

1 The origin and evolution of cell-intrinsic antibacterial defenses in eukaryotes

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11
12 **Abstract** (120 words limit)

13
14 To survive in a world dominated by bacteria, eukaryotes have evolved numerous self-defense
15 strategies. While some defenses are recent evolutionary innovations, others are ancient, with roots early
16 in eukaryotic history. With a focus on antibacterial immunity, we highlight the evolution of pattern
17 recognition receptors that detect bacteria, where diverse functional classes have been formed from the
18 repeated use and reuse of a small set of protein domains. Next, we discuss core microbicidal strategies
19 shared across eukaryotes, and how these systems may have been co-opted from ancient cellular
20 mechanisms. We propose that studying antibacterial responses across diverse eukaryotes can reveal
21 novel modes of defense, while highlighting the critical innovations that occurred early in the evolution of
22 our own immune systems.

23
24 **Short title** (50 characters limit): Evolution of antibacterial defenses in eukaryotes

25
26 **Keywords** (1-5): evolution; eukaryotes; antibacterial defense; innate immunity

27 28 29 **The unexplored diversity of eukaryotic antibacterial defenses**

30
31 Since their origin via endosymbiosis more than a billion years ago, eukaryotes have lived in a world
32 dominated by bacteria (1,2). The perpetual struggle to avoid exploitation by bacterial pathogens has
33 shaped molecular strategies for microbial recognition and response across eukaryotic history. Here, we
34 review some of the most ancient cell-intrinsic antibacterial defenses in eukaryotes, which we argue
35 formed the foundation of innate immune systems in groups such as plants and animals (3,4). A more
36 thorough exploration of antibacterial strategies across eukaryotes can illuminate the ancestry of immunity
37 and lead to the discovery of new pathways and mechanisms of antibacterial defense.

38
39 Plants, animals, fungi and other highly-studied macroscopic groups represent only a fraction of
40 eukaryotic diversity (Figure 1) (5), while some other eukaryotic lineages have been so little studied that
41 the majority of their species are known through environmental sequencing alone. The disparities between
42 the diversity of studied species and the actual scope of eukaryotic diversity are evident in the biased
43 phylogenetic distribution of formally described genera relative to a sequence-based survey of operational
44 taxonomic units from a global-scale marine dataset (OTUs, a unit of sequence diversity roughly
45 equivalent to genera; Figure 1). This environmental survey from *Tara Oceans*, the largest environmental
46 sequencing project to date, provides what is currently our best window into eukaryotic diversity in the
47 ocean (6). Nevertheless, the *Tara Oceans* dataset is an underestimate of global eukaryotic diversity, as
48 other environments, such as soil, may harbor even higher diversity (7). As shown in Figure 1, most

49 eukaryotic groups have received little, if any, experimental characterization of antibacterial defenses, so
50 analyses of such defenses currently rely on bioinformatic predictions. Yet even these approaches are
51 limited, as genome-scale data are only available for a small subset of these groups. Specifically, lineages
52 such as Dinophyceae, core syndiniales, Radiolaria and Diplonemea contain comparatively few taxa with
53 formal morphological descriptions or sequenced genomes, yet harbor an enormous diversity waiting to be
54 explored.

55
56 In this review, we integrate current research on eukaryotic antibacterial defense systems, together with
57 Pfam protein domain queries of MMETSP data (a large-scale project that sequenced the transcriptomes
58 of several hundred diverse species of marine microbial eukaryotes (8)), to describe cell-intrinsic bacterial
59 recognition and killing mechanisms that are most broadly conserved across eukaryotes. For brevity, we
60 focus on bacteria-proximal steps, rather than intermediates in immune signaling cascades. We consider
61 the following pathogens and mechanisms outside of our scope: (i) gene families restricted to a single
62 eukaryotic lineage (e.g., animal-specific RIG-I-like receptors (9)) (ii) mechanisms that target viruses and
63 selfish elements, including RNAi (10) (see also a review by Zhao and Guo in this issue (11)), (iii)
64 eavesdropping and response to chemical signals produced by bacteria (12,13), and (iv) parasitism of
65 eukaryotes by other eukaryotes (e.g. (14,15)). Instead, we present core antibacterial strategies that are
66 shared across eukaryotes, highlighting those that are deeply conserved and those that have experienced
67 recurrent innovation involving a limited number of functional protein domains. We also propose paths
68 forward to discover unknown defenses in little-studied eukaryotic lineages.

70 **Convergence and conservation in bacterial pattern recognition proteins**

71
72 A eukaryotic cell's first step in an antibacterial response is to recognize the telltale signs of bacteria,
73 typically via pattern recognition proteins. The evolutionary histories of these proteins fall into two
74 categories: some are found across diverse eukaryotic groups and were therefore likely present in the last
75 eukaryotic common ancestor (LECA), and others evolved after the LECA, within one or more groups
76 independently (Table 1). Among the many gene families in the first category are lectins, a broad class of
77 proteins that has been associated with sugar-based bacterial recognition in multiple eukaryotic groups
78 (16–18). More recently evolved gene families include the cytosolic DNA/cyclic dinucleotide sensors cGAS
79 and STING, which appear to have arisen in eukaryotes only once, in Choanozoa (animals and their
80 closest relatives, Choanoflagellata) (19) (although cGAS-like proteins exist in bacteria (20)). Here, we
81 focus on the evolutionary histories of three classes of proteins that mediate bacterial recognition and have
82 been well studied in animals and plants: TLRs (Toll-like receptors), RLKs (receptor-like kinases) and
83 NLRs (nucleotide-binding domain, leucine-rich repeat superfamily proteins) (21–23) (Figure 2). These
84 classes can be identified by unique combinations of protein domains, each of which are associated with
85 known functions. Leucine rich repeat (LRR) domains, which are common to all three classes, can
86 recognize molecules produced either by bacteria or by the eukaryotic cell in response to a bacterial
87 attack. Animal TLRs, which sense extracellular bacterial molecules or those within intracellular vacuoles,
88 pair signal recognition via LRR domains with cytoplasmic TIR domains, which transmit the signal inside
89 the cell. RLKs studied in plants pair perception by extracellular LRRs (or a lysin motif, LysM) with
90 intracellular kinase domains (24). NLRs are cytoplasmic recognition proteins that are thought to have
91 evolved convergently in both plants and animals, where they participate in distinct antibacterial defense
92 pathways (25). NLRs commonly found in animals pair NACHT domains with LRRs, while those of plants
93 encode NB-ARC and LRR domains.

94
95 Outside of animals and plants, a survey of eukaryotic diversity indicates a surprising number of
96 eukaryotic lineages have proteins with both canonical and novel combinations of LRR, TIR, NACHT and
97 NB-ARC domains (Figure 2). Canonical TLR domain architecture appears to be restricted to Choanozoa

98 (26). In striking contrast, RLK-like domain architectures are extremely broadly distributed (27), found
99 across every eukaryotic lineage except Apicomplexa. NLR domain pairs (NACHT/LRR and NB-ARC/LRR)
100 are present in multiple evolutionarily distant lineages, although several of the well-studied and functionally
101 characterized NLRs in animals and plants (NOD, NLRP and RPS) (28) appear to be lineage-specific
102 elaborations of ancient and widespread NACHT/LRR or NB-ARC/LRR proteins (23,25) (Figure 2).

103
104 Beyond these canonical domain architectures, other eukaryotes have shuffled the domains in their
105 pattern recognition proteins into novel combinations that hint at divergent modes of antibacterial signaling,
106 potentially via more direct routes. For example, animal TLRs initiate downstream kinase signaling
107 cascades via interaction of their TIR domains with intracellular adapter proteins (29). In
108 Choanoflagellata, there is a TLR-like protein (known as a 'kinase TLR') that contains its own intracellular
109 kinase domain, which may directly initiate a signaling cascade (26) analogous to plant RLKs, which pair
110 extracellular LRR or LysM sensing domains with intracellular kinases (24).

111
112 In a parallel example, some animal NLRs include a protein domain (CARD or PYRIN) that functions to
113 recruit caspase proteases, which cleave downstream substrates, generally in the context of programmed
114 cell death (30). Two independently-evolved NLR-like proteins in Diatomeae and in Haptista directly link
115 LRR/NACHT or LRR/NB-ARC domains to a CHAT domain, a caspase-related peptidase domain that may
116 directly perform caspase-like functions (Figure 2). These intriguing cases remain to be experimentally
117 characterized, but may provide important clues as to how immune signaling cascades have been wired
118 and rewired over evolutionary time.

119
120 There is also experimental evidence for bacterial recognition and response in lineages with unusual
121 combinations of TLR-like or NLR-like domains. In *Dictyostelium* (Amoebozoa), response to bacterial
122 lipopolysaccharide depends on a protein that combines a TIR-domain with RCC1 and Ankyrin repeat
123 domains (31). Fungi (Nucleotmycea) encode a diversity of NLR-like proteins (32) where NACHT and NB-
124 ARC domains are linked to a variety of enzymatic and protein-protein interaction domains, but while fungi
125 have been shown to produce antibacterial compounds in response to bacteria (33), a role for fungal NLRs
126 in this recognition has not been identified. In Choanoflagellata, there is an NLR-like protein that links
127 LRR and NACHT domains with phospholipase functional domains (PI-PLC-X/PI-PLC-Y). In all of these
128 cases, immune signaling domains have been organized into new contexts relative to well-studied proteins
129 in animals and plants. These examples of evolution by domain shuffling are particularly intriguing,
130 because they may link bacterial sensing to novel downstream signaling cascades.

131
132 Given these observations, how might pattern recognition proteins have originated in eukaryotes?
133 Although canonical pattern recognition domain combinations are found in relatively restricted sets of
134 eukaryotic lineages, their core constituent domains (LRR, TIR, Pkinase, NB-ARC, NACHT) were each
135 present in the LECA. This suggests either that TLR-, RLK- and NLR-like domain architectures evolved
136 independently in multiple lineages via domain shuffling, or that these proteins were present in the LECA
137 and subsequently lost numerous times independently. Alternatively, they may have experienced more
138 complex scenarios involving a history of horizontal gene transfer and repeated gene loss. Distinguishing
139 among these alternative scenarios should be possible with increased species sampling and detailed
140 phylogenetic analyses. Overall, these examples illustrate how a relatively small set of individual protein
141 domains appear to have been used and reused as functional building blocks in the evolution of diverse
142 pattern recognition proteins across eukaryotes.

143
144 **Ancient mechanisms of cell-intrinsic, microbicidal control**

145

146 Once recognized by the cell, eukaryotes deploy a number of cellular and molecular strategies to kill
147 bacteria. Some conserved mechanisms of cell homeostasis that were present in the LECA can be re-
148 deployed to eliminate bacteria (Table 1). However, because the proteins involved may retain their
149 homeostatic roles, predicting whether a given eukaryote uses these proteins for pathogen defense is
150 often not possible based on sequence analysis alone, and instead requires experimental validation.
151 Nevertheless, we present modes of bacterial killing that appear to be most broadly conserved across
152 eukaryotes.

153
154 Eukaryotic species with robust cell walls primarily interact with bacteria extracellularly (34), whereas
155 species with more permeable barriers and/or those that uptake bacteria as food require both intracellular
156 and extracellular killing mechanisms. Intracellular bacteria can be targeted using cellular machinery
157 involved in the degradation and recycling of macromolecules. For example, autophagy, which likely dates
158 back to the LECA (35), allows eukaryotic cells to break down organelles or cytoplasmic contents during
159 periods of cellular damage and stress (36). Autophagy can also encapsulate and eliminate intracellular
160 bacteria, both those residing within host vacuoles and those that have escaped into the cytosol (Figure 3).
161 This process, referred to as “xenophagy”, has been shown to fight bacterial infections within the cells of
162 animals (37) and Amoebozoa (38). Eukaryotes also deploy a number of strategies to restrict microbial
163 growth within the cell. Bacteria internalized via phagocytosis or other uptake pathways are typically
164 sequestered within lysosomes and/or digestive vacuoles (Figure 3) (39). Here, multiple antibacterial
165 strategies are simultaneously deployed to transform vacuoles into toxic, nutrient-poor microenvironments.
166 These strategies include compartment acidification, the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROSs),
167 the activity of proteases, nucleases, and other enzymes to break down macromolecules, and the use of
168 vacuolar transporters to remove nutrients such as iron that could potentially support microbial growth (40).
169 This compartmentalization allows eukaryotes to efficiently kill intracellular bacteria while minimizing harm
170 to the host cell. A broad diversity of eukaryotes create lysosome- and autophagosome-like vacuoles for
171 recycling cellular material, which can also be used to recover nutrients from killed bacteria (35).
172 Therefore, the production of these toxic vacuoles is likely an ancient antimicrobial strategy for targeting
173 intracellular bacteria.

174
175 Eukaryotes can target extracellular bacteria by secreting antibacterial molecules. While this is a
176 common strategy, the molecules themselves can be highly variable in terms of their molecular structures,
177 mode of action, and evolutionary histories. For example, lysozymes, which break down the peptidoglycan
178 cell walls of bacteria, are a highly diverse family of proteins that are broadly distributed, likely present in
179 the LECA (41). Other secreted defenses include diverse antimicrobial peptides (42), iron-scavenging
180 proteins (43,44) and small molecule antibiotics (13,45), which tend to evolve so rapidly that they can be
181 difficult to identify from sequence alone in the absence of functional data. In contrast, some generically
182 toxic molecules, such as ROSs, are produced by many types of eukaryotes and may be released either at
183 the plasma membrane (46,47) or via organelles such as mitochondria or chloroplasts (48,49).

184
185 If these intracellular and extracellular antimicrobial strategies are inadequate to control pathogens,
186 eukaryotes can also take drastic measures and undergo programmed cell death (50). Explosive, lytic
187 modes of cell death can release toxic molecules to kill bacteria while alerting neighboring cells to the
188 presence of pathogens (51). Apoptotic cell death can serve to kill intracellular pathogens and trap them
189 within dying host cells. Although programmed cell death might initially seem to be counter-productive to
190 unicellular organisms, apoptotic-like death has been observed across nearly all major eukaryotic
191 lineages, including unicellular taxa (52). Particularly for those species that live in dense populations of
192 cells, programmed cell death may be useful as an altruistic strategy to prevent pathogens from spreading
193 through the population, akin to abortive infection mechanisms that bacteria use to combat bacteriophage
194 (53). All together, the antibacterial immune strategies found in modern-day organisms are an evolutionary

195 patchwork, with recently-evolved immune mechanisms built upon these widespread, ancient modes of
196 defense.

197

198 **Finding missing modes of eukaryotic defense**

199

200 These are some of the cell-intrinsic antibacterial defenses that are the most ancient and broadly
201 distributed across eukaryotic taxa (Table 1), but there is reason to believe that there are many more
202 waiting to be discovered. One reason is that pathogen-interacting genes tend to be some of the fastest
203 evolving genes in host genomes (54,55), due to the strong selective pressures involved in evading
204 pathogen infections (56). This rapid evolution raises challenges for studying the deep ancestry of defense
205 pathways. Many eukaryotic lineages have been studied almost exclusively through sequence data, where
206 probable gene functions are assigned based on conservation to experimentally characterized genes and
207 genomes (largely from animals, plants, or fungi) (57). If cell-intrinsic defense proteins across eukaryotes
208 evolve as rapidly as they do in animals and plants, defense genes are likely to be particularly difficult to
209 identify in diverse, poorly-sampled eukaryotic taxa based on sequence alone. In addition, even within
210 eukaryotic proteins where some conserved domains have been detected (e.g., TIRs and LRRs),
211 additional, as yet uncharacterized, functional domains may lurk in their sequences if these domains are
212 not prevalent in animals, plants, or fungi. In short: beyond the few, extremely conserved strategies (Figure
213 3), there are almost certainly a lot of defenses that we're missing!

214

215 What approaches can be used to discover unknown antibacterial defenses in diverse eukaryotes? An
216 effective strategy would be to expand our experimental approaches to new and emerging eukaryotic
217 model systems. Although the vast majority of microbial eukaryotes are not currently in culture, there are
218 hundreds of cultured species (see Box 2 of (58)), many of which have yet to be probed for their
219 responses to bacteria or bacteria-derived molecules (59). Bioinformatics-based approaches could begin
220 by searching for proteins containing domains known to be associated with immune functions in other
221 organisms, as in the examples of pattern recognition receptors we presented above. Once identified, the
222 expression dynamics of these genes could be probed in response to bacterial exposure. For the
223 expanding list of microbial eukaryotes whose gene expression can be manipulated (60), candidate gene
224 immune functions could be further dissected using overexpression or knockout approaches.

225

226 The search for undiscovered antimicrobial functions without homology to known proteins will require a
227 different approach. Because many genes for antimicrobial defense are differentially regulated upon
228 bacterial exposure, genome-wide expression profiling in the presence and absence of bacteria (or
229 bacterial products such as LPS or peptidoglycan) could generate candidate defense genes. Unbiased
230 genetic screens could also be a powerful tool to identify antibacterial genes in those eukaryotes that lack
231 genetic manipulation techniques. For example, for species with small, haploid genomes, random
232 mutagenesis followed by whole-genome sequencing could identify genetic mutations that alter bacterial
233 responses (as in (61)).

234

235 These approaches can be useful to understand eukaryotic responses to bacteria, yet eukaryotes must
236 also discriminate among different bacterial species to tailor their antimicrobial responses appropriately.
237 This raises the question: which bacteria should be used to elicit eukaryotic defenses? We propose two
238 possible solutions. First, eukaryotes could be exposed to pathogens with exceptionally broad host ranges
239 such as *Legionella*, which have been used in the lab to infect diverse eukaryotes including Metazoa,
240 Amoebozoa, Ciliophora, and Heterolobosea (62). Alternatively, because eukaryotes are most likely to
241 have adapted to the bacteria they encounter in their local environment, researchers may take advantage
242 of the fact that many microeukaryotes are co-isolated and co-cultured with a community of bacteria. The
243 composition of these microbial communities could be manipulated through nutrient restriction and/or

244 antibiotic treatments to alter bacterial exposure. Eukaryotes could then be monitored for responses such
245 as the induction of cell death, secretion of antimicrobials, or the production of autophagosome-like
246 membranes. If bacteria in these communities can trigger eukaryotic antibacterial defenses, they could
247 form a natural system to dissect host-pathogen interactions in the lab.
248

249 Why is it so important to study this under-sampled diversity of eukaryotic antibacterial defenses? First,
250 we know that bacterial interactions are broadly important to the ecology, physiology, and even the
251 endosymbiotic origin of eukaryotes (1,2,13,15,63), but in most lineages the mechanisms shaping
252 microbial interactions are unknown. Second, diverse eukaryotes can tell us about the origins and
253 evolution of antibacterial defenses. Our eukaryotic ancestors lived with bacteria for hundreds of millions of
254 years before the evolution of animals or plants, and their pre-existing strategies for managing bacterial
255 interactions formed the starting point from which modern-day innate immune systems evolved (4).
256 Learning about this ancestry can help us to make sense of the variety of defensive strategies that we see
257 today. Third, these lineages may serve as rich hunting grounds to discover novel, yet broadly conserved,
258 aspects of cell-intrinsic immunity. Such mechanisms may be easier to discover in organisms without the
259 complications of adaptive immunity or complex interactions among immune cell types. For example,
260 studies of *Dictyostelium* amoebae were critical in uncovering mechanisms of phagocytosis (e.g. (64)).
261 These organisms also encode guanylate-binding proteins (GBPs), a protein family has relatively recently
262 been discovered to function in animal antibacterial defense (65). Because the *Dictyostelium* genome only
263 encodes one GBP as opposed to the dozens in animals, studies in amoebae could avoid some of the
264 complications of functionally characterizing these defenses.
265

266 Finally, even if the defense mechanisms we uncover in these eukaryotes are different from what we
267 know in animals and plants, they may still reveal entirely novel biological solutions to the problem of
268 antibacterial immunity. Such mechanisms are bound to inspire new strategies and interventions to
269 combat pathogenic bacteria. They can also broaden our conceptions of how immunity can work, giving us
270 a glimpse into the diverse evolutionary paths that can be followed by defense systems in different
271 eukaryotic lineages.
272

273 **Conflict of interest statement**

274 The authors declare no conflict of interest.
275

276 **Acknowledgements**

277 We thank Roman Barbalat, Darian Doakes, Mary Fontana, Barbara Kunkel, Jeannette Tentorey, Russell
278 Vance and Arielle Woznica for their comments on the manuscript. We thank Cédric Berney and Michelle
279 Leger for helpful discussions. We acknowledge an anonymous reviewer for comments that led to
280 improvements on the review. DJR is supported by a postdoctoral fellowship from the Beatriu de Pinós
281 programme of the Government of Catalonia's Secretariat for Universities and Research of the Ministry of
282 Economy and Knowledge. TCL is supported by a Pathway to Independence Award from the National
283 Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and the National Institutes of Health (K99 AI139344).
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288 **Figures**

289 **Figure 1. The spectrum of diversity among eukaryotes.** Phylogenetic tree of eukaryotic diversity
290 based on (5) and annotated to show where species descriptions, genome-scale sequencing and studies
291
292

293 of antibacterial defense have been concentrated. Well-known multicellular groups include animals
294 (Metazoa), fungi (within Nucleomyces) and land plants (within Streptophyta). Although plant and animal
295 immune systems have been studied extensively, much of the diversity of eukaryotes remains to be
296 explored; this is especially evident for poorly characterized but extremely diverse lineages such as
297 Dinophyceae and Diplonemea. The placement of the Last Eukaryotic Common Ancestor (LECA) is
298 currently unresolved as indicated by the dashed line; other unresolved branching relationships are drawn
299 as multiple lineages descending from the same most recent ancestor. Branch lengths are not to scale.
300 Estimated numbers of described genera per group for Metazoa are from (66) and all others from (5).
301 Marine OTU counts (operational taxonomic units, roughly comparable to genera/species depending on
302 group) are from *Tara* Oceans, a global sampling of microbial eukaryotic diversity in the surface ocean (6).
303 Counts of publicly available sequence data sets are estimated from the NCBI Genome and Transcriptome
304 Shotgun Assembly (TSA) databases (67). For simplicity, the following groups of eukaryotes with relatively
305 few described species are not shown on the tree: Apusomonadida, Breviatea, Ancyromonadida, CRuMs
306 (the clade including Collodictyonidae, Rigifillida and *Mantamonas*), Ancoracysta, Glaucophyta, Picozoa,
307 Colpodellida, Telonemia, Jakobida, other Discoba, Hemimastigophora, Malawimonadidae. References for
308 studies of antibacterial defense that are not listed in Table 1: Chlorophyta, Cryptista, Haptista, Cercozoa,
309 Chrysophyceae, Pelagophyceae, Euglenida (68–71). “Observation of antibacterial activity” excludes the
310 ability to feed on bacteria as prey.

311

312 **Figure 2. Conservation and convergence in eukaryotic pattern recognition proteins.** A group of
313 protein domains (LRR, TIR, Pkinase, NACHT AND NB-ARC) have been repeatedly reshuffled over the
314 course of eukaryotic evolution. **(a)** Domain architectures (not drawn to scale) of well-studied animal and
315 plant proteins. **(b)** Proteins with similar core domain architectures present outside of animals and plants.
316 For a given domain architecture to be considered present in a lineage, at least two species encoding
317 proteins with the architecture were required; absence is denoted with ‘--’ (lineage names and colors
318 correspond to Figure 1). Protein identifiers beginning with CAMPEP are from MMETSP (8); others are
319 from GenBank. Pfam domains (version 32.0 (72)) are grouped into the following categories based on their
320 primary known functions: binding/pattern recognition (LRR, NRLC4_HD2), nucleotide binding (NACHT,
321 NB-ARC), caspase recruitment (CARD, PYRIN), caspase/peptidase (CHAT), protein-protein interaction
322 (Ank, NOD2_WH, Rx_N, TIR, TPR), kinase (Pkinase; also includes Pkinase_Tyr domains),
323 phosphorylase (PNP_UDP), guanine nucleotide exchange factor (RCC1), phospholipase (PI-PLC-X, PI-
324 PLC-Y). LRR and Ank represent one or more repeated domains. Two of the most frequent fungal NLR-
325 like domain architectures (of more than 30 (72)) are shown. Uncommon domain architectures or those
326 found only in a single species are not shown. Some homologs also contain one or more additional
327 transmembrane domains (not depicted). Plant-type receptor like proteins (RLPs; e.g., tomato Cf-9 (73))
328 are not shown, as they are thought to act in conjunction with RLKs (34) and are generally composed only
329 of LRRs. Animal-type NLRs do not include the NLR-related protein Apaf-1, which lacks LRR domains
330 (74).

331

332 **Figure 3. Modes of eukaryotic detection and elimination of bacteria.** Cells can kill most internalized
333 bacteria via maturation of the intracellular vacuole into a toxic, nutrient-poor environment. However,
334 bacterial pathogens can evade this fate, either by tolerating these harsh conditions, escaping from the
335 vacuole into the cytosol, or hijacking the vacuole and transforming it into a replicative niche. Hosts
336 possess a number of molecular sensors of bacteria and/or bacteria-derived molecules (such as TLRs,
337 RLKs, NLRs, GBPs, and many others), which can trigger defense signaling cascades. Other sensors can
338 detect abnormal molecules on pathogen-containing vacuoles to trigger vacuole destruction by autophagy.
339 In addition, eukaryotes can kill extracellular bacteria via the secretion of anti-bacterial molecules, the
340 production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) from endosymbiotic organelles, or cell-death-mediated
341 release of toxic molecules.

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Table

Table 1. Bacterial recognition and defense gene families in eukaryotes. Gene families or processes known to be involved in defensive response to bacteria that are shared among multiple eukaryotic groups (group names correspond to Figure 1; when names correspond to internal nodes, evidence is present in all groups descending from the node). Genomic evidence is based on searches for diagnostic protein domain architectures in MMETSP data (required to be present in at least 2 species within a lineage, after removal of low levels of inter-species cross-contamination, as in (75)), complemented by literature searches when diagnostic architectures are not available. Hypotheses on the evolution of each domain architecture are constrained by currently available data, and may change as sampling of eukaryotic diversity increases. *: NLR-like proteins have been identified in the genomes of *Nucleomycea*. **: (76) also found NOS-like proteins in Rhodophyta and Phaeophyceae.

Process/Gene Family	Known Antibacterial Function(s)	Experimental Evidence in Group(s)	Diagnostic Protein Domains (if any)	Genomic Evidence in Additional Group(s)	Likely Evolved	Non-Immunity Function(s)	Reference(s)
TLRs (Toll-like receptors)	Extracellular pattern recognition	Metazoa	TLR, transmembrane, TIR	Choanoflagellata	Once, in Choanozoa	Development (Metazoa)	(26,77,78)
Plant-type RLKs (receptor-like kinases, excluding lectins)	Extracellular pattern recognition	Streptophyta	LRR, transmembrane, Pkinase	All, except Apicomplexa	Present in LECA and/or independently evolved in multiple groups	Development, symbiosis (Streptophyta)	(27,79)
NLRs (nucleotide-binding domain, leucine-rich repeat superfamily)	Intracellular pattern recognition	Metazoa, Streptophyta	NACHT or NB-ARC, LRR	Haptista, Dinophyceae, Diatomeae, <i>Nucleomycea</i> *	Independently evolved in multiple groups	Reproduction (Metazoa)	(25,32,80)
STING	Cytosolic cyclic dinucleotide recognition	Metazoa	TMEM173	Choanoflagellata	Once, in Choanozoa	-	(81)
cGAS	Cytosolic DNA recognition	Metazoa	Mab-21	Choanoflagellata	Once, in Choanozoa	-	(81)
Lectins	Microbial sugar recognition and agglutination or recognition of host danger signals	Amoebozoa, Metazoa, Streptophyta	Diverse and widely distributed		Present in LECA and/or independently evolved in multiple groups	Adhesion, development, symbiosis	(17,82)
Guanylate-binding proteins (GBPs)	Target vacuolar and cytosolic bacteria for killing	Metazoa	GBP, GBP_C	All, except Rhodophyta, Phaeophyceae, Euglenozoa	Present in LECA	Inhibits cell proliferation, migration	(65,83)

Antimicrobial peptides	Disruption of bacterial membranes and/or cell walls	Amoebozoa, Metazoa, Nucleomycea, Streptophyta, Rhodophyta, Ciliophora, Heterolobosea	Diverse and widely distributed		Present in LECA and/or independently evolved in multiple groups	Gut homeostasis (Metazoa), rhizobial symbiosis (Streptophyta)	(42,84)
Lysozyme	Disruption of bacterial cell walls	Amoebozoa, Metazoa, Nucleomycea, Streptophyta	Diverse and widely distributed		Present in LECA	-	(41)
Nitric oxide synthase (NOS)	Production of NO for bacterial killing	Metazoa	NO_synthase, Flavodoxin, FAD_binding, NAD_binding	Amorphea, Chlorophyta, Haptista, Dinophyceae, Cercozoa, Diatomeae, Chrysophyceae, Pelagophyceae, Euglenida**	Present in LECA	Intracellular and intercellular signaling	(76,85)
NADPH oxidases (NOX, produce reactive oxygen species)	Production of superoxide for bacterial killing	Amoebozoa, Metazoa, Streptophyta, Rhodophyta, Phaeophyceae	transmembrane(s), Ferric_reduct, transmembrane(s), FAD_binding, NAD_binding	All, except Apicomplexa, Metamonada	Present in LECA	Intracellular and intercellular signaling	(46,86–89)
Nramp	Removes metal ions and acidifies vacuoles	Amoebozoa, Metazoa, Streptophyta	Nramp, transmembrane(s)	All, except Metamonada	Present in LECA	Metal ion scavenging for host metabolism	(90)
Mitochondria and chloroplast-mediated defenses	Production of reactive oxygen species	Metazoa, Streptophyta	Not available	-	Present in LECA	Photosynthesis and respiration	(48,49)
Autophagy (incl. xenophagy, etc.)	Sequestering and killing of intracellular bacteria	Amoebozoa, Metazoa, Streptophyta, Kinetoplastida	Numerous genes and pathways	All, but lost in species within Nucleomycea, Rhodophyta, Metamonada	Present in LECA	Disposal of compromised cellular material	(35)

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Papers of special interest:

Special interest (*) or outstanding interest (**)

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365 studies. Includes information on the numbers of described genera in each group and their
366 trophic characteristics.

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368 planktonic protist interactome: where do we stand after a century of research? bioRxiv. 2019 May
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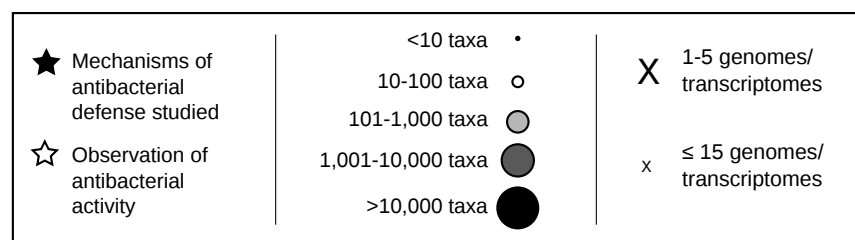
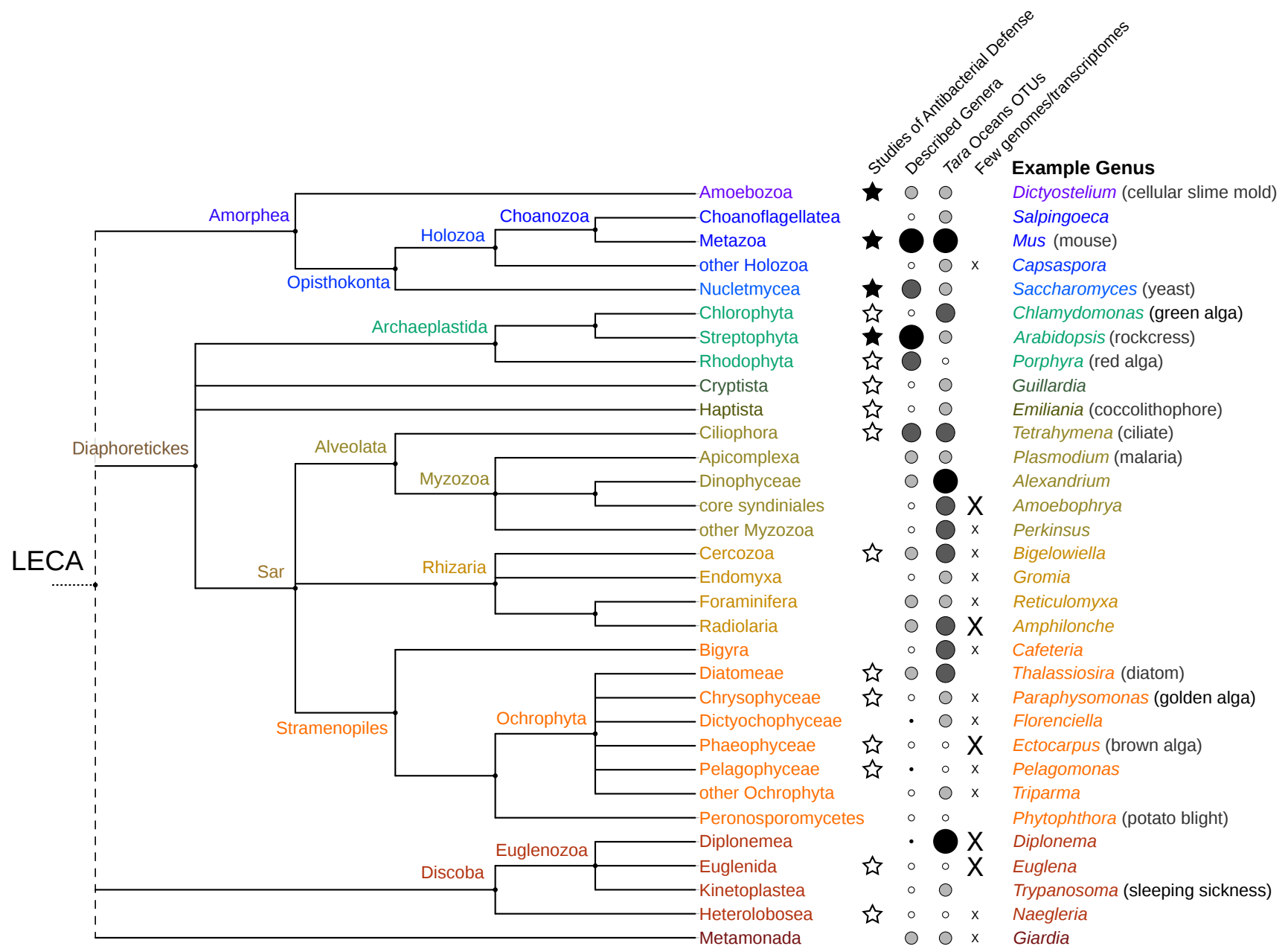
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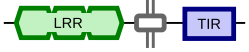
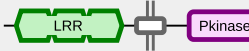


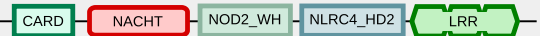
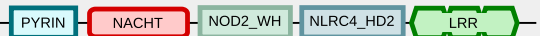


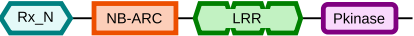

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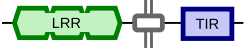

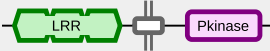


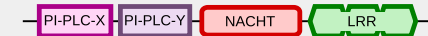

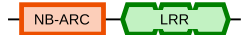



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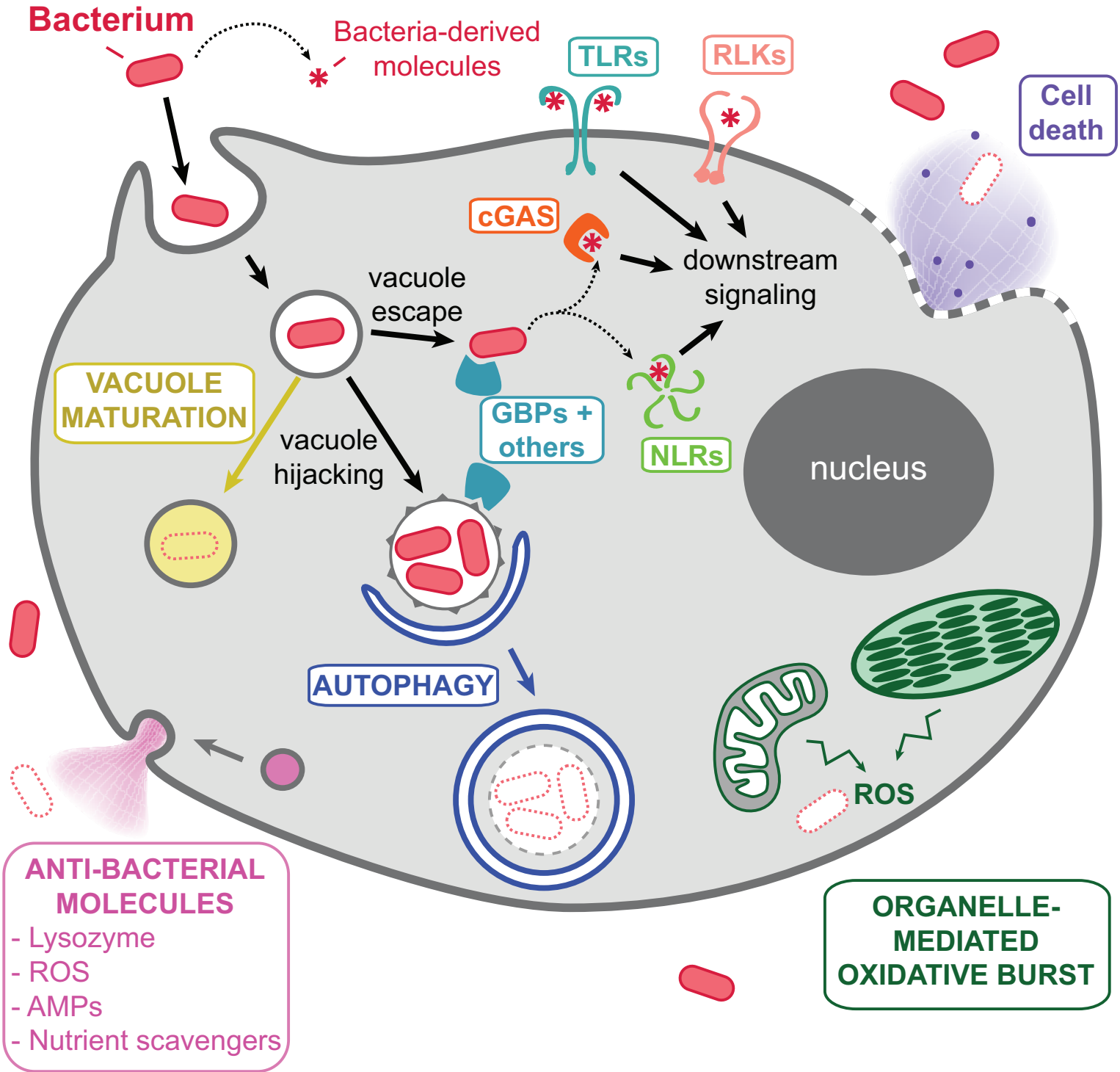


a

Domain architecture in animals or plants	Example protein, Genus
Animal TLRs: TIR, transmembrane, LRR	
	NP_991388 (TLR11), <i>Mus</i>
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Plant receptor-like kinases: LRR/LysM, transmembrane, Pkinase	
	NP_199445 (FLS2), <i>Arabidopsis</i>
	NP_566689 (CERK1), <i>Arabidopsis</i>
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Amoebozoan TIR: RCC1, Ank, TIR	
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Animal NLRs: NACHT and LRR	
	NP_001157214 (NLRX1), <i>Mus</i>
	XP_766317 (NOD1), <i>Mus</i>
	NP_766484 (NLRP4a), <i>Mus</i>
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Plant NLRs: NB-ARC and LRR	
	NP_001321385 (RFL1), <i>Arabidopsis</i>
	NP_199338 (RPS4), <i>Arabidopsis</i>
	XP_003576423, <i>Brachypodium</i>
	XP_024379207, <i>Physcomitrella</i>
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Fungal NLRs: central NACHT or NB-ARC	
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b

Domain architecture in other eukaryotes	Example protein, Genus	Lineage(s) present outside animals/plants
	XP_004992000, <i>Salpingoeca</i>	Choanoflagellata
	CAMPEP_0206309248, <i>Acanthoeca</i>	Choanoflagellata
	CAMPEP_0179057052, <i>Pyrodinium</i>	All, except Apicomplexa
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	XP_636358 (tirA), <i>Dictyostelium</i>	Amoebozoa
	CAMPEP_0169199868, <i>Karlodinium</i>	Choanoflagellata , Haptista , Dinophyceae , Diatomeae
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	CAMPEP_0182949504, <i>Acanthoeca</i>	Choanoflagellata
	CAMPEP_0116146574, <i>Pseudo-nitzschia</i>	Diatomeae
	CAMPEP_0172974580, <i>Phaeocystis</i>	Haptista
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--	--	--
	CAMPEP_0183108492, <i>Prymnesium</i>	Haptista
	XP_011325800, <i>Fusarium</i>	Nucleotmycea
	XP_001391272, <i>Aspergillus</i>	Nucleotmycea



Bacterium

Bacteria-derived molecules

TLRs

RLKs

Cell death

downstream signaling

cGAS

vacuole escape

VACUOLE MATURATION

vacuole hijacking

GBPs + others

NLRs

nucleus

AUTOPHAGY

ROS

ANTI-BACTERIAL MOLECULES

- Lysozyme
- ROS
- AMPs
- Nutrient scavengers

ORGANELLE-MEDIATED OXIDATIVE BURST