

Evolution of Mitochondrion-related Organelles in Metamonada

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Abstract

Evolution of mitochondria is one of most intensively studied areas of biology. Mitochondria are organelles found in nearly all of eukaryotes, and arose through an endosymbiotic event in which ancestral eukaryotes engulfed a bacterium closely related to extant α -proteobacteria. For the last two decades, unusual and divergent mitochondria have been reported from various lineages. Their organelles were shown to be of mitochondrial origin, but they lacked aerobic respiration functions and/or their own genomes. These reductive organelles are currently known as mitochondrion-related organelles (MROs). Metamonada, a major clade of eukaryotes, is an important lineage for studying the reductive evolution of mitochondria, because nearly all metamonads appear to contain MROs rather than typical mitochondria and their phylogenetic relationships have been clearly resolved. Additionally, the MROs of metamonad parasites, including *Trichomonas vaginalis*, *Giardia intestinalis*, and *Spironucleus salmonicida* have been well studied in the proteomics level.

Although various functions are known in typical mitochondria, previous studies of the evolution of MROs in metamonads have mainly focused on functions related to energy metabolism. In the first comparative transcriptome study, contamination of bacterial sequences in the metamonad transcriptome data sometimes interfered with correctly annotating mitochondria/MRO-related proteins, as mitochondria have a bacterial origin. In addition, absence of reliable methods for predicting whether a given protein is a mitochondrial/MRO protein or not was critical issue when discussing what the functions are the mitochondrion/MRO really has.

42 List of abbreviations

Abbreviations (Abb.)	Descriptions	Abb.	Descriptions
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate	GDH	Glutamate dehydrogenase
AUC	Area under the curve	GrpE	molecular chaperone GrpE
CLO	Carpediemonas-like organism	Grx5	Glutaredoxin-5
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid	HCP	Hybrid cluster protein
EST	Expressed sequence tag	HscB	molecular chaperone HscB
GBM	Gradient boosting machine	Hsp70	heat shock protein 70
HMM	hidden Markov model	HydE	Fe-hydrogenase Maturase E
ISC	Iron sulfur cluster	HydF	Fe-hydrogenase Maturase F
LGT	Lateral gene transfer	HydG	Fe-hydrogenase Maturase G
MRO	Mitochondrion-related organelle	IscA	Iron-sulfur cluster assembly
Mt	Mitochondria	IscS	Cysteine desulfurase IscS
NGS	Next generation sequencing	IscU	Iron-sulfur cluster assembly enzyme ISCU
RNA	Ribonucleic acid	MDH	Malate dehydrogenase
ROC	Receiver operating characteristics	ME	Malic enzyme
SVM	Support vector machine	MGL	Methionine gamma lyase
		MPP	Mitochondrial processing peptidase
AAT	Asparate aminotransferase	NFU	Iron-sulfur cluster scaffold protein NFU
ACS	Acetyl CoA Synthase	NuoE	NADH:ubiquinone dehydrogenase E
AD	Arginine deminase	NuoF	NADH:ubiquinone dehydrogenase F
AK	Adenylate kinase	OCDA	Ornithine cyclodeaminase
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase	OCT	Ornithine carbamoyltransferase
ASCT	Acetate:succinate CoA transferase	PFO	Pyruvate:ferredoxin oxidoreductase
Cpn60	Heat shock protein 60	PSAT	Phosphoserine aminotransferase
CS	Cysteine syntase	Rbr	Ruberythrin
Fdx	Ferredoxin	Rxn	Rubredoxin
FDXR	Adrenodoxin-NADP+ reductase	SCS	Succinyl coenzyme A (CoA) synthetase
Fe Hase	Fe only hydrogenase	SHMT	Serine hydroxymethyltransferase
Fxn	Frataxin	SOD	Superoxide dismutase
GCS H	Glycine cleavage system H-protein	Tnase	Tryptophanase
GCS L	Glycine cleavage system L-Protein	Trx	Thioredoxin
GCS P	Glycine cleavage system P-protein	TrxP	Thioredoxin Peroxidase
GCS T	Glycine cleavage system T-protein	TrxR	Thioledoxin reductase

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Chapter 1. General introduction

1.1. Origin of mitochondria and its roles

Nearly all eukaryotes possess mitochondria, which are the double-membraned organelles. Although the endosymbiotic origin of mitochondria remains controversial (Andersson et al., 1998; Embley & Martin, 2006, Williams et al., 2007; Brindefalk et al., 2011; Gray, 2012; Pittis & Gabaldón, 2016; Martin et al., 2017; Martijn et al., 2018), it is widely accepted that a bacterium closely related to extant α -proteobacteria was engulfed by an ancestral eukaryotic host, giving rise to mitochondria. These organelles are responsible for various essential processes in the eukaryotic cells, such as aerobic energy metabolism, iron sulfur clusters (ISC) (Fe-S clusters) assembly, fatty acid metabolism, molecular chaperone system, anti-oxidant system, amino acid metabolism and apoptosis.

Mitochondria of extant species contain their own genome (mtDNA) typically composed of less than 100 genes coding for proteins and RNAs that function in mitochondria. Because most of the genes encoding mitochondrial proteins related to these biological processes are mainly located in the nuclear genome, these proteins must be translocated into the mitochondria by protein sorting and transport systems that recognize the mitochondrial targeting signal typically found in their N-terminal regions. This selective transport causes the concentration of mitochondrial proteins be in high concentration inside the mitochondria and maintains the efficiency of various enzymatic reactions.

The acquisition of mitochondria enabled aerobic respiration with high throughput energy production in ancestral eukaryotes, leading to the prosperity of

eukaryotes. However, the ability of aerobic respiration is one of the benefits by mitochondria. In addition to aerobic energy metabolism mitochondria have been playing other essential roles in the process of eukaryotic cellular evolution through the above mentioned functions derived originally from α -proteobacteria.

1.2. Previous research for mitochondrial/mitochondrion-related organelle proteins in Metamonada

During the evolutionary process of eukaryotes, mitochondria have diverged extensively. Hydrogenosomes in *Trichomonas vaginalis* and mitosomes in *Giardia intestinalis* are typical examples of highly divergent mitochondria (Morrison et al., 2007; Jedelský et al., 2011; Schneider et al., 2011). These organelles are of mitochondrial origin, but they lack their own genomes and most of nuclear genome-encoded mitochondrial proteins related to the respiratory chain. These reductive organelles are currently referred to as mitochondrion-related organelles (MROs). Recently it was proposed that mitochondria/MROs should be classified into five functional types (Müller et al., 2012): aerobic mitochondria (Class 1), anaerobic mitochondria (Class 2), H₂-producing mitochondria (Class 3), hydrogenosomes (Class 4), and mitosomes (Class 5). In general, MROs are involved in Class 4 or Class 5. Various types of MROs have been identified in phylogenetically independent lineages which grow in micro-aerobic and anaerobic environments, indicating that these organelles arose independently several times throughout eukaryotic evolution (Roger et al., 2017). Metamonada is a large assemblage of flagellates adapted to microaerophilic/anaerobic environments. The monophyly and branching order of metamonads was robustly resolved by a recent phylogenomic analysis (Leger et al., 2017) (Figure 1-1). Notably, nearly all metamonads appear to

possess MROs rather than typical aerobic mitochondria, indicating that analyses of metamonads can provide valuable information regarding the evolutionary process of MROs. Particularly, MROs of the ancestral metamonad lineage may have exhibited functions typical of those in the mitochondria, while those of derived lineages may have diverged towards reducing functions such as those in the mitosome of *Giardia* (Leger et al., 2017).

1.2.1. Metamonada

Metamonada is a major clade in Excavata, a large taxonomic group of eukaryotes (Adl et al., 2018). Metamonada consist of microaerophilic or anaerobic flagellates with various lifestyles, such as heterotrophic free-living, commensal, or parasitic. There are three sub clades of Metamonada, Preaxostyla, Parabasalia and Fornicata, exist with Preaxostyla as an early branching clade.

1.2.2. Preaxostyla

Transcriptome analyses were performed on two protists in Preaxostyla, *Trimastix marina* and *Paratrimastix pyriformi*. The data revealed the presence of mitochondrial protein homologs related to the functions of amino acid metabolism and pyruvate metabolism, suggesting that their putative MROs have these functions. However, the presence or absence of other mitochondrion derived functions in the MROs could not be concluded and their functions still remain unclear (Leger et al., 2017; Zubáčová et al., 2013). Notably, *Monocercomonoides* sp. was the first eukaryote which was reported to have neither mitochondria nor MRO. Genome and transcriptome data of *Monocercomonoides* sp. are available in a public database (Karnkowska et al., 2016). Although MRO was not identified morphologically, the presence of mitochondrion-related chaperon proteins such as CPN60 (chaperonin 60) suggested the secondary

absence of MROs in the line leading to *Monocercomonoides* sp. (Karnkowska et al., 2016).

1.2.3. Parabasalia

Genome and/or transcriptome sequence data were reported from hydrogenosome-containing parasites/commensals, *Tritrichomonas foetus*, *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Pentatrichomonas hominis* in Parabasalia. More than four decades ago hydrogenosomes were discovered in *T. foetus* and *T. vaginalis*, but these were not recognized as MROs at that time (Lindmark & Müller 1973). Because *T. vaginalis* and *T. foetus* are important parasites in the medical or veterinary field, their biological characteristics and MRO features have been studied to a certain extent (Beltrán et al., 2013; Birkeland et al., 2010; Carlton et al., 2007; Franzén et al., 2009; Jedelský et al., 2011; Schneider et al., 2011). Based on biochemical, proteomic, genome and transcriptome analyses performed for both *T. foetus* and *T. vaginalis*, the trichomonad hydrogenosomes were shown to have lost their own genomes, parts of mitochondrial proteins and the ability to generate ATP by oxidative phosphorylation, whereas they possess Fe-S cluster assembly, amino acid metabolism and antioxidant systems (Schneider et al., 2011).

1.2.4. Fornicata

Fornicata consists of three taxonomic subgroups, diplomonads, retortamonads and *Carpodimonas*-like organisms (CLOs), but only diplomonads are monophyletic (Adl et al., 2018; Kolisko et al., 2010; Simpson 2003). Diplomonads include mammalian and fish parasites, such as *Giardia intestinalis*, *Spironucleus salmonicida*, *S. barkhanus*, *S. vortens*, and free-living flagellates classified to the genus *Trepomonas* or *Hexamita*. Morphological studies by electron microscopy showed that all of the fornicate organisms analyzed up to date do not contain typical mitochondria but do MROs:

previous studies have examined CLOs (Kolisko et al., 2010; Park et al., 2009; Yubuki et al., 2013; Yubuki et al., 2007), *G. intestinalis* (Tovar et al., 2003), *S. salmonicida* (Jerlström-Hultqvist et al., 2013), and *S. vortens* (Millet et al., 2013).

Genome and transcriptome analyses and proteomic analyses of MRO have been conducted for the human parasite *G. intestinalis* and a fish parasite *S. salmonicida*, indicating that these parasites possess highly derived MROs with reduced functions. Particularly, in the evolution leading to *Giardia*, the MRO (mitosome) lost most of its mitochondrial functions, and has only retained the function of the Fe-S cluster assembly (Jedelský et al., 2011; Morrison et al., 2007; Tovar et al., 2003).

Transcriptome data were reported for *Chilomastix cuspidata* and *Chilomatix caulleryi*, which are classified as retortamonads. Analyses of these data revealed that *C. cuspidata* MRO may function in amino acid metabolism and NADH reoxidation, while the MRO of *C. caulleryi*, a lumen-dwelling parasite, may have lost most of these functions during its evolution (Leger et al., 2017).

CLOs are a polyphyletic group and include *Carpediemonas membranifera*, *Ergobibamus cyprinoides*, *Aduncisulcus plauster*, *Kipferlia bialata* and *Dysnectes brevis*. Transcriptome analyses have been conducted for these organisms (Leger et al., 2017), and genomic analyses were performed for *K. bialata* (Tanifuji et al., 2018). Their MROs were shown to retain functions of at least amino acid metabolism, ATP synthesis, NADH reoxidation and H₂ production.

1.3. Application of bioinformatics method to the analysis of MRO proteome

While transcriptome analyses have been performed for many metamonads, proteome analyses of MRO have been conducted only for *T. foetus*, *T. vaginalis*, *G. intestinalis* and *S. salmonicida* (Table 1-1). Because parasites are important in the medical, veterinary and fishery fields, experimental procedures such as axenic culture, organelle purification, and biochemical analysis have been established. However, these methods have not been established yet for heterotrophic metamonads which must be cultured with bacterial feed. Developing these methods for a direct proteome analysis of MROs is very difficult because of the contamination with bacteria in the materials used for molecular analyses. Thus, it is necessary to distinguish mitochondrial/MRO proteins from other proteins using various bioinformatics methods.

Transcriptome data for heterotrophic metamonads such as *K. bialata* and *D. brevis* were generated from non-axenic cultures in a previous study by Leger et al. (2017). Bacterial contamination resulted in a low quality of assembly and a small amount of eukaryotic sequence data, preventing the detection of the presence or absence of each mitochondrial/MRO protein in the putative MRO proteome. To improve the quality of data, density gradient centrifugation was conducted to reduce bacterial contamination for the genome and transcriptome analyses of *K. bialata*, resulting in the first report of a draft genome of heterotrophic metamonads (Tanifuji et al., 2018).

Most previous studies (Jedelský et al., 2011; Rada et al., 2011; Schneider et al., 2011) used prediction software for mitochondrial proteins such as TargetP (Emanuelsson et al., 2007), TPPred2 (Savojardo et al., 2014) and Mitofates (Fukasawa

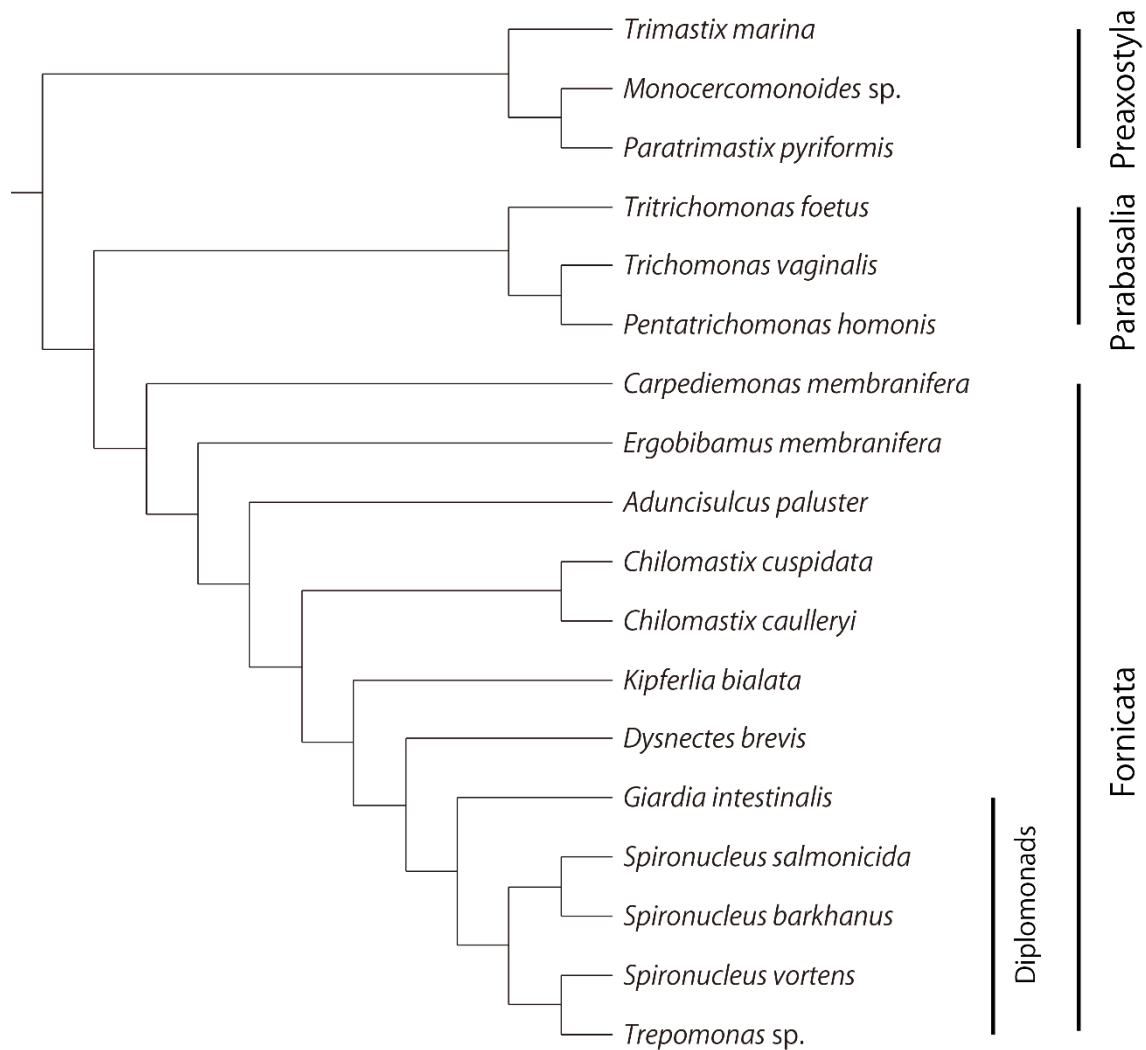


Figure 1-1: Phylogenetic tree of Metamonada (Leger et al., 2017 modified into cladogram tree; 159 proteins, 39,089 sites, 94 taxa, CAT-GTR + Γ model.)

Table 1-1: List of previous omics studies for metamonads. A check mark (✓) indicates that the corresponding omics analysis was performed, and its data are available. A grey cell indicates that the data are unavailable or do not exist.

		Transcriptome	Genome	Proteome
Preaxostyla	<i>Trimastix marina</i>	✓		
	<i>Paratrimastix pyriformis</i>	✓		
	<i>Monocercomonoides</i> sp.	✓	✓	
Parabasalia	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Pentatrichomonas hominis</i>	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Tritrichomonas foetus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Fornicata	<i>Carpediemonas membranifera</i>	✓		
	<i>Iotanea spirale</i>	✓		
	<i>Ergobibamus cyprinoides</i>	✓		
	<i>Aduncisulcus paluster</i>	✓		
	<i>Chilomastix cuspidata</i>	✓		
	<i>Chilomastix caulleryi</i>	✓		
	<i>Kipferlia bialata</i>	✓	✓	
	<i>Dysnectes brevis</i>	✓		
	<i>Giardia intestinalis</i>	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Spironucleus salmonicida</i>	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Spironucleus barkhanus</i>	✓ (EST)		
	<i>Spironucleus vortens</i>	✓ (EST)		
	<i>Trepomonas</i> sp.	✓		

Chapter 3. NommPred: Prediction of Mitochondrial and Mitochondrion-related Organelle Proteins of Non-model Organisms

3.1. Introduction

Mitochondria are separated from other cellular components by a double membrane, resulting in the concentration of mitochondrial proteins inside the membrane. In general, the functions of an organelle are determined by the protein repertoire of the organelle. Therefore, the estimation of the function of mitochondria needs to determine the repertoire of mitochondrial proteins, most of which are nuclear encoded, expressed in cytosol, and finally transported into mitochondria (Gonczarowska-Jorge et al., 2017).

To determine a repertoire of mitochondrial proteins, the proteomic analysis of mitochondria is essential. For model organisms, experimental methods for the proteomic analysis of mitochondria have already been established during their long research histories (Kumar et al., 2002; Sickmann et al., 2003; Reinders et al., 2006; Cherry et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2010); however, for non-model organisms, there are no general strategies for the proteomic analysis of mitochondria. Even in non-model organisms, information on the amino acid sequences of proteins is indirectly obtained from the nucleotide sequences of the genome or transcriptome analysis, and these are useful tools for studying the cellular and molecular biological research subjects of non-model organisms of which proteins are difficult to treat directly during experiments. Recently, high throughput sequencing, the so-called next-generation sequencing (NGS), has allowed us to easily obtain the entire genome or transcriptome data even from non-model organisms at a low cost and in a short time. Therefore, transcriptome analysis is

performed for the entire cell extracts of non-model organisms including mitochondria and the other cellular components, and the mitochondrial proteins are predicted by using an amino acid sequence-based computational method instead of purifying mitochondria and determining the repertoire of mitochondrial proteins directly. Such a bioinformatics approach needs to discriminate mitochondrial proteins from all the proteins that are deduced from the entire cell transcriptome data.

A machine learning approach has been often used to classify mitochondrial/non-mitochondrial proteins. Various software programs based on machine learning are available; these programs predict whether an input protein sequence is a mitochondrial protein. For example, TPpred3 (Savojardo et al., 2015) and Mitofates (Fukasawa et al., 2015) are prediction software programs based on support vector machines, whereas TargetP (Emanuelsson et al., 2007) is a software program based on neural network techniques.

Most of the current prediction software programs, including TPpred3, Mitofates, and TargetP, are trained only with the data derived from model organisms, which belong to the taxonomic groups, Metazoa, Fungi, or Embryophyta, and these programs are designed for application to the proteins of model organisms and their relatives. Model organisms have been studied experimentally at an enormous cost because of their basic biological, medical, or industrial importance. This has resulted in the accumulation of vast biochemical experimental data of protein localization to cellular compartments including mitochondria.

On the other hand, in the case of non-model organisms, except for those that are closely related to the known model organisms, very few experimental data are available because of the shortage of basic experimental procedures although they

exhibit most parts of the eukaryotic diversities (Adl et al., 2018). Hereafter, I refer to such non-model organisms that do not belong to Metazoa, Embryophyta, and Fungi as non-model organisms. Therefore, for the study of the mitochondrial proteins derived from non-model organisms, the sequence data of genome or transcriptome that are produced by using the NGS approach are mainly used to predict the proteins that would be mitochondrially localized. In general, the prediction tools designed for model organisms are usually applied for these analyses; however, these tools do not necessarily guarantee accuracy of prediction because the N-terminal sequence features important for the prediction of the mitochondrial proteins could be far divergent in non-model organisms compared to those of the model organisms. In particular, in the case of the prediction of MRO protein, the prediction tools currently available are highly inaccurate (Makiuchi & Nozaki, 2014). Therefore, in general, for predicting of mitochondrial/MRO proteins in non-model organisms, the consensus of the results from multiple predictors is considered to avoid false predictions. However, this cannot be validated.

To resolve this problem, here, I propose a software program, NommPred (non-model organismal mitochondrial/MRO protein predictor), which predicts the mitochondrial/MRO proteins derived from non-model organisms. To develop this software, I prepared a dataset including the mitochondrial or MRO proteins derived widely from non-model organisms and adopted a gradient boosting machine (GBM) (Friedman, 1999; Friedman et al., 2000; Friedman, 2002) as a classifier. GBM, which is one of the ensemble classifiers, was used instead of the support vector machine (Cortes & Vapnik, 1995), which was adopted in the previous predictors Mitofates and TPpred3. NommPred could resolve the problem due to the inconsistency between the origins of

the training and input data when predicting the mitochondrial/MRO proteins of non-model organisms. The performance of NommPred was shown to be superior to Mitofates, which was demonstrated to be the best among the alternative methods, in predicting the mitochondrial/MRO proteins derived from non-model organisms. Therefore, NommPred is the best predictor for the mitochondrial/MRO proteins of non-model organisms.

3.2. Materials and Methods

3.2.1. Scheme of NommPred

A flowchart and a message sequence chart of the newly developed software, NommPred, are illustrated in Figures 3-1 and 3-2, respectively. The software takes as input both the protein sequence in FASTA format (Definition is available from: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK53702/) and organismal information from which the protein sequence is derived. The feature of each protein was extracted based on Mitofates' algorithm to create a 920-dimensional feature vector (Figure 3-1). The vector is subjected to the GBM predictor (Mit Predictor for mitochondrial proteins or MRO Predictor for MRO proteins as described below), and the predictor outputs the prediction results and probabilities.

NommPred: Flow Chart

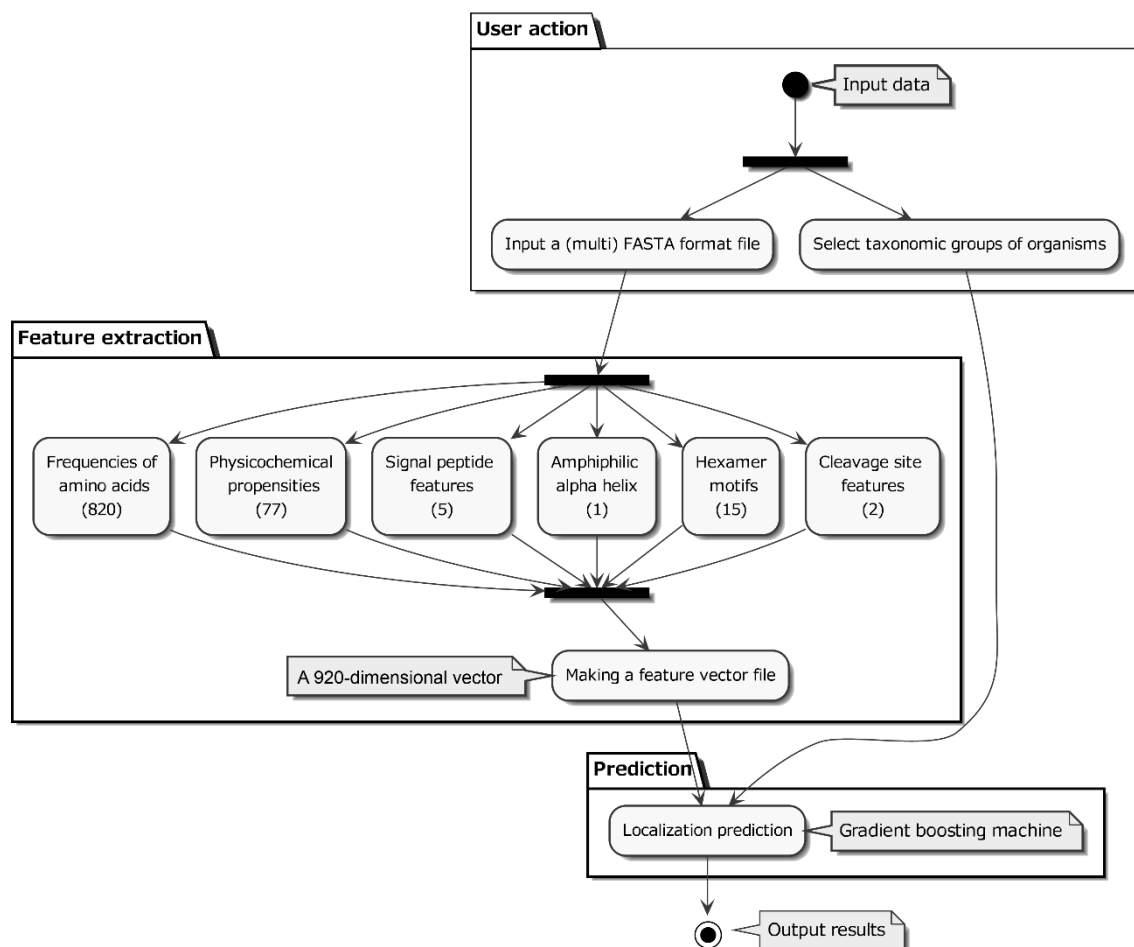


Figure 3-1: Flowchart of NommPred. The closed circle represents the starting point of the program, and the closed circle surrounded by a larger open circle represents the endpoint. The user input data (Input data) include the protein sequence in FASTA format and information of the protein sequence origin (taxonomic group). The input data are classified into (the first black bar in User action step) protein sequence, which is used for feature extraction, and organismal information, which is used for the selection of an appropriate GBM Predictor: Mit Predictor, MRO Predictor, or others. In the feature extraction step, the 920 calculated features (Table 3-1) are integrated, and a 920-dimensional feature vector is obtained as the output. In the figure, only six feature categories are depicted with the number of individual features. This vector is subjected to a selected GBM Predictor as the input data, and then the prediction result is shown (Output Results).

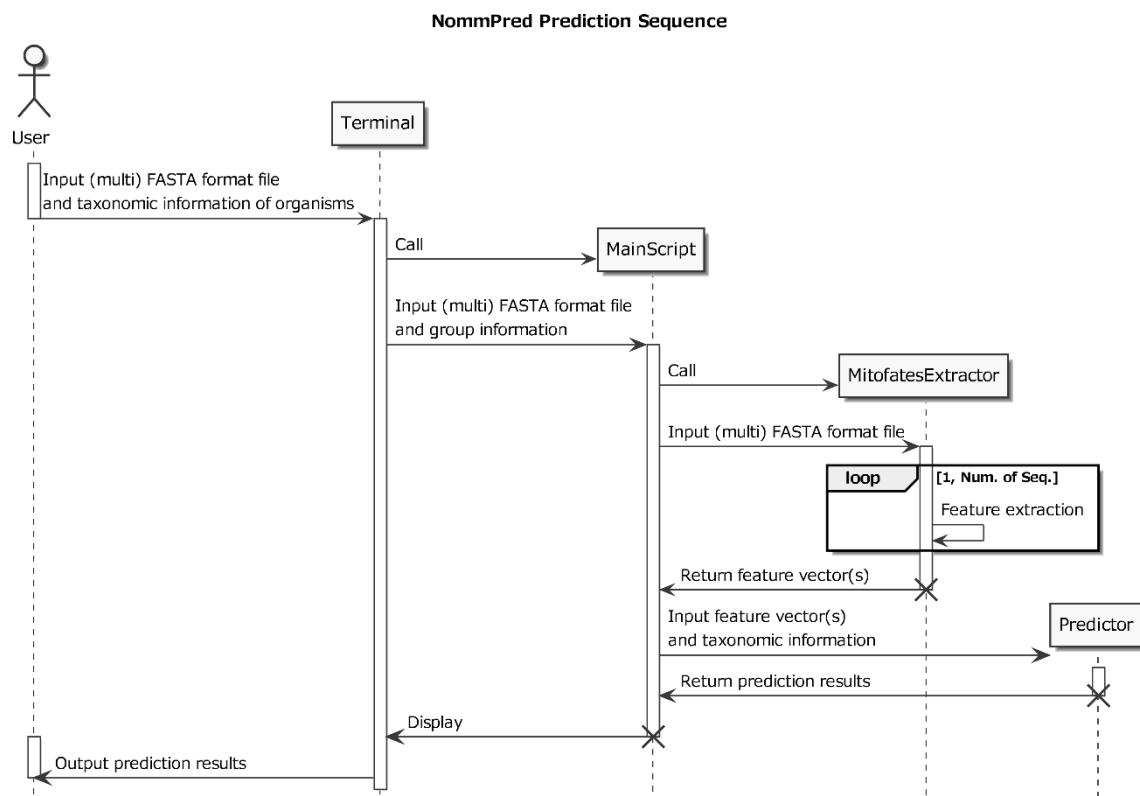


Figure 3-2: Message sequence chart of NommPred. The software for NommPred is console user interface (CUI), and it runs on the terminal. The software accepts a protein sequence file in multi FASTA format and a text file with information of the origins of the sequences and outputs the prediction results at last.

3.2.2. Dataset construction

The dataset used for the training and test is shown in Table 3-1. The mitochondrial or MRO proteins are treated as positive samples and the others as negative samples. The sequence data were obtained from UniProt (UniProt C, 2017; www.uniprot.org/), GiardiaDB (Hagen et al, 2011; Aurrecochea et al, 2009; giardiadb.org/giardiadb/), TrichDB (Aurrecochea et al, 2009; trichdb.org/trichdb/), and ApiLoc (Woodcroft et al, 2011; apiloc.biochem.unimelb.edu.au/apiloc/apiloc). Although these databases sometimes annotate mitochondrial or MRO proteins based on computational prediction, I used only those proteins whose localization was confirmed experimentally (e.g., Westernblotting, immunoblotting, or fluorescence microscope analysis) to mitochondria or MROs by investigating the literature. Then, I applied protein sequence redundancy reduction by using the BLASTClust program from the NCBI BLAST packages (Altschul et al, 1990). I adopted the criteria of being redundant at > 95% sequence identity. Finally, I prepared 392 positive mitochondrial or MRO protein sequences and 3,739 negative sequences. I classified the entire dataset into mitochondrial and MRO datasets, Mit and MRO. Then, I created a predictor for each dataset; one is the predictor for the mitochondrial protein trained with the mitochondrial proteins of 7 non-model organismal taxonomic groups (Mit Predictor), whereas the other is the predictor for the MRO protein trained with the MRO proteins of three non-model organismal taxonomic groups that possess MRO (groups marked with asterisks in Table 3-1) (MRO Predictor), because these two datasets were expected to be apparently different in the N-terminal sequence features of the mitochondrial/MRO protein sequences. The N-terminal sequence features of the MRO proteins are generally considered to be extremely divergent from those of the mitochondrial proteins.

Table 3-1: Entire dataset used for training and test. If the taxonomic group corresponds exactly to the genus, the name of the genus is represented in italic form. “Stramenopiles” is not a formal taxonomic rank but is generally used for the name of the group. The “Positive samples” column lists the number of sequences of the mitochondrial or MRO proteins. The “Negative samples” column lists the number of sequences of the non-mitochondrial or non-MRO proteins. The groups that possess MRO are represented with asterisks.

Taxonomic group	Positive samples	Negative samples
Chlorophyta	60	81
<i>Dictyostelium</i>	52	622
Piroplasma	7	387
<i>Plasmodium</i>	42	435
Stramenopiles	44	1029
<i>Toxoplasma</i>	30	125
Trypanosomatida	48	587
* <i>Entamoeba</i>	7	94
* <i>Giardia</i>	20	271
* <i>Trichomonas</i>	82	108
Total	392	3,739

519 3.2.3. Feature extraction

520 For the extraction of features, I used the method described in Fukazawa et al. (2015).

521 The feature of each protein was extracted to create a 920-dimensional feature vector.

522 Extracted features and its details are shown in Table 3-2.

523

Table 3-2: List of features. For more details, refer to Mitofates (Fukasawa et al., 2015).

Feature category	Number of features	Features	Description
Frequencies of amino acids	820	Monopeptide: X_1 Dipeptide: X_1X_2 Skip-two dipeptides: X_1xxX_2	Normalized frequencies for each of the possible combinations of the standard 20 amino acids in 30 N-terminal residues of the input sequences. X_i ($i = 1,2$) and small x represents standard 20 amino acids, A C D E F G H I K L M N P Q R S T V W Y.
Physicochemical propensities	77	Segment scores Whole score	90 N-terminal residues of the input sequence are divided into six segments. Segment scores are calculated for each of the six segments. The total score is the sum of the segment scores. Each score is computed for: the mean of 1) hydrophobicity, 2) α -helical, or 3) β -strand periodicity, or the density of 4) positive charge, 5) negative charge, 6) serine, 7) threonine, 8) proline, 9) glycine, 10) amphiphilic, or 11) aromatic residues.
Signal peptide features	5	SP scores	Each score is computed in the putative signal peptide region defined by a sliding widow method search within 90 N-terminal residues for: the density of 1) positive charge, 2,3) two kinds of the density of negative charge, or the mean of 4) hydrophobicity, and 5) cleavage site preference residues.

Amphiphilic alpha helix	1	PA score: $\frac{\mu_H - \mu_C r \cos A}{n}$	For 30 N-terminal residues of the input sequence, the segments between 10 and 20 residues are generated by the sliding window method. For each segment, the score is computed from μ_H (magnitude of a hydrophobic moment vector) and μ_C (magnitude of a charge moment vector) by a formula as shown in the left column, and the best segment score is picked up as the PA score. n is the size of the window, r is the ratio parameter between μ_H and μ_C , and A is the angle between the two vectors.
Hexamer motifs	15	Motif scores: $-\log_{10}(p)$ Total score	Motifs are the 14 hexamer motifs that are significantly and frequently observed in the mitochondrial proteins compared to the non-mitochondrial ones ($p < 10^{-5}$.) The total score is the sum of each motif score.
Cleavage site features	2	Cleavage scores	For 100 N-terminal residues of the input sequence, 10 residue segments are generated by the sliding window method. For each segment, the cleavage score is calculated as the sum of position weighted matrix (PWM) scores for 10 residues, and the best and the second-best cleavage scores are picked up. The PWM is a given matrix in the Mitofates program.

3.2.4. Training and prediction method

I adopted GBM, one of the ensemble learning algorithms, and created predictors using xgboost (Chen & Guestrin, 2016) package in R (R Core Team, 2018) for the Mit and MRO datasets (Mit Predictor and MRO predictor). GBM reconstructs the unknown functional dependence $x \xrightarrow{f} y$ with estimate $\hat{f}(x)$; x is the explanatory input variables, y is the corresponding label. The scheme of the algorithm is shown in Figure 3-3 (based on Natekin & Knoll, 2013). Xgboost chooses decision tree as the base-learner.

		Friedman's Gradient Boost Algorithm
		(based on Natekin & Knoll, 2013)
$(x, y)_{i=1}^N$	Input data	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. initialize \hat{f}_0 with a constant 2. for $t = 1$ to M do 3. compute the negative gradient $g_t(x)$ 4. fit a new base-learner function $h(x, \theta_t)$ 5. find the best gradient descent step-size ρ_t: $\rho_t = \arg \min_{\rho} \sum_{i=1}^N \Psi \left[y_i, \hat{f}_{t-1}(x_i) + \rho h(x_i, \theta_t) \right]$ 6. update the function estimate: $\hat{f}_t \leftarrow \hat{f}_{t-1} + \rho_t h(x, \theta_t)$ 7. end for
x	Input variable	
y	Corresponding label	
N	Dataset size	
M	Number of iterations	
$\Psi(y, f)$	Loss function	
$g(x)$	Negative gradient	
$h(x, \theta)$	Base-learner model (xgboost: Decision tree)	
θ	Parameter	
ρ	Step-size	

Figure 3-3: The scheme of the algorithm of GBM.

I searched for optimal values of logical variables employed in the xgboost algorithm. Parameters for tree boosting, learning rate (*eta*), maximum depth of a tree (*max_depth*), minimum sum of instance weight (*min_child_weight*), maximum delta step (*max_delta_step*), and gamma were tuned with grid search, and finally I determined to set the default values for these variables. In addition, I optimized the parameter of the

number of trees to the model by cross-validation. For other parameters, I used the default value.

3.2.5. Performance measures

To evaluate the performances of both the NommPred predictors—Mit Predictor and MRO Predictor—a receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve and a ROC area under the curve (AUC) (Bradley, 1997) were used. In the R system, the ROC curve was drawn by plotting the true positive rate (y-axis) against the false positive rate (x-axis) for different cut-off values, and the ROC AUC was drawn based on the ROC curve.

To evaluate the robustness of the ROC AUC measures, I randomly divided the Mit or MRO dataset into three subsets (three-fold cross-validation), and I used two of them for the training data, and the other for the test data. This process was repeated 100 times (Figure 3-4).

To compare NommPred with a previous predictor, Mitofates, I used the same test data as that of NommPred for Mitofates to evaluate its performance. In this performance comparison, I carried out the paired t test and Wilcoxon signed rank test to evaluate the difference between the means of these 100 paired ROC AUC scores.

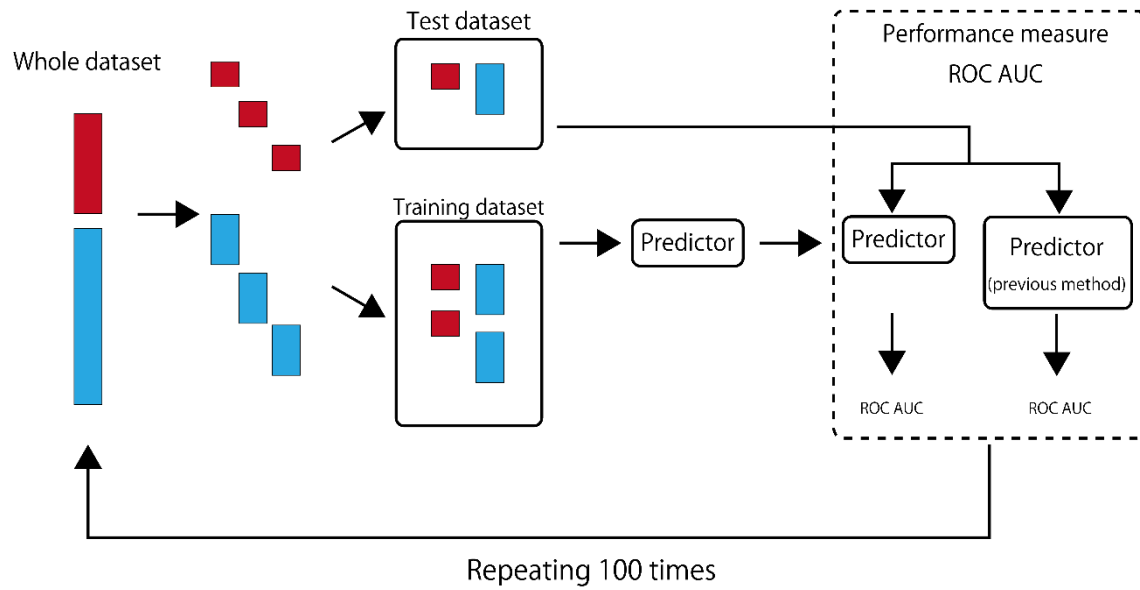


Figure 3-4: The scheme of the three-fold cross validation.

3.3. Results

3.3.1. Performance comparison analysis

Prediction of mitochondrial proteins

I carried out the performance comparison analysis between NommPred and a previous method, Mitofates. A dataset including the mitochondrial and non-mitochondrial proteins of seven non-model organismal taxonomic groups was used for the preparation of the training and test datasets (as described in the Materials and Methods section), resulting in the creation of Mit Predictor. Performance measure scores are listed in Table 3-3 and shown by boxplot in Figure 3-5.

Table 3-3: Comparison of the mean ROC AUC scores between NommPred and Mitofates. In NommPred mitochondrial proteins were predicted by Mit Predictor, while MRO proteins were by MRO Predictor. 100 randomly generated datasets ($n = 100$) of mitochondrial or MRO proteins were used for cross-validation (see Materials and Methods).

Prediction target	ROC AUC		<i>p value</i>	
	NommPred	Mitofates	Paired <i>t</i> test	Wilcoxon signed rank test
Mitochondrial protein	0.9463	0.9080	1.62E-42	0.00E+00
MRO protein	0.9041	0.8021	6.86E-40	0.00E+00

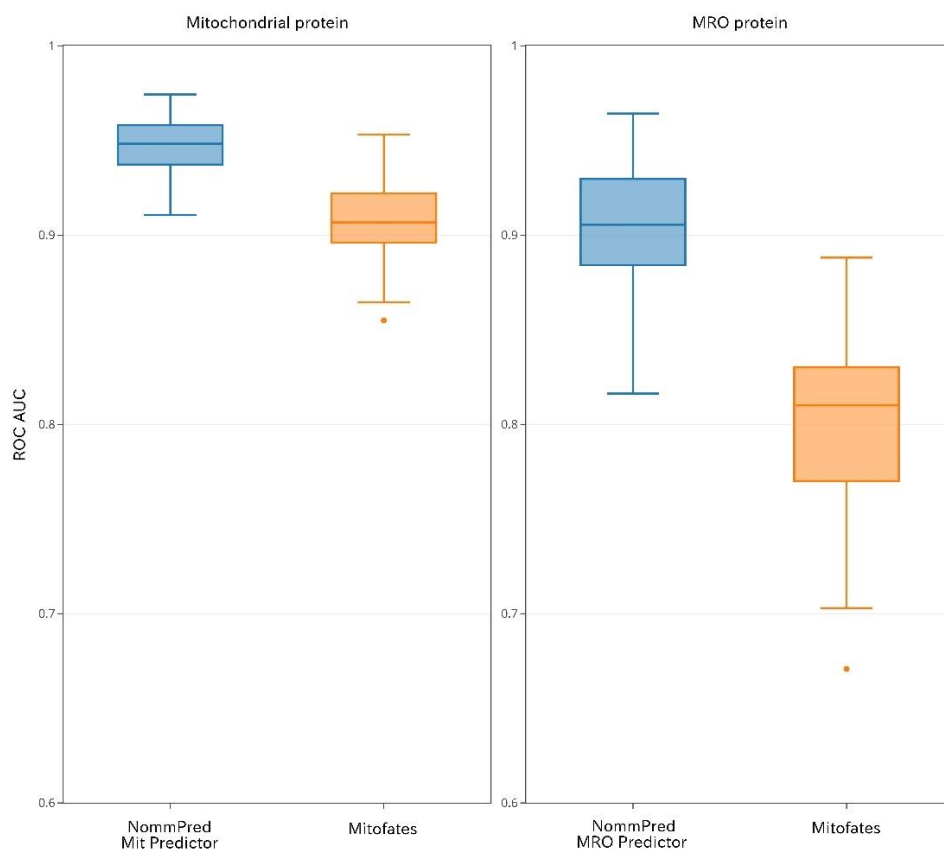


Figure 3-5: Boxplots showing the performance of the predictors of the mitochondrial and MRO proteins. The ROC AUC scores of 100 randomly generated datasets (y-axis) of the two predictors are plotted for, NommPred (Mit Predictor or/and MRO Predictor) in NommPred, and Mitofates (x-axis), are plotted. Lines within the boxplot indicate the median, the lower/higher quartile (Q1/Q3), and lower/higher whiskers.

For the mean ROC AUC scores (sample size $n = 100$), Mitofates achieved 0.9080, whereas the performance of Mit Predictor of NommPred was superior with a value of 0.9463 (Table 3-3). Moreover, the difference between the two mean ROC AUC scores was significant (paired t test: p value = 1.618×10^{-42} , Wilcoxon signed rank test: p value = ~ 0).

Generally, the ROC AUC score ranging between 0.5 and 0.7 is regarded as less accurate, between 0.7 and 0.9 as moderately accurate, and more than 0.9 as highly accurate (Fischer et al., 2003). Based on these criteria, Mitofates still showed sufficient accuracy in the prediction of the mitochondrial proteins derived from non-model organisms. However, for the prediction of those proteins, Mit Predictor with a higher ROC AUC score was preferred.

Prediction of MRO proteins

As described in the Materials and Methods section, I classified the entire dataset into two—Mit and MRO (Table 3-1). The MRO dataset including the MRO and non-MRO proteins of three non-model organismal groups was used for the preparation of the training and test datasets (described in the Materials and Methods section), resulting in the creation of MRO Predictor. I carried out a similar comparison analysis between the performance of MRO Predictor and that of Mitofates for the prediction of the MRO proteins. The performance measure scores are listed in Table 3-3.

Mitofates achieved a mean ROC AUC score (sample size $n = 100$) of 0.8021, whereas the performance of the MRO predictor of NommPred was far better with a mean value of 0.9041 (paired t test: p value = 6.855×10^{-40} , Wilcoxon signed rank test: p value = ~ 0) (Table 3-3). Based on these results, MRO Predictor of NommPred is suitable for the MRO proteins.

3.4. Discussions

I succeeded in developing NommPred, the predictors for the mitochondrial and MRO proteins derived from diverse non-model organisms, except for those belonging to Metazoa, Embryophyta and Fungi. Previously, the protein sequence data derived from non-model organisms were subjected to the predictor trained only by using the data from model organisms. NommPred could resolve the problem resulted from such inconsistency between the origins of the training data (model organisms) and the input data (non-model organisms).

3.4.1. Performance comparison analysis

The results of the statistical analysis (Table 3-3) clearly supported the superiority of NommPred in the performance of predicting the mitochondrial proteins of non-model organisms when compared to the existing best method, Mitofates. In particular, NommPred is the first software that is expected to be used for predicting the MRO proteins. NommPred would be useful for the prediction of metabolic pathways relating to the mitochondria/MROs from non-model organisms, the NGS data of which can be available. Since there is no other predictor suitable for the prediction of MRO proteins, MRO predictor in NommPred is useful tool to search for putative MRO proteins.

In this study, I retrieved almost all protein sequence data whose cellular localization were experimentally verified to mitochondria/MROs from various sequence databases. However, the origins of the sequence data of mitochondrial/MRO proteins in the entire dataset (Table 3-1) are biased for those of the parasitic organisms. Therefore, taxon sampling of our dataset is still very sparse. The accumulation of more data of the mitochondrial/MRO proteins of non-model organisms, especially from the free-living ones whose localization was confirmed experimentally, is essential to further improve

627 the predictors presented in this work. I should continuously make efforts toward
628 updating the dataset to provide more accurate predictors. Although NommPred may still
629 have some problems that need to be improved in the future, I hope it will be helpful for
630 the prediction of the mitochondrial/MRO proteins of non-model organisms.
631

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