

## New insights into the nutritional regulation of gluconeogenesis in carnivorous rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss): a gene duplication trail.

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1 2 3 4	New insights into the nutritional regulation of gluconeogenesis in carnivorous rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss): a gene duplication trail
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#### **Abstract**

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The rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) is considered to be a strictly carnivorous fish species that is metabolically adapted for high catabolism of proteins and low utilisation of dietary carbohydrates. This species consequently has a "glucoseintolerant" phenotype manifested by persistent hyperglycaemia when fed a highcarbohydrate diet. Gluconeogenesis in adult fish is also poorly, if ever, regulated by carbohydrates, suggesting that this metabolic pathway is involved in this specific phenotype. In this study, we hypothesised that the fate of duplicated genes after the salmonid-specific 4<sup>th</sup> whole genome duplication (Ss4R) may have led to adaptive innovation and that their study might provide new elements to enhance our understanding of gluconeogenesis and poor dietary carbohydrates use in this species. Our evolutionary analysis of gluconeogenic genes revealed that pck1, pck2, fbp1a and g6pca were retained as singletons after Ss4r while g6pcb1, g6pcb2 and fbp1b ohnologue pairs were maintained. For all genes, duplication may have led to sub- or neo-functionalisation. Expression profiles suggested that the gluconeogenesis pathway remained active in trout fed a no carbohydrate diet. When trout were fed a high-carbohydrate diet (30%), most of the gluconeogenic genes were non- or downregulated, except for g6pbc2 ohnologues the RNA levels of which were surprisingly increased. This study demonstrated that Ss4R in trout involved adaptive innovation via gene duplication and via the outcome of the resulting ohnologues. Indeed, maintenance of ohnologuous g6pcb2 pair may contribute in a significant way to the "glucoseintolerant" phenotype of trout and may partially explain its poor use of dietary carbohydrates.

## **Keywords**

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gluconeogenesis, carbohydrates, trout, gene duplication, carnivorism, adaptation

#### Introduction

The rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) is considered to be a strictly carnivorous fish species with nutritional needs linked to this specific dietary regime. Indeed, carnivorous species naturally require a diet consisting of high protein and moderate fat content but with minimal amounts of carbohydrate. The rainbow trout, with other carnivores such as the cat, mink and carnivorous teleosts (for instance European seabass, Dicentrarchus labrax), are thus metabolically adapted for high catabolism of proteins and low utilisation of dietary carbohydrates. They are therefore considered to be a glucose intolerant species due mainly to persistent hyperglycaemia after intake of carbohydrate-enriched meal(s) or glucose tolerance tests (cat (18, 48); trout (1, 2, 40, 50); several teleosts, reviewed by Polakof et al., 2012 (41)). Moreover, another adaptive carnivorous trait is a higher rate of hepatic gluconeogenesis (45, 51, 53, 56, 59) than omnivorous species, allowing them to sustain endogenous glucose demands, i.e maintenance of normoglycaemia and production of energy using gluconeogenic amino acids and fat rather than dietary carbohydrates (7, 10, 57, 58, 61). Probably as a result of no dietary carbohydrate requirements, gluconeogenesis in adult fish is also poorly, if ever, regulated by carbohydrates (17, 20, 26, 30-32, 34). Several studies performed in rainbow trout have shown that biochemical pathways (22, 29, 30, 37, 54) and control mechanisms (8, 27, 39, 41, 42) of glucose metabolism are conserved (38). Nevertheless, the plasticity of this system differs from one carnivorous species to another. For instance, the differential nutritional regulation of glucokinase (Gck, enzymatic activity and gene expression) across carnivorous species (reviewed by Panserat et al, 2014 (33)) is an indisputable illustration of this

fact. Indeed, cats have a very low functional Gck with no capacity to be inducible by dietary carbohydrates whereas in rainbow trout both expression and enzymatic activity of Gck are well up-regulated by such a diet. Species thus adapt to carnivorism using differential physiological strategies. In teleosts, radiation was preceded by three rounds of whole genome duplication (WGD)( teleost-specific 3rd WGD or Ts3R), believed to be involved in the evolution and diversification of teleost fish. An additional round of WGD then occurred in salmonids (Ss4R salmonid-specific 4<sup>th</sup> WGD, (3, 24)). WGD may represent a major evolutionary event in the study of adaptive mechanisms to carnivorism in rainbow trout. Indeed, after whole genome duplication, several scenarios can occur: the duplicated genes can be lost or fixed and maintained with three distinct outcomes, i.e. neofunctionalisation, subfunctionalisation, and conservation of function (14). Whole genome duplication via gene duplication is thus a source of genetic novelty and can lead to adaptive innovation. In the study of the gluconeogenic pathway, Seiliez et al. (2011,(49)) were the first to grasp this feature of rainbow trout by identifying a second gene encoding a glucose-6-phosphatase (called g6pase-2) in EST databases (Expressed Sequence Tag, SIGENAE, http://www.sigenae.org) and showing that both genes displayed differential expression patterns in trout fed a high carbohydrate diet. While the original gluconeogenic pathway in rainbow trout has been well documented by relating measurements of enzyme activity or gene expression gathered in EST databases, this metabolic pathway has never been considered to our knowledge from a genomic point of view, probably due to the unavailability of the genome sequence. Analysis of the recently sequenced rainbow trout genome (3) can now shed new light on processes which contribute to the hyperglycaemia and poor utilisation of dietary carbohydrates in this species.

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The aims of this study, focusing on the liver (the main gluconeogenic organ) in rainbow trout, were to characterise i) the evolutionary history of specific hepatic-expressed gluconeogenic genes in teleosts, *i.e.* cytosolic phosphoenol-pyruvate carboxykinase 1 and mitochondrial phosphoenol-pyruvate carboxykinase 2 (PCK1 and PCK2), fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase 1 (FBP1; (13, 55)) and glucose-6-phosphatase 1 (G6PC; (25)) and ii) their expression profile under different nutritional conditions (*i.e.* fasted, non- or high-carbohydrate diet fed, re-fasted).

## 108 Glossary

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- 109 EST: Expressed Sequence Tag
- HighCHO: high carbohydrate content diet
- 111 NADPH: Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate
- NoCHO: diet containing no charbohydrate
- 113 WGD: whole genome duplication
- 114 Ss4R: salmonid-specific 4<sup>th</sup> WGD
- Ts3R: teleost-specific 3<sup>rd</sup> WGD

#### **Materials and Methods**

#### 117 Ethical issues and approval

- Investigations were conducted according to the guiding principles for the use and care of laboratory animals and in compliance with French and European regulations on animal welfare (Décret 2001-464, 29 May 2001 and Directive 2010/63/EU,
- respectively). Fish were killed by concussion/blow to the skull and death was
- 122 confirmed by exsanguination. No anaesthetic was used to avoid bias in analysis of
- enzymatic activity. This protocol and the project as a whole were approved by the
- 124 French National Consultative Ethics Committee.

#### Fish diets

Two experimental diets, *i.e.*, the NoCHO (diet without carbohydrate) and the HighCHO (diet with about 30% carbohydrates), were prepared in our facilities (INRA, Saint-Pée-sur-Nivelle, France) as pressed pellets. The two diets were isolipidic and isoenergetic (Table 2). Gelatinized starch was included as carbohydrate source, protein was provided by fishmeal and dietary lipid by fish oil and fish meal. Inclusion of carbohydrates (~30%) in the HighCHO diet was compensated for by a decreased dietary protein level (~40%), which was still above the 37% protein requirement of rainbow trout (NRC, 2011). No carbohydrates were added to the NoCHO diet, which contained ~60% crude protein.

#### Fish and experimental design

Juvenile rainbow trout (~70g body mass) were distributed in six tanks (15 fish per tank) and reared at 17°C in the INRA experimental facilities at Saint-Pée-sur-Nivelle, France. After four days of total starvation, two fish per tank were killed. Fish were then fed with either the NoCHO or the HighCHO diet (triplicate tanks per diet) twice a day at 2.5% live weight for four days and sampled 6h after the last meal (n=9 fish per diet, 3 per tank) in order to monitor the expected hyperglycaemic phenotype. Gut content of the sampled animals was systematically checked to confirm that the fish sampled had consumed the diet. The remaining fish were then starved again and killed after four days (n=9 fish per diet, 3 per tank). Blood was removed from the caudal vein using heparinized syringes and centrifuged (3000 g, 5 min). The plasma recovered was immediately frozen and kept at -20°C until analysis. The fresh liver of each fish was dissected, part was used for enzyme activity analysis and the remaining part was immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and then kept at -80°C.

#### **Analytical methods**

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150 The chemical composition of the diets was analysed using the following procedures: 151 1) dry matter was determined after drying at 105°C for 24 h, 2) protein content 152 (N×6.25) was determined by the Kjeldahl method after acid digestion, 3) fat was 153 determined by petroleum ether extraction (Soxtherm), 4) gross energy was determined 154 in an adiabatic bomb calorimeter (IKA, Heitersheim Gribheimer, Germany), 5) ash 155 content was determined by incinerating the samples in a muffle furnace at 600°C for 156 6h, and 6) starch content was measured by an enzymatic method (InVivo Labs, 157 France). Plasma glucose levels were determined by using a commercial kit 158 (Biomérieux, Marcy l'Etoile, France) adapted to a microplate format according to the 159 manufacturer's instructions.

Orthologous Pck1, Pck2, Fbp1 and G6pc genes in the rainbow trout genome (3) were

#### In silico analysis

162 collected from the SIGENAE database (http://www.sigenae.org) using the BLAST 163 tool (all accession numbers are given in brackets in Figure 1). Sequences from other 164 species were collected from the Ensembl Genome database (Ensembl release 77 -165 October 2014, http://www.ensembl.org) or Genbank. The Genomicus software 166 program, version 01.01 (http://www.genomicus.biologie.ens.fr/genomicus-trout-167 01.01/cgi-bin/search.pl) was used to confirm their identities by establishing syntenic 168 analysis (Fig.2). 169 Phylogenetic analyses were performed using the MEGA package version 5 software 170 (52), as previously described (11). The phylogenetic trees, based on full-length amino 171 acid deduced sequences, were built using the Neighbor-Joining (NJ) method and 172 confirmed by the Minimum evolution method (data not shown). The reliability of the 173 inferred trees was estimated using the bootstrap method with 1,000 replications. 174 Branchiostoma floridae Pck (Genbank accession XP 002593974), Oikopleura dioica

- Fbp (Genbank accession CBY10016) and Latimeria chalumnae G6pc (Ensembl
- accession ENSLACG00000022601) protein sequences were used to root trees for *Pck*
- 177 (Fig.1A), *Fbp1* (Fig.1B) and *G6pc* (Fig.1C) phylogenetic analysis, respectively.
- New gene annotations were allocated according to ZFIN Nomenclature guidelines
- 179 (http://zfin.org/).
- Percentage Identity Matrices established among paralogous teleost sequences (Table
- 181 1) were calculated with Clustal 2.1 using the MUSCLE interface (9).

#### 182 Total RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis

- 183 Relative hepatic gene expression was determined by quantitative real-time RT-PCR.
- 184 Samples were homogenised using Precellys®24 (Bertin Technologies, Montigny-le-
- Bretonneux, France) in 2mL tubes containing Trizol reagent (Invitro-gen, Carlsbad,
- 186 CA, USA) and 2.8 millimiter ceramic beads, 2 x 10 seconds, separated by 15 seconds
- off, at 5,000 rpm. The extraction of total RNA was then performed according to the
- manufacturer's instructions. Total RNA (1µg) was used for cDNA synthesis. The
- Super-Script III RNAse H-Reverse transcriptase kit (Invitro-gen) was used with
- random primers (Promega, Charbonniéres, France) to synthesize cDNA (n = 9 for each
- 191 treatment).

#### 192 Real time RT-PCR

- 193 The primer sequences used in real-time RT-PCR assays are listed in Table 3. For gene
- targets that had not previously been validated, primers were tested on a pool of cDNA
- and amplified products were systematically sequenced. The protocol conditions for
- real-time RT-PCR have been published previously (49). For real-time RT-PCR
- assays, the Roche Lightcycler 480 system was used (Roche Diagnostics, Neuilly-sur-
- 198 Seine, France). The assays were performed using a reaction mix of 6 µl per sample,
- each of which contained 2 μl of diluted cDNA template, 0.12 μl of each primer (10

μM), 3 μl Light Cycler 480 SYBR® Green I Master mix and 0.76 μl DNAse/RNAse free water (5 Prime GmbH, Hamburg, Germany). The PCR protocol was initiated at 95°C for 10 min for initial denaturation of the cDNA and hot-start Taq-polymerase activation, followed by 45 cycles of a two-step amplification programme (15s at 95°C; 40s at 60°C). Melting curves were systematically monitored (temperature gradient 1.1°C/10 s from 65-94°C) at the end of the last amplification cycle to confirm the specificity of the amplification reaction. Each PCR assay included replicate samples (duplicate of reverse transcription and PCR amplification, respectively) and negative controls (reverse transcriptase- and cDNA template-free samples, respectively). For the expression analysis, relative quantification of target gene expression was performed using the  $\Delta CT$  method (36). The relative gene expression of Rps16 (ribosomal protein 40S S6, (28)) was used for the normalization of measured mRNA as its relative expression did not significantly change over sampling time (data not shown). In all cases, PCR efficiency was measured by the slope of a standard curve using serial dilutions of cDNA. In all cases, PCR efficiency values ranged between 1.89 and 2.0.

#### Enzyme activity

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Fresh livers used to assess enzyme activity were ground in 8 volumes of ice cold buffer at pH 7.4 (50mmol/l TRIS, 5mmol/l EDTA, 2 mmol/l DTT and a protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma, St Louis, MO; P2714) and centrifuged for 10 min at 900g at 4°C. Assays were performed from the recovered supernatants for Gck and Fbp activity. For G6pc, one minute of sonic disruption was then applied to the homogenized samples kept on ice, then samples were centrifuged for 20 min at 10,000g at 4°C and supernatants were used for enzyme assays. For Pck1 and Pck2 activity, in order to separate the cytosolic and the mitochondrial fractions, additional

centrifugation (20 minutes, 10,000g at 4°C) was performed on supernatants obtained after first centrifugation at 900g. After the second centrifugation, supernatants were kept for cytosolic Pck1 assay. The pellets containing the mitochondrial fraction were recovered in 500µL of ice cold buffer at pH 7.4 and sonicated as described above. The enzymes assayed were: high Km Hexokinase (Gck), as described by Panserat et al. (2000, [25]), G6Pase from Alegre et al. (1988, [62]), Pck following protocol of Kirchner et al. (2003, [63]) and Fbp, described by Tranulis et al. (1996, [64]). The enzyme activity was measured in duplicate at 30°C following the variation of absorbance of NADPH (Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate) at 340nm. The reactions were started by the addition of the specific substrate; a Power Wave X (BioTek Instrument, Inc.) plate reader was used. Water was used as a blank for each sample. One unit of enzyme activity was defined as the amount of enzyme that catalysed the hydrolysis of 1 µmol of substrate per minute at 30°C. Enzyme activity was expressed per milligram of soluble protein. Protein concentrations were measured in triplicate according to Bradford (1976, [65]), using a protein assay kit (Bio-Rad, München, Germany) with bovine serum albumin as a standard.

#### 241 Statistical analysis

- Normality of distributions was assessed using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Data were then
- 243 analyzed by a Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test following by a Tukey test as a post-
- hoc analysis. Data were analysed using the R software (v.3.1.0)/R Commander
- 245 package.

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#### Results

#### In silico analysis of gluconeogenic genes

- 248 By analysing assembly of the rainbow trout genome (3) we identified for the first time
- 249 several genes sharing high sequence homology with the gluconeogenic zebrafish

(*Danio rerio*) and human (*Homo sapiens*) orthologues: two were related to *PCK*, three to *FBP1*, and five to *G6PC*. A phylogenetic analysis, using full-length vertebrate protein sequences, and a syntenic analysis were then performed to clarify the identity of these rainbow trout sequences.

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Our *Pck* phylogenetic analysis showed that one of the rainbow trout sequences identified (GSONMG00082468001) was grouped with pck1 vertebrate orthologues while the other (GSONMG00059643001) was grouped with pck2 vertebrate orthologues (Fig.1A). We also found that both rainbow trout genes were located in two distinct syntenic groups, ccndbp1-psme1 for GSONMG00082468001 and dcaf11psme1 for GSONMG00059643001, conserved around pck1 and pck2 loci, respectively, in zebrafish (data not shown). In addition, amino acid sequence identity analysis confirmed that the deduced protein sequence from the GSONMG00082468001 gene shared higher percentage identity with human and zebrafish Pck1 sequences than with Pck2 sequences, while the opposite was true for the amino acid sequence deduced from the GSONMG00059643001 gene (Table 1-A).

On studying *FBP1* related rainbow trout genes, we showed that two of the three genes identified were co-orthologous to the *fbp1b* gene in zebrafish (Fig.1B). We therefore arbitrarily annotated these genes *fbp1b1* (GSONMT00063051001) and *fbp1b2* (GSONMT00015701001). Fbp1b1 and Fbp1b2 deduced amino acid sequences were highly conserved (more than 97% identity) and shared approximately 90% identity with zebrafish Fbp1b (Table 1-B). The size of the scaffold bearing the third rainbow trout *FBP1*-related sequence (GSONMG00001932001) was not sufficient to cover the whole gene length. The length of the deduced amino acid sequence was therefore not appropriate for inclusion in the phylogenetic analysis. However, this truncated trout sequence was submitted to a BLAST search against several sequenced

teleost genomes (zebrafish, medaka (*Oryzias latipes*), fugu (*Takifugu rubripes*) and tetraodon (*Tetraodon nigroviridis*)) available in the Ensembl database. In all species, the hit with the highest score matched the *fbp1a* gene (data not shown). Finally, no informative syntenic conservation was found around *fbp1a* or around *fbp1b2* because of the small size of the scaffolds. Nevertheless, *fbp1b1*, borne by a larger scaffold, was located in the *gas1-C9-dab2-thsb4b* syntenic group conserved in the zebrafish, medaka, stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), tetraodon and fugu around the *fbp1b* gene (data not shown).

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Our phylogenetic analysis for G6pc-related genes revealed that one rainbow trout sequence was orthologous to the zebrafish gene annotated g6pca.1 (ENSDARP00000116534) in Ensembl (release 77) while the others grouped pairwise with zebrafish genes annotated g6pca.2 (ENSDARP00000086301) and g6pcb (ENSDARP00000128434), respectively. The typology of the phylogenetic tree indicated that the initial annotation of co-orthologous G6pc genes in zebrafish was inaccurate. Indeed the rooting of the branches inside the teleost sub-tree was more in favour of an initial duplication of the G6pc gene into g6pca and g6pcb before or around teleost radiation, followed by a second duplication of at least g6pcb giving rise to g6pcb1 and g6pcb2 genes. We therefore re-annotated zebrafish co-orthologous G6pc genes in our phylogenetic and syntenic analysis (g6pca as a replacement for g6pca.1, g6pcb1 for g6pca.2, and g6pcb2 for g6pcb) (Fig.1C). Moreover, the matrix identity (Table 1-C) confirmed that, protein except for G6pca (GSONMG00076843001), other rainbow trout G6pc amino acid sequences shared pairwise more than 90% identity, suggesting that duplicated g6pcb1 and duplicated g6pcb2 genes were retained after Ss4R (3) in the rainbow trout genome as g6pcb1.a (GSONMG00076841001), g6pcb1.b (GSONMG00066036001), g6pcb2.a

(GSONMG00013076001) and *g6pacb2.b* (GSONMG00014864001). Finally, our syntenic analysis (Fig.2) showed that *G6pc* in the human and the mouse was located in the *wnk4-ccdc56-aoc2-aoc3-aards1-nbr1-tmem106a-arl4d-etv4-meox1* syntenic group. Interestingly, syntenic conservation of *nbr1-tmem106a-arl4d* was found with all chromosomal regions of teleosts (zebrafish, trout, stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), fugu and tetraodon) which carried the duplicated copies of *g6pc* (except around *g6pcb2* in zebrafish where the syntenic group was only partially conserved). Similarly, the *etv4-meox1* group was found to be specifically syntenic with the *g6pca-g6pcb1* group, while *aoc2* was only syntenic with *g6pcb2* genes, thus confirming the identity of such paralogous genes.

## An expected phenotype confirmed by persistent post-prandial hyperglycaemia

and up-regulation of *gck* genes after a high carbohydrate content diet

Our experimental conditions and diets were designed to arrive at a previously described (49) hyperglycaemic phenotype characterised by a steep rise in plasma glucose concentration and a dramatic increase in glucokinase (*gck*) mRNA level and enzyme activity with a high carbohydrate diet. The carbohydrate content of the HighCHO diet (30%) is higher than those usually used in rich-carbohydrate called diets (<20% carbohydrates) for long term nutrition but was chosen in order to dramatically induce such a phenotype. We therefore monitored glycaemia and glucokinase mRNA level and enzyme activity.

320 The plasmatic glucose analysis showed that plasma glucose levels were significantly

321 higher after a high carbohydrate diet (HighCHO, Fig.3A) than in fasted trout (i.e.

322 Fasted or Refasted, Fig.3A) or trout fed the NoCHO diet which displayed

normoglycaemia (~0.8g/L).

324 As for gluconeogenic genes, we performed an in silico analysis in order to elucidate

the gck evolutionary history. We thus identified two sequences in the rainbow trout

genome sharing high homology with the zebrafish gck gene. These two genes were grouped together in the teleost gck phylogenetic sub-tree (Fig.4) as co-orthogues to teleost and tetrapod gck genes. As no duplication of gck in other sequenced teleost genomes was found, we concluded that duplication of gck in rainbow trout occurred before or around the Ss4R, giving rise to gcka (GSONMG00033781001) and gckb (GSONMG00012878001) in this species. Compared with fasted trout and fish fed the NoCHO diet, both gcka and gckb mRNA levels increased dramatically in fish fed the high carbohydrate diet (Fig.3B). The overall Gck activity followed the same trend (Fig.3C), confirming that Gck enzyme activity is a strong indicator of dietary carbohydrate intake.

Taken together, these results confirmed the physiological effects of a high carbohydrate content diet in trout expected with this study design, and as previously

#### Expression analysis of gluconeogenic genes

described (49).

Analysis of gene expression revealed that, although the *pck1* mRNA level was not clearly statistically affected by the nutritional status, it was higher in trout fed the NoCHO diet than in trout fed the HighCHO diet (Fig.5A). The mRNA level of *pck2* (Fig.5A) was constant whatever the experimental condition. No change in Pck1 or Pck2 enzyme activity was noted (Fig.5D-a and 5D-b). As previously described (19), we found that overall Pck activity in the liver comprised approximately one third cytosolic activity (Pck1) and two thirds mitochondrial activity (Pck2) (Fig.5D-a and 5D-b).

As for *pck2*, *fbp1a* mRNA level remained stable, irrespective of the nutritional status (Fig.5B). In contrast to *fbp1b2*, the *fbp1b1* mRNA level increased in trout fed the

NoCHO diet compared to fasted animals (Fig. 5B). However, intake of the HighCHO

The overall Fbp activity (Fig.5D-c) followed the same trend as *fbp1b1* and *fbp1b2* mRNA levels, with a significant decrease in trout fed the HighCHO diet, but did not follow the increase in *fbp1b1* mRNA level in trout fed the NoCHO diet.

The mRNA level of *g6pca* (Fig.5C) remained unchanged whatever the nutritional status in trout fed the NoCHO diet while it decreased in trout fed the HighCHO diet and in re-fasted fish fed the latter diet. The *g6pcb1.b* mRNA level followed almost the same pattern as *g6pca* whereas the paralogous *g6pcb1.a* gene displayed a decrease in mRNA level in trout fed the NoCHO diet, with the same fold change as that observed in trout fed the HighCHO diet (Fig.5C). In striking contrast to all other coorthologous *G6pc* genes, the mRNA level of both *g6pcb2* paralogues increased in fed trout compared to fasted or re-fasted fish, and to a greater extent when trout were fed the HighCHO diet. Also, the overall G6pc enzyme activity remained unchanged in fasted and fed trout but decreased in re-fasted trout (Fig.5D-d).

diet caused a decrease in both fbp1b1 and fbp1b2 paralogue mRNA levels (Fig.5B).

## **Discussion**

The rapidly increasing number of whole genomes sequenced in model and non-model organisms in the last decade (3, 4, 60) makes us seriously consider the DNA sequence information to be a powerful tool for unravelling the mechanisms of environmental adaptation. In this context, the outcome of duplicated genes arising through Ss4R in rainbow trout can lead to adaptive innovation (47), depending on whether they are lost or fixed and maintained (14). Elucidating the evolutionary history of such genes and studying their expression patterns may help to reveal new molecular underpinnings involved in adaptive behaviour in rainbow trout. This approach is of particular interest when considering the adaptation of rainbow trout to

carnivorism as this has never previously been explored from a genomic point of view. The present study therefore focused on genes encoding key gluconeogenic enzymes in the liver, the atypical nutritional regulation of the gluconeogenesis pathway being one trail to explain the "glucose-intolerant" phenotype of this carnivorous species.

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# *In silico* analysis of the recently sequenced rainbow trout genome revealed the conservation of several duplicated gluconeogenic genes

The first critical step in elucidating the evolutionary history of gluconeogenic genes was to identify accurately the orthologous genes of mammalian Pck1, Pck2, G6pc and Fbp1 genes in the newly sequenced rainbow trout genome (3). Using phylogenetic and syntenic analyses we identified for the first time a pck1 gene in the rainbow trout genome which was orthologous to the cytosolic Pck1. Our results also confirmed that the pck gene previously sequenced in rainbow trout by Panserat et al. (2001, (31)) was orthologous to the mitochondrial Pck2 gene in other species. For Fbp1, we demonstrated that a duplication of the gene occurred before or around teleost radiation, giving rise to Fbp1a and Fbp1b in teleosts probably as a consequence of the teleost-specific 3<sup>rd</sup> WGD (Ts3R). After 4SsR, fbp1a was retained as a singleton in the rainbow trout genome while the fbp1b ohnologous gene pair (paralogues formed by a WGD event, (3)) consisting of fbp1b1 and fbp1b2 was preserved. We finally clarified the complex evolutionary history of G6pc (summarised in Fig.6), showing that a duplication of this gene occurred before or around teleost radiation, giving rise to g6pca and g6pcb in the ancestral teleost genome. The presence of both g6pcb1 and g6pcb2 in the genome of a cypriniform (zebrafish) and a salmonidae (rainbow trout), but only g6pcb1 in Percomorph genomes (medaka, stickleback, fugu and tetraodon), was then in favour of an additional duplication of g6pcb, at least in the genome of the common ancestor of the Euteleost, Salmonidae and Ostariophys, followed by a loss of g6pcb2 in the Percomorph ancestor. Analysis of the rainbow trout genome indicated that *g6pca* was retained as a singleton whereas both ohnologous gene pairs *g6pcb1.a-g6pcb1.b* and *g6pcb2.a-g6pcb2.b* remained whole after Ss4R. The evolutionary history of gluconeogenic genes confirmed that genes retained as 2R (two rounds of WGD occurring at the base of vertebrates) and Ts3R ohnologues were more likely to have been retained in duplicated copies after Ss4R in rainbow trout (for instance *g6pcb* and *fbp1b*, in contrast to *pck1* or *pck2* that were retained as singletons after Ts3R (47)) as demonstrated by Berthelot *et al.* (2014, (3)). These authors also suggested that WGD involved the loss of one gene copy of ohnologous gene pairs by gene fractionation (loss of functioning DNA sequence, (23)). This process may be the origin of the loss of one *pck1*, *pck2*, *g6pca* and *fbp1a* ohnologue in rainbow trout after Ss4R.

# Overall analysis of hepatic expression profiles of gluconeogenic genes suggested sub- or neo-functionalisation of ohnologous genes after Ss4R

An overall analysis of expression profiles of the previously described gluconeogenic genes revealed that both genes of each identified ohnologue pair (i.e., fbp1b1/fbp1b2, g6pcb1.a/g6pcb1.b and g6pcb2.a/g6pcb2.b) displayed similar expression patterns, indicating that they belonged to the HC ("high correlation") group defined by Berthelot et al. (2014, (3)). Moreover, these convergent expression patterns were associated with a high percentage of identity of the ohnologue coding region (fbp1b1/fbp1b2, 93.6%; g6pcb1.a/g6pcb1.b,92.4% and g6pcb2.a/g6pcb2.b, 96.4%) suggesting that these sequences were submitted to a high selective pressure, as proposed by Berthelot et al. (2014, (3)). From a paralogous genes point of view, our results showed that g6pcb duplication may have led to sub- or neo-functionalisation because g6pcb1 ohnologues and g6pcb2 ohnologues displayed opposite expression profiles. Nonetheless, since g6pcb2 expression has to our knowledge never been studied in other species (especially not in zebrafish), we cannot conclude that this sub-

or neo-functionalisation occurred only in rainbow trout nor whether it occurred before salmonid radiation. Similarly, *fbp1* duplication was probably followed by sub- or neo-functionalisation of *fbp1a* and *fbp1b* ohnologues which probably still occurred after Ts3R. Indeed, whole mount *in situ* hybridisation data available for zebrafish embryos demonstrates that *fbp1a* mRNA is more related to lens whereas *fbp1b* mRNA is located, amongst other organs, in the liver and in the gut (5, 44). Finally, the sub-functionalisation of *pck1* and *pck2* highlighted by our results has long been suggested (15, 16).

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# Expression analysis of hepatic gluconeogenic genes in trout fed with or without carbohydrates revealed differential paralogous profiles

On considering the different nutritional conditions tested, analyses of the expression of the duplicated gluconeogenic genes revealed that all genes were regulated by nutritional status except pck2 and fbp1a, the mRNA levels of which remained stable whatever the nutritional status. Our results showed that none of the genes encoding key gluconeogenic enzymes (except g6pcb1.a) were down-regulated in trout fed the NoCHO diet. Indeed, compared to fasting pck1, fbp1b2, g6pca and g6pcb1.b were not regulated whereas fbp1b1, g6pcb2.a and g6pcb2.b were upregulated. These expression data, combined with the maintenance of gluconeogenic enzyme activity, suggested that the gluconeogenesis pathway remained active under NoCHO nutrition according to the need for endogenous glucose production to sustain maintenance of normoglycaemia due to the dietary habits and physiology of carnivorous species (7, 10, 57, 58, 61). Furthermore, this is consistent with previous in vivo and in vitro studies showing that the gluconeogenesis flux is never turned off in fed carnivorous teleosts (35, 56). Moreover, when trout were submitted to a refasting period we showed that mRNA levels for most of the genes (pck1, fbp1b1, fbp1b2, g6pca and g6pcb1b) were maintained at the same levels as in fed trout.

By contrast, the HighCHO diet led to the down-regulation of most of the gluconeogenic genes (pck1, fbp1b1, fbp1b2, g6pca, g6pcb1.a and g6pcb1.b), suggesting that, as in mammals, dietary carbohydrates are involved in the inhibition of expression of gluconeogenic genes. In addition, dietary carbohydrates seemed to down-regulate overall Fbp1 enzyme activity. These findings suggested that the potential mechanism to minimize gluconeogenic flux in the presence of dietary carbohydrates exists in the trout. However, and surprisingly, mRNA levels of g6pcb2 orthologues dramatically increased in trout fed the HighCHO diet in contrast to other G6pc paralogues. Indeed, the expression profiles of g6pcb2 ohnologues mimicked those of gck ohnologues and might in part be responsible for the poor regulation of the gluconeogenesis pathway. Such an expression profile of G6pc encoding genes under high carbohydrate nutrition in rainbow trout has never previously been described, as duplicated g6pcb2 genes had not been identified before. Indeed, we found that primers used in previous studies amplified only g6pca (e.g., primers named "G6Pase" in (30) and (20) or "g6pase 2" in (49) and (12)) and a conserved region between g6pcb1 ohnologues (primers named "g6pase 1" in (49) and (12)). In addition, it can be hypothesised that the "glucose-intolerant" phenotype in rainbow trout was accentuated by the increased g6pcb2 gene dosage due to the fixation of both ohnologues in its genome (21, 43). This gene dosage may explain how overall G6pc enzyme activity remained stable in trout fed the HighCHO diet while the mRNA level of three orthologous G6pc genes decreased (g6pca, g6pcb1.a and g6pcb1.b) compared to trout fed the NoCHO diet. The down-regulation of overall G6pc enzyme activity in re-fasted trout also supports this hypothesis as g6pcb2 mRNA levels decreased dramatically under re-fasting.

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Altogether, our results suggest that the atypical expression profiles of *g6pcb2* ohnologues, and probably the resulting enzyme activity, may contribute significantly to the non-inhibition of the last step of gluconeogenic flux and to the enrichment of plasma glucose *via* futile glucose/glucose-6-phosphate cycling (56) in trout fed a carbohydrate-enriched diet. Interestingly, in Type 2 diabetes under hyperglycaemia and in conditions where endogenous glucose production is minimized, a significant glucose/glucose-6-phosphate activity cycle occurs (46) that is mediated in part by increased G6pase flux (6) but largely dependent on glucokinase activity. The lesson learned from trout naturally exhibiting this phenotype may thus cast light on defects in metabolism that contribute to diabetes.

#### Conclusions

The results of this study demonstrated the importance of considering the additional round of WGD occurring in teleosts and in salmonids as major evolutionary events which can lead to adaptive innovation *via* gene duplication. Indeed, under the HighCHO diet the absence of *pck2* and *fbp1a* down-regulation and, more surprisingly, the increase in mRNA levels of both *g6pcb2* ohnologues are new elements to enhance our understanding of the poor use of dietary carbohydrates in rainbow trout. Further studies such as gene knock-out assays are now needed to evaluate the involvement of these duplicated genes in the carnivorous "glucose-intolerant" phenotype of rainbow trout.

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#### 505 Disclosures

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

#### 507 Authors' contributions

- 508 L.M and S.P designed the study. L.M managed the study, performed in silico,
- expression and statistical analysis, and wrote the manuscript. V.V performed enzyme
- activity analysis. I.S., S. S.-C., V.V. and S. P. contributed to the manuscript
- 511 correction.

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## Figure captions

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- 728 Figure 1 Phylogenetic analysis of pck1 and pck2 (A), fbp1 (B) and g6pc (C)
- 729 Phylogenetic analyses were performed using MEGA package version 5 software (52),
- as previously described (11). The phylogenetic trees were built using the Neighbor-
- Joining (NJ) method. The reliability of the inferred trees was estimated using the
- bootstrap method with 1,000 replications. Branchiostoma floridae Pck (Genbank
- accession XP 002593974), Oikopleura dioica Fbp (Genbank accession CBY10016)
- and Latimeria chalumnae G6pc (Ensembl accession ENSLACG00000022601)
- protein sequences were used to root trees for Pck (A), Fbp1 (B) and G6pc (C)
- phylogenetic analysis, respectively. All accession numbers (from Genbank, Ensembl
- or Genoscope databases) are specified in brackets.

#### Figure 2 - Conserved synteny around the *g6pc* loci in mammals and teleosts

- Data were collected using Genomicus software version 01.01, and g6pc genes were
- 740 annotated by ourselves according to our phylogenetic analysis following ZFIN
- Nomenclature guidelines. Black crosses indicate loss of the *g6pcb2* gene in medaka,
- stickleback, fugu and tetraodon genomes. Ch., chromosome; sc., scaffold, cont.,
- contig; Gp., group.

### 744 Figure 3 - Physiological confirmation of expected phenotypes depending on

- 745 the nutritional status and diet
- 746 Plasma levels of glucose (A), relative abundance of glucokinase a (gcka) and
- 747 glucokinase b (gckb) mRNA (B), and overall glucokinase activity (C) in fasted (white
- bars), fed with NoCHO (grey bars) or HighCHO (black bars) diets and re-fasted trout
- 749 after NoCHO or HighCHO diet. Data are expressed as means  $\pm$  SE (n = 9). Different
- letters indicate significant differences between conditions (P < 0.01).

#### 751 Figure 4 – Phylogenetic analysis of *gcka* and *gckb*

- 752 Phylogenetic analyses were performed using MEGA package version 5 software (52),
- as previously described (11). The phylogenetic tree was built using the Neighbor-

754 Joining (NJ) method. The reliability of the inferred trees was estimated using the 755 bootstrap method with 1,000 replications. The Branchiostoma japonicum, (GenBank 756 ID: AGW32307) protein sequence was used to root the tree. All accession numbers 757 (from Ensembl or Genoscope databases) are specified in brackets. 758 759 Figure 5 - Relative expression of paralogous gluconeogenic genes and 760 corresponding overall enzyme activity Relative abundance of pck1 and pck2 mRNA (A), fpbp1 paralogues (B) and g6pcb 761 762 paralogues (C) and respective related overall enzyme activity (D) in fasted trout 763 (white bars), trout fed with the NoCHO (grey bars) or the HighCHO (black bars) diet 764 and re-fasted trout after NoCHO or HighCHO diet. Data are expressed as means ± SE 765 (n = 9). Different letters indicate significant differences between conditions (P < 766 0.01). 767 Figure 6 – Model depicting the evolution of *q6pc* genes in teleosts 768 G6pc (grey) duplicated before or around teleost radiation giving rise to g6pca (green) 769 and *g6pcb* (brown). *g6pcb* was then duplicated at least in the common ancestor of 770 Euteleost, Salmonidae and Ostariophys into g6pcb1 (dark yellow) and g6pcb2 771 (orange). Around salmonid radiation g6pcb1and g6pcb2 were duplicated (g6pcb1a in 772 light yellow, g6pcb1b in brown, g6pcb2a in red and g6pcb2b in pink). g6pcb2 was 773 not maintained in the percomorph ancestor. 774 775 776 777 778 779

## 780 **Tables**

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A.	Hs-PCK1	Dr-Pck1	Om-Pck1	Hs-PCK2	<i>Dr</i> -Pck2
Hs-PCK1					
Dr-Pck1	73,63				
Om-Pck1	75,56	79,94			
Hs-PCK2	70,74	69,18	70,14		
Dr-Pck2	67,04	66,29	68,12	67,36	
Om-Pck2	68,01	68,55	69,24	68,1	86,93

В.	Hs-FBP1	<i>Dr</i> -Fbp1a	<i>Dr</i> -Fbp1b	Om-Fbp1b1
Hs-FBP1				
Dr-Fbp1a	79,53			
Dr-Fbp1b	79,53	88,72		
Om-Fbp1b1	76,85	84,27	89,02	
Om-Fbp1b2	77,74	86,05	90,5	97,33

C.	Hs-G6PC	<i>Dr</i> -G6pca	Om-G6pca	Dr-G6pcb1	Om-G6pcb1.a	Om-G6pcb1.b	Dr-G6pcb2	Om-G6pcb2.a
Hs-G6PC								
Dr-G6pca	55,27							
Om-G6pca	54,15	71,92						
Dr-G6pcb1	64,12	58,17	58,17					
Om-G6pcb1.a	62,54	57,83	60,57	81,97				
Om-G6pcb1.b	62,43	58,29	61,14	80,56	92,72			
Dr-G6pcb2	53,8	51,14	51,15	61,08	59,04	57,79		
Om-G6pcb2.a	59,26	54,57	53,43	61,89	70,66	70	69,71	
Om-G6pcb2.b	58,12	54	52,15	61,03	68,09	67,14	67,43	94,3

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783 Table 1 – Matrix protein identity of phosphoenol-pyruvate carboxykinase (A),

fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase (B) and glucose-6-phosphatase (C) among zebrafish,

rainbow trout and the human

For accession numbers referred to phylogenetic analysis (Fig. 1). Dr, *Danio rerio*; Hs,

787 Homo sapiens; Om, Oncorhynchus mykiss.

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	Diets	
	NoCHO	HighCHO
Ingredients %		
Fish meal <sup>1</sup>	90.85	55.9
Fish oil <sup>2</sup>	5.15	10.1
Starch <sup>3</sup>	0	30
Vitamin mix <sup>4</sup>	1	1
Mineral mix <sup>5</sup>	1	1
Alginate <sup>6</sup>	2	2
Proximate composition		
Dry matter (DM, % diet)	95.46	94.69
Crude protein (% DM)	61.30	39.08
Crude lipid (% DM)	18.86	17.70
Gross energy (kJ/g DM)	22.05	21.76
Ash (% DM)	17.73	11.38
Carbohydrates (% DM)	<1.0	28.4

<sup>806</sup> <sup>1</sup> Sopropeche, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

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Table 2 - Formulation and proximate composition of the two experimental diets used (NoCHO and HighCHO diets) in this experiment.

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<sup>807</sup> <sup>2</sup> fish oil; Sopropeche, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Gelatinized corn starch (Roquette, Lestrem, France)

<sup>809</sup> <sup>4</sup> Supplied the following (kg-1 diet): DL-a tocopherol acetate 60 IU, sodium menadione bisulphate 5 810 mg, retinyl acetate 15000 IU, DLcholecalciferol 3000 IU, thiamin 15 mg, riboflavin 30 mg, pyridoxine 811 15 mg, vit. B12 0.05 mg, nicotinic acid 175 mg, folic acid 500 mg, inositol 1000 mg, biotin 2.5 mg, 812 calcium panthotenate 50 mg, choline chloride 2000 mg.

<sup>813</sup> <sup>5</sup> Supplied the following (kg-1 diet): calcium carbonate (40% Ca) 2.15 g, magnesium oxide (60% Mg) 814 1.24 g, ferric citrate 0.2 g, potassium iodide (75% I) 0.4 mg, zinc sulphate (36% Zn) 0.4 g, copper 815 sulphate (25% Cu) 0.3 g, manganese sulphate (33% Mn) 0.3 g, dibasic calcium phosphate (20% Ca, 816 18% P) 5 g, cobalt sulphate 2 mg, sodium selenite (30% Se) 3 mg, potassium chloride 0.9 g, Sodium 817 chloride 0.4 g.

<sup>818</sup> <sup>6</sup> Louis François, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Gene	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')	Sigenae or Genoscope Accession number
RS16	TTTCAGGTGGCGAAACATGC'	GGGGTCTGCCATTCACCTTG	tcbk0005c.o.13_5.1.om.4
gcka	CTGCCCACCTACGTCTGT	GTCATGGCGTCCTCAGAGAT	GSONMG00033781001
gckb	TCTGTGCTAGAGACAGCCC	CATTTTGACGCTGGACTCCT	GSONMG00012878001
pck1	ACAGGGTGAGGCAGATGTAGG	CTAGTCTGTGGAGGTCTAAGGGC	GSONMG00082468001
pck2	ACAATGAGATGATGTGACTGCA	TGCTCCATCACCTACAACCT	GSONMG00059643001
fbp1a	GACAGAGGACGACCCGTG	GTACTGACCGGGTCCAACAT	GSONMT00001932001
fbp1b1	CTCTCAAGAACCTCTACAGCCT	TCAGTTCTCCCGTTCCCTTC	GSONMT00063051001
fbp1b2	ATCAGCAGGAATAGGTCGCG	CCTCCTCCAGCACGAATCTC	GSONMT00015701001
д6рса	GATGGCTTGACGTTCTCCT	AGATCCAGGAGAGTCCTCC	GSONMG00076843001
g6pcb1.a	GCAAGGTCCAAAGATCAGGC	GCCAATGTGAGATGTGATGGG	GSONMG00076841001
g6pcb1.b	GCTACAGTGCTCTCCTTCTG	TCACCCCATAGCCCTGAAA	GSONMG00066036001
g6pcb2.a	ATCGGACAATACACACAGAACT	CAACTGATCTATAGCTGCTGCCT	GSONMG00013076001
g6pcb2.b	CCTCTGCTCTTCTGACGTAG	TGTCCATGGCTGCTCTCTAG	GSONMG00014864001

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Table 3 - Primer Sequences and accession numbers for qPCR analysis















