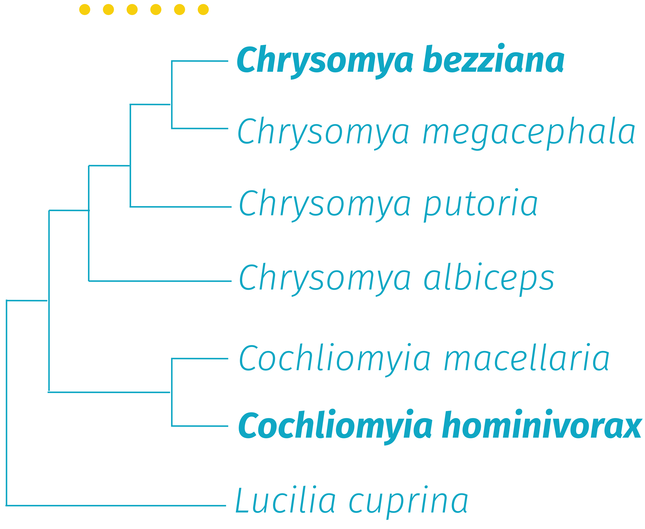
What makes a parasite?

the first effort to study the evolution of parasitism in blowflies using functional data

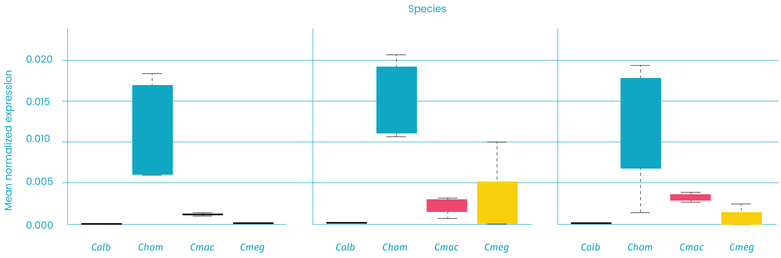
Due to the presence of ***contrasting feeding habits*** among blowflies, including feeding off of a living host, scientists were motivated to search for specific genetic features that could be associated with the ***evolution of parasitism***.

According to the current phylogenetic hypothesis for the *Calliphoridae* family, obligate parasitism appears to have ***evolved independently***



They searched for sequence and gene expression variation on specific candidate genes.

Scientists observed an association between ***feeding habit*** and the ***expression of Malvolio***.



They also showed evidence that its coding region ***might not be evolving neutrally***.

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