



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Facultat de Farmàcia
i Ciències de l'Alimentació



Institut de Recerca en Nutrició
i Seguretat Alimentària
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

EXCELENCIA
MARIA
DE MAEZTU
2023-2026

El cacau: un plaer per al paladar i un aliat per a la salut?

Dra. Malén Massot Cladera
(malen.massot@ub.edu)

Grup d'Autoimmunitat, Immunonutrició i Tolerància
Secció de Fisiologia,
Departament de Bioquímica i Fisiologia
Facultat de Farmàcia i Ciències de l'Alimentació

27 Febrer 2025



ÍNDEX

1. Història

2. Composició

3. Per què el cacau?

4. Cacau i sistema immunitari

5. Conclusions

Alegrías = Chocolate
Mal día = Chocolate
Estrés = Chocolate
Celebración = Chocolate
Lunes = Chocolate

La respuesta siempre
es chocolate



***GUST:** amarga, dolça, afruitada, especiada...*

***TACTE:** cremosa, suau, cruixent...*

***OLFACTE:** torrats, fruita seca, vainilla...*



Theobroma cacao



criollo



forastero



trinitario

La planta del cacau és un arbust tropical de tronc llis (5-8 m) originari del sotabosc de l'alt Amazones

Olmeca



1700 a.C

Maya



1000 a.C – 1521 d.C

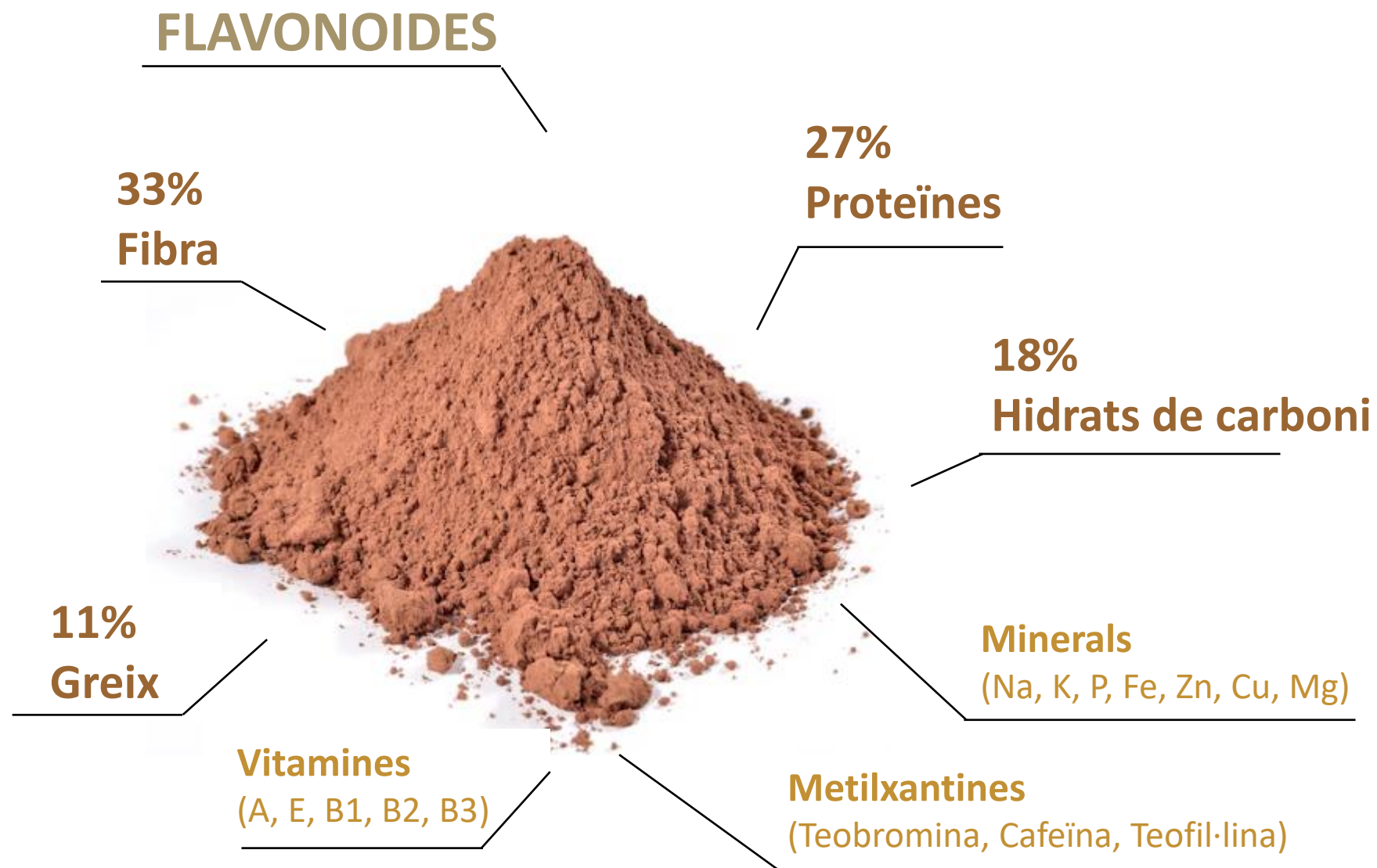
Asteca



1200 d.C – 1521 d.C

1544 d.C

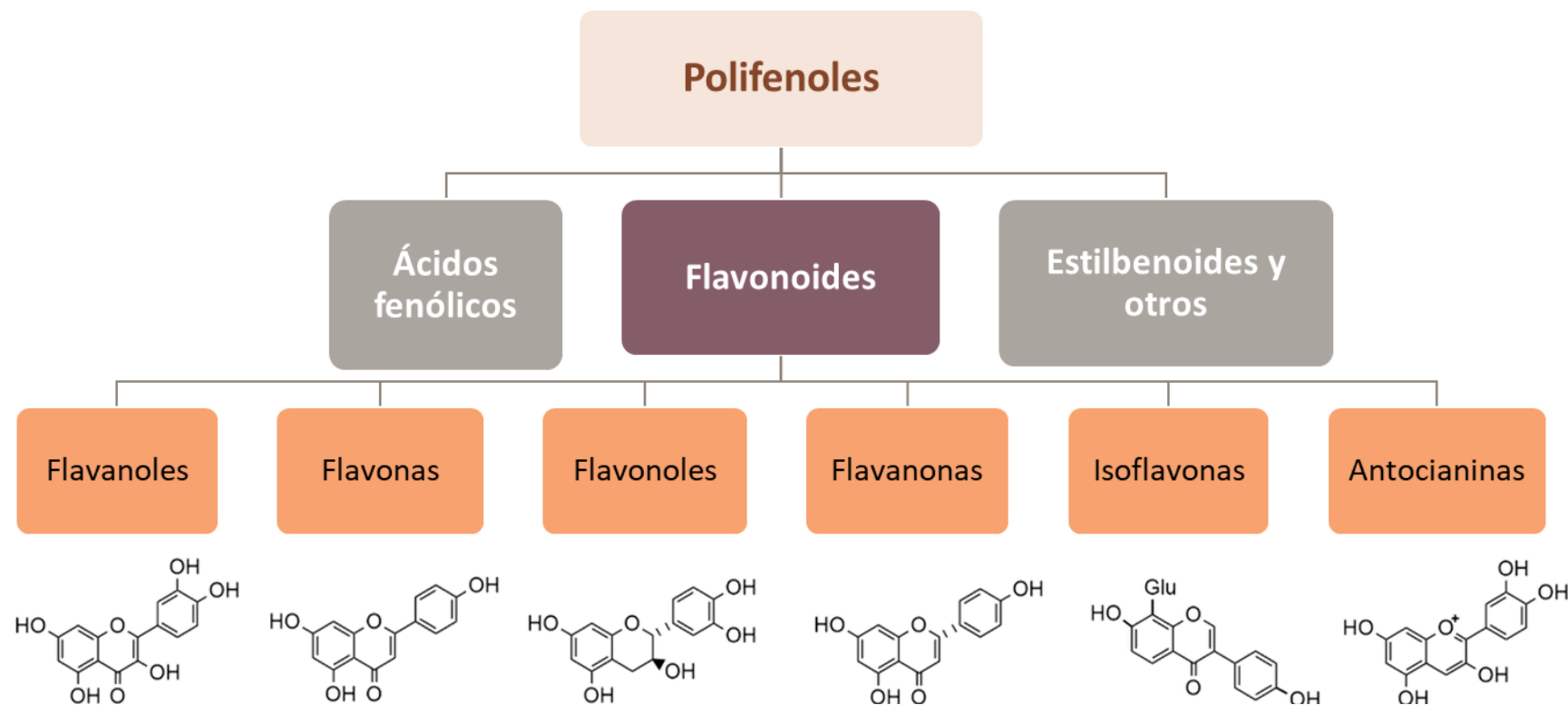
*Theobroma cacao*



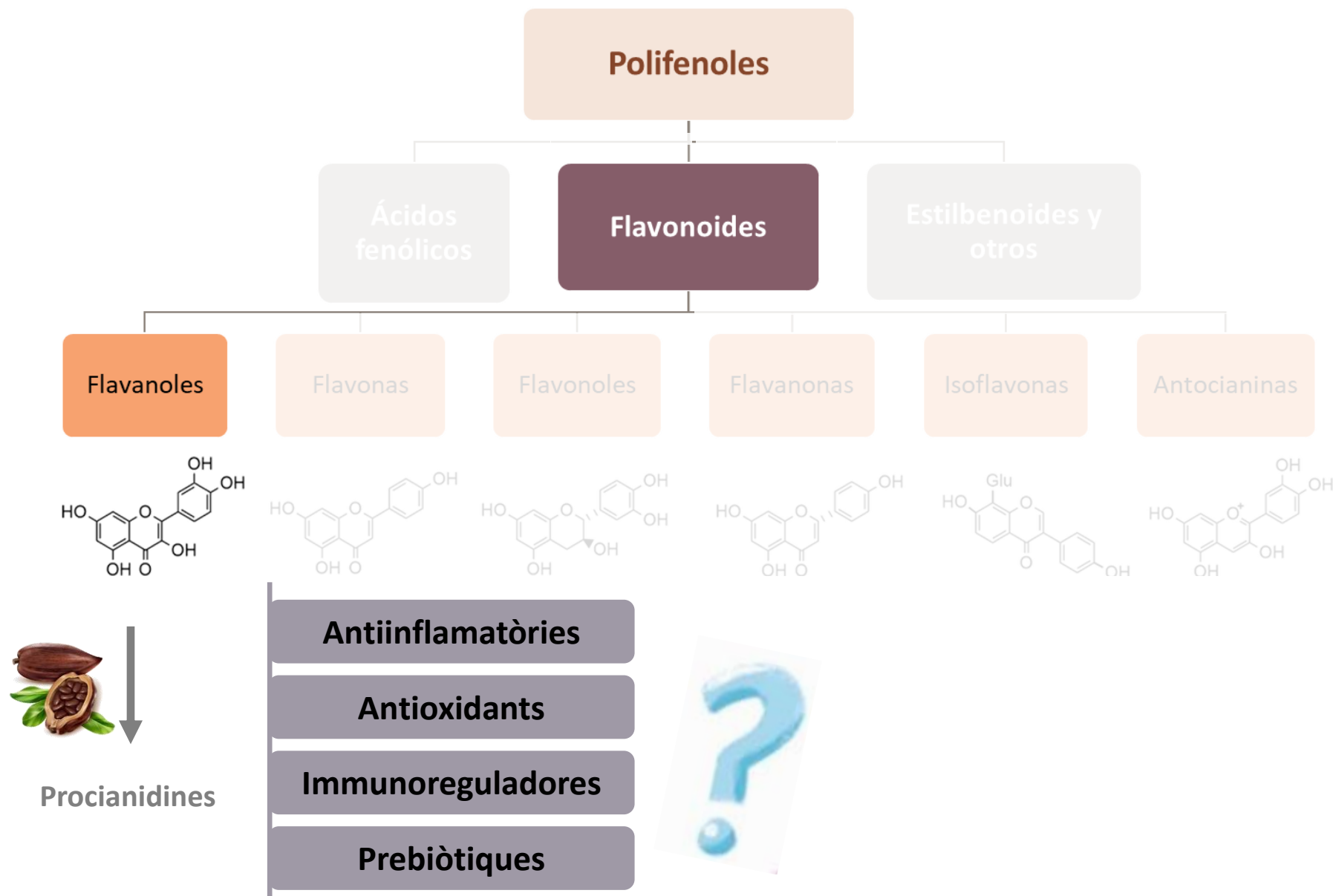
Lecumberri *et al.* Food Chem 2007

Meursing *et al.* Cocoa & Chocolate Manual 2009

FLAVONOIDES



FLAVONOIDES



VARIETAT

ORIGEN

PROCÉS DE PRODUCCIÓ

**COMPOSICIÓ i PERFIL DE
COMPONENTS BIOACTIUS**



The diagram features a central text block 'COMPOSICIÓ i PERFIL DE COMPONENTS BIOACTIUS' in bold brown font. Three red arrows originate from the top of this central block and point towards three other text blocks: 'VARIETAT' (top left), 'ORIGEN' (top center), and 'PROCÉS DE PRODUCCIÓ' (top right). All three target text blocks are in bold dark grey font.

VARIETAT

ORIGEN

PROCÉS DE PRODUCCIÓ

Criollo



Forastero



Trinitario



VARIETAT

ORIGEN

PROCÉS DE PRODUCCIÓ

Criollo



Forastero



Trinitario



VARIETAT

Criollo



Forastero



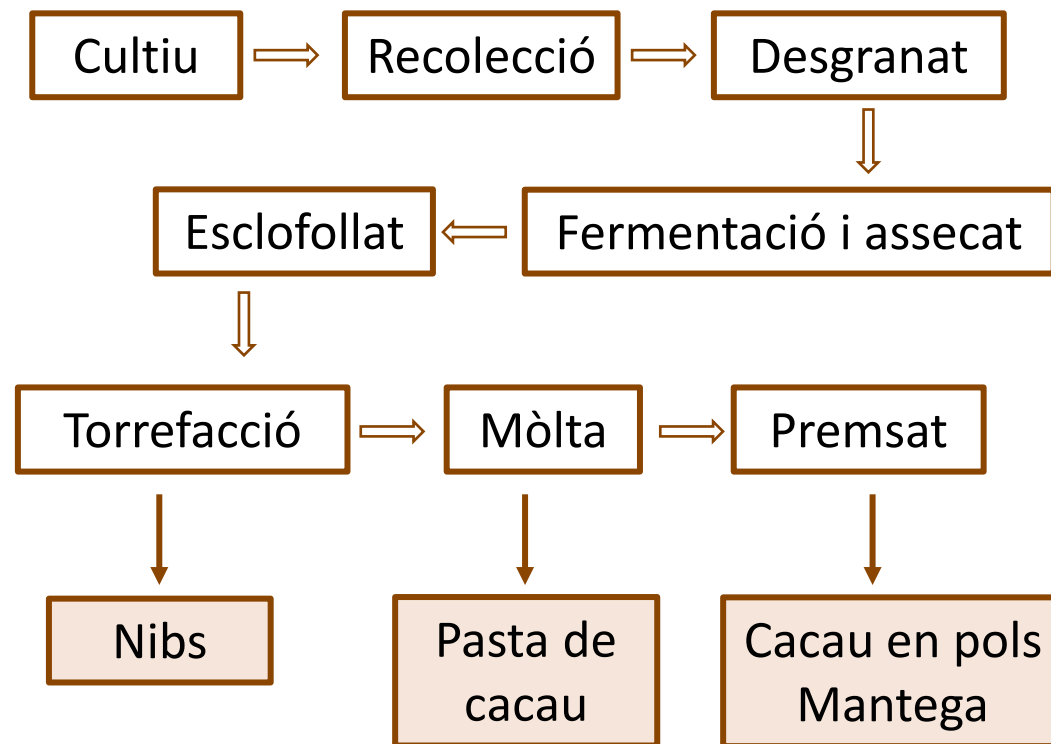
Trinitario



ORIGEN



PROCÉS DE PRODUCCIÓ



VARIETAT

Criollo



Forastero



Trinitario



ORIGEN



PROCÉS DE PRODUCCIÓ





Xocolata blanca
(20% mantega de cacau)



Xocolata amb llet
(40% pasta de cacau)



Xocolata negra
(>50% mantega i pasta de cacau)

% productes de cacau

% polifenols

¿En qué países se come más chocolate?

Consumo anual de chocolate por habitante en países seleccionados



**TOP 11 DE PAÏSOS
MÉS CONSUMIDORS
(9/11)**





Molecular Nutrition & Food Research

WILEY-VCH

Molecular Nutrition
Food Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Cardiometabolic Impact of Encapsulated Cocoa Powder and Pure Cocoa Ingredients Supplementation: A Comparative Placebo-Controlled RCT in Adults

Janina Weigant^{1,2} | Anuschka Afchar¹ | Meike Barzen¹ | Lisa Dicks^{1,2} | Benno F. Zimmermann³ | Matthias Schmid⁴ | Leonie Weinhold⁴ | Birgit Stoffel-Wagner⁵ | Jörg Ellinger⁶ | Peter Stehle⁷ | Sabine Ellinger^{1,2}



antioxidants



Article

Assessing the Impact of (Poly)phenol-Rich Foods on Cardiometabolic Risk in Postmenopausal Women: A Dietary Trial

Lorena Sánchez-Martínez^{1,2} | Rocío González-Barrio^{1,2,*} | Javier García-Alonso^{1,2} | Pedro Mena^{3,4} and María-Jesús Periago^{1,*}



diseases

Review

The Cardiovascular Effects of Cocoa Polyphenols—An Overview

Ana Clara Aprotosoiaie^{1,*} | Anca Miron¹ | Adriana Trifan¹ | Vlad Simon Luca¹ and Irina-Iuliana Costache²

REVIEW

The cardiovascular effects of chocolate

Jose P. Garcia¹ | Adrian Santana² | Diego Lugo Baruqui³ and Nicholas Suraci^{4,*}

Food and Chemical Toxicology 151 (2021) 112121

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Food and Chemical Toxicology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchemtox

ELSEVIER

Review

Impact of cocoa flavanols on human health

María Ángeles Martín^{a,b} | Sonia Ramos^{a,*}



nutrients



Review

Effect of Cocoa and Cocoa Products on Cognitive Performance in Young Adults

María Angeles Martín, Luis Goya and Sonia de Pascual-Teresa^{*}



MINI REVIEW
published: 16 May 2017
doi: 10.3389/fnut.2017.00019



Enhancing Human Cognition with Cocoa Flavonoids

Valentina Socci¹ | Daniela Tempesta¹ | Giovambattista Desideri² | Luigi De Gennaro³ and Michele Ferrara^{1*}





Molecular Nutrition & Food Research

WILEY-VCH

Molecular Nutrition
Food Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Cardiometabolic Impact of Encapsulated Cocoa Powder and Pure Cocoa Ingredients Supplementation: A Comparative Placebo-Controlled RCT in Adults

Janina Weigant^{1,2} | Anuschka Afchar¹ | Meike Barzen¹ | Lisa Dicks^{1,2} | Benno F. Zimmermann¹ | Matthias Schmid⁴ | Leonie Weinhold⁴ | Birgit Stoffel-Wagner⁶ | Jörg Ellinger⁶ | Peter Stehle⁷ | Sabine Ellinger^{1,2}



antioxidants



Article

Assessing the Impact of (Poly)phenol-Rich Foods on Cardiometabolic Risk in Postmenopausal Women: A Dietary Trial

Lorena Sánchez-Martínez^{1,2} | Rocio Gonzalez-Barrio^{1,2,3,4,5} | Javier García-Alonso^{1,2} | Pedro Mena^{3,4,5} and Maria-Jesus Periago^{1,2,3}



diseases

Review

The Cardiovascular Effects of Cocoa Polyphenols—An Overview

Ana Clara Aprotosoiaie^{1,*} | Anca Miron¹ | Adriana Trifan¹ | Vlad Simon Luca¹ and Irina-Iuliana Costache²

REVIEW

The cardiovascular effects of chocolate

Jose P. Garcia¹ | Adrian Santana² | Diego Lugo Barquero³ and Nicholas Suraci^{1,4}

Food and Chemical Toxicology 151 (2021) 112121

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Food and Chemical Toxicology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchemtox

Review

Impact of cocoa flavanols on human health

María Ángeles Martín^{a,b}, Sonia Ramos^{a,*}



nutrients

Review

Effect of Cocoa and Cocoa Products on Cognitive Performance in Young Adults

María Angeles Martin, Luis Goya and Sonia de Pascual-Teresa^{*}

Nutrients
in NutritionMINI REVIEW
published: 18 May 2017
doi:10.3389/fnut.2017.00018Enhance
withValentina
Michaleennaro² and



Grup Autoimmunitat, Immunonutrició i Tolerància
Secció de Fisiologia
Departament de Bioquímica i Fisiologia
Facultat de Farmàcia i Ciències de l'Alimentació

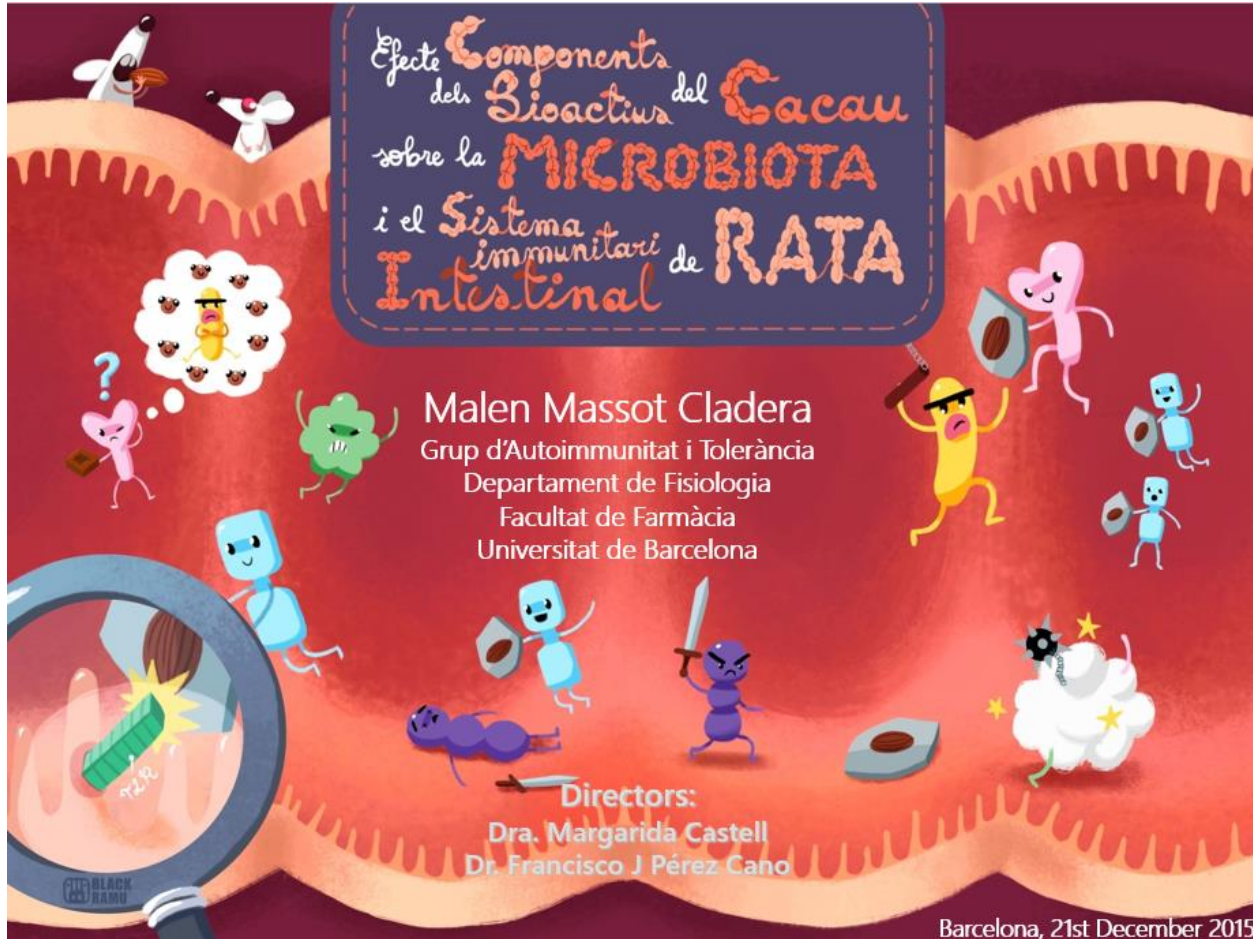
COL·LABORADORS:

NUTREXPA

ColaCao

idilia[®]
FOODS

htba
HealthTech BioActives



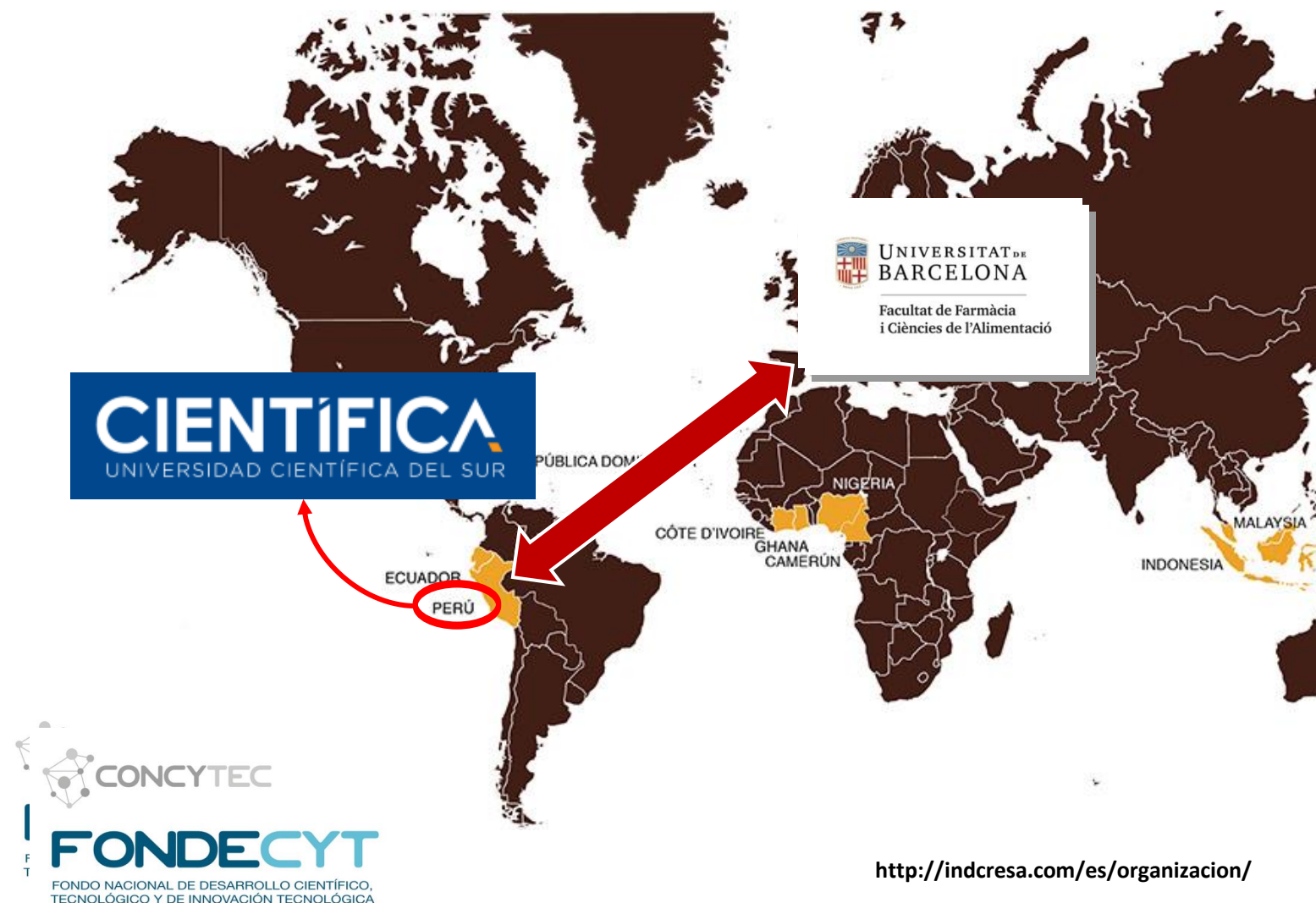
Grup Autoimmunitat, Immunonutrició i Tolerància
Secció de Fisiologia
Departament de Bioquímica i Fisiologia
Facultat de Farmàcia i Ciències de l'Alimentació

**“Efecte dels components bioactius del cacao sobre la
microbiota i el sistema immunitari intestinal de rata”
2012-2015**

“Actividad antiasmática y antiinflamatoria del Cacao (*Theobroma cacao* L.) como adyuvante en el tratamiento del asma bronquial: evaluación in vitro e in vivo de compuestos bioactivos de 4 variedades de cacao peruano”



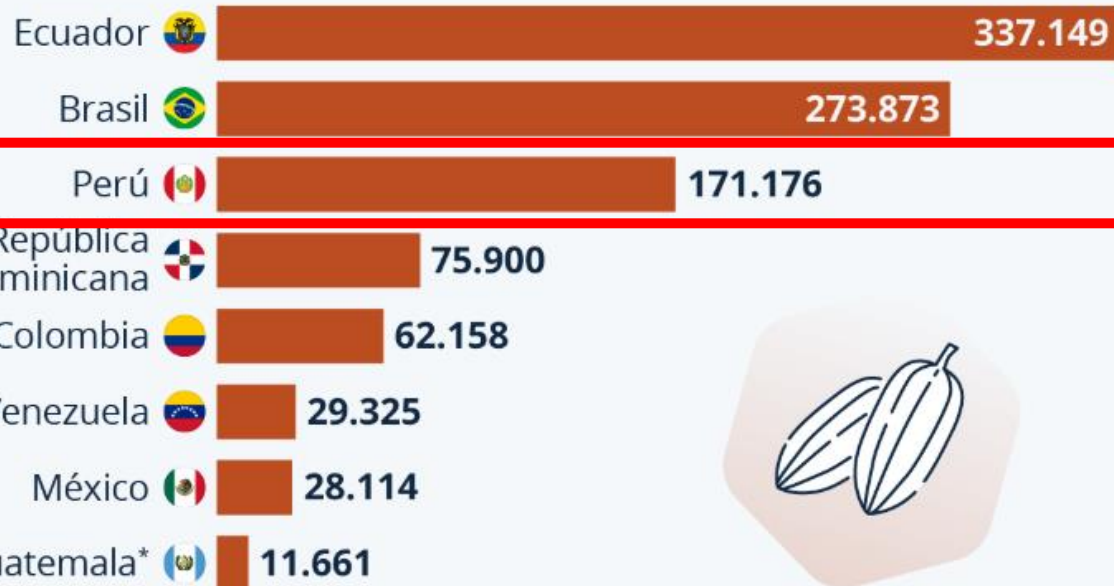
Peruvian cocoa populations



“Actividad antiasmática y antiinflamatoria del Cacao (*Theobroma cacao* L.) como adyuvante en el tratamiento del asma bronquial: evaluación in vitro e in vivo de compuestos bioactivos de 4 variedades de cacao peruano”

Los principales productores de cacao en América Latina

Volumen de producción de cacao en grano en países Latinoamericanos en 2022 (en toneladas)



* Estimaciones.
Países seleccionados.
Fuente: FAO



[Hospital Nacional Arzobispo Loayza](#)

Día Mundial del Asma: Alrededor de 1 millón de personas viven con asma en el Perú

Nota de prensa



Fotos: Hospital Loayza

Oficina de Comunicaciones
7 de mayo de 2024 - 3:33 p. m.

Antiinflamatòries

Antioxidants



CONTINGUT

COMPOSTOS BIOACTIUS

ACTIVITAT

ANTIOXIDANT

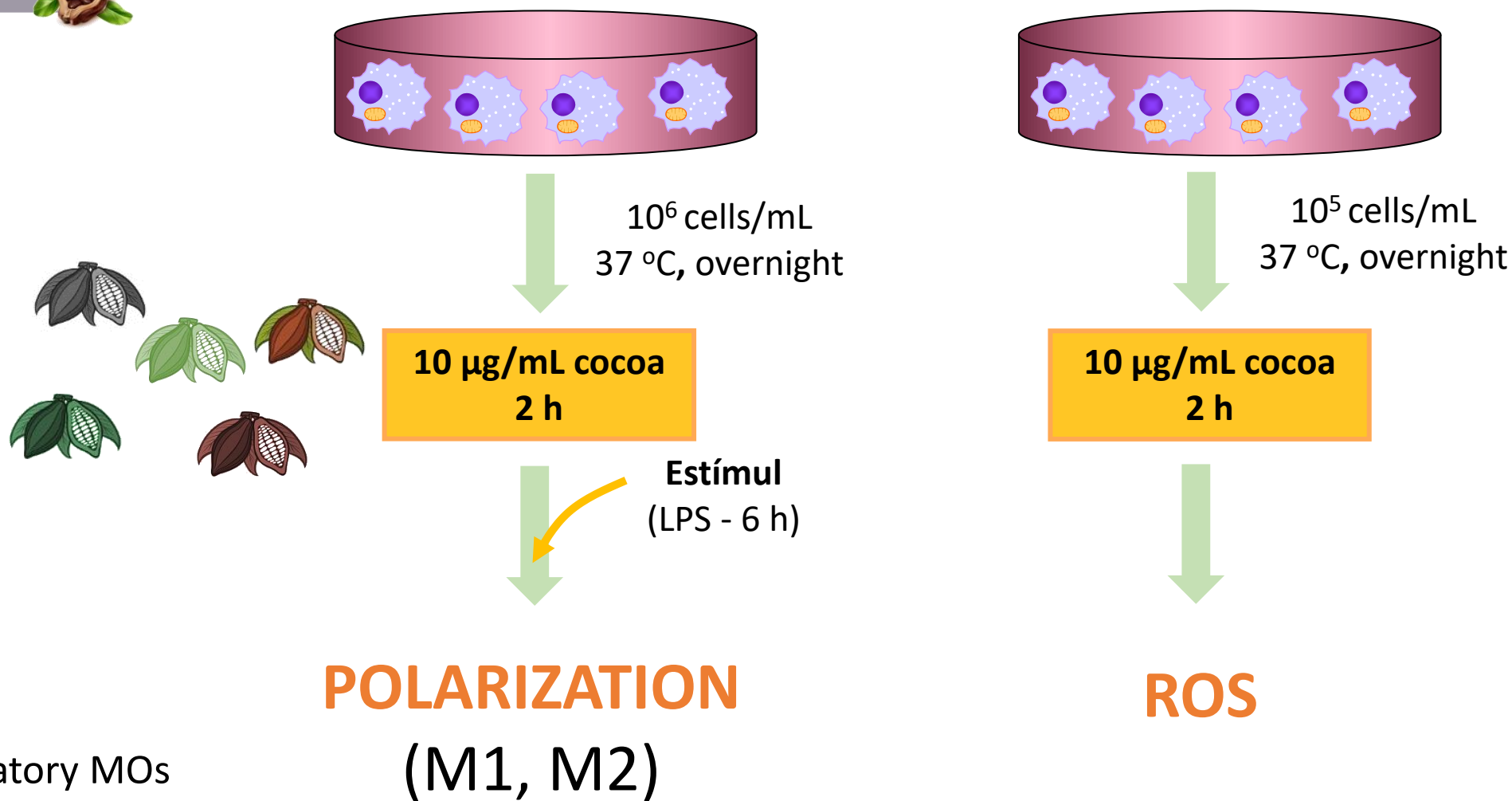
					
	OC	BPC	APC	CMC	CCC
Total phenolics (mg gallic acid equivalents/g)	24.11 ± 1.15 ^{ab}	21.07 ± 0.98 ^a	28.69 ± 0.80 ^c	30.44 ± 0.56 ^d ↑	25.30 ± 0.38 ^b
Total flavonoids (mg catechin equivalents/g)	34.82 ± 1.01 ^a	36.59 ± 0.98 ^a	50.35 ± 0.95 ^b	56.62 ± 1.12 ^c ↑	45.60 ± 1.26 ^d
Theobromine (mg/100 g)	560.75 ± 0.45 ^a	491.39 ± 0.93 ^b	564.71 ± 0.37 ^a	604.19 ± 0.28 ^d ↑	573.36 ± 0.30 ^e
Theophylline (mg/100 g)	1.41 ± 0.00 ^a	1.37 ± 0.00 ^b	1.40 ± 0.00 ^c	1.39 ± 0.00 ^d	1.54 ± 0.00 ^e
Caffeine (mg/100 g)	236.35 ± 0.06 ^a	280.74 ± 0.56 ^b	275.10 ± 0.11 ^c	360.53 ± 0.27 ^d ↑	324.55 ± 0.15 ^e
FRAP activity (μmol Fe ²⁺ /g)	275.29 ± 12.28 ^{ab}	261.39 ± 14.15 ^a	344.31 ± 11.80 ^c ↑	309.55 ± 6.7 ^b	308.32 ± 4.79 ^b
DPPH activity (μg TEAC/g)	25.36 ± 0.24 ^{ab}	19.62 ± 0.38 ^c	29.77 ± 0.70 ^a ↑	25.38 ± 0.94 ^{bd}	24.39 ± 0.07 ^d

Antiinflammatòries

Antioxidants



Macrophages



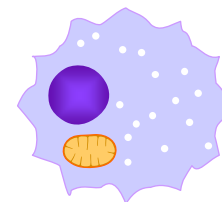
M1: Pro-inflammatory MOs
M2: Anti-inflammatory MOs

Antiinflamatòries

Antioxidants

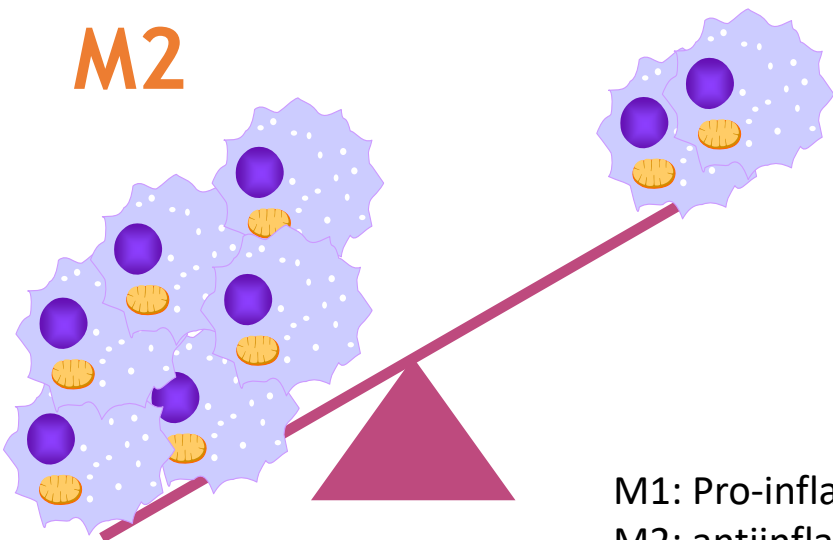


IN VITRO EFFECT

Periz *et al.* (2020) Nutrients 12:2301

M1

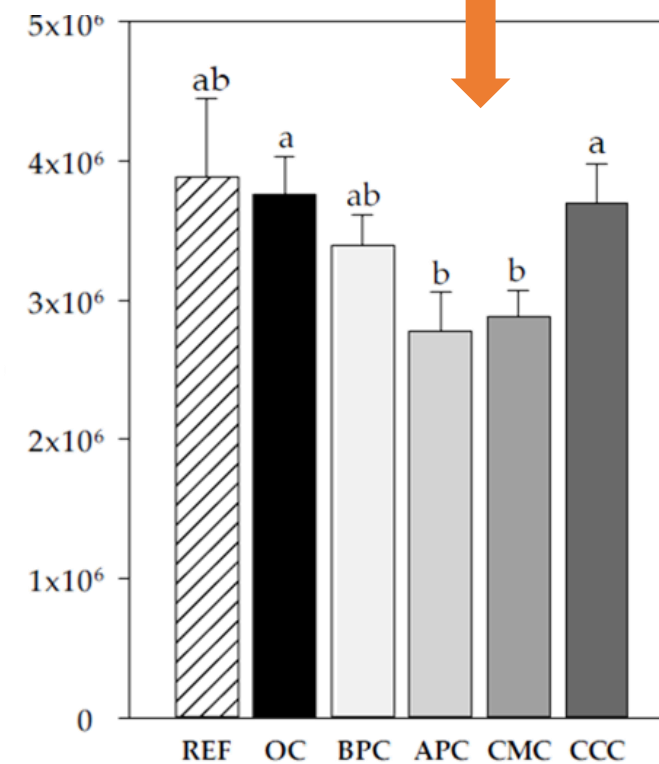
M2



M1: Pro-inflamatoris
M2: antiinflamatoris

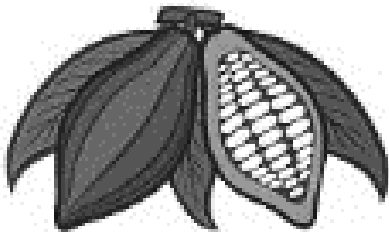


ROS



Antiinflamatòries

Antioxidants



ACTIVITAT ANTIOXIDANT

CONTINGUT COMPOSTOS BIOACTIUS

	CCN51	JL2	VRAE99
Total phenolics (mg GA equivalents/g)	62.31 ± 7.50 ^a	106.62 ± 6.55 ^b	85.47 ± 1.12 ^{ab}
Total flavonoid (mg catechin equivalents/g)	18.95 ± 0.08 ^a	19.050 ± 0.71 ^a	15.70 ± 0.08 ^b
Catechin (mg/g)	0.41 ± 0.067 ^a	0.63 ± 0.004 ^b	0.44 ± 0.001 ^a
Epicatechin (mg/g)	0.99 ± 0.001 ^a	0.91 ± 0.008 ^b	0.94 ± 0.002 ^c
IC ₅₀ values of DPPH assay (μM)	127.56 ± 2.58 ^a	106.85 ± 7.19 ^b	129.53 ± 0.75 ^a

Immunoreguladores



4% cocoa
diet



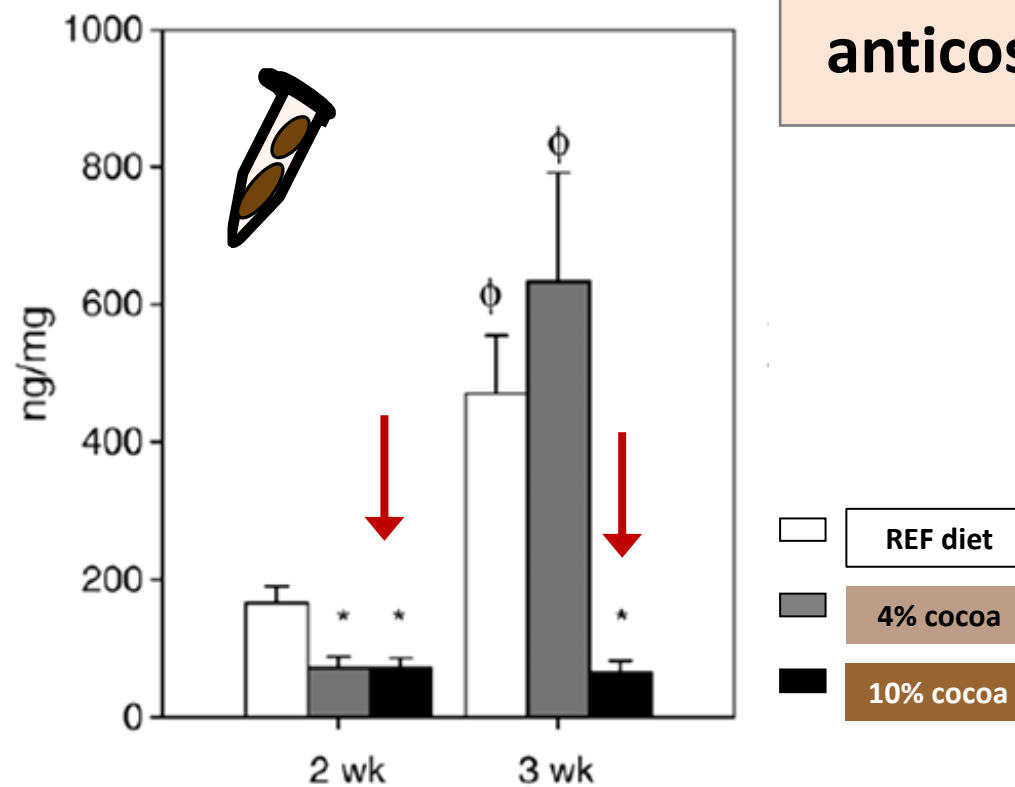
10% cocoa
diet



Wistar rats
3 weeks old

3 weeks

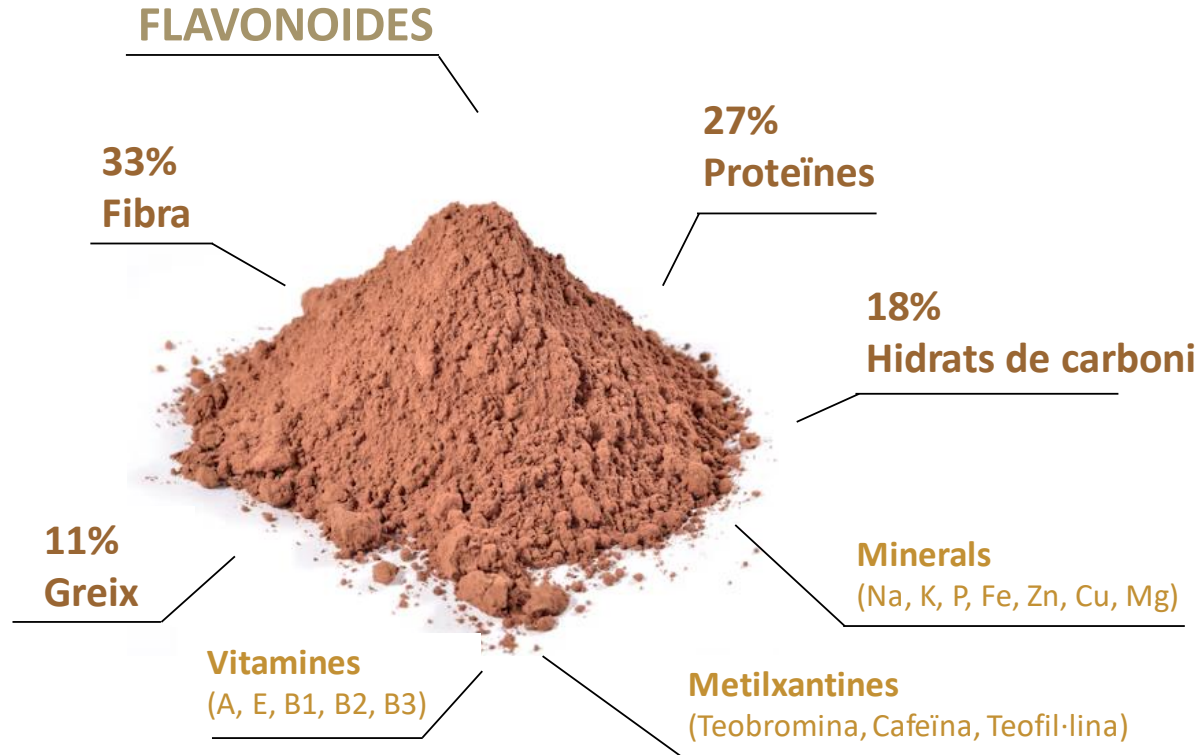
Fecal IgA



Efectes similars es
van observar en
anticossos en plasma



Quins dels components del cacau és responsable?



Immunoreguladores

DIFERENT PERFIL DE
POLIFENOLS

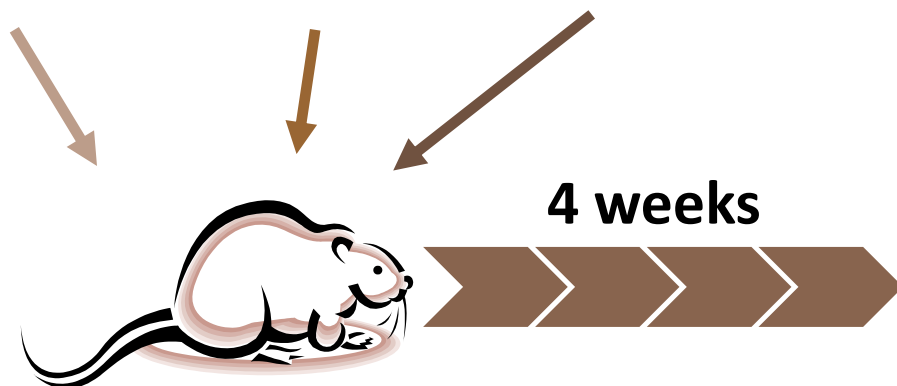
0.2% CP diet



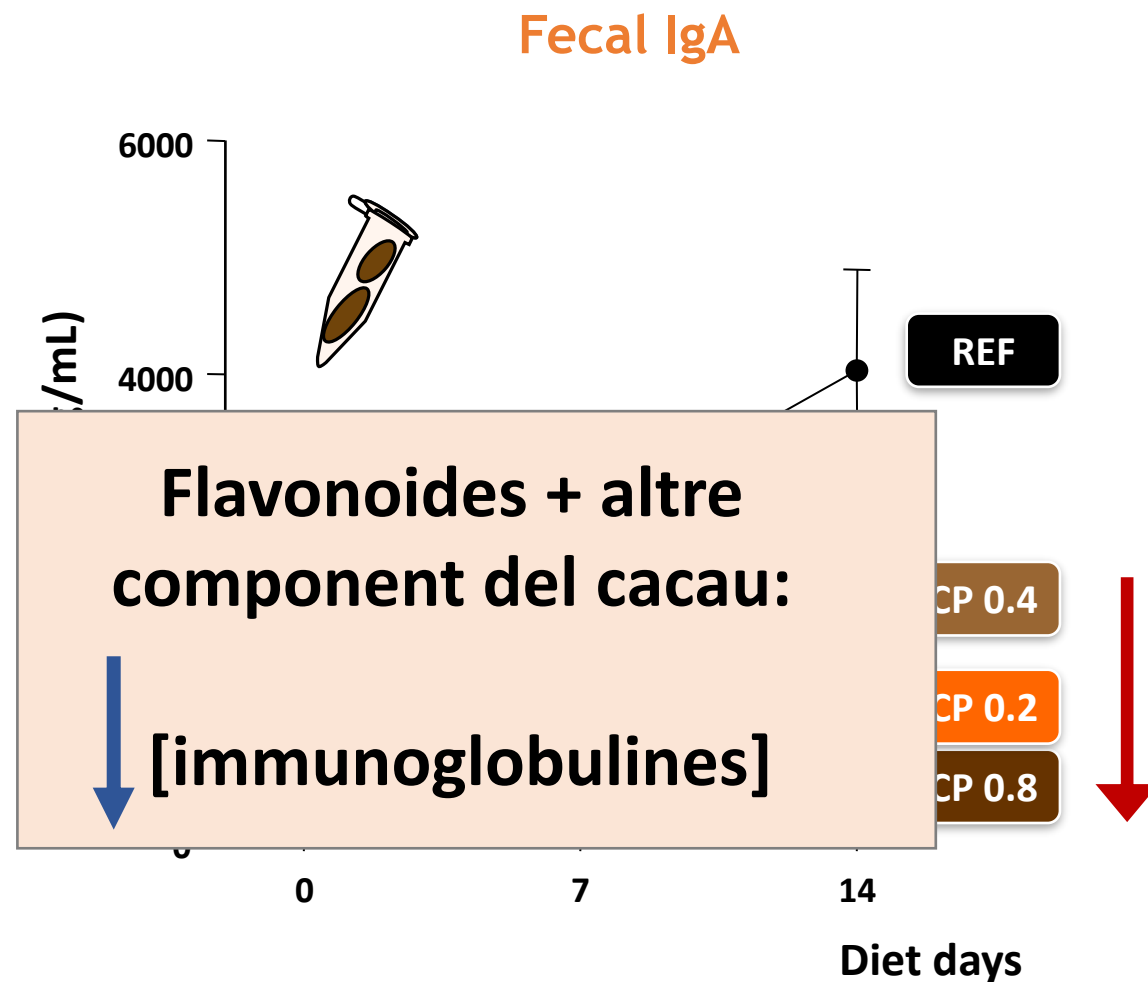
0.4% CP diet



0.8% CP diet



4 weeks



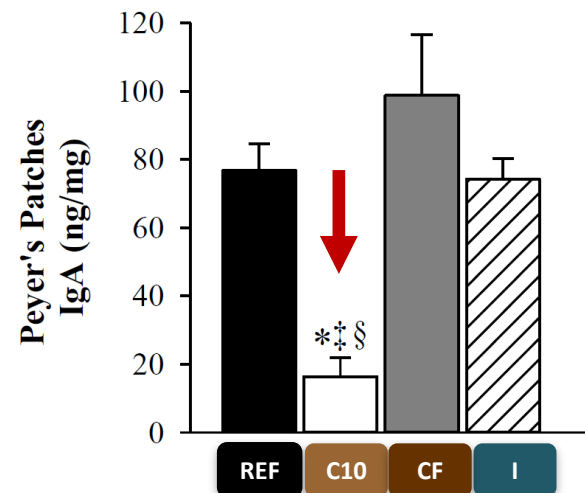
Immunoreguladores

10% cocoa
dietcocoa fiber
dietInulin
dietWistar rats
3 weeks old

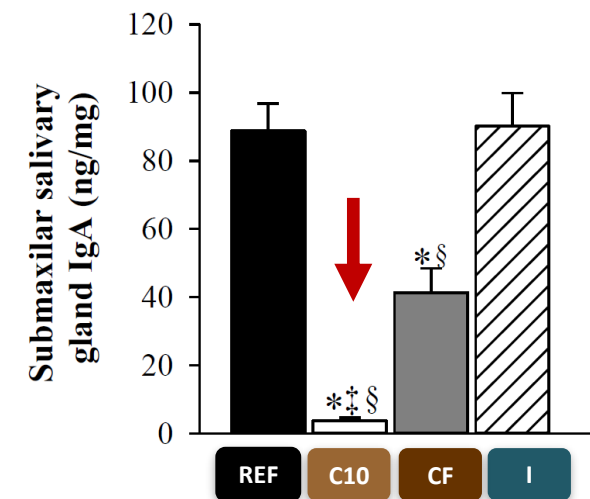
3 weeks



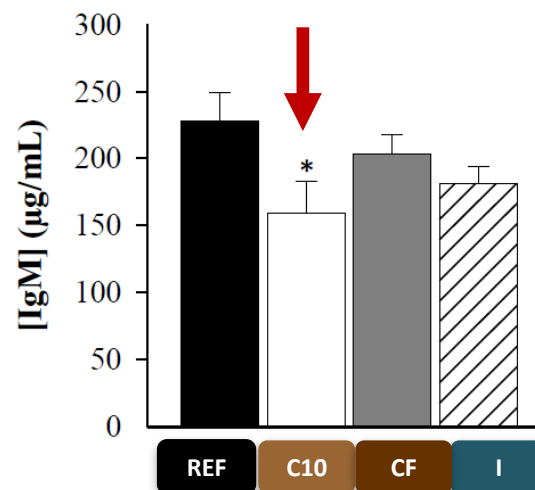
Intestinal



Extraintestinal



Serum



**Fibra de cacau
no modifica
[immunoglobulines]**

* $p < 0.05$ vs REF; ‡ $p < 0.05$ vs CF; § $p < 0.05$ vs I

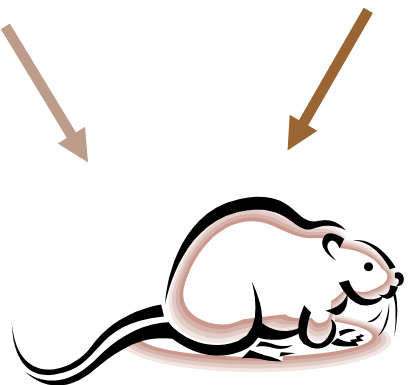
Immunoreguladores



10% cocoa
diet

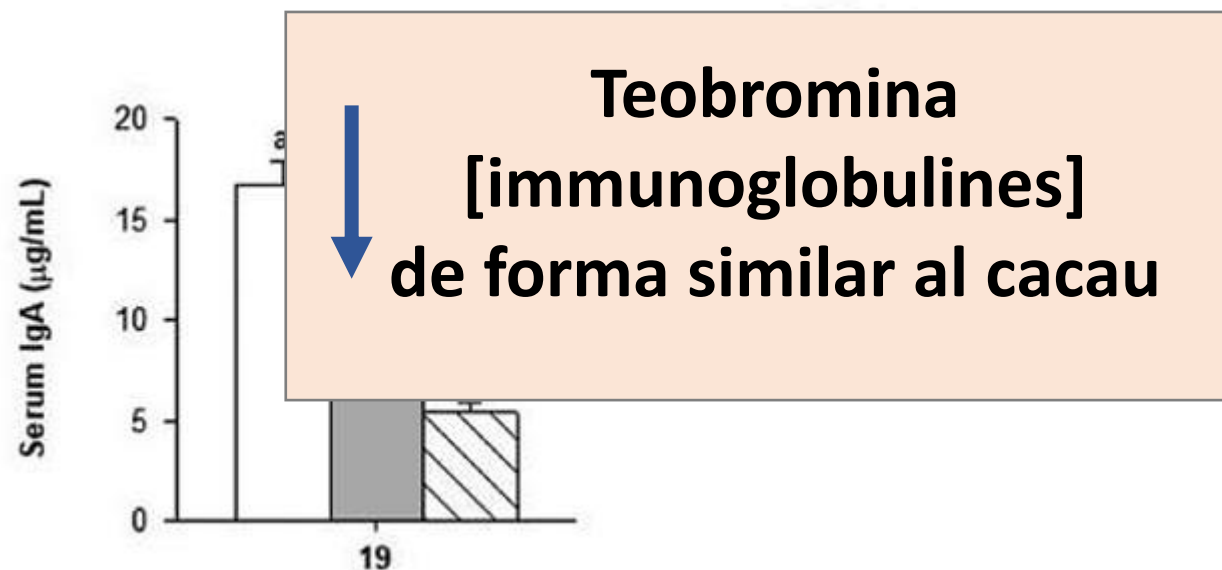
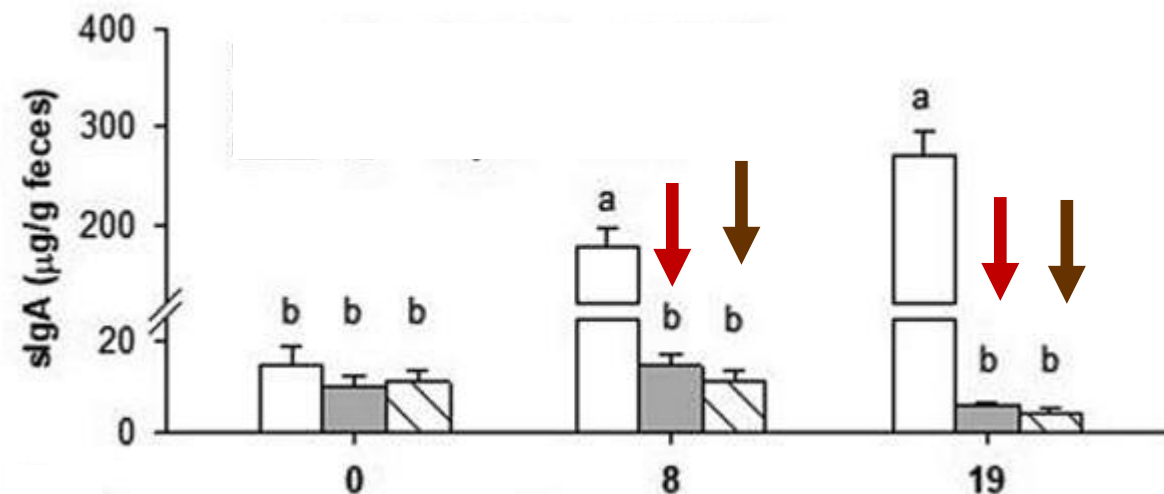


0.25%
theobromine diet



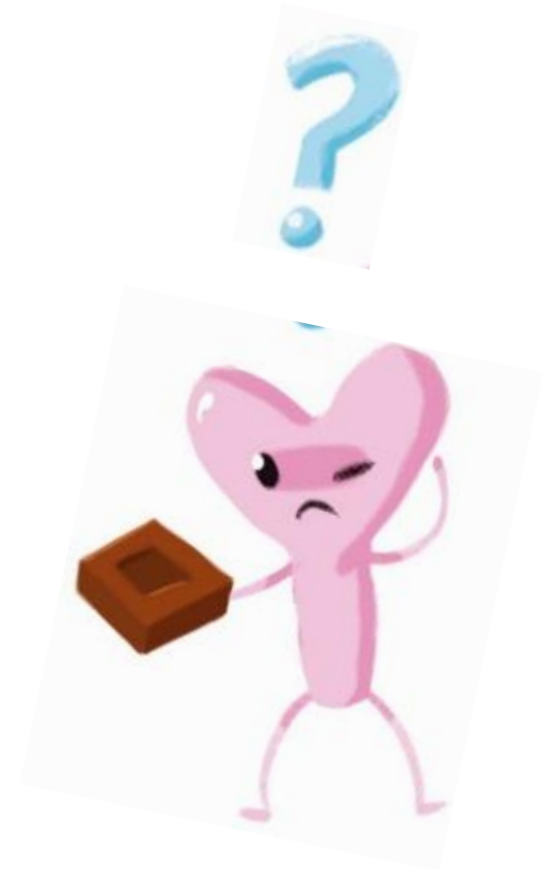
Lewis rats
3 weeks old

19 days

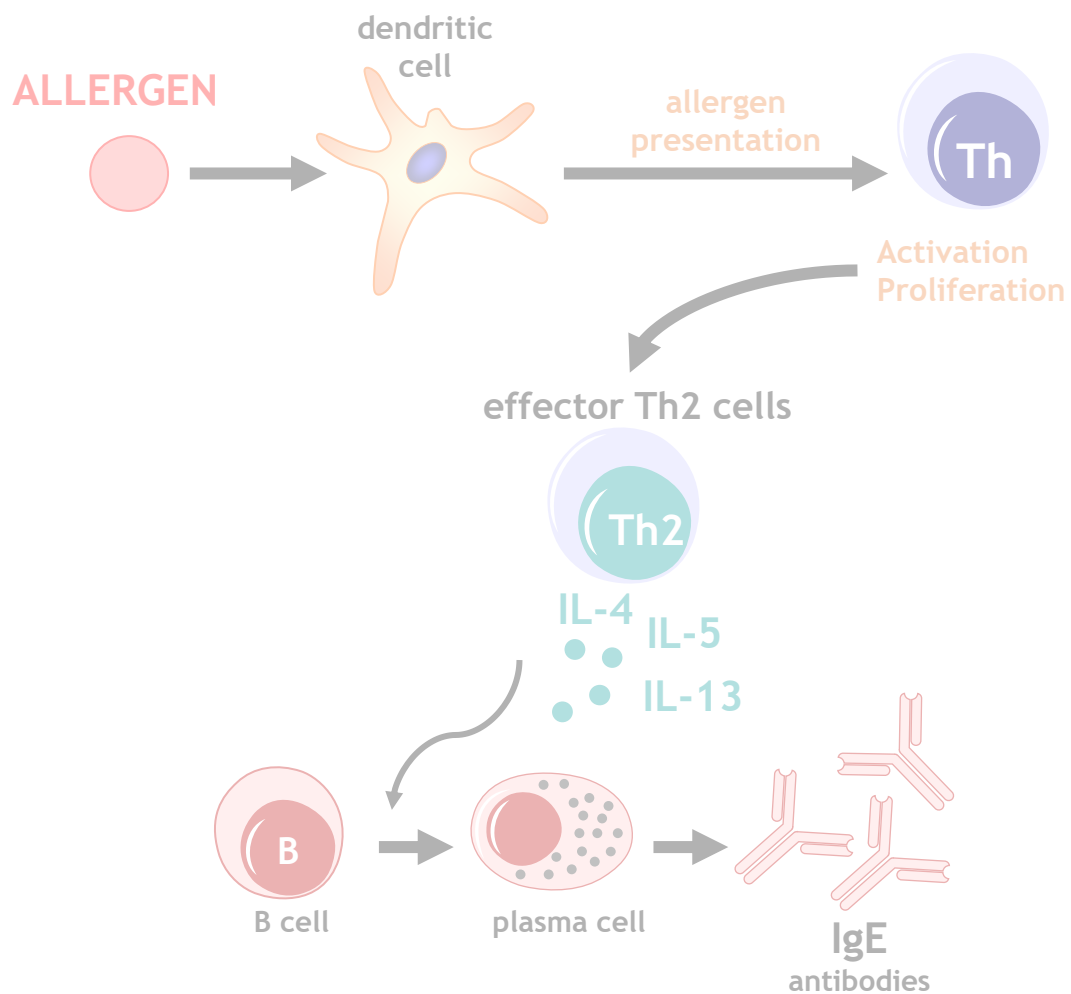




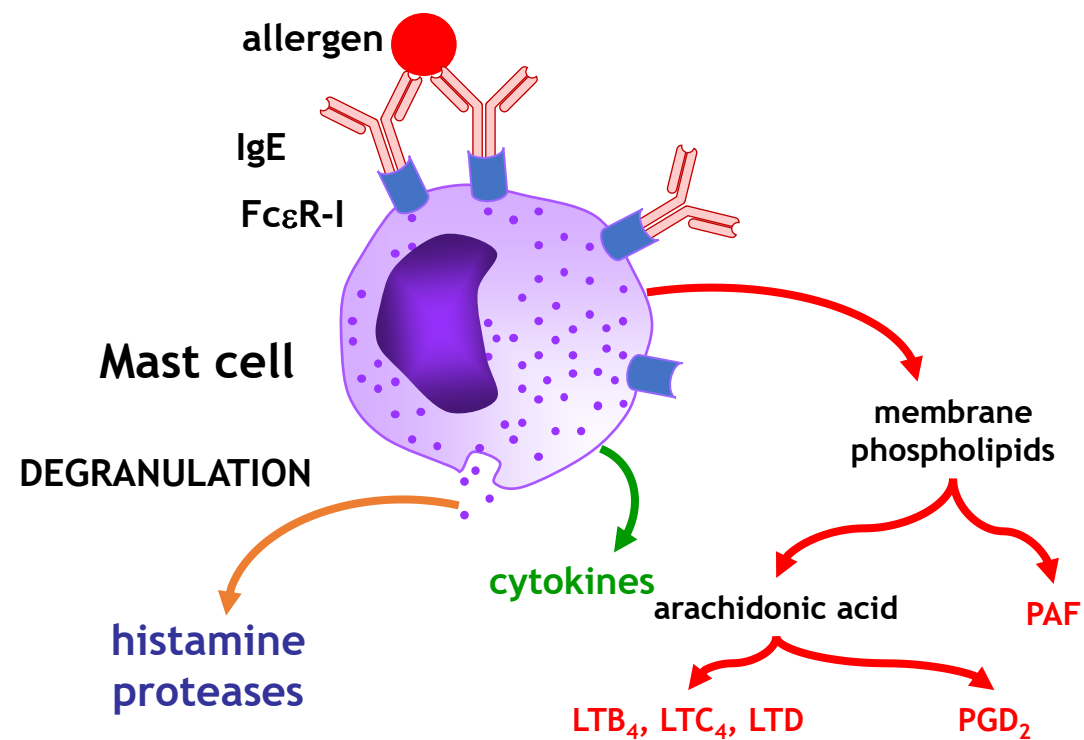
El consum de cacau podria ser beneficiós en la resposta al·lèrgica?



Immunoreguladores



Secondary exposure to same allergens



“Actividad antiasmática y antiinflamatoria del Cacao (*Theobroma cacao* L.) como adyuvante en el tratamiento del asma bronquial: evaluación in vitro e in vivo de compuestos bioactivos de 4 variedades de cacao peruano”



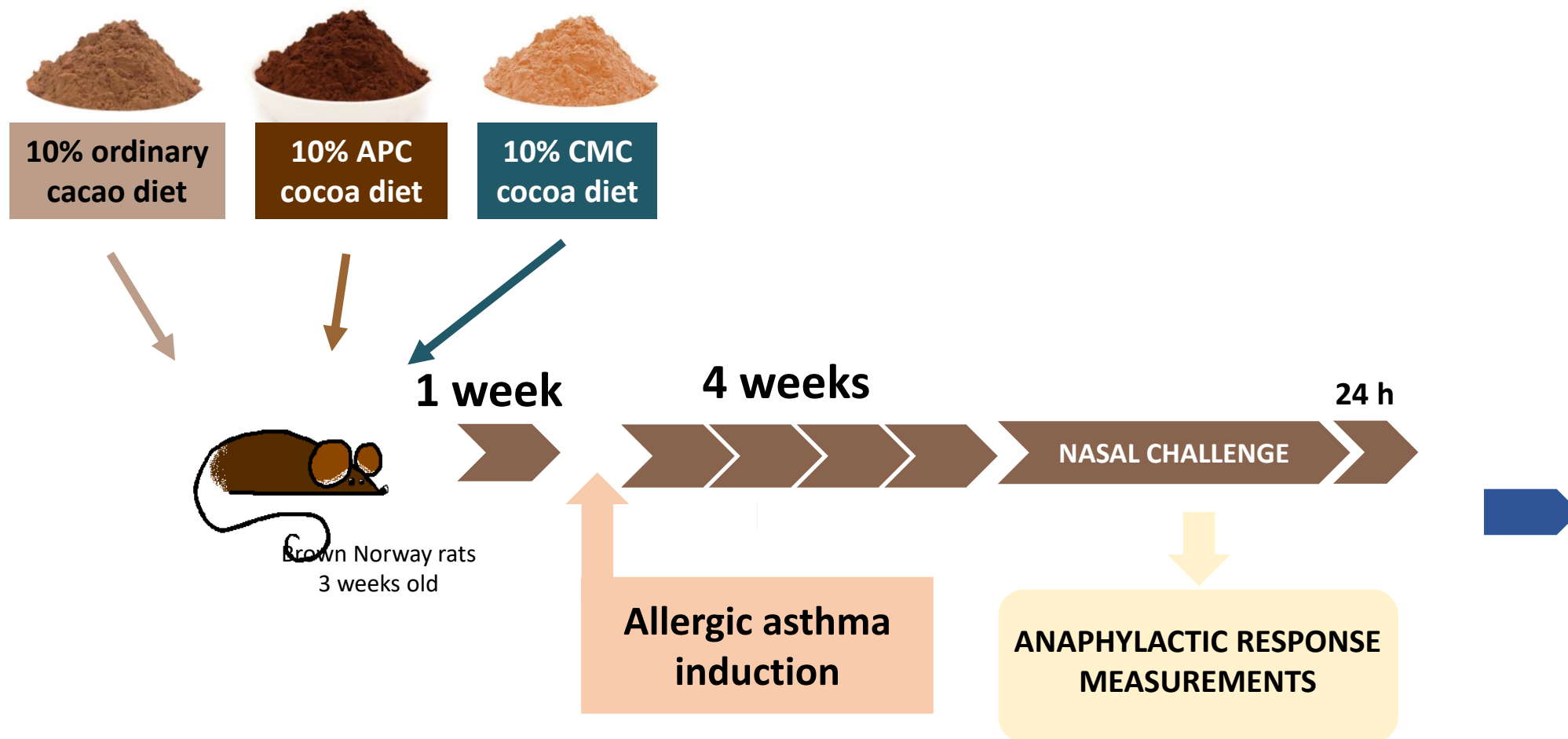
Peruvian cocoa populations



Immunoreguladores



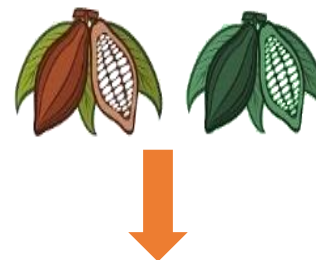
Asma al·lèrgica

Periz et al. *Nutrients* 2022.

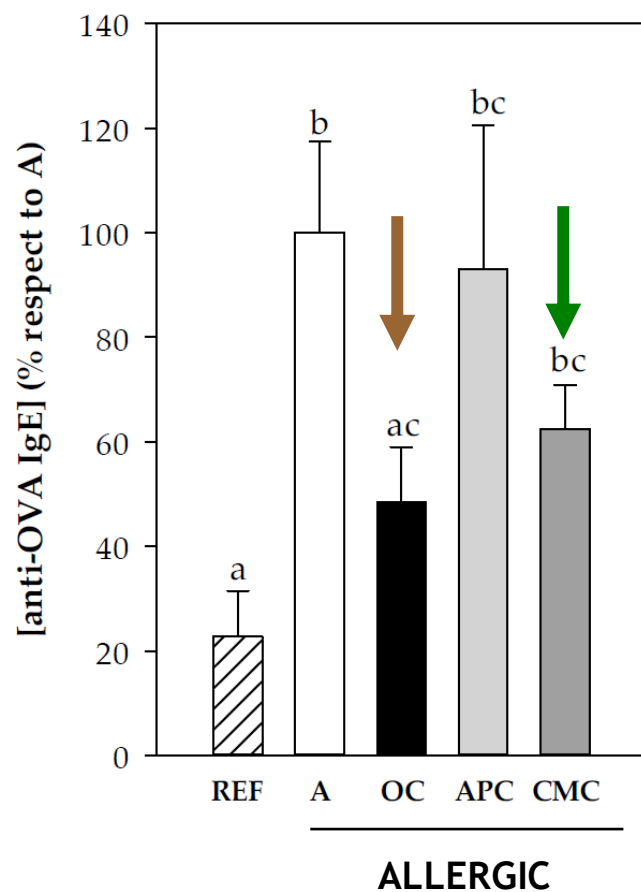
Immunoreguladores



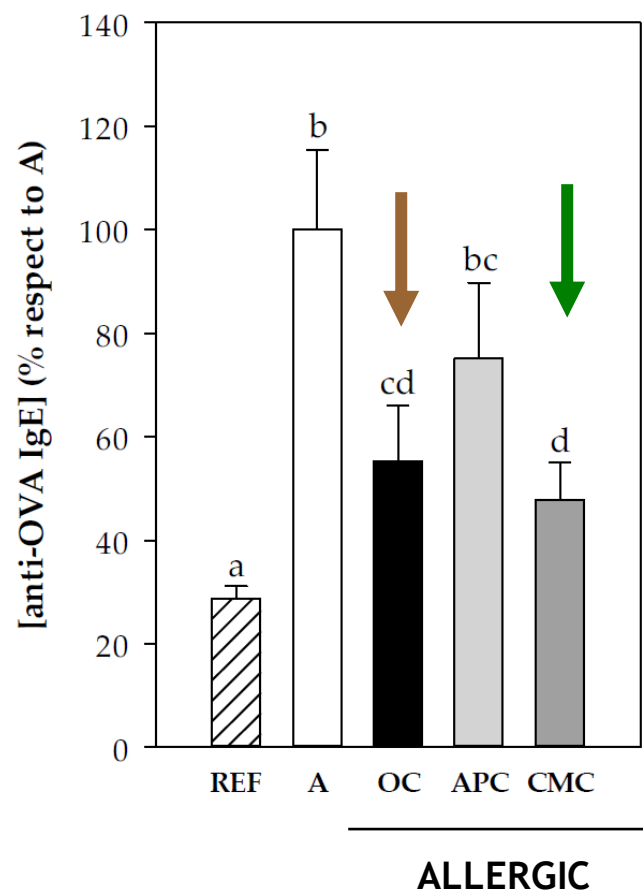
Asma al·lèrgica

Periz et al. *Nutrients* 2022.

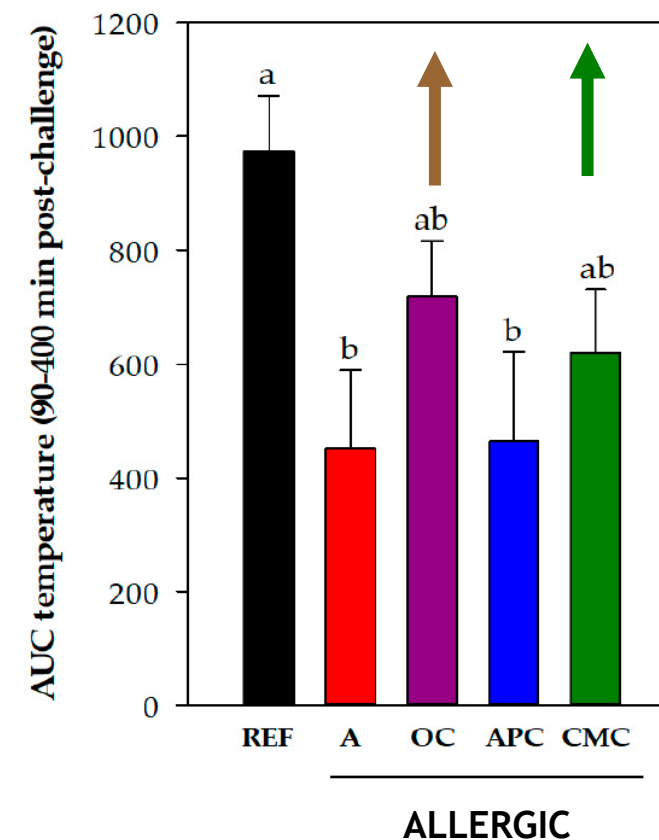
SERUM



RENTAT BRONCOALVEOL·LAR



Temperatura corporal



Immunoreguladores



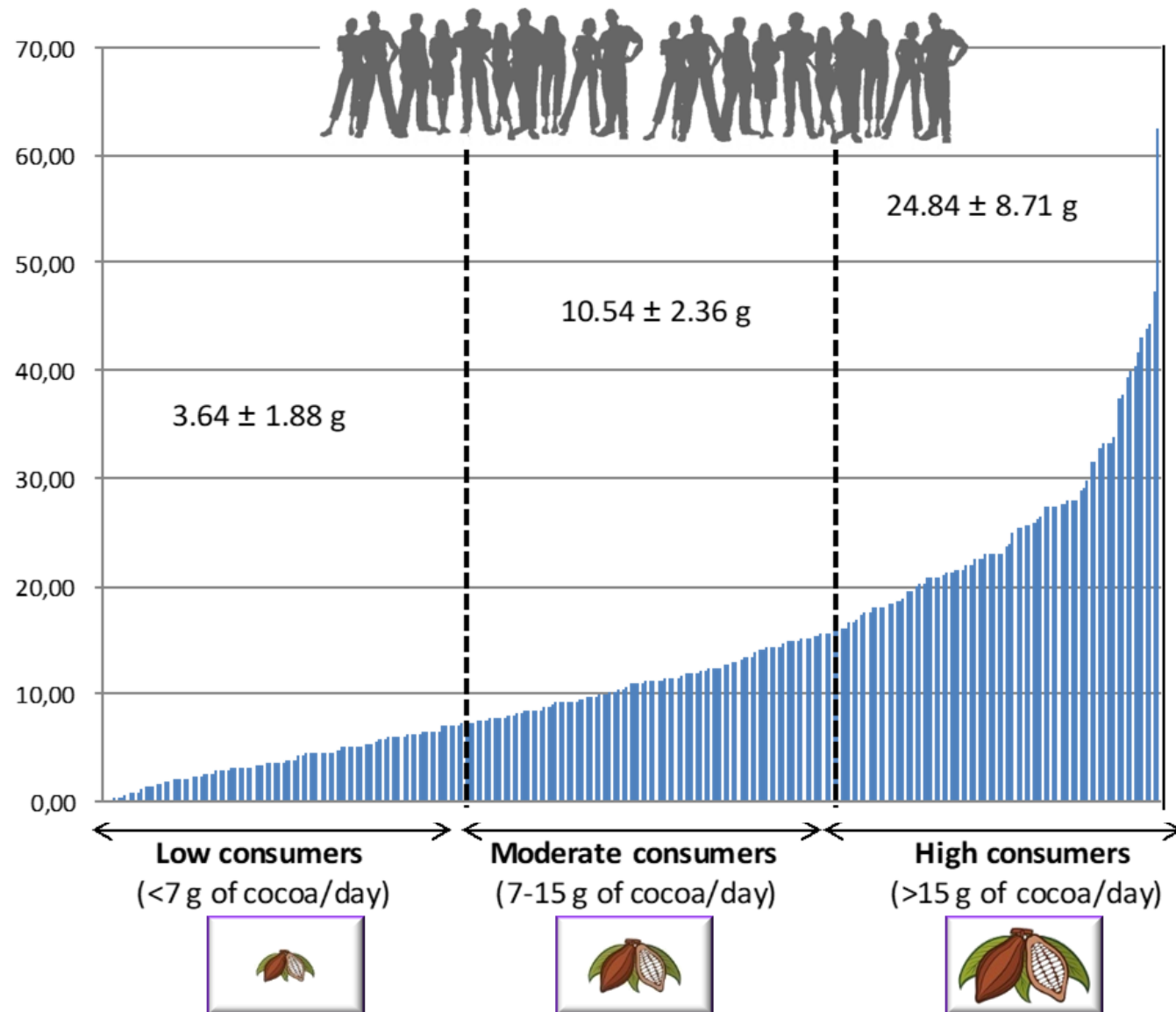
Asma al·lèrgica

Periz et al. *Nutrients* 2022.CONTINGUT
COMPOSTOS BIOACTIUSACTIVITAT
ANTIOXIDANT

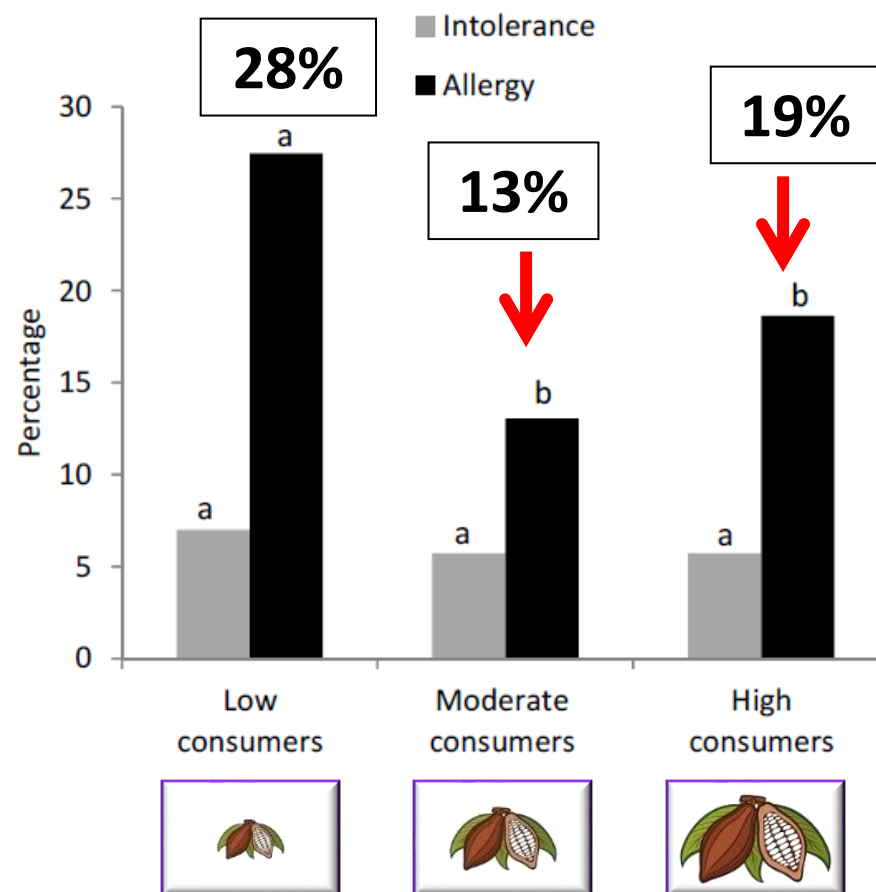
					
	OC	BPC	APC	CMC	CCC
Total phenolics (mg gallic acid equivalents/g)	24.11 ± 1.15 ^{ab}	21.07 ± 0.98 ^a	28.69 ± 0.80 ^c	30.44 ± 0.56 ^d ↑	25.30 ± 0.38 ^b
Total flavonoids (mg catechin equivalents/g)	34.82 ± 1.01 ^a ↓	36.59 ± 0.98 ^a	50.35 ± 0.95 ^b	56.62 ± 1.12 ^c ↑	45.60 ± 1.26 ^d
Theobromine (mg/100 g)	560.75 ± 0.45 ^a	491.39 ± 0.93 ^b	564.71 ± 0.37 ^a	604.19 ± 0.28 ^d ↑	573.36 ± 0.30 ^e
Theophylline (mg/100 g)	1.41 ± 0.00 ^a	1.37 ± 0.00 ^b	1.40 ± 0.00 ^c	1.39 ± 0.00 ^d	1.54 ± 0.00 ^e
Caffeine (mg/100 g)	236.35 ± 0.06 ^a	280.74 ± 0.56 ^b	275.10 ± 0.11 ^c	360.53 ± 0.27 ^d ↑	324.55 ± 0.15 ^e
FRAP a (μmol F)					32 ± 4.79 ^b
DPPH a (μg TEA)					39 ± 0.07 ^d

Els polifenols del cacau no són els únics responsables
d'aquests efectes

Immunoreguladores



Estudiants amb intolerància o al·lèrgia

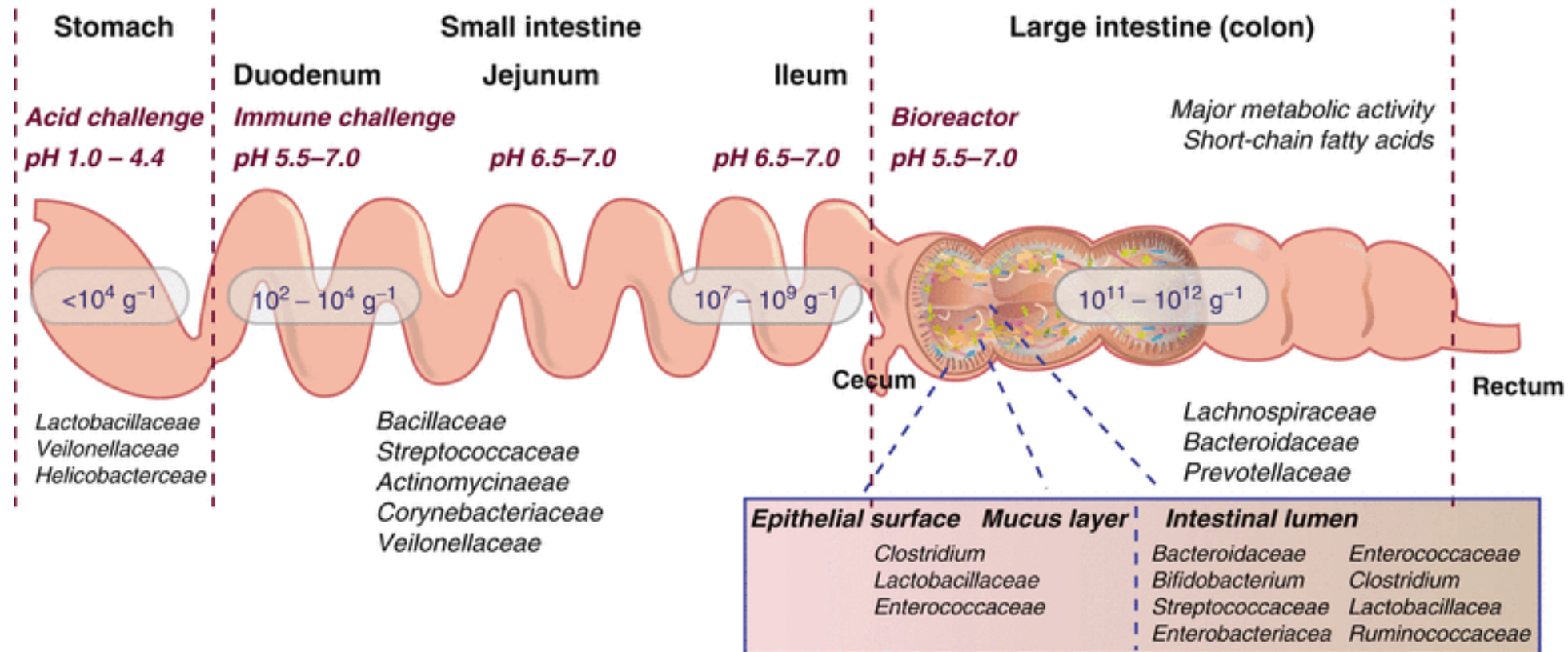
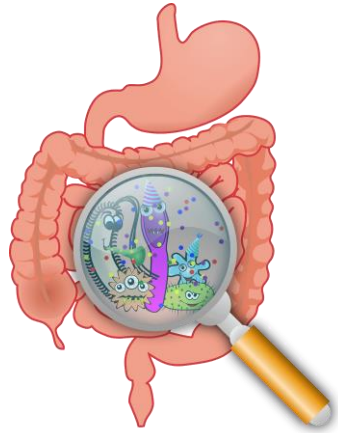


Prebiòtiques



GUT MICROBIOTA

100 trillions of microorganisms (500-1000 species - mainly in the colon -)



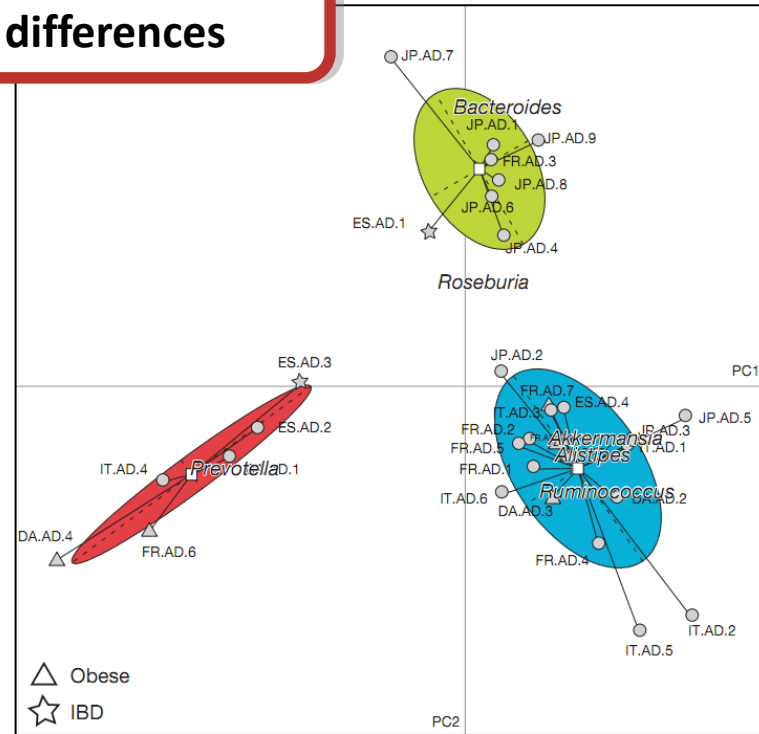
Prebiòtiques



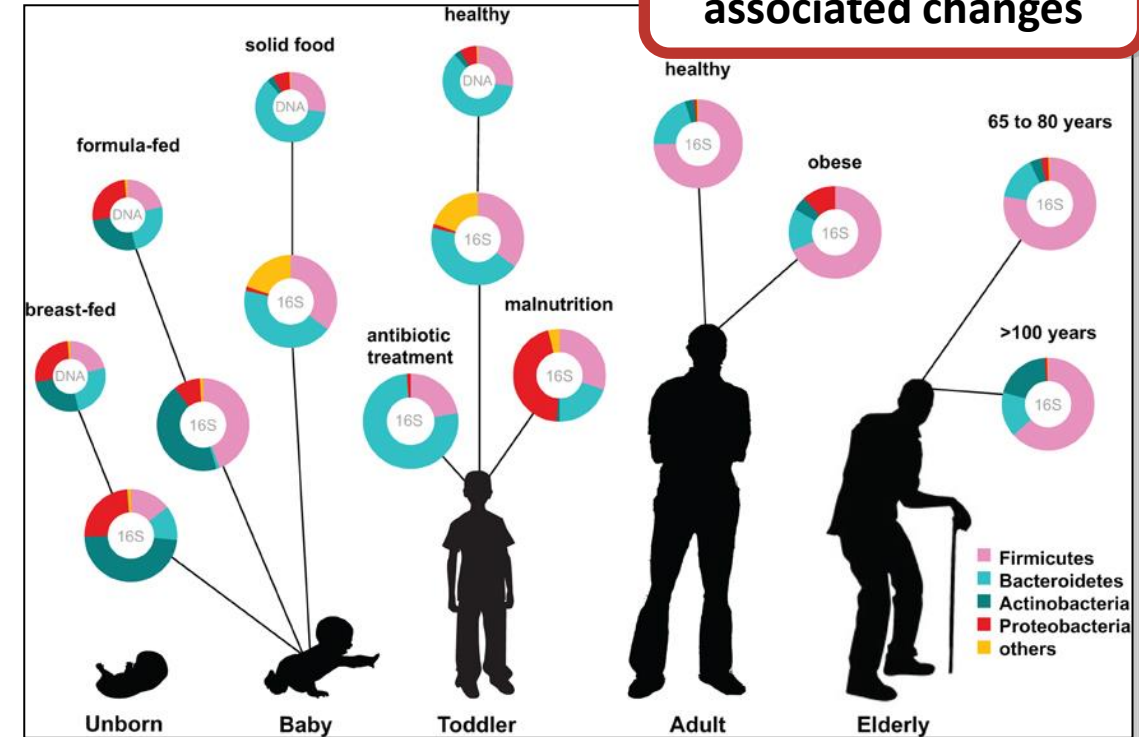
GUT MICROBIOTA

100 trillions of microorganisms (500-1000 species - mainly in the colon -

Inter-individual differences



Age and diet associated changes

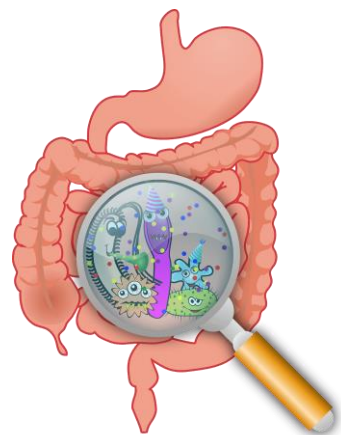


Prebiòtiques

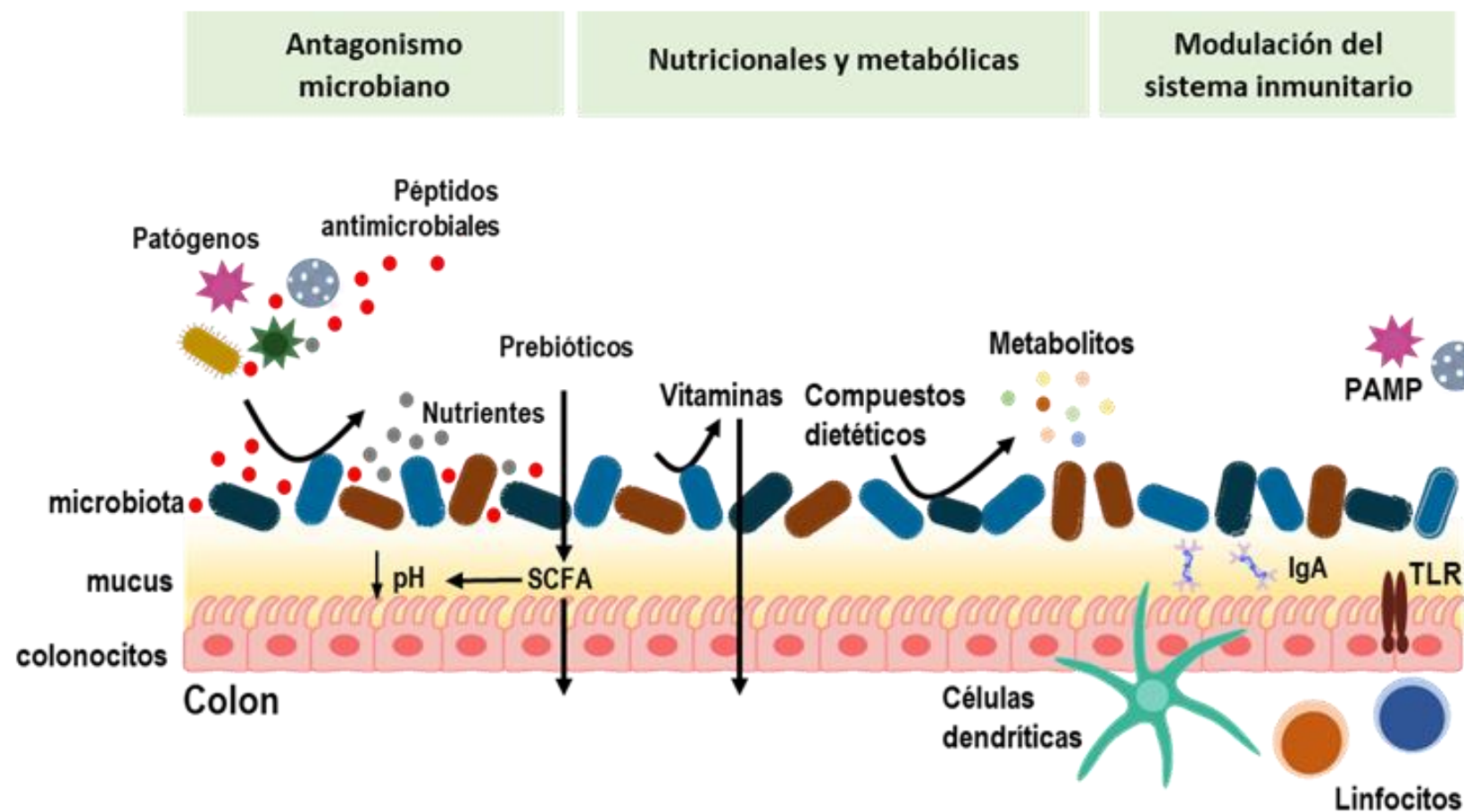


GUT MICROBIOTA

100 trillions of microorganisms (500-1000 species - mainly in the colon -



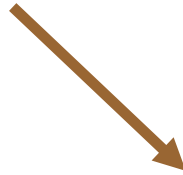
ACCIÓ SIMBIOSI: MICROBIOTA-HOSPEDADOR



Prebiòtiques



10% cocoa
diet

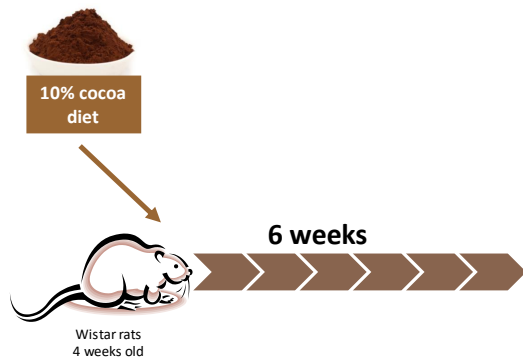


Wistar rats
4 weeks old

6 weeks



Prebiòtiques



Flavonoides modulen la composició de la microbiota

Bacterial counts of each genus relative to total bacteria counts determined by FISH-FCM in faeces.

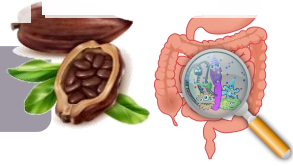
	REF				C10			
	Before intervention		After intervention		Before intervention		After intervention	
	Cells/g ^a	S.M.E	Cells/g ^a	S.M.E	Cells/g ^a	S.M.E	Cells/g ^a	S.M.E
All Bacteria	9.47	0.13	9.34	0.12	9.26	0.08	9.32	0.10
<i>Lactobacillus</i>	8.30	0.16	7.81	0.28	7.86	0.18	7.35	0.15
<i>Bacteroides</i>	8.19	0.24	7.90	0.22	8.09	0.25	7.06 ^{*,φ}	0.23
<i>Bifidobacterium</i>	8.31	0.22	8.13	0.11	8.19	0.17	7.68	0.21
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	8.61	0.27	8.51	0.15	8.71	0.14	7.81 ^{*,φ}	0.22
<i>Streptococcus</i>	8.90	0.19	8.73	0.17	8.68	0.16	8.36	0.13
<i>Clostridium</i>	8.53	0.13	8.25	0.19	8.39	0.15	7.59 ^{*,φ}	0.23

* Significant differences: $p < 0.05$ vs REF group after intervention.

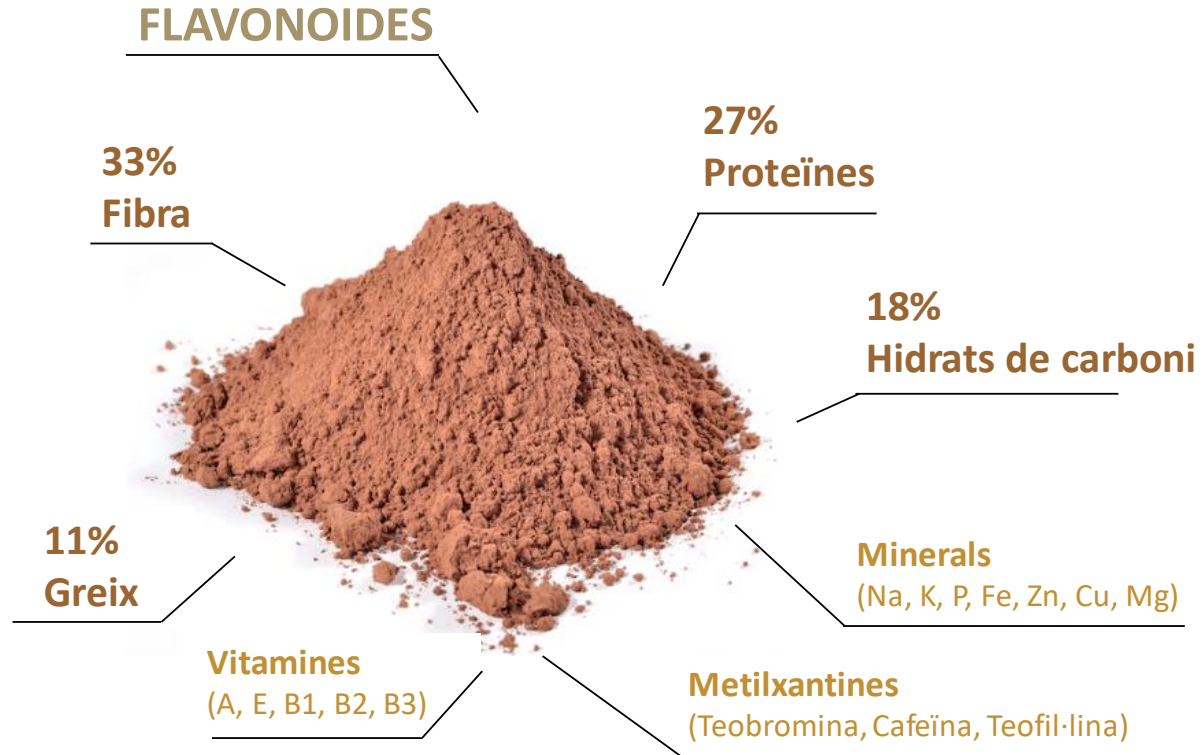
^φ Significant differences: $p < 0.05$ vs COCOA group before intervention.

^a log faecal cells/g of faeces.

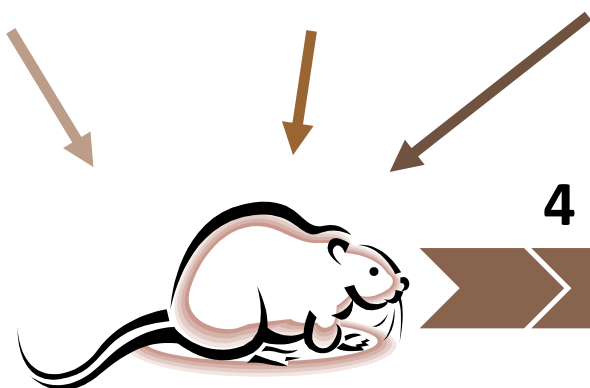
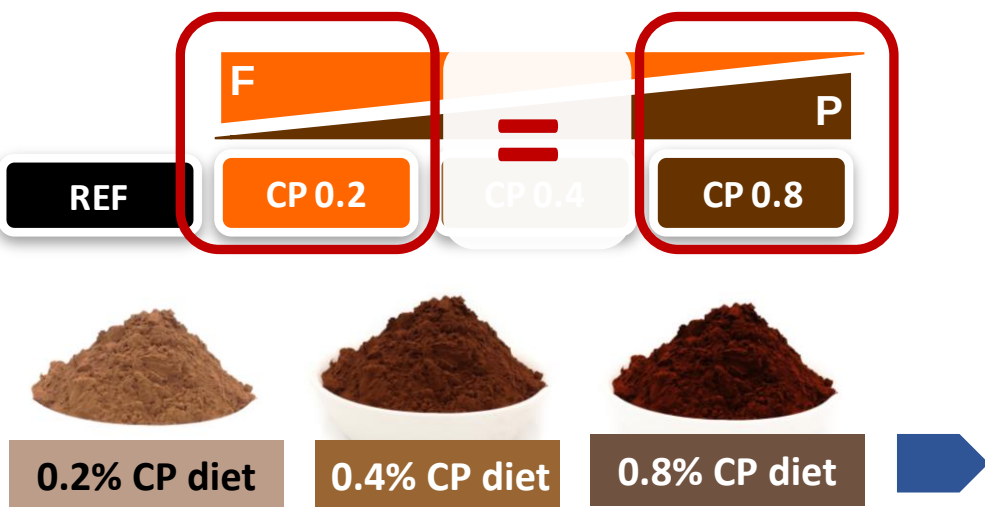
Prebiòtiques



Quins dels components del cacao és responsable?



Prebiòtiques



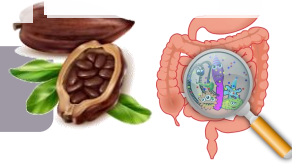
4 weeks

Els polifenols del cacau no són els únics responsables d'aquests efectes

After intervention

Group	REF		CP 0.2		CP 0.4		CP 0.8	
Genus	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM
Total bacteria	81.19	5.19	62.30 †	3.58	78.29	5.33	84.26 ‡	2.03
<i>Bacteroides</i>	32.81	4.53	22.24	0.23	26.94	4.57	23.55	5.26
<i>Bifidobacterium</i>	8.64	1.87	4.79	1.45	3.85	1.18	3.27	0.09
<i>Lactobacillus</i>	5.75	1.83	4.00	2.02	2.83	0.83	4.83	0.60
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	3.73	0.97	1.70	0.84	1.79	0.13	1.33	0.36
<i>Clostridium histolyticum/</i> <i>C. perfringens</i>	14.67	3.17	6.17	0.83	15.00 §	2.65	4.17	1.09
<i>Streptococcus</i>	57.05	7.26	23.95 †	5.73	34.57	5.14	25.27 †	7.30
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	54.60	3.65	25.32 †	3.55	44.63 ‡	1.50	43.60 ‡	4.41

Prebiòtiques



* $p < 0.05$ vs REF; α $p < 0.05$ vs C10; β $p < 0.05$ vs CF



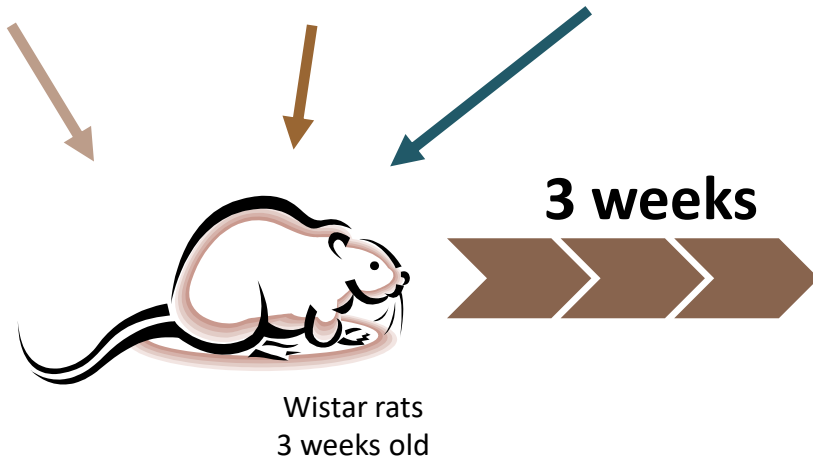
10% cocoa
diet



cocoa fiber
diet



Inulin
diet



Prebiòtiques



Fibra de cacau modifica la microbiota però no de forma similar al cacau

* $p < 0.05$ vs REF; α $p < 0.05$ vs C10; β $p < 0.05$ vs CF

Groups	After intervention							
	REF		C10		CF		I	
	Mean ($\times 10^7$ cells/g)	SEM	Mean ($\times 10^7$ cells/g)	SEM	Mean ($\times 10^7$ cells/g)	SEM	Mean ($\times 10^7$ cells/g)	SEM
Total bacteria	143.43	46			193.06	26.94	210.78	22.62
Bacteroides (B)	3.46	1			7.85*	1.63	7.36*	1.64
Bifidobacterium (A)	3.71	0			10.90* α	2.69	16.54* α	5.09
Lactobacillus (F)	4.21	0			12.20*	2.77	24.38* $\alpha\beta$	4.23
E. coli (P)	2.51	1.10	1.57	0.65	2			0.61
Staphylococcus (F)	5.44	1.74	2.22*	0.61	12			1.06
Streptococcus (F)	5.94	1.83	1.27*	0.21	18			0.74
Clostridium histolitycum/C. perfringens (F)	3.40	1.22	6.53	1.69	11			2.24
Clostridium coccoides/Eubacterium rectale (F)	3.41	1.11	9.99*	3.64	9.90	2.61	8.92*	1.39
	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM
F/B ratio	7.94	1.29	3.15*	0.67	8.06 α	1.83	9.11 α	2.82

A: Actinobacteria; B: Bacteroidetes; F: Firmicutes; P: Proteobacteria.

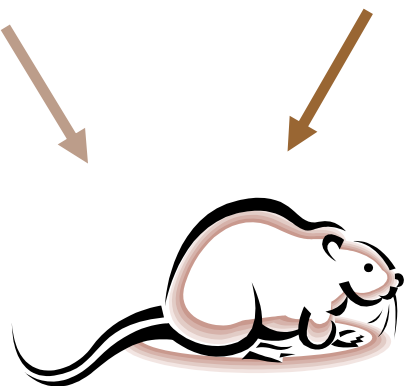
Prebiòtiques



10% cocoa
diet

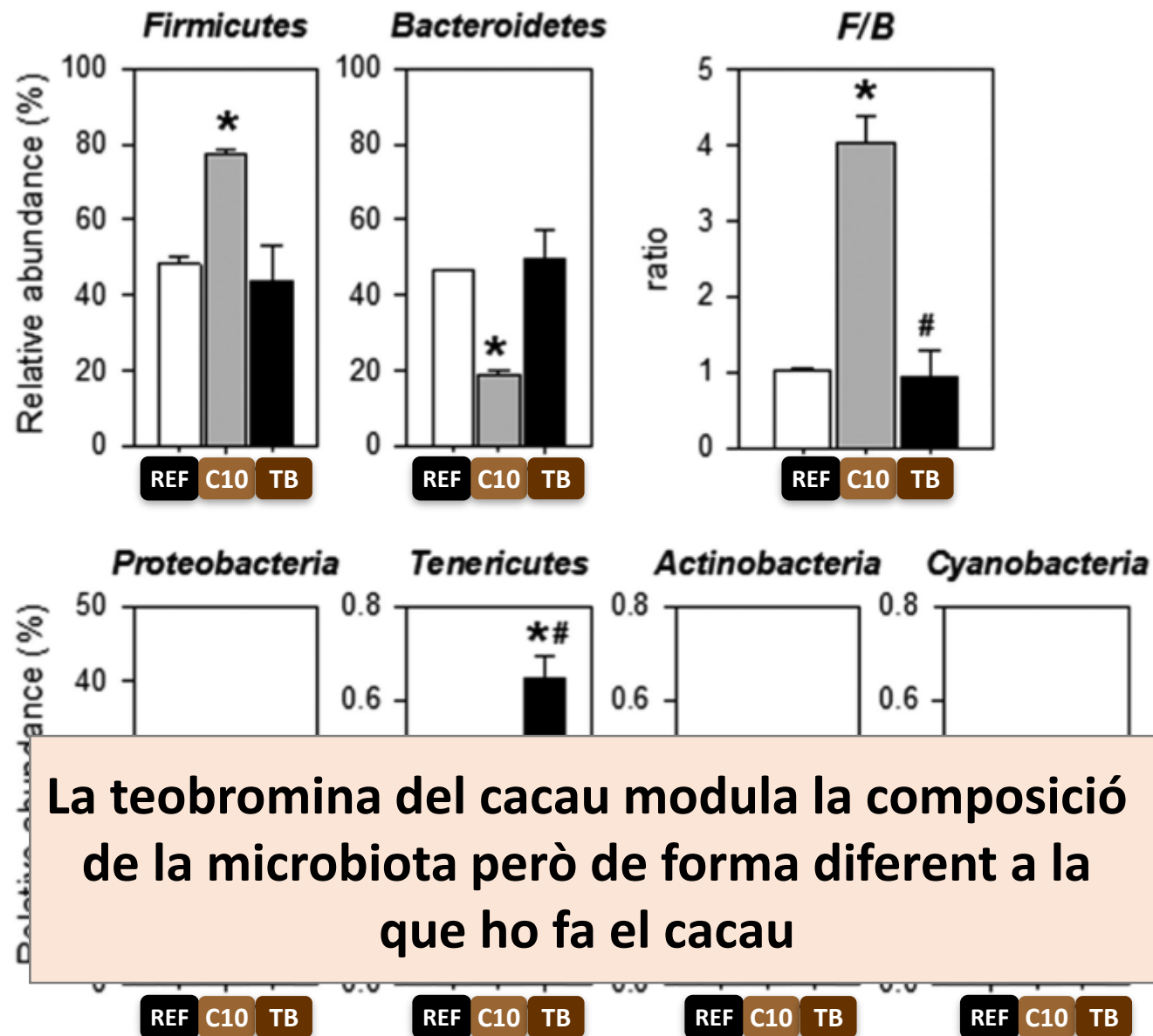


0.25%
theobromine diet



Lewis rats
3 weeks old

19 days



HISTÒRIA

COMPOSICIÓ

PER QUÈ CACAU

CACAU + SISTEMA IMMUNITARI

CONCLUSIONS

Antiinflamatòries

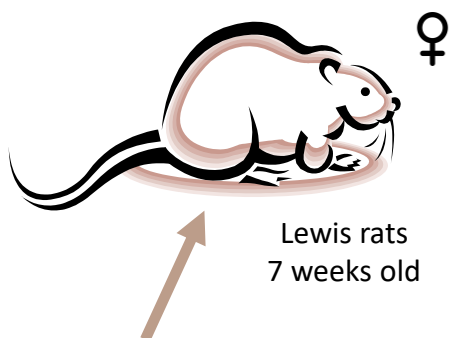


Antioxidants

Immunoreguladores

Prebiòtiques

On going task



Lewis rats
7 weeks old



10% cocoa
diet

Exhausting
test

5 weeks

5-week intensive training

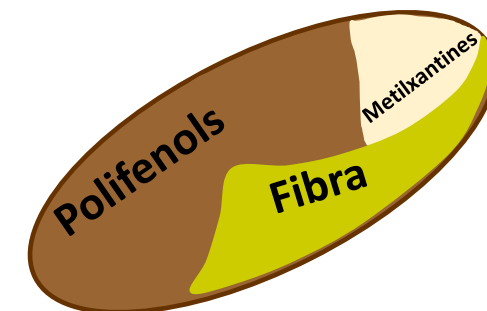
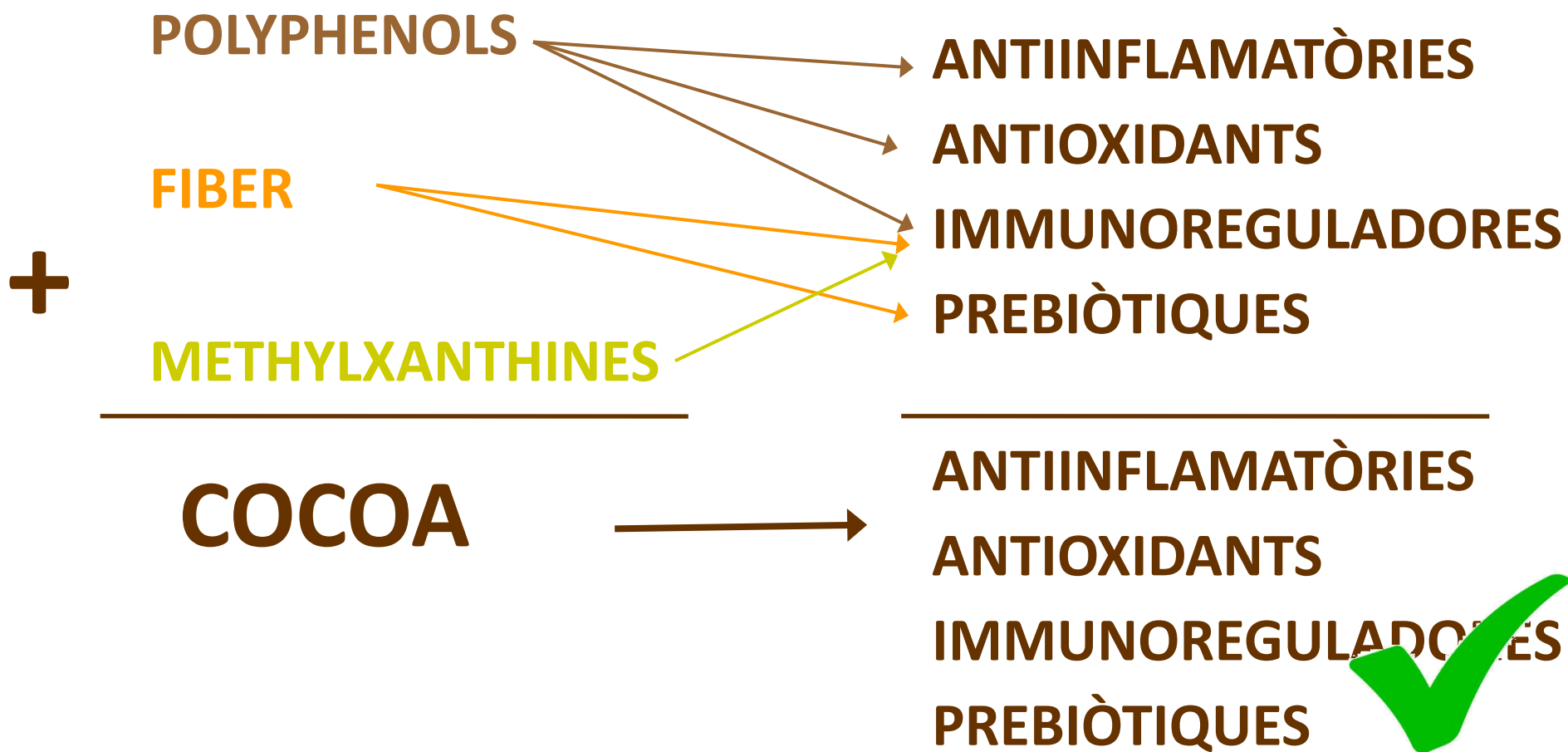
Exhausting
test

SEDENTARY

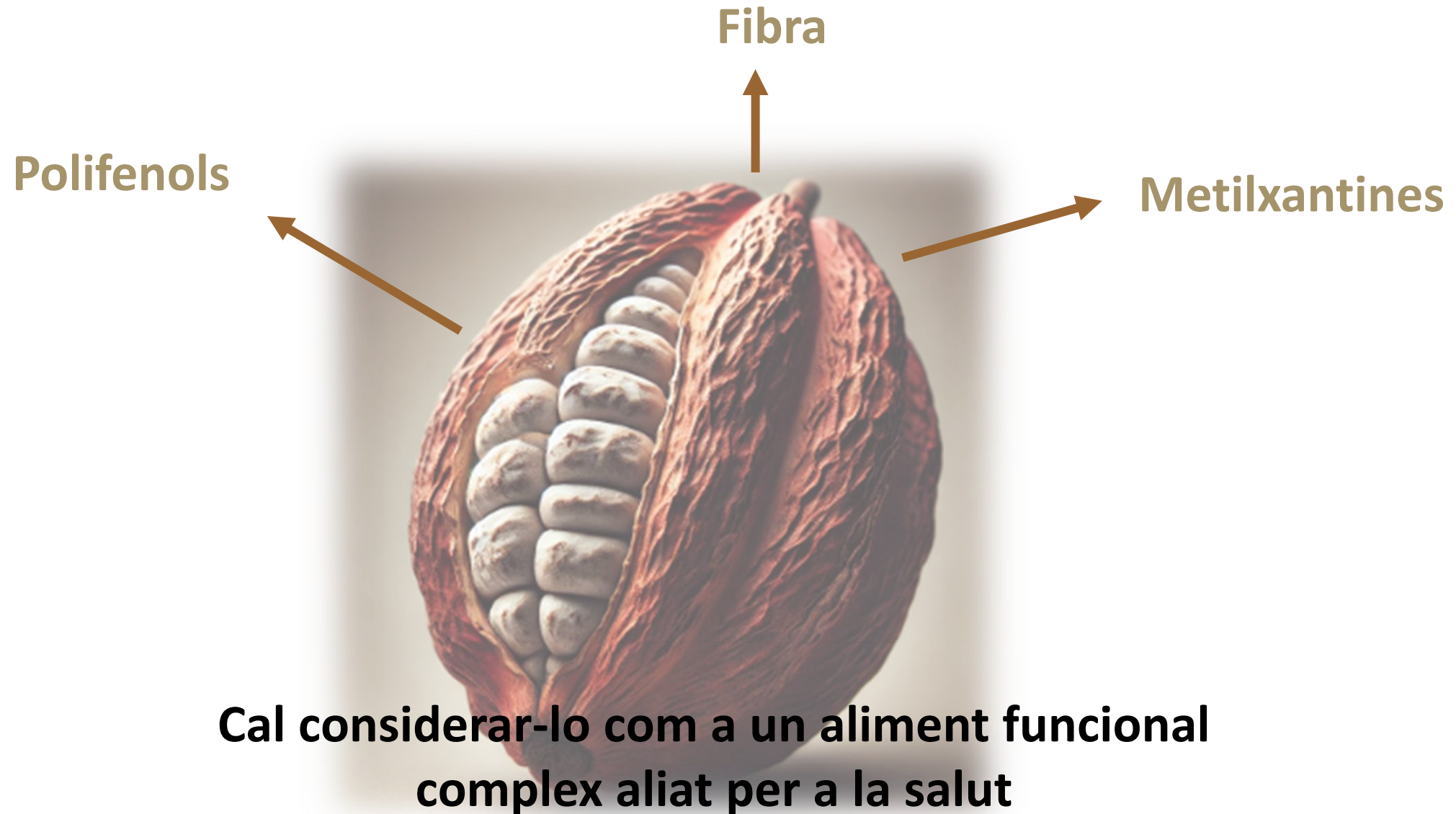
TRAINED

EXHAUSTED





Take home message





UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Facultat de Farmàcia
i Ciències de l'Alimentació

INSA
Institut de Recerca en Nutrició
i Seguretat Alimentària

**EXCELENCIA
MARÍA
DE MAEZTU**
2023-2026

El cacau: un plaer per al paladar i un aliat per a la salut?

MOLTES GRÀCIES!

