



# Different ways of compacting holocentric chromosomes

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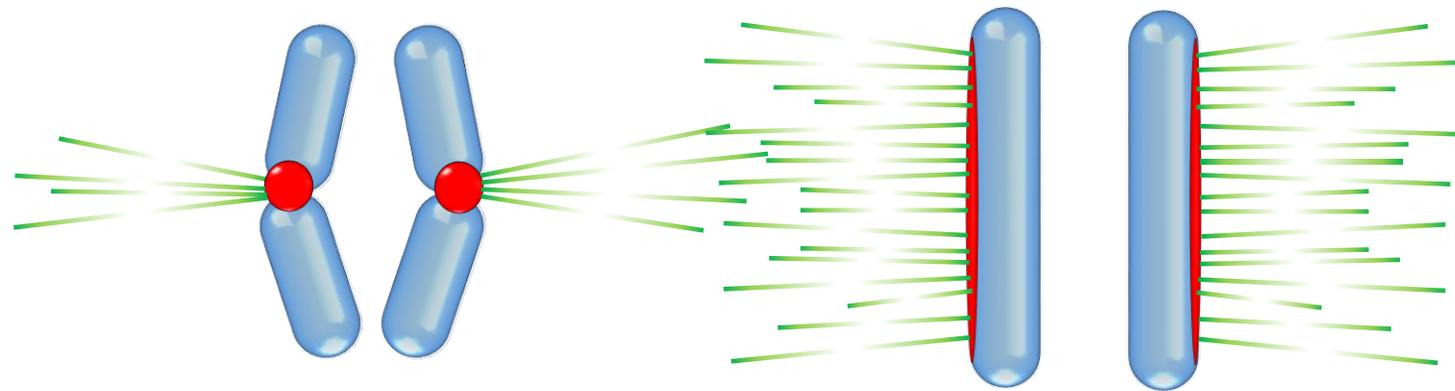
Gatersleben, Germany



8<sup>th</sup> October 2024



# Centromere types

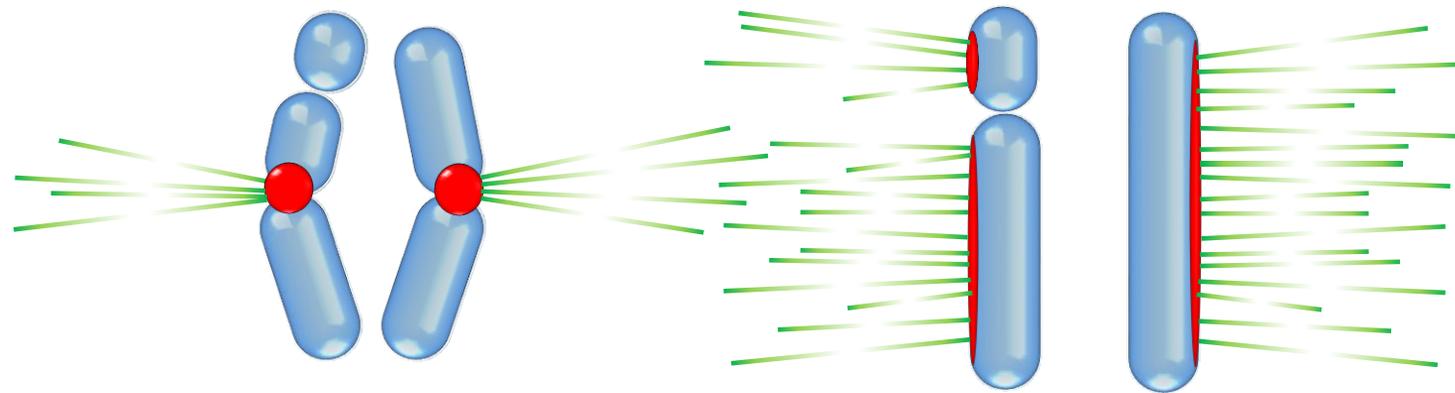


monocentric

holocentric

centromere, chromosome, microtubule

# Centromere types



monocentric

holocentric

centromere, chromosome, microtubule

# Centromere types



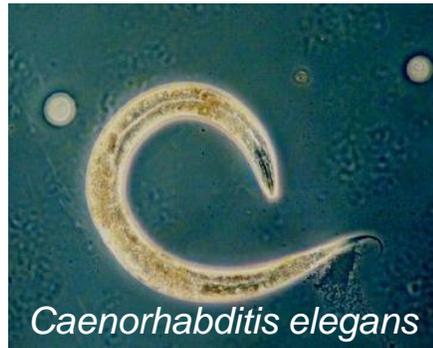
monocentric

holocentric

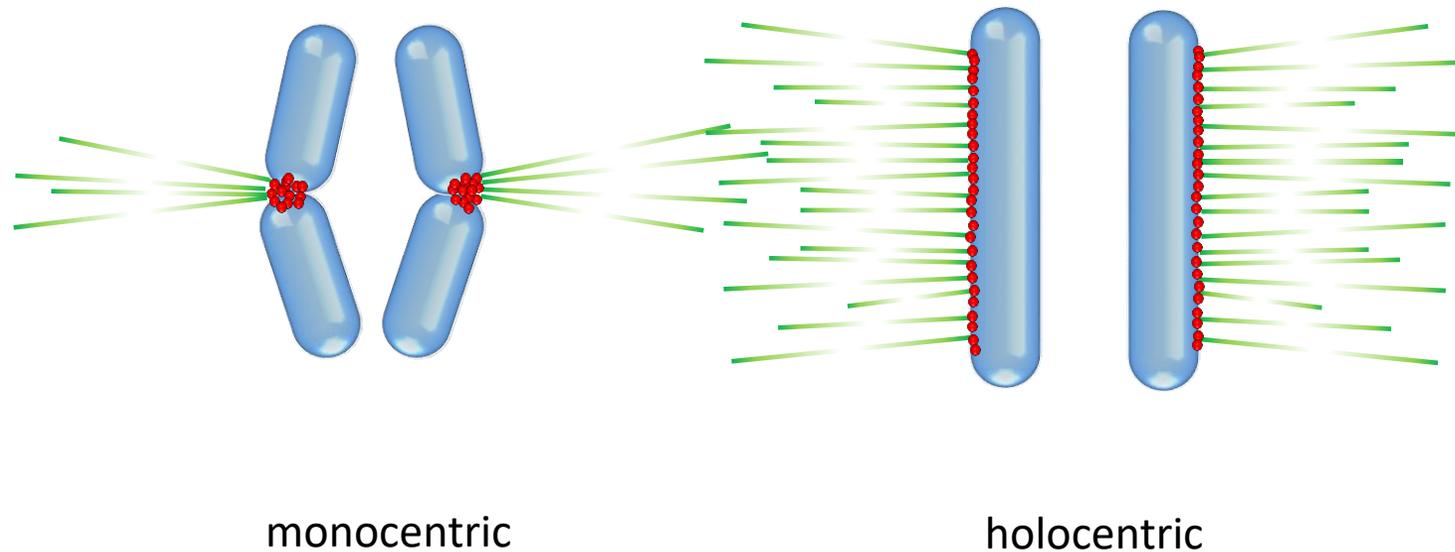
centromere, chromosome, microtubule

# Ocurrence and evolution of holocentricity

- evolved at least 13 times in animals and plants
- protozoan green algae, several invertebrates, monocot plant families, eudicot plant families.

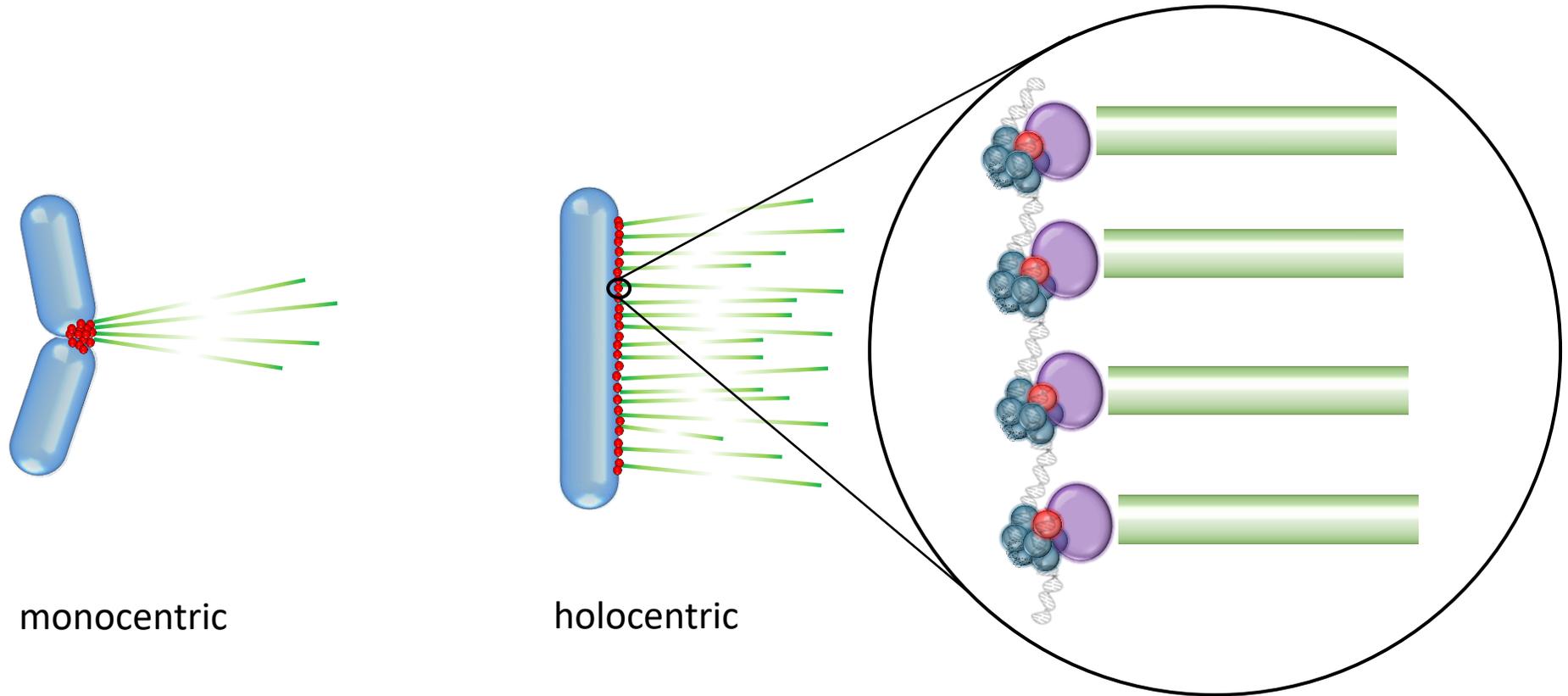


# Centromeres are made of centromeric units



Centromere units, chromosome, microtubule

# Centromeres are made of centromeric units

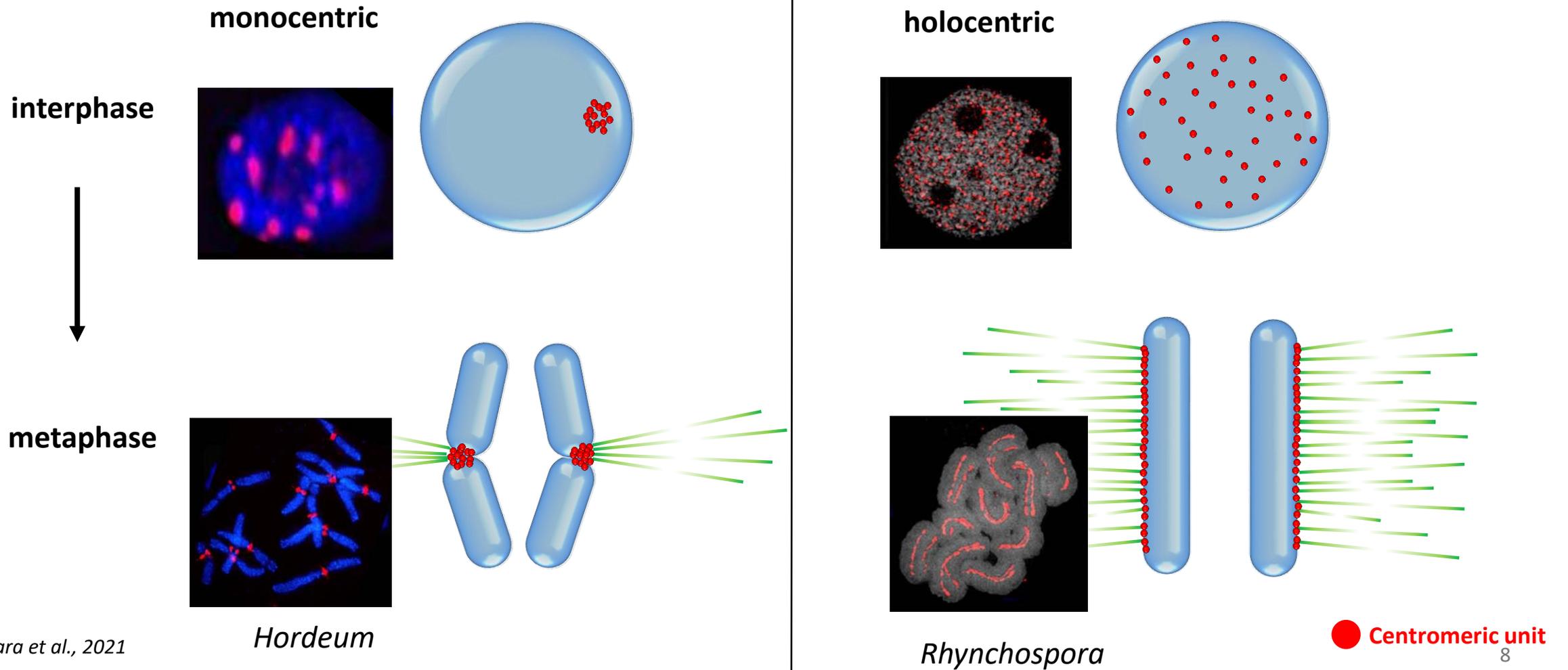


monocentric

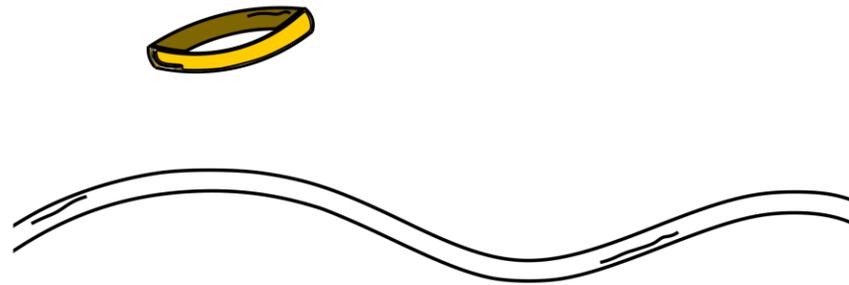
holocentric

Centromere units, chromosome, kinetochore, microtubule

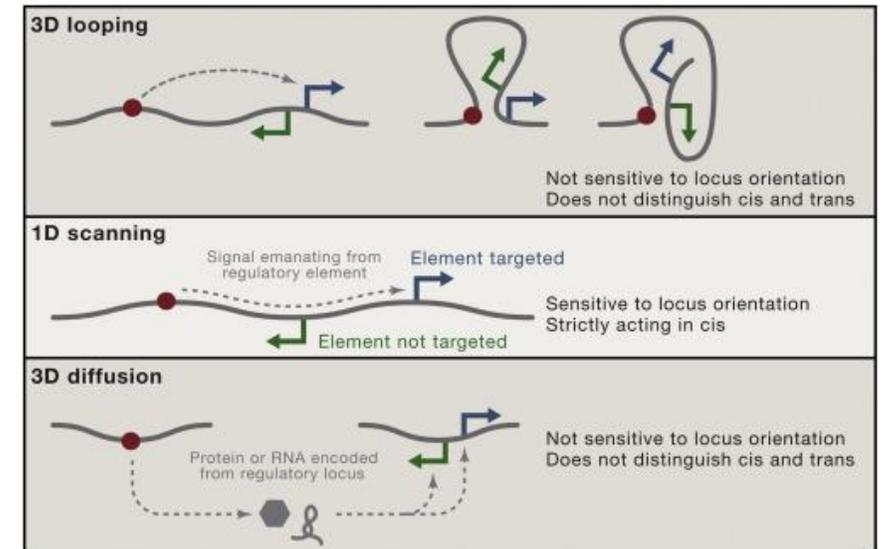
# Cell cycle dynamics of centromeres



# Compaction by loop extrusion



<https://youtu.be/mi9WWSy-Nwo>



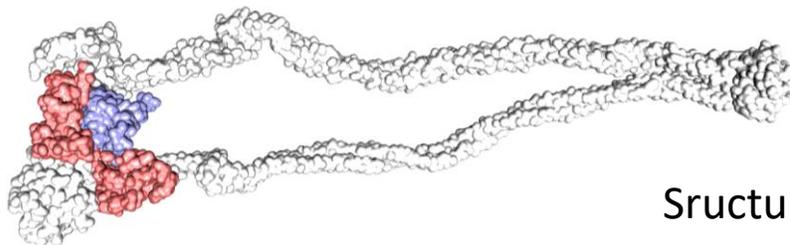
*Dekker and Mirny, 2016*

Subunits

SMC

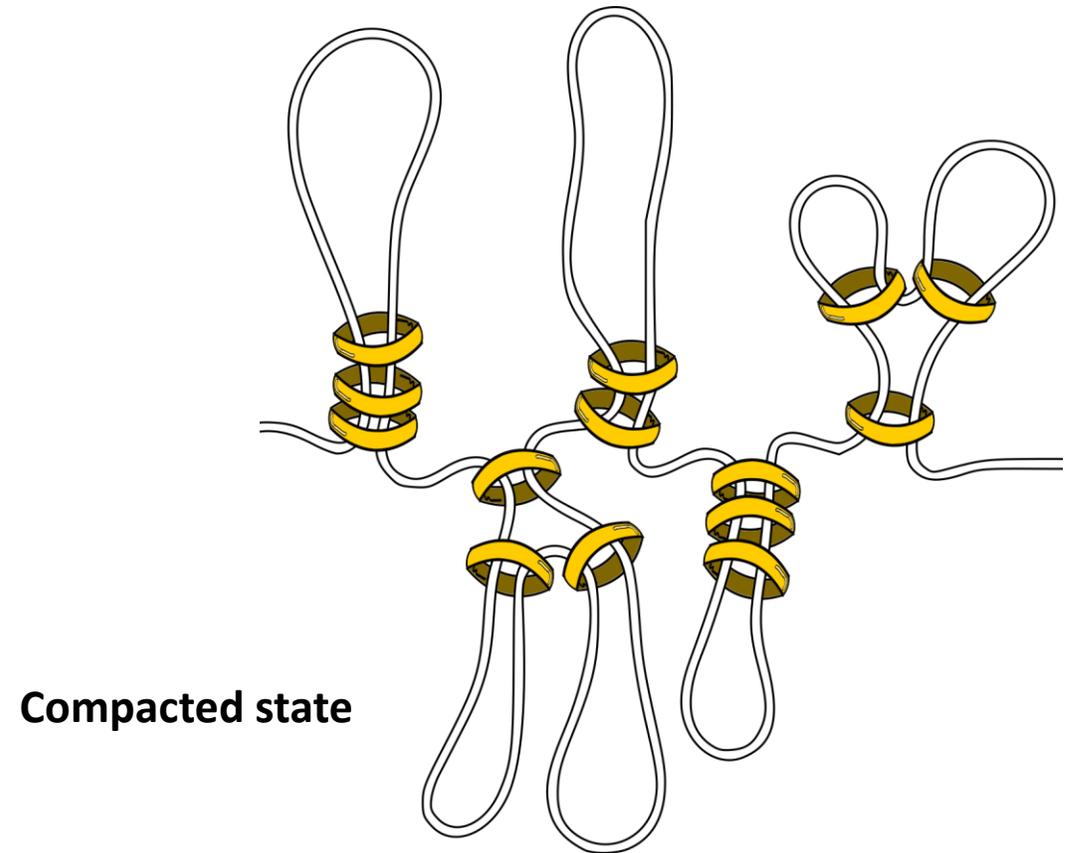
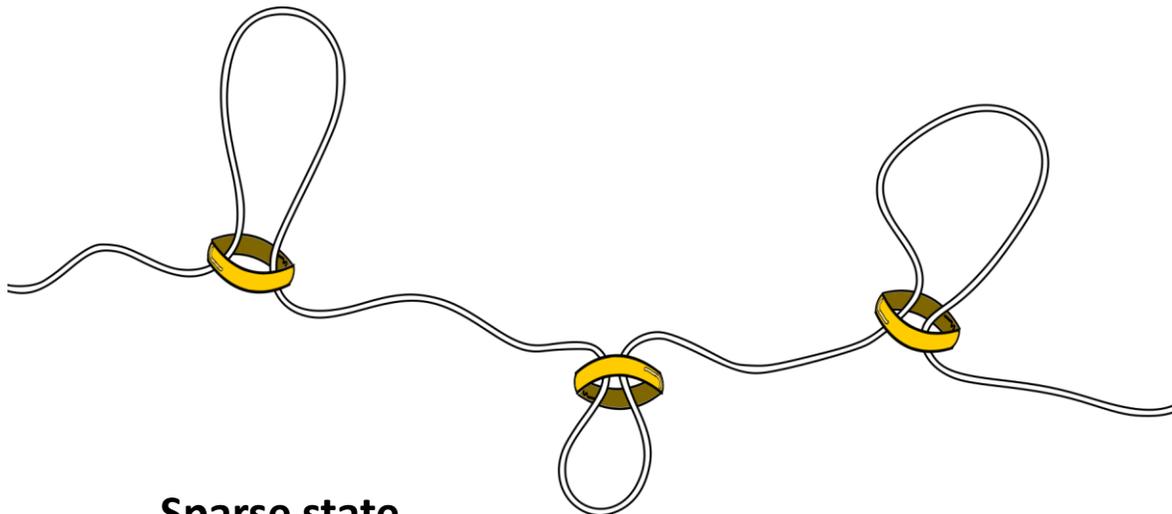
HEAT

Kleisin



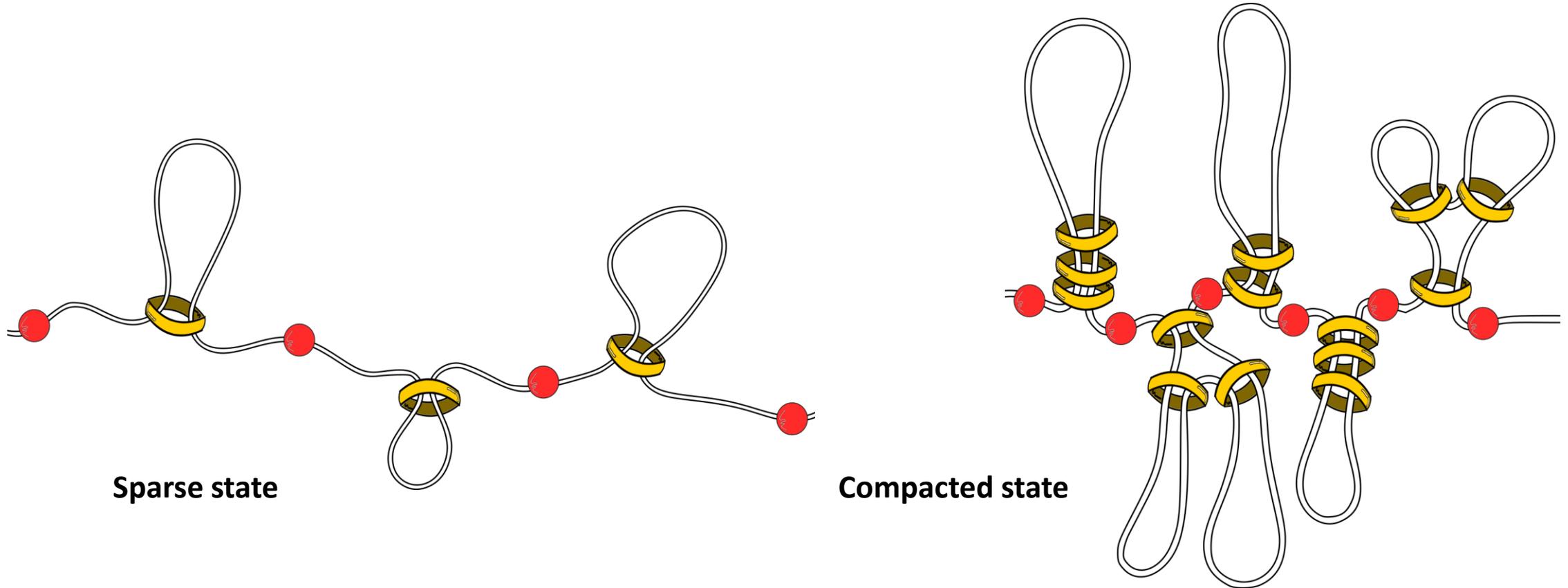
Structural Maintenance of Chromosome (SMC) protein complex

# Compaction by loop extrusion

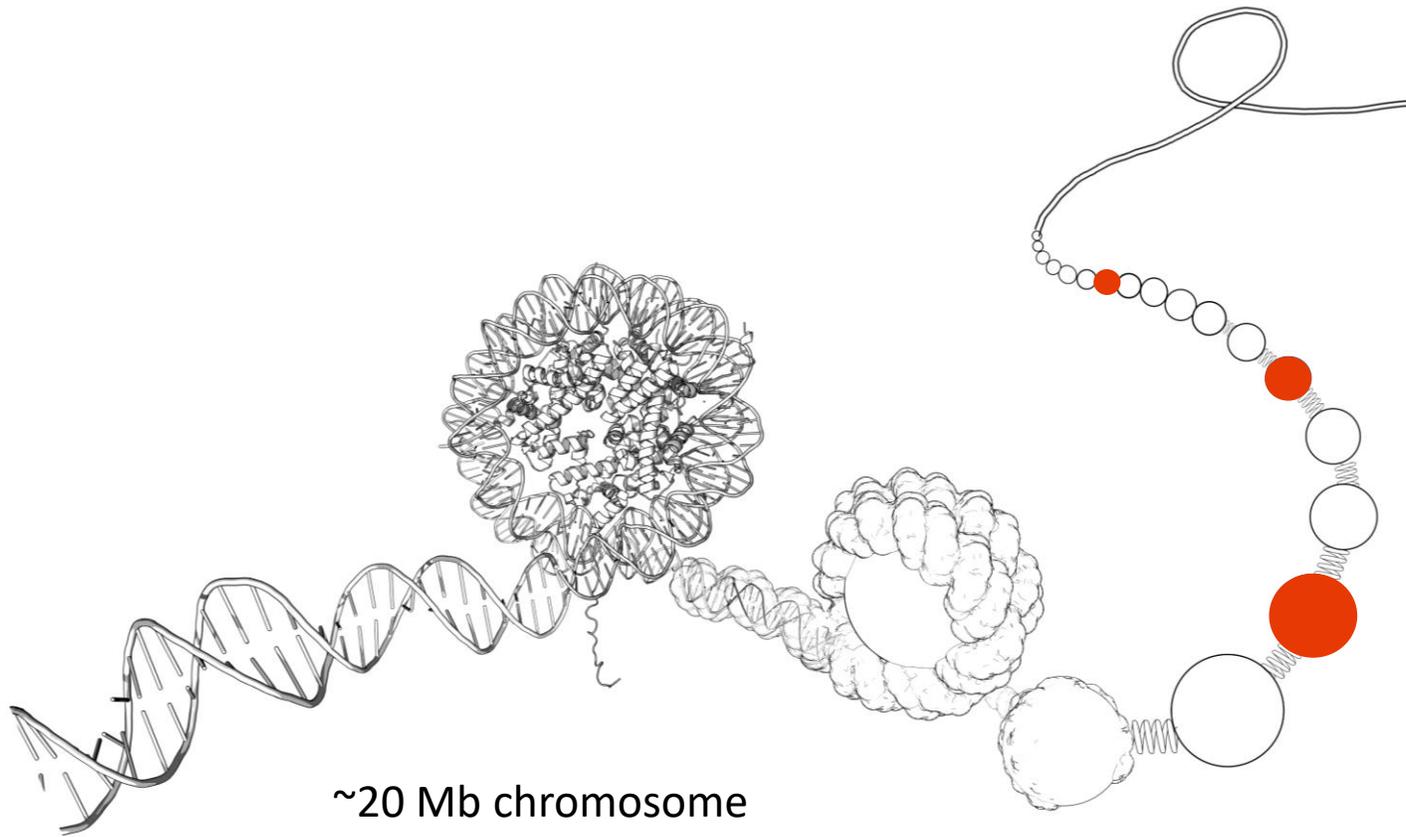


# Centromeric units as anchors

Centromeric units may act as ANCHORS to the extrusion process of SMC proteins.



# Coarse grain of chromatin fiber



~20 Mb chromosome  
100,000 nucleosomes  
1,000 centromeric nucleosomes

1.



2.



3.



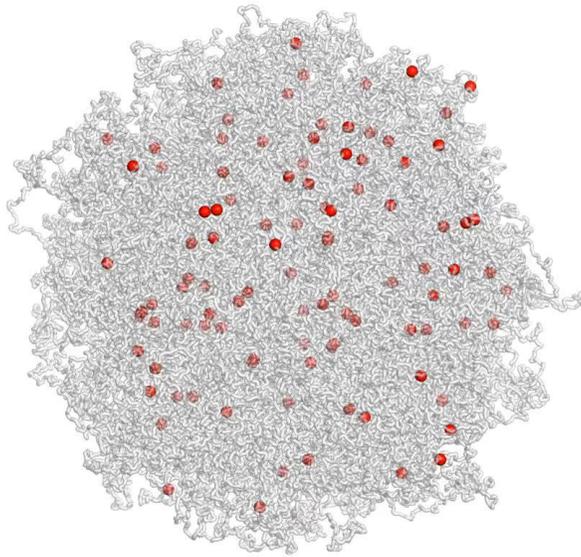
With truncation

4.

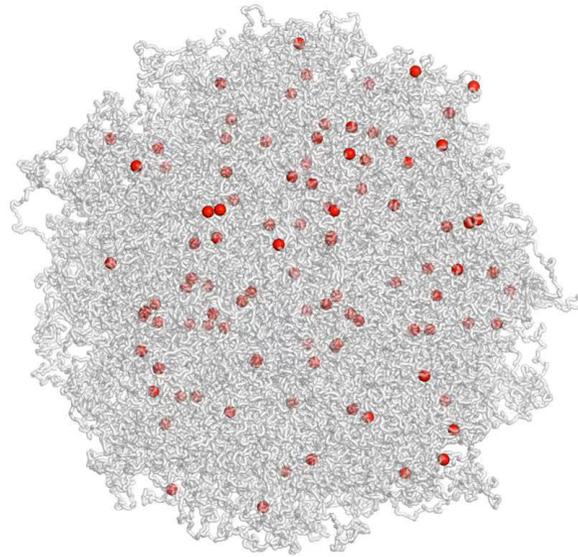
**Damping force as  
solvation**

# Colocalization of condensin and general linear organization

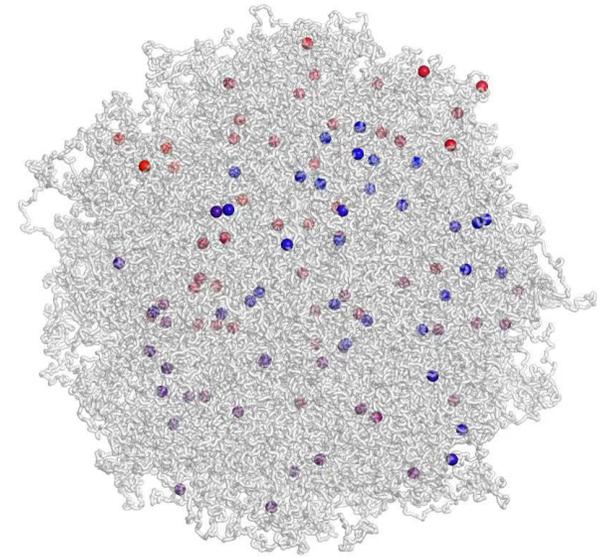
Starting conformation



● Centromeric nucleosomes

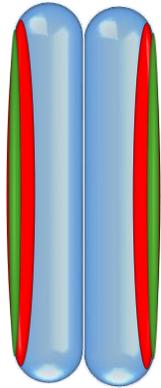


● Centromeric nucleosomes

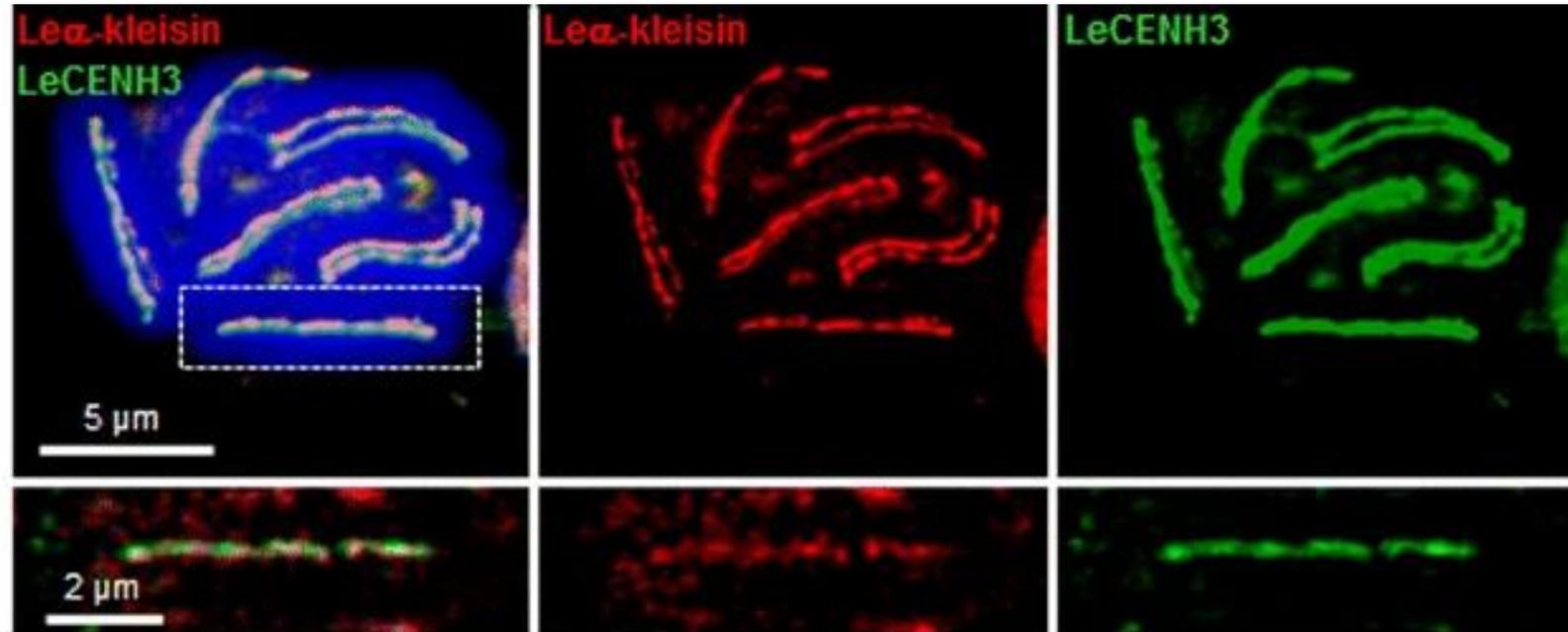


Centromeric nucleosomes

# Colocalization of centromeres and condensins



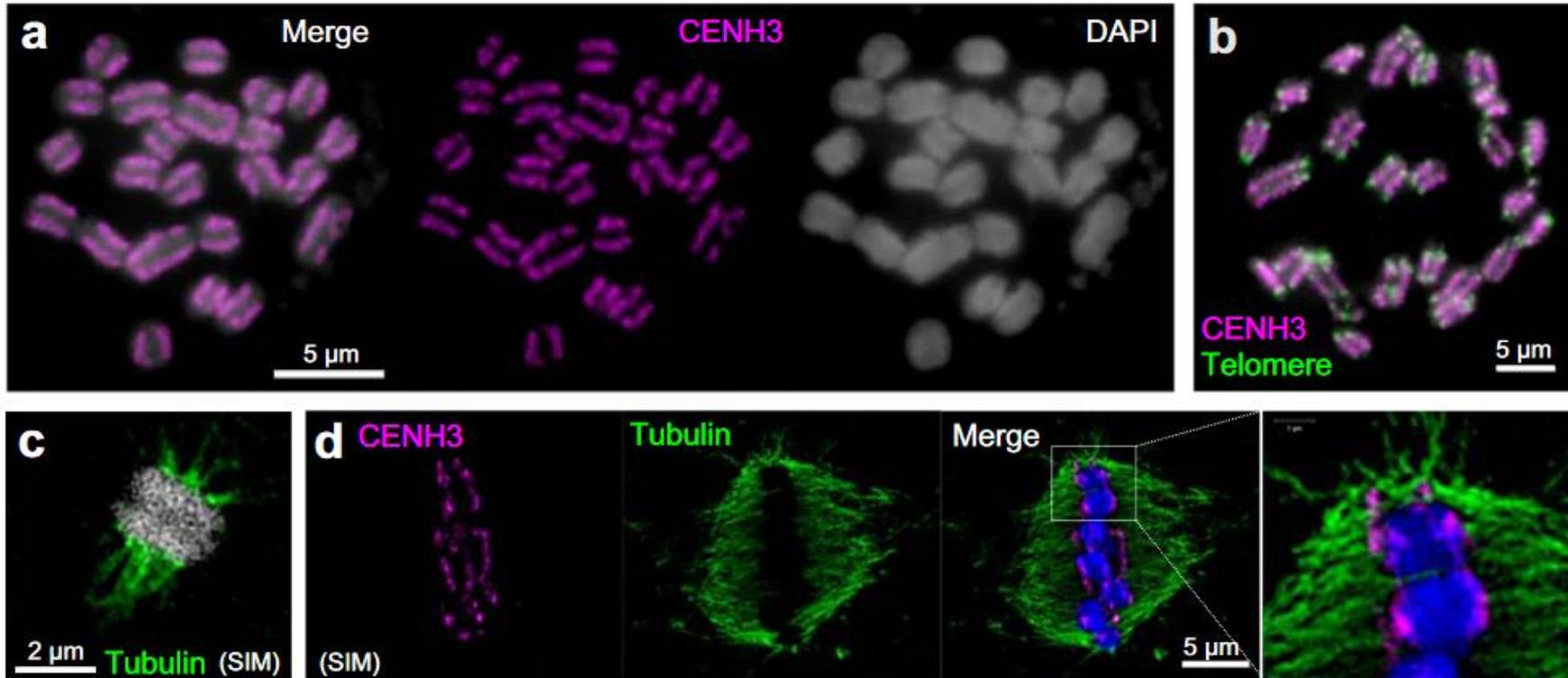
CenH3  
Kleisin



Metaphase chromosomes of the holocentric species *Luzula elegans*

Ma, W. et al., 2016.

# *Chionographis japonica*

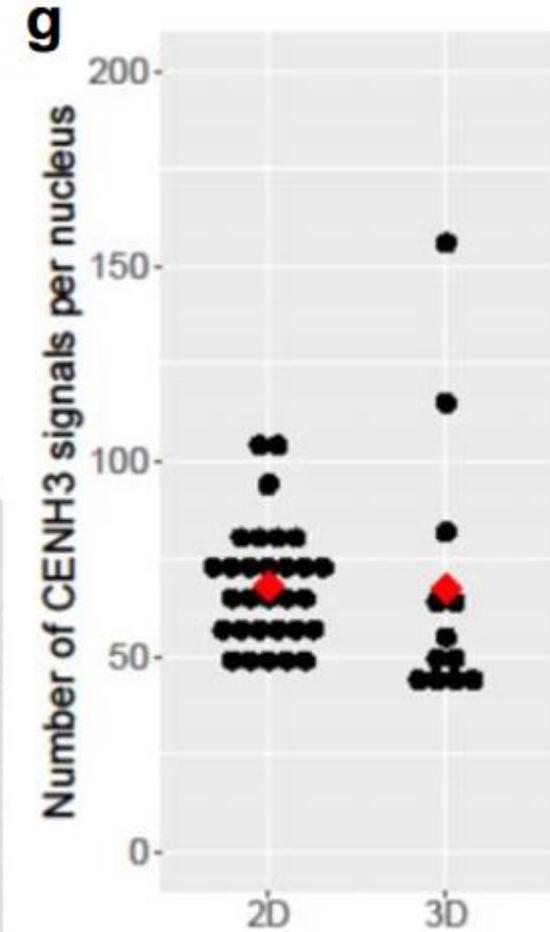
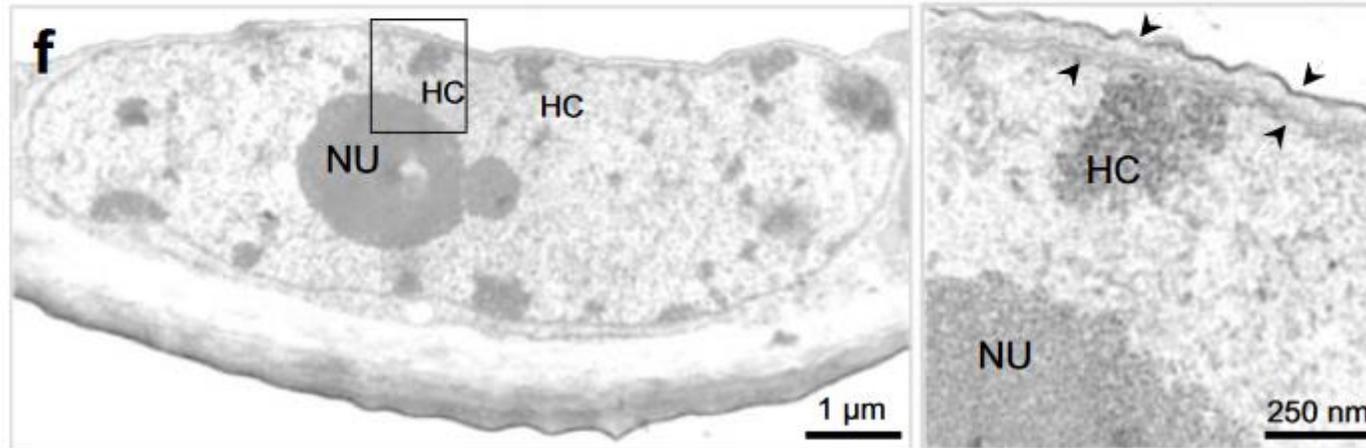
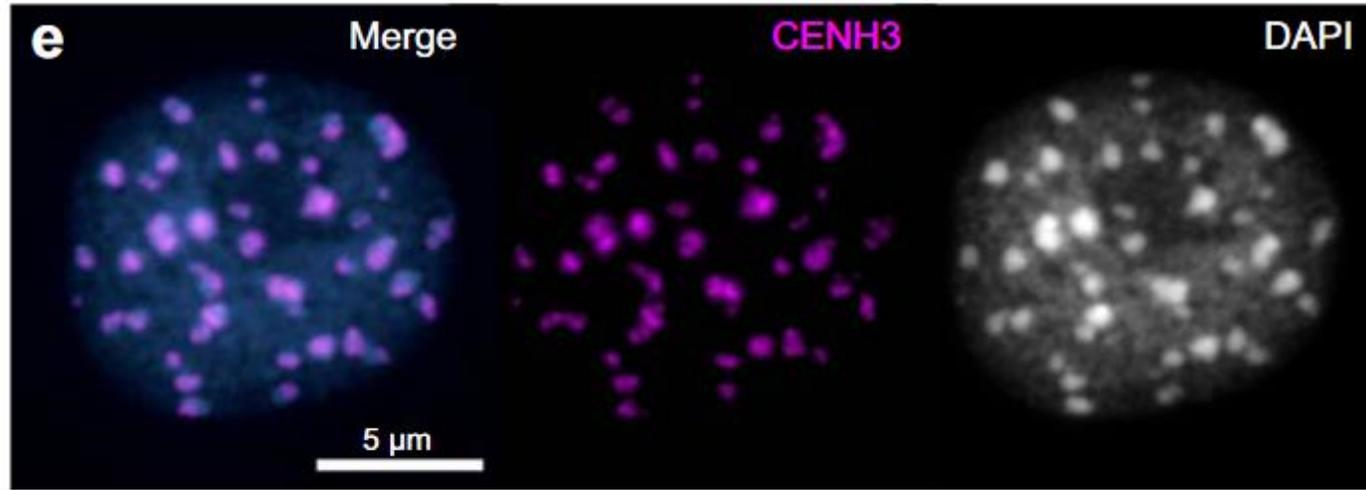


North American Rock Garden Society

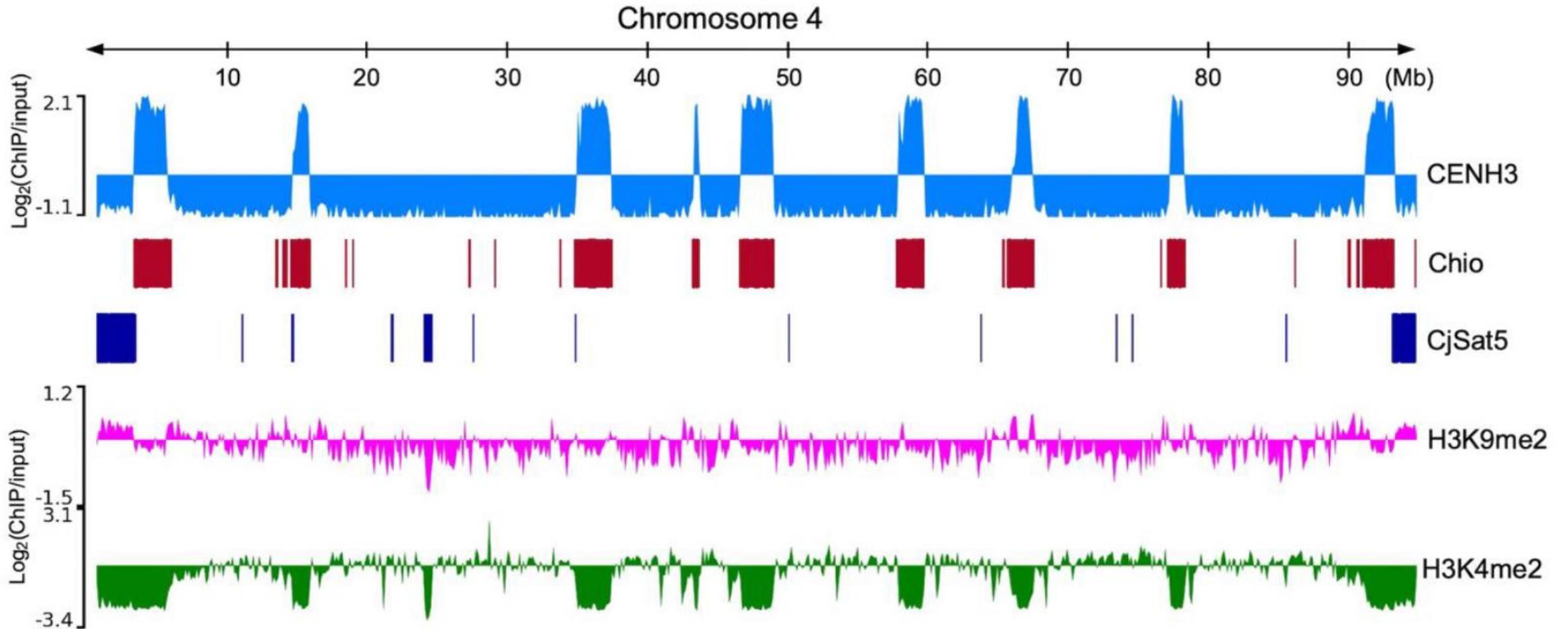
Collaboration with Yi-Tzi Kuo and Andreas Houben, IPK

*Kuo et al., 2023.*

# Holocentricity in clusters



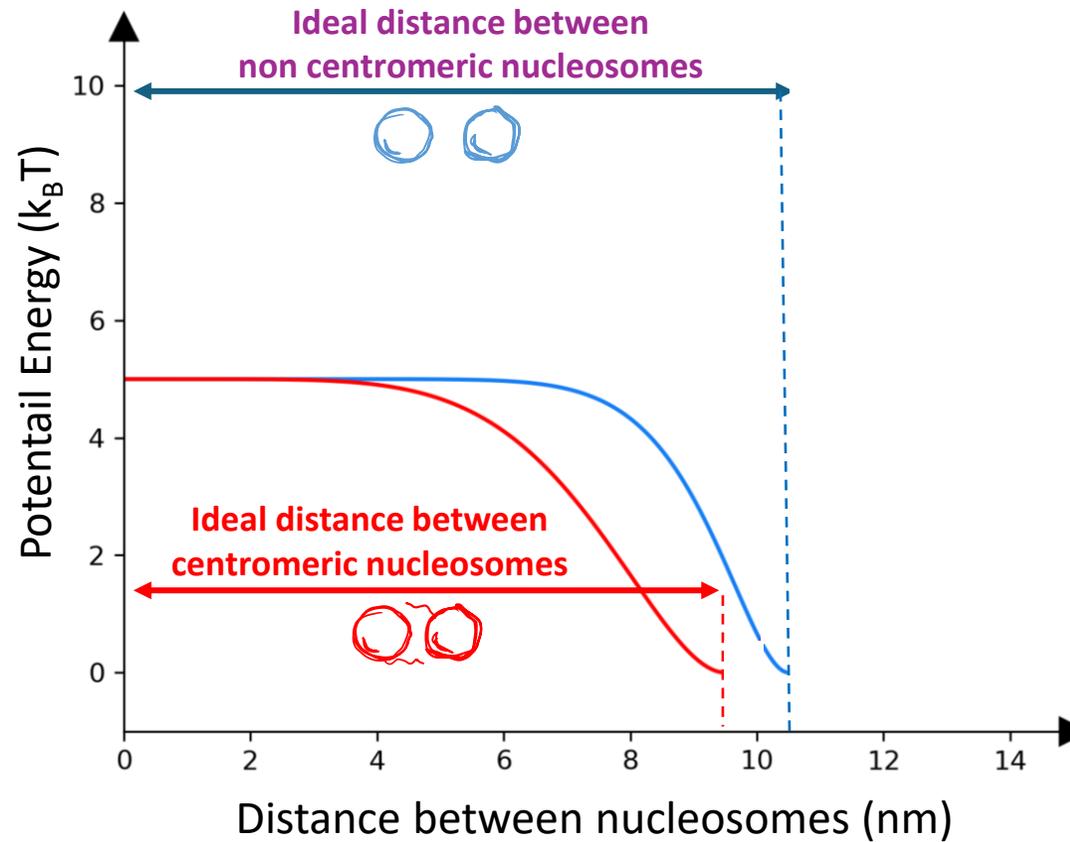
# Centromeric units within heterochromatin and satellite repeats



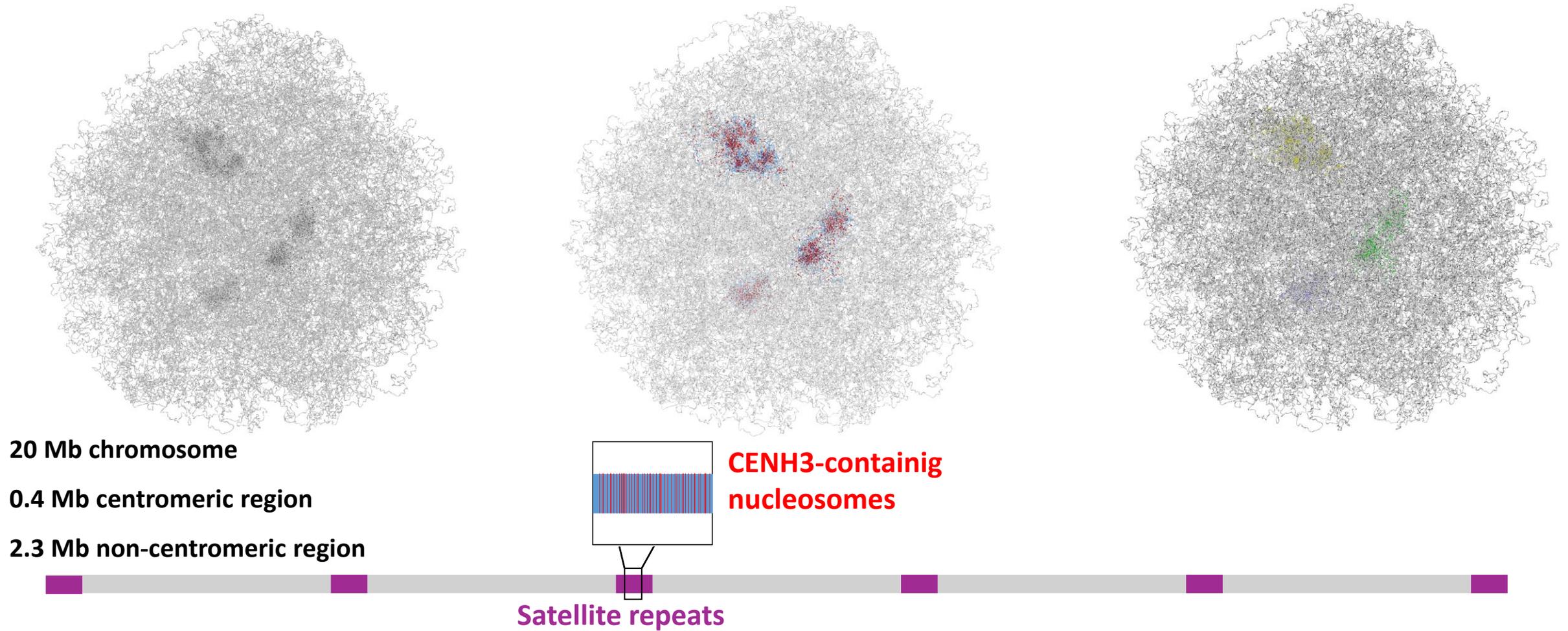
# Sticky factor



Attraction and repulsion  
of non bonded nucleosomes

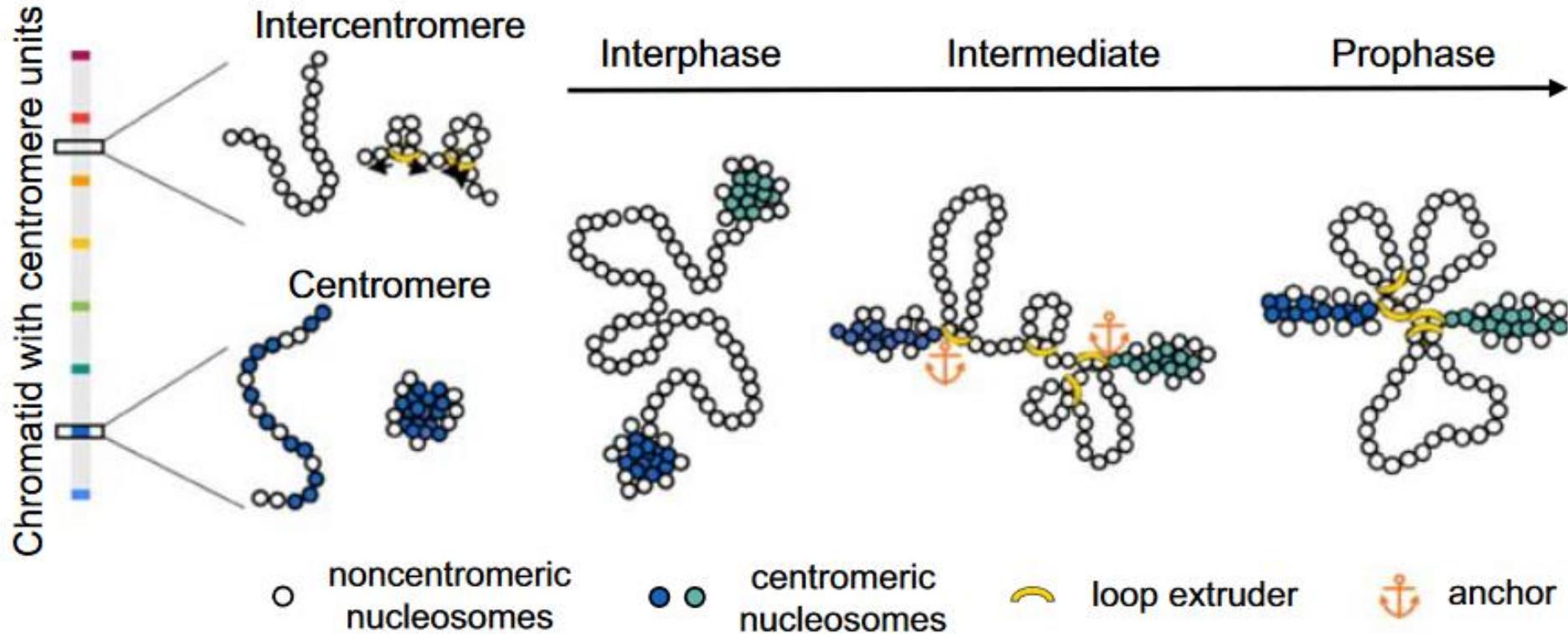


# Model of chromocenters

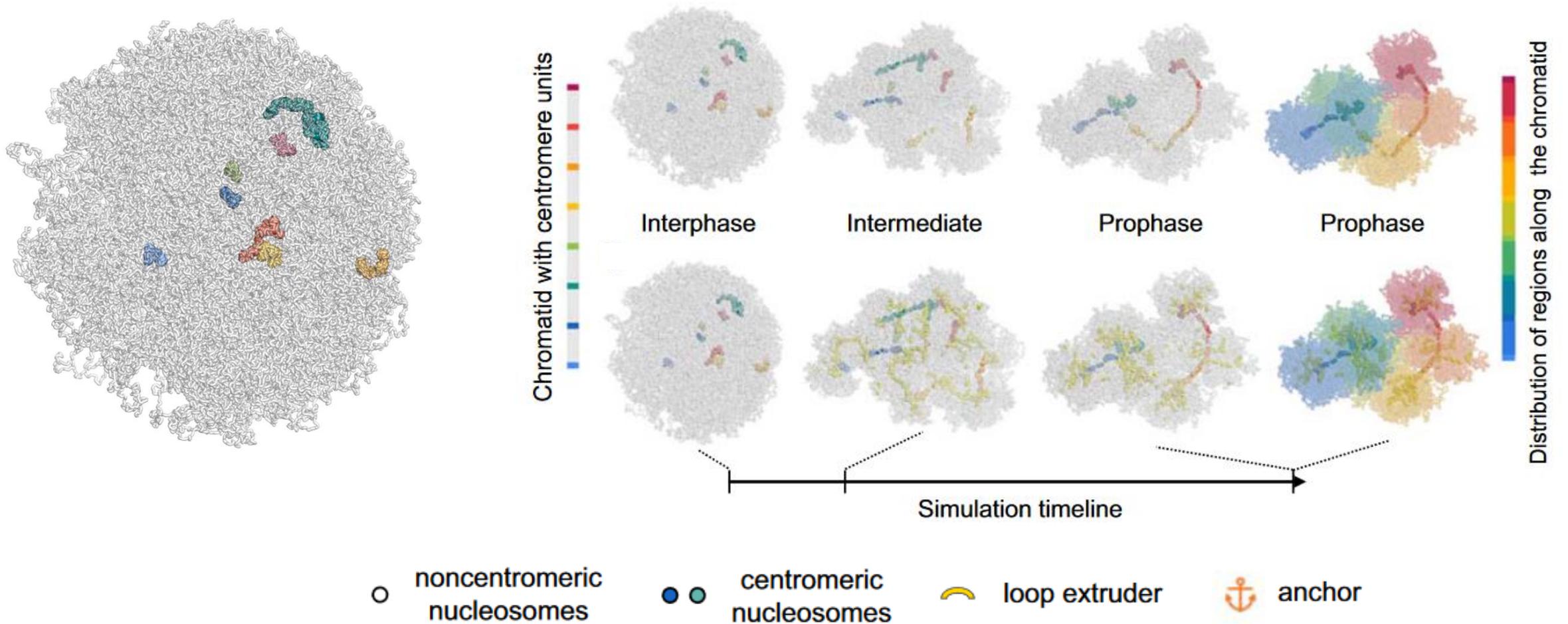


*A Chionographis chromosome*

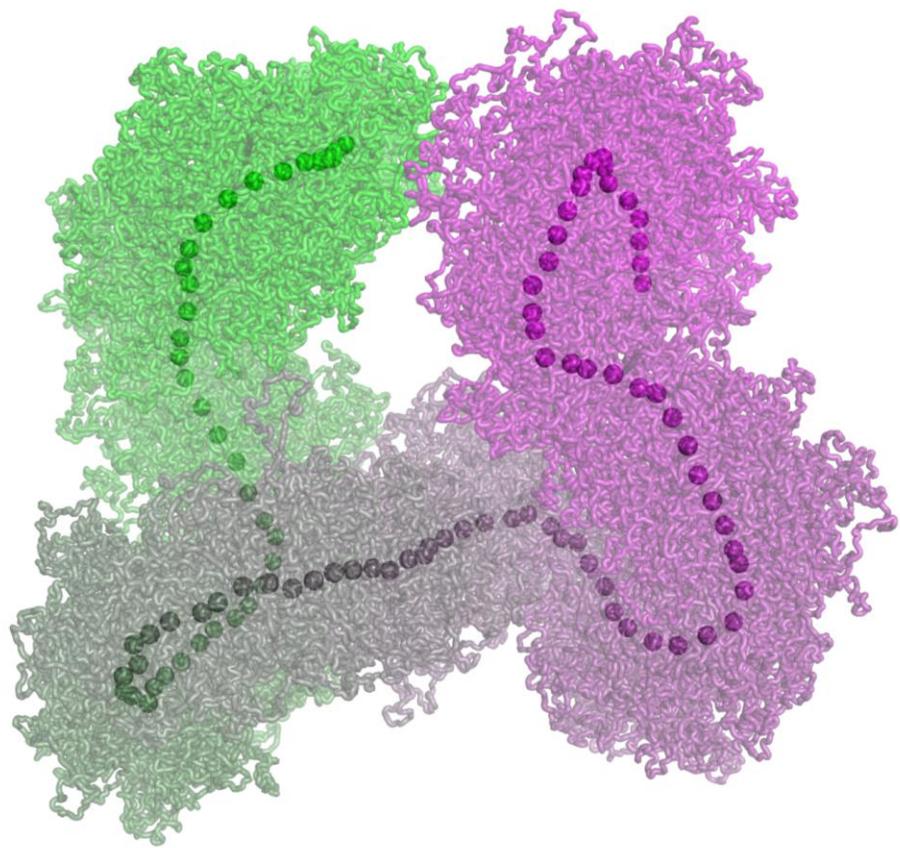
# Model of compaction with chromocenters



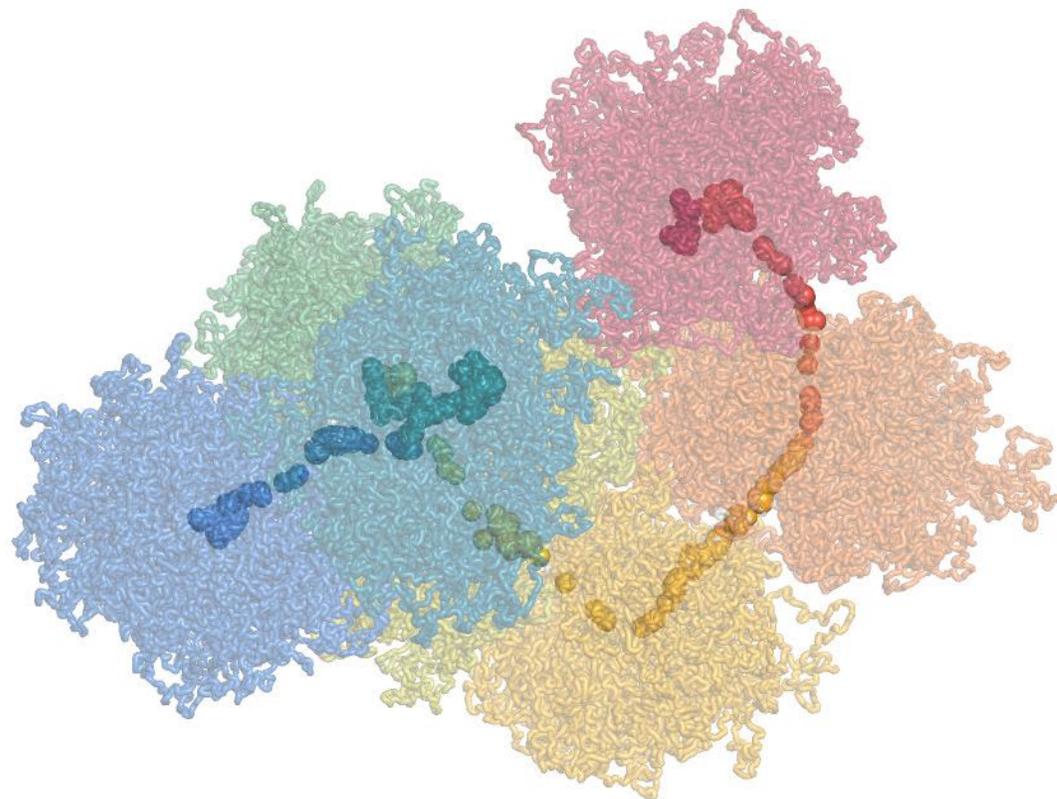
# Model of compaction with chromocenters



# Chionographis chromosomes forms blobs



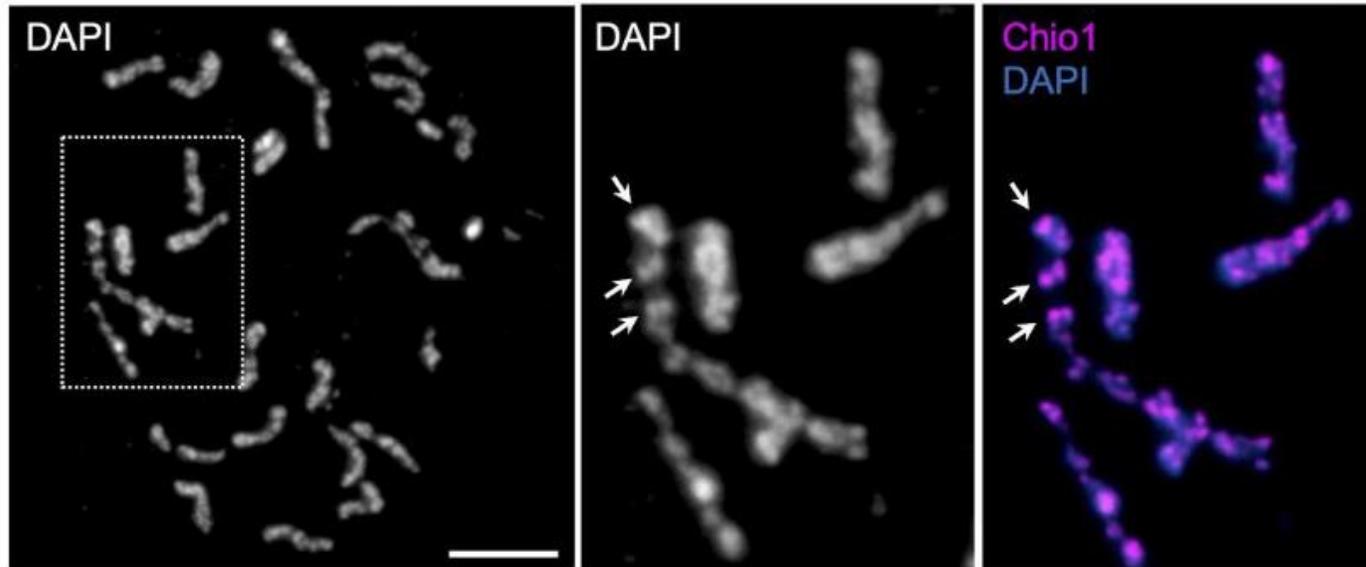
Genomic position



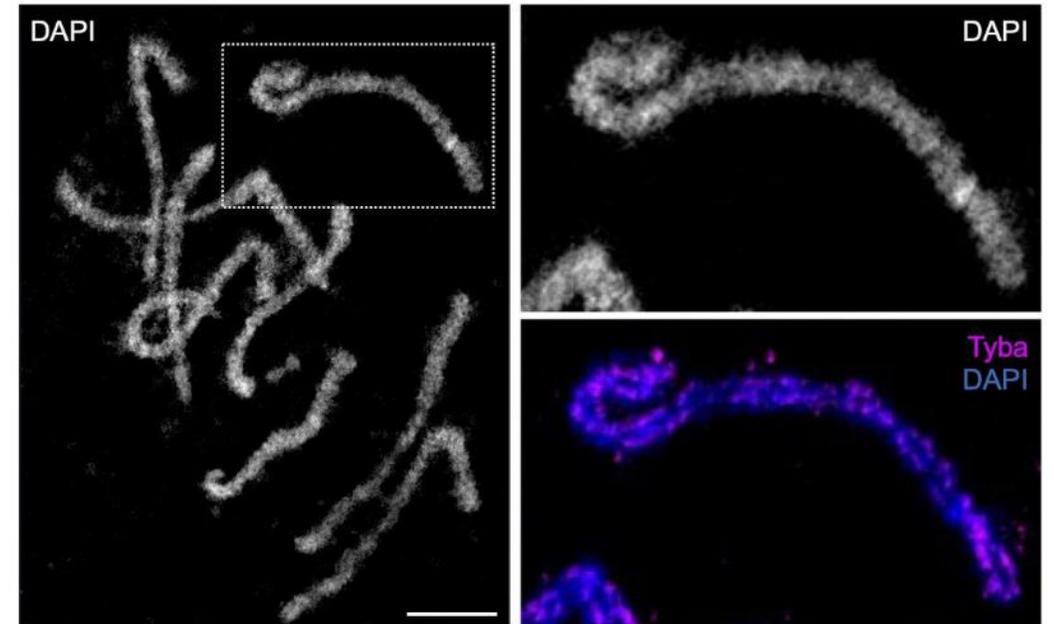
Genomic position

# Prophase chromosomes are not uniform

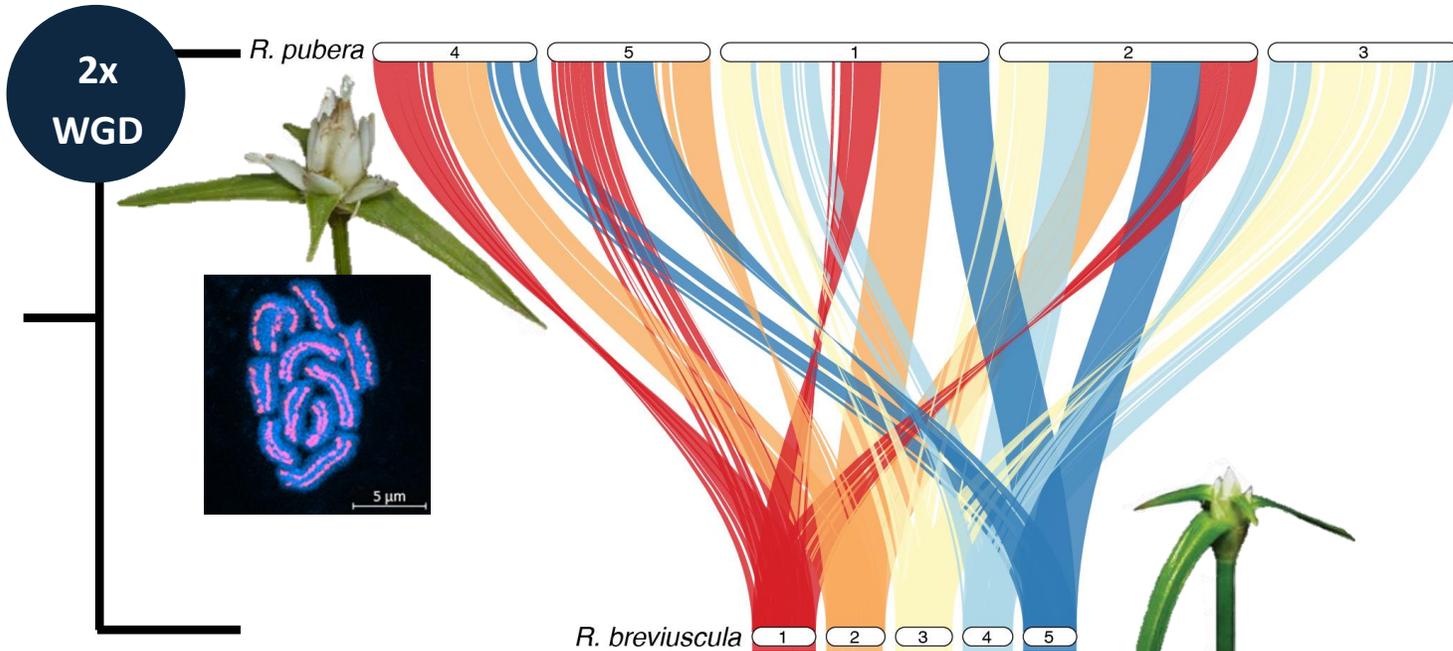
*Chionographis japonica*



*Rhynchospora pubera*



# Centromere plasticity in the *Rhynchospora* genus

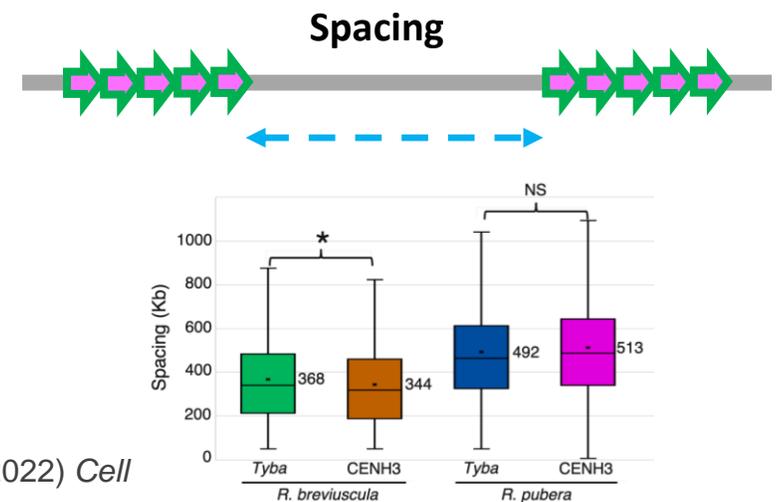
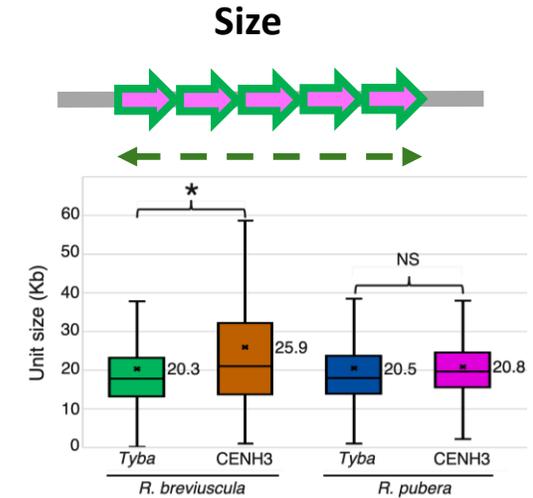


● CENH3  
● *Tyba*

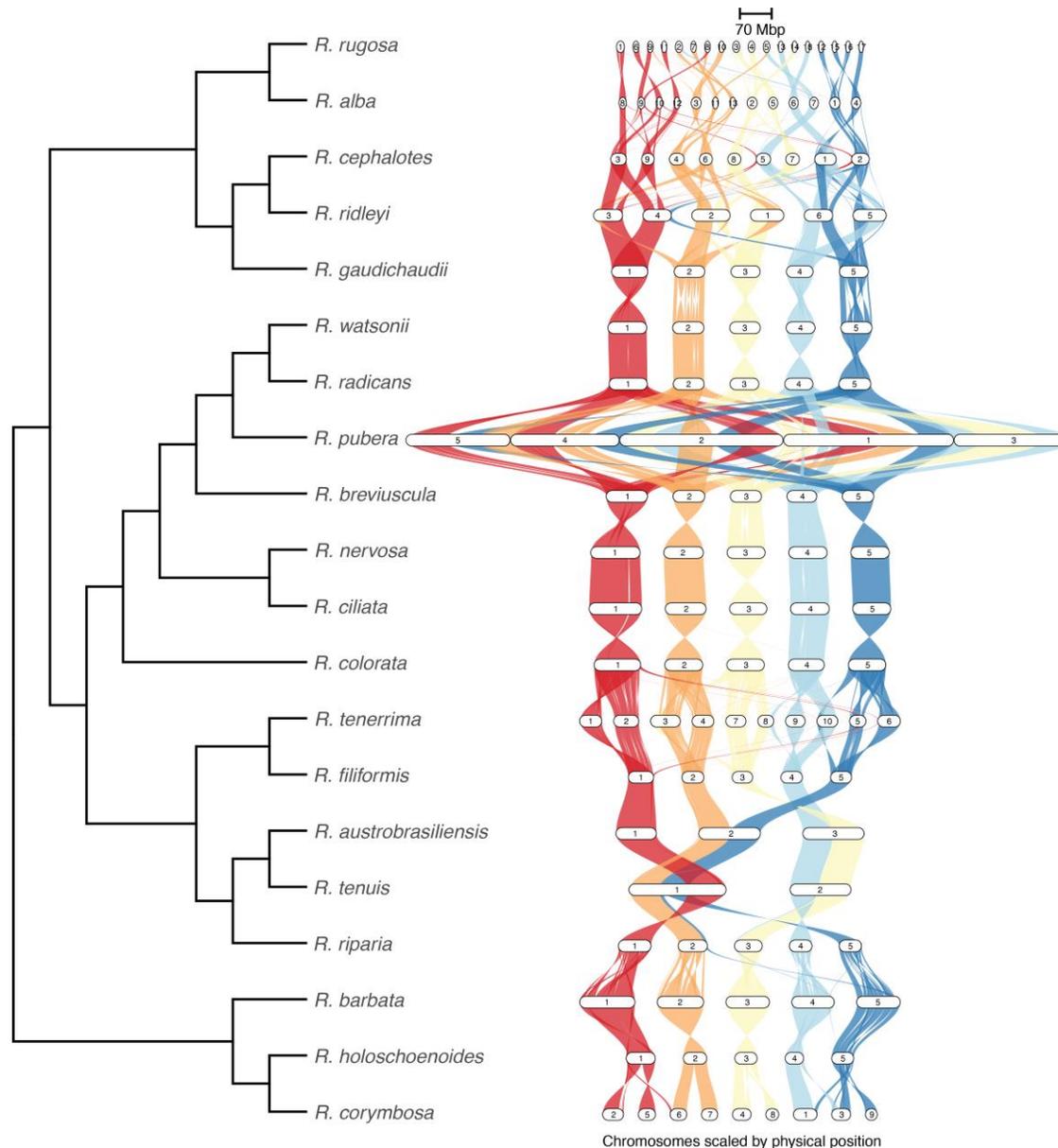
Collaboration with André Marques,  
Max Planck Institute, Cologne



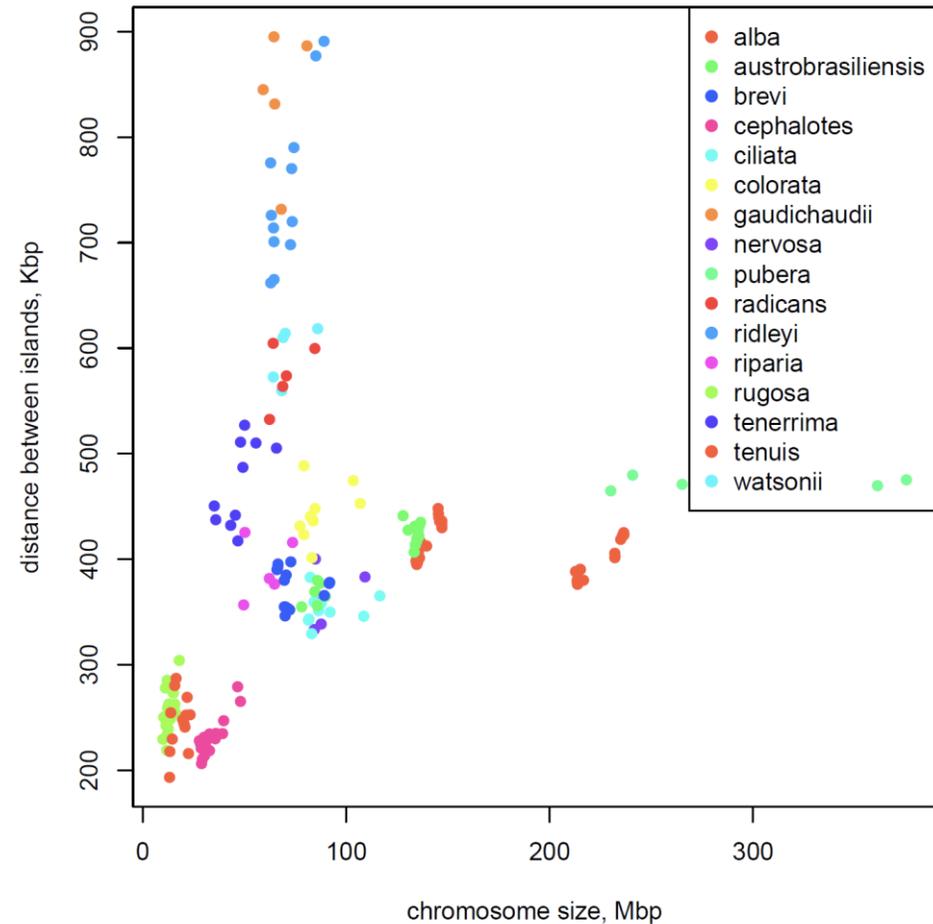
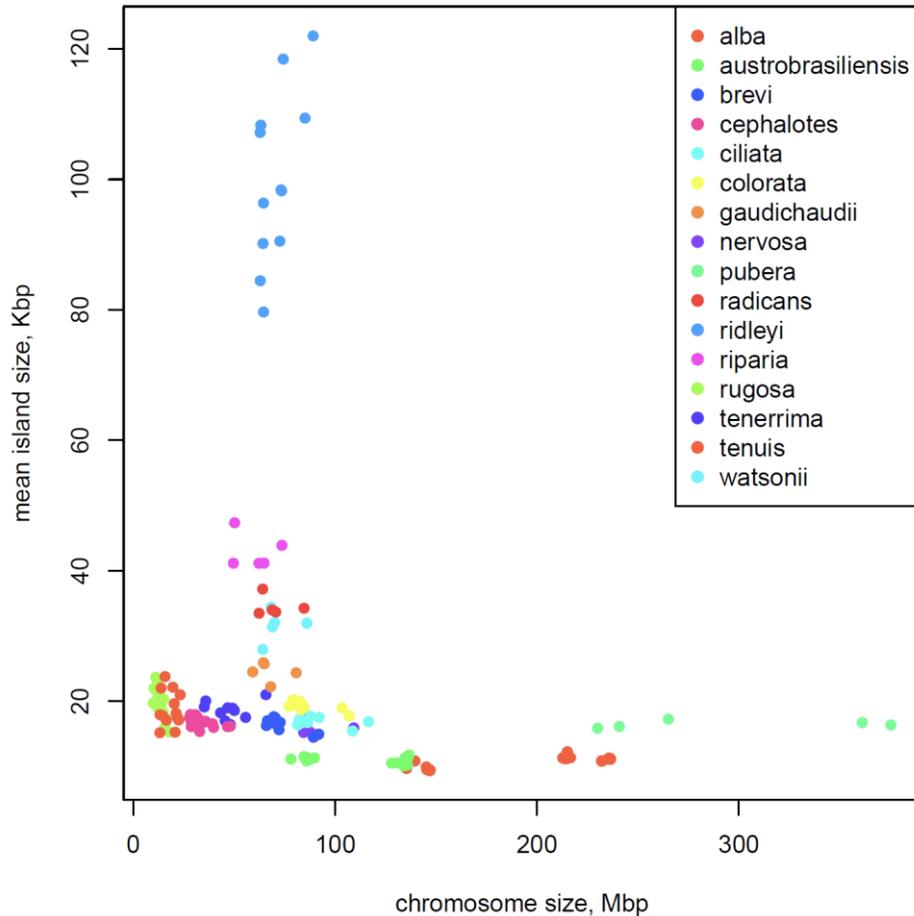
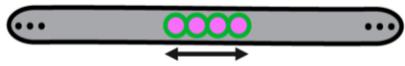
Hofstatter, Thangavel et al. (2022) *Cell*



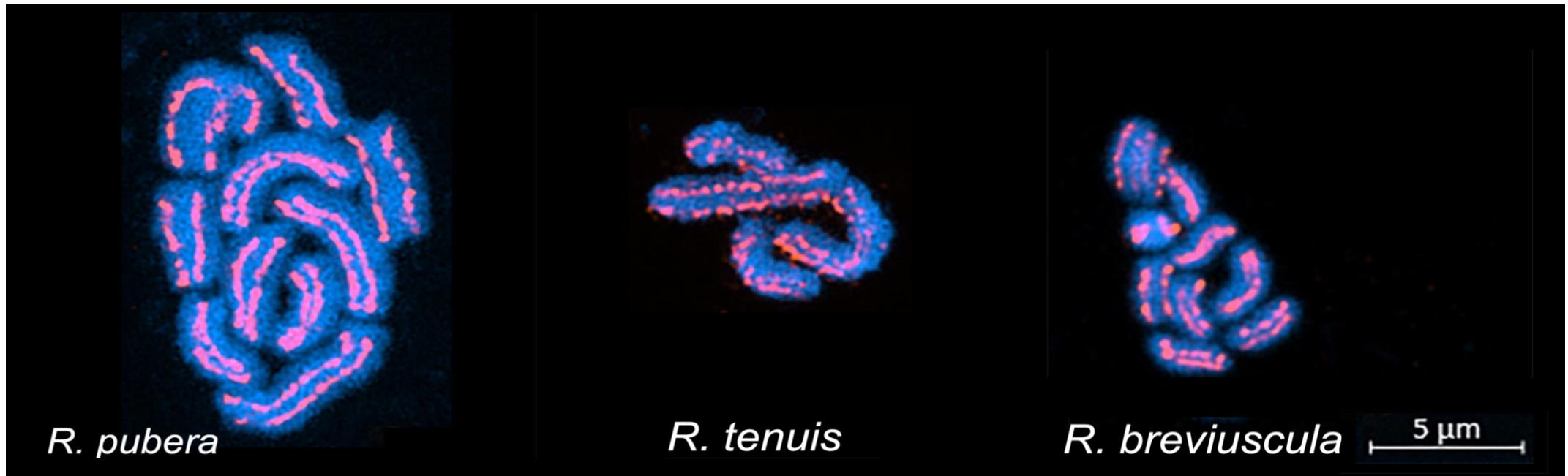
# Chromosome plasticity in *Rhynchospora*



# Centromere length is constant but spacings grow with chromosome length



# Varied length and width of mitotic chromosomes

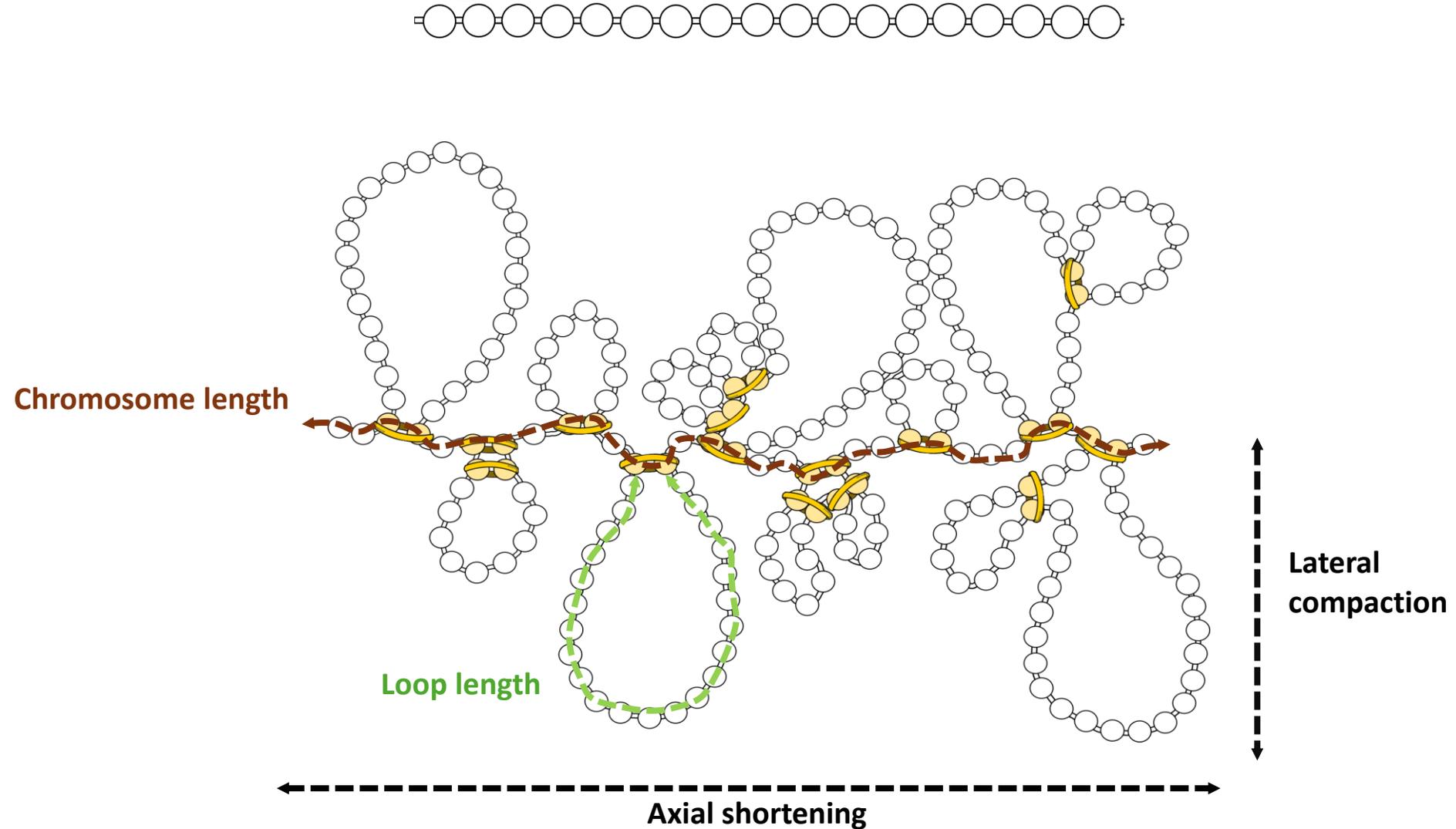


Mean chromosome length:      300 Mb

150 Mb

75 Mb

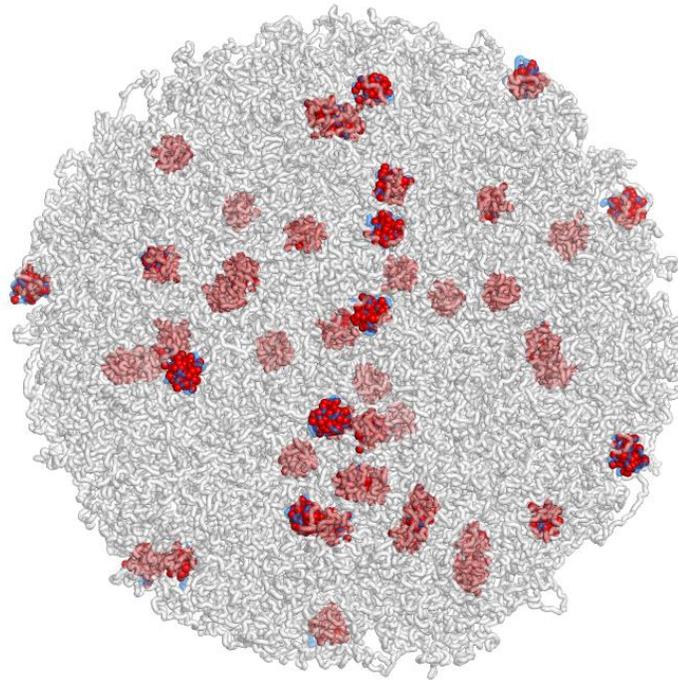
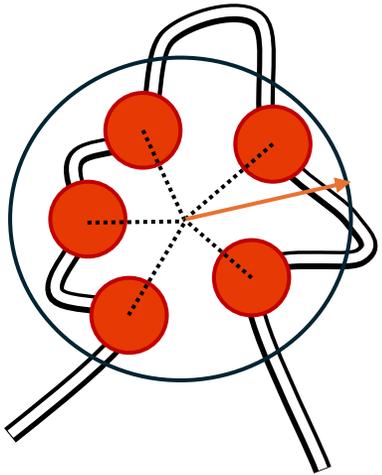
# Measuring compaction in the models



# Simulated loop extrusion

	<b>Rugosa</b>	<b>Breviuscula</b>	<b>Pubera</b>
Chromosome length	14 Mb	75 Mb	300 Mb
Space between centromeric units	300 kb	450 kb	600 kb
Repeat length	20 kb	20 kb	20 kb
Percentage of centromeric nucleosomes	60 %	60 %	60 %
Simulated region	15 Mb	15 Mb	15 Mb
Number of centromeric units in the model	47	32	25
Number of simulated loop extruders (lifetime)	500 (500)	500 (500)	500 (500)
Mean loop length after equilibration	72.6 kb	75.8 kb	77.6 kb

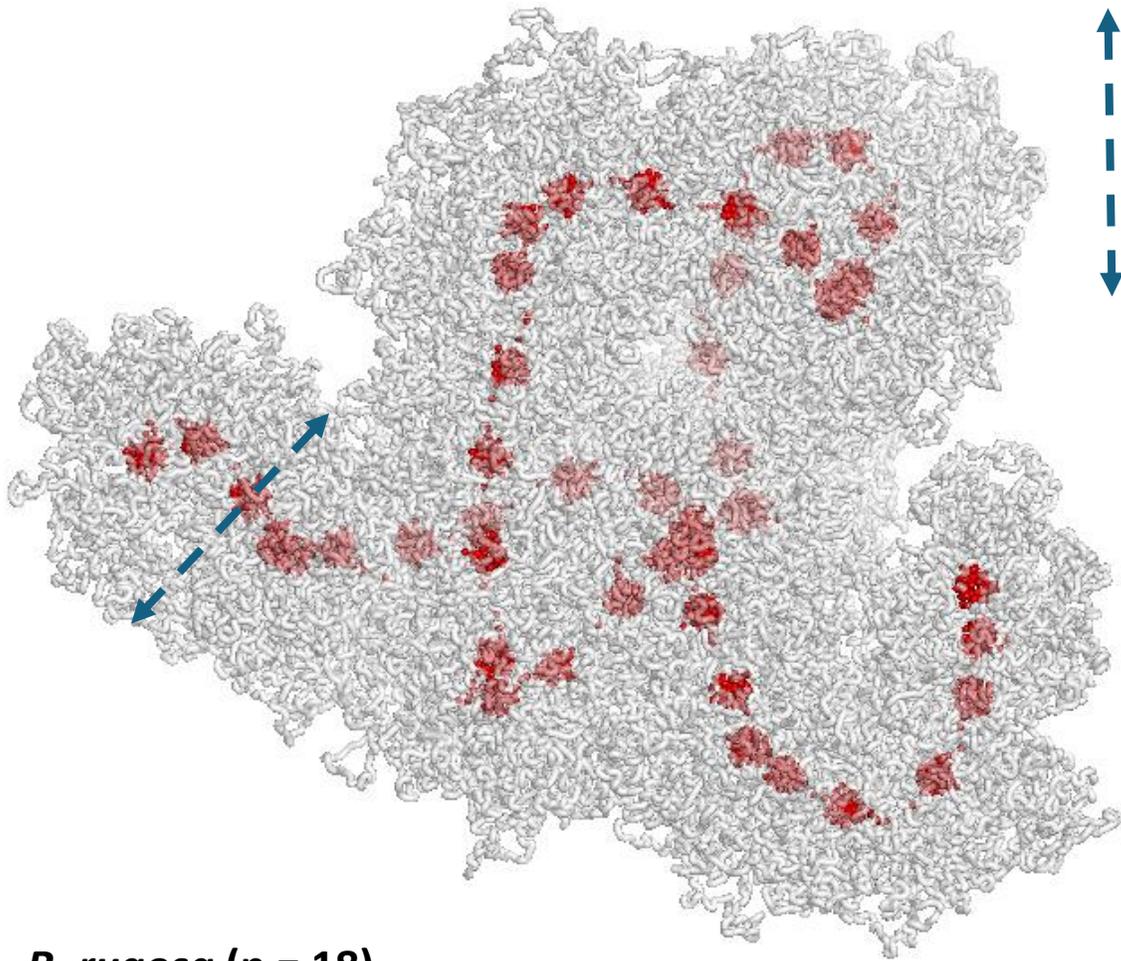
# Update the centromeric unit model



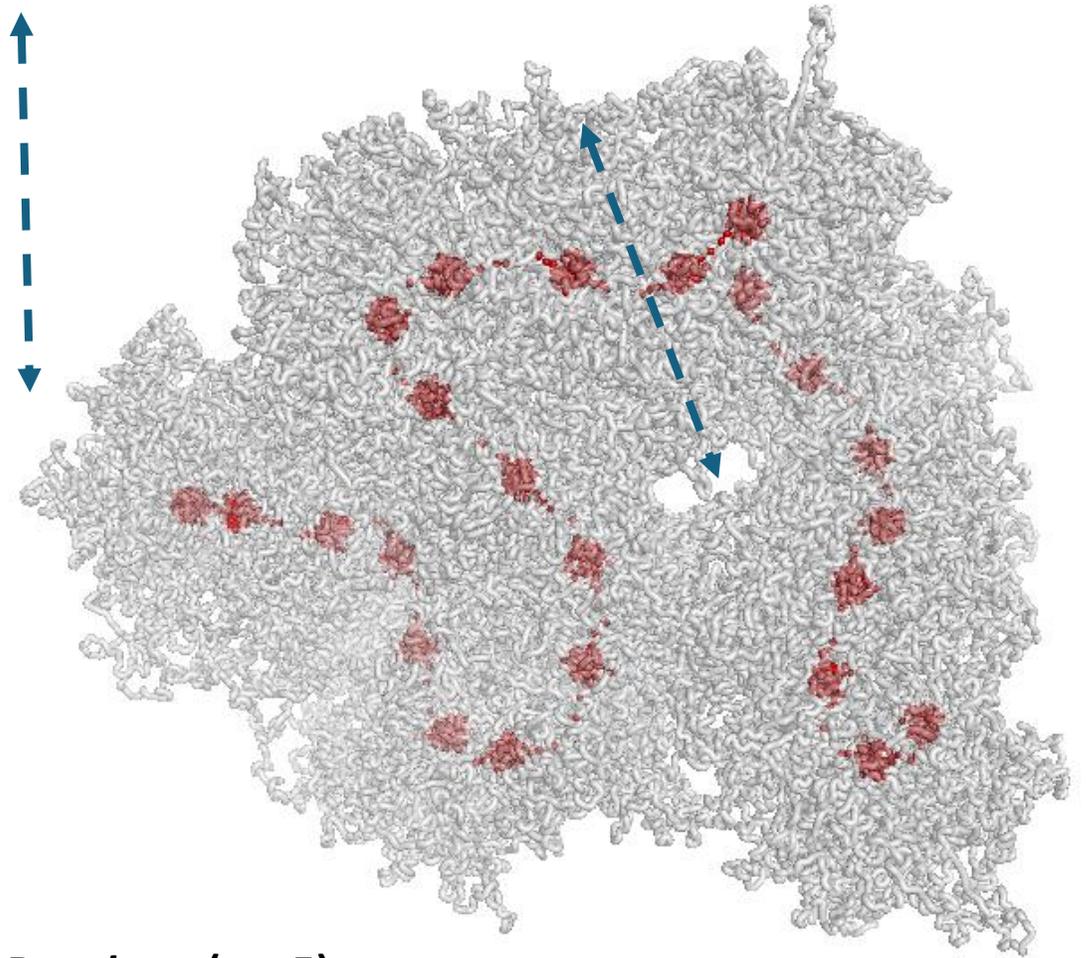
- centromeric units
- SMC complexes

step 00000

# Width measurement

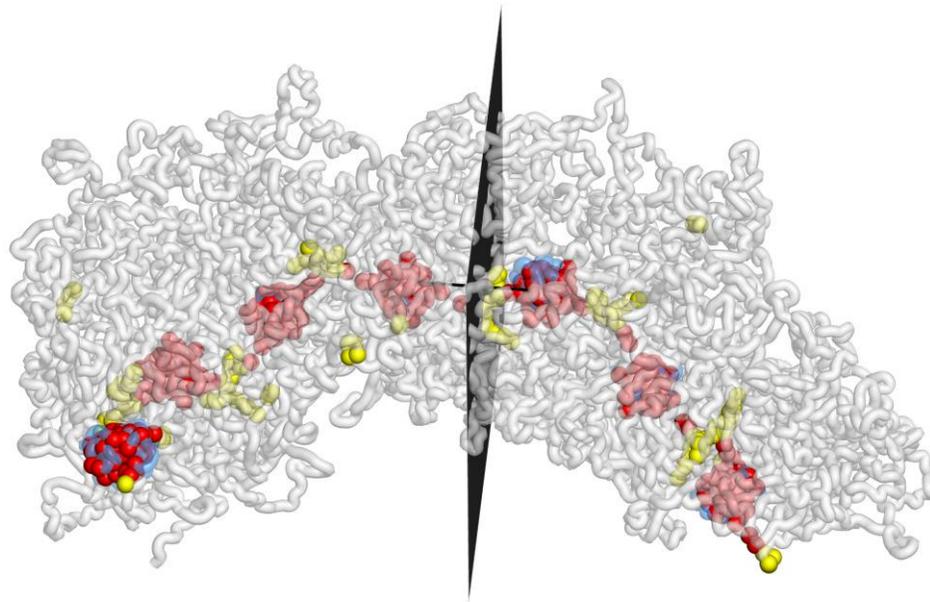


*R. rugosa* (n = 18)  
median chromosome length = 14 Mb

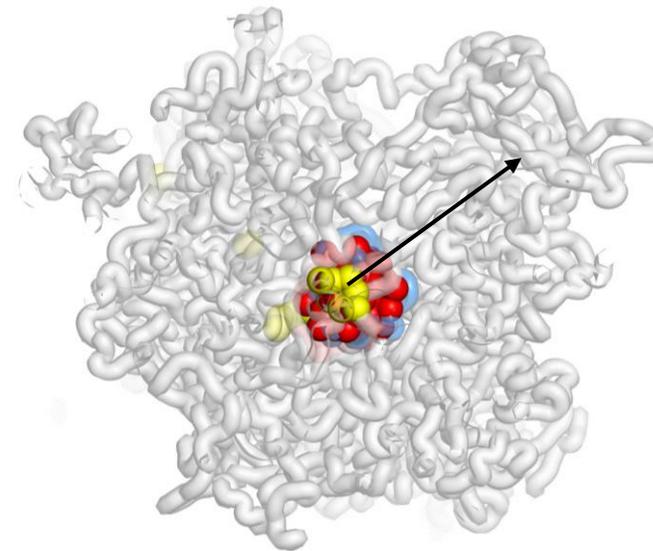


*R. pubera* (n = 5)  
median chromosome length = 300 Mb

# Measurement of the chromonema width



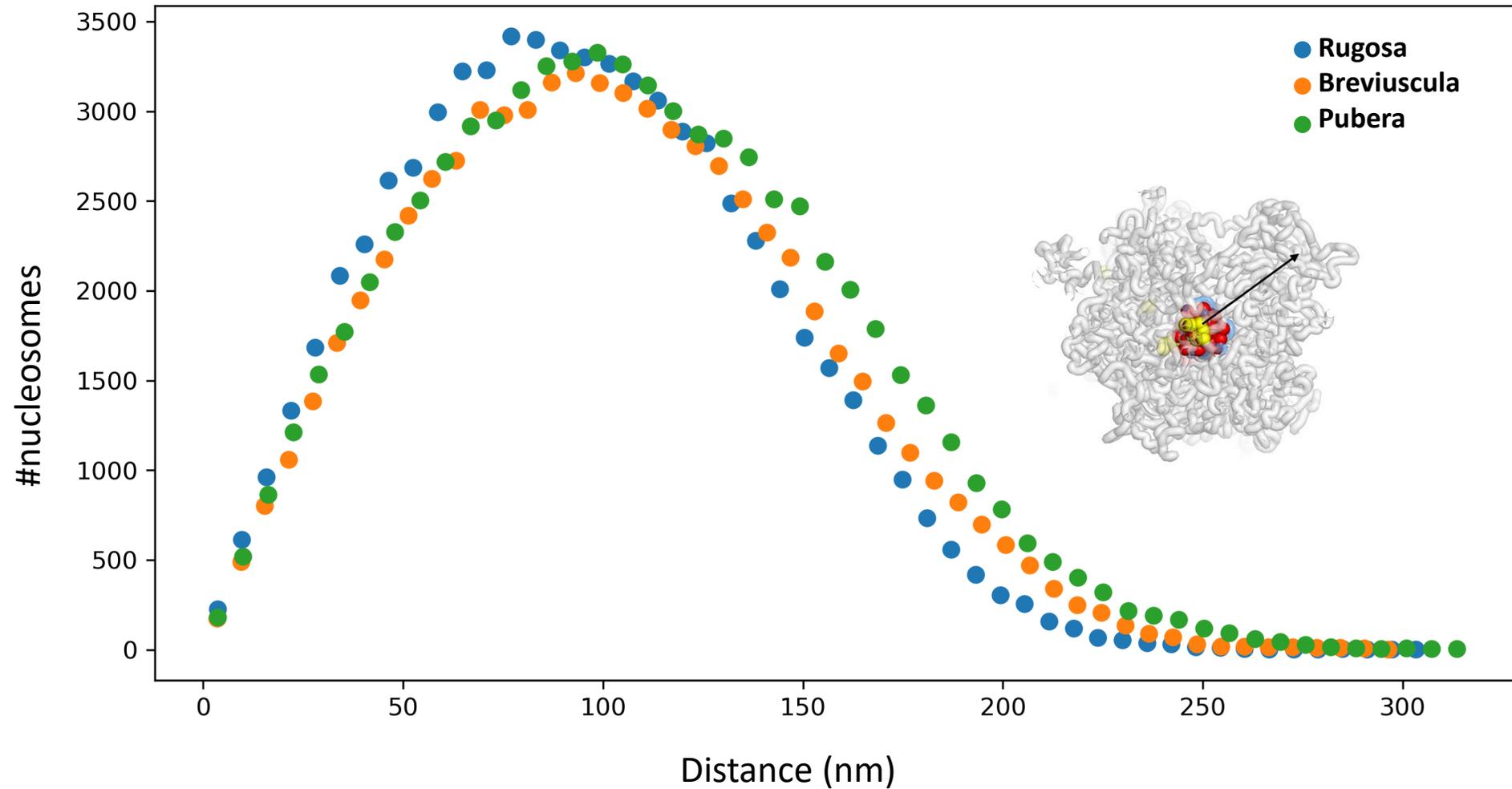
Plane between centromeric units



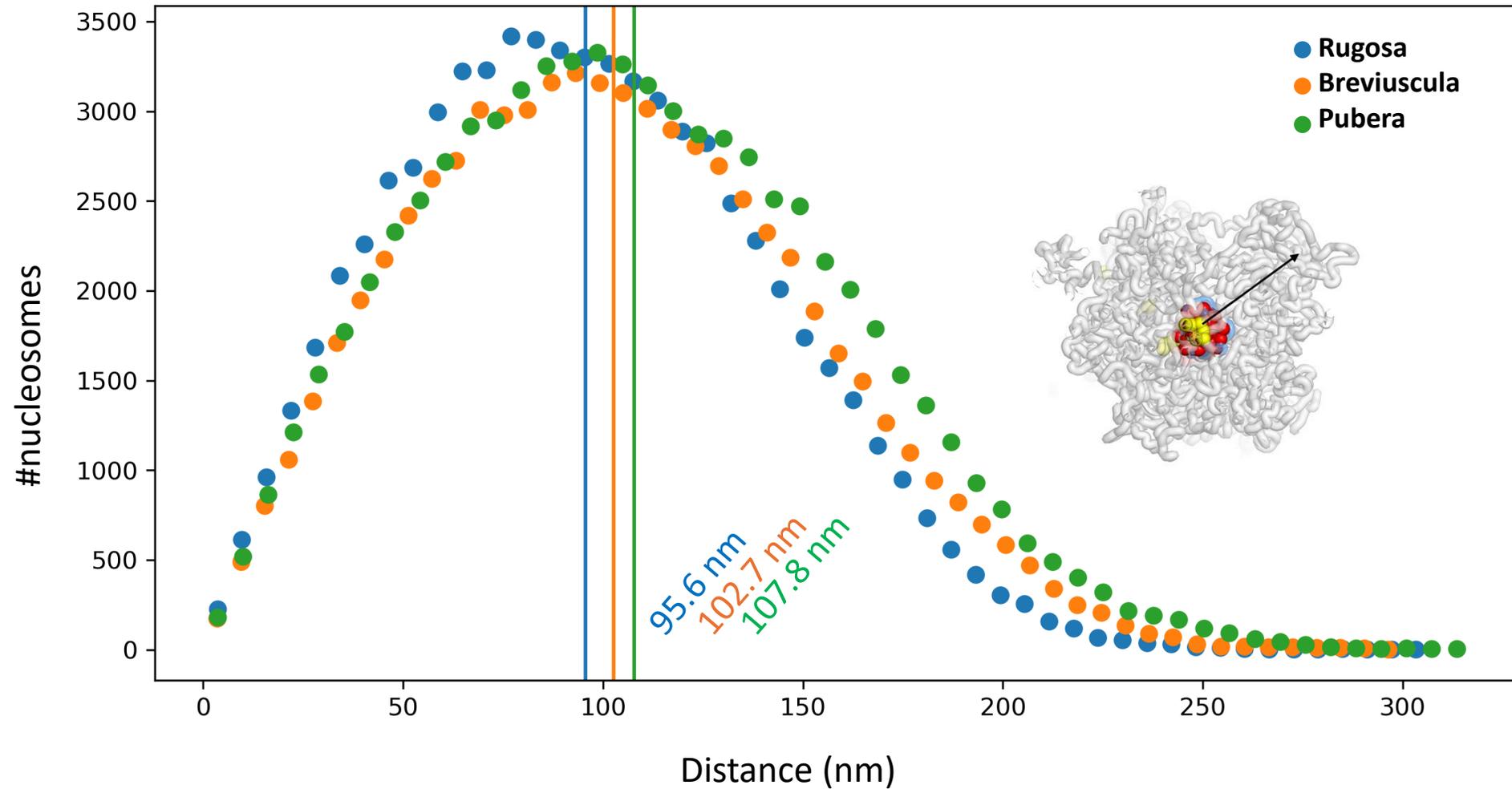
Distance of each nucleosome to the center of the plane, or the axis of the chromonema

Projection of the chromatin between centromeric units onto the plane

# Measurement of the chromonema width



# Measurement of the chromonema width



# Take-home message

- Loop extrusion is a general compaction mechanism for all holocentric species, modulated by the distribution of centromeric units, which correlates with the mitotic chromosome shape
- Is the evolution of holocentric chromosomes affected by their mitotic shape?

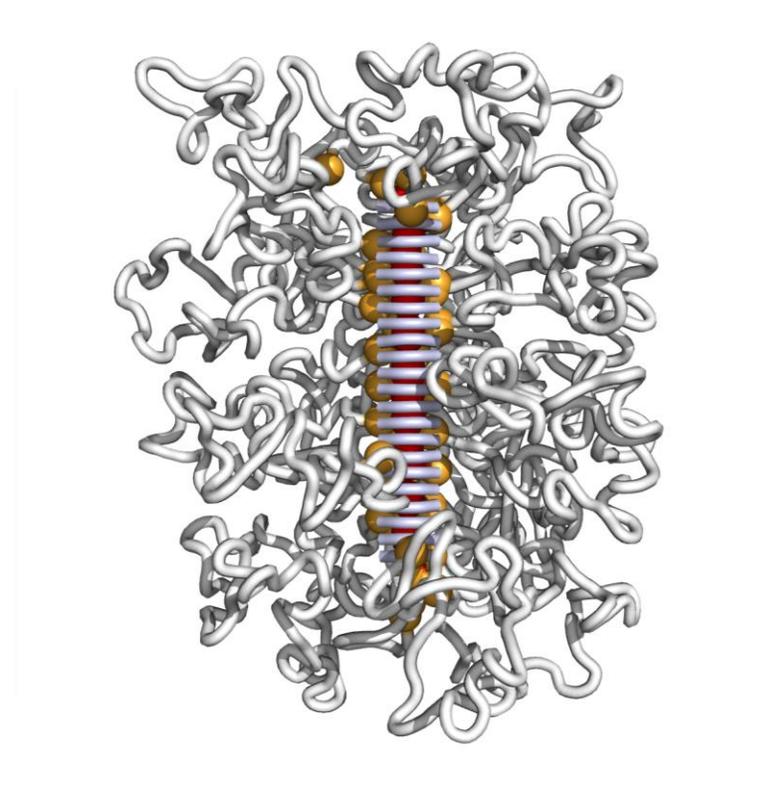
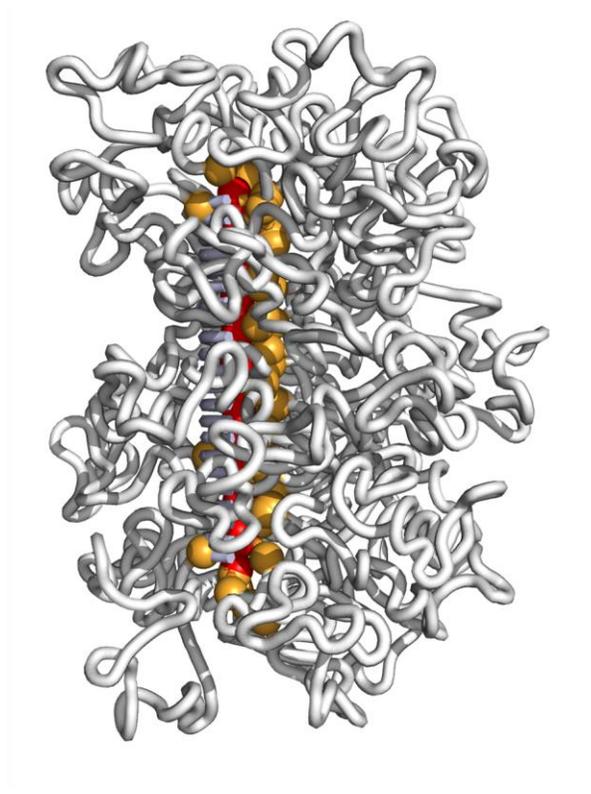
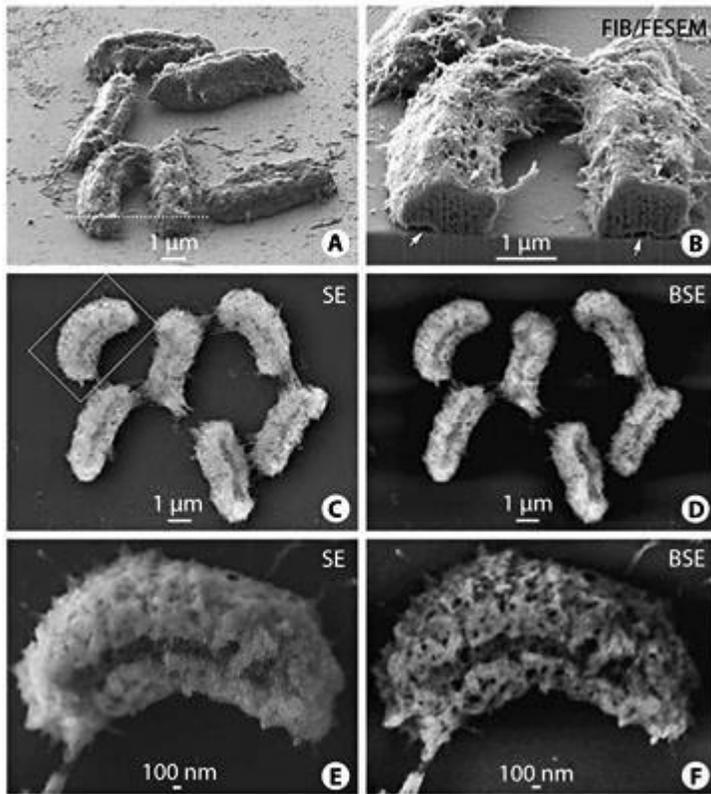
# Thank you!



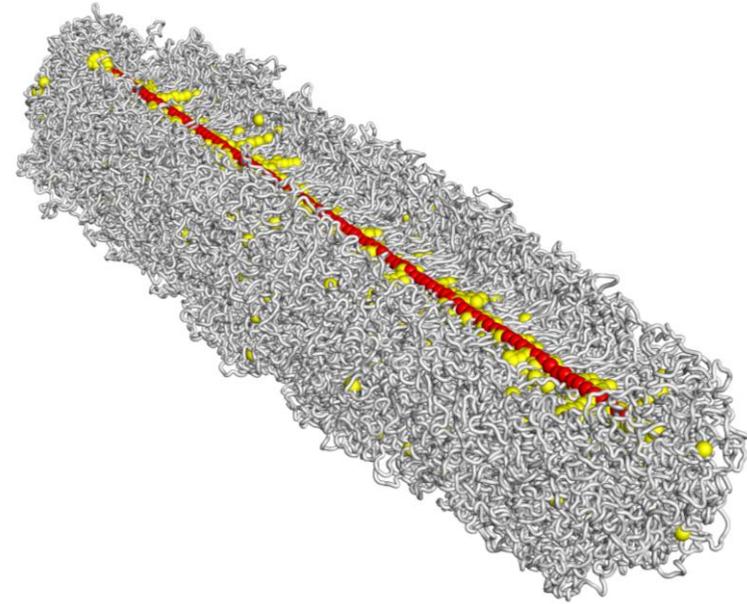
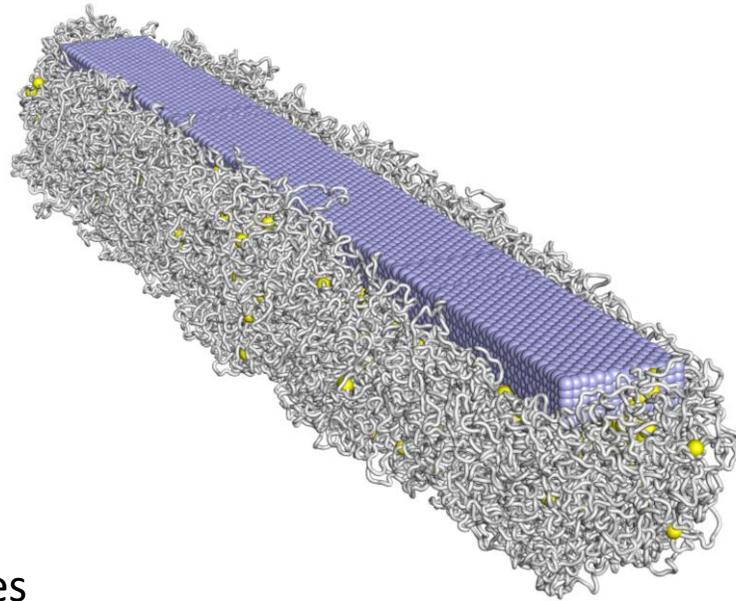
- Andreas Houben
- Yi-Tzi Kuo (HeiHei)
- Veit Schubert
- Martin Mascher
  
- André Marques



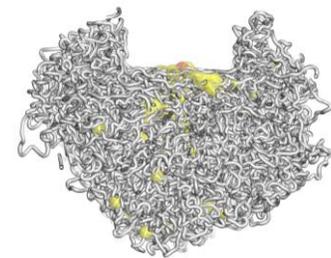
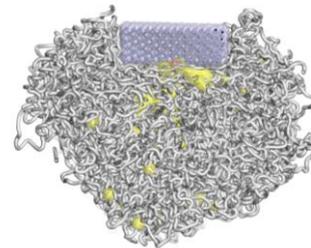
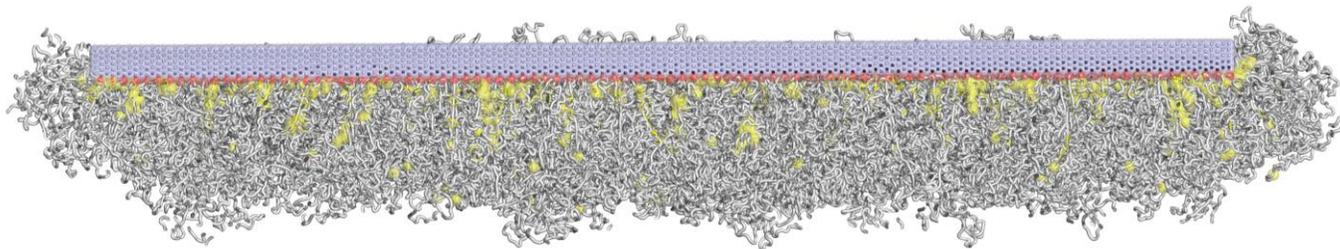
# Groove formation



# A 20 Mb example

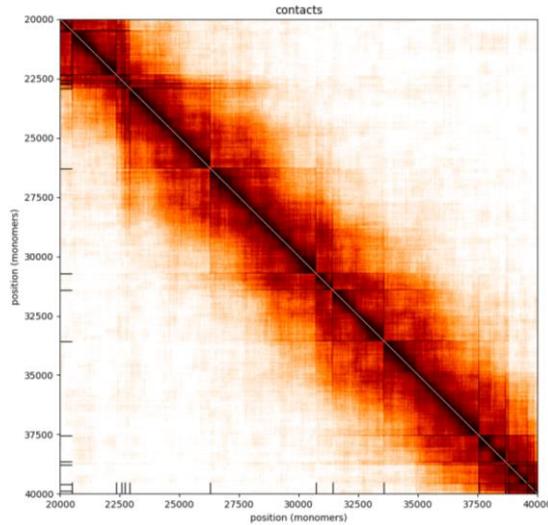


- centromeric units
- SMC complexes
- kinetochore complexes

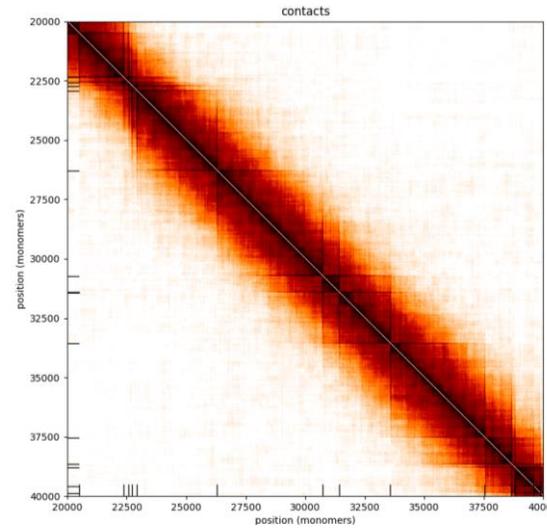


# Contact matrices

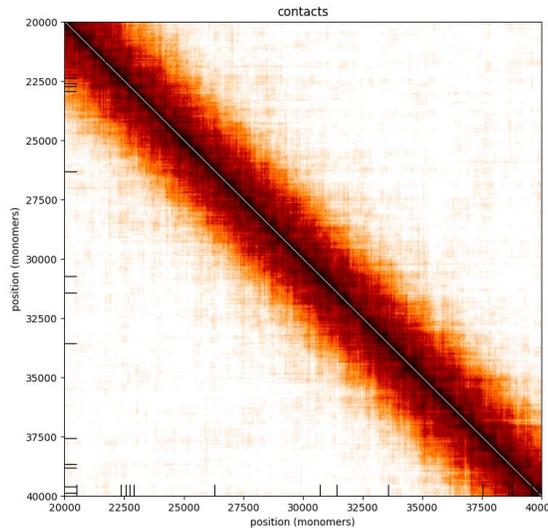
Anchoring effect



Blocking effect



No effect



Contact probability

