

## **Lessons from simple marine models on the bacterial regulation of eukaryotic development**

Arielle Woznica<sup>a</sup> and Nicole King<sup>a,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, United States

<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author, [nking@berkeley.edu](mailto:nking@berkeley.edu).

## 1 **Highlights**

- 2 - Cues from environmental bacteria influence the development of many marine  
3 eukaryotes
- 4
- 5 - The molecular cues produced by environmental bacteria are structurally diverse  
6
- 7 - Eukaryotes can respond to many different environmental bacteria  
8
- 9 - Some environmental bacteria act as “information hubs” for diverse eukaryotes  
10
- 11 - Experimentally tractable systems, like the choanoflagellate *S. rosetta*, promise to  
12 reveal molecular mechanisms underlying these interactions  
13

## 14 **Abstract**

15 Molecular cues from environmental bacteria influence important developmental  
16 decisions in diverse marine eukaryotes. Yet, relatively little is understood about the  
17 mechanisms underlying these interactions, in part because marine ecosystems are  
18 dynamic and complex. With the help of simple model systems, including the  
19 choanoflagellate *Salpingoeca rosetta*, we have begun to uncover the bacterial cues that  
20 shape eukaryotic development in the ocean. Here, we review how diverse bacterial  
21 cues – from lipids to macromolecules – regulate development in marine eukaryotes. It is  
22 becoming clear that there are networks of chemical information circulating in the ocean,  
23 with both eukaryotes and bacteria acting as nodes; one eukaryote can precisely  
24 respond to cues from several diverse environmental bacteria, and a single  
25 environmental bacterium can regulate the development of different eukaryotes.

26

27

## 28 **Introduction**

29 Eukaryotes evolved over two billion years ago in a world dominated by  
30 prokaryotes and have lived in close association with bacteria ever since. It has become  
31 increasingly clear that bacteria not only act as competitors and pathogens, but also  
32 promote proper health and development in eukaryotes [1,2]. Growing attention has  
33 focused on how stably associated bacteria (e.g. the microbiome) shape many aspects  
34 of eukaryotic development, from root nodule development in legumes [3] to light organ  
35 morphogenesis in the Hawaiiin bobtail squid [4], and even immune system  
36 development in vertebrates [5]. Yet, bacteria in the microbiome are not the only  
37 bacteria influencing eukaryotic development. Although often overlooked, free-living  
38 environmental bacteria also provide cues that regulate essential developmental  
39 processes in diverse eukaryotes.

40 Many examples of interactions between environmental bacteria and eukaryotes  
41 stem from marine ecosystems, where bacterial cues elicit developmental transitions in  
42 organisms as diverse as algae and animals. Nonetheless, few of these bacterial-  
43 eukaryotic interactions are understood in molecular detail, in part because marine  
44 environments are host to dynamic and diverse bacterial communities. While it is  
45 challenging to decipher specific interactions in such complex ecosystems, the lessons  
46 learned are likely to extend to interactions between eukaryotes and other bacterial  
47 communities, such as those in the gut and soil.

48 Simple model systems are beginning to reveal how environmental bacteria shape  
49 eukaryotic development in the ocean. Important features of these models that facilitate  
50 the identification of molecules underlying bacterial-eukaryotic interactions include: (1)

51 the ability to grow and manipulate both the bacteria and the eukaryote in the lab, and (2)  
52 a clear and quantifiable response of the eukaryote to a single bacterium. Here we  
53 review mechanisms by which environmental bacteria regulate the development of  
54 choanoflagellates and other marine eukaryotes to illustrate how, and explore why,  
55 important eukaryotic developmental decisions rely on cues from specific environmental  
56 bacteria.

57

### 58 **A choanoflagellate model for bacterial-eukaryotic interactions**

59 One of the closest living relatives of animals, the choanoflagellate *Salpingoeca*  
60 *rosetta*, has emerged as an attractive model for investigating how environmental  
61 bacteria shape eukaryotic cell biology and life history. Choanoflagellates are unicellular  
62 and colony-forming microeukaryotes that live in diverse aquatic environments [6]. Every  
63 choanoflagellate cell bears an apical “collar complex” – a single flagellum surrounded by  
64 a feeding collar composed of actin-filled microvilli – that it uses to capture and  
65 phagocytose bacterial prey. Importantly, the collar complex and its role in mediating  
66 interactions with bacteria are conserved among choanoflagellates and animals [6-8].  
67 However, choanoflagellates do not just eat bacteria, but they also undergo key life  
68 history transitions in response to molecular cues secreted by environmental bacteria.

69

### 70 *A network of bacterial lipids flips a developmental switch in S. rosetta*

71 In many choanoflagellates, including the emerging model choanoflagellate *S.*  
72 *rosetta*, a solitary cell can develop into a multicellular “rosette” colony through serial  
73 rounds of oriented cell division, with the sister cells remaining stably adherent [9,10]

74 (Figure 1a). Although *S. rosetta* was isolated from the ocean as a rosette, early  
75 laboratory cultures proliferated primarily in the unicellular form, producing rosettes  
76 infrequently and unpredictably. A set of unexpected observations revealed that  
77 *Algoriphagus machipongonensis*, an environmental bacterium that had been co-isolated  
78 with the choanoflagellate and persisted in laboratory cultures at very low densities,  
79 could induce robust and uniform rosette development in *S. rosetta* when grown at  
80 higher densities [11].

81 Because *S. rosetta* and *Algoriphagus* could be cultured independently or together,  
82 and because rosette development was quantifiable (i.e. % of cells in rosettes), a  
83 straightforward rosette development bioassay could be used to investigate the  
84 molecular basis of *Algoriphagus* rosette-inducing activity. Activity-guided fractionation  
85 led to the isolation of RIF-1 (Rosette-Inducing Factor-1), a novel sulfonolipid signaling  
86 molecule that induced rosette development in *S. rosetta* [11]. However, only a small  
87 fraction of *S. rosetta* cells formed rosettes in response to RIF-1, far fewer than that  
88 induced by live *Algoriphagus*, leading to the hypothesis that additional *Algoriphagus*  
89 molecules influence *S. rosetta* rosette development [12].

90 Further work revealed that *Algoriphagus* produces additional lipid activators,  
91 synergistic enhancers, and inhibitors that regulate rosette development [12,13] (Fig. 1a).  
92 While the RIFs (RIF-1 and a second sulfonolipid, RIF-2) were sufficient to induce low  
93 levels of rosette development, an additional class of lipid synergists, the  
94 lysophosphatidylethanolamines (LPEs), were required for robust rosette induction.  
95 Together, the RIFs and LPEs recapitulated the full rosette inducing activity of live  
96 *Algoriphagus*.

97       The importance of the LPEs had initially been obscured by the fact that they did not  
98 exhibit any bioactivity on their own; only by testing bacterial lipid fractions in  
99 combination with the RIFs did it become clear that these synergistic lipids helped to fully  
100 potentiate the induction of rosette development. Testing bacterial fractions in  
101 combination also revealed that *Algoriphagus* produces a molecule that competes with  
102 and inhibits RIF-induced rosette development. The molecule, a capnine called IOR-1  
103 (Inhibitor of Rosettes-1), antagonizes the RIFs, but its inhibitory activity can be  
104 bypassed in the presence of LPEs, providing a possible explanation for why IOR-1 does  
105 not normally prevent *Algoriphagus* rosette induction.

106       Why might *S. rosetta* rely on a network of bacterial cues before committing to  
107 rosette development? We hypothesize that requiring multiple bacterial cues may ensure  
108 that rosette development is not initiated in response to the wrong bacteria, or under  
109 unfavorable environmental conditions. This integrated response may be especially  
110 important in aquatic environments, where bacterial composition and nutrient availability  
111 are constantly changing.

112

113 *A bacterial chondroitinase triggers mating in S. rosetta*

114       In addition to rosette development, *S. rosetta* can transition from asexual  
115 proliferation to sexual reproduction, wherein solitary haploid cells fuse to produce a  
116 diploid cell that will then undergo meiosis [14]. Despite harboring a complete meiotic  
117 genetic toolkit [15,16], the *S. rosetta* sexual cycle was rarely observed in laboratory  
118 cultures. Only under starvation conditions would a small fraction of the *S. rosetta*  
119 population mate [17]. A serendipitous observation revealed that specific environmental

120 bacteria, missing from most laboratory cultures, were capable of triggering a robust,  
121 population-wide switch to sexual reproduction [18].

122 This discovery stemmed from the observation that *Vibrio fischeri*, an abundant  
123 marine bacterium, induced the formation of large motile aggregates or “swarms”  
124 composed of many solitary *S. rosetta* cells. Swarming had not been previously  
125 described in *S. rosetta*, and further examination revealed that during swarming, haploid  
126 *S. rosetta* cells frequently paired off and underwent cell and nuclear fusion. Genetic  
127 experiments confirmed that the diploid products of cell and nuclear fusion later  
128 generated meiotic progeny, demonstrating that *Vibrio* bacteria induce the full sexual  
129 cycle in *S. rosetta* (Figure 1b).

130 Because swarming was always observed prior to mating, *S. rosetta* swarming  
131 provided a robust bioassay for identifying the molecular basis of the *Vibrio* “aphrodisiac”  
132 activity. Activity-guided fractionation led to the isolation of a protein, named EroS  
133 (Extracellular Regulator of Sex) that fully recapitulated the activity of *Vibrio* bacteria.  
134 Biochemical assays revealed that EroS belongs to a class of bacterial polysaccharide-  
135 degrading enzymes called chondroitinases, and that the chondroitin-degrading activity  
136 of EroS is sufficient to induce mating in *S. rosetta*. Finally, the *S. rosetta* target of EroS  
137 was identified as the sulfated polysaccharide chondroitin sulfate, a component of the  
138 extracellular matrix previously thought to be restricted to the animal lineage. As the first  
139 example of an environmental bacterium regulating eukaryotic sexual reproduction, the  
140 interaction between *Vibrio* and *S. rosetta* raises the possibility that mating in other  
141 aquatic eukaryotes may be influenced by environmental bacteria as well.

142

143 *Bacteria as master regulators of S. rosetta life history in the marine environment*

144 Bacteria are required for rosette development and mating under laboratory  
145 conditions – but can bacteria plausibly regulate *S. rosetta* development in nature?  
146 Despite their underlying molecular differences, the cues that induce rosette  
147 development and mating are bioactive at environmentally relevant concentrations. The  
148 purified *Algoriphagus* RIFs and LPEs display activity at high nanomolar to low  
149 micromolar concentrations in the laboratory; yet, the hydrophobicity of these molecules  
150 makes it unlikely that *S. rosetta* encounters them as isolated lipids in the environment.  
151 As constituents of the *Algoriphagus* outer membrane, it is more likely that RIFs and  
152 LPEs are released into the environment within outer membrane vesicles (OMVs),  
153 spherical packages of periplasmic content constitutively produced by Gram negative  
154 bacteria [19,20]. Indeed, *Algoriphagus* OMVs elicit robust rosette development [12], and  
155 retain their bioactivity under a wide range of conditions. Moreover, diverse bacteria  
156 belonging to several marine Bacteroidetes and Actinobacteria genera induce rosette  
157 development in *S. rosetta* ([11]; unpublished data]), raising the likelihood that *S. rosetta*  
158 might encounter rosette-inducing bacteria in multiple environments

159 In contrast with the lipid regulators of rosette development, the mating-inducing  
160 chondroitin lyase, EroS, is a soluble protein constitutively secreted by *Vibrio* bacteria.  
161 Not only does EroS trigger mating at picomolar concentrations, but *S. rosetta* swarms in  
162 response to as few as 400 *V. fischeri* cells/mL—a density similar to that of *V. fischeri* in  
163 oligotrophic oceans [21]. In addition to *V. fischeri*, several other species of *Vibrio*  
164 bacteria induce mating in *S. rosetta*, as do commercial chondroitin lyases isolated from  
165 *Flavobacterium heparinum* and *Proteus vulgaris* [18], suggesting that encounters



166 between *S. rosetta* and molecules produced by mating-inducing bacteria might be  
167 common occurrences in the ocean.

168 Thus, it is reasonable to infer that *S. rosetta* comes across both rosette  
169 development and mating inducing bacteria in nature. In addition, because *S. rosetta* can  
170 respond to cues from diverse bacteria, it seems plausible that other life history  
171 transitions in choanoflagellates, such as settlement (the attachment of a planktonic cell  
172 to a substrate; [6,10]), are regulated by environmental bacteria as well.

173

#### 174 ***The widespread influences of environmental bacteria***

175 Choanoflagellates are not the only eukaryotes taking life advice from  
176 environmental bacteria. Environmental bacteria also regulate developmental transitions  
177 in diverse marine algae and animals, and simple model systems are beginning to  
178 uncover the bacterial cues that influence eukaryotic morphogenesis.

179

#### 180 ***Algal morphogenesis***

181 It has long been known that microbial communities associated with the surfaces  
182 of marine macroalgae are essential for their growth and morphogenesis [22]. Yet, the  
183 bacterial species responsible for stimulating algal development remained elusive for  
184 many years, due to the complex and seasonally-shifting composition of algal-associated  
185 bacterial communities [23]. A key advance in studying bacterial-algal interactions was  
186 the development of axenic culturing techniques (including for the seaweed *Monostroma*  
187 *oxyspermum*), which provided a platform for testing individual bacterial species for  
188 morphogenesis-inducing activity [24]. Although diverse bacteria that influence algal

189 growth and morphogenesis have now been identified (Table 1), only one morphogenetic  
190 factor, Thallusin, has been isolated by activity-guided fractionation and characterized to  
191 date [25-27]. Thallusin is an amino acid derivative produced by the *Monostroma*-  
192 associated bacterium, *Zobellia uliginosa*, that is sufficient to induce thallus development  
193 in *M. oxyspermum* and partially promote thallus development in *Ulva* species. With a  
194 clear bioassay available, why haven't more algal morphogenetic factors been isolated?  
195 One hypothesis is that the bacterial cues regulating algal growth and morphogenesis  
196 are produced at very low levels. This was certainly true for Thallusin, although it was  
197 ultimately possible to isolate the molecule because of its potency and stability [26].  
198 Alternatively, induction may require multiple bacterial molecules. On their own, bacteria  
199 belonging to *Cytophaga* and *Roseobacter* genera induce incomplete *Ulva mutabilis*  
200 development, promoting either cell division or thallus differentiation, respectively [28].  
201 However, the combined activities of these bacteria fully restore normal morphogenesis,  
202 raising the possibility that the synergistic interactions observed at the organismal level  
203 are required at the molecular level as well.

204

#### 205 *Larval settlement*

206 Many benthic marine invertebrates have complex life histories that include stages of  
207 larval settlement and metamorphosis, key developmental steps that are crucial for adult  
208 success. Bacterial biofilms provide cues that trigger larval settlement and  
209 metamorphosis in diverse marine invertebrates, including sponges, cnidarians,  
210 molluscs, annelids, echinoderms, and urochordates (Table 1). While the majority of  
211 these interactions remain poorly understood, the increased tractability of invertebrate  
212 systems (e.g. the tubeworm *Hydroides elegans* [29] and the coral *Acropora millepora*

213 [30]) has facilitated identification of the bacterial cues that regulate larval settlement and  
214 metamorphosis. Biofilm-forming bacteria from the genus *Pseudoalteromonas* influence  
215 development in several animals, including corals and tubeworms. Interestingly, the cues  
216 produced by environmental *Pseudoalteromonas* that trigger metamorphosis in *A.*  
217 *millepora* and *H. elegans* are distinct; while *A. millepora* metamorphosis is induced by  
218 the small molecule tetrabromopyrrole [31], *H. elegans* metamorphosis is regulated by  
219 arrays of contractile phage-tail like structures called MACs (Metamorphosis Associated  
220 Contractile Structures) [32]. Although the structures of tetrabromopyrrole and MACs  
221 suggest that the mechanisms by which these molecules trigger metamorphosis are  
222 likely very different, both of these bacterial molecules may provide chemical evidence of  
223 a suitable surface for colonization. Because surfaces in the ocean are often limiting,  
224 cues from bacteria might indicate to animals that they have found an appropriate  
225 environment for settling down.

226  
227 ***Bacterial cues are proxies for environmental conditions***

228       As more bacterial cues are isolated, it is becoming clear that interactions  
229 between eukaryotes and their environmental bacteria exhibit remarkable molecular  
230 specificity. Even slight modifications to the structures of bacterial cues can completely  
231 eliminate inducing activity, as is the case with the choanoflagellate rosette-inducing  
232 molecules and the algal morphogenetic factor Thallusin [13,27,33]. Nonetheless,  
233 multiple environmental bacteria can elicit the same eukaryotic developmental  
234 responses, and in each case the molecular cues seem to be distinct (this has been  
235 demonstrated for *S. rosetta* rosette development, *Monostroma* morphogenesis, and *H.*  
236 *elegans* larval settlement; Table 1). Because marine microbial communities are highly

237 dynamic, it may be beneficial for eukaryotes to interpret developmental cues from  
238 diverse bacteria. The molecular stringency we observe likely allows eukaryotes to be  
239 responsive to many different environmental bacteria, whilst maintaining tight regulation  
240 over important developmental decisions.

241           Interestingly, we find that select bacterial genera (including *Flavobacteriia*,  
242 *Pseudoalteromonas*, and *Vibrio*) have a high level of influence on the development of  
243 diverse marine eukaryotes. It is possible that many eukaryotes may rely on cues from  
244 Bacteroidetes and Gammaproteobacteria because these bacteria flourish in nutrient  
245 and carbon rich environments, and can thus serve as proxies for favorable  
246 environmental conditions. Indeed, many of the bacteria that regulate eukaryotic  
247 development are well equipped for rapidly responding to increasing nutrient availability,  
248 boasting an assortment of extracellular enzymes that break down polysaccharides,  
249 lipids, and proteins [34]. For example, the polysaccharide degrading abilities of  
250 Bacteroidetes and Gammaproteobacteria allow these bacteria to utilize algal-derived  
251 polysaccharides and promptly proliferate when phytoplankton bloom (often as a result of  
252 increased mineral levels) [35]. Even more impressive is the ability of some inducing-  
253 bacteria (notably *Vibrio* spp.) to pursue nutrient dense microenvironments through  
254 chemotaxis [36]. Thus, diverse eukaryotes may have converged on certain bacteria as  
255 indicators of nutrient-rich environments.

256           Finally, it is enticing to consider how environmental bacteria might benefit from  
257 these interactions. Many of the bacteria that induce eukaryotic developmental  
258 transitions also frequently associate with eukaryotes, for example by accumulating on  
259 surfaces of macroalgae and invertebrates. Because these bacteria produce

260 exoenzymes that help them utilize plant and animal-derived molecules for nutrition [34],  
261 it is possible that inducing eukaryotic development allows specific bacteria to rapidly  
262 colonize valuable “real estate.”

263

## 264 **Conclusion**

265         Although the influences of environmental bacteria on the development of marine  
266 eukaryotes has been observed for decades, we are just beginning to gain a molecular  
267 understanding of these interactions. With the help of simple model systems and  
268 straightforward bioassays, it is becoming clear that environmental bacteria produce  
269 structurally diverse cues that govern eukaryotic development with a high degree of  
270 molecular specificity. Nonetheless, even simple bacterial-eukaryotic interactions can be  
271 challenging to characterize when we rely solely on activity-guided fractionation.  
272 Furthermore, most interactions with bacteria are not simple, and may rely upon multiple  
273 molecular cues produced by one or more bacterial species. To understand these  
274 complex interactions, future studies should likely combine genetic and activity-guided  
275 approaches in the study of environmentally-relevant pairs or communities of eukaryotes  
276 and bacteria.

277         Importantly, many of the environmental bacteria that regulate eukaryotic  
278 development in marine ecosystems interact with eukaryotes in other pathogenic and  
279 commensal contexts. For example, the bacterium *Vibrio fischeri* forms a symbiosis with  
280 and triggers morphogenesis in the Hawaiian bobtail squid (*Euprymna scolopes*), while  
281 other members of the Vibrionaceae are common animal enteric commensals,  
282 pathogens, and mutualists [37]. In addition, Bacteroidetes bacteria closely related to

283 *Algoriphagus* are abundant mammalian gut commensal bacteria that are important for  
284 proper intestinal development and homeostasis [38]. Therefore, understanding how  
285 environmental bacteria shape the development of marine eukaryotes may also provide  
286 insight into broadly applicable mechanisms of bacterial-eukaryotic interactions.

287

288

### 289 **Acknowledgements**

290 We thank D. Booth, E. Ireland, B. Larson, T. Linden providing feedback on the review  
291 prior to submission. Research in the King laboratory is supported by the Howard  
292 Hughes Medical Institute, the National Institutes of Health (R01GM099533), and the  
293 Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

- 294 1. Mcfall-Ngai M, Hadfield MG, Bosch TCG, Carey HV, Domazet-Lošo T,  
295 Douglas AE, Dubilier N, Eberl G, Fukami T, Gilbert SF, et al.: **Animals in a**  
296 **bacterial world, a new imperative for the life sciences.** *Proc Natl Acad*  
297 *Sci USA* 2013, **110**:3229–3236.
- 298 2. Vandenkoornhuysse P, Quaiser A, Duhamel M, Le Van A, Dufresne A: **The**  
299 **importance of the microbiome of the plant holobiont.** *New Phytol.* 2015,  
300 **206**:1196–1206.
- 301 3. Badri DV, Weir TL, van der Lelie D, Vivanco JM: **Rhizosphere chemical**  
302 **dialogues: plant–microbe interactions.** *Current Opinion in Biotechnology*  
303 2009, **20**:642–650.
- 304 4. McFall-Ngai MJ, Ruby EG: **Symbiont recognition and subsequent**  
305 **morphogenesis as early events in an animal-bacterial mutualism.**  
306 *Science* 1991, **254**:1491–1494.
- 307 5. Sommer F, Bäckhed F: **The gut microbiota--masters of host**  
308 **development and physiology.** *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2013, **11**:227–238.
- 309 6. Leadbeater BSC: *The Choanoflagellates: Evolution, Ecology, and Biology.*  
310 Cambridge University Press; 2015.
- 311 7. James-Clark H: **On the Spongiae ciliatae as Infusoria flagellata; or,**  
312 **observations on the structure, animality and relationship of**  
313 ***Leucosolenia botryoides* Bowerbank.** *Ann. Mag. Nat. His.* 1868, **1**:133–  
314 142.
- 315 8. Brunet T, King N: **The origin of animal multicellularity and cell**  
316 **differentiation.** *Dev Cell* 2017, **43**:124–140.
- 317 9. Fairclough SR, Dayel MJ, King N: **Multicellular development in a**  
318 **choanoflagellate.** *Curr Biol* 2010, **20**:R875–6.
- 319 10. Dayel MJ, Alegado RA, Fairclough SR, Levin TC, Nichols SA, McDonald K,  
320 King N: **Cell differentiation and morphogenesis in the colony-forming**  
321 **choanoflagellate *Salpingoeca rosetta*.** *Developmental biology* 2011,  
322 **357**:73–82.
- 323 11. Alegado RA, Brown LW, Cao S, Dermenjian RK, Zuzow R, Fairclough SR,  
324 Clardy J, King N: **A bacterial sulfonolipid triggers multicellular**  
325 **development in the closest living relatives of animals.** *Elife* 2012,  
326 **1**:e00013.
- 327 12. Woznica A, Cantley AM, Beemelmans C, Freinkman E, Clardy J, King N:  
328 **Bacterial lipids activate, synergize, and inhibit a developmental switch**  
329 **in choanoflagellates.** *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2016, **113**:7894–7899.

- 330 13. Cantley AM, Woznica A, Beemelmans C, King N, Clardy J: **Isolation and**  
331 **synthesis of a bacterially produced inhibitor of rosette development in**  
332 **choanoflagellates**. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2016, **138**:4326–4329.
- 333 14. Levin TC, King N: **Evidence for sex and recombination in the**  
334 **choanoflagellate *Salpingoeca rosetta***. *Current Biology* 2013, **23**:2176–  
335 2180.
- 336 15. Carr M, Leadbeater BSC, Baldauf SL: **Conserved meiotic genes point to**  
337 **sex in the choanoflagellates**. *J. Eukaryot. Microbiol.* 2010, **57**:56–62.
- 338 16. Fairclough SR, Chen Z, Kramer E, Zeng Q, Young S, Robertson HM,  
339 Begovic E, Richter DJ, Russ C, Westbrook MJ, et al.: **Premetazoan**  
340 **genome evolution and the regulation of cell differentiation in the**  
341 **choanoflagellate *Salpingoeca rosetta***. *Genome Biol.* 2013, **14**:R15.
- 342 17. Levin TC, Greaney AJ, Wetzel L, King N: **The Rosetteless gene controls**  
343 **development in the choanoflagellate *S. rosetta***. *Elife* 2014, **3**.
- 344 18. Woznica A, Gerdt JP, Hulett RE, Clardy J, King N: **Mating in the closest**  
345 **living relatives of animals is induced by a bacterial chondroitinase**. *Cell*  
346 2017, doi:10.1016/j.cell.2017.08.005.
- 347 19. Kulp A, Kuehn MJ: **Biological functions and biogenesis of secreted**  
348 **bacterial outer membrane vesicles**. *Annu Rev Microbiol* 2010, **64**:163–  
349 184.
- 350 20. Lynch JB, Alegado RA: **Spheres of hope, packets of doom: the good and**  
351 **bad of outer membrane vesicles in interspecies and ecological**  
352 **dynamics**. *Journal of Bacteriology* 2017, **199**:e00012–17.
- 353 21. Jones BW, Maruyama A, Ouverney CC, Nishiguchi MK: **Spatial and**  
354 **temporal distribution of the Vibrionaceae in coastal waters of Hawaii,**  
355 **Australia, and France**. *Microb Ecol* 2007, **54**:314–323.
- 356 22. Wichard T: **Exploring bacteria-induced growth and morphogenesis in**  
357 **the green macroalga order Ulvales (Chlorophyta)**. *Front Plant Sci* 2015,  
358 **6**:86.
- 359 23. Burke C, Thomas T, Lewis M, Steinberg P, Kjelleberg S: **Composition,**  
360 **uniqueness and variability of the epiphytic bacterial community of the**  
361 **green alga *Ulva australis***. *ISME J* 2011, **5**:590–600.
- 362 24. Singh RP, Reddy CRK: **Seaweed–microbial interactions: key functions**  
363 **of seaweed-associated bacteria**. *FEMS Microbiol Ecol* 2014, **88**:213–230.
- 364 25. Matsuo Y, Suzuki M, Kasai H, Shizuri Y, Harayama S: **Isolation and**  
365 **phylogenetic characterization of bacteria capable of inducing**



- 366            **differentiation in the green alga *Monostroma oxyspermum*. *Environ***  
367            ***Microbiol* 2003, 5:25–35.**
- 368    26.        Matsuo Y, Imagawa H, Nishizawa M, Shizuri Y: **Isolation of an algal**  
369            **morphogenesis inducer from a marine bacterium. *Science* 2005,**  
370            **307:1598–1598.**
- 371    27.        Nishizawa M, Iyenaga T, Kurisaki T, Yamamoto H, Sharfuddin M, Namba K,  
372            Imagawa H, Shizuri Y, Matsuo Y: **Total synthesis and morphogenesis-**  
373            **inducing activity of (±)-thallusin and its analogues. *Tetrahedron Letters***  
374            **2007, 48:4229–4233.**
- 375    28.        Spoerner M, Wichard T, Bachhuber T, Stratmann J, Oertel W: **Growth and**  
376            **thallus morphogenesis of *Ulva mutabilis* (Chlorophyta) depends on a**  
377            **combination of two bacterial species excreting regulatory factors.**  
378            ***Journal of Phycology* 2012, 48:1433–1447.**
- 379    29.        Huang S, Hadfield MG: **Composition and density of bacterial biofilms**  
380            **determine larval settlement of the polychaete *Hydroides elegans*.**  
381            ***Marine Ecology Progress ...* 2003, 260:161–172.**
- 382    30.        Tebben J, Tapiolas DM, Motti CA, Abrego D, Negri AP, Blackall LL,  
383            Steinberg PD, Harder T: **Induction of larval metamorphosis of the coral**  
384            ***Acropora millepora* by tetrabromopyrrole isolated from a**  
385            ***Pseudoalteromonas* bacterium. *PloS one* 2011, 6:e19082–8.**
- 386    31.        Tebben J, Tapiolas DM, Motti CA, Abrego D, Negri AP, Blackall LL,  
387            Steinberg PD, Harder T: **Induction of larval metamorphosis of the coral**  
388            ***Acropora millepora* by tetrabromopyrrole isolated from a**  
389            ***Pseudoalteromonas* bacterium. *PloS one* 2011, 6:e19082.**
- 390    32.        Shikuma NJ, Pilhofer M, Weiss GL, Hadfield MG, Jensen GJ, Newman DK:  
391            **Marine tubeworm metamorphosis induced by arrays of bacterial phage**  
392            **tail-like structures. *Science* 2014, 343:529–533.**
- 393    33.        Beemelmanns C, Woznica A, Alegado RA, Cantley AM, King N, Clardy J:  
394            **Synthesis of the rosette-inducing factor RIF-1 and analogs. *J. Am.***  
395            ***Chem. Soc.* 2014, 136:10210–10213.**
- 396    34.        Stal LJ, Cretoiu MS (Eds): *The Marine Microbiome*. Springer; 2016.
- 397    35.        Teeling H, Fuchs BM, Bennke CM, Krüger K, Chafee M, Kappelmann L,  
398            Reintjes G, Waldmann J, Quast C, Glöckner FO, et al.: **Recurring patterns**  
399            **in bacterioplankton dynamics during coastal spring algae blooms. *Elife***  
400            **2016, 5:e11888.**
- 401    36.        Stocker R: **Marine microbes see a sea of gradients. *Science* 2012,**  
402            **338:628–633.**

- 403 37. Thompson FL, Austin B, Swings J: *The biology of Vibrios*. ASM Press; 2006.
- 404 38. Thomas F, Hehemann J-H, Rebuffet E, Czjzek M, Michel G: **Environmental**  
405 **and gut bacteroidetes: the food connection**. *Front Microbiol* 2011, **2**:93.
- 406 39. Grueneberg J, Engelen AH, Costa R, Wichard T: **Macroalgal**  
407 **morphogenesis induced by waterborne compounds and bacteria in**  
408 **coastal seawater**. *PloS one* 2016, **11**:e0146307.
- 409 40. Marshall K, Joint I, Callow ME, Callow JA: **Effect of marine bacterial**  
410 **isolates on the growth and morphology of axenic llantlets of the green**  
411 **alga *Ulva linza***. *Microb Ecol* 2006, **52**:302–310.
- 412 41. Singh RP, Mantri VA, Reddy CRK, Jha B: **Isolation of seaweed-associated**  
413 **bacteria and their morphogenesis-inducing capability in axenic**  
414 **cultures of the green alga *Ulva fasciata***. *Aquatic Biology* 2011, **12**:13–21.
- 415 42. Joint I, Tait K, Callow ME, Callow JA, Milton D, Williams P, Cámara M: **Cell-**  
416 **to-cell communication across the prokaryote-eukaryote boundary**.  
417 *Science* 2002, **298**:1207–1207.
- 418 43. Whalan S, Webster NS: **Sponge larval settlement cues: the role of**  
419 **microbial biofilms in a warming ocean**. *Sci Rep* 2014, **4**:srep04072.
- 420 44. Neumann R: **Bacterial induction of settlement and metamorphosis in**  
421 **the planula larvae of *Cassiopea andromeda***. *Marine Ecology Progress*  
422 *Series* 1979, **1**:21–28.
- 423 45. Schmahl G: **Induction of stolon settlement in the scyphopolyyps of**  
424 ***Aurelia aurita* by glycolipids of marine bacteria**. *Helgolthder wiss.*  
425 *Meeresuntersuchungen* 1985, **39**:117–127.
- 426 46. Fitt WK, Coon SL, Walch M, Weiner RM, Colwell RR, Bonar DB: **Settlement**  
427 **behavior and metamorphosis of oyster larvae (*Crassostrea gigas*) in**  
428 **response to bacterial supernatants**. *Marine Biology* 1990, **106**:389–394.
- 429 47. Freckelton ML, Nedved BT, Hadfield MG: **Induction of invertebrate larval**  
430 **settlement; different bacteria, different mechanisms?** *Sci Rep* 2017,  
431 **7**:42557.
- 432 48. Huggett MJ, Williamson JE, De Nys R, Kjelleberg S, Steinberg PD: **Larval**  
433 **settlement of the common Australian sea urchin *Heliocidaris***  
434 ***erythrogramma* in response to bacteria from the surface of coralline**  
435 **algae**. *Oecologia* 2006, **149**:604–619.
- 436 49. Szewzyk U, Holmström C, Wrangstadh M: **Relevance of the**  
437 **exopolysaccharide of marine *Pseudomonas* sp. strain S9 for the**  
438 **attachment of *Ciona intestinalis* larvae**. *Ecology Progress Series* 1991,

439

doi:10.2307/24825861.

440

**Table 1. Environmental bacteria regulate development in marine eukaryotes**

Eukaryote	Bacteria (Phylum)	Developmental outcome	Molecular cue	Reference
<b>Chlorophyta (green algae)</b>				
<i>Ulva mutabilis</i>	<i>Cytophaga</i> (B)	Thallus differentiation	Unknown	[28]
	<i>Roseobacter</i> (B)	Cell division	Unknown	[28]
	<i>Algoriphagus</i> (B); <i>Polaribacter</i> (B)	Cell division and thallus differentiation	Unknown	[39,40]
<i>Monostroma oxyspermum</i>	<i>Zobellia uliginosa</i> (B)	Morphogenesis	Thallusin	[26]
<i>Ulva pertussa</i>	<i>Zobellia uliginosa</i> (B)	Morphogenesis	Unknown	[25]
<i>Ulva conglobata</i>	<i>Zobellia uliginosa</i> (B)	Morphogenesis	Unknown	[25]
<i>Ulva fasciata</i>	<i>Marinomonas</i> (F); <i>Bacillus</i> (F)	Morphogenesis/ growth of zoospores	Unknown	[41]
<i>Enteromorpha</i>	<i>Vibrio anguillarum</i> (G)	Zoospore settlement	AHLs	[42]
<b>Choanoflagellate</b>				
<i>Salpingoeca rosetta</i>	<i>Algoriphagus machipongonensis</i> (B)	Rosette development	Lipid cofactors (Sulfonolipids, LPEs, capnine)	[11-13]
	<i>Zobellia uliginosa</i> (B); <i>Demequina</i> (A)	Rosette development	Uncharacterized lipids	[11]; unpublished
	<i>Vibrio fischeri</i> (G); <i>Flavobacterium heparinum</i> (B)	Sexual reproduction	Chondroitin lyase	[18]
<b>Porifera (sponges)</b>				
<i>Rhopaloeides odorabile</i>	Bacterial biofilm	Larval settlement	Unknown	[43]
<b>Cnidaria</b>				
<i>Acropora millepora</i>	<i>Pseudoalteromonas</i> (G)	Larval metamorphosis	Tetrabromopyrrole	[30,31]
<i>Acropora willisae</i>	<i>Pseudoalteromonas</i> (G)	Larval metamorphosis	Tetrabromopyrrole	[44]
<i>Porites astreoides</i> (coral)	<i>Pseudoalteromonas</i> (G)	Larval metamorphosis	Tetrabromopyrrole	[44]
<i>Cassiopea andromeda</i> (jellyfish)	<i>Vibrio alginolyticus</i> (G)	Larval metamorphosis	Unknown	[44]
<i>Aurelia aurita</i> (jellyfish)	<i>Micrococcaceae</i> (A)	Larval settlement	Glycolipids	[45]
<b>Mollusca</b>				
<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> (oyster)	<i>Altermonas colwelliana</i> (G); <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> (G)	Larval settlement / metamorphosis	Unknown	[46]
<b>Annelida</b>				
<i>Hydroides elegans</i> (marine tubeworm)	<i>Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea</i> (G);	Larval settlement	Tailocin MACs	[32]
	<i>Cellulophaga lytica</i> (B);	Larval settlement	Unknown	[47]
	<i>Bacillus aquimaris</i> (F);	Larval settlement	Unknown	[47]
	<i>Staphylococcus warneri</i> (F)	Larval settlement	Unknown	[47]
<b>Echinodermata</b>				

<i>Heliocidaris erythrogramma</i> (sea urchin)	<i>Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea</i> (G); <i>Vibrio</i> (G); <i>Shewanella</i> (G)	Larval settlement	Unknown	[48]
--	--	-------------------	---------	------

**Chordata**

<i>Ciona intestinalis</i> (sea squirt)	<i>Pseudomonas</i> (G)	Larval attachment	Exopolysaccharide	[49]
--	------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------

---

**Bacterial phylogeny key: (B) Bacteroidetes; (G) Gammaproteobacteria; (F) Firmicutes; (A) Actinobacteria**

441

442

443 **Figure Legends**

444 **Figure 1. Bacteria regulate rosette development and sexual reproduction in the**

445 **choanoflagellate, *S. rosetta*. (A)** *Algoriphagus machipongonensis* bacteria regulate  
446 the development of *S. rosetta* from a solitary cell into a multicellular “rosette” colony  
447 through serial rounds of cell division. *Algoriphagus* produces three classes of lipids –  
448 sulfonolipids (RIFs), lysophosphatidylethanolamines (LPEs), and a capnine (IOR-1)–  
449 that interact to alternately induce, enhance, or inhibit rosette development. While the  
450 sulfonolipid RIFs are sufficient to initiate rosette development in *S. rosetta*, they require  
451 the synergistic enhancing activity of the LPEs for robust rosette development.  
452 *Algoriphagus* also produces the inhibitory IOR-1 that inhibits the RIFs, but cannot  
453 overcome the synergistic inducing activity of the RIFs + LPEs. Immunofluorescence  
454 images illustrate stages of *S. rosetta* rosette development; tubulin staining (grey)  
455 highlights the cell body and apical flagellum. **(B)** *Vibrio fischeri* bacteria induce sexual  
456 reproduction in *S. rosetta*. EroS, a chondroitin lyase secreted by *V. fischeri*, triggers  
457 solitary *S. rosetta* cells (arrows) to form large swarms (brackets) through cell  
458 aggregation. During swarming, *S. rosetta* cells pair off and mate, a process that involves  
459 the cell and nuclear fusion of two haploid cells into one diploid cell, followed by meiosis  
460 to generate haploid progeny. Immunofluorescence images depict mating stages in *S.*  
461 *rosetta*; tubulin staining (grey) highlights the cell body and apical flagellum, and Hoechst  
462 staining (magenta) highlights the nucleus.

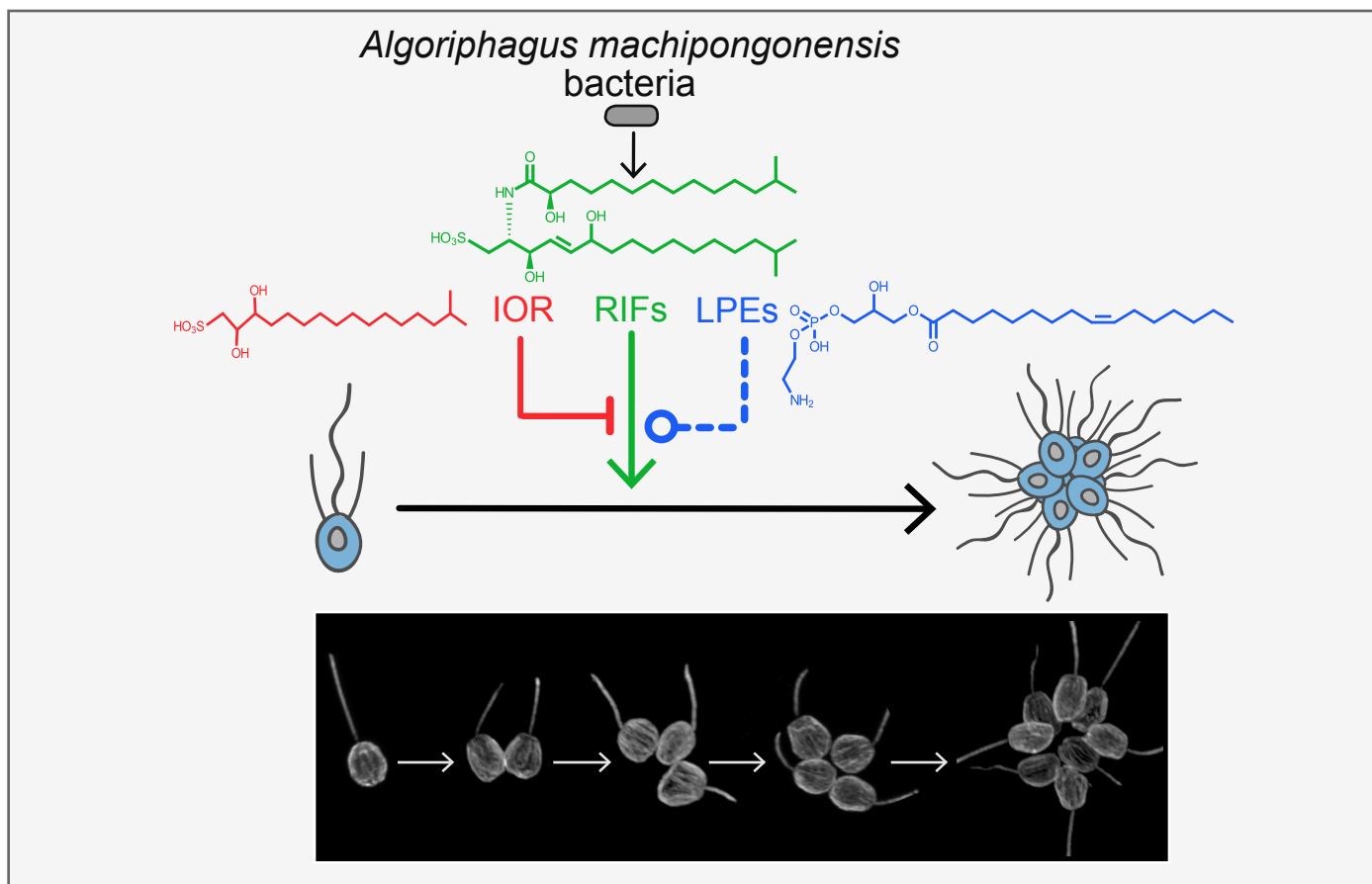
463  
464  
465

466 **Figure 2. Distinct molecular cues from environmental Bacteroidetes and**  
467 **Gammaproteobacteria regulate developmental transitions in diverse marine**  
468 **eukaryotes.** The Bacteroidetes bacteria *Algoriphagus* and *Zobellia uliginosa* regulate  
469 morphogenesis in organisms as diverse as algae and choanoflagellates. **(1)**  
470 Uncharacterized factors produced by *Algoriphagus* induce morphogenesis in the  
471 macroalgae *Ulva mutabilis*. **(2)** *Algoriphagus machipongonensis* lipids [sulfonolipids,  
472 lysophosphatidylethanolamines, and a capnine] regulate rosette development in the  
473 choanoflagellate *Salpingoeca rosetta*. **(3)** Thallusin, and amino acid derivative produced  
474 by *Zobellia uliginosa*, induces morphogenesis in the macroalgae *Monostroma*  
475 *oxyspermum*. **(4)** Uncharacterized molecules from *Zobellia uliginosa* induce rosette  
476 development in the choanoflagellate *Salpingoeca rosetta*. Gammaproteobacteria can  
477 likewise elicit developmental responses in diverse animals and choanoflagellates. **(5)**  
478 Tetrabromopyrrole produced by *Pseudoalteromonas* spp. induces larval metamorphosis  
479 in corals *Acropora millepora* and *Acropora willisae*, and larval settlement (attachment  
480 and metamorphosis) in the coral *Porites astreoides*. **(6)** Uncharacterized cues from  
481 *Pseudoalteromonas* bacteria induce larval settlement in the sea urchin *Heliocidaris*  
482 *erythrogramma*. **(7)** *Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea* produces arrays of contractile  
483 phage tail-like structures (MACs) that trigger metamorphosis of the tubeworm *Hydroides*  
484 *elegans*. **(8)** A chondroitinase (EroS) secreted by *Vibrio fischeri* induces mating in the  
485 choanoflagellate *S. rosetta*. **(9)** Unknown cues secreted by *Vibrio alginolyticus* induce  
486 larval metamorphosis in the jellyfish *Cassiopea andromeda*

487

488

A



B

