

Response to Nelson-Sathi et al. (Nature 517, 77-80)
Origins of major archaeal clades do not correspond to gene
acquisitions from bacteria

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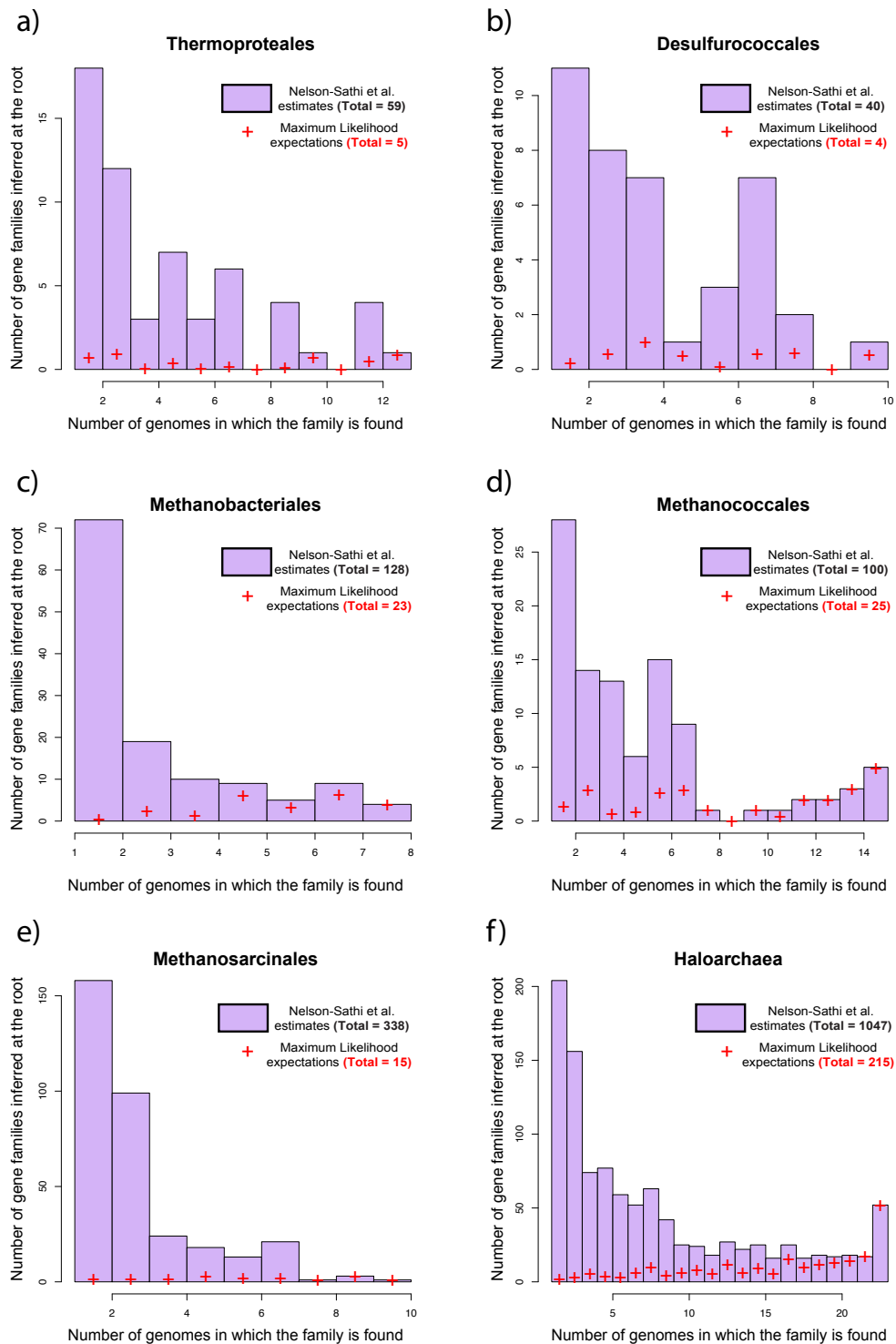


Figure 1: **Family size and gene gains for the “import” set at the origin of archaeal phyla.** The 6 phyla for which Nelson-Sathi et al. (2015) [NS] claim a strong signal for HGTs from bacteria at their origins are shown. NS estimates are represented in purple. Maximum Likelihood expectations of gains at the origin for the same datasets are represented by red crosses. Expectations of gains were calculated from branch-specific rates of gene gain and loss estimated from the 25,762 gene families of NS, but we report only the results for the 2,264 genes from the “import” set of NS. Most of the families inferred to be gained at the origin of each phylum by NS are distributed over 2 or 3 archaeal genomes only. ML estimates show that only a small fraction of gene families were actually acquired at the origin of each phylum.

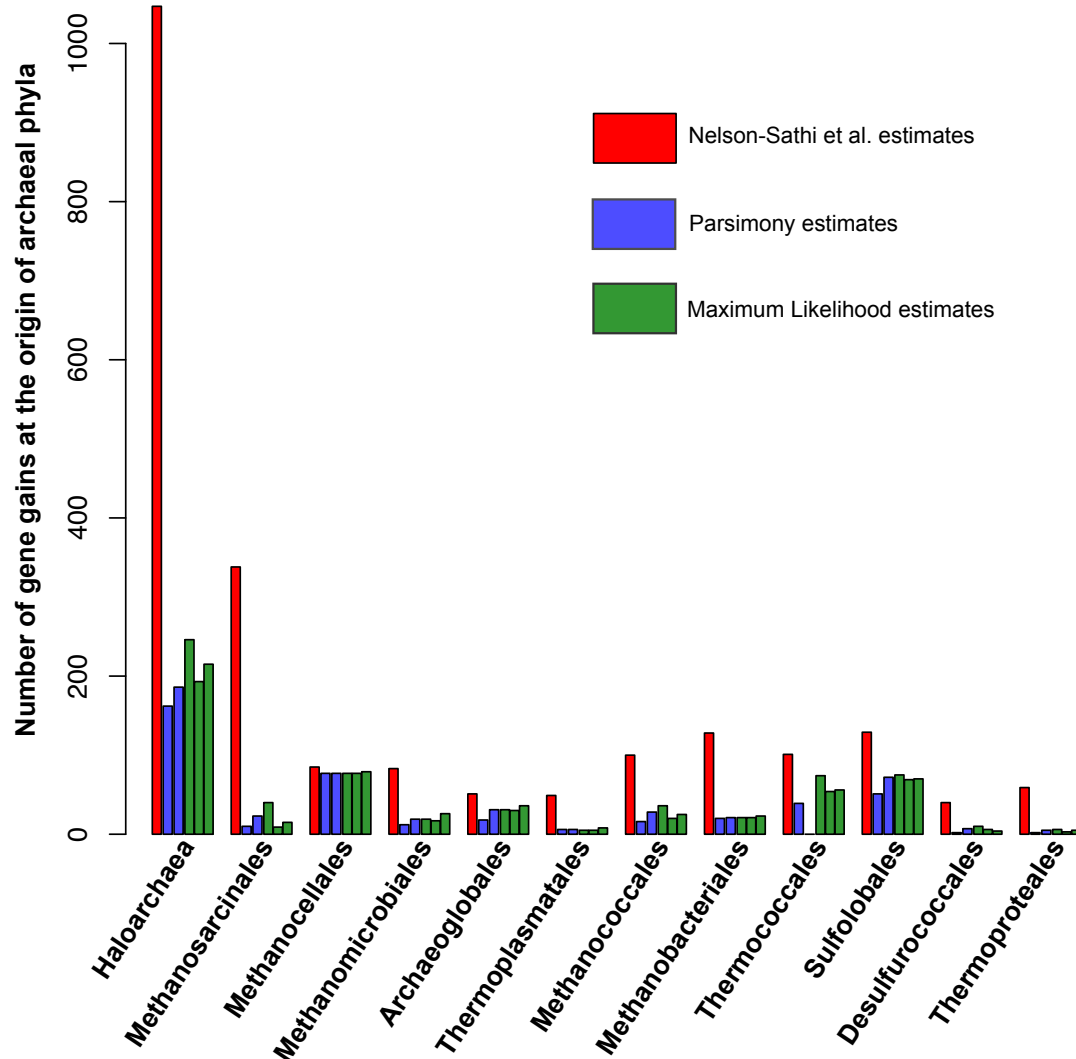


Figure 2: Consistency of gene family ancestral gain estimations on the “import” gene set. Along the archaeal reference tree provided by Nelson-Sathi et al. (2015) [NS], both Parsimony (green) and Maximum Likelihood (blue) inferences of ancestral gains were computed with Count (Csurs and Miklos, 2006; Csurs, 2010), and compared with the estimates of NS. Wagner parsimony with a large range of gain/loss costs combinations were tested, yielding similar estimations. Here are represented the results with a gain cost of 2 and 4, from left to right respectively. In ML, ancestral branch-specific gain expectations were computed from rates of gene gain and loss estimated either from the 2,264, 3,315 or 25,762 gene family sets defined by NS, from left to right respectively. All analyses are consistent and strongly contradict the scenario of massive gene acquisitions among these 2,264 families at the origin of archaeal phyla, claimed by NS

References

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