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Gene expression analysis of duck liver steatosis from hybrid and parental species

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► To cite this version:

Xi Liu, Frédéric Héroult, Christian Diot, Erwan Corre. Gene expression analysis of duck liver steatosis from hybrid and parental species. Journées Ouvertes Biologie, Informatique et Mathématiques (Jobim), Jul 2018, Marseille, France. , 2018, Abstracts Jobim 2018. hal-01842089

HAL Id: hal-01842089

<https://hal.science/hal-01842089>

Submitted on 17 Jul 2018

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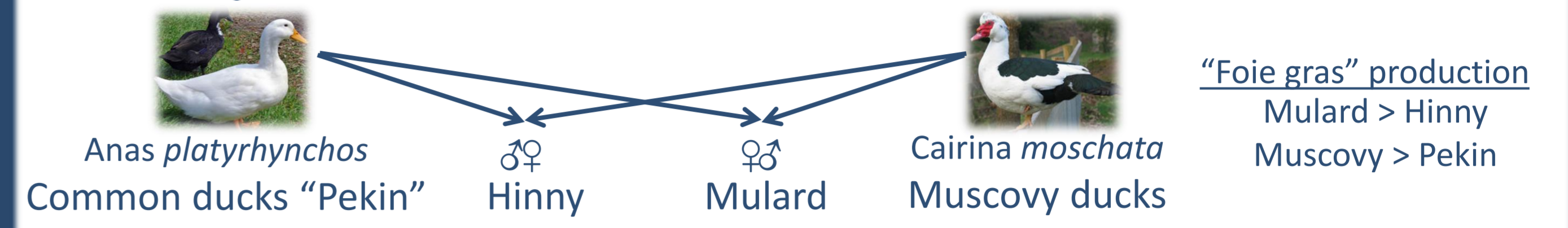
1. Background

Liver steatosis can occur spontaneously in wild waterfowls as a result of energy storage before migration. This ability is exploited since thousand years in domesticated birds to produce "foie gras" by overfeeding. However, different abilities for fatty liver production are known according to species. **To better describe the mechanisms involved in hepatic steatosis development and differences between species and hybrids**, next-generation sequencing and analyses was performed on RNAs extracted from the livers of ducks fed ad libitum or overfed.

Usually, such RNA-seq analyses involve the mapping of reads on a reference genome. However, when two different species are involved some mapping biases could be expected. Thus, alternative methods must be developed to be more appropriate for transcriptome analyses and comparisons between the two species and their hybrids. Analyses using both reference genome and *de novo* methods point out a good performance of the *de novo* method for the different species treatment revealing a new set of genes differentially expressed.

Keywords: RNA-seq, Inter-species Assembly, Gene expression, Liver steatosis

Genotypes



Treatments

2 diets: Ad libitum & (14 days') Over feeding

Samples

4 genotypes × 2 treatments × 10 biological replicates

2. Samples

	DEG	Pekin	Muscovy	Mule	Hinny	common
DRAP transcriptome	up-regulated	2281	3450	4907	3901	539
	down-regulated	1468	2717	4013	3795	364
	all	3749	6167	8920	7696	906
Cufflinks transcriptome	up-regulated	1553	1371	1592	1314	520
	down-regulated	680	773	953	924	235
	all	2233	2144	2545	2238	758
Increase (%) DRAP vs Cufflinks	up-regulated	147	252	308	297	104
	down-regulated	216	351	421	411	155
	all	168	288	350	344	120

Table 2 | comparison of differentially expressed genes (DEG) of reference genome and *De novo* assemblies. For both transcriptomes, statistical tests are realized at gene level by edgeR^[8] following a normalization step, then the results are filtered at p-value<0.05 and FC>2. For DRAP assembly, methods DESeq2 and edgeR show similar results. As shown for Cufflinks assembly, 2281 and 1468 genes are found respectively up and down-regulated by overfeeding for Pekin, 758 DEG are in common for the 4 genotypes (also shown in Fig. 4C).

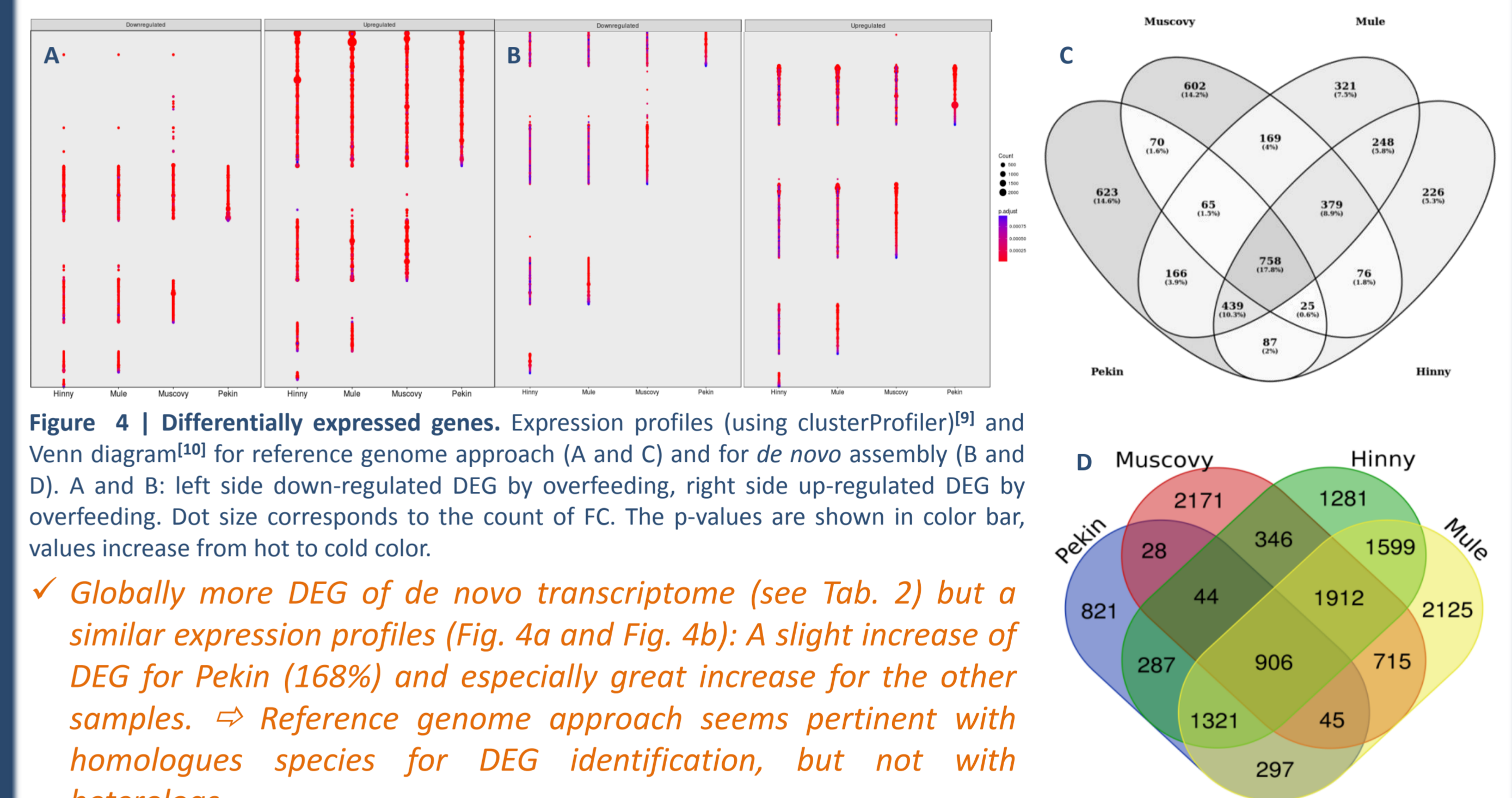


Figure 4 | Differentially expressed genes. Expression profiles (using clusterProfiler^[9]) and Venn diagram^[10] for reference genome approach (A and C) and for *de novo* transcriptome (B and D). A and B: left side down-regulated DEG by overfeeding, right side up-regulated DEG by overfeeding. Dot size corresponds to the count of FC. The p-values are shown in color bar, values increase from hot to cold color.

✓ Globally more DEG of *de novo* transcriptome (see Tab. 2) but a similar expression profiles (Fig. 4a and Fig. 4b): A slight increase of DEG for Pekin (168%) and especially great increase for the other samples. ⇒ Reference genome approach seems pertinent with homologous species for DEG identification, but not with heterologs.

✓ More DEG in common of the 4 genotypes for *de novo* assembly (34% vs 24%)

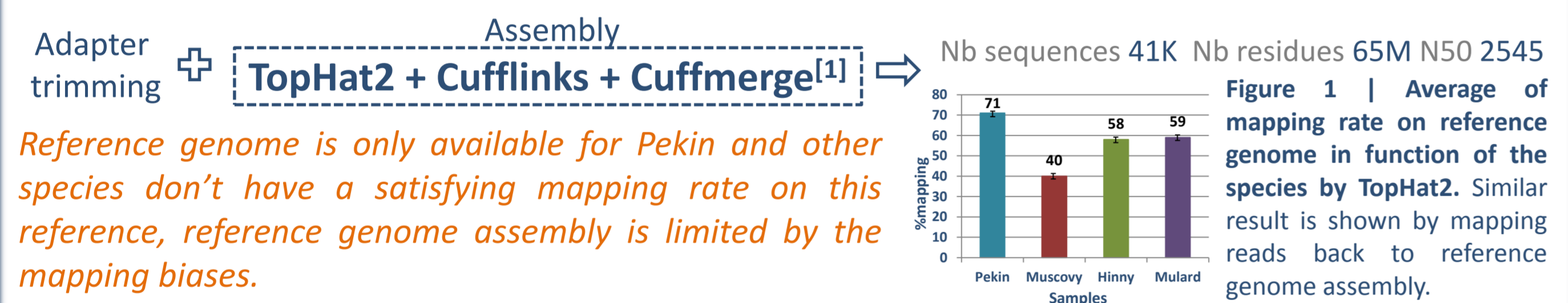
3. Assemblies

Sequencing

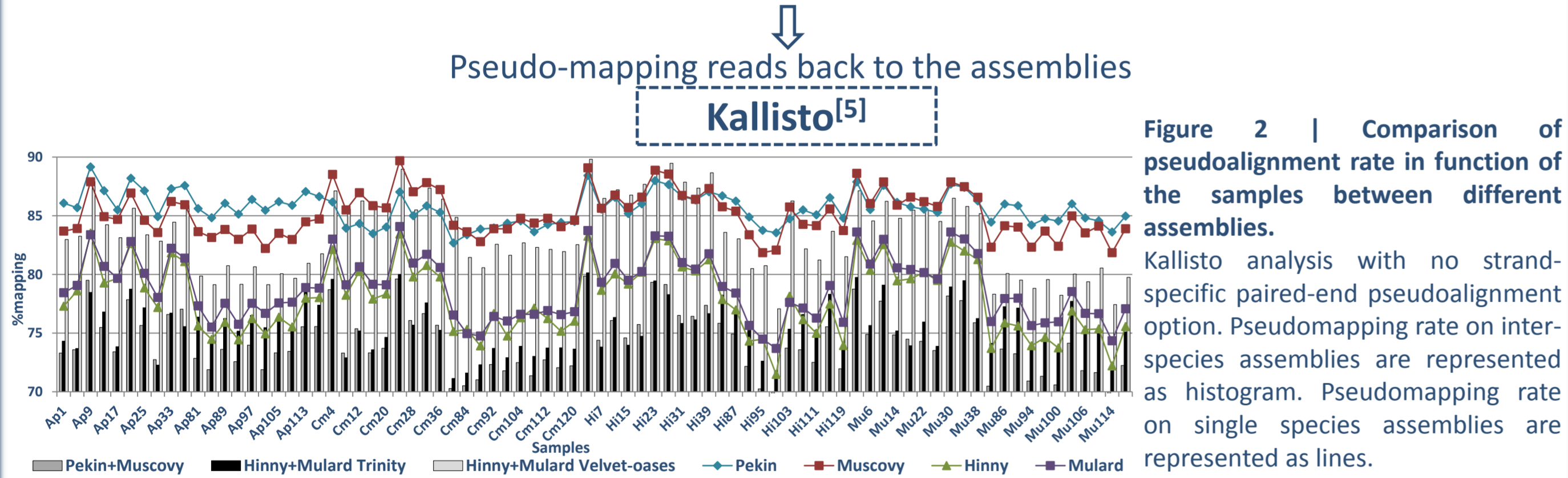
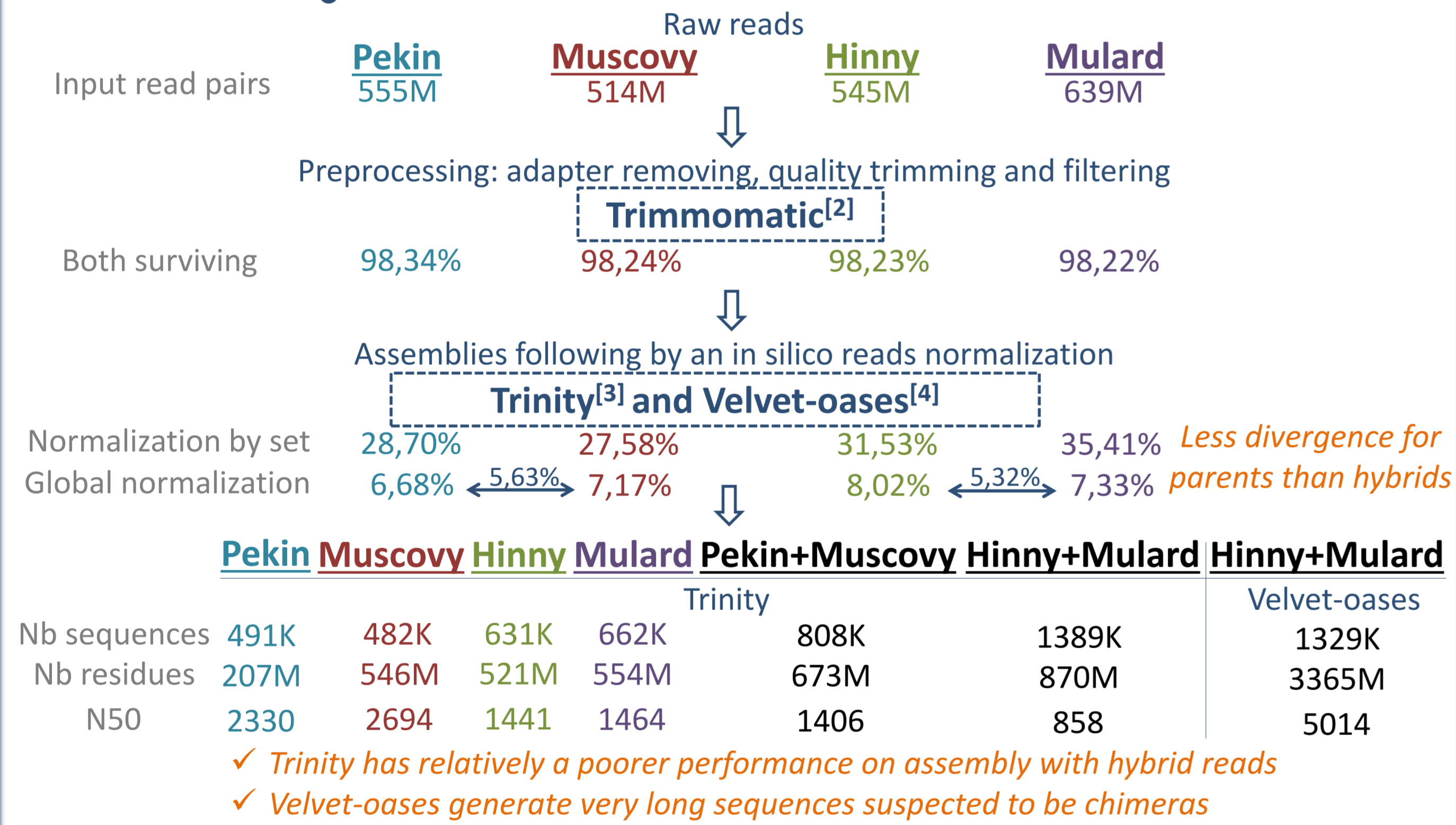
Illumina HiSeq 2000: 100bp paired-end x 80 libraries

Reference genome assembly

Available reference genome: *Anas platyrhynchos* BGI_duck_1.0, INSDC Assembly GCA_000355885.1

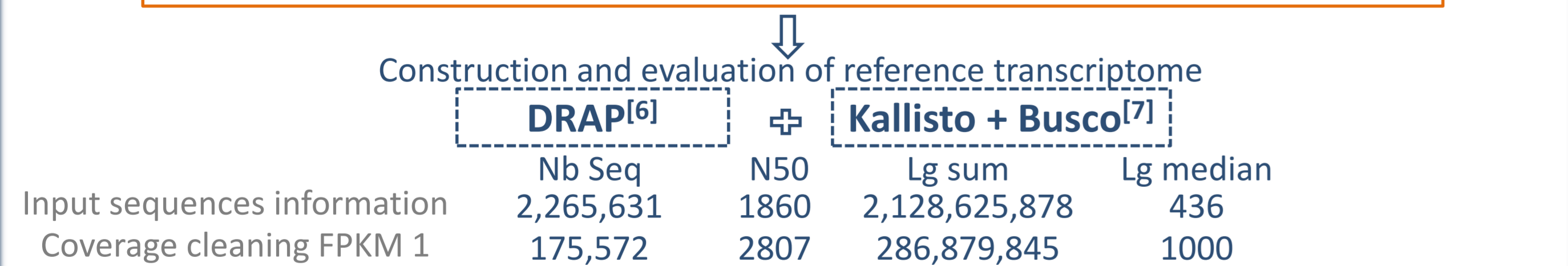


De novo assembly



✓ %mapping of single species assemblies are satisfied and globally better than that of inter-species assemblies, except velvet-oases assembly which displays a good rate
✓ For the single species assemblies, transcriptome of parents have a better rate than that of hybrids

⇒ Construct a meta-transcriptome using single species assemblies



DRAP assembly possesses a satisfied pseudoalignment rate for all the samples

BUSCO categories	Reference genome	Cufflinks assembly	DRAP FPKM1
Complete	82.9%	81.5%	97.1%
Complete and single-copy	81.2%	42.9%	59.1%
Complete and duplicated	1.7%	38.6%	38.0%
Fragmented	9.9%	11.2%	3.0%
Missing	7.2%	7.3%	0.0%

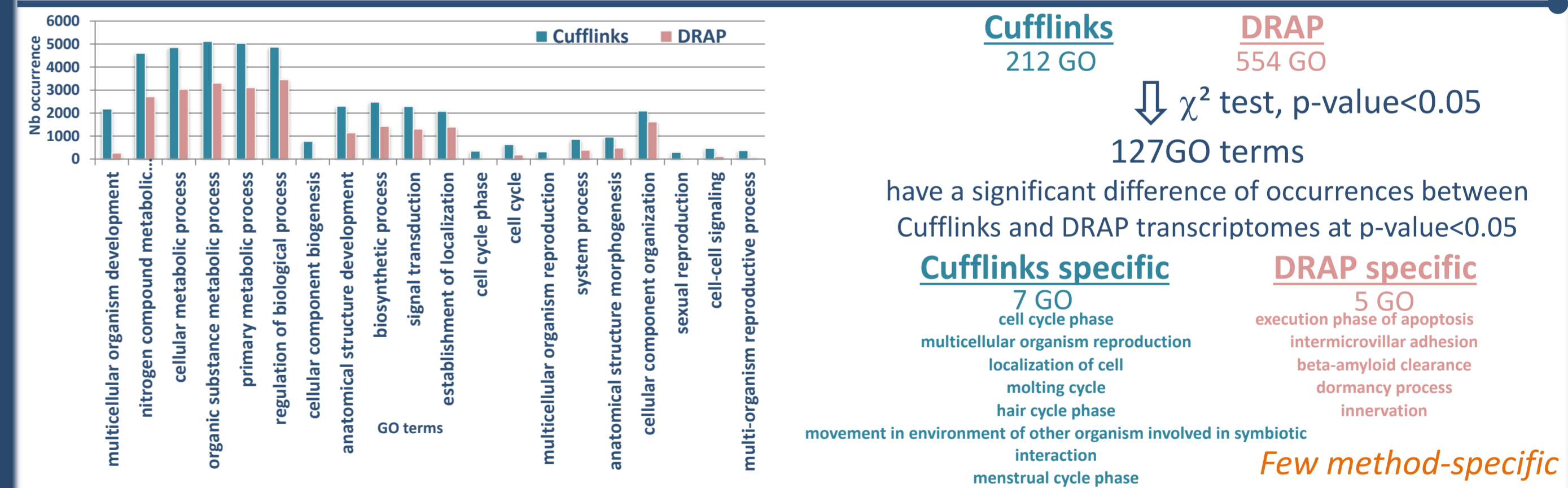
Table 1 | BUSCO notation assessment results. Total BUSCO groups searched is 303.

De novo approach discovers more new genes (97% completeness), provides a transcriptome more complete (0 missing) and less fragmented (only 3%).

⇒ DRAP assembly was chosen as the reference transcriptome for further analyses.

4. Differential analysis

Comparison of Biological process GO terms occurrences between Cufflinks and DRAP DEG^[11]



5. Functional annotation

✓ Focus on the new species-specific DEG discovered by *de novo* approach and Go-enrichment analyses which may bring new functions.
✓ *De novo* approach bring us the opportunity to analyze genotype effect in addition to feeding effect. An ANOVA test will be realized to study the genotype and diet effect, also their interaction.

6. Perspective

✓ Focus on the new species-specific DEG discovered by *de novo* approach and Go-enrichment analyses which may bring new functions.
✓ *De novo* approach bring us the opportunity to analyze genotype effect in addition to feeding effect. An ANOVA test will be realized to study the genotype and diet effect, also their interaction.

7. Bibliography

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