

Each student will write a critique (ca. 1000 words) that summarizes and critically analyzes a recent article involving crop domestication and its origins. I have selected five articles from which you should choose **one**. All articles are available for download from our course e-reserves (listed under February 10 – Crop Domestication).

Clarke et al., 2006. Reconstructing the origins and dispersal of the Polynesian bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*). *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 23:893-900.

Guillemin et al., 2008. Genetic variation in wild and cultivated populations of the haploid-diploid red alga *Gracilaria chilensis*: How farming practices favor asexual reproduction and heterozygosity. *Evolution* 62:1500-1519.

Hughes et al., 2007. Serendipitous backyard hybridization and the origin of crops. *PNAS* 104:14389-14394.

Miller and Schaal, 2005. Domestication of a Mesoamerican cultivated fruit tree, *Spondias purpurea*. *PNAS* 102:12801-12806.

Morrell and Clegg, 2007. Genetic evidence for a second domestication of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) east of the Fertile Crescent. *PNAS* 104:3289-3294.

Your critique should be approximately 1000 words, printed, and double-spaced.

In the first section of your paper, you should explain: (i) the goals the authors set out to achieve, (ii) the methodological approach they used (generally speaking; include only those details that are essential for our understanding of the research), (iii) the results the investigators obtained (describe the most significant findings), and (iv) the conclusions the authors reached. Do not simply rephrase the Abstract, nor should you consult popular science “digests” of the selected articles.

In the second section of the paper, you should critically assess the article by addressing the following questions. (i) Was the problem interesting and worthwhile? (ii) Were the results clearly presented and/or conclusive? (iii) Were the authors' conclusions supported by their data?

I encourage you to contact me during office hours (or by appt.) if you have questions about the scientific content of the article you selected. Critiques are due in a box outside my office (McGuire Life Sciences Rm. 139) by **5pm on Monday March 2**.