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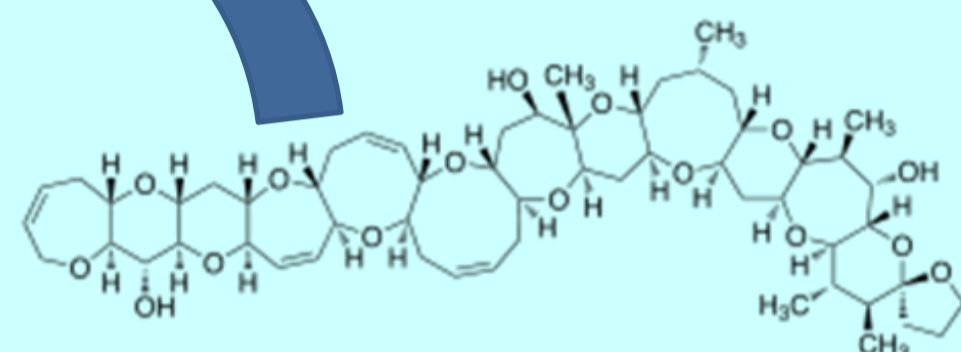
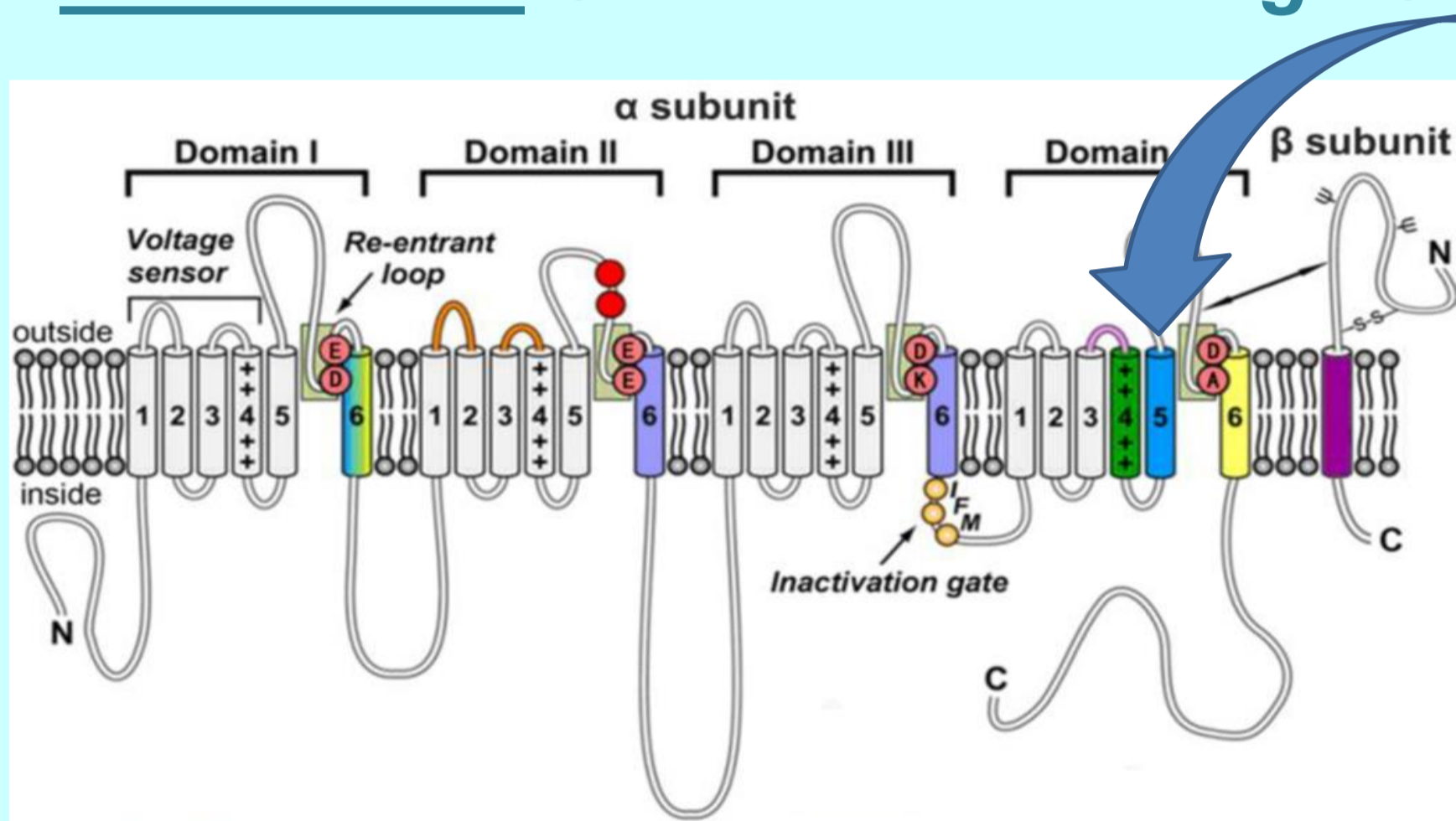
# Development of New Biosensors to detect Ciguatoxins

Hélène Martin-Yken<sup>1</sup>,  
Sylvain Derick<sup>2</sup>, Camille Gironde<sup>2</sup>, H. Taiana Darius<sup>3</sup>, Christophe Furger<sup>2</sup>,  
Dominique Laurent<sup>4</sup>, Jean-Marie François<sup>1</sup> and Mireille Chinain<sup>3</sup>.

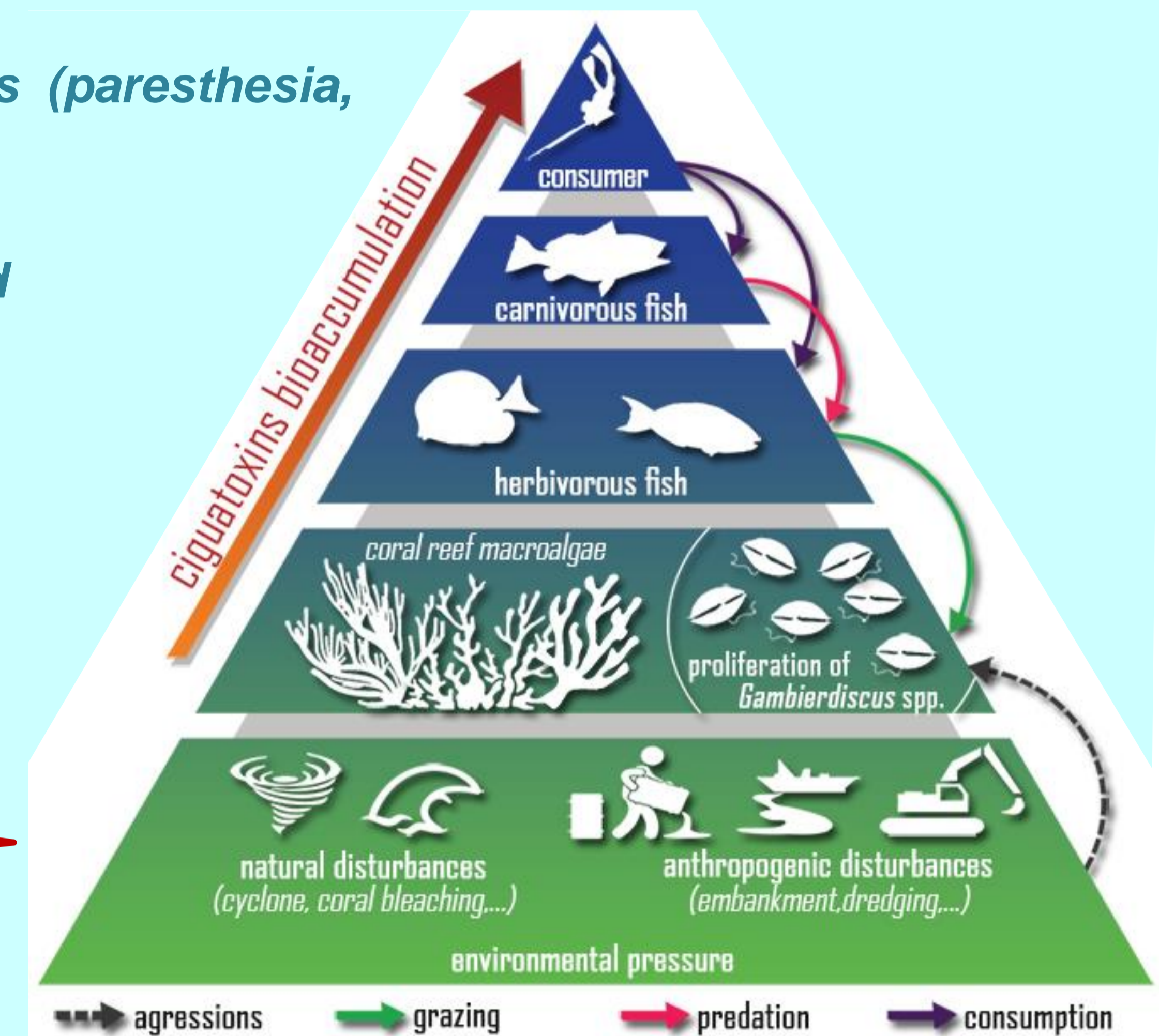
- 1 : LISBP INSA Université de Toulouse, UMR CNRS 5504, UMR INRA 792, 135 Avenue de Ranguel 31077 Toulouse, France.  
2 : Led Engineering Development and LAAS-CNRS, 7 avenue du colonel Roche, Toulouse, France.  
3 : Laboratoire des Micro-Algues Toxiques, UMR EIO, Institut Louis Malardé, BP 30 98713 Papeete – Tahiti, Polynésie française.  
4 : Université Paul Sabatier Toulouse 3 UMR 152 et IRD Polynésie française, BP 529 98713 Papeete – Tahiti, Polynésie française.

## Ciguatera Fish Poisoning: the most prevalent intoxication from seafood worldwide !

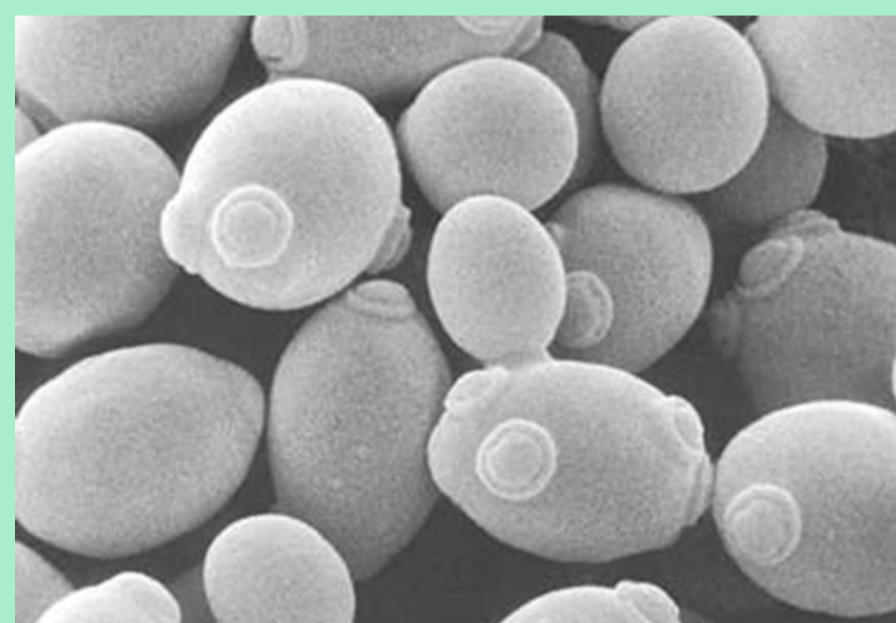
- **Symptoms:** variety of gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neurological symptoms (paresthesia, ataxia, cold allodynia), **with persistent neurological effects**
- **Cause:** Ciguatoxins or CTXs, lipid-soluble polyethers produced by dinoflagellates *Gambierdiscus* spp.. mostly found in tropical and subtropical zones, and **now also present in temperate waters** 1,2,3,4
- **Mechanism:** CTXs bind to Voltage Gated Sodium Channels (VGSCs) of human sensory neurons.



**- No effective treatment !**

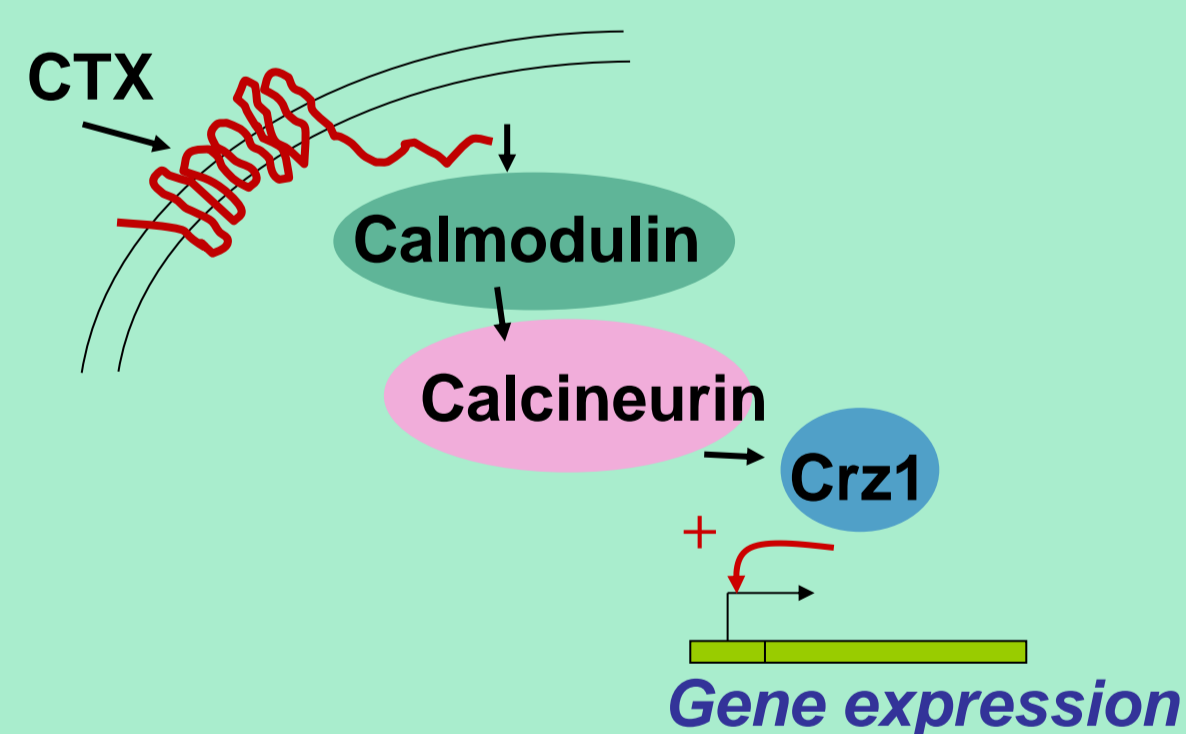


- Existing functional detection tests for CTXs such as (CBA-N2a, RBA)<sup>5</sup> are heavy, expensive, impossible to transport for an in situ use.



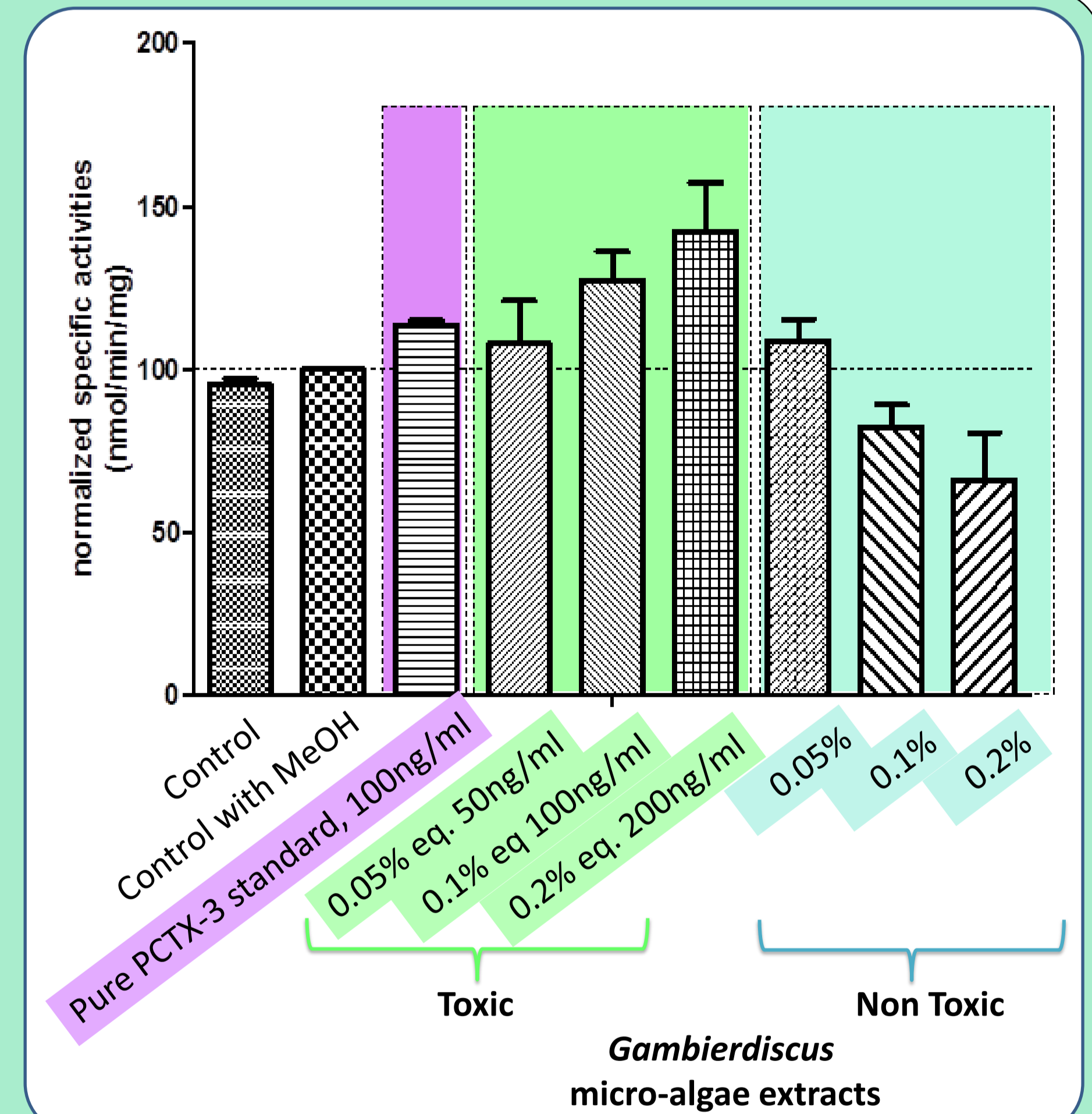
## Design of new biosensors based on yeast cells:

- **Why Yeast cells ?** well-known, easy to genetically modify, eukaryotic = good conservation of signaling pathways with higher eukaryotes, fast and easy to grow.
- **Methodology:** The yeast  $Ca^{2+}$  channel is very close to Mammalian VGSC. In response to CTXs, it induces a transcriptional signal (here reporter gene *lacZ*), that we measure in yeast cells.



### On-going improvements:

Replace colorimetry by Fluorescence, or other value **easily measurable in the field**  
Use cell wall and signaling mutants to improve CTXs access and **amplify the signal**  
Mutagenesis on the channel protein to **improve CTXs binding**



## Future developments :

Express the Mammalian VGSC in yeast, per se or as chimera with the yeast ion channel, and follow cellular signaling induced.  
Measure binding of the different toxins to the receptors by Single Molecule Force Spectroscopy (by AFM or Optical Tweezers).  
Develop cell-free sensors systems with the toxins receptor (human VGSC or its yeast homolog) integrated in lipid bilayers.  
Create point mutants of the receptors, to identify the residues involved and then design or search for possible cures.

### References :

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2 Nuñez et al., 2012. Euro Surveill. 17, 20188

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4 Aligizaki et Nikolaidis, 2008. J. Biol. Res. Thessalon 9, 75.  
5 Caillaud et al., 2010 Mar. Drugs. 8, 1838

