



Targeted amplicon sequencing for obtaining novel antimicrobial peptide sequences

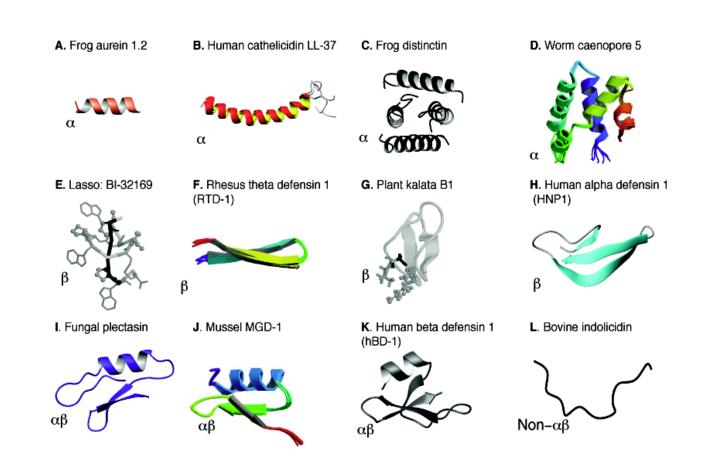


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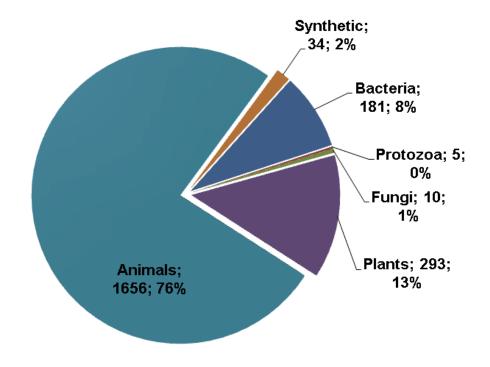
What are antimicrobial peptides...

Gene encode molecules with

- Direct antimicrobial activity
- High molecular diversity
- Mostly cationic
- Helical AMPs are among the most abundant and studied

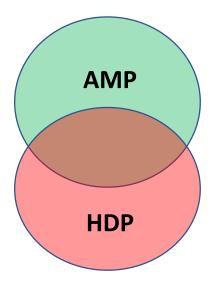


...and where can we find them?



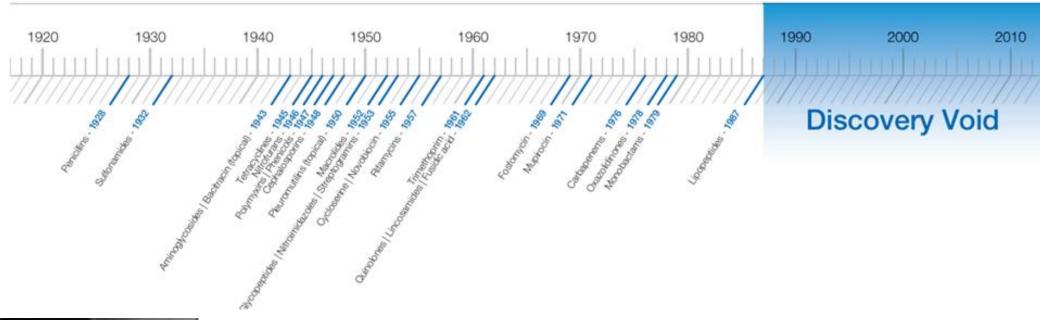
HDP = host defense peptides

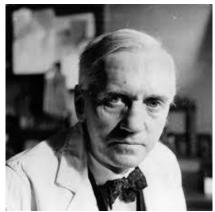
- Endogenous peptides
- Co-evolved with microbes
- Innate and adaptive defenses



"...the term CHDPs has now been adopted to encompass the antimicrobial, immunological and other biological functions of these molecules..."

Development of antibiotics...



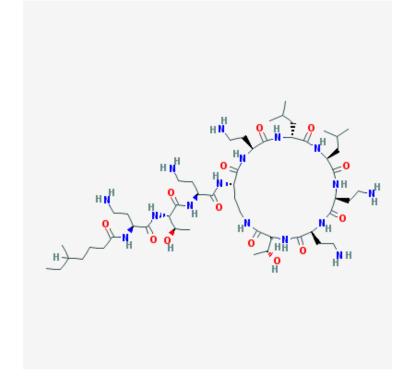


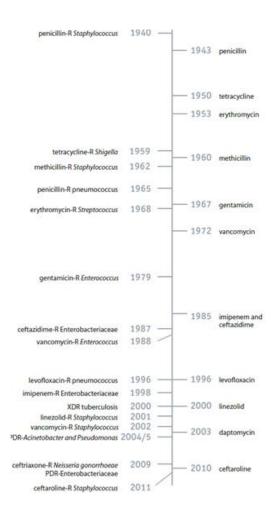
...and bacterial resistance

Bacterial resistance was first observed in the 1940s

MRSA was isolated 2 years after introducing

methicillin





How to fight "superbugs" (multiresistant bacteria)?



Possible alternative – frog AMPs



"Classical approach":

- Treat the frogs with electric shocks or norepinephrine (noradrenaline)
- Extract and purify by precipitation and chromatographic techniques
- Activity testing of fractions to identify the active principles

Quick look at the AMP structure:

SIGNAL PEPTIDE PROPEPTIDE MATURE PEPTIDE

MFTLKKSLLLLFFLGTINLSLC
MFTLKKSLLLLFFLGTISLSLC
MFTMKKSLLLLFFLGTVSLSLC
MFTLKKSLLLLFFIGVIKLSLC
MFTMKKSLLFLFFLGIVSLSFC

Highly conserved!!

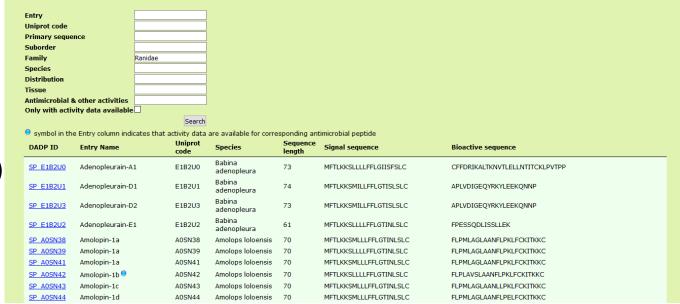
FLPLAVSLAANFLPKLFCKITKKC
IIPLPLGYFAKKT
GVITDALKGAAKTVAAELLRKAHCKLTNSC
SAVGRHGRRFGLRKHRKH
AALRGCWTKSIPPKPCPGKR

Highly diverse!

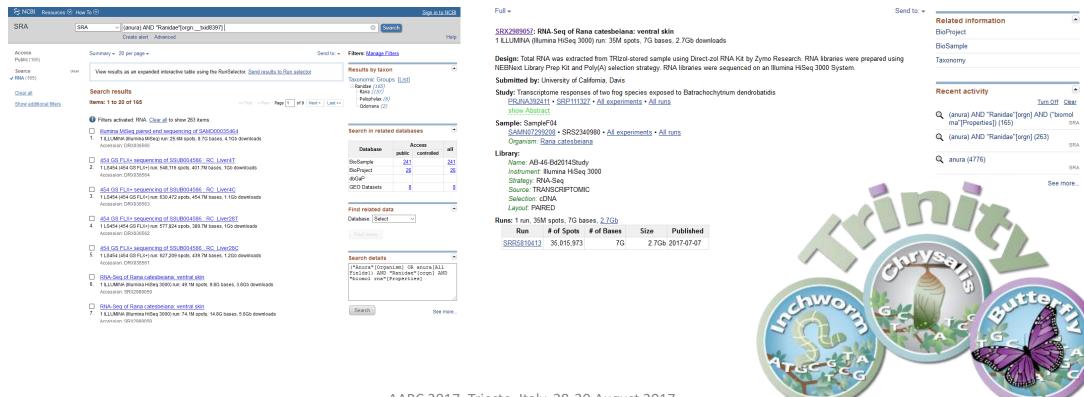
1) Obtain *single individuals* from the frog species of interest for which signal sequences are available in DADP database (e.g. *Ranidae* family)

Ranidae:

- Pelophylax kl. esculentus (Linnaeus, 1758)
- Pelophylax ridibundus (Pallas, 1771)
- Rana arvalis (Nilsson, 1842)
- Rana dalmatina (Fitzinger in: Bonaparte, 1838)
- Rana temporaria (Linnaeus, 1758)



2) Assemble transcriptomes of those species available in SRA (Sequence Read Archive) database which are closely related to the target species (e.g. pertaining to the same family)

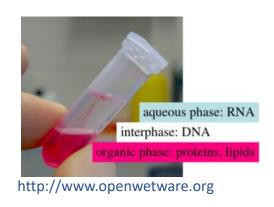


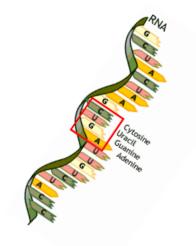
3) Derive a consensus signal sequences based on the HMM profile

- 4) Translate transcripts to all six possible reading frames
- 5) Screen translated transcripts with consensus signal sequences and obtain 1st batch of potential AMPs

6) Based on the signal peptide regions of acquired AMPs design degenerate primers (reverse primer designed on the poly-A tail of mRNA)

7) Isolate RNA from skin tissue



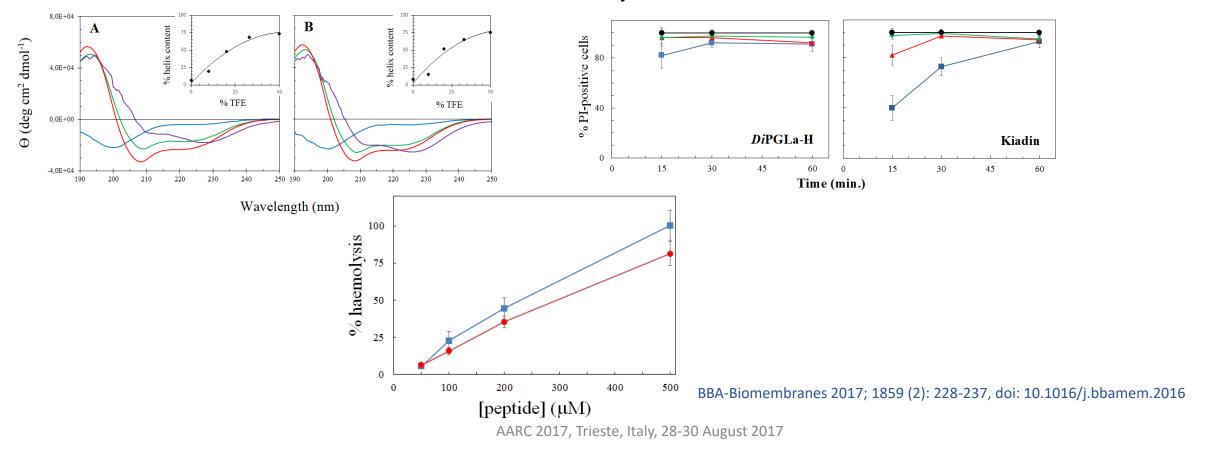


8) Synthesize cDNA library and perform PCR amplification

https://www.nobelprize.org

9) Size-select resulting amplicons and proceed to ion-semiconductor sequencing \longrightarrow assemble reads into contigs \longrightarrow translate to amino acid sequence \longrightarrow 2^{nd} batch of potential AMPs

Future steps...



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!