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Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Economia i Coneixement
Secretaria d'Universitats i Recerca

Genòmica funcional en *Sparus aurata*: aplicacions biotecnològiques

Seminaris de Recerca 2014. Facultat de Farmàcia.

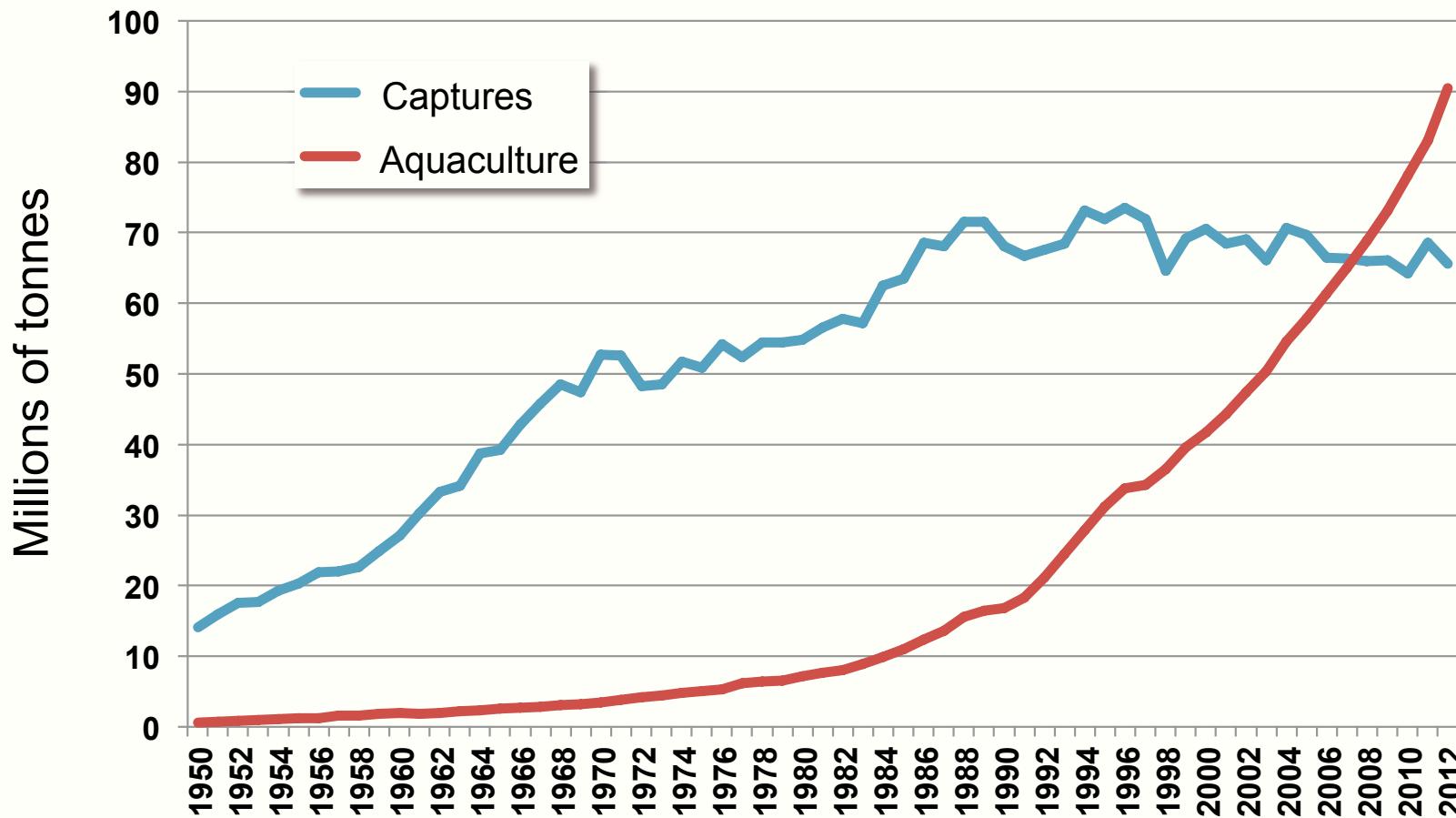
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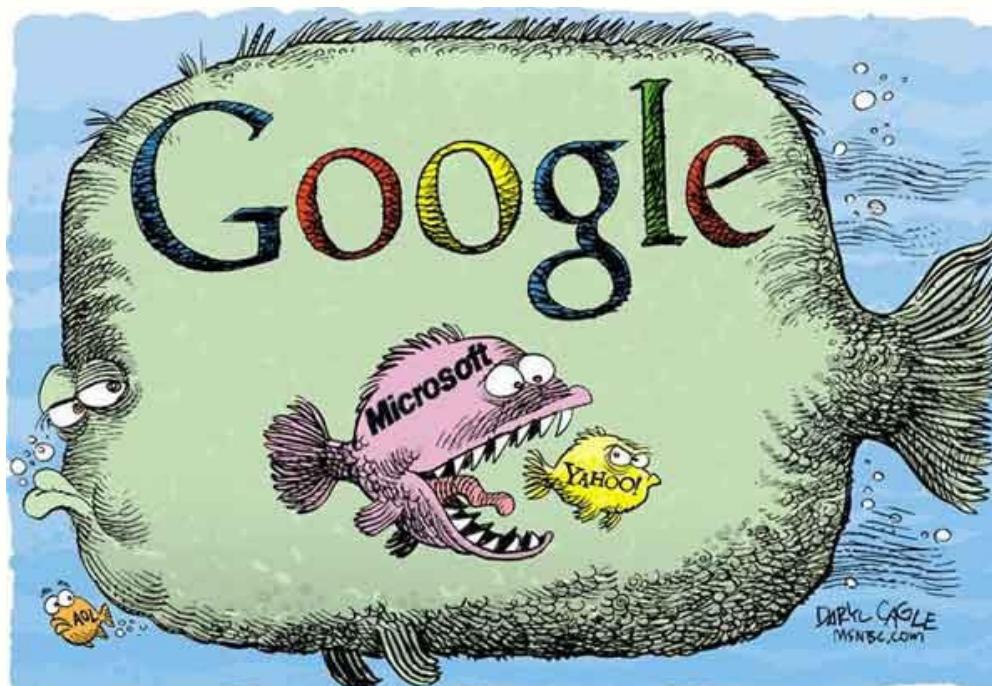
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Fish captures and aquaculture in a global world



Main concerns of aquaculture

- ✓ High production cost of fishmeals for carnivorous fish (essentially fish flour from low quality fish).



Main concerns of aquaculture

- ✓ High production cost of fishmeals for carnivorous fish (essentially fish flour from low quality fish).

- ✓ Sustainability of aquaculture:
 - How to reduce dependence on marine fisheries (often overexploited)?
 - Environmental impact of extensive aquaculture: Nitrogenous waste causes local water eutrophication.



Main concerns of aquaculture

- ✓ Partial replacement of dietary protein by other nutrients...



Main concerns of aquaculture

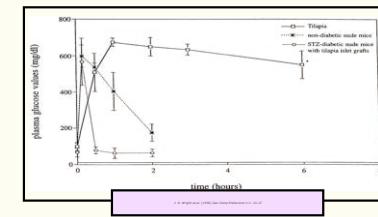
- ✓ Partial replacement of dietary protein by other nutrients...

...carnivorous fish are glucose intolerant!!



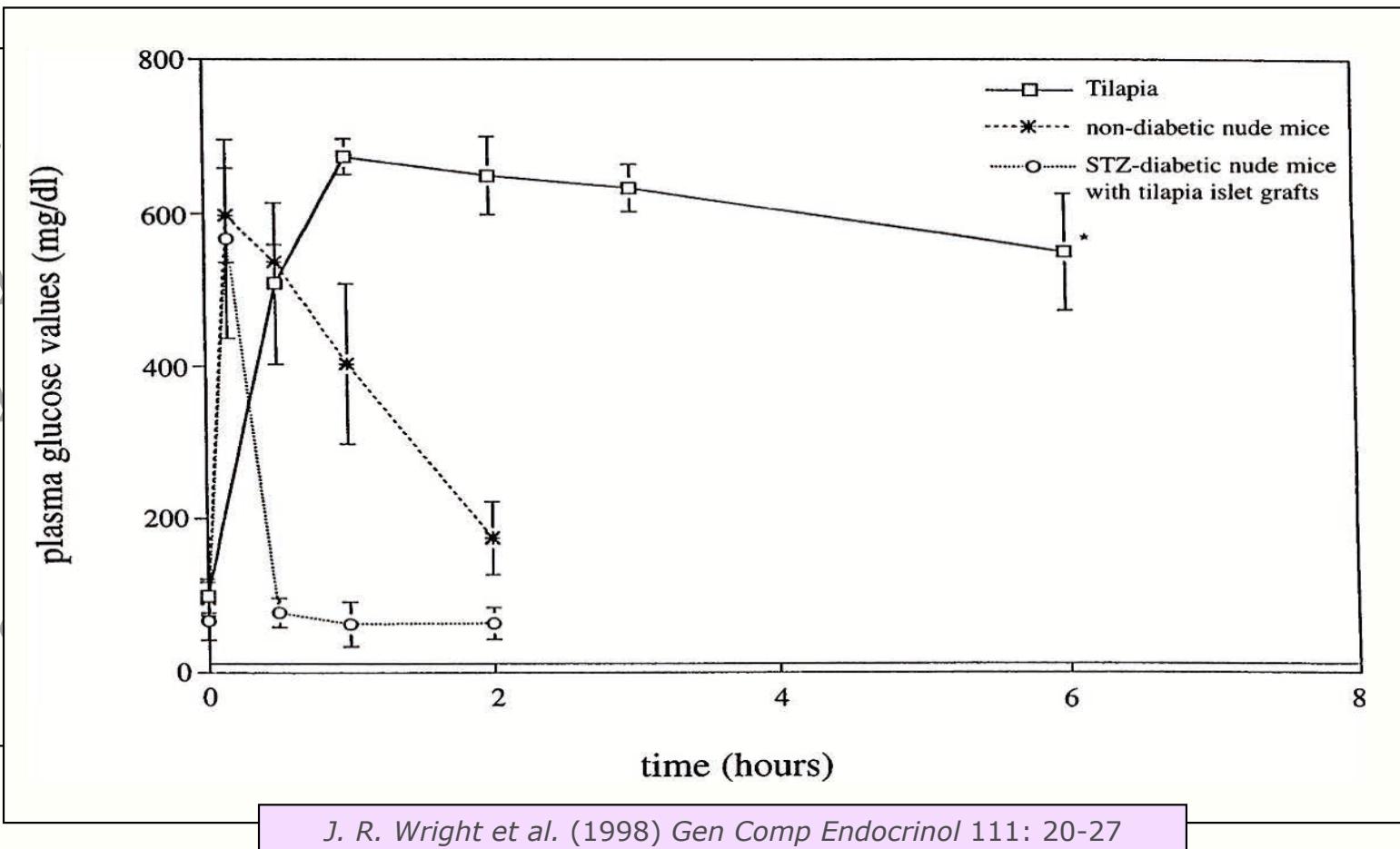
Carnivorous fish as a glucose intolerant model

- ✓ Natural diet: high protein / low carbohydrates.
- ✓ Low ability to metabolize dietary carbohydrates.
- ✓ Low ability to control blood glucose levels.
- ✓ Alternative model to study glucose intolerance and type 2 diabetes.



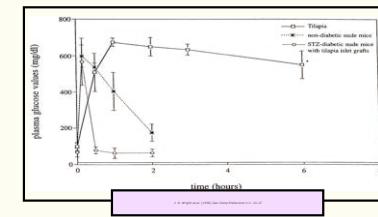
Carnivorous fish as a glucose intolerant model

- ✓ Natural disease
- ✓ Low ability to respond to insulin
- ✓ Low ability to secrete insulin
- ✓ Alternative to rodent models



Carnivorous fish as a glucose intolerant model

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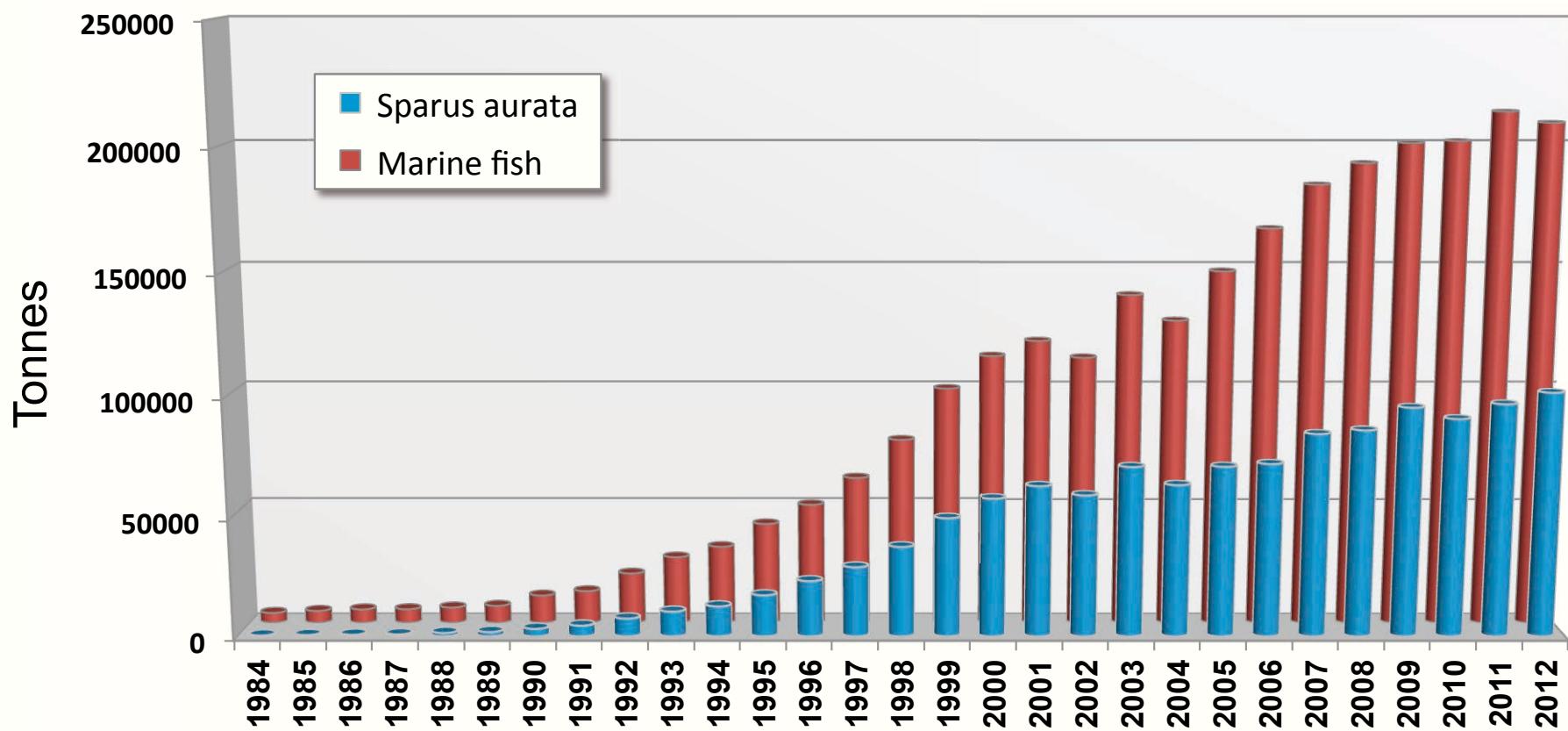


Sparus aurata (gilthead seabream, orada)

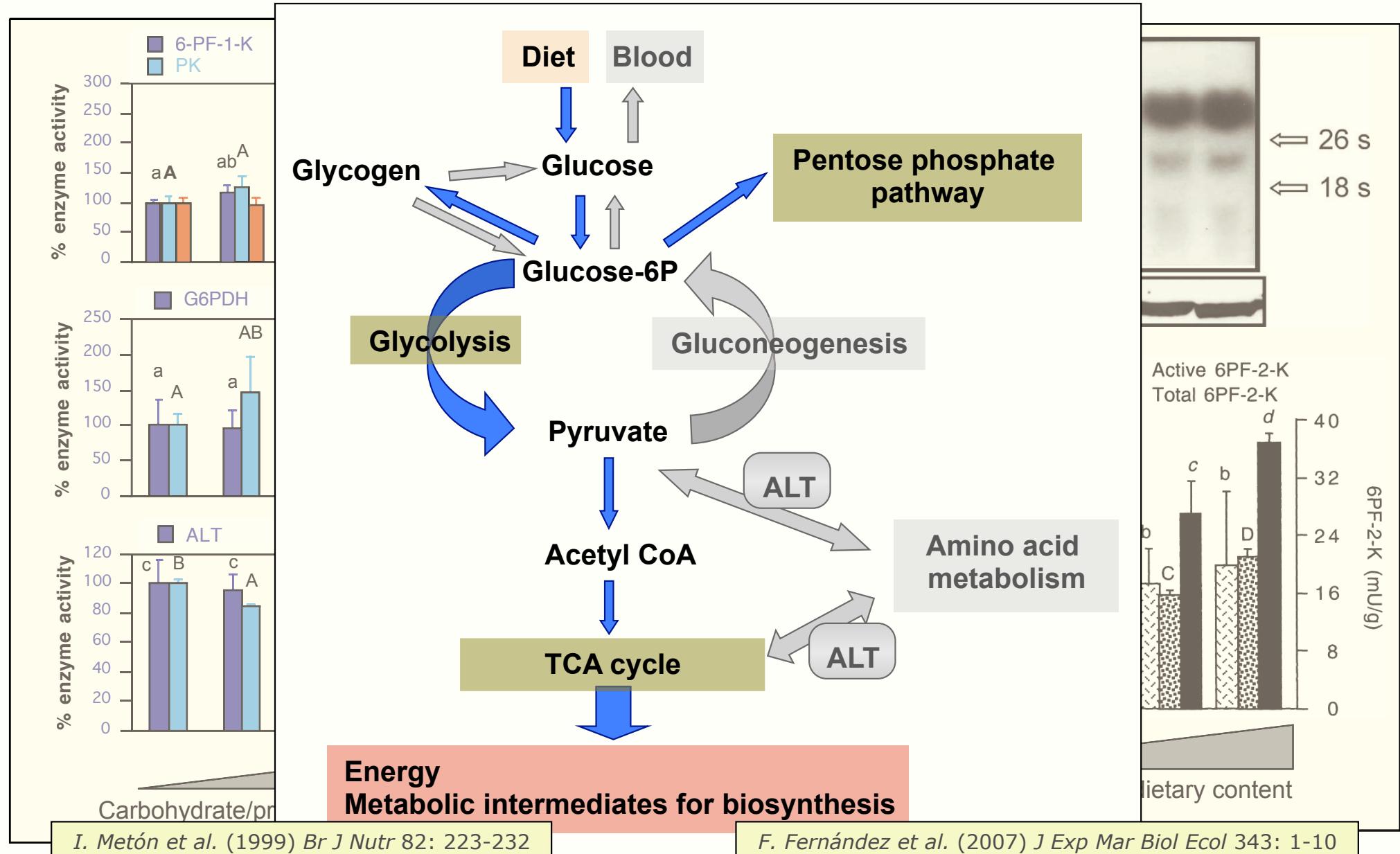
- ✓ **Carnivorous fish**
- ✓ **The most cultured marine fish in Europe**



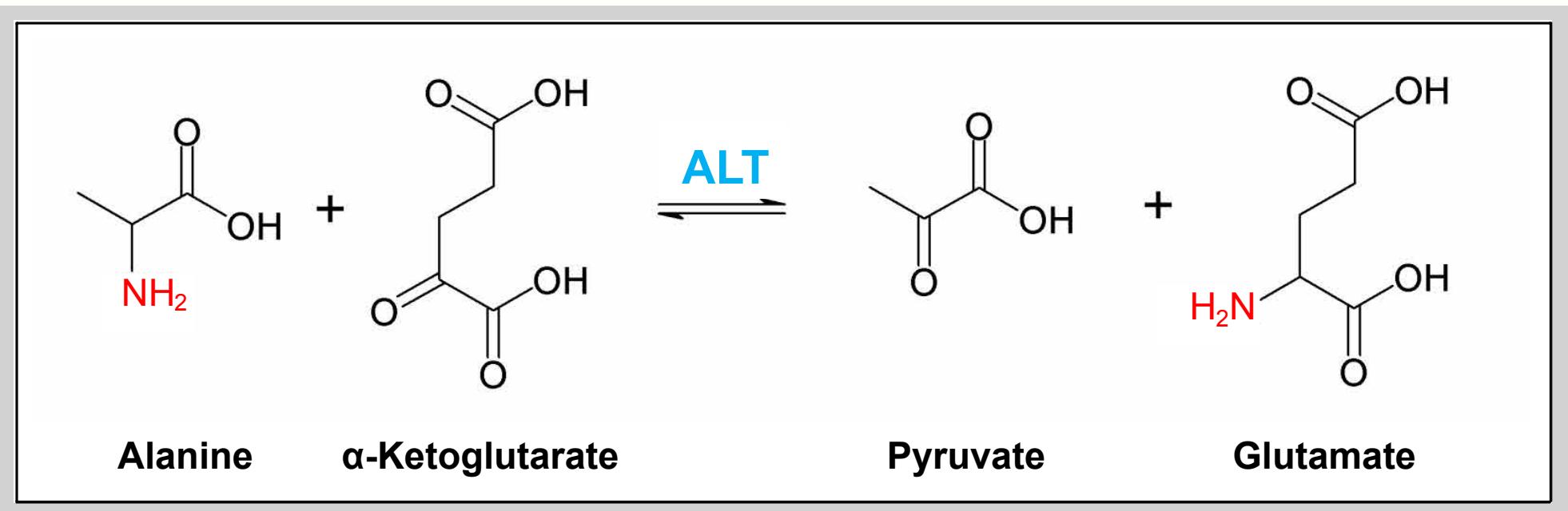
Marine fish and *Sparus aurata* production in Europe



Sparus aurata tolerates partial substitution of dietary protein by carbohydrates

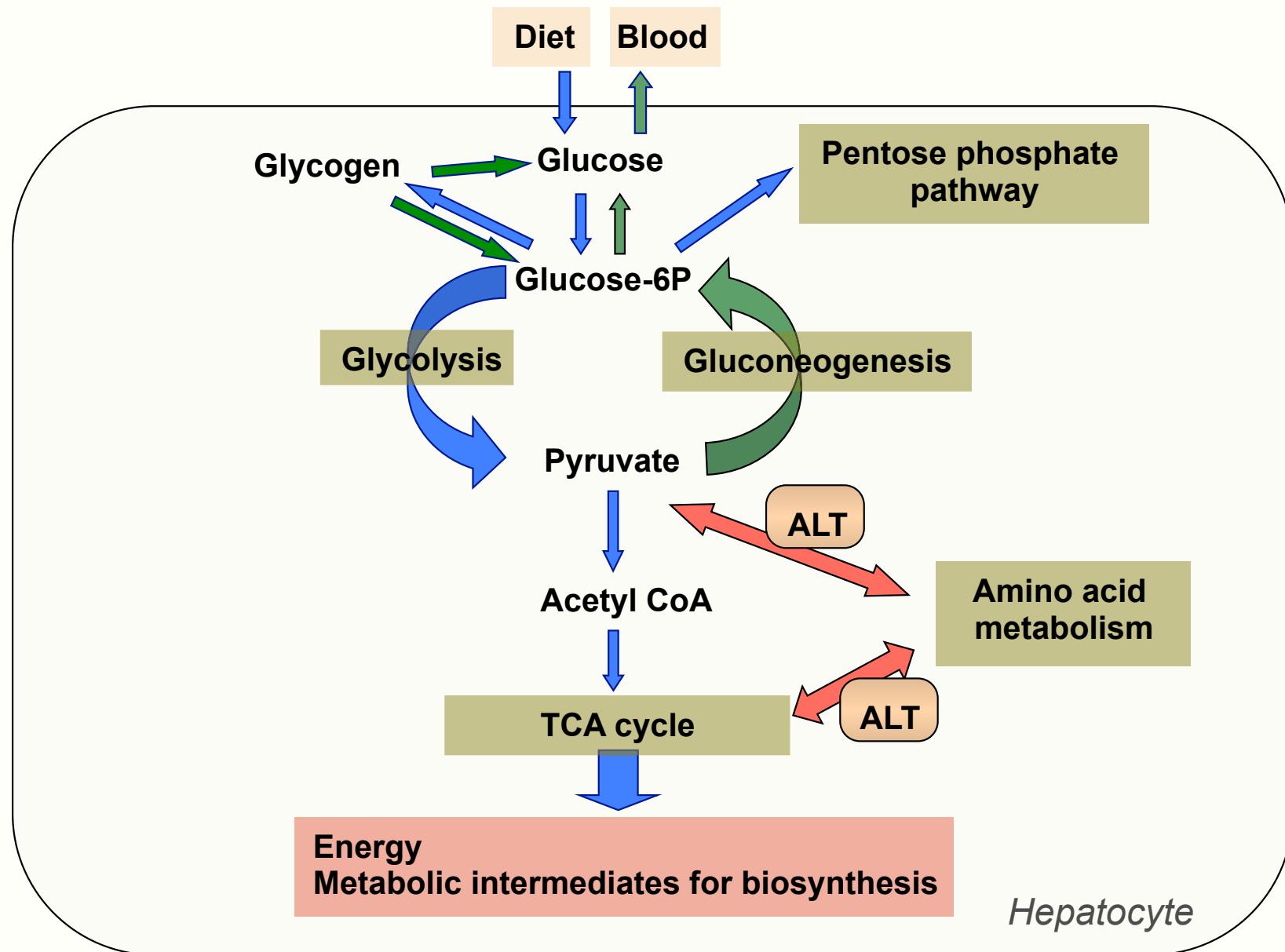


Alanine aminotransferase (ALT, GPT)



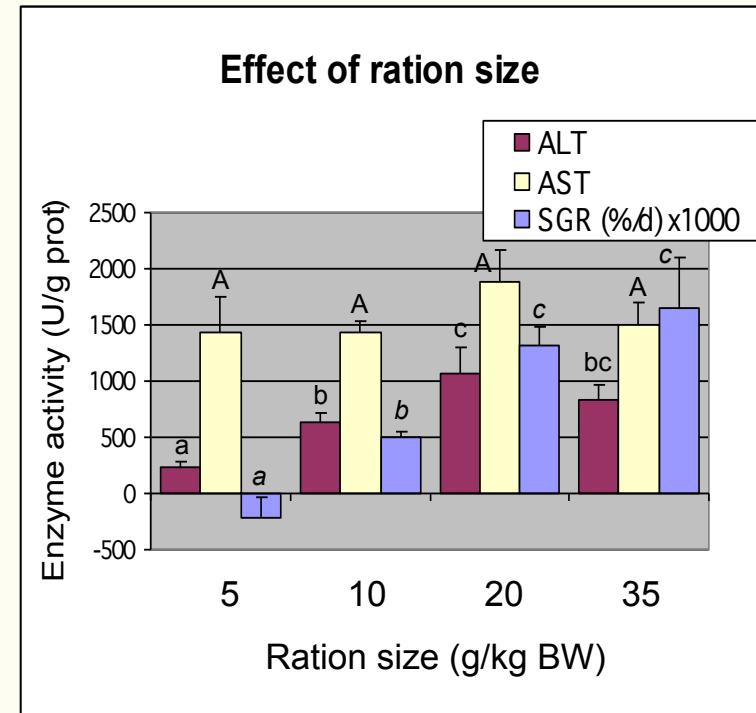
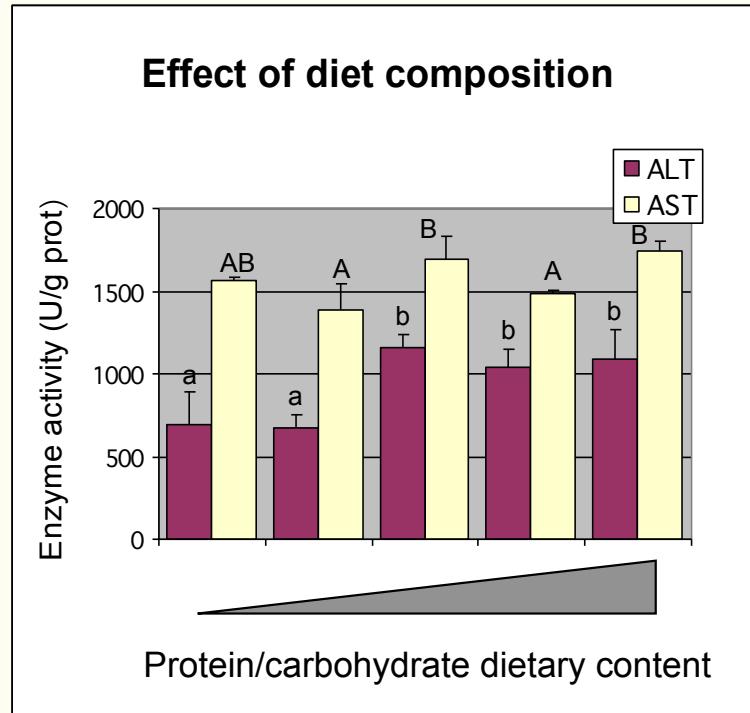
- ✓ Biochemical evidence supports existence of cytosolic and mitochondrial isoforms; their functional role remain unclear.
 - ✓ Widely used as a marker for liver injury (hepatitis, cirrhosis, hepatotoxicity). Increased serum activity is also associated to other clinical conditions (fatty liver disease, diabetes, obesity, muscle diseases).
 - ✓ ALT is a marker of protein utilization in fish.

ALT is a molecular link between carbohydrate, amino acid and energy metabolism



Hepatic ALT activity as a biomarker of nutritional status in *Sparus aurata*

Sparus aurata



Hypothesis

- ✓ Control of ALT expression may improve the use of dietary carbohydrates for energy purposes while preserving proteins for growth in *Sparus aurata* (protein-sparing effect).
- ✓ This would allow a significant replacement of dietary protein by carbohydrates in aquafeeds for fish farming, and thus reduce the production cost and the environmental and biodiversity impacts of extensive aquaculture.

Objectives

➤ **Global objective:**

- ✓ To increase the current knowledge on the regulation of the expression of ALT isozymes in *Sparus aurata* to enable a biotechnological action to spare protein and improve the use of dietary carbohydrates.

➤ **Specific objectives:**

- ① Cloning and molecular and kinetic characterization of cytosolic and mitochondrial isoforms of ALT from *Sparus aurata*.
- ② Characterization of ALT gene promoters.
- ③ Identification of proteins that may interact with ALT isoforms and eventually regulate the enzyme activity.
- ④ Effect of ALT inhibition on the intermediary metabolism of *Sparus aurata*.

Specific objective 1

➤ **Global objective:**

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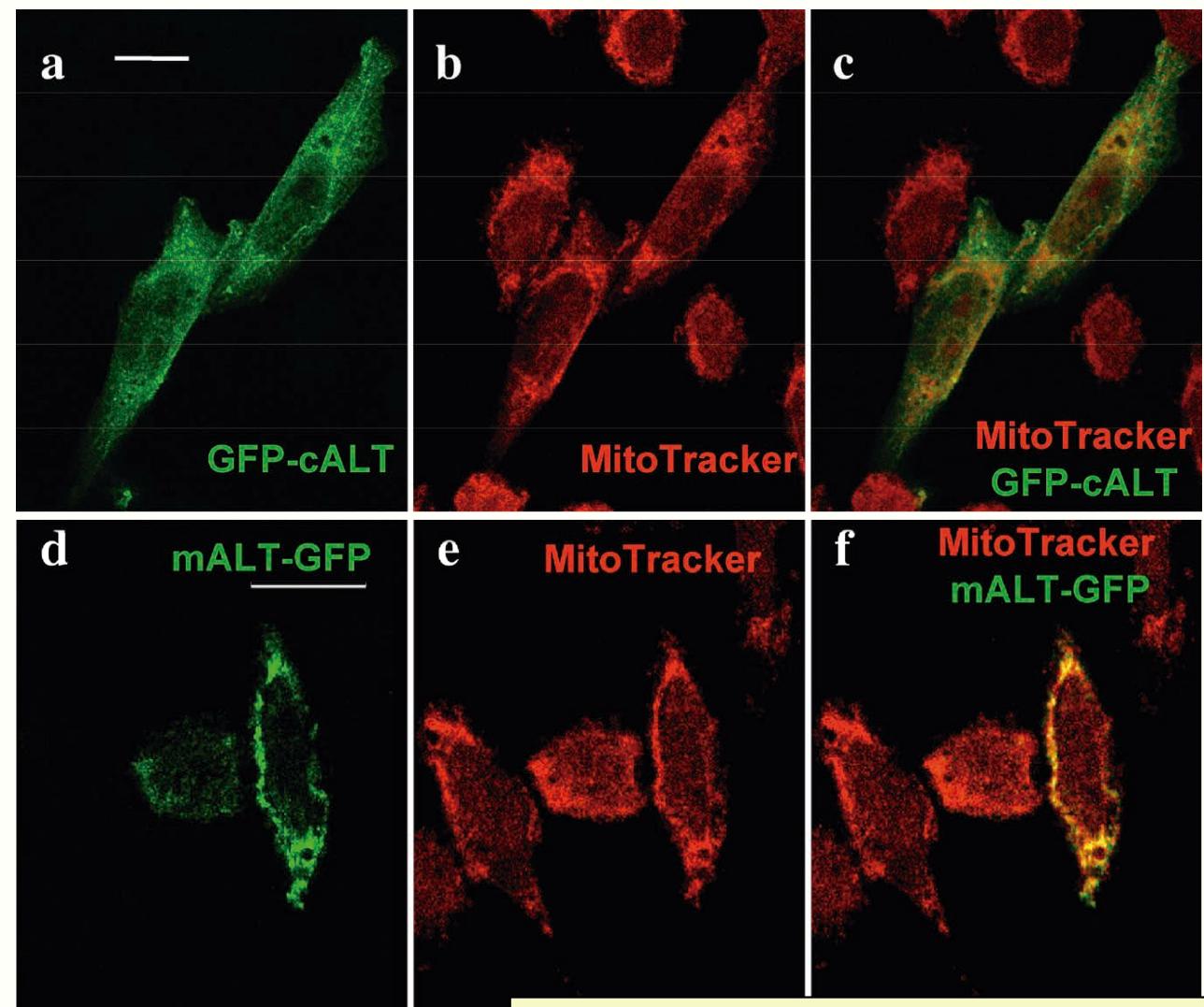
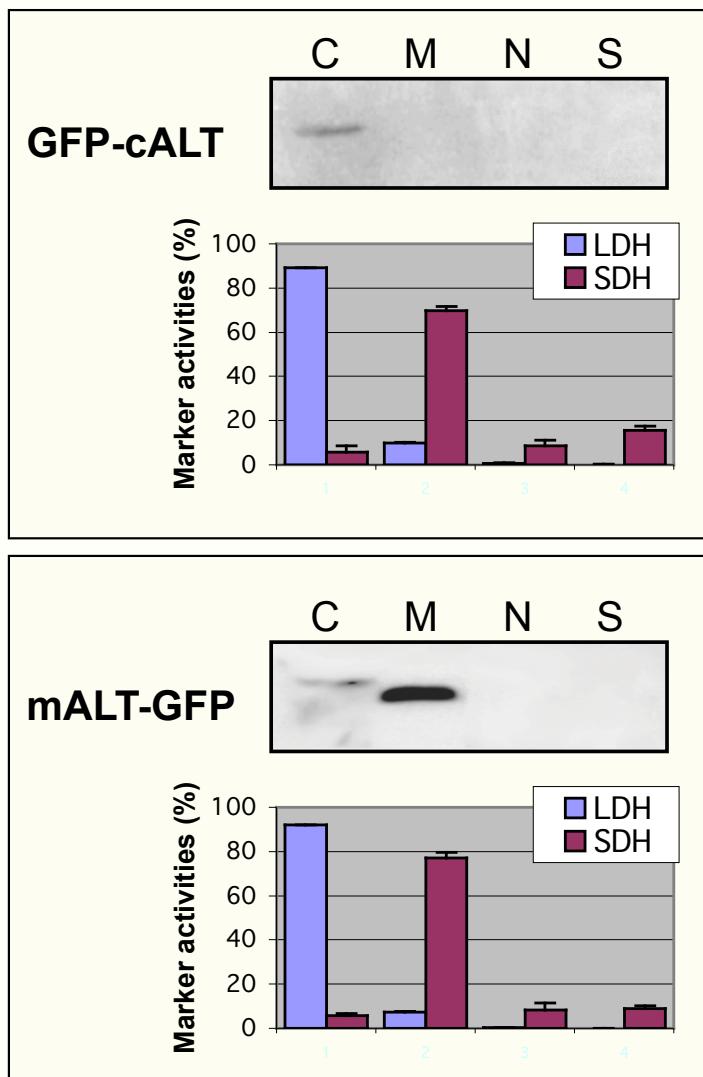
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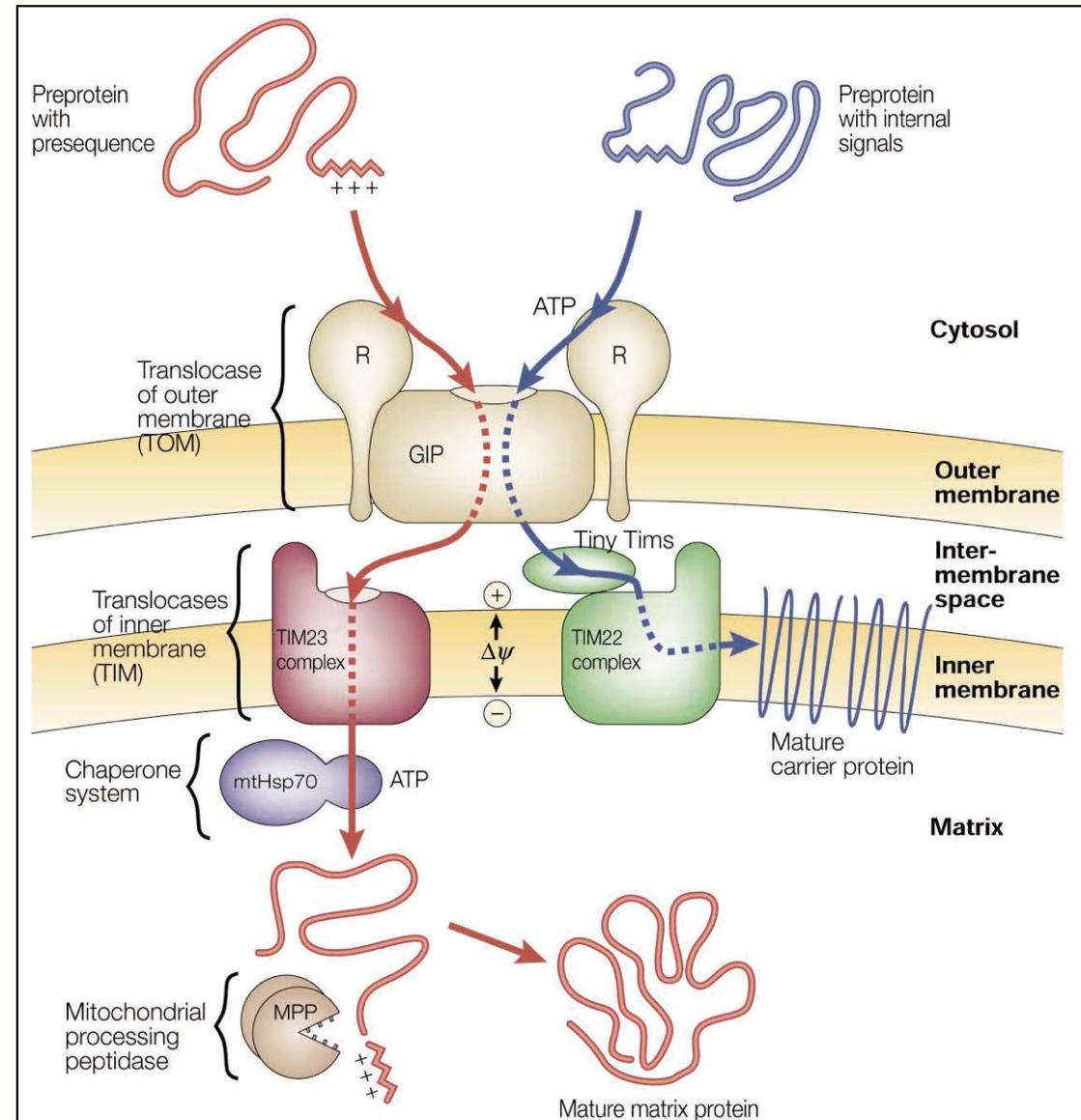
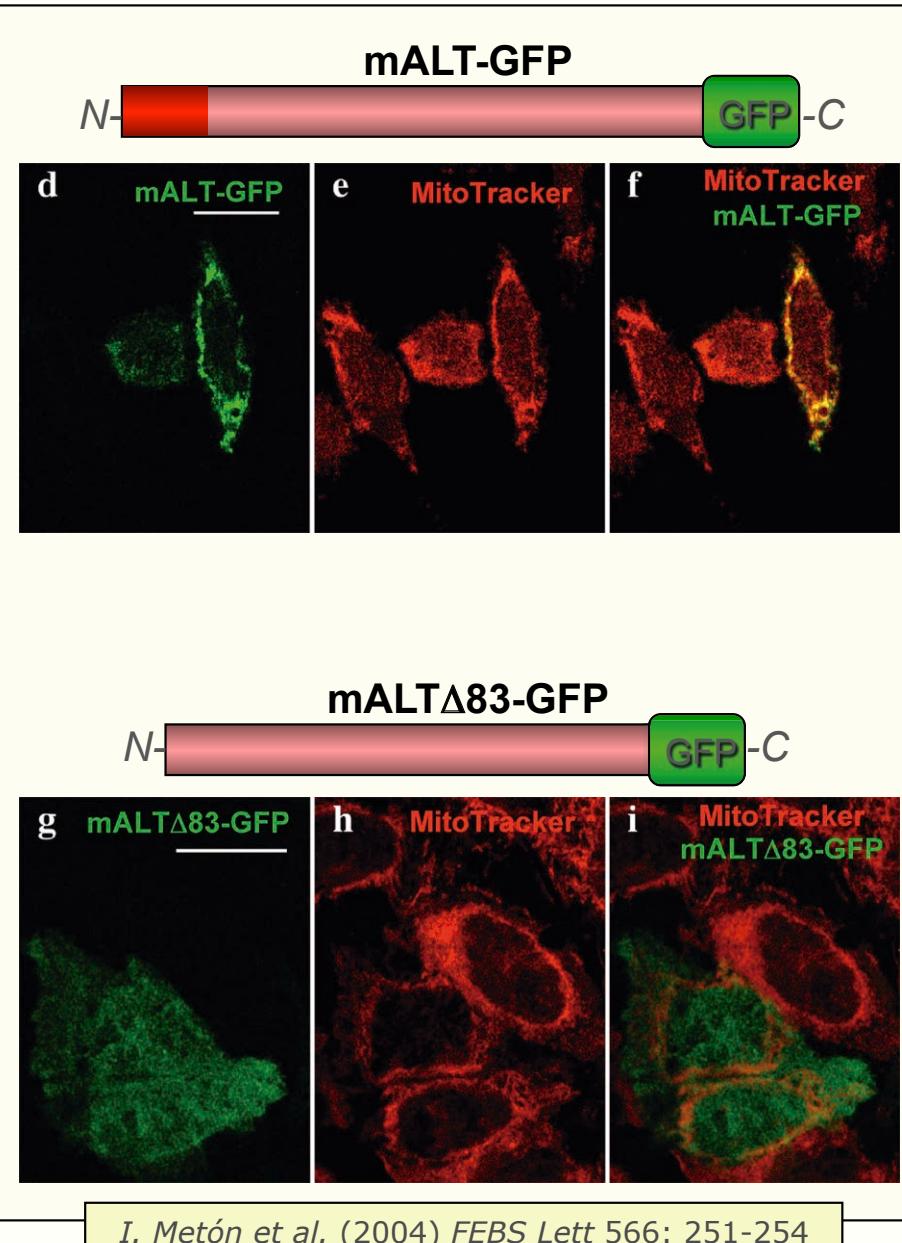
Molecular cloning of cALT1 and mALT from *Sparus aurata*

	<i>Spa</i>	cALT	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~MSHQAAAN	GPVCRGKVLT	1
→	<i>Spa</i>	mALT	MSATRMQLLS	PRNVRLLSRG	RSELFAGGSG	GGPRVRSLIS	PPLSSSSPGR	ALSSVSATRR	GLPKEKMTEN	GVSSRAKVLT	77
Hum	ALT1	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	MASS	TGDRSQAVRH	22
Rat	ALT1	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	MASR	VNDQSQASRN	22
Hum	ALT2	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~MQRAAALVR	RGCGRPPTPSS	WGRSQSSAAA	EASAVLKVRP	ERSRRE	ERILT	46
<i>Spa</i>	cALT	VDNMNPRVKK	VEYAVRGPVV	ORAVQIEKEL	REGVKKPFTF	VIKANIGDAH	AMGOKPITFF	ROVLAMCSYP	ELLKDNMFPE	97	
<i>Spa</i>	mALT	IDTMNPTVKK	VEYAVRGPIV	ORAMELEKEL	SEGMMKPFAE	VIKANIGDAH	AMGQQPITFF	ROVLALCSYP	ELLNDSTFPE	157	
Hum	ALT1	LDGMNPRVRR	VEYAVRGPIV	ORALELEQEL	RQGVKKPFTE	VIRANIGDAQ	AMGQRPITFL	ROVLALCVNP	DLLSSPNFPD	102	
Rat	ALT1	LDTMNPVCRR	VEYAVRGPIV	ORALELEQEL	RQGVKKPFTE	VIRANIGDAQ	AMGQRPITFF	ROVLALCVYP	NLLSSPDFPE	102	
Hum	ALT2	LESMNPOVKA	VEYAVRGPIV	LKAGEIEEL	QRGIKKPFTE	VIRANIGDAQ	AMGQQPITFL	ROVMALCTYP	NLLDSPSFPE	126	
<i>Spa</i>	cALT	DAKQRARRIL	EACGGHSIGA	YSASQGIECI	RQDVARYIEK	RDGGIASNPD	NIYLTGASD	AIVTILKLLV	RGECDRTGV	177	
<i>Spa</i>	mALT	DAKSARRIL	QSCGGNSMGS	YSASQGIDSV	RHDVARYTER	RDGGVPDCPD	NIYLTGASD	GIVTMLKLLV	CGEGATRTG	237	
Hum	ALT1	DAKKRAERIL	QACGGHSLGA	YSVSSGQIQLI	REDVARYIER	RDGGIPADPN	NVFLSTGASD	AIVTVLKLLV	AGEGHTRTGV	182	
Rat	ALT1	DAKRRAERIL	QACGGHSLGA	YSISSGQIPI	REDVAQYIER	RDGGIPADPN	NIFLSTGASD	AIVTMLKLLV	SGEGRARTGV	182	
Hum	ALT2	DAKKRARRIL	QACGGNSLGS	YSASQGVNCI	REDVAAYITR	RDGGVPADPD	NIYLTGASD	GISTILKILV	SGGSKSRTGV	206	
<i>Spa</i>	cALT	MISIPQYPLY	SAAI TDIGAV	QVHYYLDEAN	CWSLDVAELR	RALNAARQHC	NPRVLCIINP	GNPTGQVQSR	QCIEDVIRFV	257	
<i>Spa</i>	mALT	MISIPQYPLY	SAALAEIGAV	QINYYLNEQK	CWSLDISELQ	RSLDEARQHC	NPRALCIINP	GNPTGQVQSR	QCIEDVIRFA	317	
Hum	ALT1	LIPIPQYPLY	SATLAELGAV	QVDYYLDEER	AWALDVAELH	RALGQARDHC	RPRALCVINP	GNPTGOVQTR	ECIEAVIRFA	262	
Rat	ALT1	LIPIPQYPLY	SAALAEELDAV	QVDYYLDEER	AWALDI AELR	RALCQARDRC	CPRVLCVINP	GNPTGOVQTR	ECIEAVIRFA	262	
Hum	ALT2	MIPIPQYPLY	SAVISELDAT	QVNYYLDEEN	CWALNVNELR	RAVQEAKDHC	DPKVLCIINP	GNPTGQVQSR	KCIEDVIFHA	286	
<i>Spa</i>	cALT	KEEHLFLMAD	EVYQDNVYAE	GCKFQSFKKV	LFEMGPEYSS	TVEMASFHST	SKCYMGECGF	RGGYMEVINM	DPEVKAQLT	337	
<i>Spa</i>	mALT	AKERLFLMAD	EVYQDNVYAE	GCQFHSFKKV	LFEMGPEYSN	TVELVSFHST	SKCYMGECGF	RGGYMEVINL	DSEVKAQLT	397	
Hum	ALT1	FEEERLFLMAD	EVYQDNVYAA	GSQFHSFKKV	LMEMGPPYAG	QELASFHST	SKGYMGECGF	RGGYVEVVNM	DAAVQOQM	342	
Rat	ALT1	FKEGLFLMAD	EVYQDNVYAE	GSQFHSFKKV	LMEMGPPYST	QELASFHSV	SKGYMGECGF	RGGYVEVVNM	DAEVOQKOMGK	342	
Hum	ALT2	WEEKLFLMAD	EVYQDNVYSP	DCRFHSFKKV	LYEMGPEYSS	NVELASFHST	SKGYMGECGY	RGGYMEVINL	HPEIKGOLVK	366	
<i>Spa</i>	cALT	LVSVRLCPPV	SGQALMDLVV	NPPQDPESY	TTFMKERTAV	LAELAEKARL	TEQILNTVPG	ITCNPVQGAM	YSFPRTIIPQ	417	
<i>Spa</i>	mALT	LVSVRLCPPV	PGQALMDLVV	NPPQPGEPSPH	EKFIKERTTT	LCALAEKAKL	TEQVLNTVQG	ISCNPVQGAM	YSFPCITIPE	477	
Hum	ALT1	LMSVRLCPPV	PGQALLDLVV	SPAPTDPSF	AQFOAEKQAV	LAELAAKAKL	TEQVFNEAPG	ISCNPVQGAM	YSFPRVQIIPP	422	
Rat	ALT1	LMSVRLCPPV	PGQALMDMVV	SPPTPSEPSF	KOFOAEROBV	LAELAAKAKL	TEQVFNEAPG	IRCNPVQGAM	YSFPOVOIPL	422	
Hum	ALT2	LLSVRLCPPV	SGQAAMDIVV	NPPVAGEESF	EQFSREKESV	LGNLAKKAKL	TEDLFNQVPG	IHCNPEQGAM	YAFPRIFIPA	446	
<i>Spa</i>	cALT	KAIDKAKEAG	HIPDMFYCMK	LLEEEGICLIV	PGSGFGQREG	TFHFRMTILP	PTEKLKVLLQ	RLRDFHQRFT	QEFPS	491	
<i>Spa</i>	mALT	KAIKEATDNG	QKPDMDFYCMK	LLEETGICLIV	PGSGFGQRDG	TYHFRMTILP	PKDKLKILLT	KVKEFHQKFT	QQYS	554	
Hum	ALT1	RAVERAQEIG	LAPDMFFCLR	LLEETGICIVV	PGSGFGQREG	TYHFRMTILP	PLEKLRLLLE	KLSRFHAKFT	LEY	496	
Rat	ALT1	KAVQRAQEIG	LAPDMFECLC	LLEETGICIVV	PGSGFGQQEG	TYHFRMTILP	PMEKLRLLLE	KLSHFHAKFT	HEY	496	
Hum	ALT2	KAVEAAOAHO	MAPDMFYCMK	LLEETGICIVV	PGSGFGOREG	TYHFRMTILP	PVEKLKTVLO	KVKDFHINFL	EKYA	523	

Subcellular localization of cALT1 and mALT



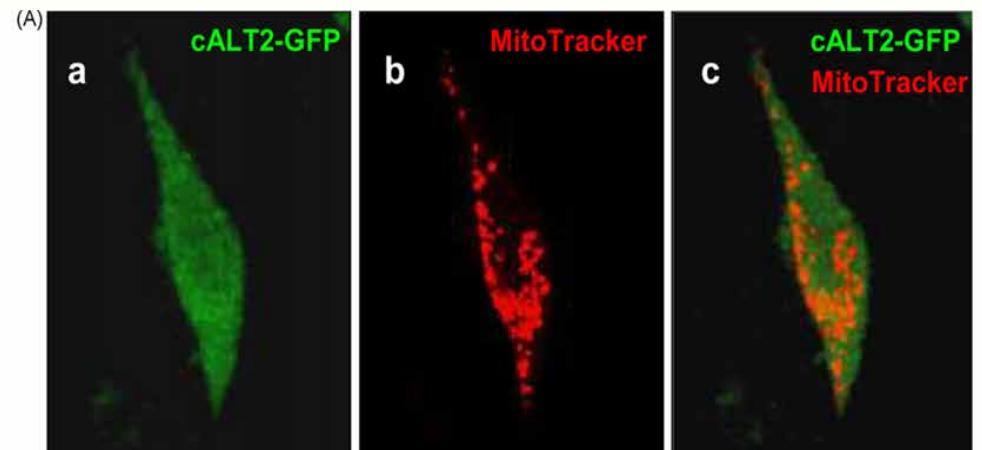
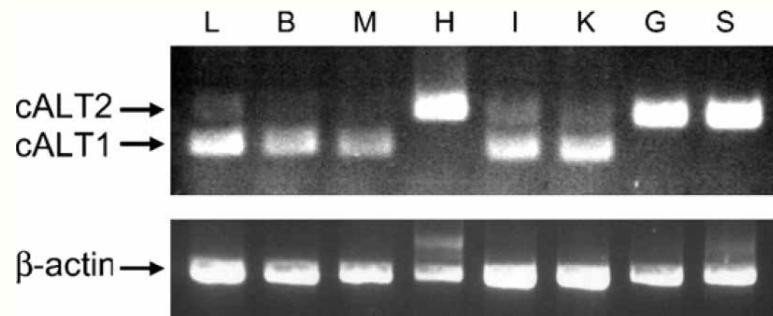
Proposed mechanism of mitochondrial mALT import



N. Pfanner & A. Geissler (2001) Nature Rev 2: 339-349

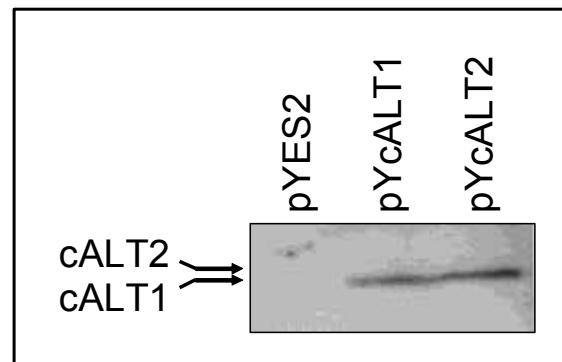
Alternative splicing generates two cytosolic isozymes: cALT1 and cALT2

Spa cALT2	-MFQISVQRVTAAENNNNNNNKNN-	MSHQANGVPC	-RGKVLTVDNMNPRVKVEYA	54
Spa cALT1	-	MSHQANGVPC	-RGKVLTVDNMNPRVKVEYA	31
Hom ALT1	-	MASSTGDRSQAVRHGL	-RAKVLTLDGMNPRVRRVEYA	36
Mus ALT1	-	MASQRNDRIQASRNGL	-KGKVLTLDITMNPcvrrVEYA	36
Spa mALT	MSATRMQLLSPRNVRLLSRRSELFAAGGGGGPRVRSLISPPLSSSSPGRALSSVSATRRLPKEKMTENGVSSRAKVLTIDTMNPVTKKVEYA	94		
Hom ALT2	-	MQRAAALVRRGCGPTPSWGRSQSSAAAESAVLKVRPER	-SRRERILTLTLESMNPQVKAVEYA	63
Mus ALT2	-	MQRAAVLVRRGSCPASGPWGRSHSSAAAESAAALKVRPER	-SPRDRILTLTLESMNPQVKAVEYA	63

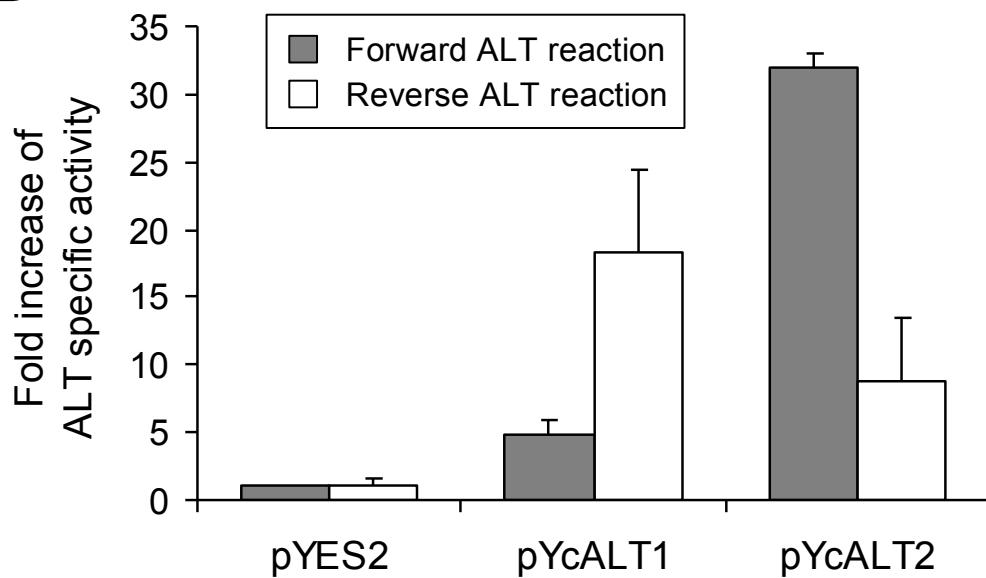


Expression of cALT1 and cALT2 in *S. cerevisiae*

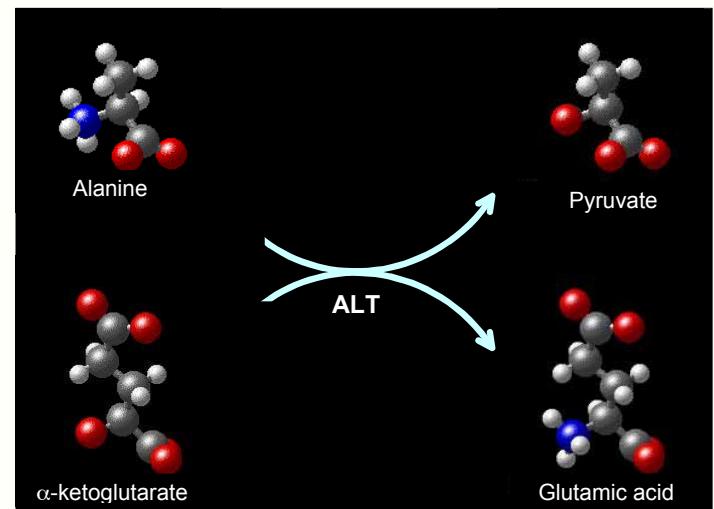
A



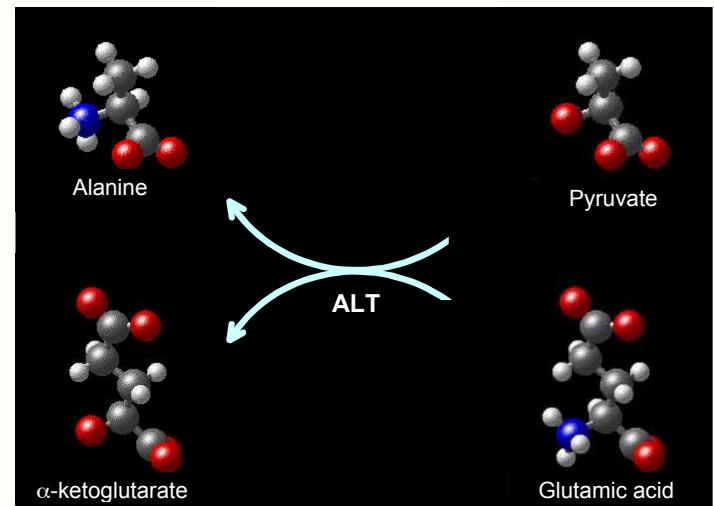
B



Forward reaction:

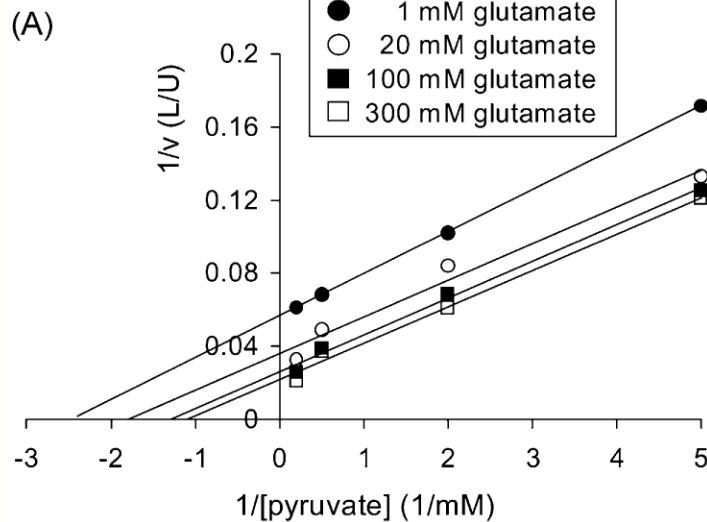


Reverse reaction:

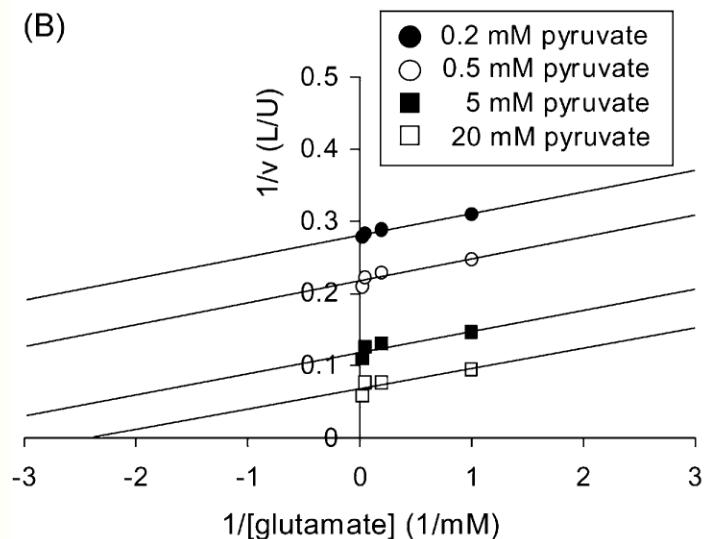


cALT1 and cALT2: Saturation kinetics for pyruvate and L-glutamate

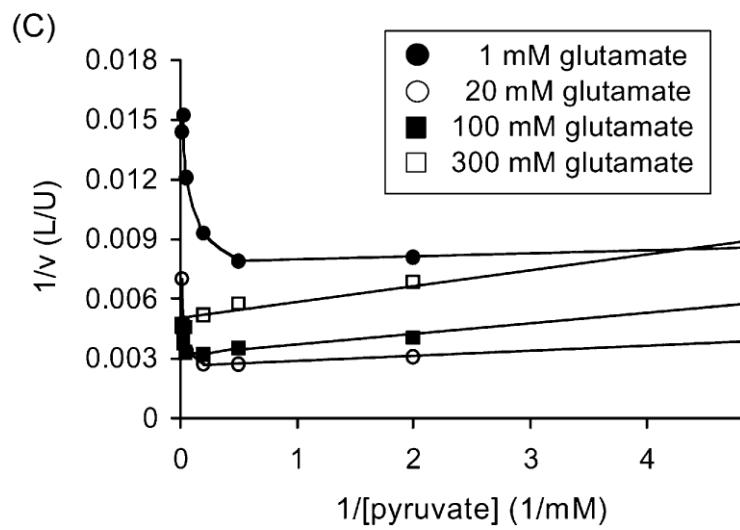
cALT1



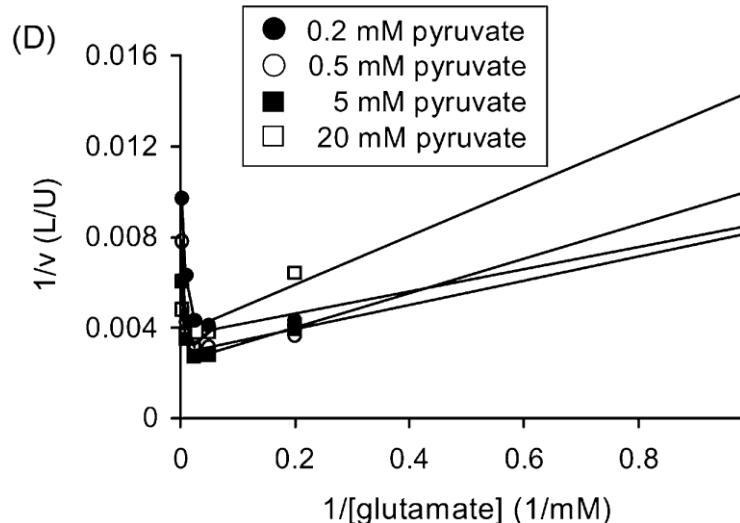
(B)



cALT2



(D)



Kinetic parameters of cALT1 and cALT2

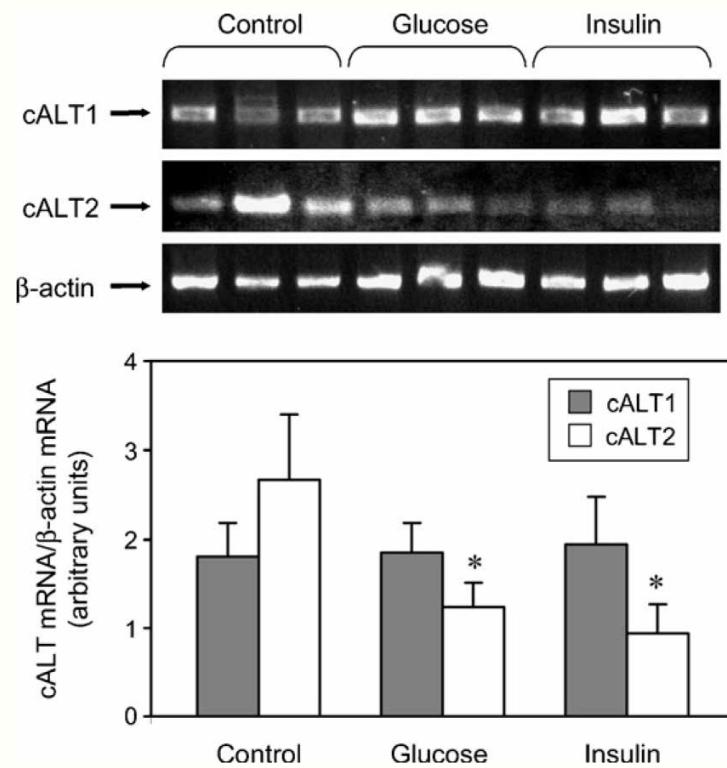
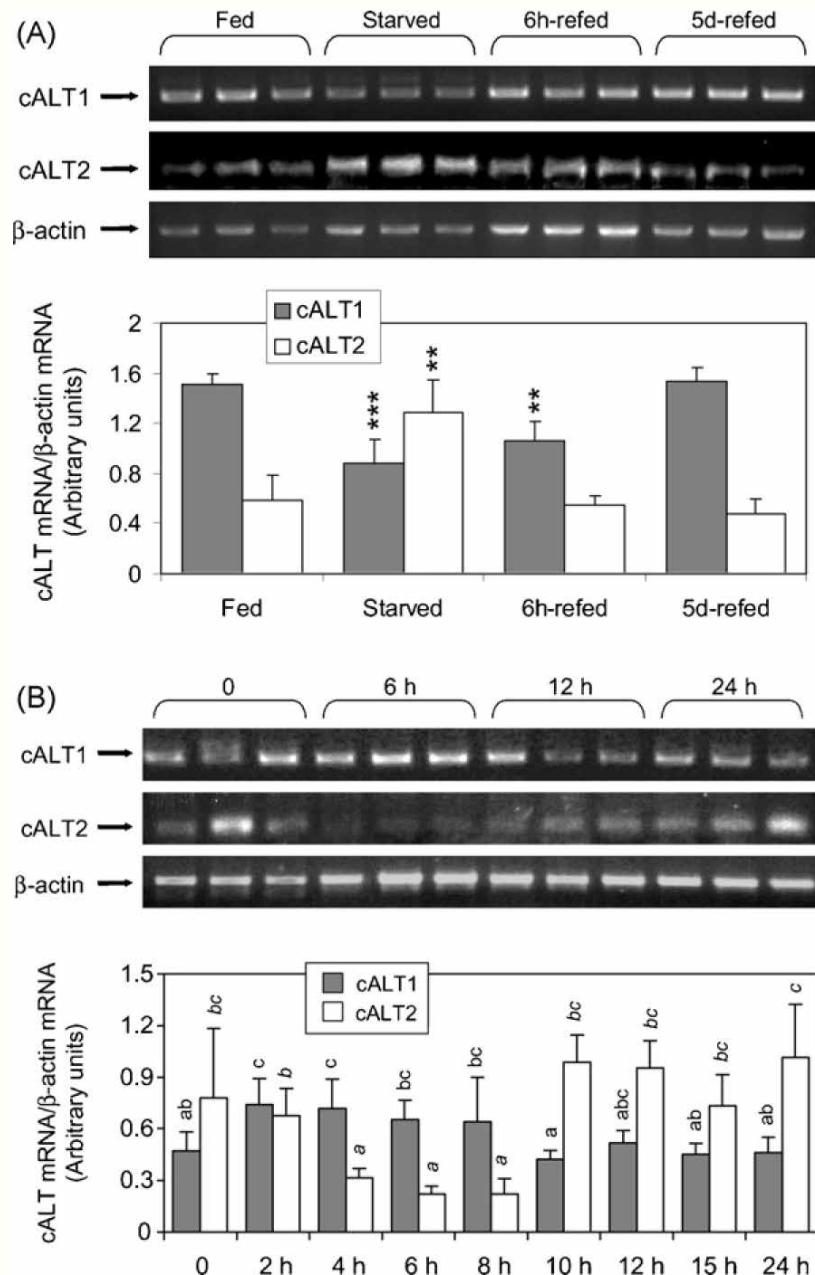
	cALT1	cALT2
Forward reaction		
K_m^{Ala} (mM)	1.82±0.33	2.21±0.70
$K_m^{\text{2-Oxo}}$ (mM)	0.048±0.006	0.051±0.006
V_{\max} ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{min}/\text{g}$)	56.8±14.3	14697±4482
$V_{\max}/K_m^{\text{Ala}}$	0.031	6.65
$V_{\max}/K_m^{\text{2-Oxo}}$	1.183	288.2
I_{50}^{Oxamate} (mM)	1.46±0.14	1.10±0.03
K_i^{Oxamate} (mM)	9.37±0.83	2.50±0.32
K_l^{Oxamate} (mM)	3.20±0.87	0.83±0.06
Reverse reaction		
K_m^{Glu} (mM)	15.91±3.99	4.53±1.55
K_m^{Pyr} (mM)	0.690±0.208	0.154±0.053
V_{\max} ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{min}/\text{g}$)	11.6±2.3	20.9±0.7
$V_{\max}/K_m^{\text{Glu}}$	0.001	0.005
$V_{\max}/K_m^{\text{Pyr}}$	0.017	0.135
K_i^{Glu} (mM)		34.9±13.3
K_i^{Pyr} (mM)		36.5±15.9
I_{50}^{Oxamate} (mM)		104.2±24.8
K_i^{Oxamate} (mM)		81.5±21.5

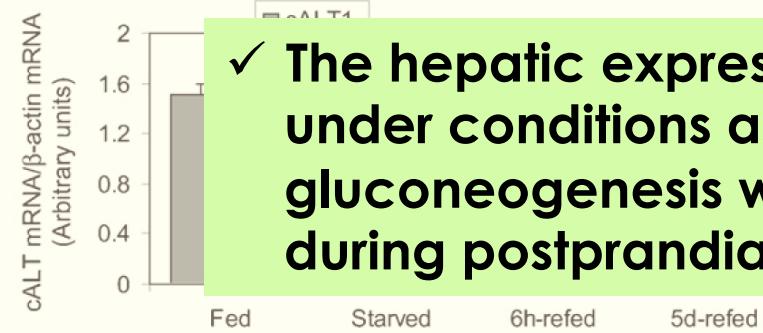
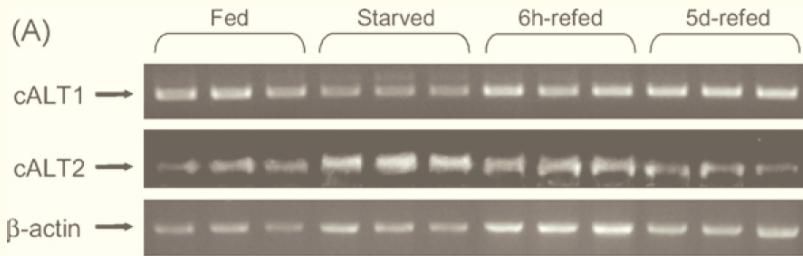
I.G. Anemaet et al (2008) Int J Biochem & Cell Biol 40: 2833-2844

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$V_{\text{max}}/K_m^{\text{2-Oxo}}$	1.183	288.2
I_{50}^{Oxamate} (mM)	1.46±0.14	1.10±0.03
K_i^{Oxamate} (mM)		✓ cALT2 preferably catalyses the forward reaction (conversion of L-alanine to pyruvate)
K_i^{Oxamate} (mM)		
Reverse reaction		
K_m^{Glu} (mM)	15.91±3.99	4.53±1.55
K_m^{Pyr} (mM)	0.690±0.208	0.154±0.053
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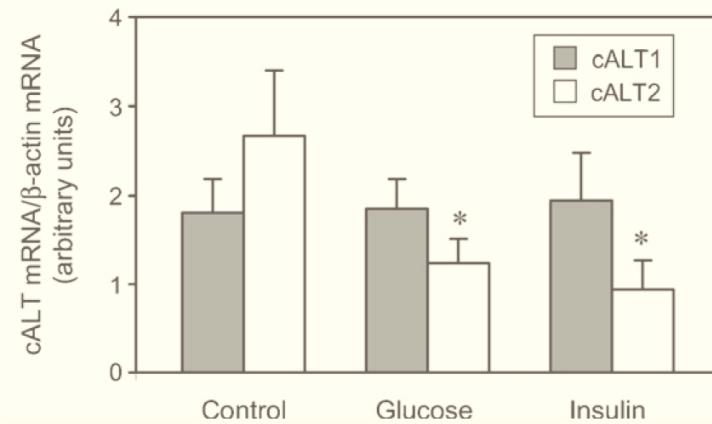
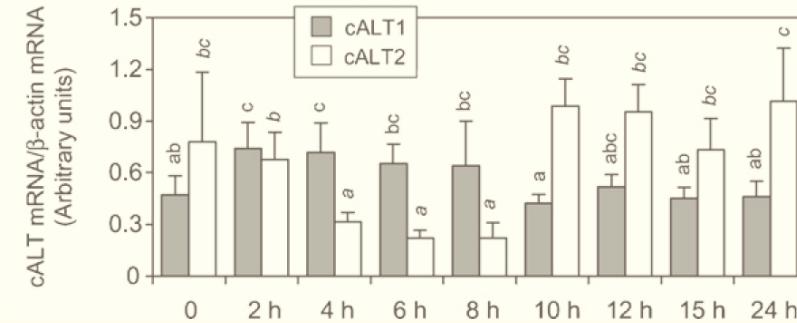
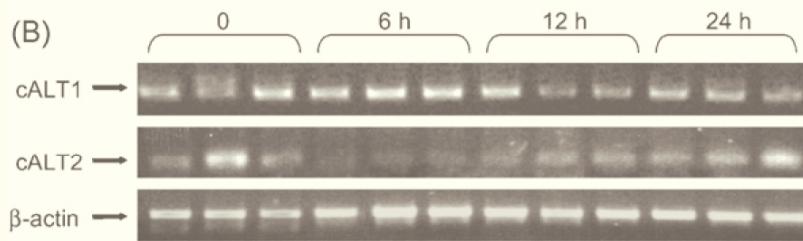
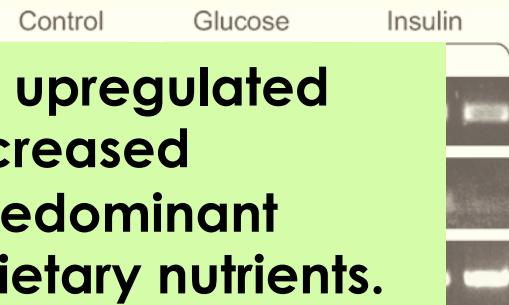
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Nutritional regulation of cALT1 and cALT2 expression

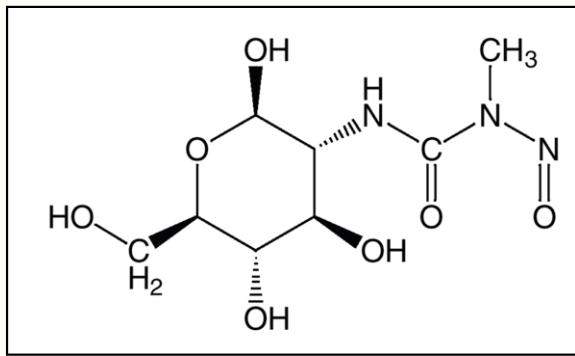




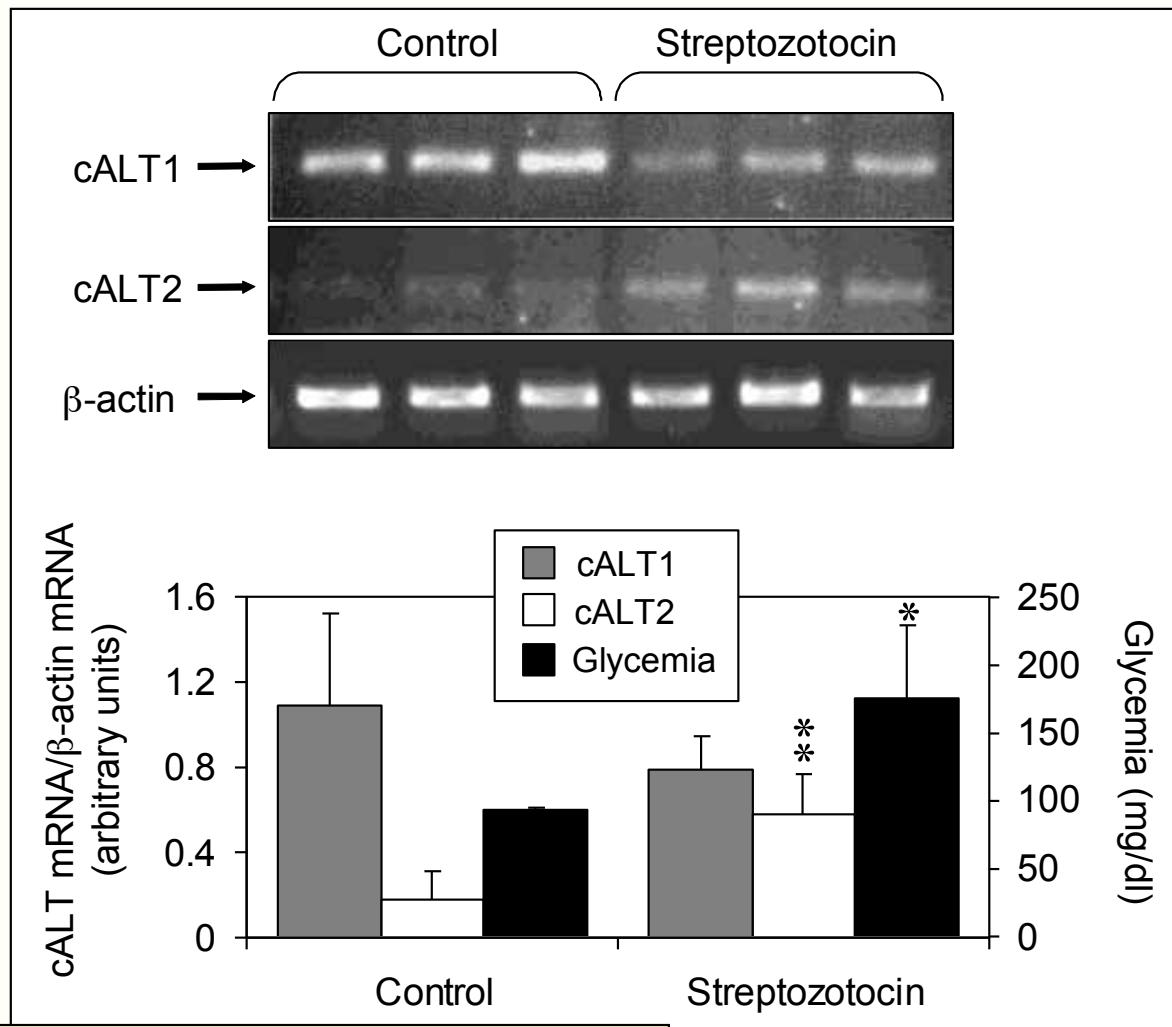
✓ The hepatic expression of cALT2 is upregulated under conditions associated to increased gluconeogenesis while cALT1 is predominant during postprandial utilization of dietary nutrients.



cALT1 and cALT2 expression in streptozotocin-induced diabetic *Sparus aurata*



- ✓ Streptozotocin causes β -cell necrosis and is widely used to generate diabetic animal models.



Specific objective 2

➤ **Global objective:**

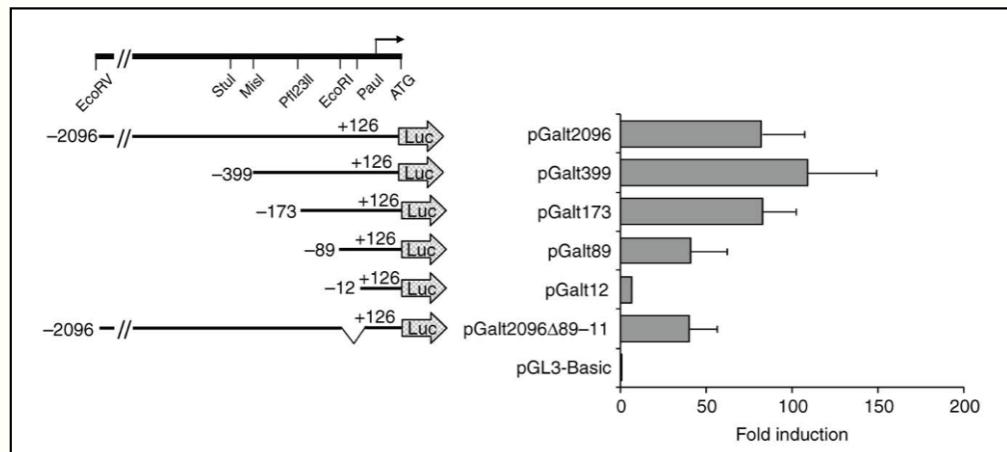
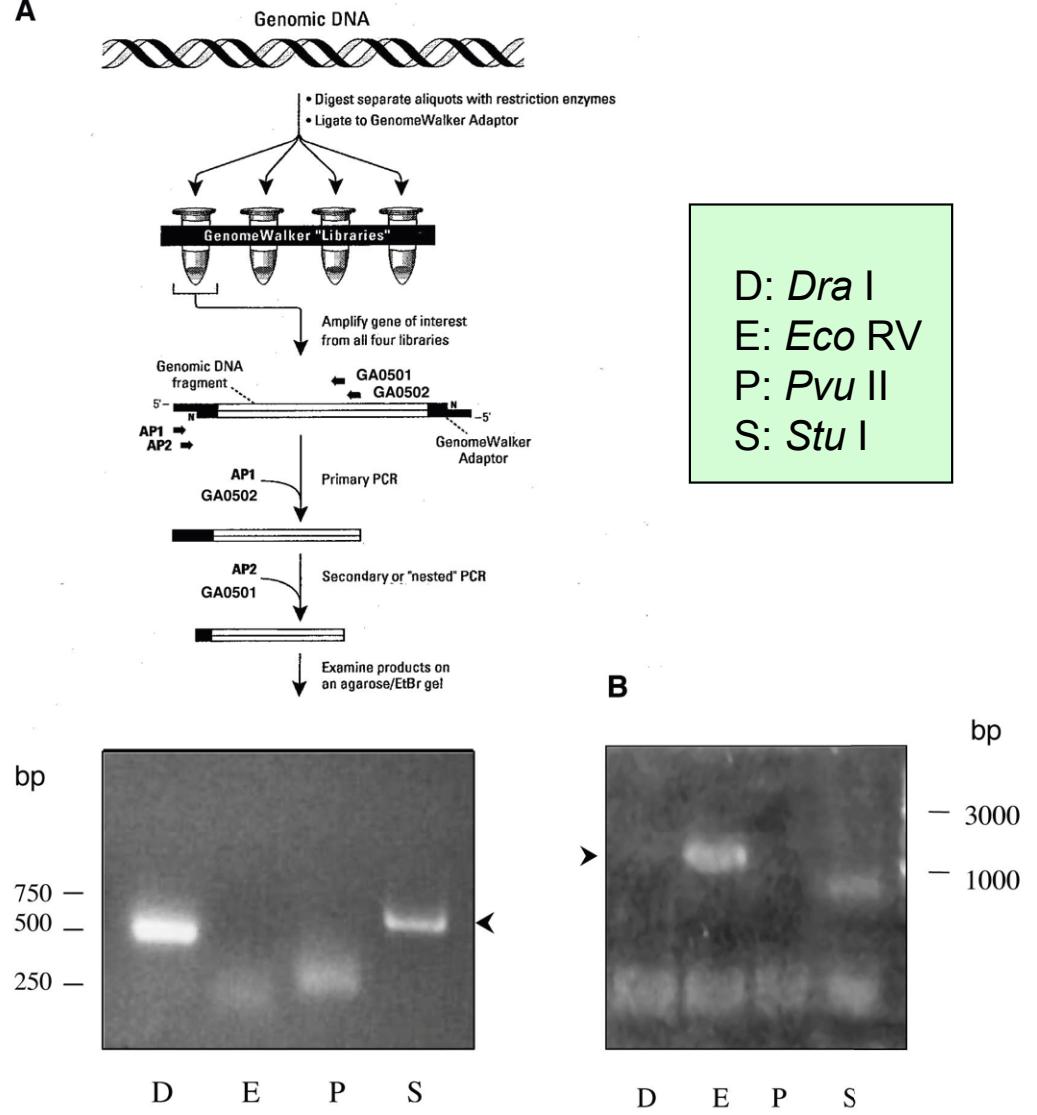
- ✓ To increase the current knowledge on the regulation of the expression of ALT isozymes in *Sparus aurata* to enable a biotechnological action to spare protein and improve the use of dietary carbohydrates.

➤ **Specific objectives:**

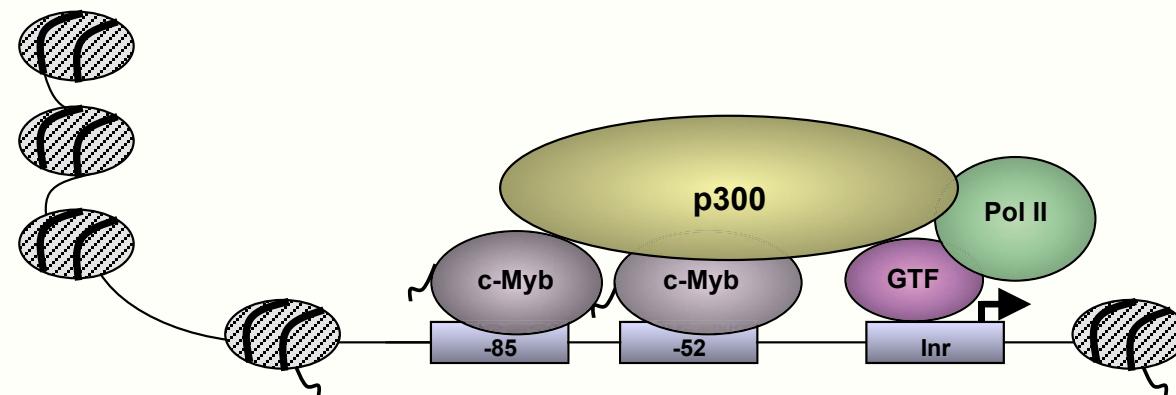
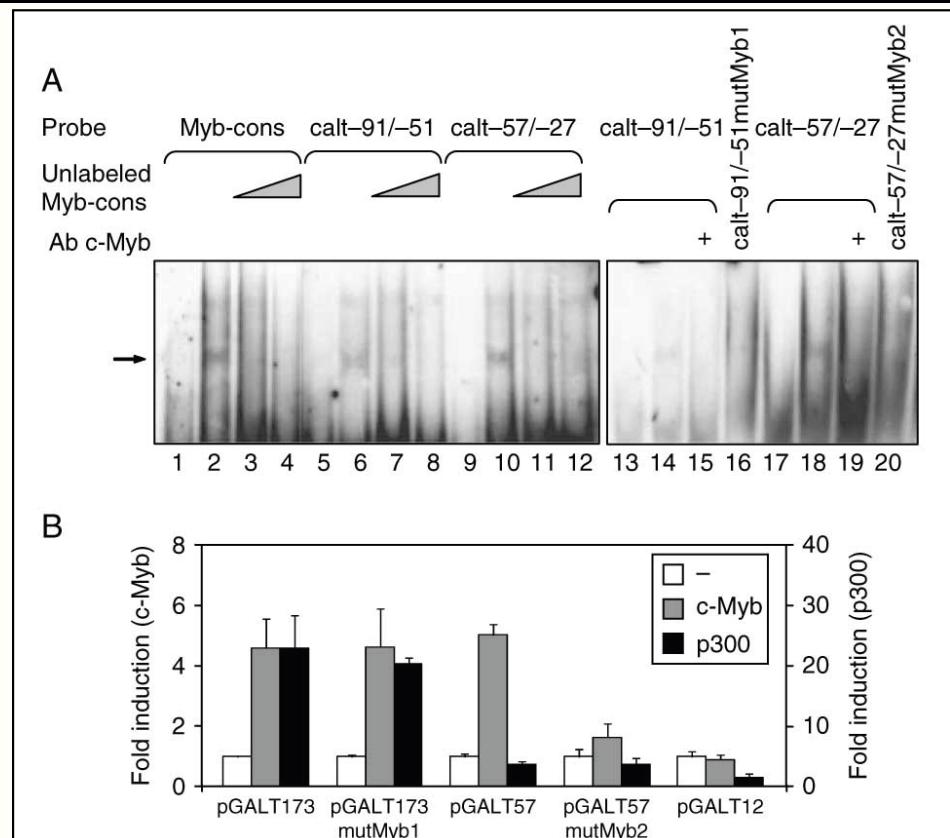
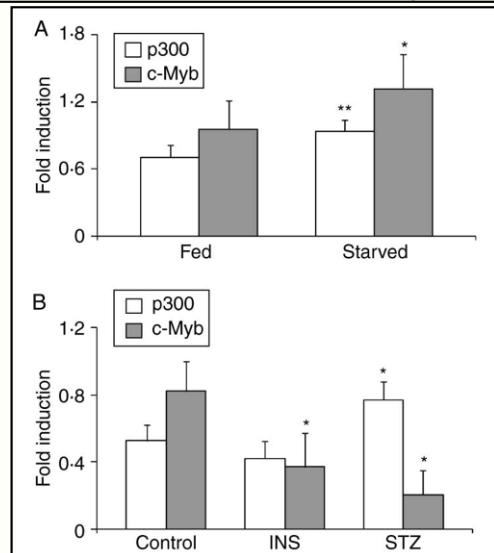
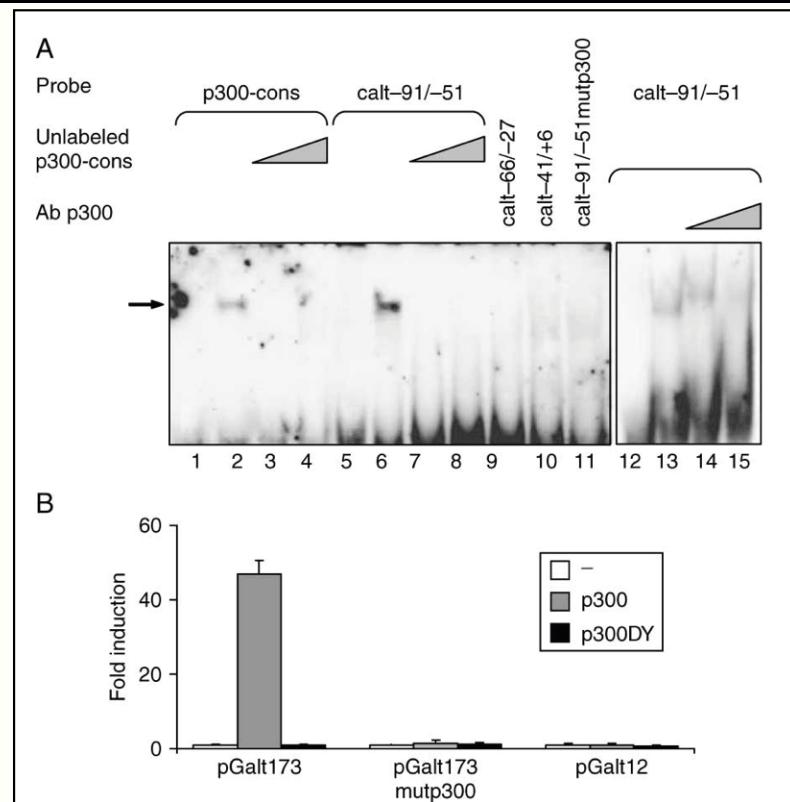
- ① Cloning and molecular and kinetic characterization of cytosolic and mitochondrial isoforms of ALT from *Sparus aurata*.
- ② Characterization of ALT gene promoters.
- ③ Identification of proteins that may interact with ALT isoforms and eventually regulate the enzyme activity.
- ④ Effect of ALT inhibition on the intermediary metabolism of *Sparus aurata*.

Cloning and characterization of *Sparus aurata* cALT gene promoter (SBL cells)

A

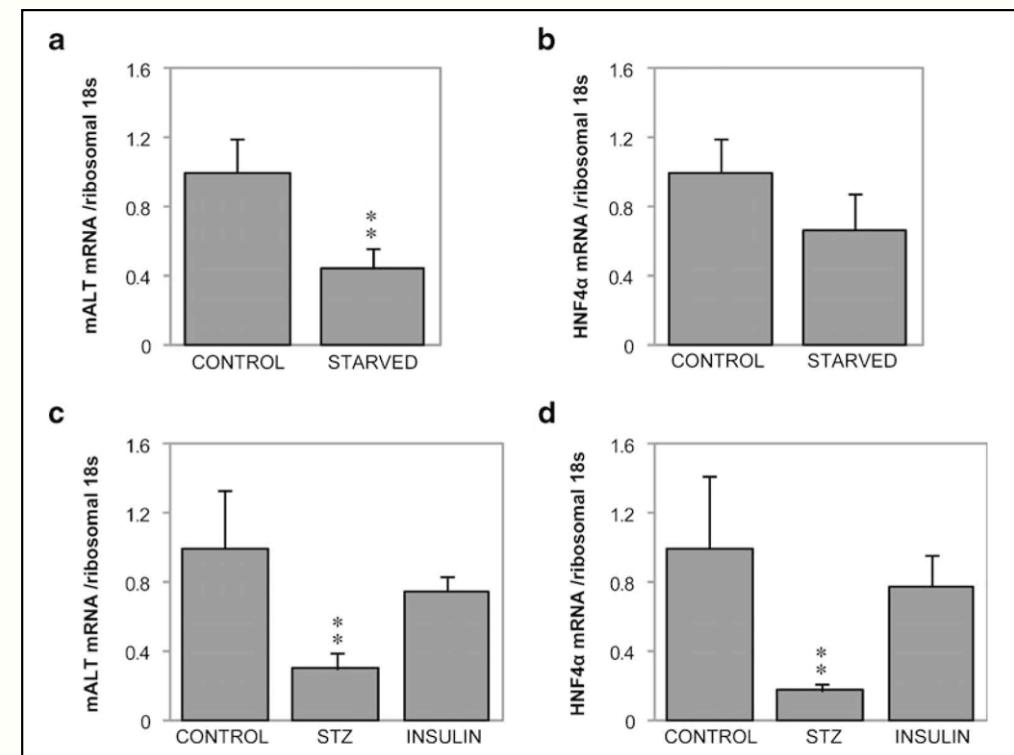
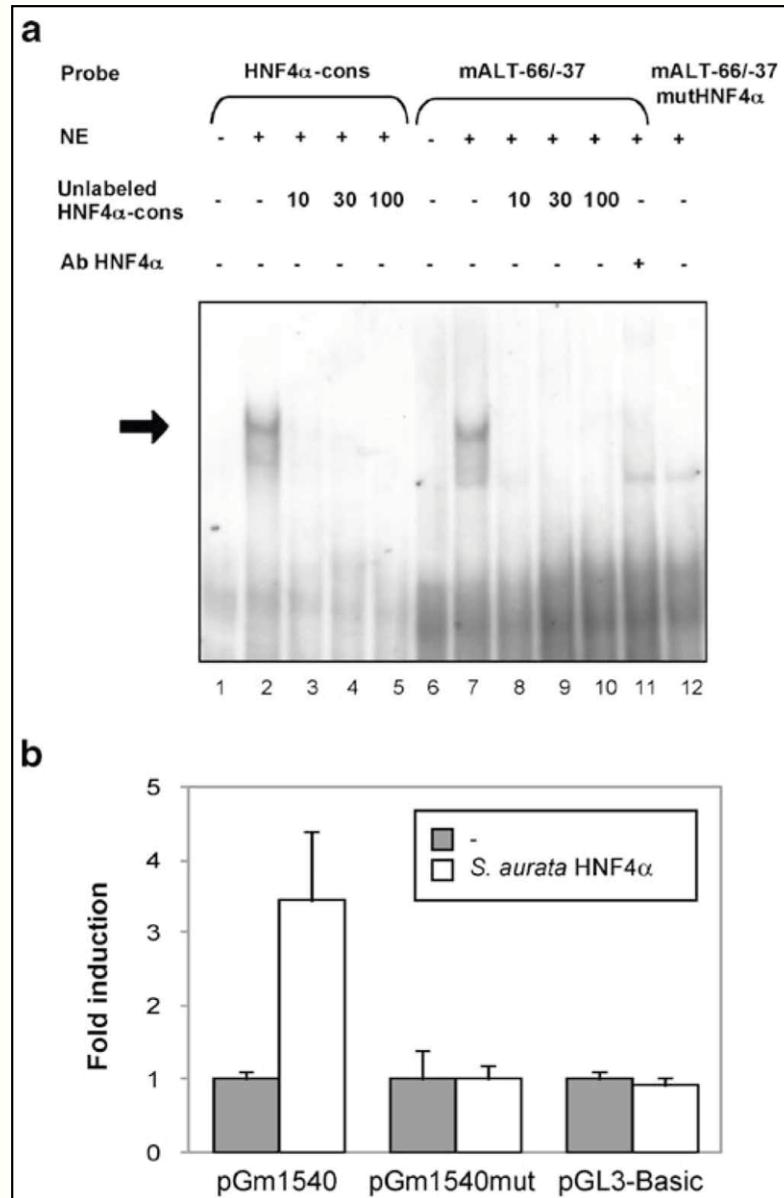


p300 and c-Myb transactivate the cALT gene promoter



I.G. Anemaet et al (2010) J Mol Endocrinol 45: 119-132

HNF4 α transactivates the mALT gene



Specific objective 3

➤ **Global objective:**

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➤ **Specific objectives:**

- ① Cloning and molecular and kinetic characterization of cytosolic and mitochondrial isoforms of ALT from *Sparus aurata*.
- ② Characterization of ALT gene promoters.
- ③ Identification of proteins that may interact with ALT isoforms and eventually regulate the enzyme activity.
- ④ Effect of ALT inhibition on the intermediary metabolism of *Sparus aurata*.

Yeast two-hybrid screening: searching for cALT-interacting proteins

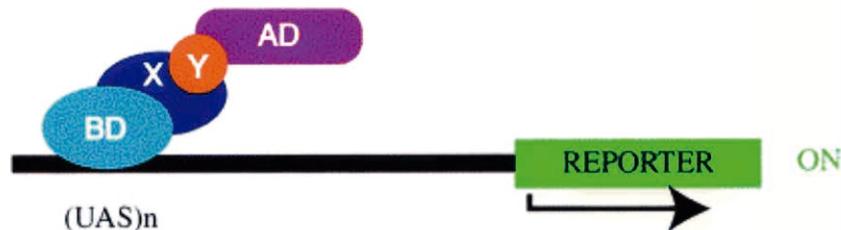
A. DNA binding domain fusion



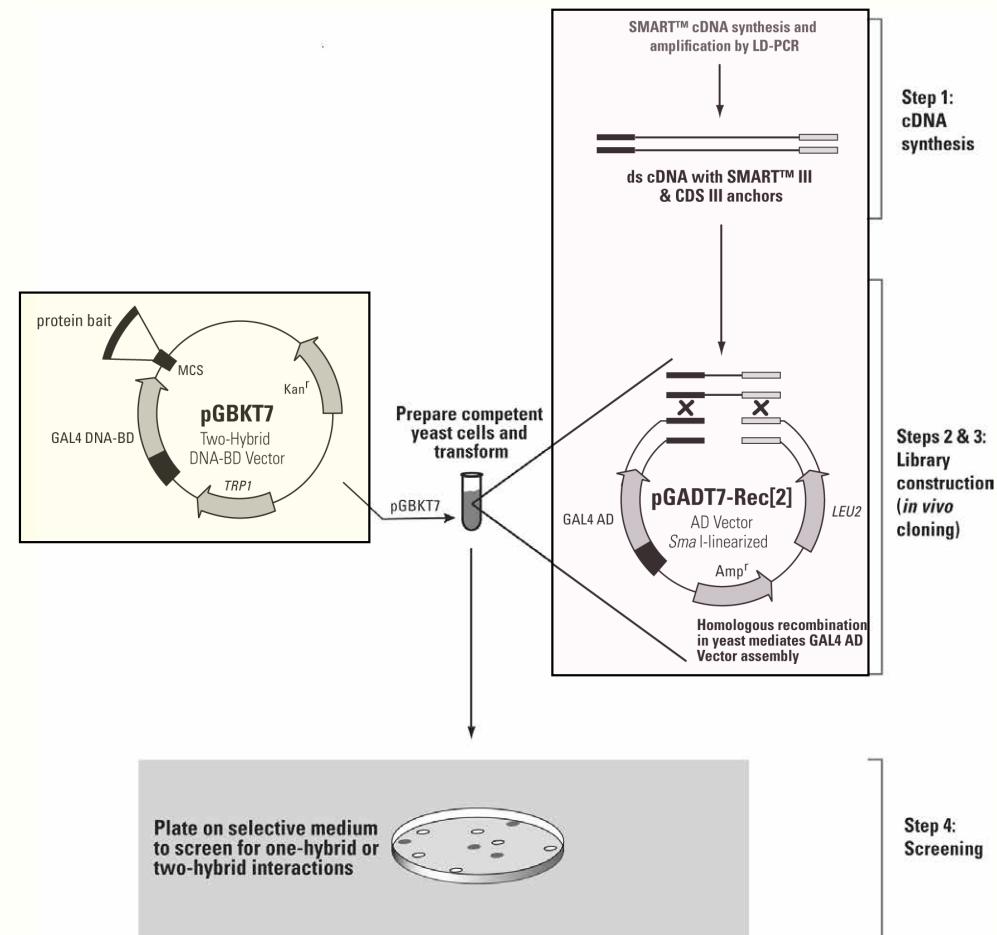
B. Activation domain fusion



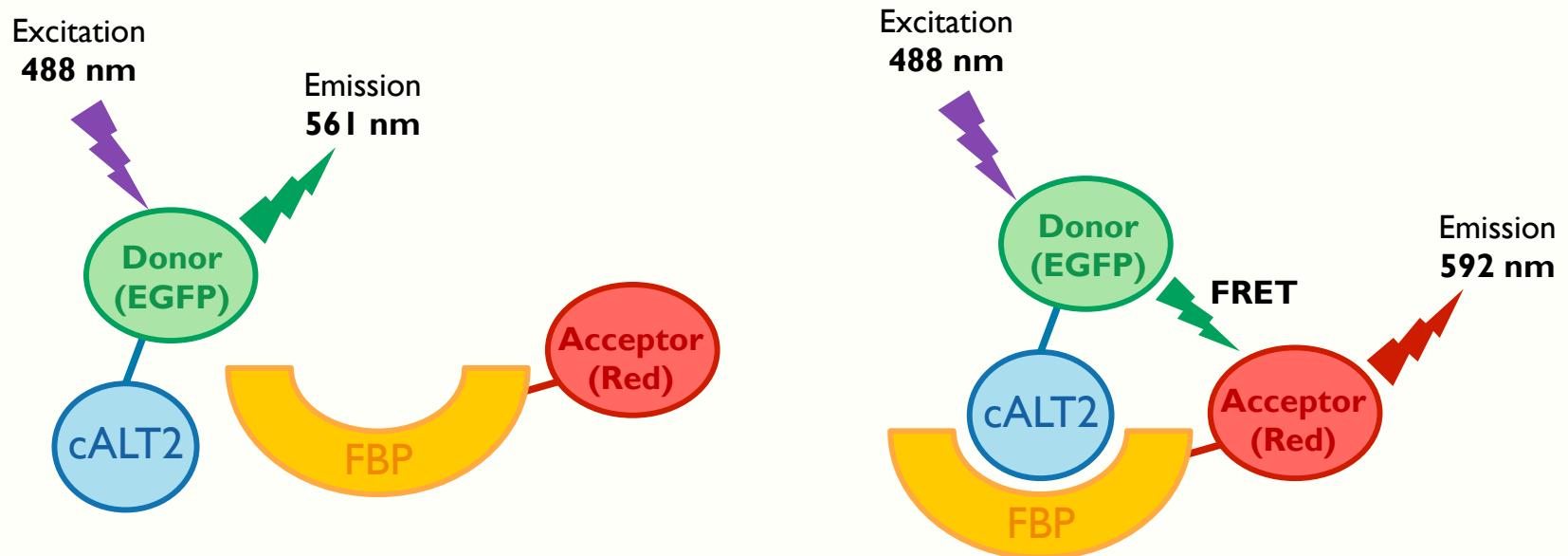
C. Active transcription factor



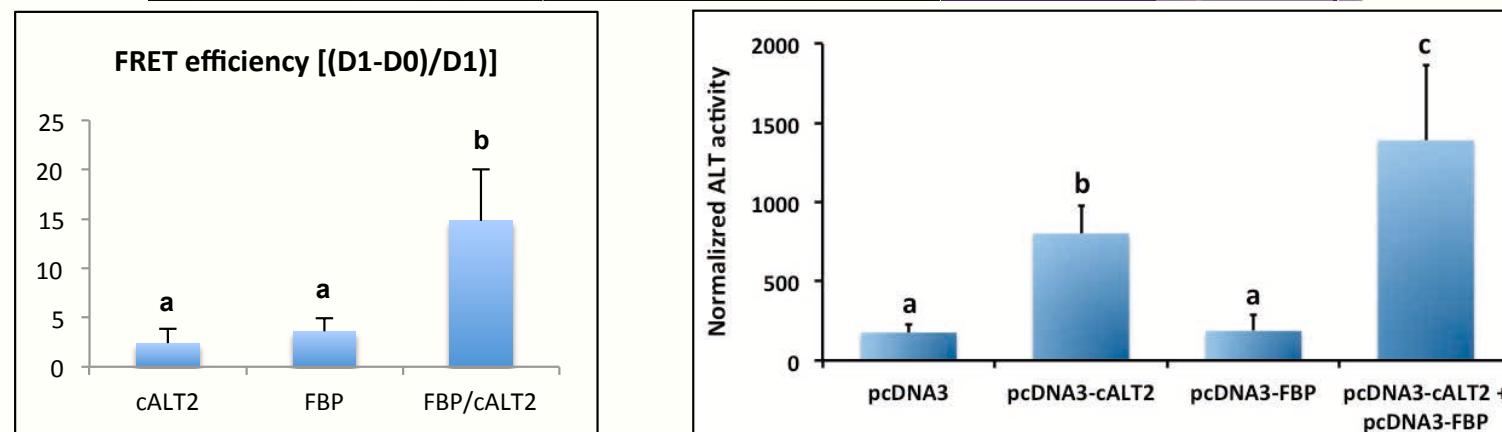
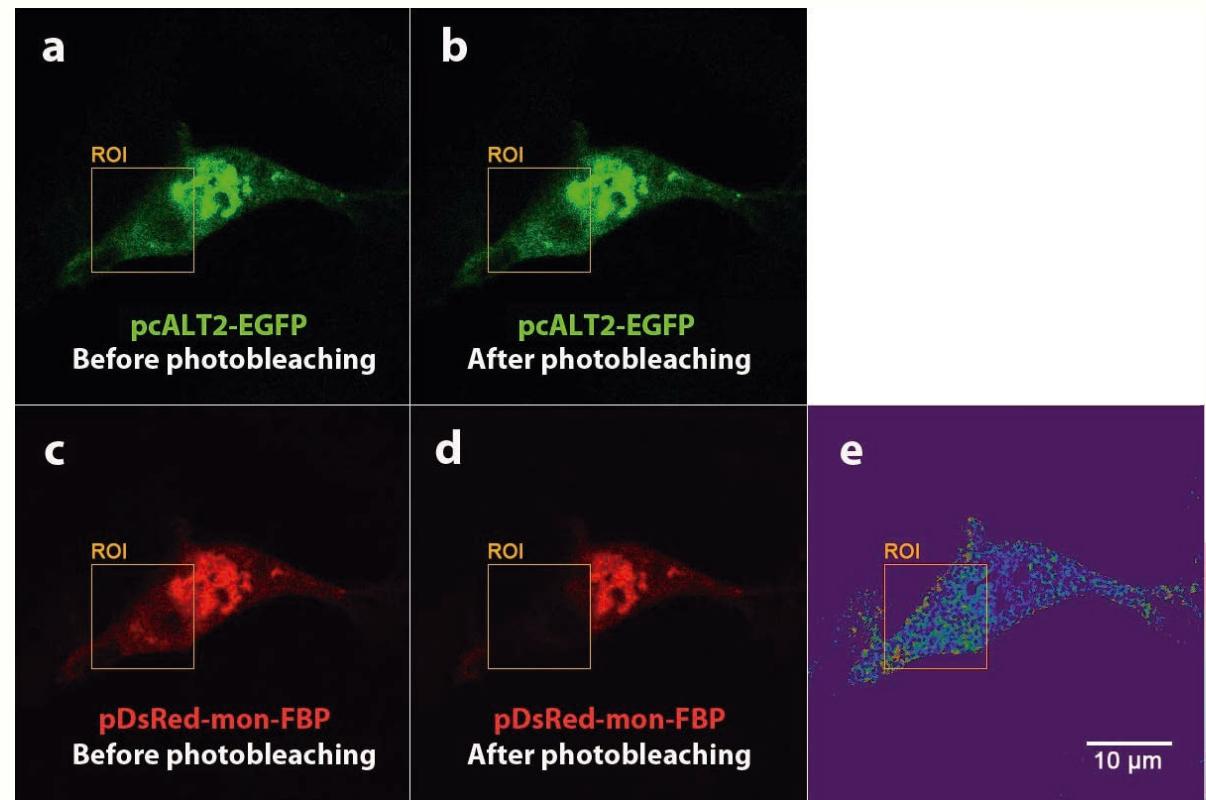
D. Stephens & G. Banting (2000) Traffic 1, 763-768



Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET) assay: confirming protein-protein interaction



F-lectin (FBP) regulates cALT2 activity through protein-protein interaction



Specific objective 4

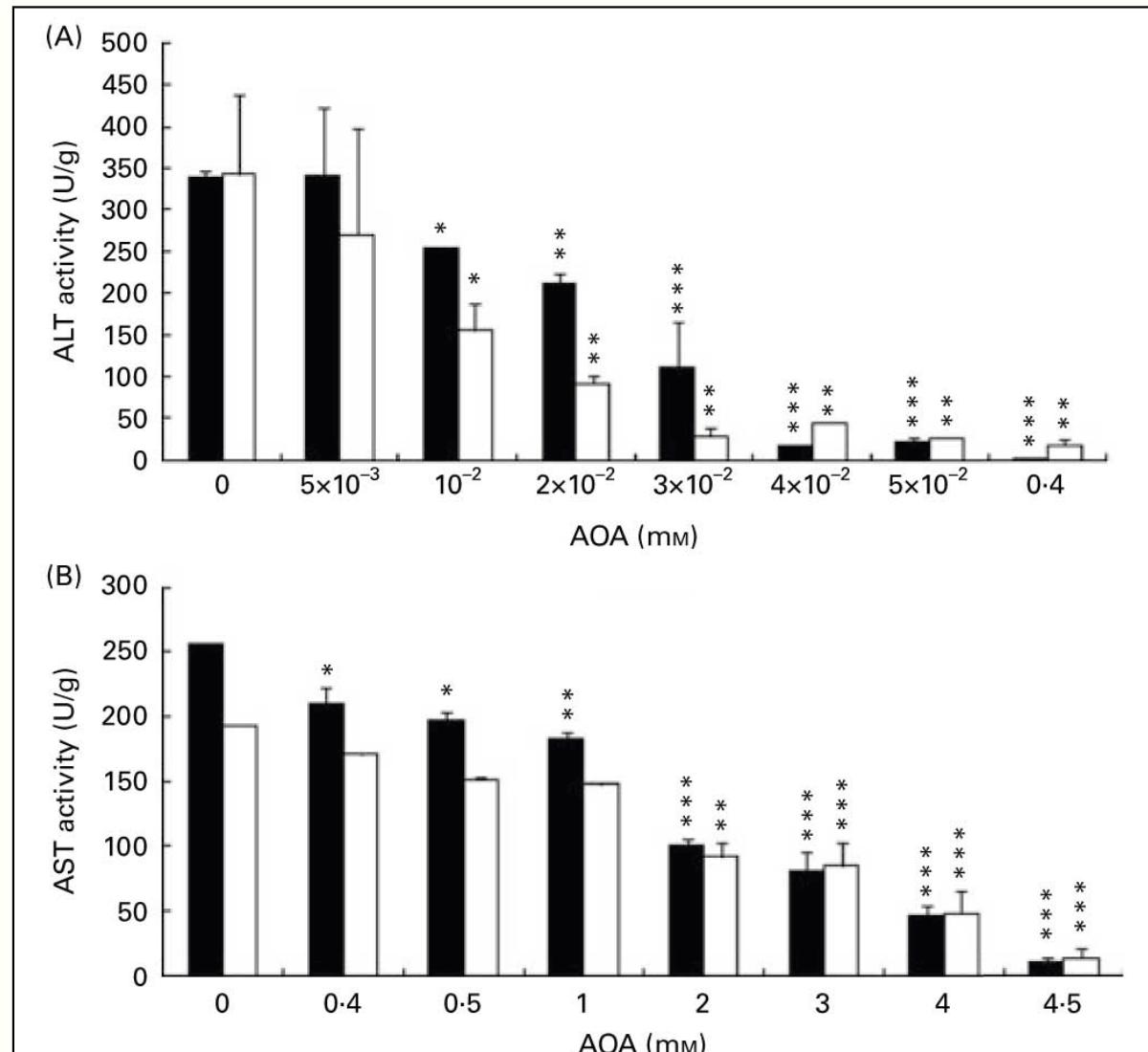
➤ **Global objective:**

- ✓ **To increase the current knowledge on the regulation of the expression of ALT isozymes in *Sparus aurata* to enable a biotechnological action to spare protein and improve the use of dietary carbohydrates.**

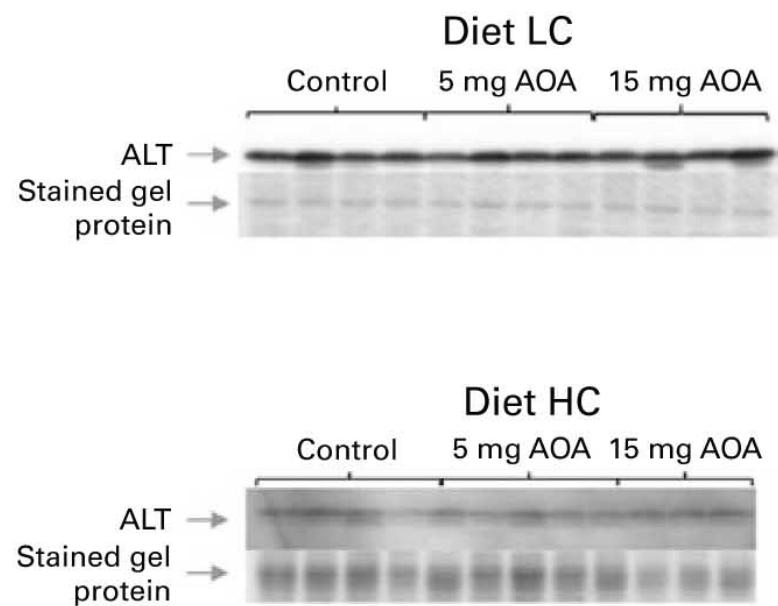
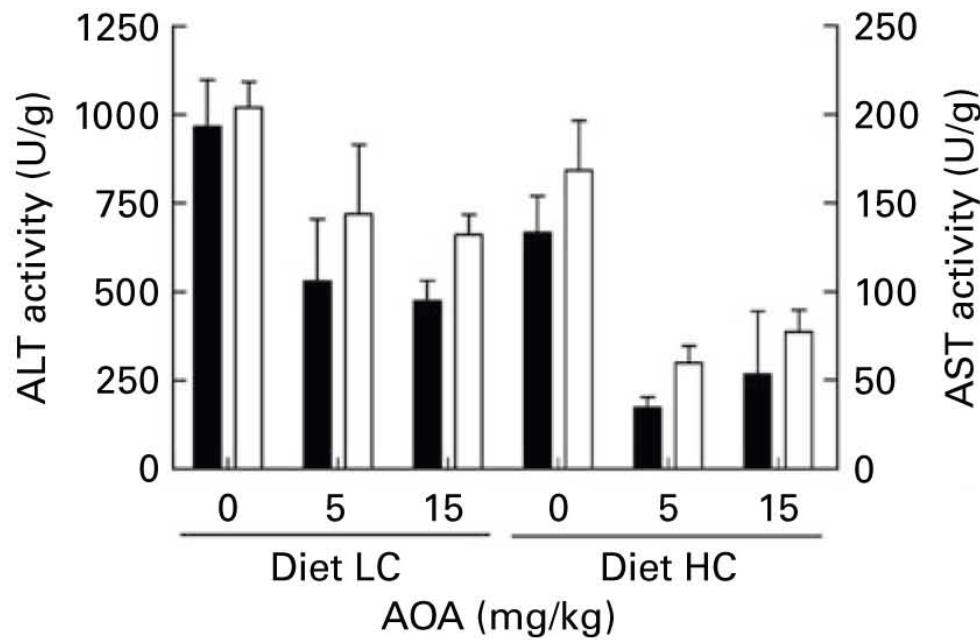
➤ **Specific objectives:**

- ① Cloning and molecular and kinetic characterization of cytosolic and mitochondrial isoforms of ALT from *Sparus aurata*.
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- ④ Effect of ALT inhibition on the intermediary metabolism of *Sparus aurata*.

Amino-oxyacetate (AOA) inhibits cALT activity *in vitro*



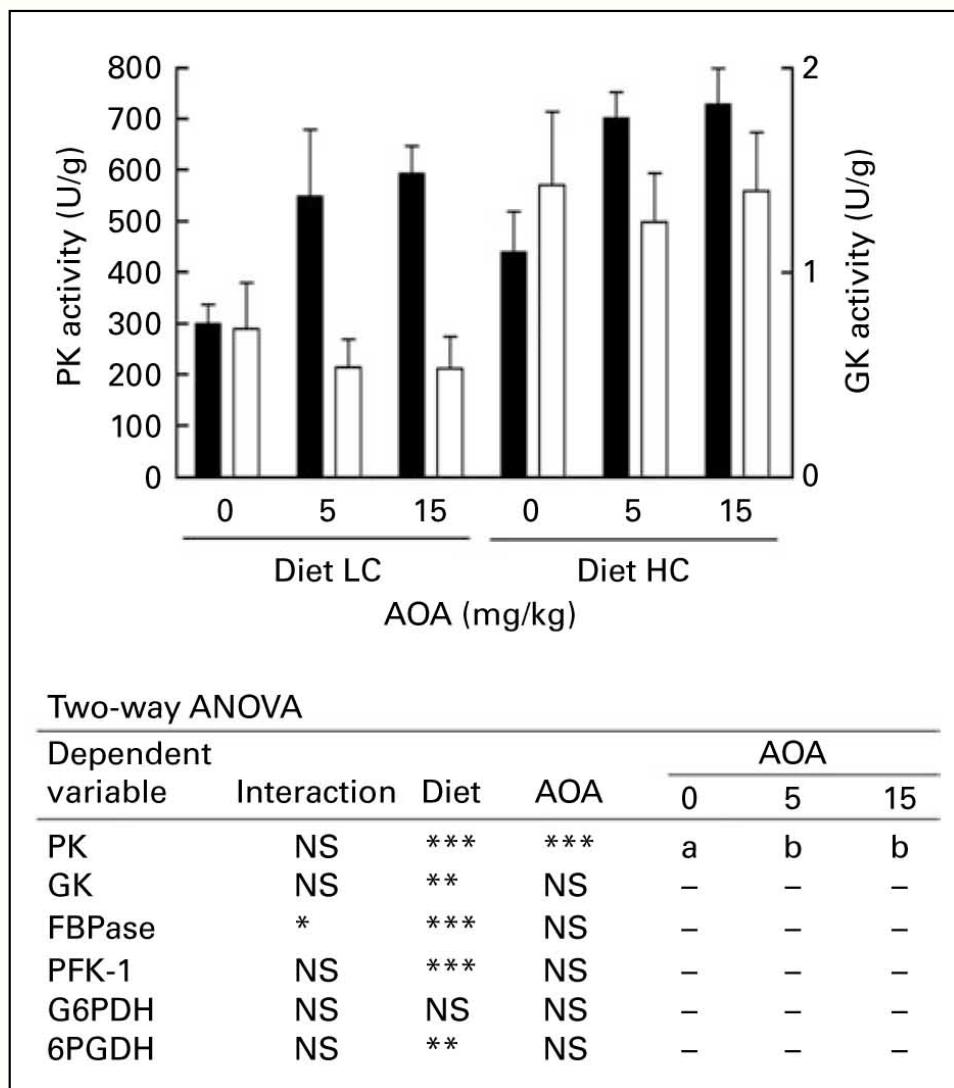
Amino-oxyacetate (AOA) inhibits cALT activity *in vivo*



Two-way ANOVA

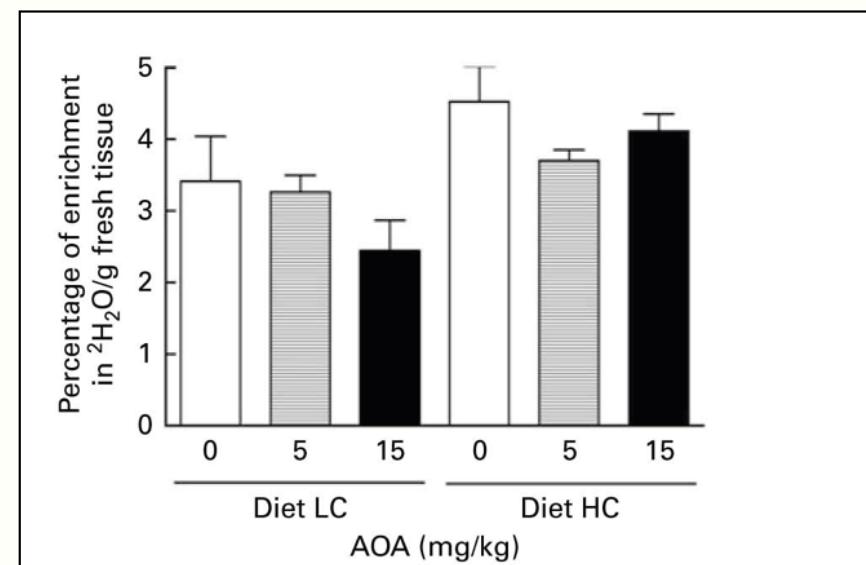
Dependent variable	Interaction	Diet	AOA	AOA		
				0	5	15
ALT	NS	***	***	b	a	a
AST	*	***	***	b	a	a

Effect of long-term exposure to AOA on the intermediary metabolism of *Sparus aurata*



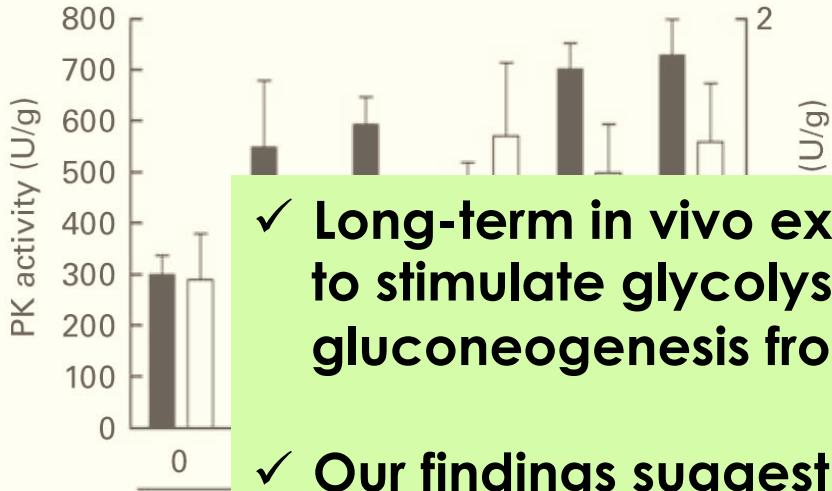
Two-way ANOVA

Dependent variable	Interaction	Diet	AOA	AOA		
				0	5	15
PK	NS	***	***	a	b	b
GK	NS	**	NS	-	-	-
FBPase	*	***	NS	-	-	-
PFK-1	NS	***	NS	-	-	-
G6PDH	NS	NS	NS	-	-	-
6PGDH	NS	**	NS	-	-	-



Two-way ANOVA

Dependent variable	Interaction	Diet	AOA	AOA		
				0	5	15
Alanine	NS	***	*	b	a,b	a



- ✓ Long-term *in vivo* exposure to AOA can be used to stimulate glycolysis and inhibit gluconeogenesis from amino acids.
- ✓ Our findings suggest that AOA-dependent inhibition of the cytosolic ALT activity increases the use of the dietary carbohydrates while spares protein.

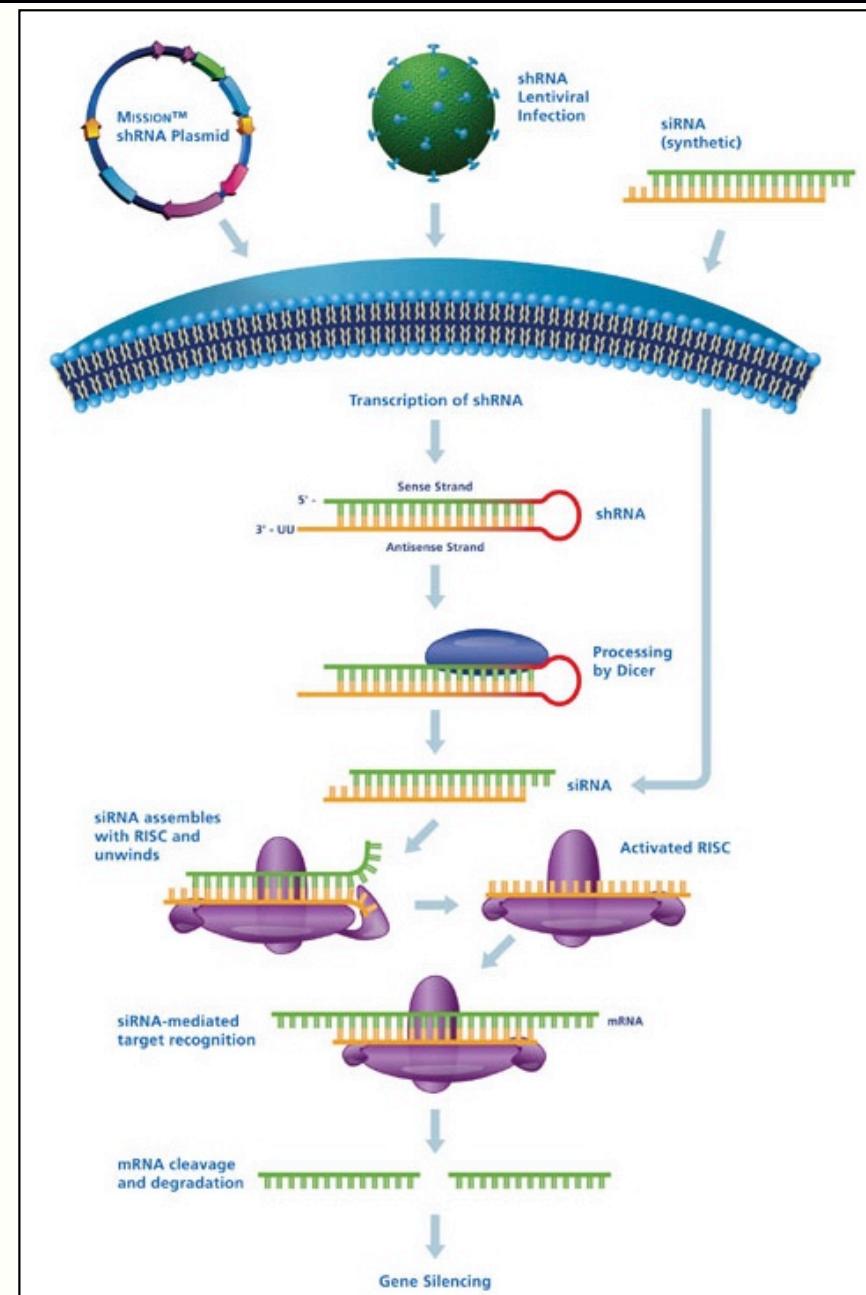
Two-way ANOVA

Dependent variable

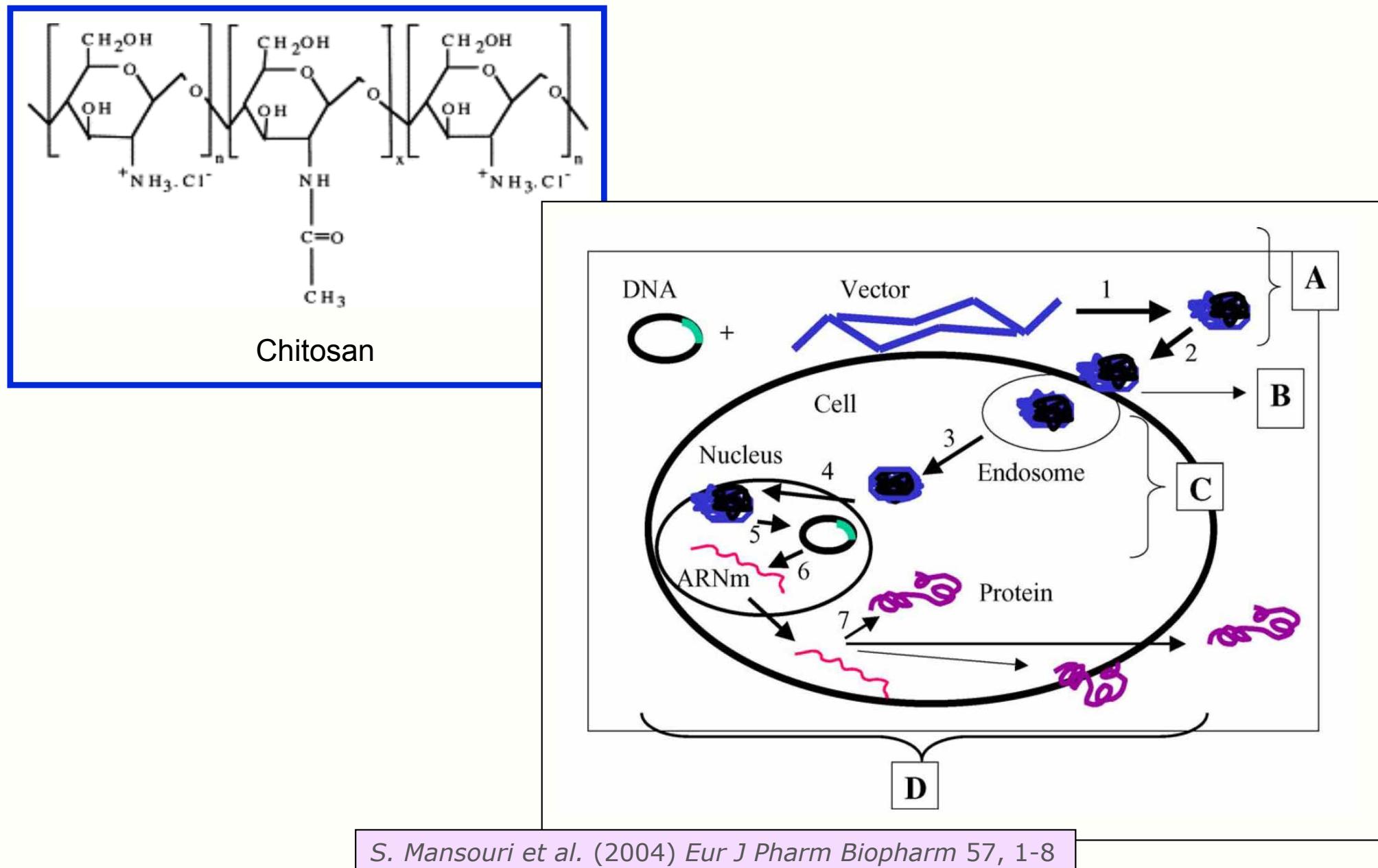
	Interaction	Diet	AOA	0	5	15
PK	NS	***	***	a	b	b
GK	NS	**	NS	-	-	-
FBPase	*	***	NS	-	-	-
PFK-1	NS	***	NS	-	-	-
G6PDH	NS	NS	NS	-	-	-
6PGDH	NS	**	NS	-	-	-

Dependent variable	Interaction	Diet	AOA	AOA		
				0	5	15
Alanine	NS	***	*	b	a,b	a

Silencing *Sparus aurata* cALT expression: shRNA



Chitosan as a non-viral vector for nucleic acids delivery



Conclusions

- ✓ We isolated three ALT isozymes from *Sparus aurata*: two cytosolic isoforms resulting from alternative splicing of the cALT gene (cALT1 and cALT2) and a mitochondrial enzyme (mALT). Upregulation of cALT2 occurs under gluconeogenic conditions in the liver, whereas cALT1 is associated to postprandial utilization of dietary nutrients.
- ✓ Distinct transcription factors enhance the activity of cALT (p300 and c-Myb) and mALT (HNF4 α) gene promoters.
- ✓ F-lectin stimulates cALT2 activity through a mechanism involving protein-protein interaction.
- ✓ Long-term inhibition of cALT isoforms increases glycolysis and decrease the renewal of alanine.

Future perspectives

- **Ultimate aim:**
 - ✓ To improve the use of dietary carbohydrates by fish in culture and spare protein.
- **Projects on course:**
 - ✓ Effect of knocking-down the expression of cALT isoforms on the *Sparus aurata* intermediary metabolism and feed conversion efficiency.
 - ✓ To explore the possibility of a multifactorial action on several genes to perform a more robust protein sparing effect, we are performing transcriptomic and microarray analysis to identify other candidate genes as potential biomarkers to optimize the use of dietary nutrients in *Sparus aurata*.
 - ✓ Characterization of human ALT promoters (M.C. Salgado et al., 2014, *BBA-Gene Regul. Mech.* 1839: 288-296).

Nutrition, metabolism and functional genomics in fish

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Gràcies per la vostra atenció!

