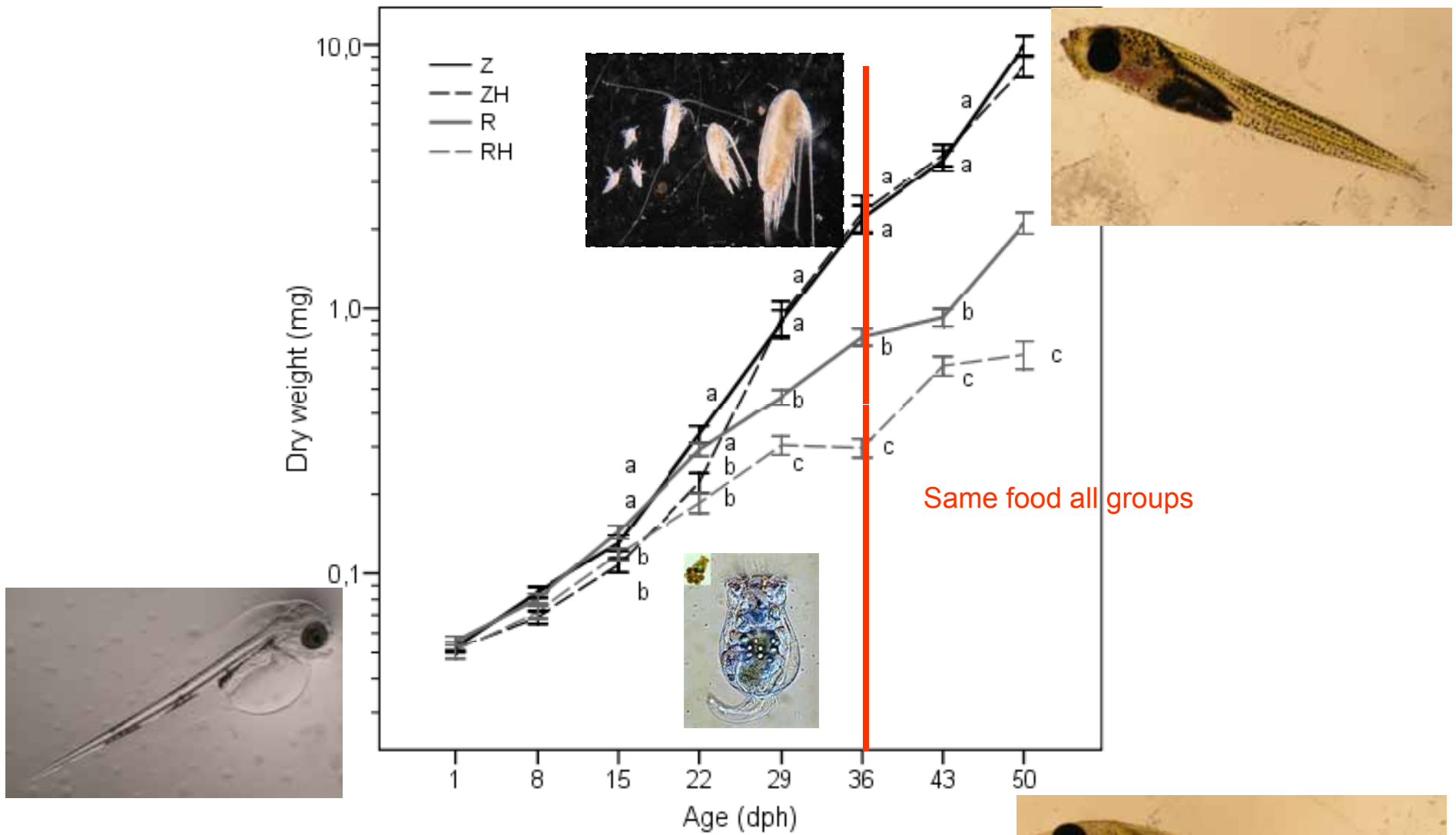
(c) 1995 Dorling Kindersley Multimedia



Slide courtesy Dr. Joe Brown, Memorial Univ of Newfoundland



# GROUP – development and further growth directed by first feed



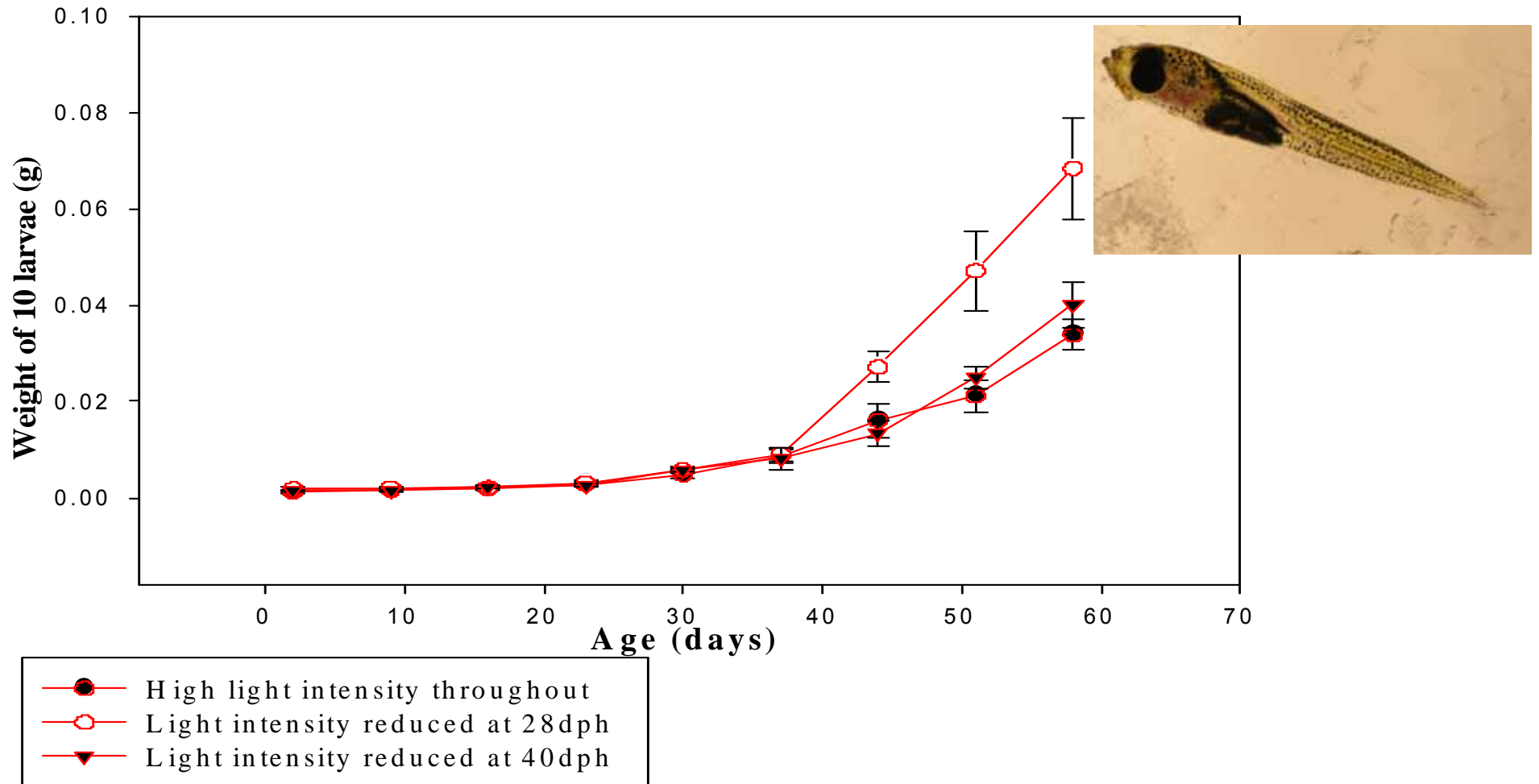
Same food all groups

Longterm growth benefit of first feeding on zooplankton (cod, *Gadus morhua*)

Koedijk et al., 2009 submitted

## GROUP – growth (and development) directed by early photoperiod

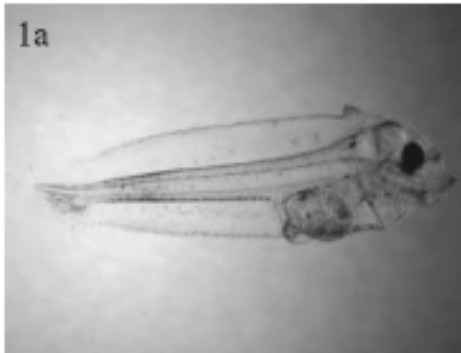
### Dry weights of cod larvae subjected to three different light intensity treatments



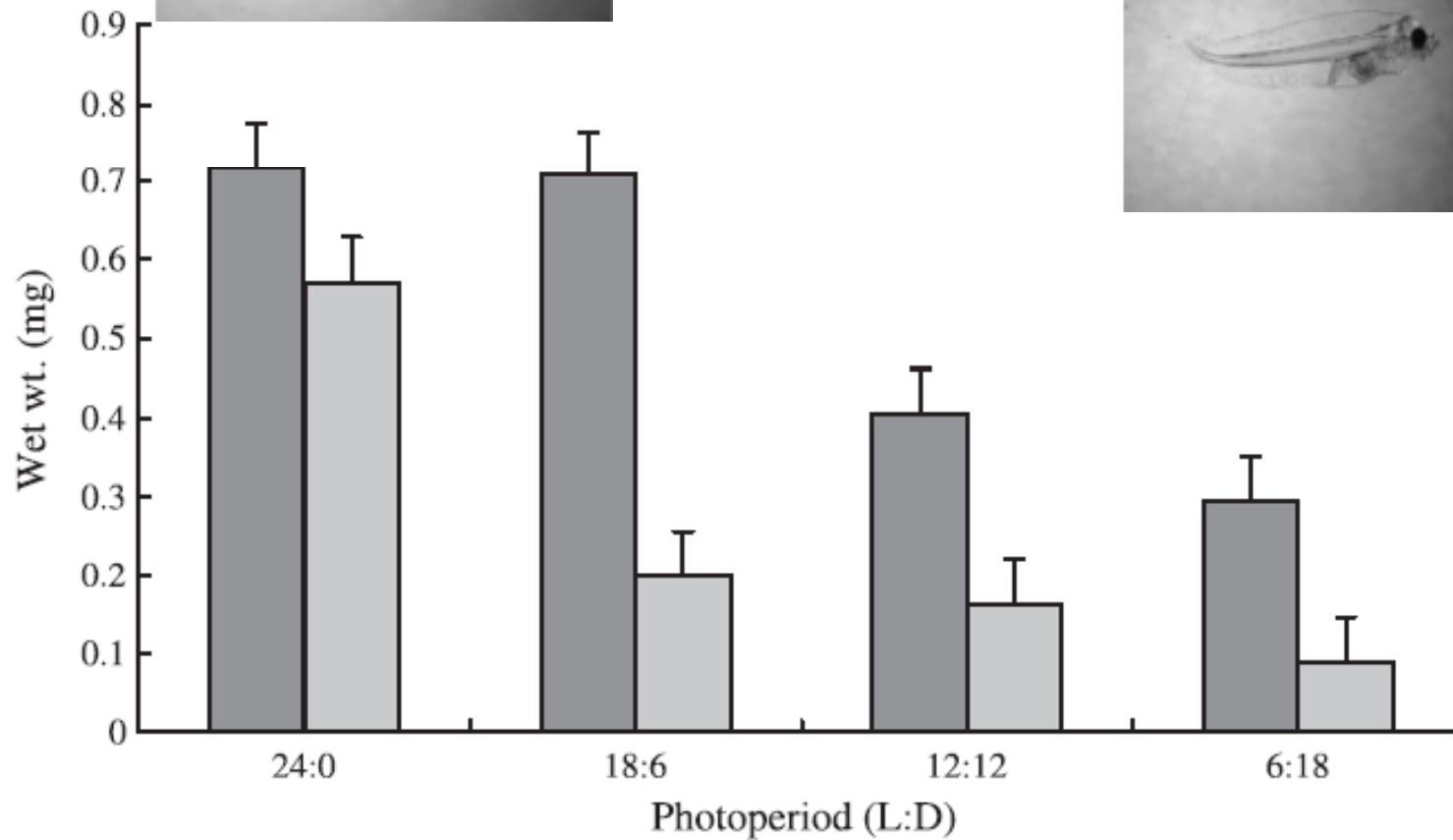
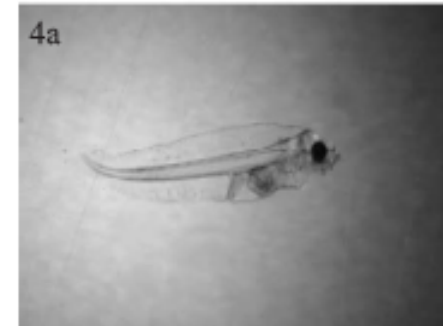
Slide courtesy Dr. Joe Brown, MUN, data Monk et al.



## GROUP – development and growth directed by photoperiod



Southern flounder larvae, *Paralichthys lethostigma*



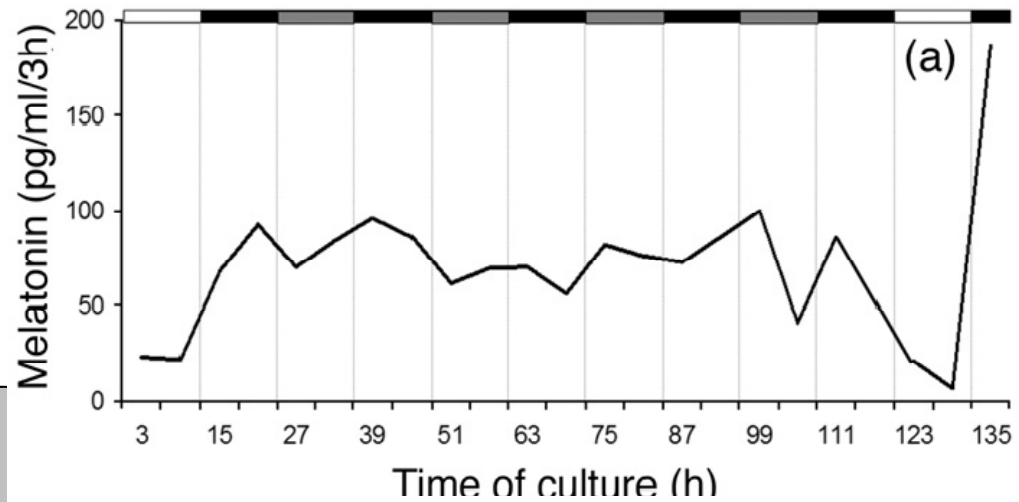
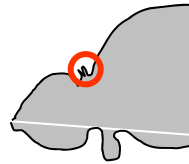
# SPECIES + TISSUE – developmental control differentiates (pineal culture)

Continuous dark



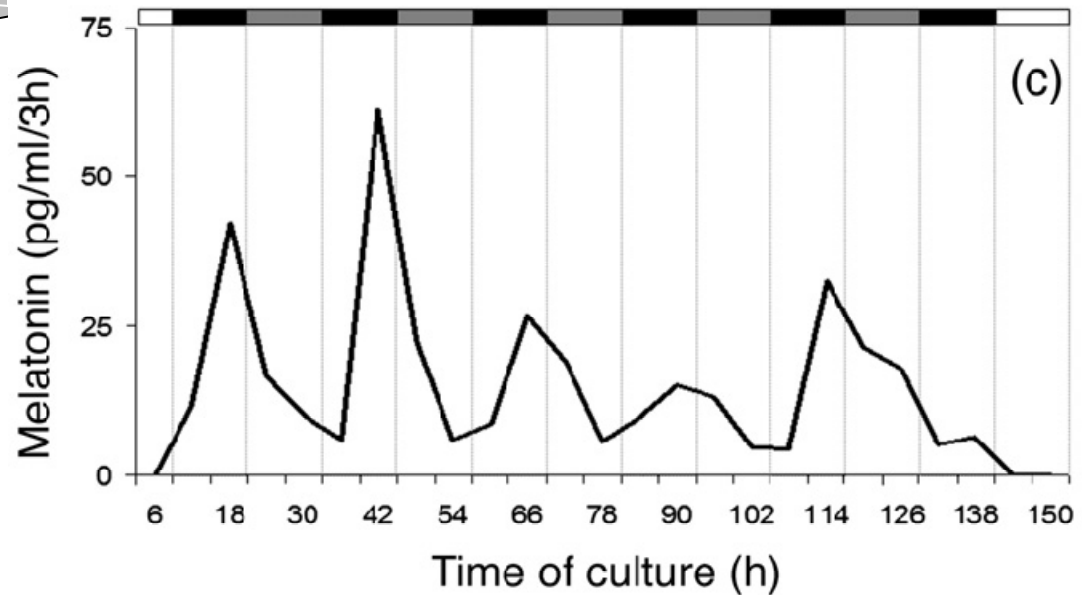
*Solea senegalensis*  
Marine, flat

Photoperiod important  
Exogenous rhythm

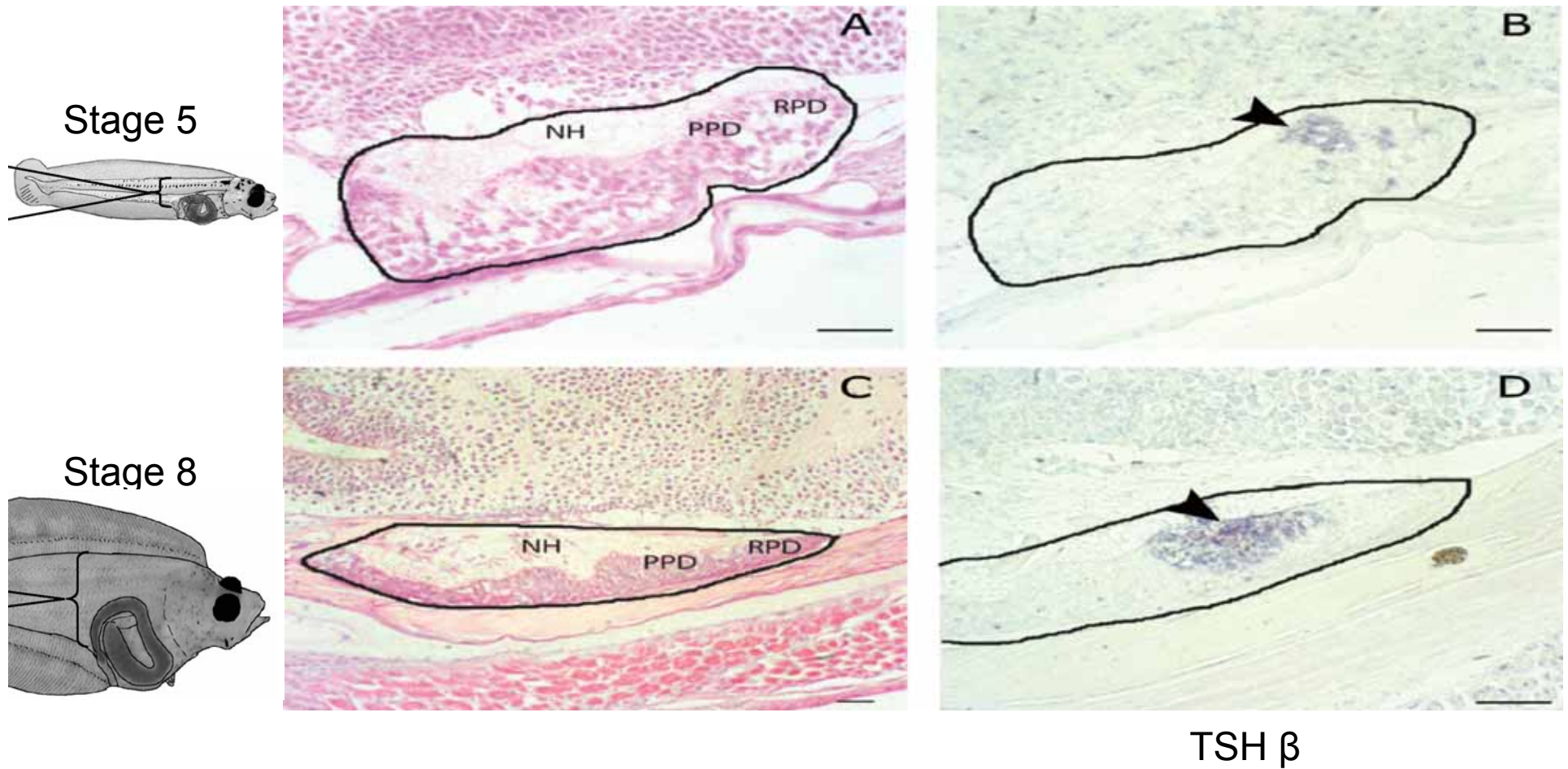


Tench (*Tinca tinca*)  
FW, round

Photoperiod not so impt  
Endogenous rhythm



# METAMORPHOSIS - Sampling by stage gives fundamental steering processes (species, groups, individuals, tissues)

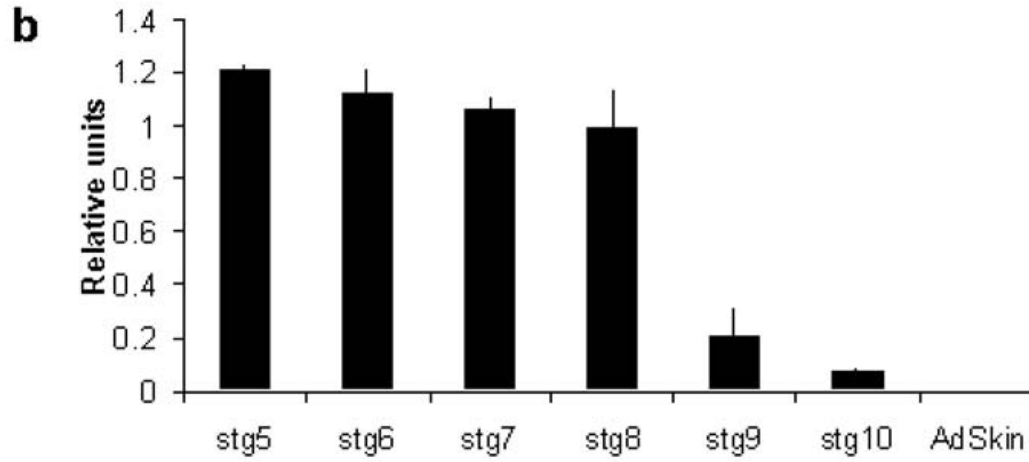


Power, Einarsdottir, Pittman, Sweeney, Hildahl, Campinho, Silva, Sæle, Galay-Burgos, Smaradottir & Björnsson 2008  
The molecular and endocrine basis of flatfish metamorphosis. *Reviews in Fisheries Science* 16:95-111

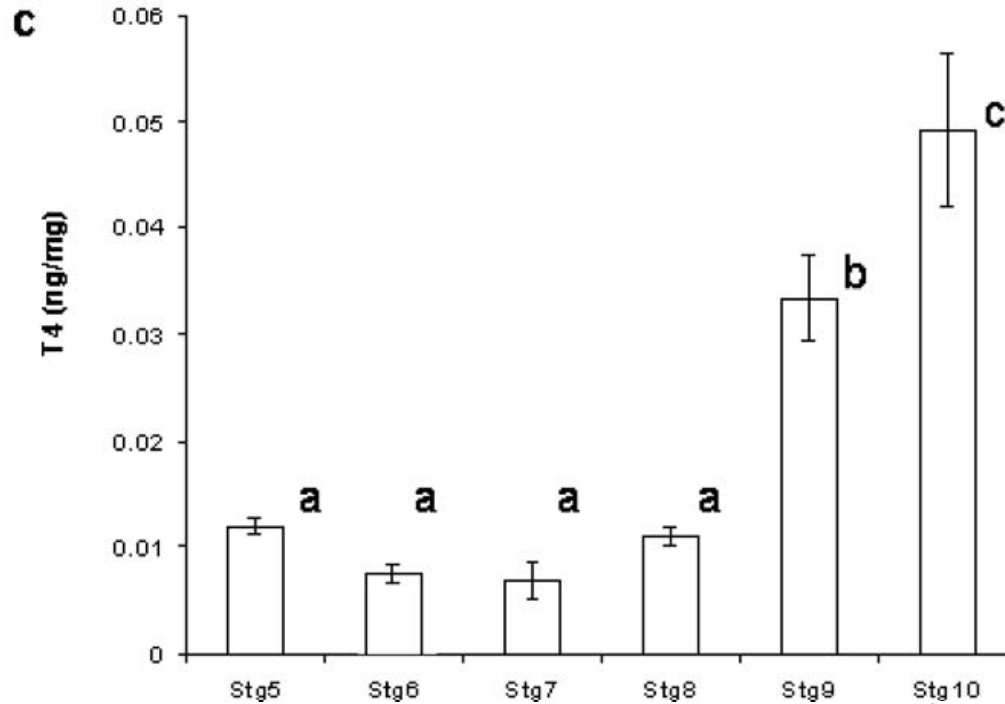


# INDIVIDUAL development

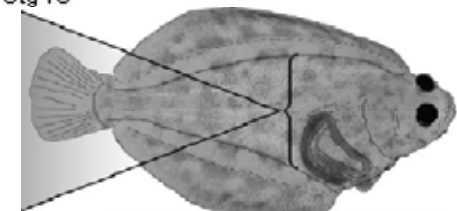
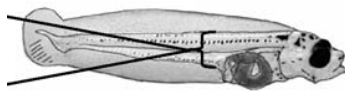
hhKer1:18S rRNA



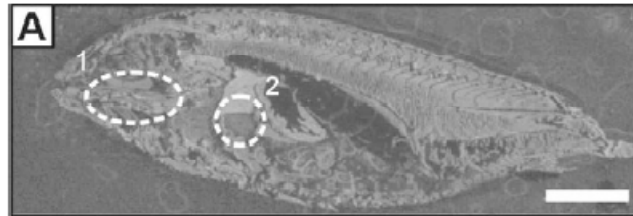
A keratin gene expression pattern in halibut



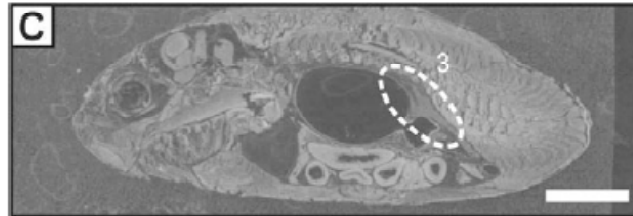
Thyroid hormone levels in halibut stages



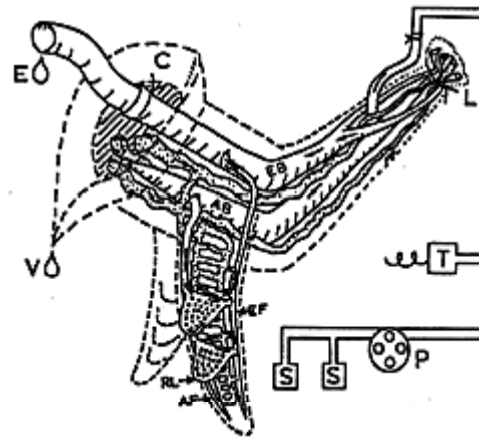
## SPECIES AND TISSUE- different tissues produce thyroid, steer development



Mozambique Tilapia – thyroid follicles in subpharyngeal



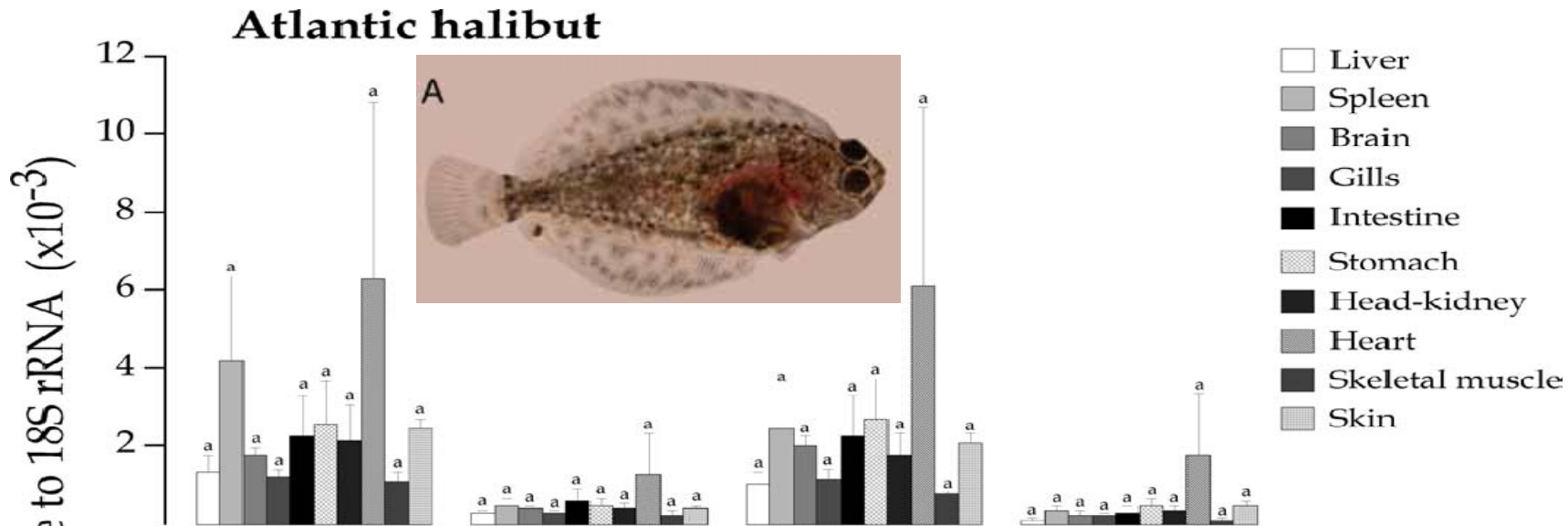
Common carp – thyroid follicles in kidney (87%), head kidney (3%) subpharyngeal,



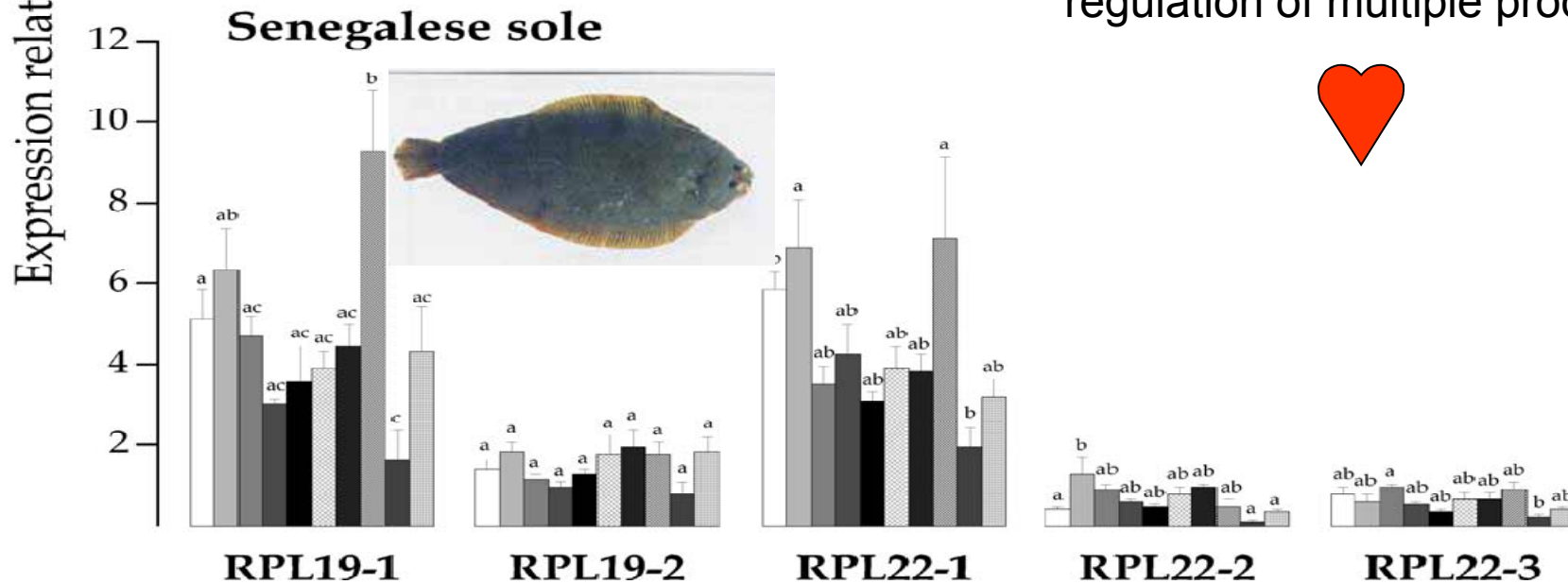
Platyfish *Xiphophorus maculatus*  
Heterotopic in cardiovascular system

- Thyroid follicle cell populations are not physiologically equal in iodide uptake or hormone synthesis
- Multiple isoforms of thyroid hormone receptors exist

# SPECIES, TISSUE, PROTEIN – different organs express ribosomal proteins



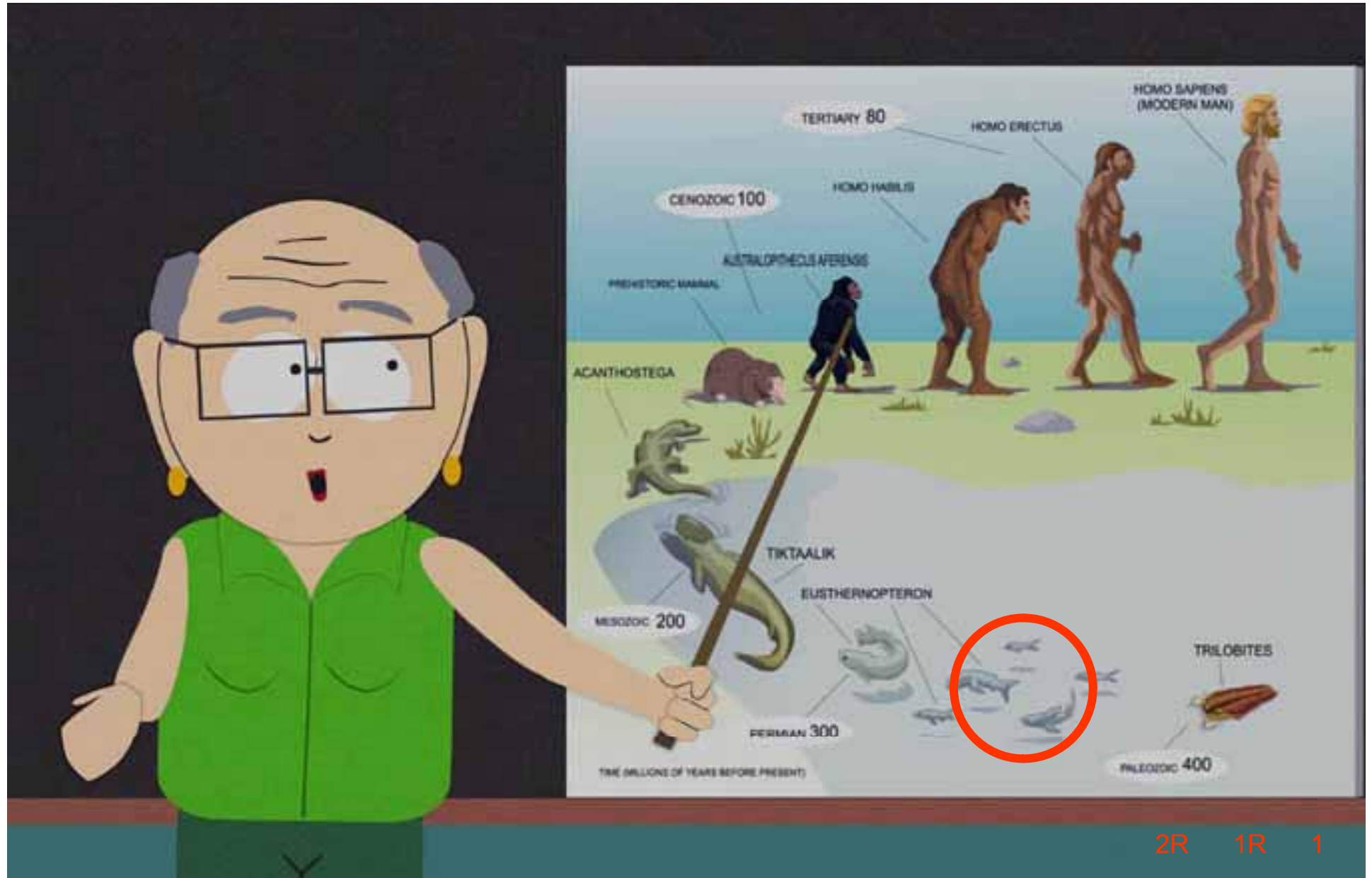
regulation of multiple processes





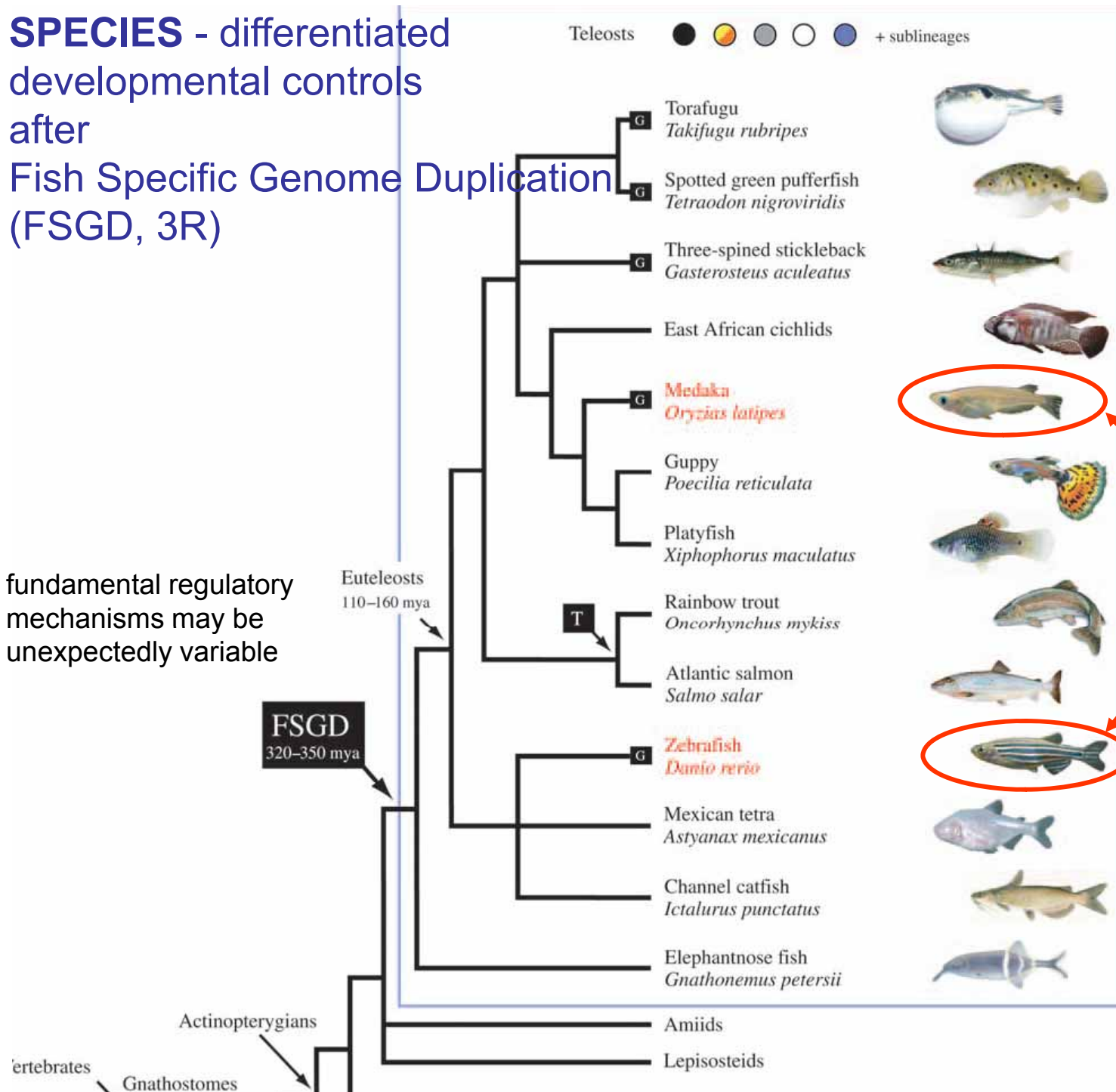
# CLASS ACT - Fish Specific Genome Duplication 350 mya (3R)

up to eight copies of the ancestral deuterostome genome  
Osteichthyes (ray finned bony fishes)



**SPECIES** - differentiated developmental controls after Fish Specific Genome Duplication (FSGD, 3R)

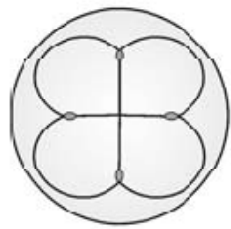
fundamental regulatory mechanisms may be unexpectedly variable



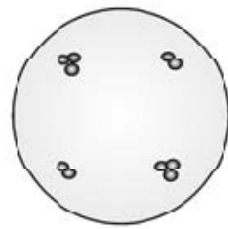
Common models diverge

Pigmentation genes (Braasch et al 2008)

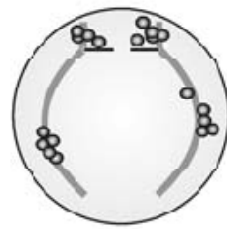
# SPECIES, GROUPS – different pathways to reproduction, starting VERY early



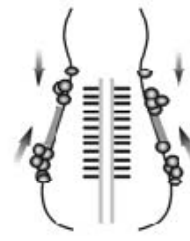
4 cell



4k cell



one somite



12 somite

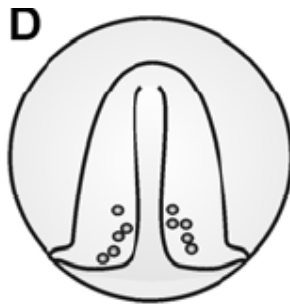


zebrafish

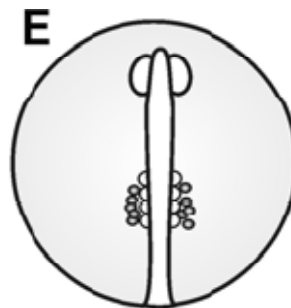
24h embryo



Sex differentiation  
Females and Males  
21-42 dpf



Late gastrulation



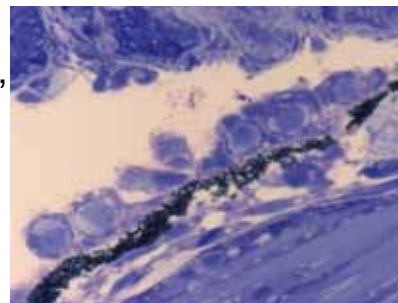
4 somites

medaka



Sex differentiation  
Female < hatching  
Male > 13 dph

5mm cod larva – gonads developing,  
Primordial Germ Cell migration  
-Meier (unpub data)



cod



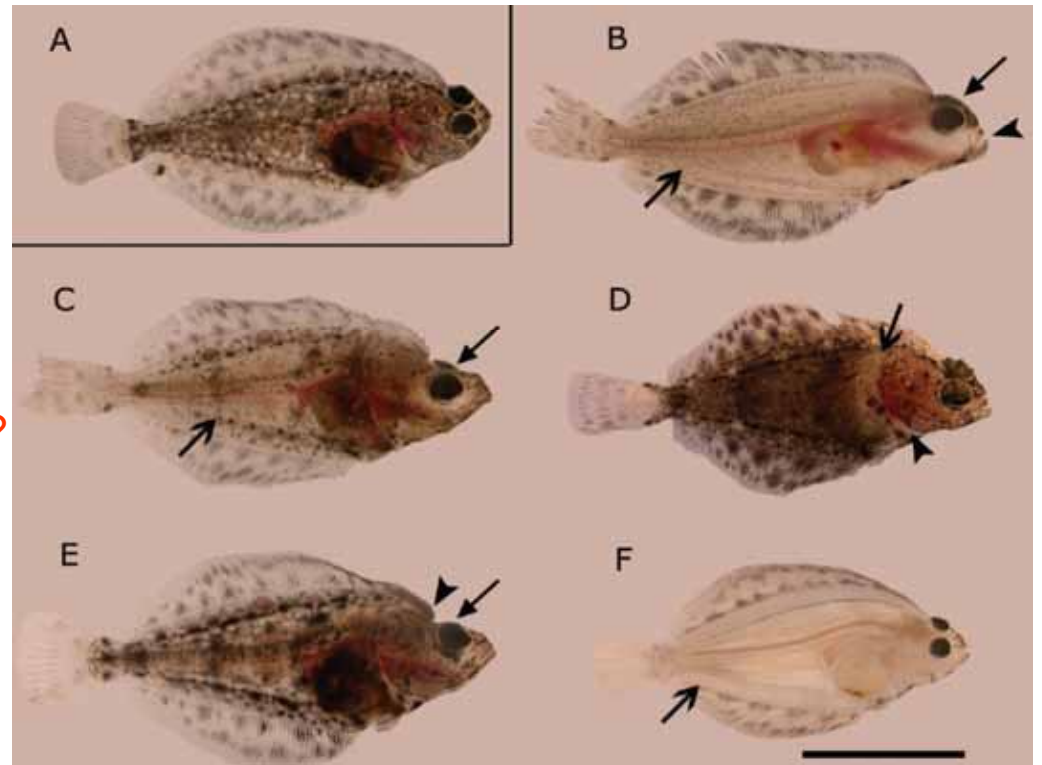
(Kluver 2007; Brion et al., 2004)



## EPIGENETICS

- changes in phenotype or gene expression  
NOT changes in DNA sequence (genome)  
much more than just deformities

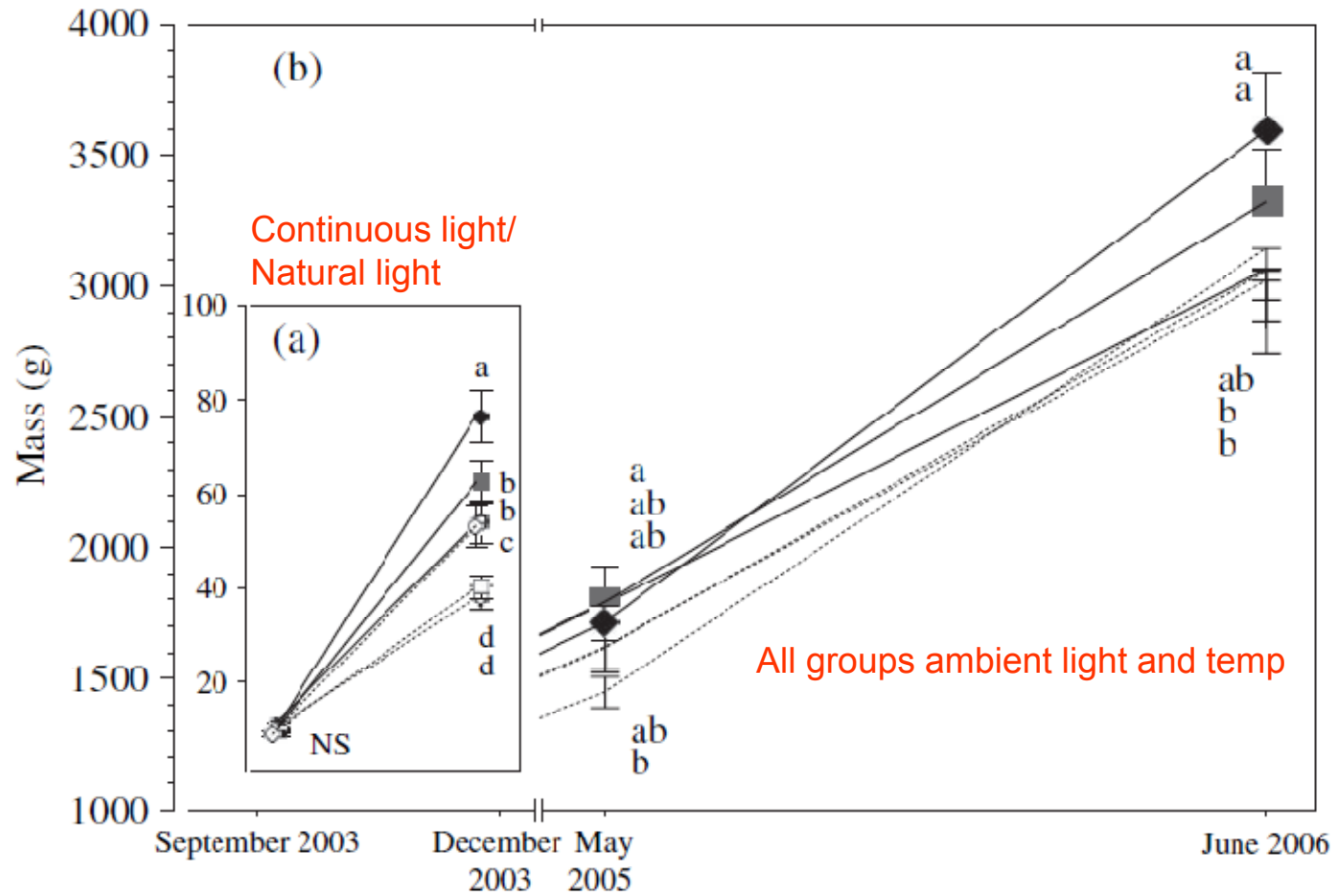
-especially obvious during cell differentiation,  
pluripotent cells become a single cell type  
**Metamorphosis a series of critical periods?**



mechanism: histone modifications and [DNA methylation](#) (chemical modification of [DNA](#) that can be inherited and subsequently removed without changing the original DNA sequence)  
eg. nutrition, temperature, photoperiod

**Power, Einarsdottir, Pittman, Sweeney, Hildahl, Campinho, Silva, Sæle, Galay-Burgos, Smaradottir & Björnsson 2008**  
**The molecular and endocrine basis of flatfish metamorphosis. Reviews in Fisheries Science 16:95-111**

# EPIGENETICS + GROUP - growth set by photoperiod in early life critical period

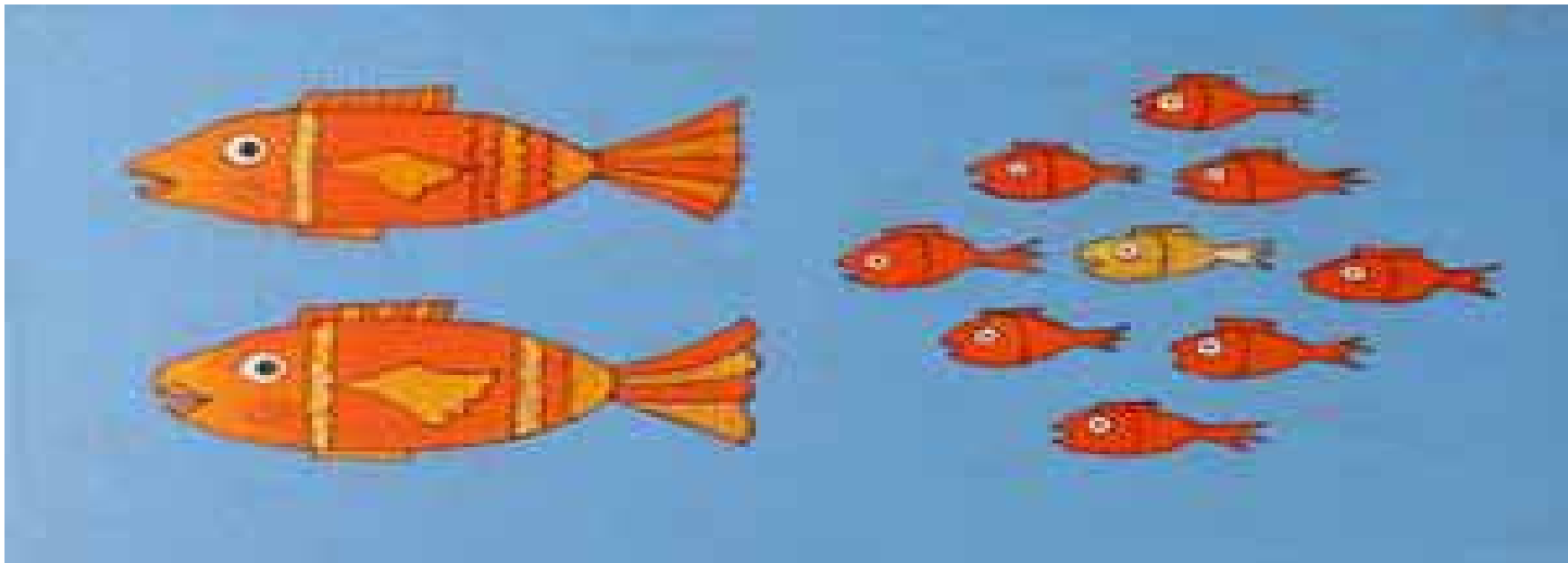
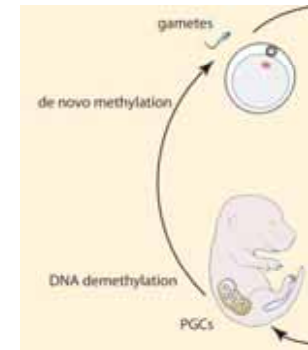


# TRANSGENERATION – epigenetic inheritance and reprogramming

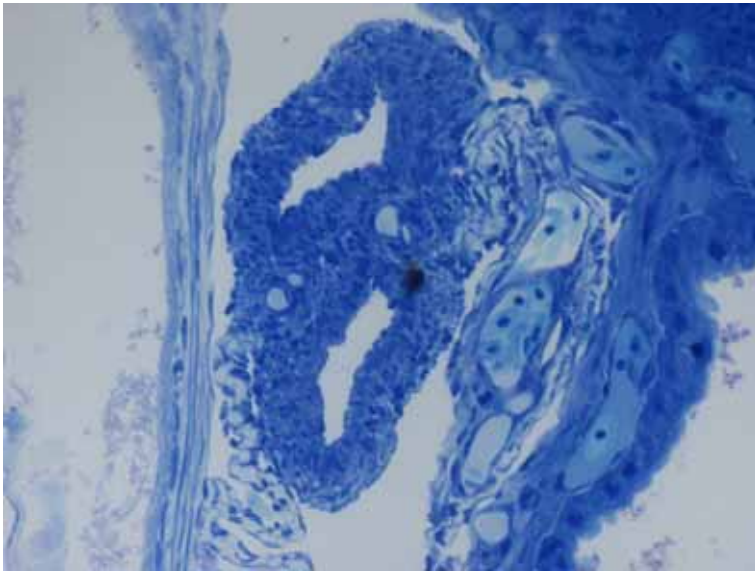
- diet induced metabolic programming can affect next generation (Patel & Srinivasan 2002)

- epigenetic inheritance found in all taxa examined (Jablonka & Raz 2009)
  - model organisms report most cases of Epigenetic Inheritance

- includes chromatin marks, RNA, self-reconstructing structures (eg. protein folding), and self-sustaining metabolic loops



# SPECIES + GROUP – epigenetics and transgenerational effects



Early female 39 mm (44 days)



Estrogen exposure upto day 50 (larvae)

Adult w sperm and egg in one gonad

Level of Biological Organization

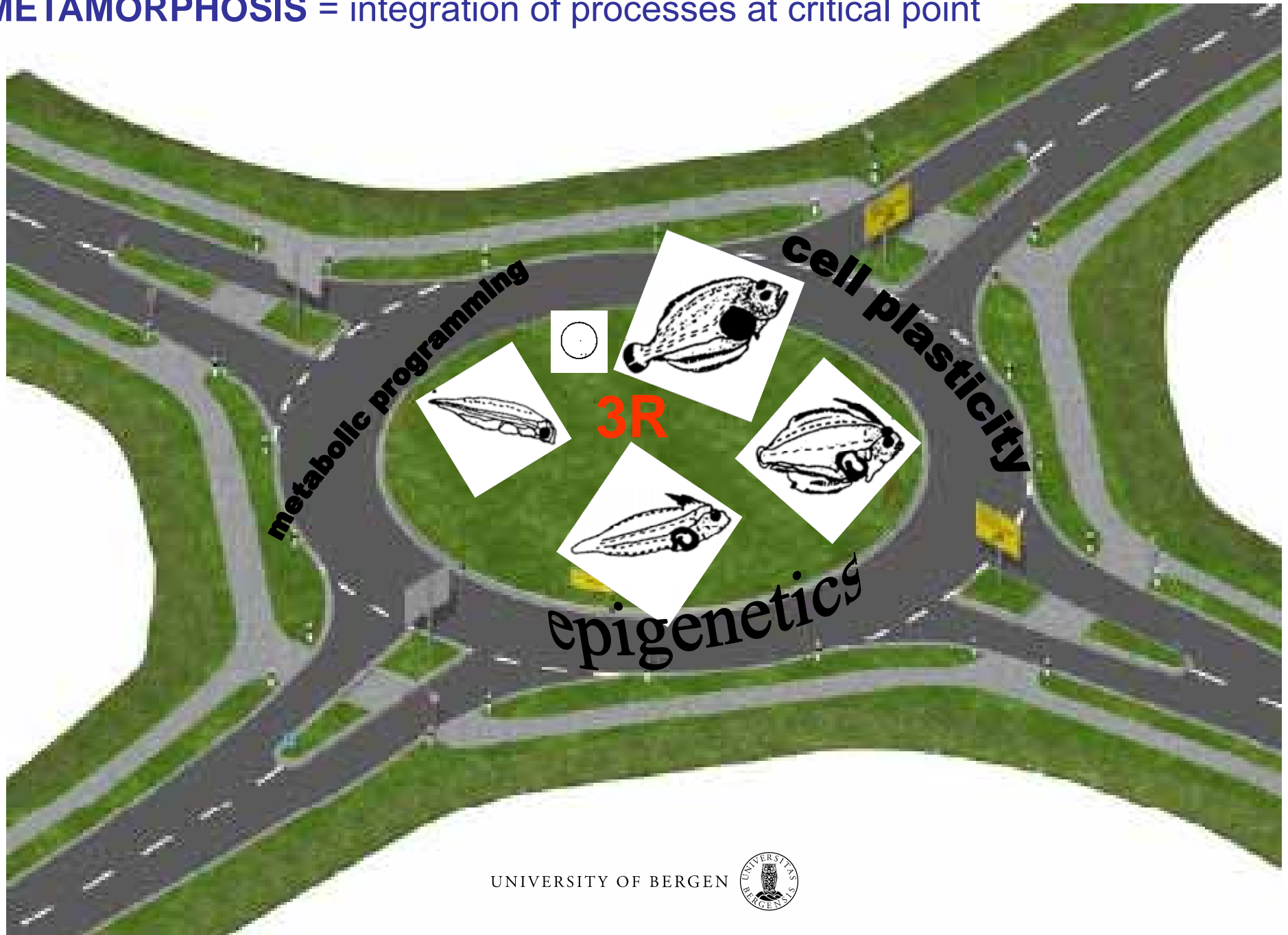
Individual	Organ	Cell
✓	≠	✓



Meier et al unpub data



**METAMORPHOSIS** = integration of processes at critical point



## Conclusions

**Fish have most plastic and diverse biology of vertebrate groups (3R)**

-transitioning fish more plastic (thyroid induced plasticity?)

-long duration of pluripotency in cell groups

-sampling by stage is necessary during larval-juvenile transition

large repertoire of responses (immediate or delayed; some unexpected)

**Some fundamental steering mechanisms are species specific**

"model" fish are not the same as target fish species

Level of biological organization analysed is important to level where result is applied

**Transgenerational effects – -no single process determines outcome of metamorphosis**

