

Lecture 38  
21 April 2008

Vertebrate Physiology  
ECOL 437 (MCB/VetSci 437)  
Univ. of Arizona, spring 2008

Kevin Bonine & Kevin Oh



1. Feeding (Ch 4)

[http://eebweb.arizona.edu/eeb\\_course\\_websites.htm](http://eebweb.arizona.edu/eeb_course_websites.htm)

1

Housekeeping, 21 April 2008



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Upcoming Readings

Wed 23 Apr: Ch 4, 5

LAB 23 Apr: Kevin Oh emailed

Final Proposal due in lab 23 April or  
beginning of lecture 25 April

Fri 25 Apr: Ch 4,5

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Lab discussion leaders: 23 April

1pm - none

3pm - Nina

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# FEEDING

(Hill et al. Ch 4)



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## Feeding



Feeding

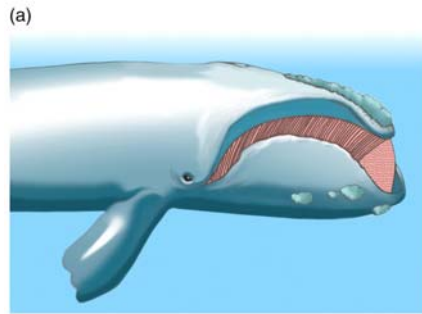
Filter Feeding  
(Suspension Feeding)

- baleen whales
- flamingoes
- planktivorous fish with modified gill rakers
- amphibian larvae



Fluid Feeding

- lampreys
- vampire bats (analgesic and anticoagulants)



(Eckert 15-3)

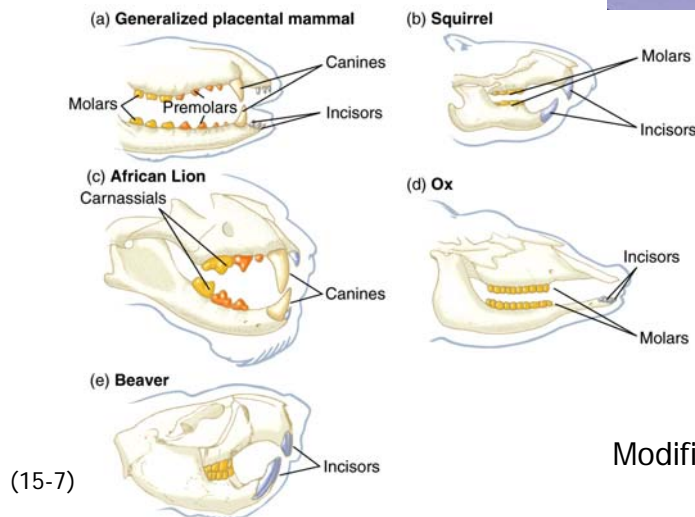
5

Seizing with mouth etc.

- Jaws, teeth, beaks
- Form and function matched



*Eryx tataricus*



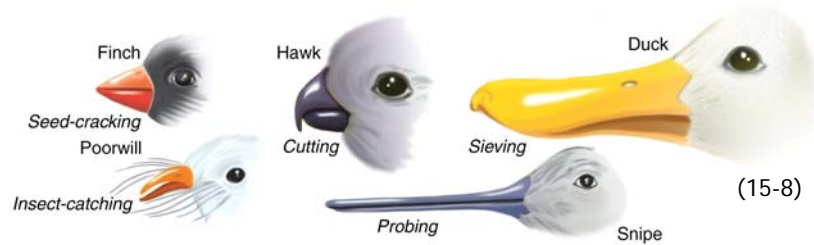
(15-7)

Modification for diet

6

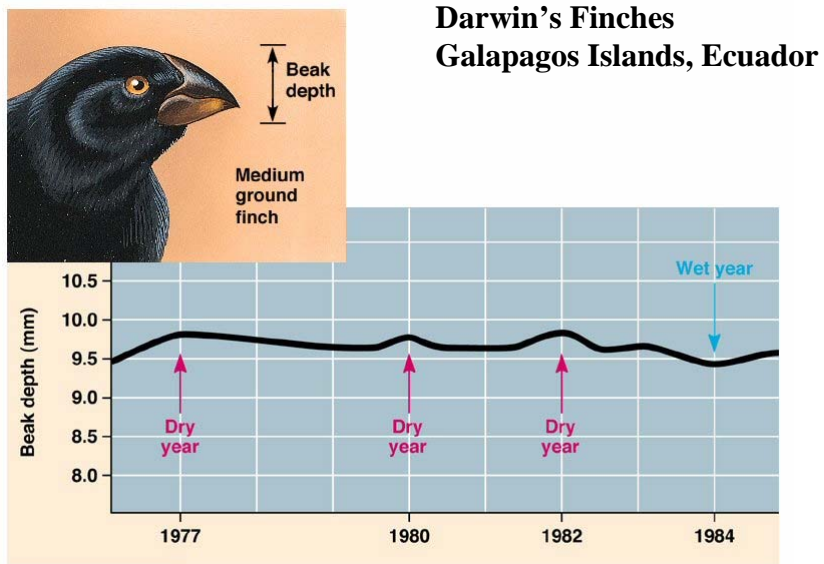
Seizing with mouth etc.

Modification for diet



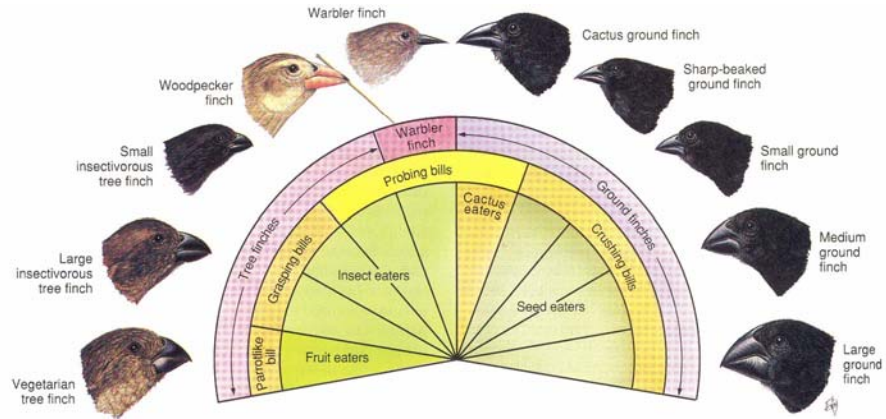
-Form and function matched

-Darwin's Finches in Galapagos



[http://www.mun.ca/biology/scarr/Adaptation\\_in\\_Darwins\\_Finches.html](http://www.mun.ca/biology/scarr/Adaptation_in_Darwins_Finches.html)

## Darwin's Finches Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



[http://www.mun.ca/biology/scarr/Adaptation\\_in\\_Darwins\\_Finches.html](http://www.mun.ca/biology/scarr/Adaptation_in_Darwins_Finches.html)

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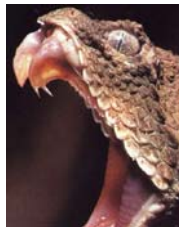
Seizing with mouth etc.

Most toothed non-mammalian vertebrates have **homodont** dentition

-Exception: Some snakes

Some snakes also with **venom**

- hemolytic, neurotoxic



*Eunectes murinus*

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(a)



(b)



(15-6)

Viperidae,  
including  
rattlesnakes 10

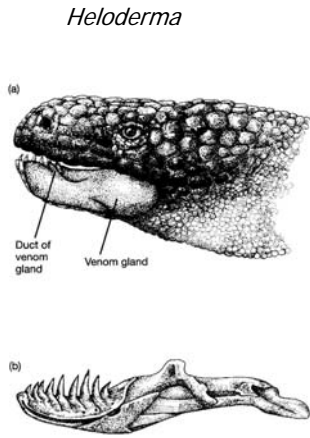


Figure 9-39 Venom gland and venom-conducting teeth of the Gila monster, *Heloderma suspectum*. (a) Location of the venom gland, with skin removed. (b) Medial view of mandible, showing grooved teeth that conduct the venom. (Source: (a) Based on Kiehr 1978a.) Pough et al. 2001

Front Fanged  
Hypodermic  
Duvernoy's/Venom Gland



Proteroglyph      Elapidae  
Solenoglyph      Viperidae

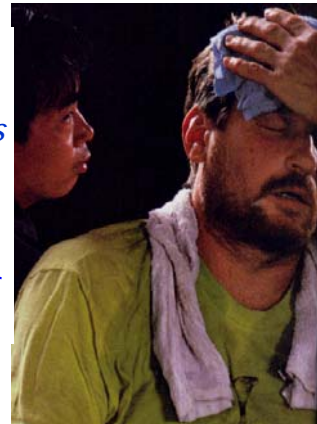
11 Sept 2001



At 7:30 A.M., Joe lay down. At 8, his hand began to tingle, and he called the group together. The toxins would leave his system in 48 hours, he said. Hed be conscious the whole time.



Joe Slowinski  
Myanmar/Burma  
*Bungarus multicinctus*  
Multibanded Krait  
alpha bungarotoxin  
nicotinic ACh receptor antagonist



ENTWINED FATES: SLOWINSKI IN BURMA. IN MAY 1999: OPPOSITE, THE FATAL KRAIT

... Alethinophidia, Macrostromata, Caenophidia, Colubroidea

## Elapidae

(62 genera, 300 species)

- Cobras, coral, and sea snakes
- venomous
- **proteroglyph** dentition
  - maxilla longer than that of vipers
  - may have teeth posterior to fang
  - relatively fixed
- some with **biparental** care
- most terrestrial are **oviparous**
- most marine are **viviparous**
- corals often **mimicked** by non-venomous sympatrics

*Naja* spp.



*Micruroides euryxanthus*



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## Pit Organs

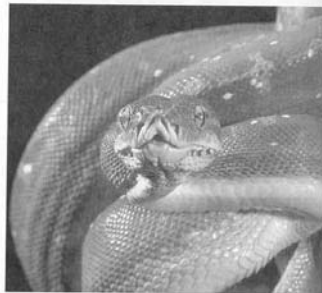
multiple origins -  
vipers, boas, pythons

**infrared** image

(pit sensitivity to 0.003 C)



(a)



(b)

Pough et al. 2001

Figure 9-42 Infrared-receptive pit organs. (a) *Barriobis schlegelii*, a crotaline viperid. All pit vipers have a single pair of facial pit organs located between the eye and nostril. (b) The green tree python, *Morelia viridis*. Many boas and pythons have a series of pit organs on the labial scales. (Photographs by (a) Michael & Patricia Fogden, (b) David Northcott/ DRK Photo.)

## Gastric Brooding Frog Etc.



*Python regius*



*Rheobatrachus vitellinus*

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## Unidirectional Suction Feeding

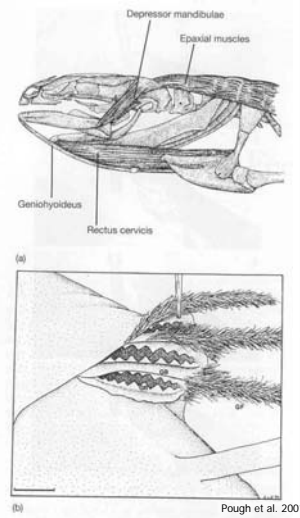


Figure 9-3 The mechanics of suction feeding. Skull, hyobranchial skeleton, and pectoral girdle of a larval tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) and the major muscles involved in the expansion phase. (a) Contraction of the muscles shown opens the mouth and lowers the hyobranchium (stippled), expanding the oral cavity. DM = depressor mandibulae, EP = epaxial muscles, GH = geniohyoideus, RC = rectus cervicis. (b) Gill rakers of *Ambystoma mexicanum*, a paedomorphic salamander, in ventrolateral view, with the gills pulled forward. Note the interlocking gill rakers, GR. GB = gill bar, GF = gill filaments. (Source: (a) Redrawn from Lauder and Shaffer 1988; (b) modified from Lauder and Shaffer 1985.)

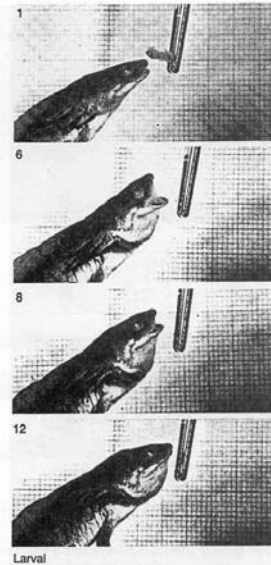


Figure 9-2 Suction feeding by a larval tiger salamander, *Ambystoma tigrinum*. Film frames from a high-speed movie record of a salamander offered a piece of earthworm from forceps. Frame numbers appear at upper left. Sequential frames are 5 milliseconds apart. Note the rapid depression of the hyobranchium during the expansion phase (frame 6). (Source: Shaffer and Lauder 1988.)



## Suction Feeding

### Salamanders

1. Jaws open
2. Hyoid apparatus (floor of mouth) drops
3. Muscles keep gills closed

A few genera **asymmetrical**  
- **flexible** mandible  
(**cartilage**)

*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*

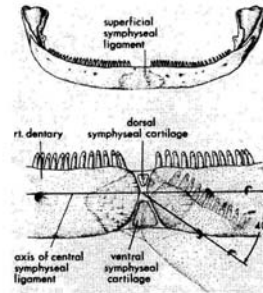


Figure 9-5  
Pough et al. 2001

(b,c)

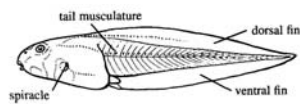
## Suction Feeding

### Anurans

### Tadpoles

unidirectional  
spiracle(s)

filter feeders  
- strain  
- mucus



Stebbins and Cohen, 1995

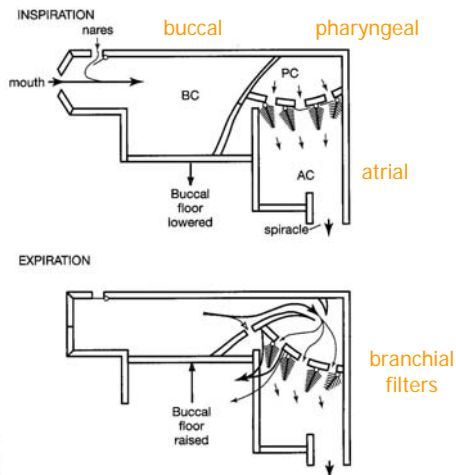


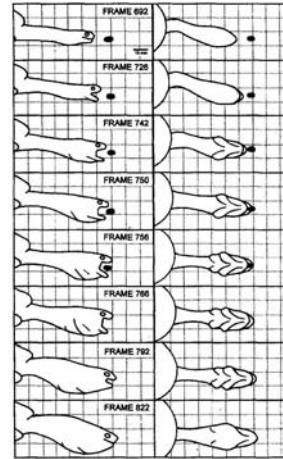
Figure 9-6f  
Pough et al. 2001

## Turtle Suction Feeding

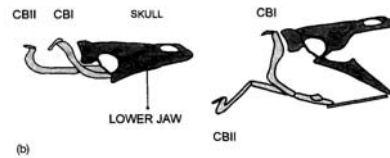
Bidirectional, no teeth  
(keratinous beak)

1. Compensatory suction  
- displaced water
2. Inertial suction  
- modified hyobranchial  
- greater expansion

Esophageal modifications  
- prevent prey escape  
- *Dermochelys*, 5 cm spines



(a) Figure 9-13  
Pough et al. 2001



## Projectile Feeding

### Salamanders

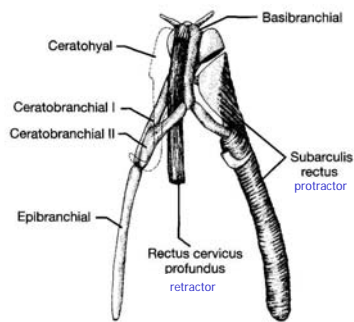


Figure 9-20 The mechanism involved in tongue projection and retraction by the two-lined salamander, *Eurycea bislineata*, a hemidactyline plethodontid. Dorsal view of the hyobranchial skeleton and major muscles (shown only on one side). Note the relatively long epibranchial cartilages and the spiral fibers of the subarcualis rectus I muscle, which contracts to project the tongue. The rectus cervicis muscle retracts the tongue. The glandular tongue pad would lie around the radial, lingual, and anterior ends of the basibranchial cartilages. (Source: Modified from Lombard and Wake 1976.)

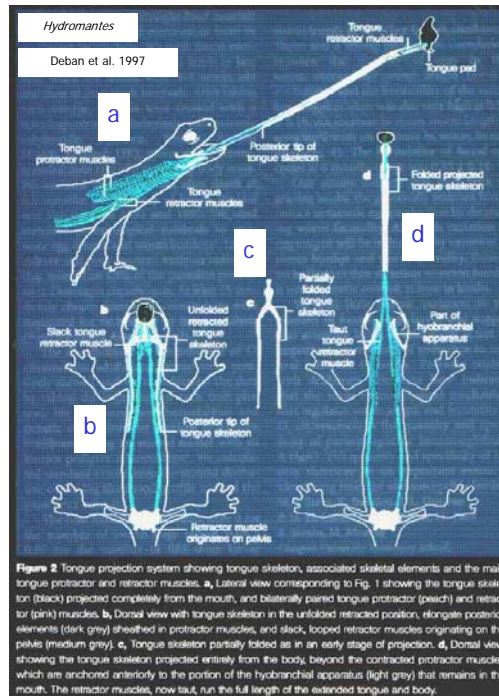


Figure 2 Tongue projection system showing tongue skeleton, associated skeletal elements and the main tongue protractor and retractor muscles. a, Lateral view corresponding to Fig. 1 showing the tongue skeleton (black) projected completely from the mouth, and bilaterally paired tongue protractor (peach) and retractor (pink) muscles. b, Dorsal view with tongue skeleton in the unfolded retracted position, elongate posterior elements (dark grey) sheathed in protractor muscles, and slack, looped retractor muscles originating on the pelves (medium grey). c, Tongue skeleton partially folded as in an early stage of projection. d, Dorsal view showing the tongue skeleton projected entirely from the body, beyond the contracted protractor muscles which are anchored anteriorly to the portion of the hyobranchial apparatus (light grey) that remains in the mouth. The retractor muscles, now taut, run the full length of the extended tongue and body.

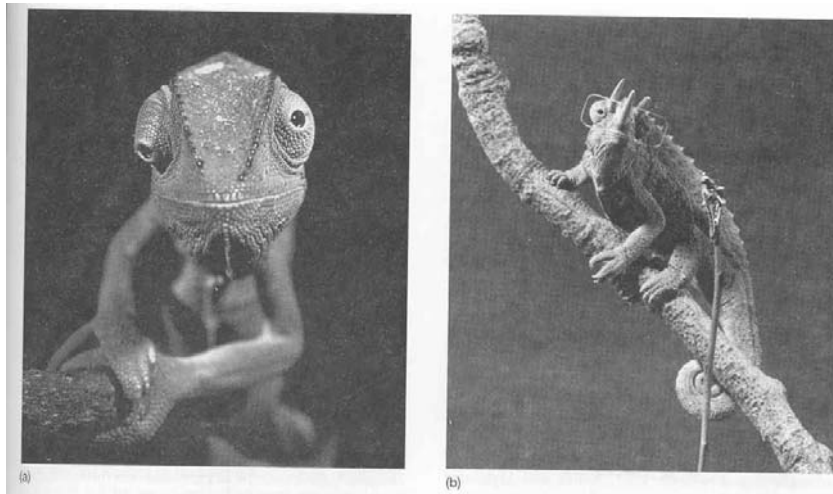


Figure 9-25 Eyes of chameleons. (a) Eyes of *Chamaeleo vulgaris*, independently facing forward and down. (b) *Chamaeleo jacksoni* wearing spectacles to test binocular accommodation. (Source: (a) Photograph by Dwight R. Kuhn/Bruce Coleman; (b) photograph courtesy of L. Harkness.)

Fig. 9-25  
Pough et al. 2001

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### Egg Eating (e.g., *Dasyeltis*)

elastic neck skin, few teeth, vent. vertebral processes

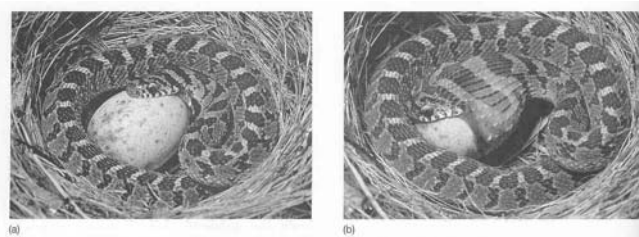


Figure 9-36 The African egg-eating snake, *Dasyeltis scabra*, swallowing a bird egg. The egg is swallowed whole, and the shell is cracked in the throat. The contents are swallowed, and the shell is crushed and regurgitated. (Photographs by Michael and Patricia Fogden.)

Pough et al. 2001

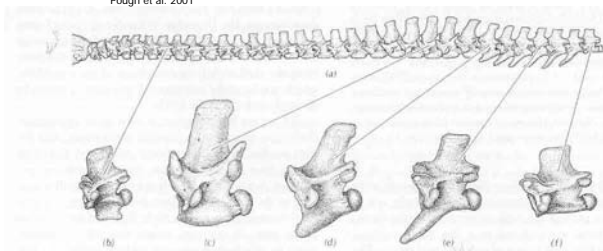


Figure 9-37 Anterior vertebral column of the African egg-eating snake, *Dasyeltis*. Anterior is to the left, and the rear of the skull is shown. Note vertebrae with thickened hypapophyses (ventral processes) used for crushing eggshells and those with long, anteriorly directed hypapophyses that slit the egg membranes. (Source: Gans 1974.)

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## Herbivory

- omnivores eat fruits and flowers
- true herbivores with specializations:
  - symbionts and gut morphology
- smaller indivs eat more nutritious parts

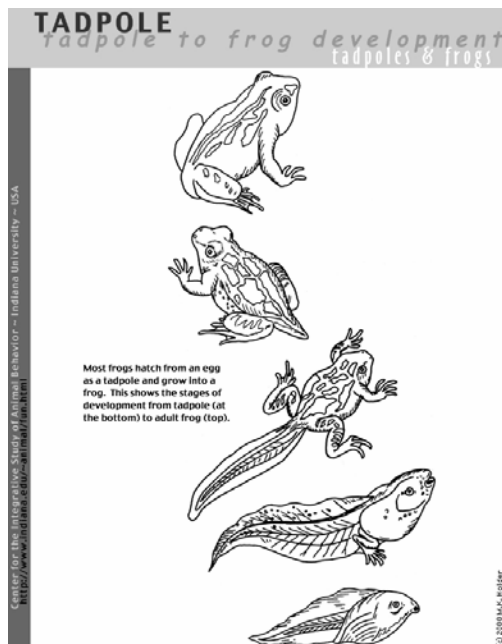
- 
- Iguanas (need to acquire symbionts)
    - no parental care
    - communal nesting
    - hatchlings
      - eat soil
    - juveniles
      - eat parental feces



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## Ontogenetic Changes

## Mammals? Lactase?



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- Amphibian Larvae  
     metamorphosing  
     are most **vulnerable**

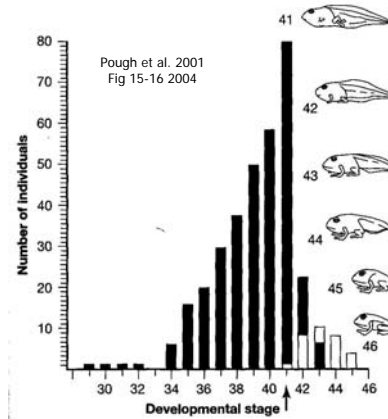


Figure 13-15 Differential predation on metamorphosing tadpoles. The frequencies of developmental stages of *Pseudacris regilla* from a pond sample and from the stomachs of *Thamnophis*. The pond sample is indicated by solid bars, and the stomach sample is indicated by open bars. The arrow indicates the last premetamorphic stage of the frogs. (Source: Arnold and Wassersug 1978.)

## Cannibalism

- rare in reptiles
- **widespread in amphibians** - esp. larval stages
- some with distinct **cannibalistic morphs**
- often **facultative**

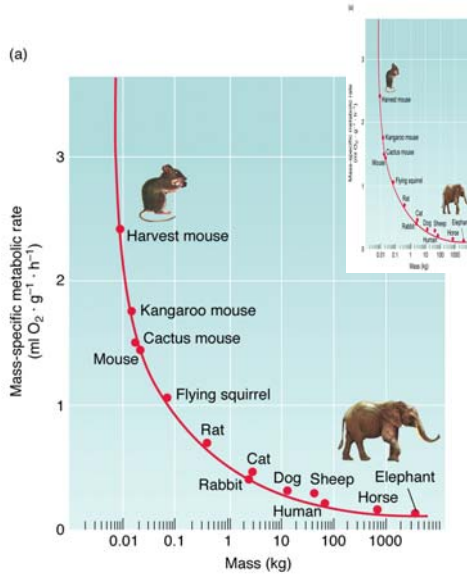
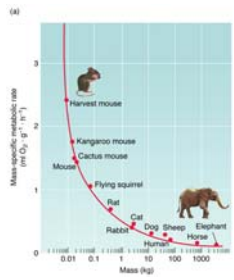
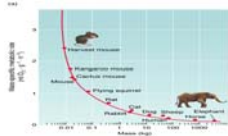
*Ambystoma, Spea, Scaphiopus*

*Scaphiopus couchii*



- **Benefits**
  - energy
  - reduced competition
- **Costs**
  - eating a relative (**kin** recognition)
  - acquire **pathogens**

Allometry:

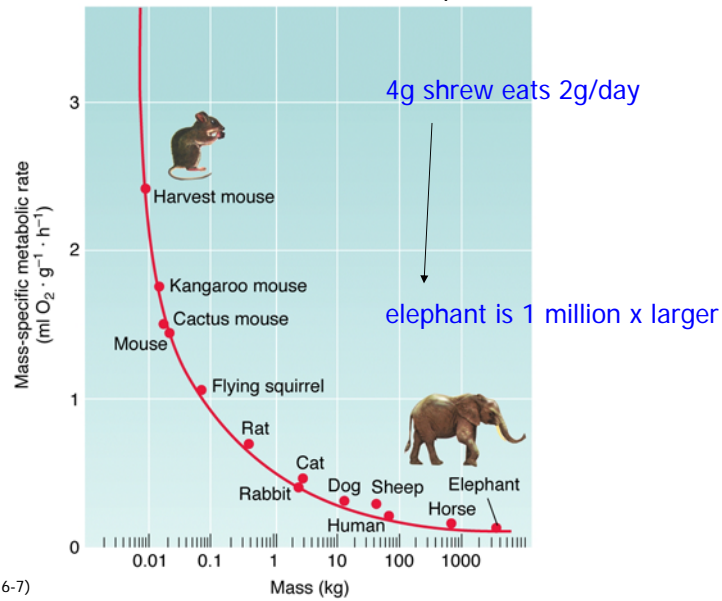


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Allometry

(a)

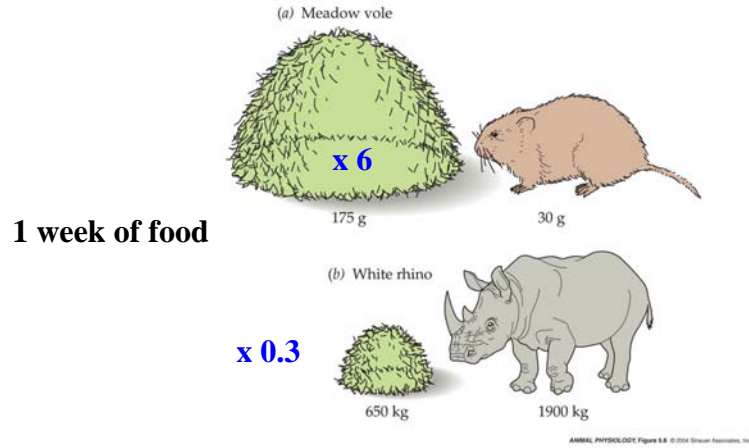
Mouse-to-Elephant Curve



(Eckert 16-7)

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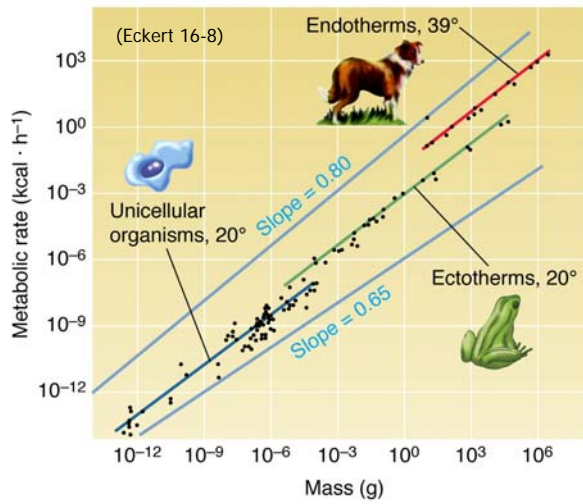
# Allometry



(Hill et al. 5.6)

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# Allometry



$$MR = aM^b$$

$$\log MR = \log a + b(\log M)$$

$$b = 0.75 \text{ (slope)}_{30}$$

## Scaling

How do morphology and **metabolism** change with body mass?

Power Functions:

$$MR = aM^b$$

Body mass

Scaling exponent

Metabolic rate

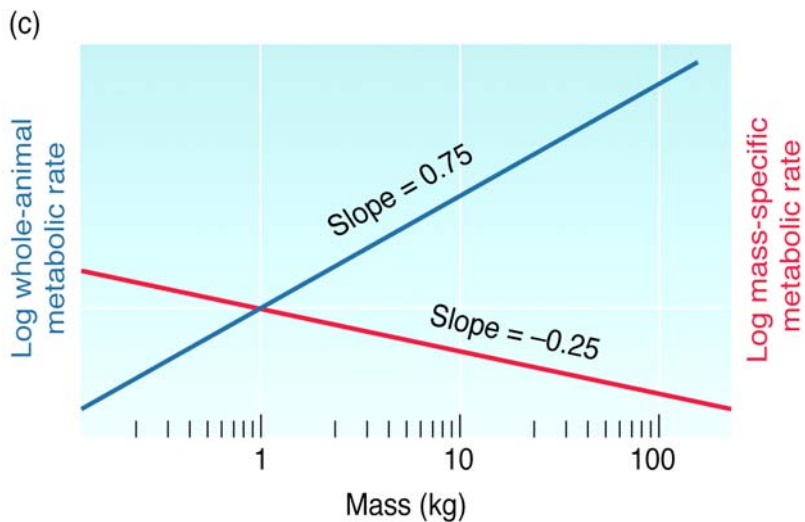
Y-intercept (of log-log plot)

Take log of both sides

$$\log MR = \log a + b(\log M) \quad (\text{Linearizes})$$

Can look at mass-specific rates by dividing through by  $M^3$

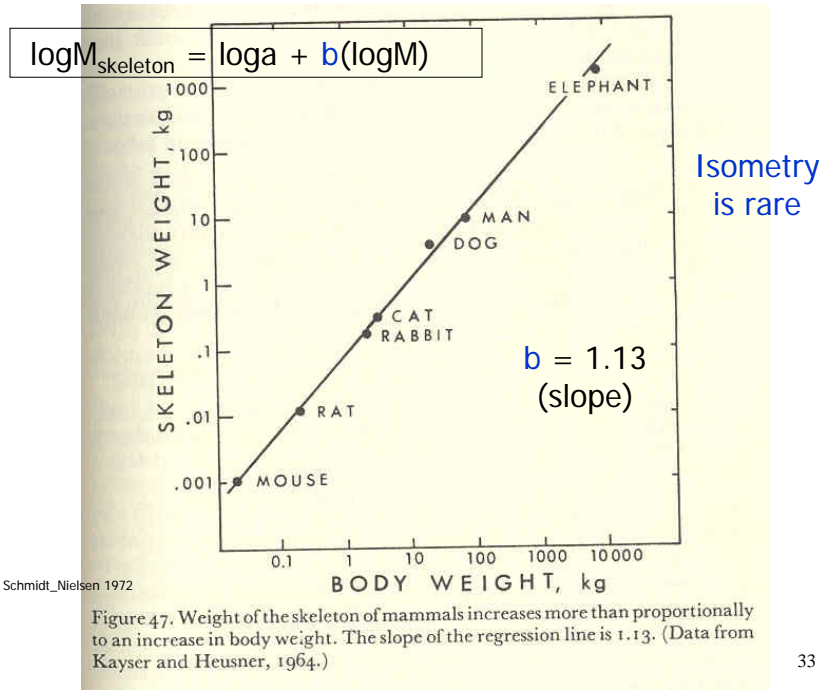
## Allometry



(Eckert 16-7)

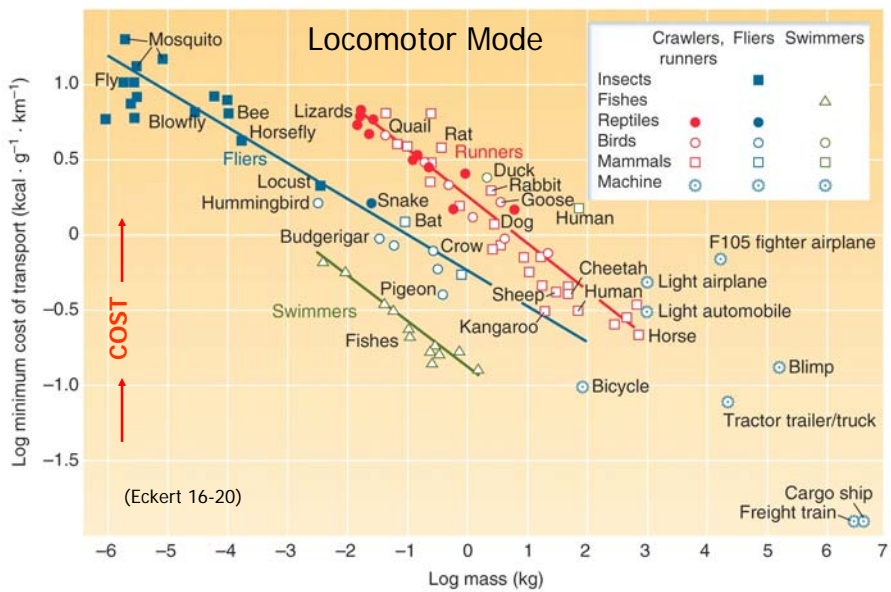
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## Allometry

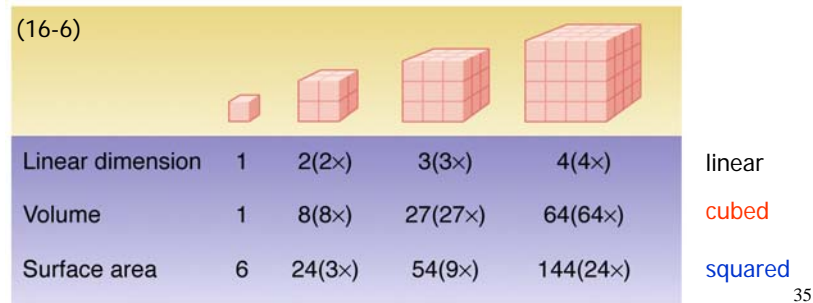


## Scaling Effects

**Allometry** - changes in body proportions as animals get larger (mouse vs. elephant)

**Metabolic Rate** - mass-specific metabolic rate decreases with increasing body mass

(a)



## Allometry

Table 6. Possible calculations of a 'suitable' dose of LSD to give to an elephant  
Knut Schmidt-Nielsen 1972

(a) Based on body weight and dose effective in cats	0.1mg/kg	297 mg
(b) Based on metabolic rates of elephant and cat		80 mg
(c) Based on body weight of elephant and dose effective in man		8 mg
(d) Based on metabolic rates of elephant and man	0.2mg for 70 kg	3 mg
(e) Based on brain size of elephant and man		0.4 mg

(a) = elephant freaked out and died (1960's) in a study of 'musth' [elephantine fallacy]

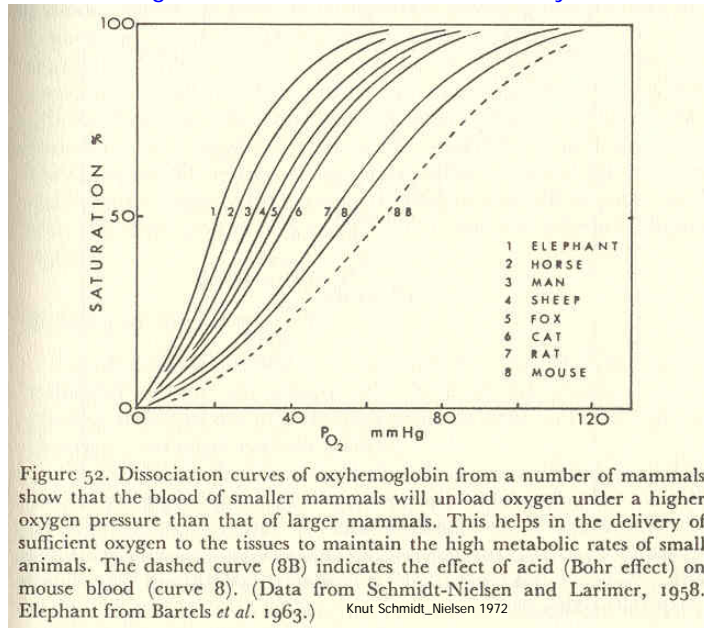
-What is the correct dose?

-Importance of Scaling!

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Allometry

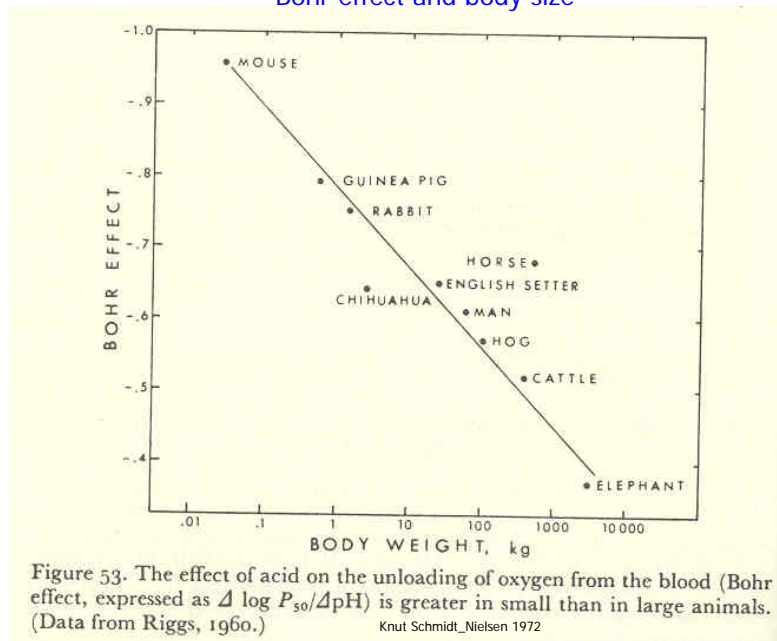
Hemoglobin dissociation curves and body size



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Allometry

Bohr effect and body size



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## Allometry

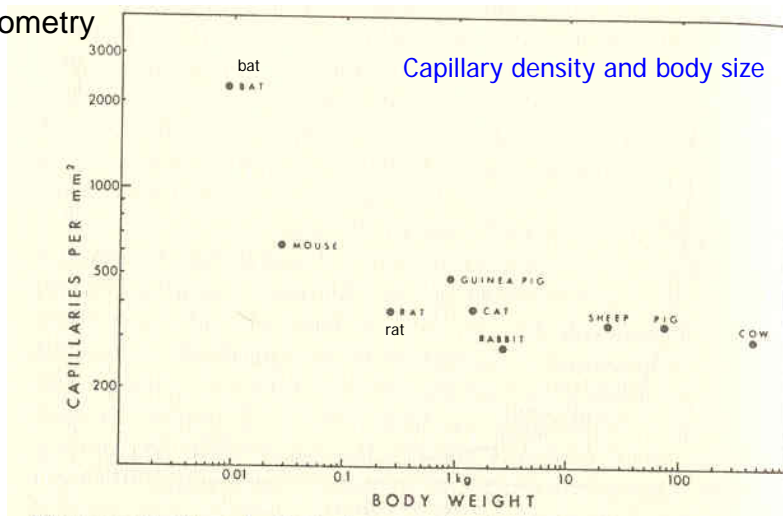


Figure 51. Capillary density in the gastrocnemius muscle. In very small mammals the capillary counts are high, but for a body size of a rat or larger there seems to be no clear trend in relation to body size. (Data from Schmidt-Nielsen and Pennycuik, 1961.)

Knut Schmidt-Nielsen 1972