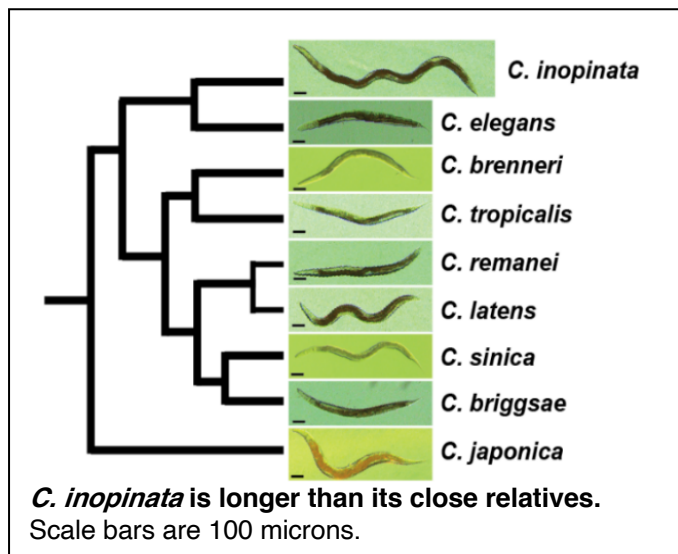


Research in the Fig Worm Lab



The Fig Worm Lab at the University of Oklahoma aims to understand the genetic basis of phenotypic diversity across multiple scales of biological organization. We are driven by these questions:

- How does genetic change lead to change in developmental processes?
- How does developmental variation promote morphological variation?
- What are the processes that generate and maintain genetic diversity in the first place?

We use various genetic, developmental, genomic, computational, and field approaches to address these questions. We also leverage the

power of the *Caenorhabditis elegans* roundworm model system by focusing on its closest known relative, *C. inopinata*, which is morphologically divergent and lives in close association with figs and fig wasps.

Current ongoing research projects include:

- The genetic basis of body size divergence
- The evolution of recombination and transposable elements
- Nematode/microbe interactions and the evolution of microbial communities
- Population and comparative nematode genomics
- Heterochrony and growth rate evolution
- Phenotypic plasticity and the evolution of environmentally-induced developmental stages

Please reach out if you are interested in working with us!