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## Molecular ecology and evolution of the porpoises

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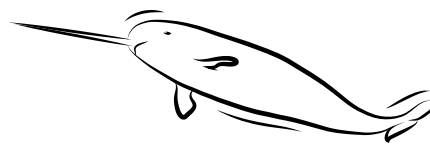
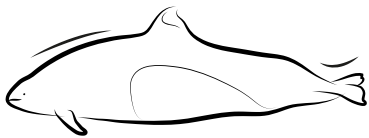
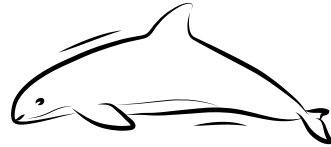
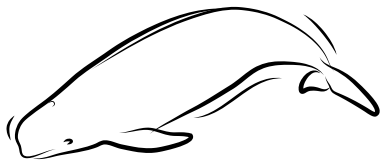
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**Vania.** Yes, I wrote your name voluntarily in purple, happy? Well, where should I start? Hum maybe baños and fenètrèèè? Bubbles onslaught? Outrageous spying? Vania the most famous person living in Groningen? Or maybe your unqualifiable musical tastes? Sorry for always refusing your food! I never meet your secret lover (Valentina). I hope Adam will never figure this out (although I'm sure he is going to read these lines. So, Hi Adam, it was super nice to have you around in Groningen). Vania, abuela, hardened climber, and Excel queen, thank you for sharing my office for all these years and for being such a good listener.

**Xênia the ripper** (Mama Xênia for the others). If you see her carrying a knife... RUNNN! Yes, I decided to cast it in stones here so that everybody knows about it. Obrigado for everything. The positive and constructive scientific talks we had, your eternal positivism, and being always here to boost the morale of anyone that crosses your path. Your impressive scientific rigor and curiosity were a real source of inspiration for me. Keep going! But don't forget our plan B (if Switzerland does not work). We will meet in Thailand (much better weather than Switzerland by the way) to train roosters and live from rooster fights. Whatever happens, we are sure to die very rich.

**Vania and Xênia.** Obviously, when you are together you form some kind of a new creature by yourself. Let's get rid of the annoying stuff first. So, I must thank you for something, you definitely expanded my cuisine/food/gastronomic vocabulary during these years. I can confirm it, brainwashing works. This being said I am really happy to have met both of you. You were one of the cornerstones of my Ph.D. journey. From all these Sunday working coffees to all these billions breaks we took (probably too many ousps). So many unforgettable moments. It was great to have you for sharing my despair and complain about everything. But seriously,

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**Pauline.** The head of the axis of evil. Ouais non en français. Donc que dire ? Hum...

\*Soupir\*. Le gâteau minion et l'ignoble couronne en papier... Ce fût une déclaration de guerre. Depuis nous évoluons tous deux dans des contrées ennemies. Je m'abstiendrai de commentaires supplémentaires. Allez j'avais être gentil. Merci d'avoir partagé ton indicible exubérance avec les gens du 3rd floor. Tu as vraiment insufflé une dynamique dans le groupe, dynamique qui s'est évanouie le jour de ton départ. Mais franchement, comment tu fais pour avoir autant d'énergie ? Surtout pour une personne du troisième âge comme toi... Le yoga c'était chouette quand même enfin surtout que ça finissait. Et ouais je dois avouer que t'es une excellente conductrice de pousse-pousse (enfin cyclo-pousse pour être plus précis). D'ailleurs si tu te lasses un jour des baleines tu sais dans quoi tu peux te reconvertir. Une promesse est une promesse donc prochain arrêt à Funchal.

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**Rosyta.** Selamat pagi if you read this in the morning and malam if it's evening. We started the Ph.D. almost at the same time and we will finish it exactly at the same time. It was really a crazy adventure. The only difference is that you did it (the Ph.D.) while working, being a mother, living 2 hours from the university, doing intense fieldwork sessions, learning Dutch, and preparing marathons. Seriously how did you do it? Do you have a magic wand that can stretch days from 24 to 50 hours? Or maybe there is something special in the insanely spicy food you like that gives you superpowers? Please share your secret with me. Thank you so much for being my friends but also for your kindness, your happiness, your positivity, and for all the nice and funny lunches we had over the years. I am also very happy that we keep talking from time to time.

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**Casey.** For your information music is not limited to Shakira, Abba, and Queen. Despite not being a real geneticist, I am sorry to inform you that I decided to finally consider you as a friend. Why? Easy, by the time you read these lines you know everything about me (my birth date, my address, and the day of my defense). So better to have you by my side... Thank you for always being nice to me despite my eternal bad-tempered mood and for correcting my English each time I asked you. I wish you a life full of mint Oreos and with some chance maybe one day you will manage to do one real push-up (with proper form).

**Lucia.** ¿Cómo te las arreglas para hablar tan rápido? I hope google translate did a great job. Thank you for being a part of my journey. Coming from the south of Spain is probably hard to carry on your shoulder. I am sorry. I guess you try to forget by being a very joyful person dreaming of running at night in Stadspark like a minion with a head torch or escaping the world to a place where you can drink mojitos with a coconut bikini while petting a baby capybara. I cannot count the number of times that we were at lunch, sitting and having these awkward long silences. People lost in their master/Ph.D. depressing thoughts. Then as soon as you arrived, with your positive energy and craziness, you broke the silence and gave life to the



gloomy two tables and to the people sitting on them. Someone should thank you for that. So here it is. To finish a wish for the well-being of the 3rd floor... I sincerely hope Marcos never gets the Karaoke game on his PlayStation!

**Fabricio.** The new superstar of the 3rd floor (after **Vania**). Bald shaming people is niet goed! Vai tomar no cu! And for your information sir, I shower, and every day. Also, man stop talking alone in the office. Seriously it's a bit awkward. I will forget about that for two reasons: 1) because you are a bash scripting MacGyver and you saved my life soooo many times and 2) because you are a very good and reliable spy! I really want to thank you for the insightful debate we had about genomics, demographic history, and molecular evolution. Thanks to you it is now one of the two research topics I wish to develop in the future. With some chance, maybe one day we will collaborate and publish papers together on these subjects.

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