

GENETIC PARAMETERS FOR HOUSE FLY LARVAL PERFORMANCE IN TWO DIETARY ENVIRONMENTS

Georgalas MD¹, Hansen LS³, Laursen SF⁴, Bahrndorff S⁴, Sørensen JG³, Kargo M², Kristensen TN⁴,
Guldbrandtsen B¹ and Nielsen HM²

1 University of Copenhagen, Department of Veterinary and Animal Science

2 Aarhus University, Center for Quantitative Genetics and Genomics

3 Aarhus University, Department of Biology

4 Aalborg University, Department of Chemistry and Bioscience

POPULATION



House fly
Musca domestica (Diptera)

7x 100 males
100 females

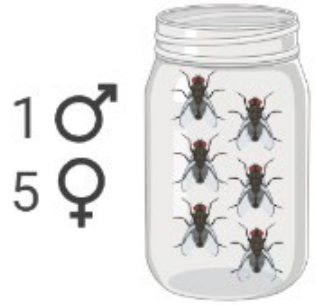


Denmark



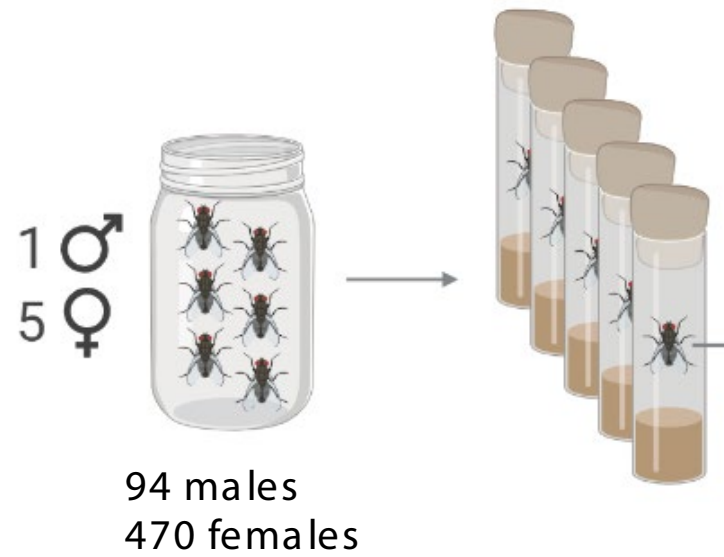
Population of 15,000 flies

Matings and families

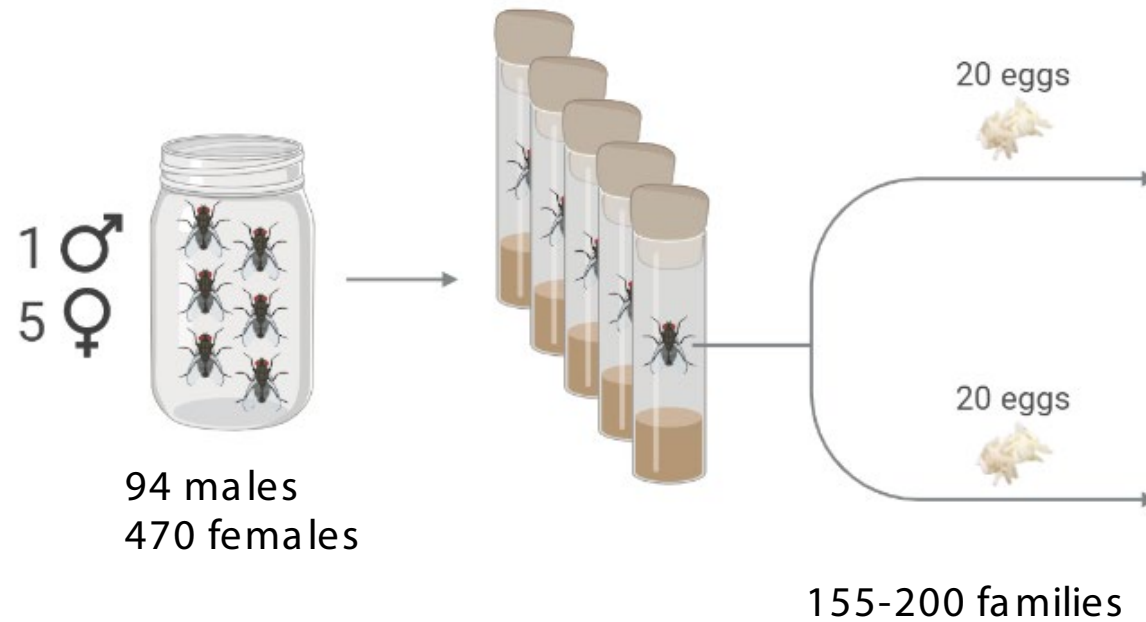


94 males
470 females

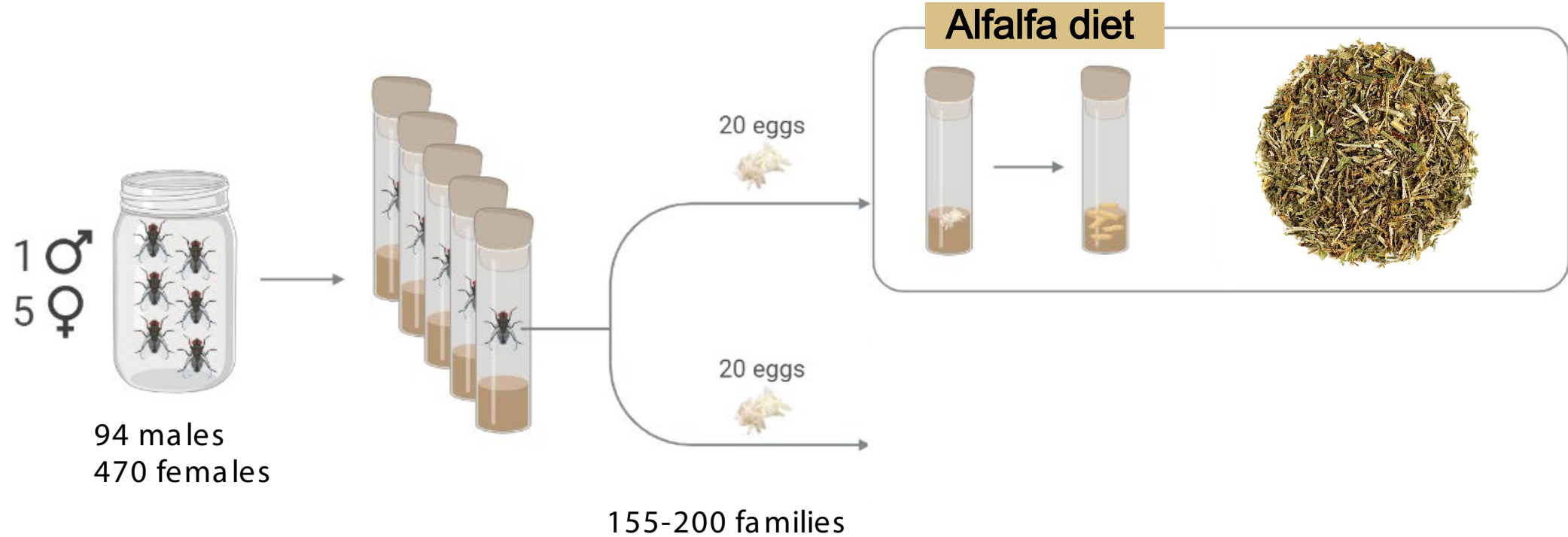
Matings and families



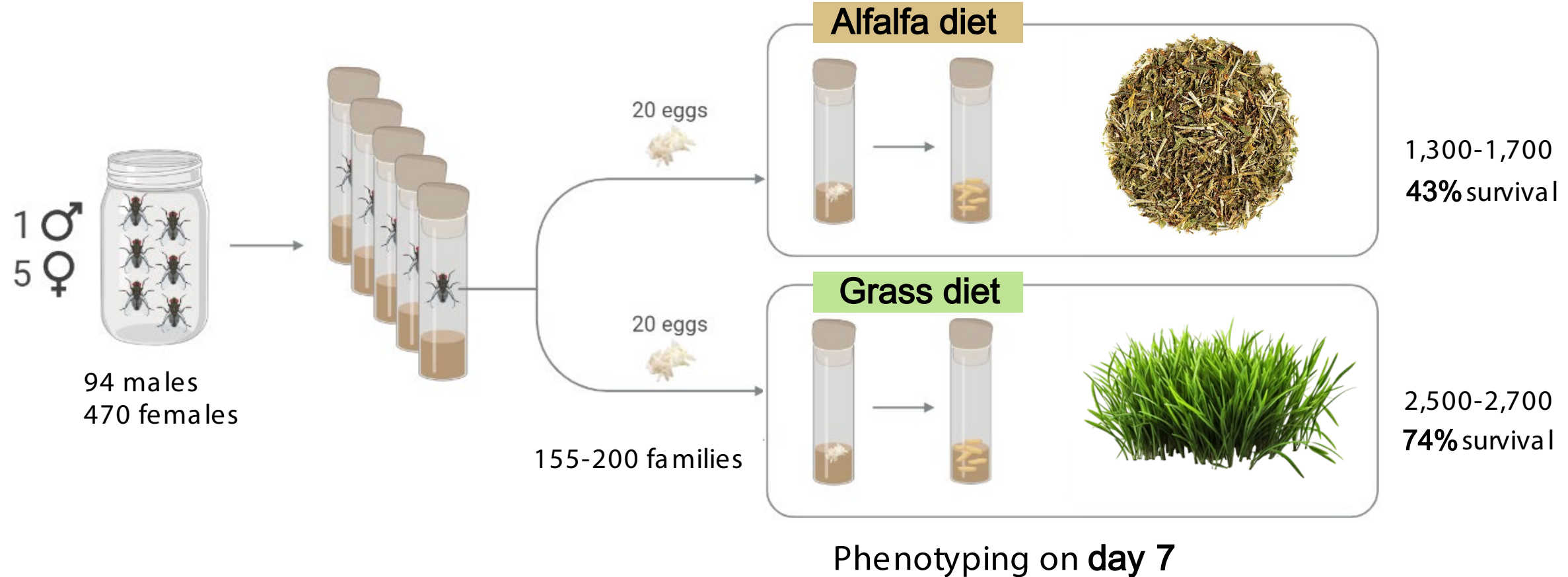
Matings and families



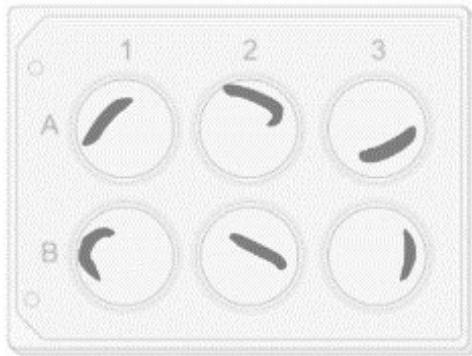
Matings and families



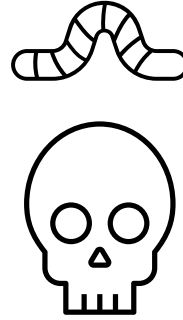
Matings and families



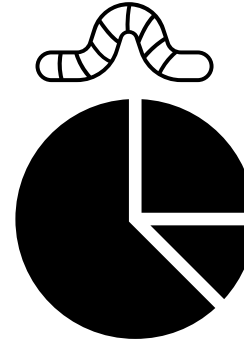
INDIVIDUAL PHENOTYPING



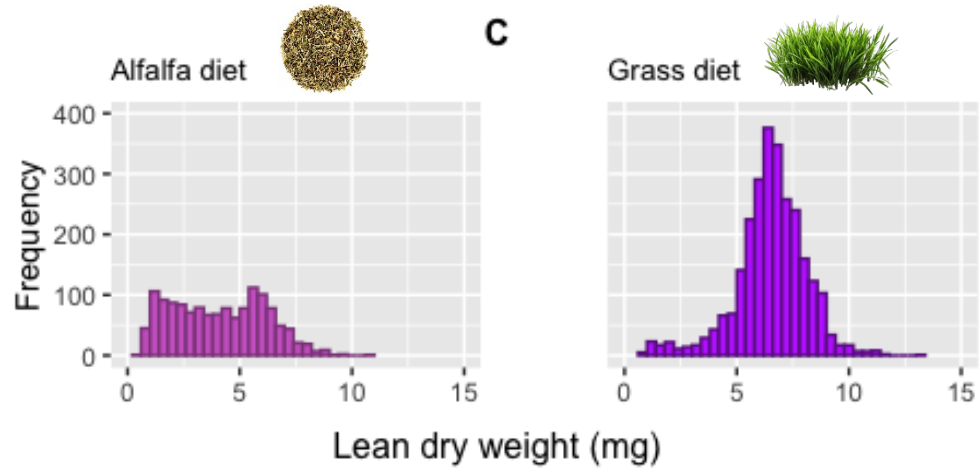
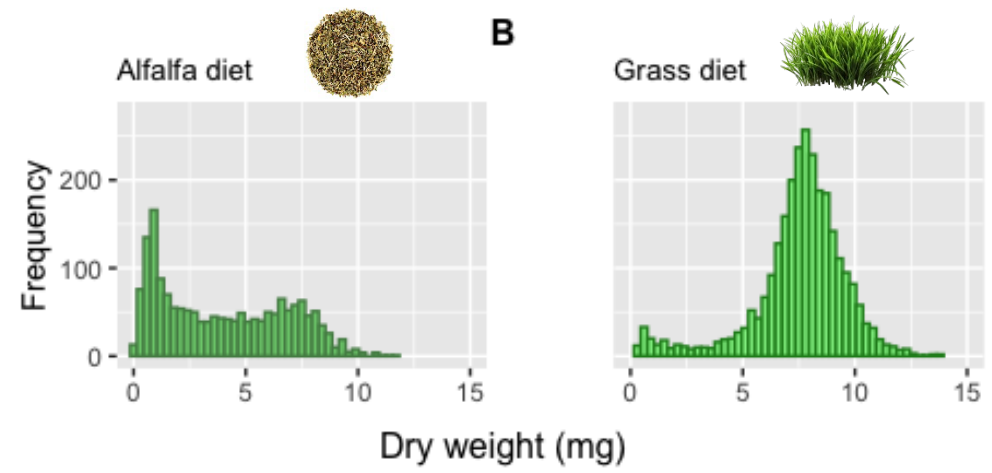
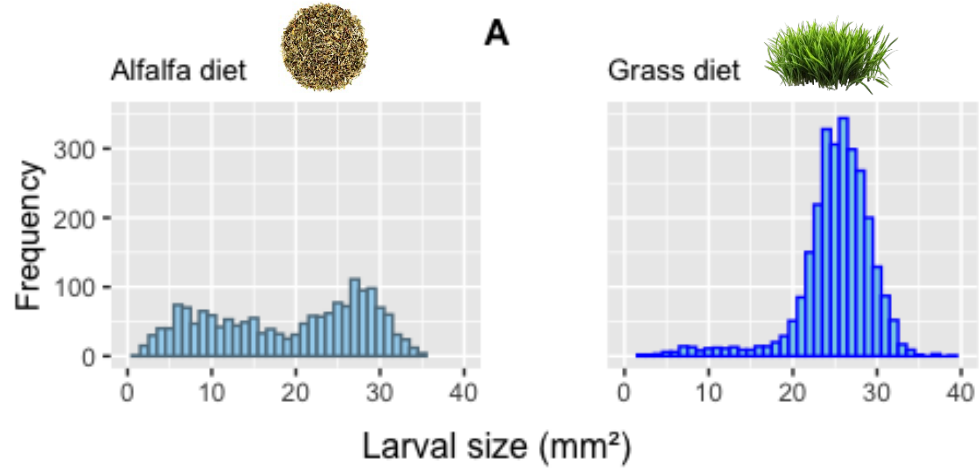
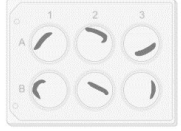
Larval surface area

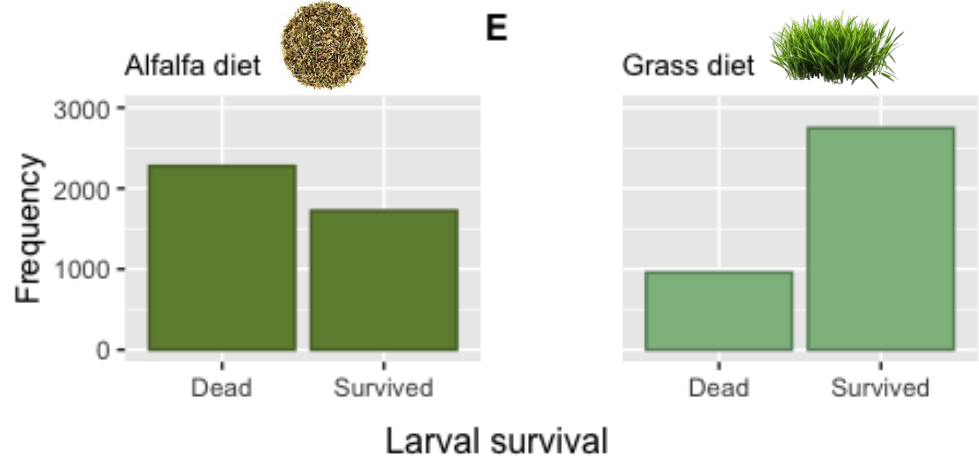
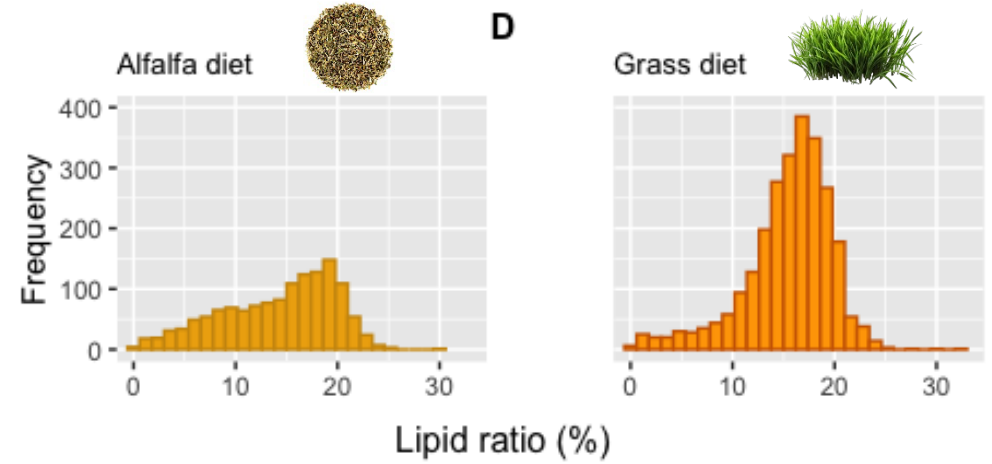
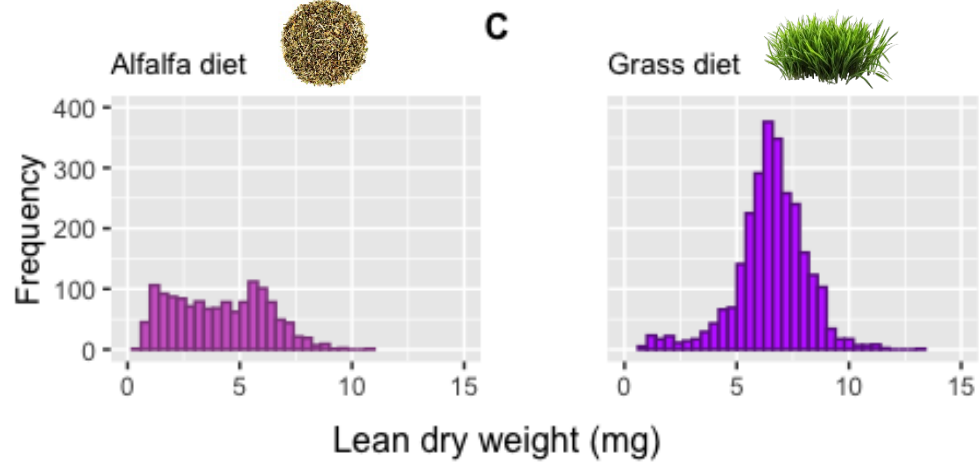
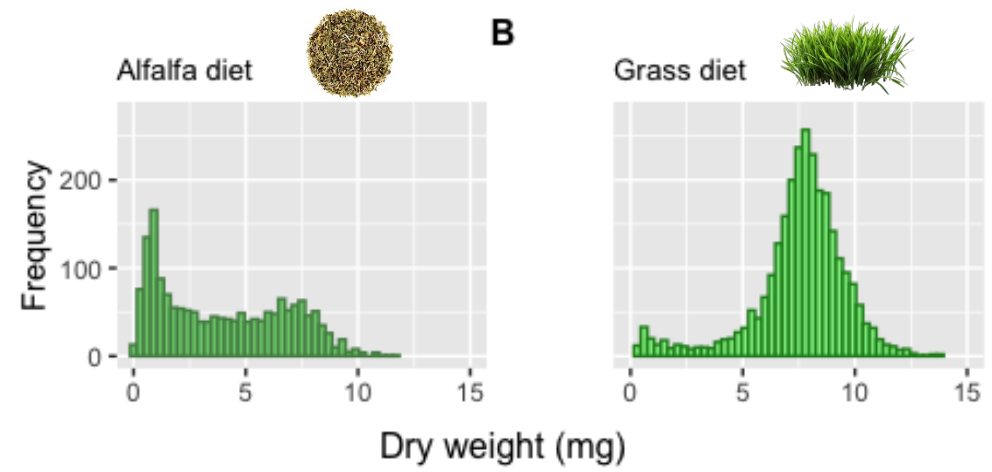
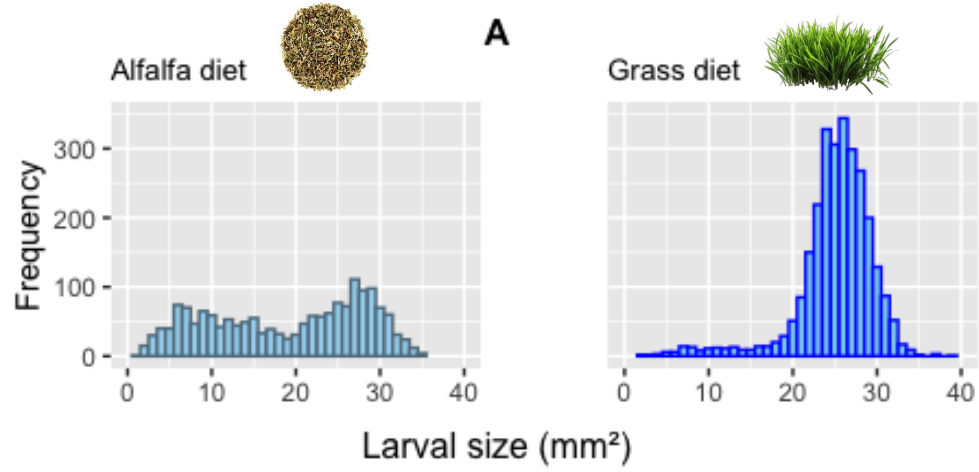
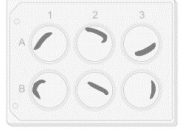


Larval survival



Larval dry weight
Larval lipid content
Larval lean dry weight





GENETIC PARAMETERS



	σ^2_s	σ^2_c	σ^2_e	h^2 (SE)
Larval size (mm ²)	1.62	32.18	30.20	0.10 (0.21)
Dry weight (mg)	0.18	2.87	3.31	0.12 (0.20)
Lean dry weight (mg)	0.13	1.82	1.98	0.13 (0.24)
Lipid (%)	1.16	7.71	19.70	0.16 (0.18)
Survival	0.004	0.04	0.17	0.07 (0.08)



Larval size (mm ²)	2.20	6.40	12.90	0.41 (0.20)
Dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-
Lean dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-
Lipid (%)	0.59	6.76	11.50	0.13 (0.16)
Survival	-	-	-	-

Univariate mixed sire
models with AI-REML
in DMU software

GENETIC PARAMETERS

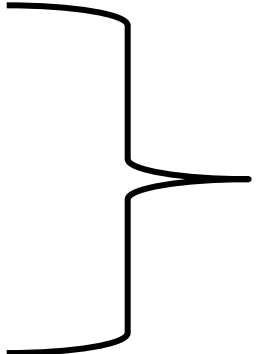


	σ^2_s	σ^2_c	σ^2_e	h^2 (SE)
Larval size (mm ²)	1.62	32.18	30.20	0.10 (0.21)
Dry weight (mg)	0.18	2.87	3.31	0.12 (0.20)
Lean dry weight (mg)	0.13	1.82	1.98	0.13 (0.24)
Lipid (%)	1.16	7.71	19.70	0.16 (0.18)
Survival	0.004	0.04	0.17	0.07 (0.08)
Larval size (mm ²)	2.20	6.40	12.90	0.41 (0.20)
Dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-
Lean dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-
Lipid (%)	0.59	6.76	11.50	0.13 (0.16)
Survival	-	-	-	-

Large common
environment effect



GENETIC PARAMETERS

	σ^2_s	σ^2_c	σ^2_e	h^2 (SE)	
 Larval size (mm ²)	1.62	32.18	30.20	0.10 (0.21)	 4x higher h^2 for larval size on grass diet
Dry weight (mg)	0.18	2.87	3.31	0.12 (0.20)	
Lean dry weight (mg)	0.13	1.82	1.98	0.13 (0.24)	
Lipid (%)	1.16	7.71	19.70	0.16 (0.18)	
Survival	0.004	0.04	0.17	0.07 (0.08)	
 Larval size (mm ²)	2.20	6.40	12.90	0.41 (0.20)	
Dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-	
Lean dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-	
Lipid (%)	0.59	6.76	11.50	0.13 (0.16)	
Survival	-	-	-	-	



GENETICPARAMETERS



	σ^2_s	σ^2_c	σ^2_e	h^2 (SE)
Larval size (mm ²)	1.62	32.18	30.20	0.10 (0.21)
Dry weight (mg)	0.18	2.87	3.31	0.12 (0.20)
Lean dry weight (mg)	0.13	1.82	1.98	0.13 (0.24)
Lipid (%)	1.16	7.71	19.70	0.16 (0.18)
Survival	0.004	0.04	0.17	0.07 (0.08)
Larval size (mm ²)	2.20	6.40	12.90	0.41 (0.20)
Dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-
Lean dry weight (mg)	-	-	-	-
Lipid (%)	0.59	6.76	11.50	0.13 (0.16)
Survival	-	-	-	-

Comparable h^2 for lipid
(standard errors!)



GENETIC PARAMETERS

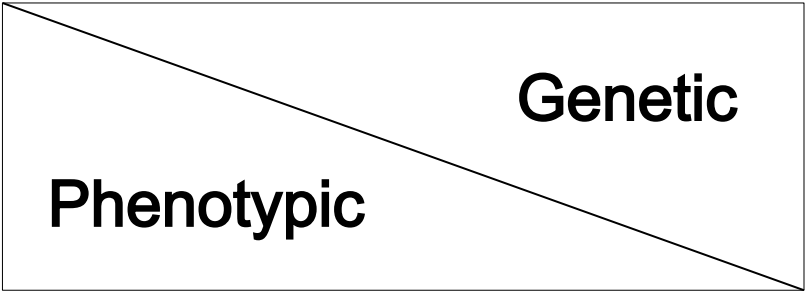


	σ^2_s	σ^2_c	σ^2_e	h^2 (SE)
Larval size (mm ²)	1.62	32.18	30.20	0.10 (0.21)
Dry weight (mg)	0.18	2.87	3.31	0.12 (0.20)
Lean dry weight (mg)	0.13	1.82	1.98	0.13 (0.24)
Lipid (%)	1.16	7.71	19.70	0.16 (0.18)
Survival	0.004	0.04	0.17	0.07 (0.08)
Larval size (mm ²)	2.20	6.40	12.90	0.41 (0.20)
Dry weight (mg)	1.05	-	3.65	0.89 (0.023)
Lean dry weight (mg)	0.60	-	2.02	0.92 (0.023)
Lipid (%)	0.59	6.76	11.50	0.13 (0.16)
Survival	0.015	-	0.18	0.31 (0.01)

Inflated estimates
False conclusions!



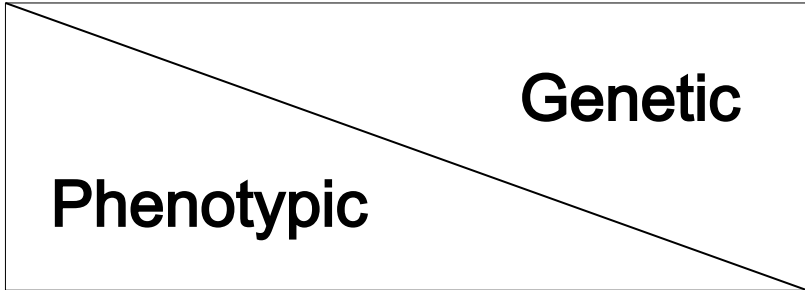
GENETIC CORRELATIONS



	Larval size	Dry weight	Lean dry weight	Lipid %	Survival
Larval size		0.90 (0.19)			
Dry weight	0.91 (0.007)				
Lean dry weight					0.25 (1.17)
Lipid %					-0.78 (0.91)
Survival			0.09 (0.04)	0.08 (0.04)	
Larval size				0.10 (0.54)	
Dry weight					
Lean dry weight					
Lipid %	0.37 (0.03)				
Survival					

Bivariate mixed sire models with AI-REML in DMU software

GENETIC CORRELATIONS



	Larval size	Dry weight	Lean dry weight	Lipid %	Survival
Larval size		0.90 (0.19)	0.96 (0.01)	0.84 (0.05)	0.33 (0.14)
Dry weight	0.91 (0.007)		1.00 (0.00)	0.81 (0.06)	0.24 (0.14)
Lean dry weight	0.91 (0.01)	0.99 (0.00)		0.77 (0.07)	0.25 (1.17)
Lipid %	0.68 (0.02)	0.67 (0.02)	0.58 (0.03)		-0.78 (0.91)
Survival	0.06 (0.04)	0.16 (0.04)	0.09 (0.04)	0.08 (0.04)	
Larval size		0.87 (0.03)	0.87 (0.03)	0.10 (0.54)	0.30 (0.14)
Dry weight	0.83 (0.01)		0.97 (0.01)	0.57 (0.09)	0.08 (0.15)
Lean dry weight	0.82 (0.01)	0.97 (0.00)		0.29 (0.13)	0.09 (0.15)
Lipid %	0.37 (0.03)	0.49 (0.03)	0.25 (0.03)		-0.06 (0.15)
Survival	0.05 (0.03)	0.01 (0.03)	0.01 (0.03)	-0.01 (0.03)	

Bivariate mixed sire models with AI-REML in DMU software (no common environment)

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Main conclusions

h^2 estimates can be highly diet dependent

Feed will influence efficiency of phenotypic selection

Not accounting for environmental variance biases parameter estimates

Next steps

Correlate traits across environments for GxE estimation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN



Michella Georgalas
Msc student



AALBORG
UNIVERSITY



Stine F. Laursen
Postdoc



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Center for Quantitative Genetics and Genomics

Contact:

La ura Skrubbeltrang Hansen
lsh@qgg.a u.dk

www.a u.dk/en/lsh@qgg.a u.dk



DANMARKS FRIE
FORSKNINGSFOND
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
FUND DENMARK



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY
TECHNICAL SCIENCES

EAAP 2024 FLORENCE
3 SEPTEMBER 2024

LAURA SKRUBBELTRANG HANSEN
POSTDOC



INSECT-IMP



Ingredients %	Alfalfa diet	Grass diet
Tap water	66.7	66.7
Wheat bran	21.3	21.3
Alfalfa	10.7	-
Deproteinized grass	-	10.7
Malt	0.8	0.8
Dry yeast	0.5	0.5

Chemical analysis		Alfalfa diet	Grass diet	Analysis method
Energy content	KJ/100g	1152	1113	Council Directive 90/496/EEC
Protein	%	19.1	20.3	Dumas Leco Nitrogen
Fat	%	1.7	1.8	NMR ¹
SFA ²	%	0.52	0.52	BS/EN ISO 12966-2; 2011-ISO 5509:1990
Carbohydrates	%	68.8	66.8	Council Directive 90/496/EEC
Sugars	%	0.4	0.1	Commission Reg. (EC); 152/2009
Fibers	%	45	48.3	AOAC ³ 985.29
Ash	%	6.3	6.5	BS 4401 Part 1 1998 Com.; Reg. 152/2009
Sodium (Na)	%	0.0668	0.0221	ICP OES ⁴
Water content	%	4.1	4.6	AOAC ³ 16 Ed.

	N	Sires	Dams	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Medium 1 - Alfalfa							
Larval size (mm ²)	1722	73	184	18.97	9.11	1.30	35.13
Dry weight (mg)	1724	73	184	3.97	2.83	0.04	11.71
Lean dry weight (mg)	1362	69	156	4.10	2.05	0.57	10.79
Lipid (%)	1345	69	155	14.22	5.50	0	30.09
Lipid (mg)	1342	69	155	0.78	0.55	0.01	2.85
Survival	3999	74	200	0.43	0.28 ¹	0	1
Medium 2 – Grass							
Larval size (mm ²)	2746	74	189	25.07	4.53	1.52	39.46
Dry weight (mg)	2741	74	189	7.54	2.10	0.17	13.70
Lean dry weight (mg)	2674	74	189	6.53	1.57	0.96	13.09
Lipid (%)	2575	74	189	15.49	4.27	0	32.02
Lipid (mg)	2574	74	189	1.22	0.49	0.01	3.90
Survival	3703	74	190	0.74	0.22 ¹	0	1