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# Gene drive modified insects: hopes, fears, gene drive systems and the problem formulation concept

Fred Gould

North Carolina State University

# Outline

- 1) Hopes and Fears
- 2) Types of gene drive systems
- 3) Mechanisms behind unrestricted drives
- 4) Mechanisms behind spatially restricted drives
- 5) Problem formulation

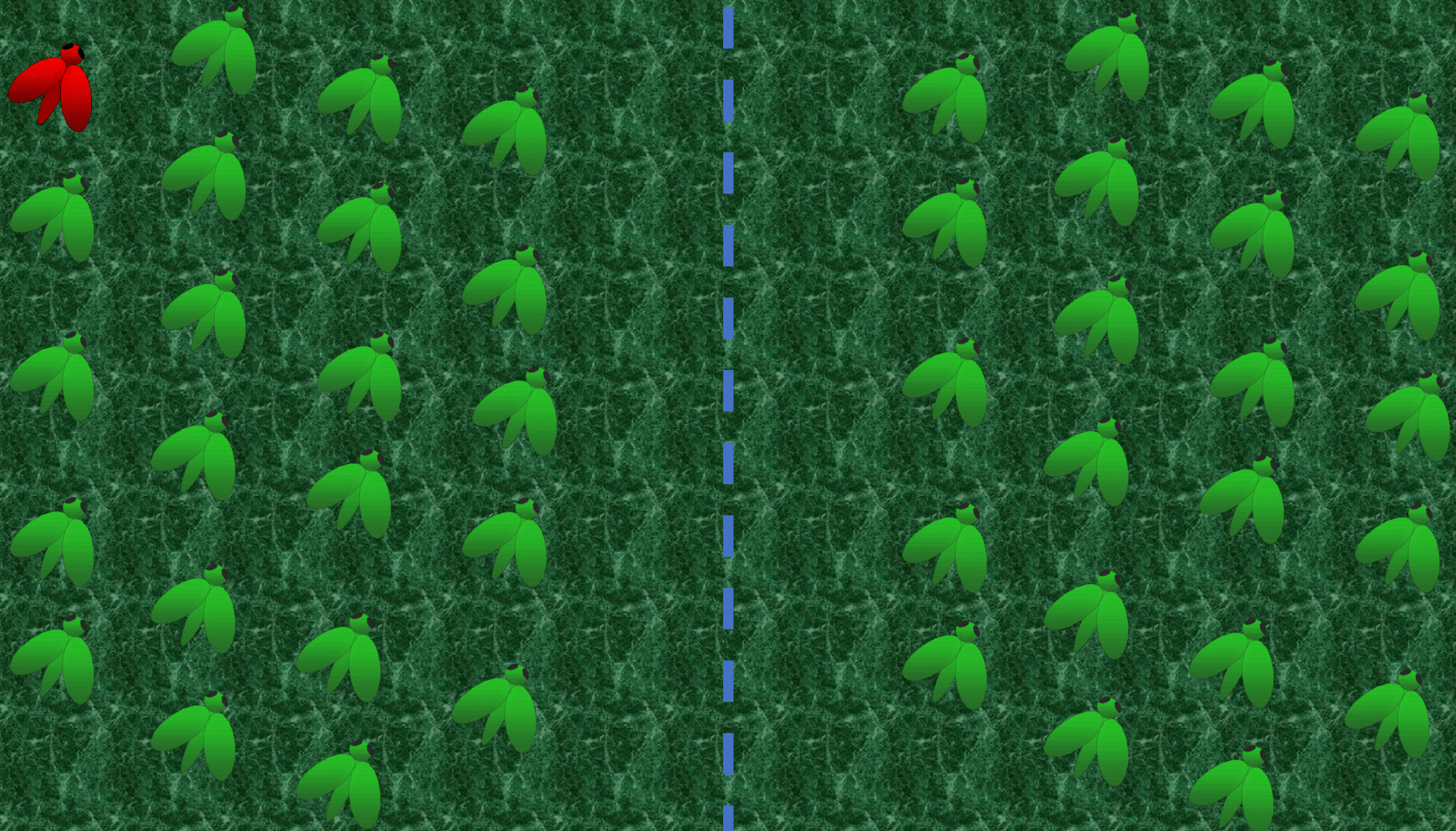
# Outline

- 1) Hopes and Fears
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Population A

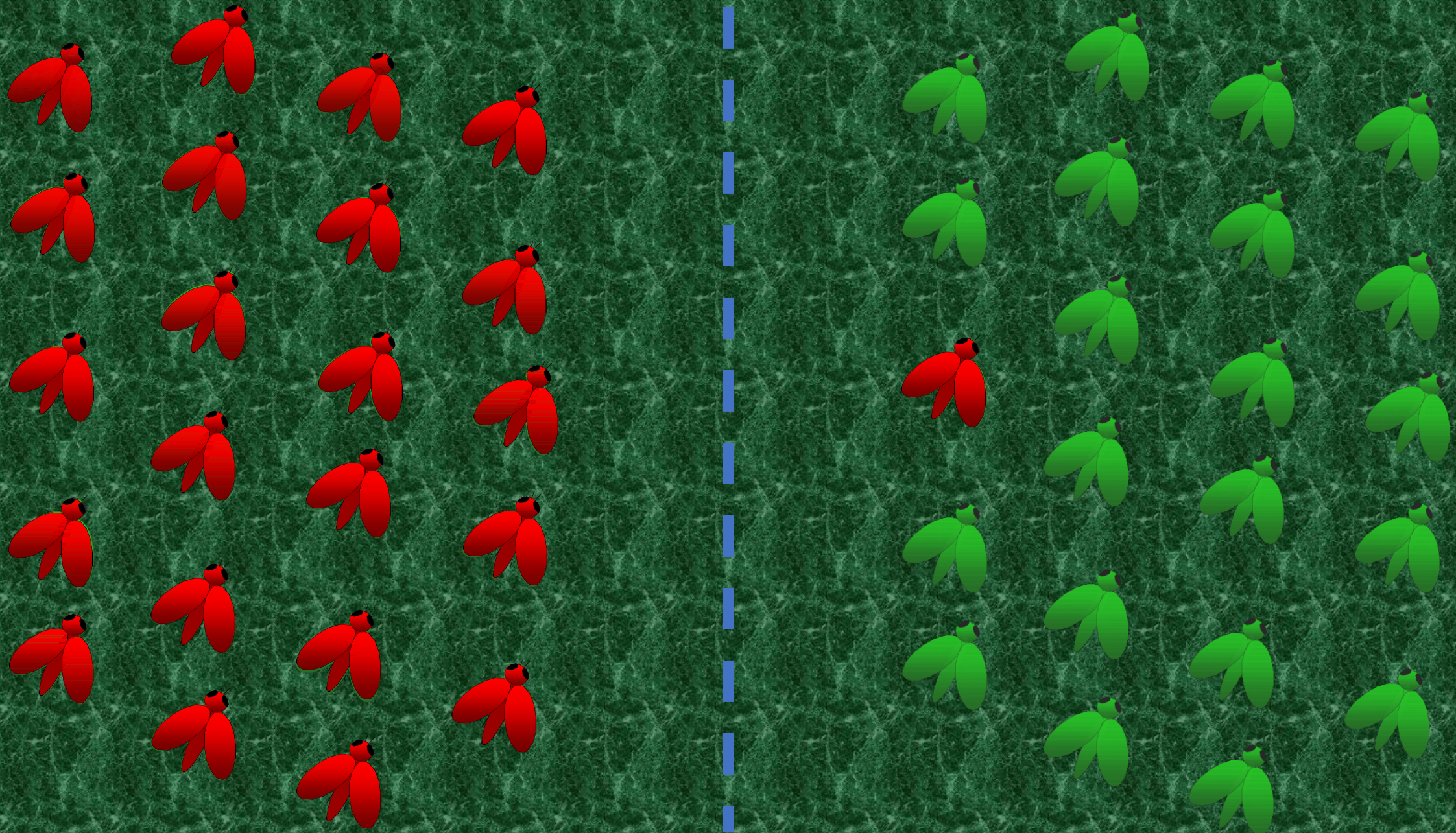
Unrestricted Gene Drive

Population B

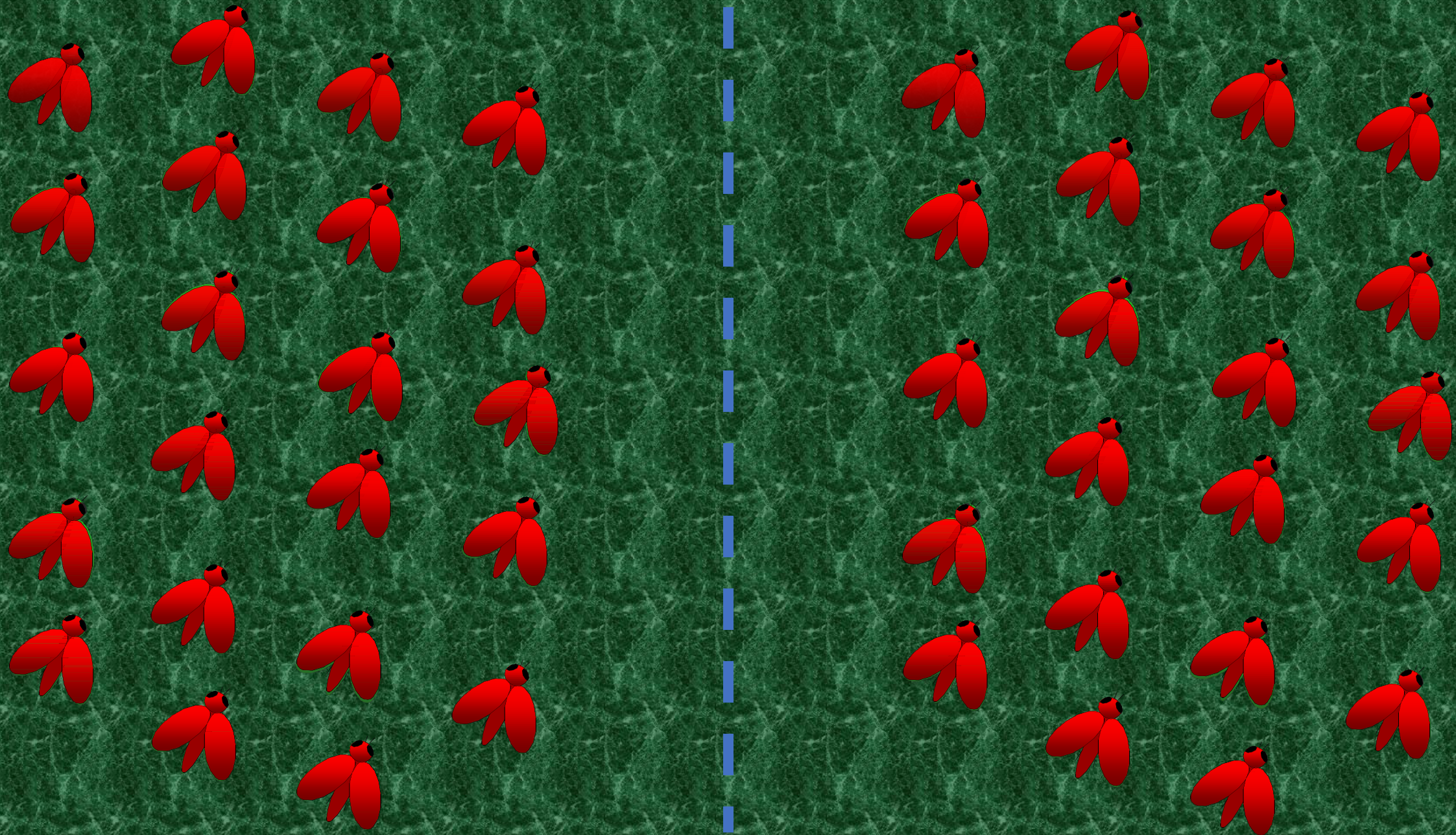




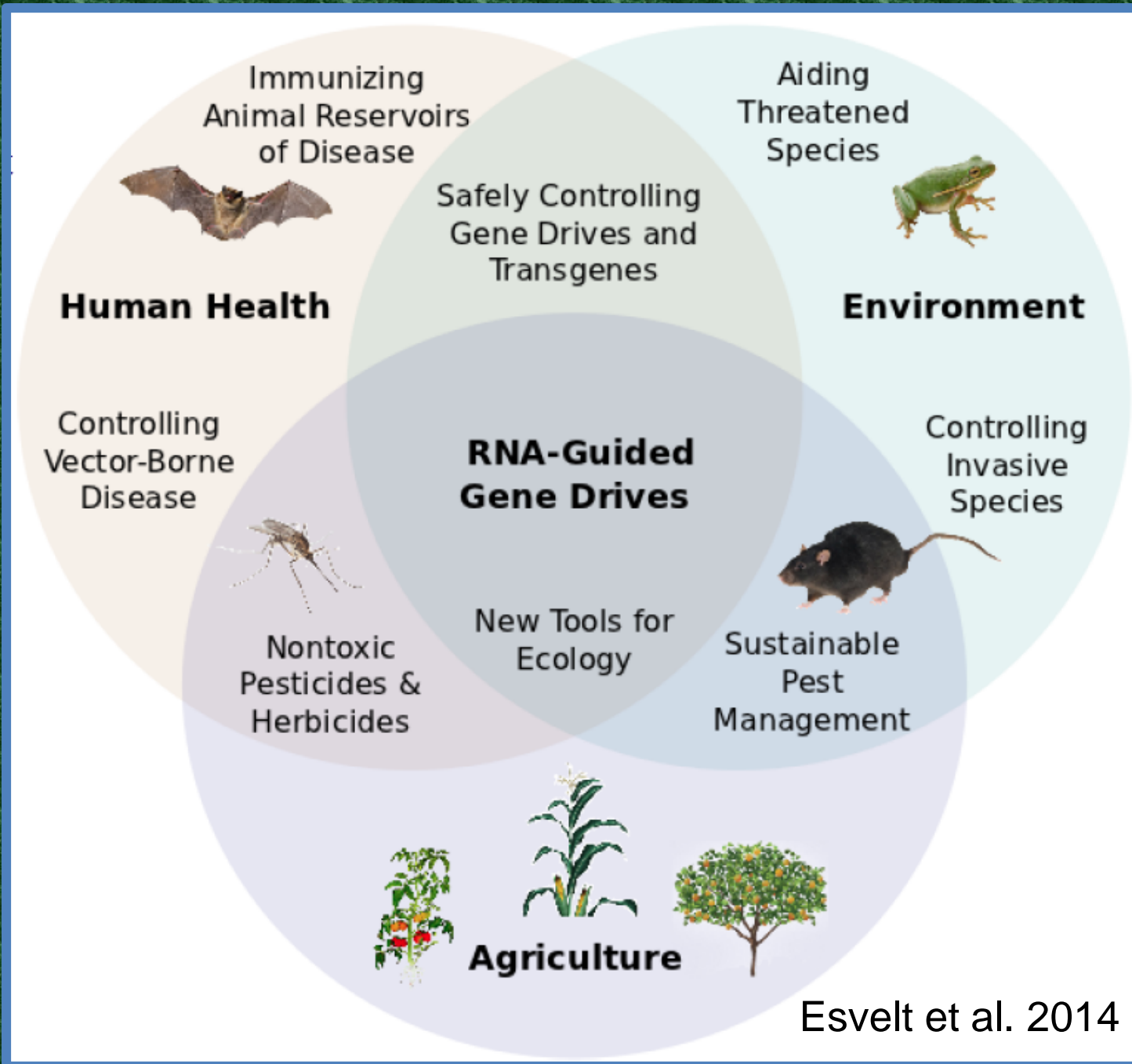
# Unrestricted Gene Drive



# Unrestricted Gene Drive



# A Multitude of Hopes





# Malaria

**435,000** Deaths

**219,000,000** Cases

**\$ 3.1 Billion** Cost (US)





# Malaria

**435,000** Deaths

**219,000,000** Cases

**\$ 3.1 Billion** Cost (US)

**TARGET**  
**MALARIA**



A Vector Control Research Alliance



# The Fears

- 1) Ecosystem disruption
- 2) Resurgence
- 3) Others

**TARGET**  
**MALARIA**   
A Vector Control Research Alliance

# Hopes

**Eradicate Invasives**



**75%**

Of bird, amphibian,  
mammal,  
and reptile extinctions

# Hopes

## Eradicate Invasives



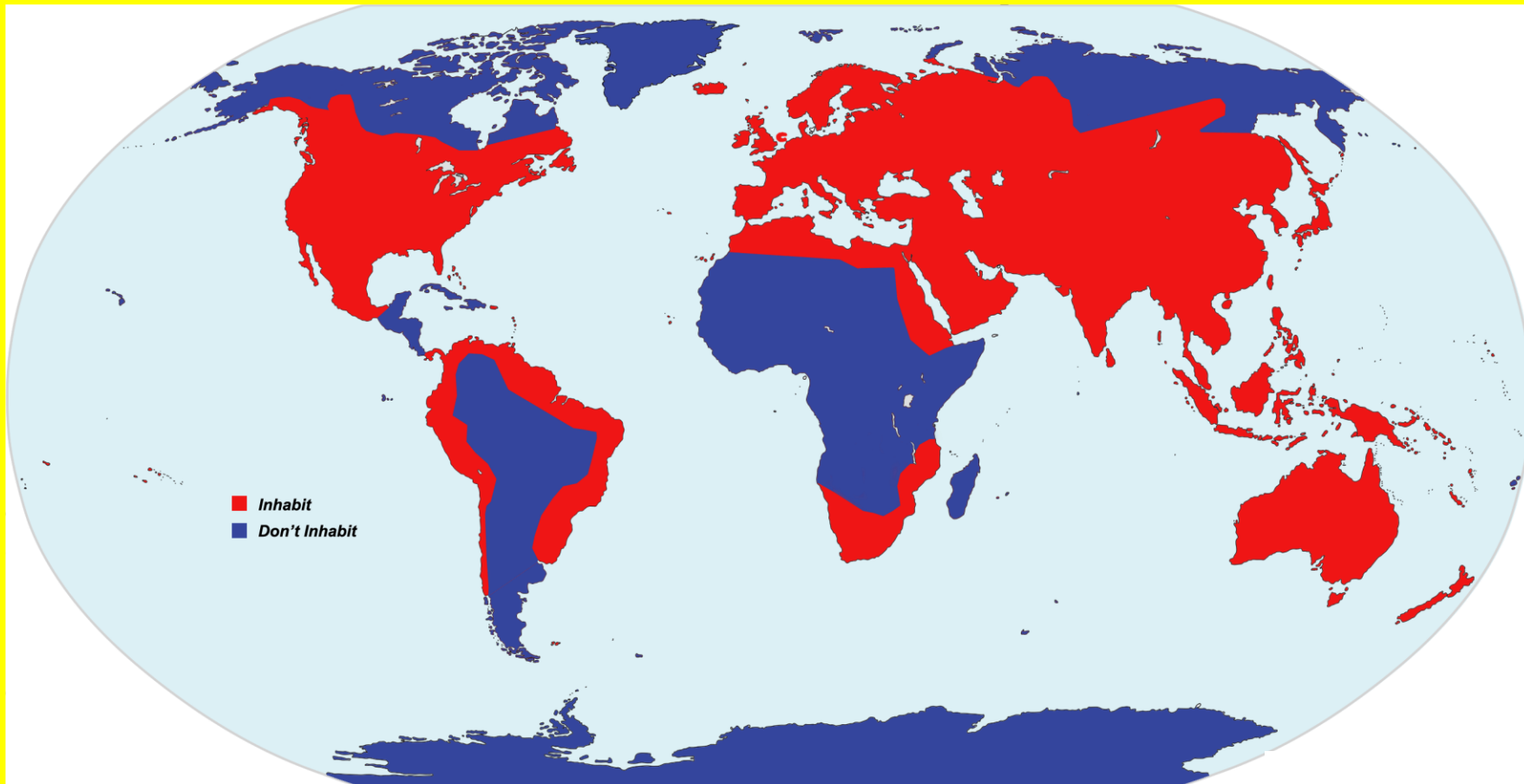
Of bird, amphibian,  
mammal,  
and reptile extinctions





# The Fear

## Global House Mouse Distribution



# Outline

- 1) Hopes and Fears
- 2) Types of gene drive systems
- 3) Mechanisms behind unrestricted drives
- 4) Mechanisms behind spatially restricted drives
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# Spread Characteristic

Unrestricted  
Spread

Spatially  
Restricted Spread

Temporally  
Restricted Spread

Impact on Population

Replacement  
Suppression


# Spread Characteristic

Unrestricted  
Spread

Spatially  
Restricted Spread

Temporally  
Restricted Spread

Impact on Population

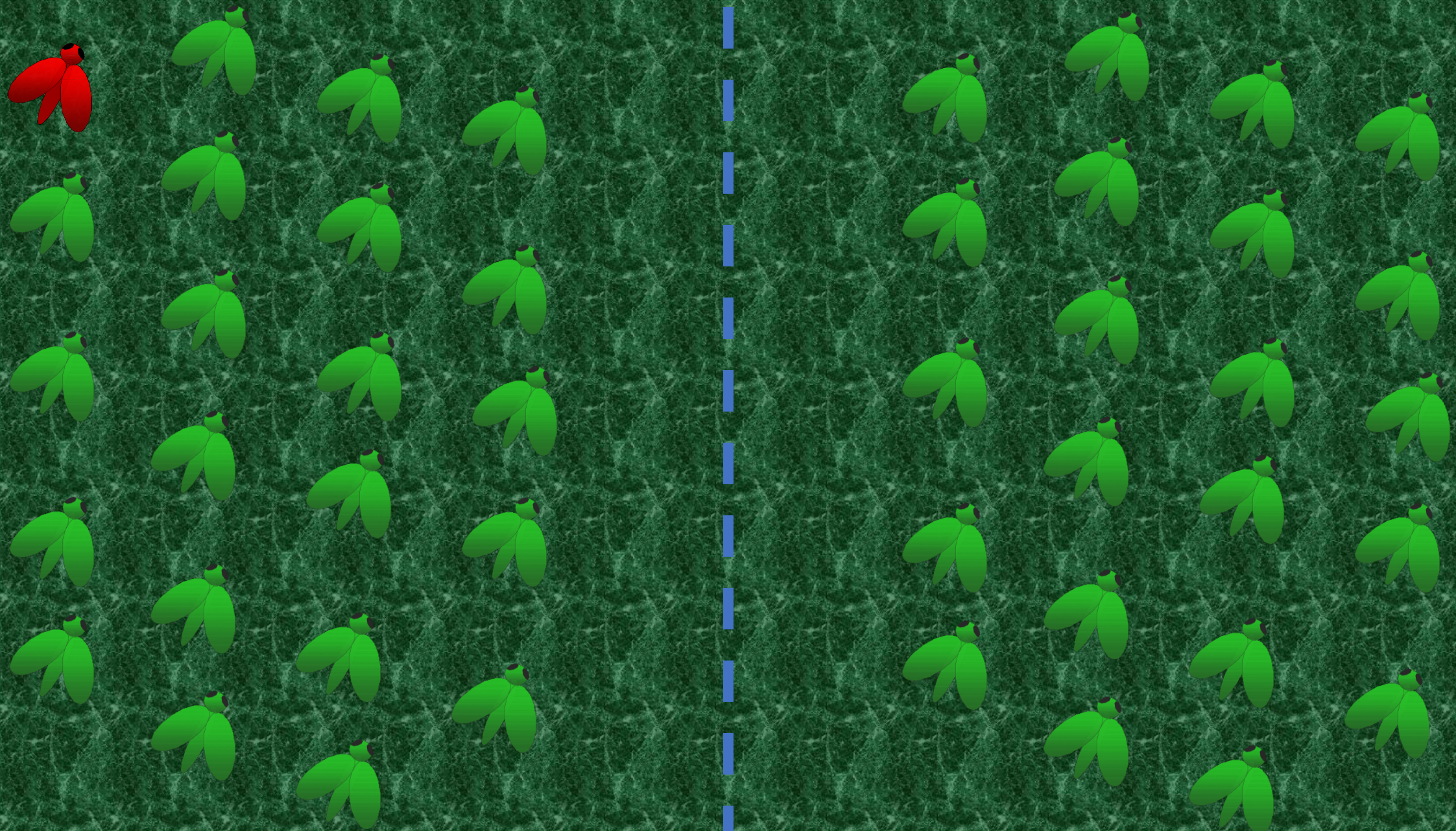
Replacement  
Suppression



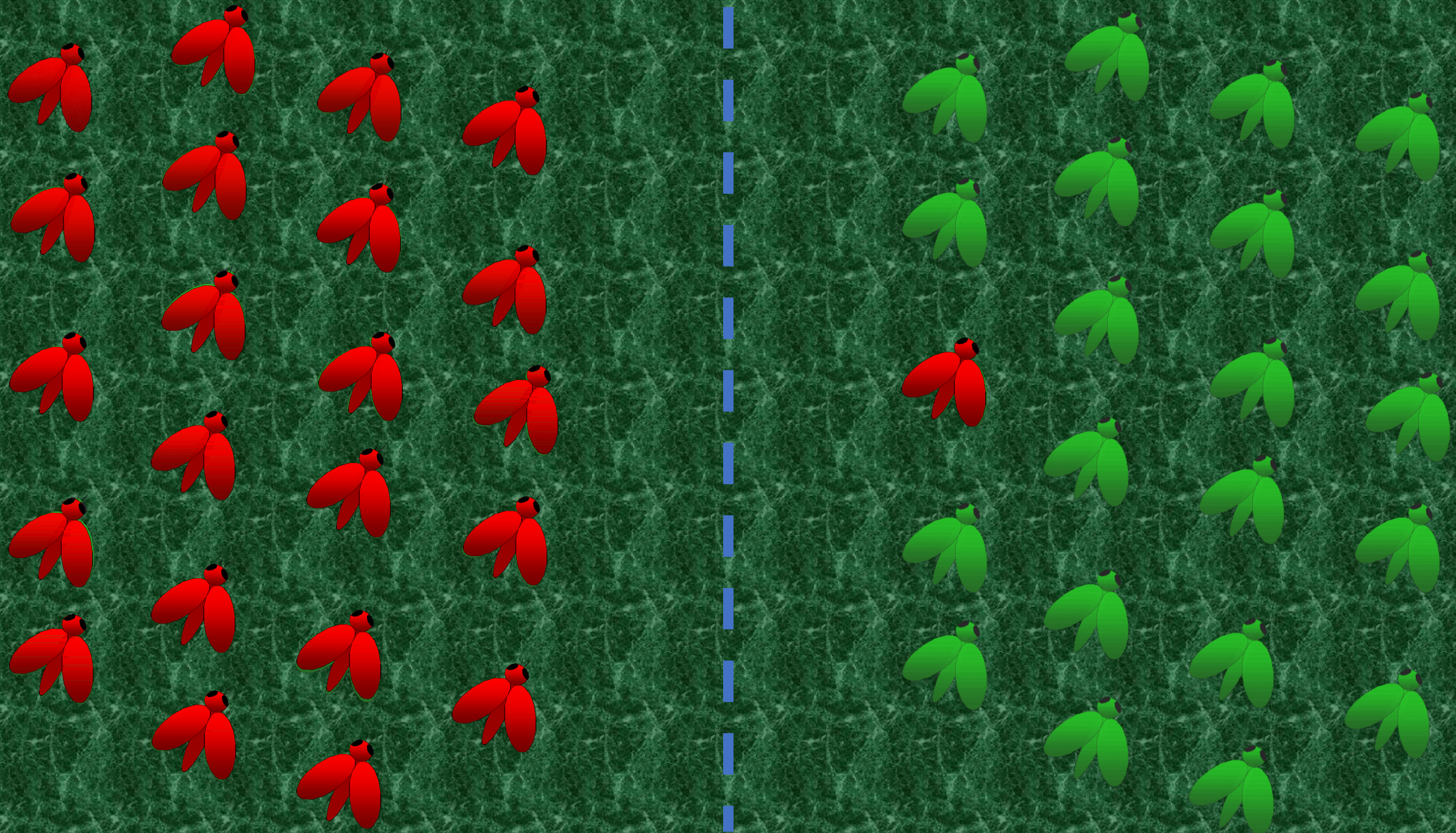

Population A

Unrestricted Gene Drive

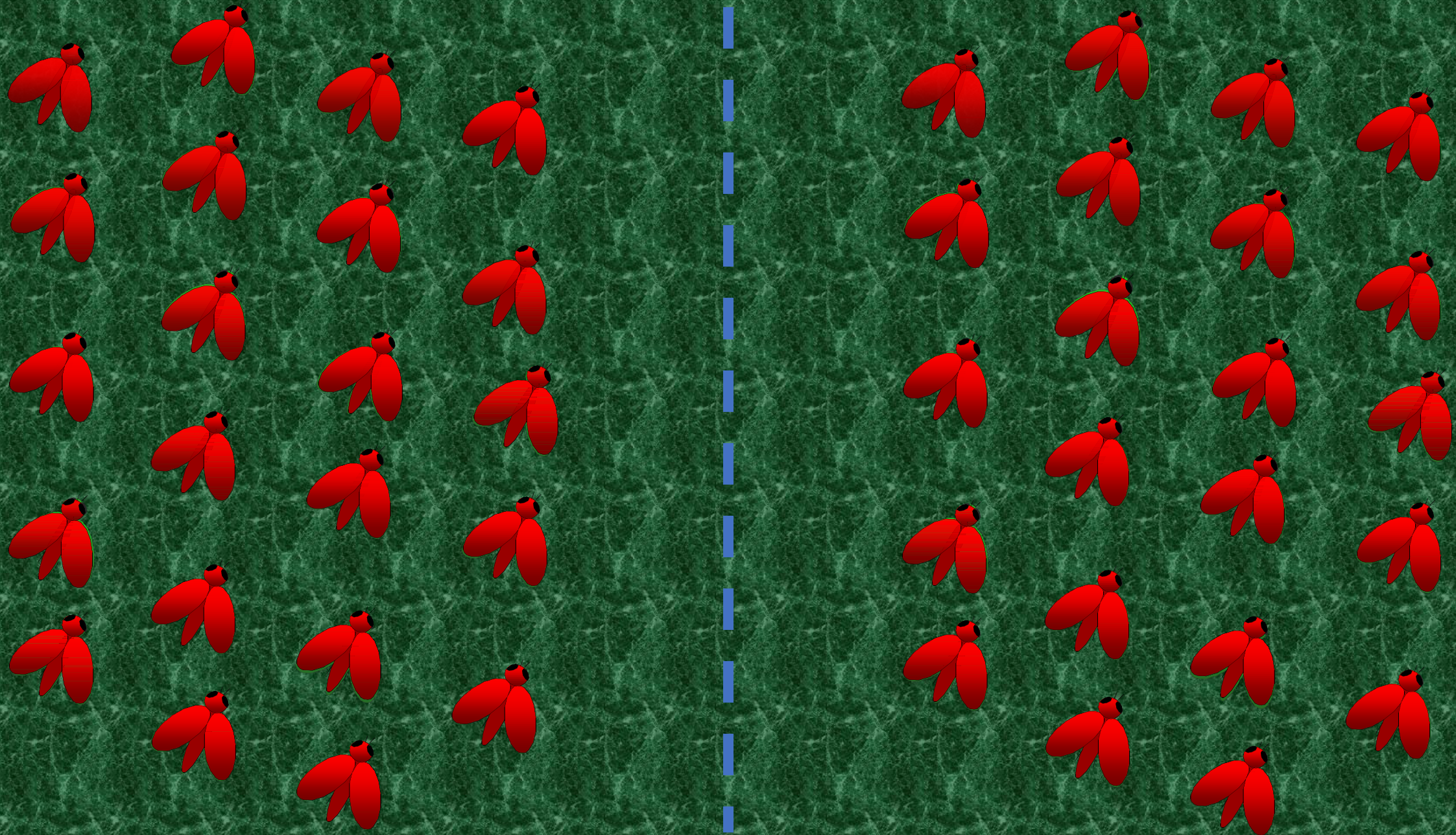
Population B



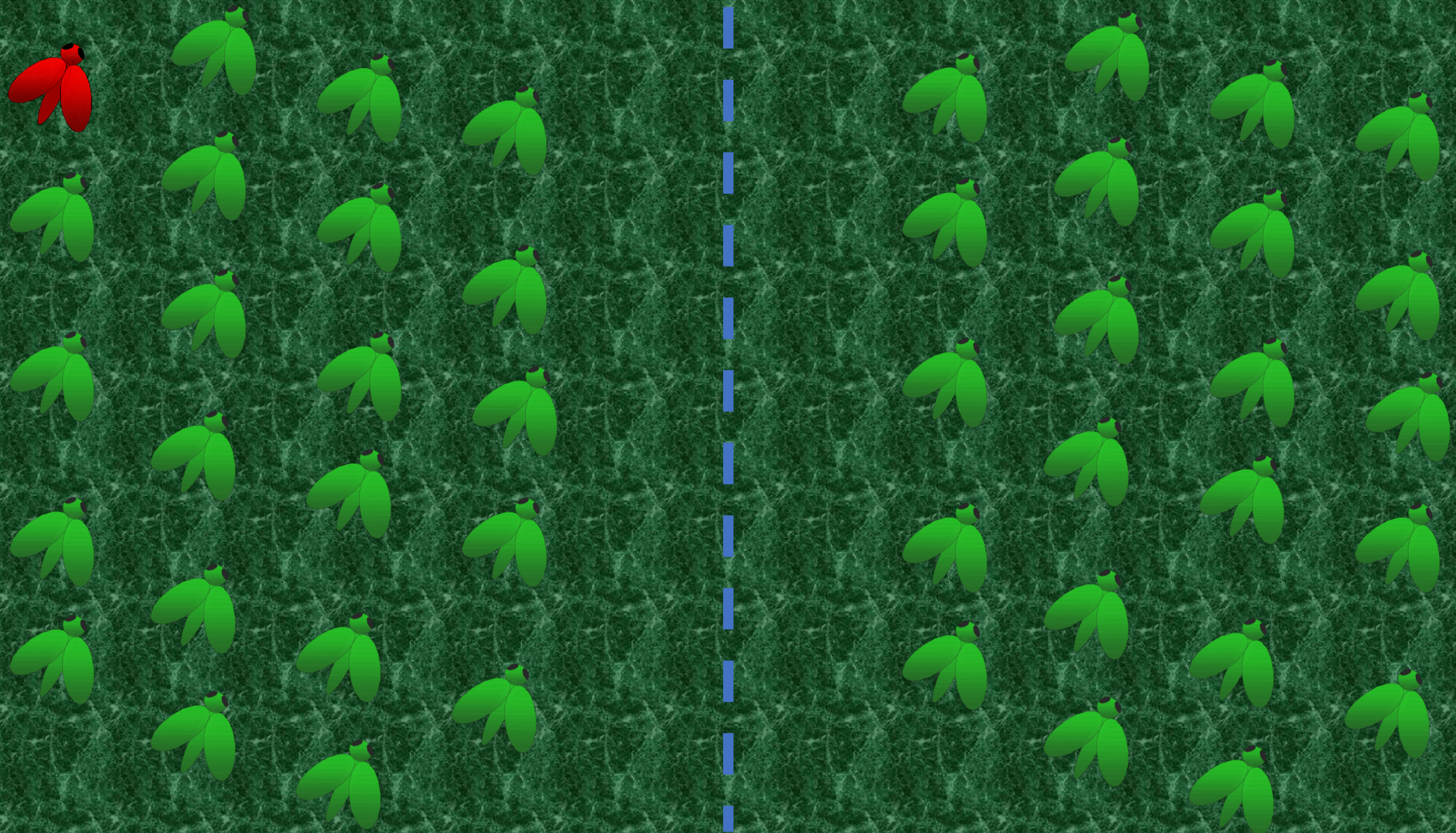
# Unrestricted Gene Drive



# Unrestricted Gene Drive

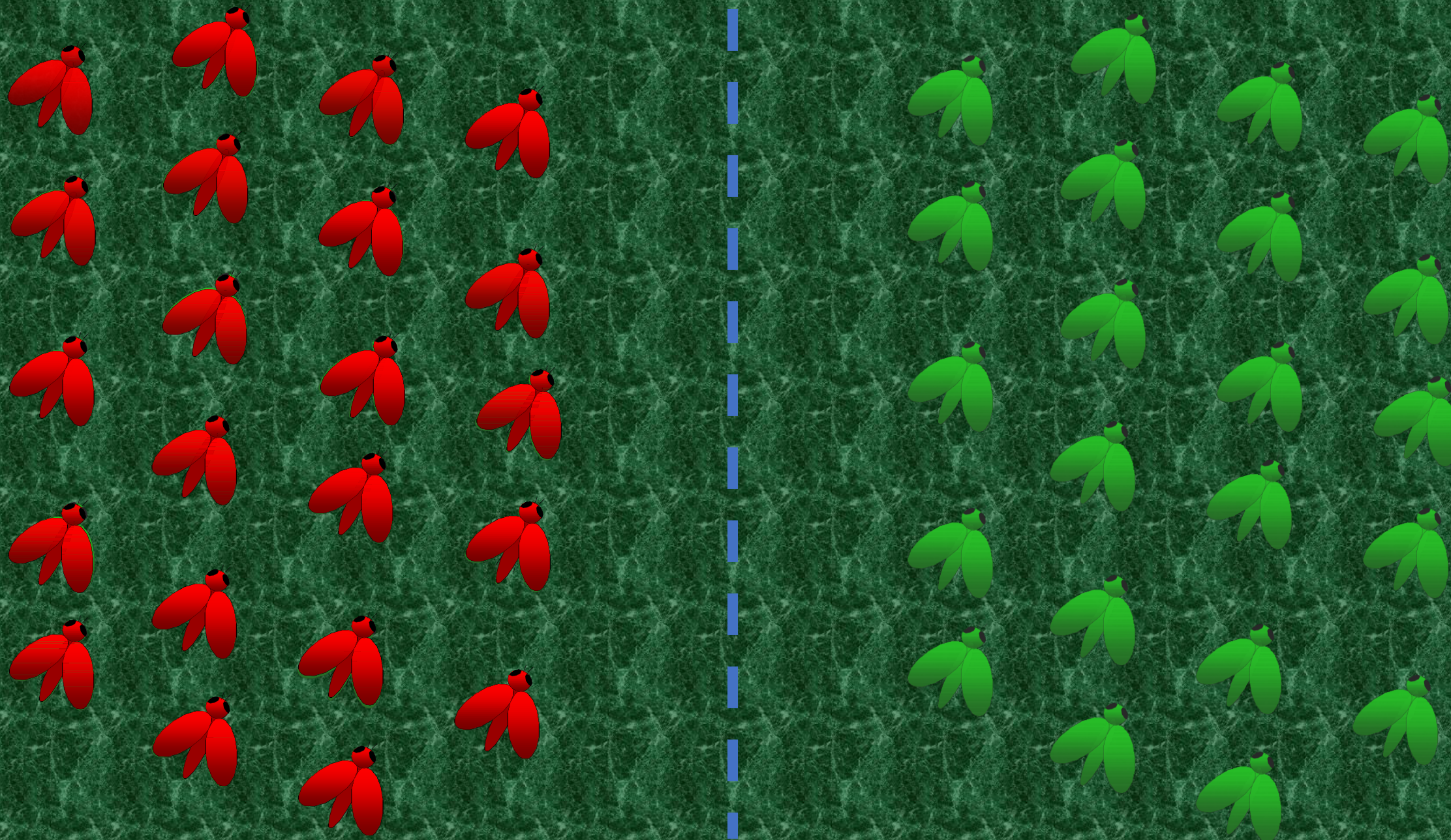


# Spatially Restricted Gene Drive



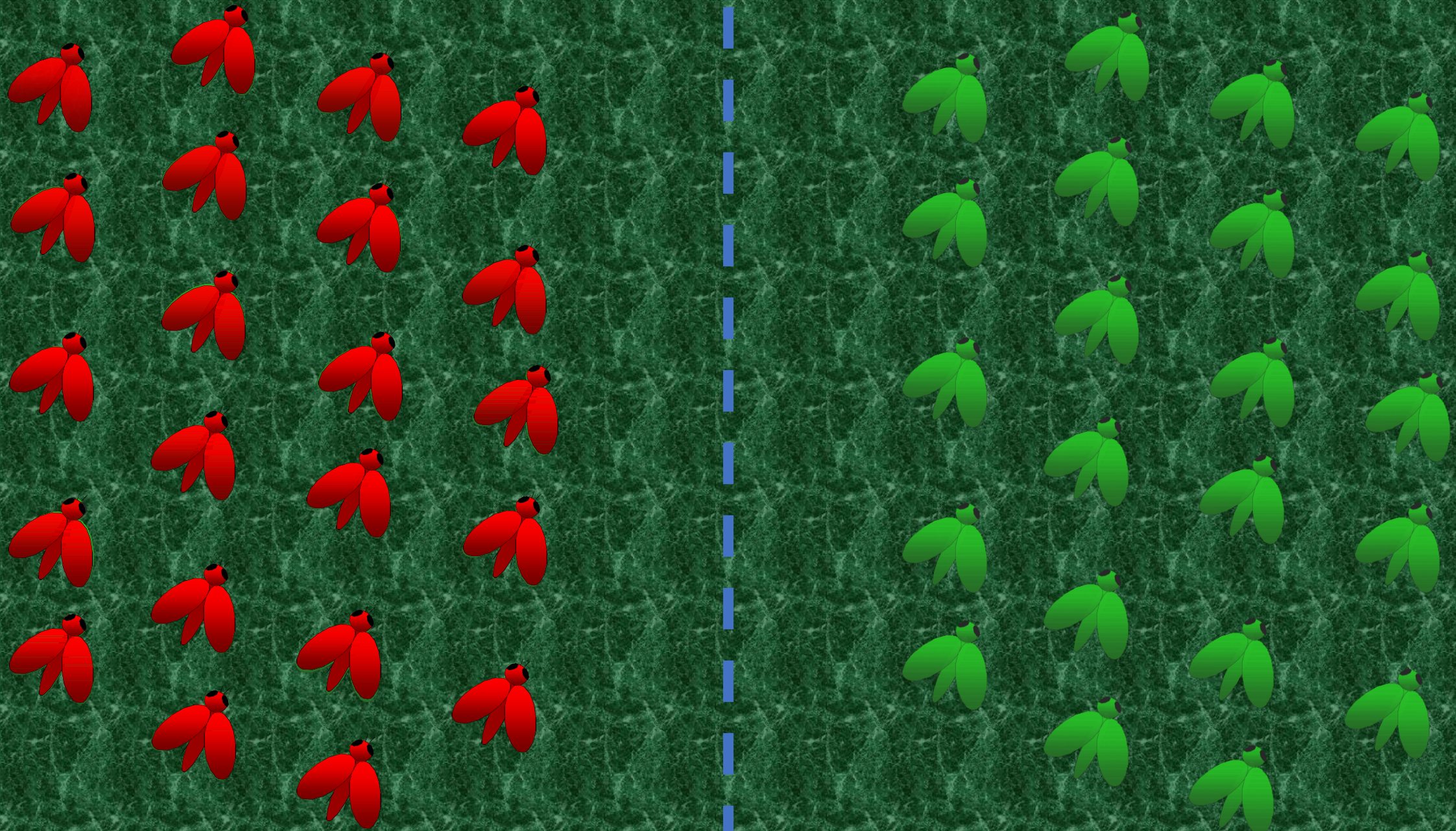


# Spatially Restricted Gene Drive

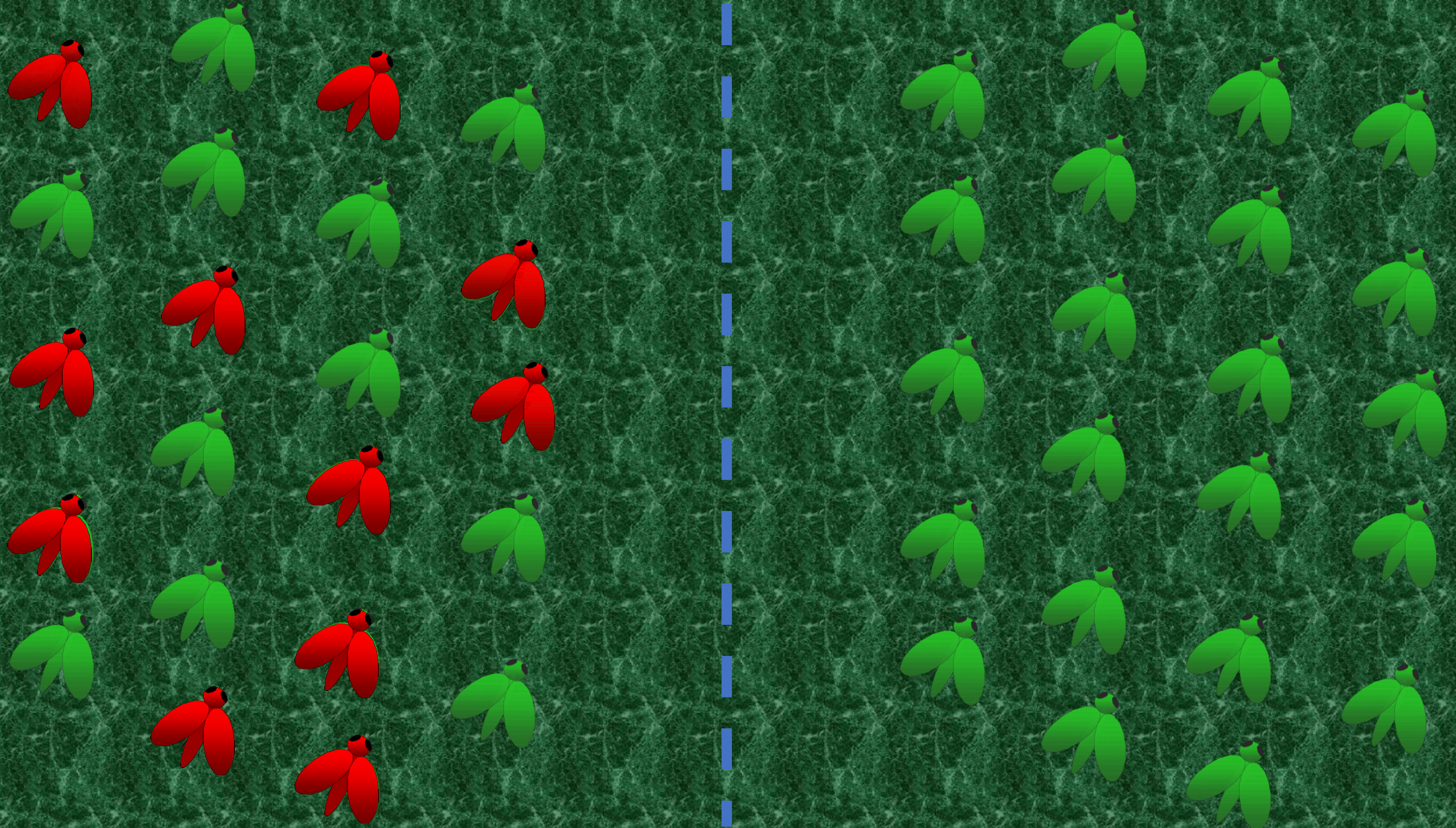




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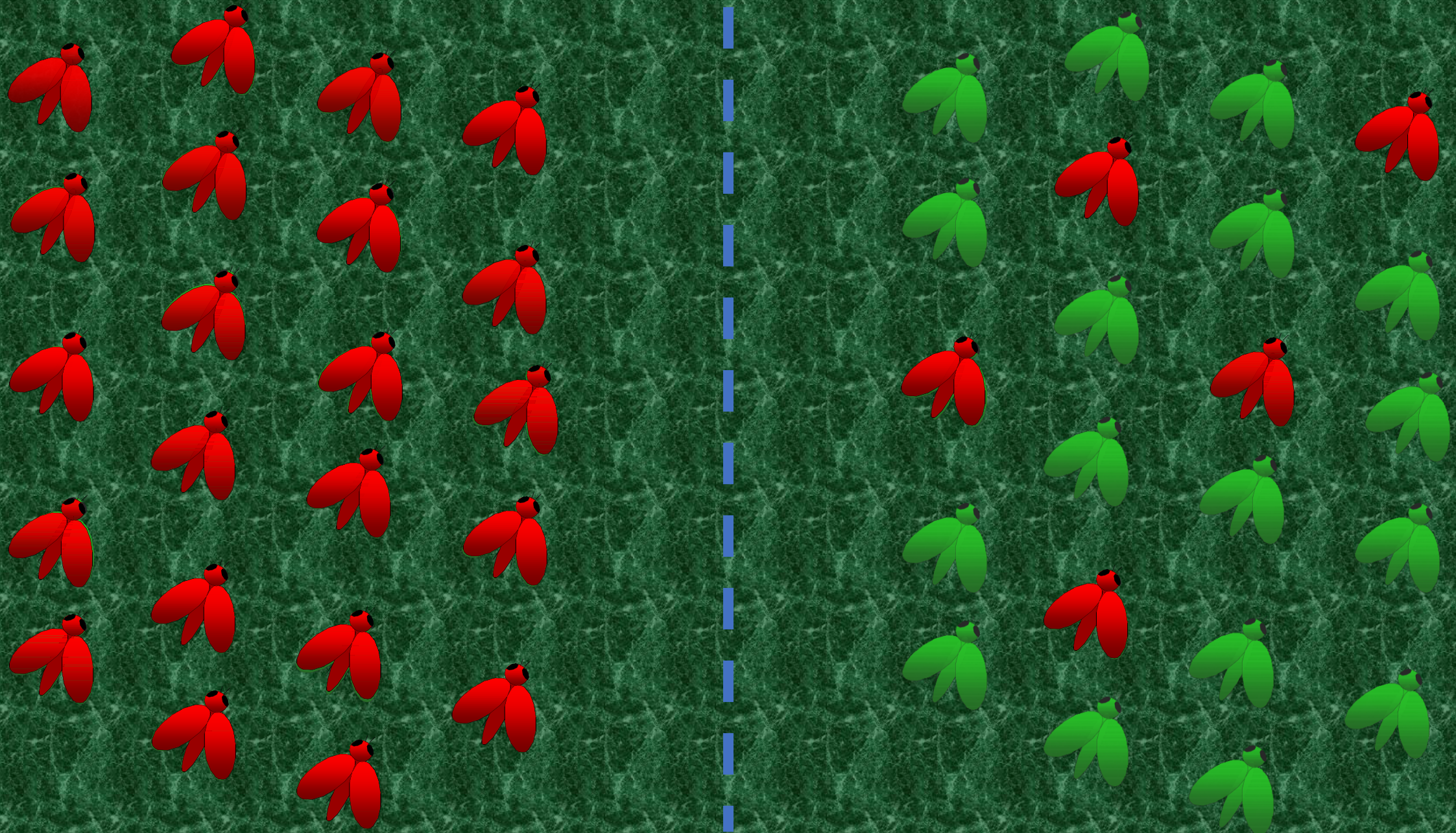


# Temporally Restricted Gene Drive

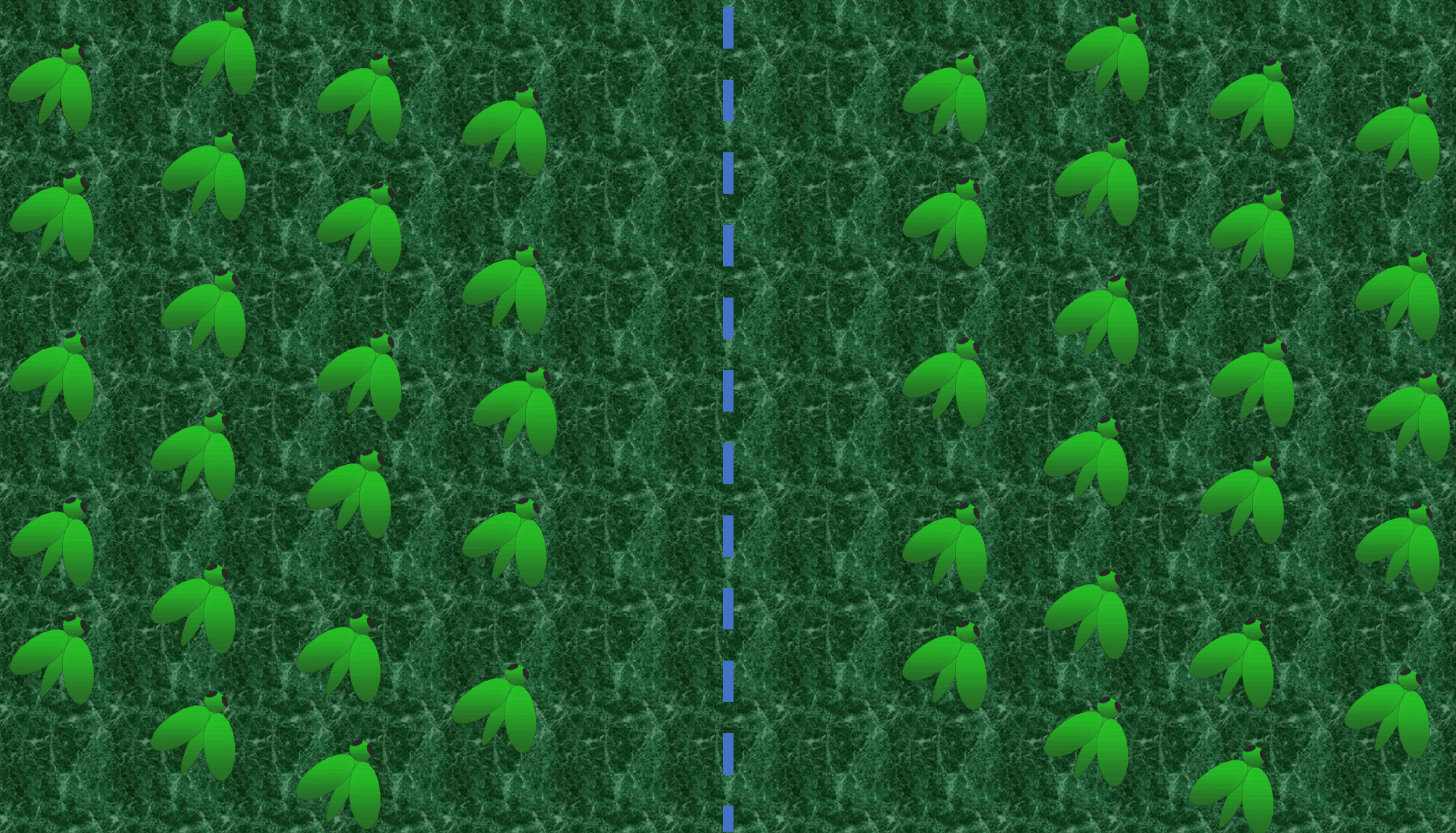




# Threshold Restricted Gene Drive



# Temporally Restricted Gene Drive



# Spread Characteristic

Unrestricted  
Spread

Spatially  
Restricted Spread

Temporally  
Restricted Spread

Suppression

Replacement


Impact on Population

# Replacement

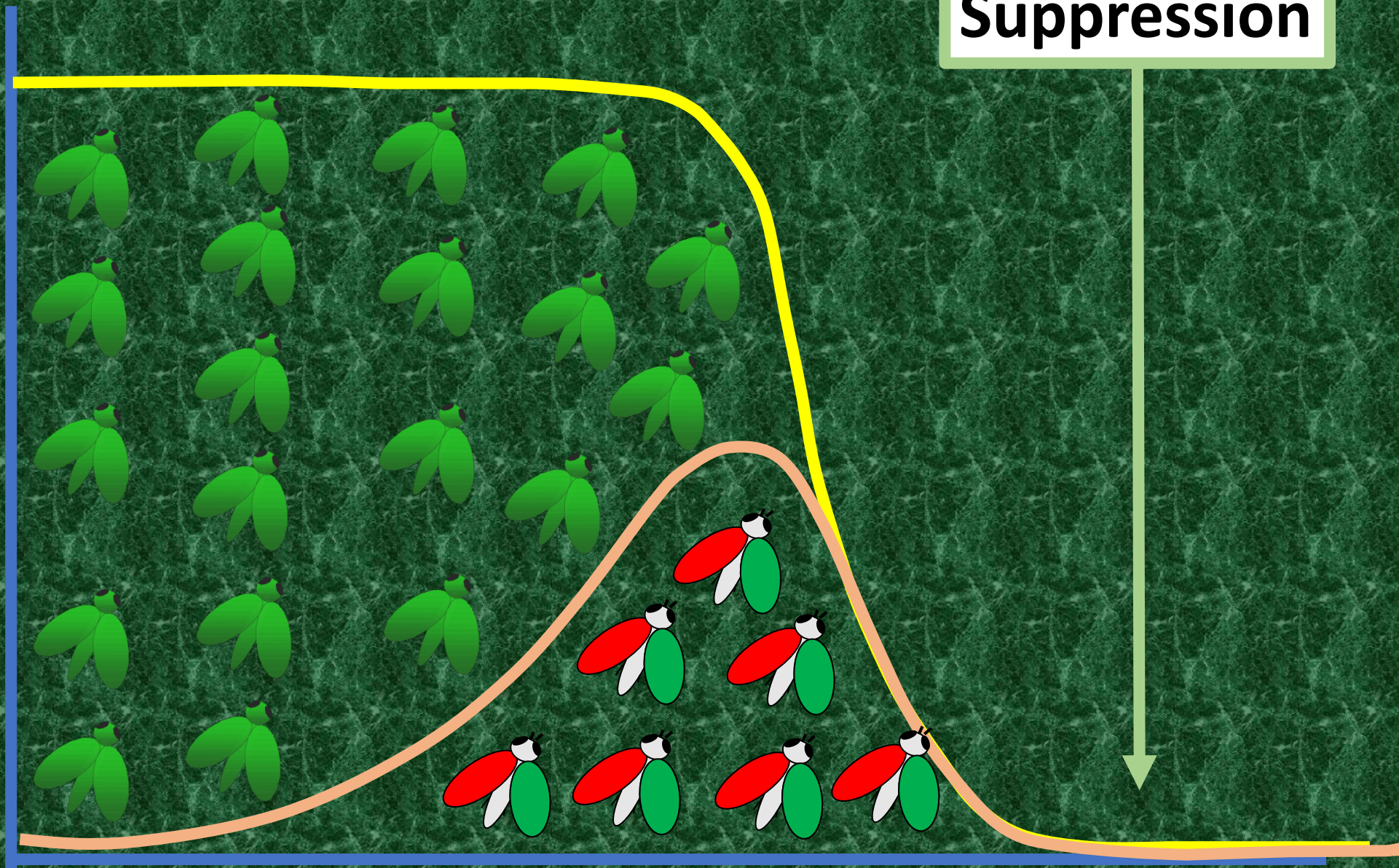
Number of Individuals



Time



Number of Individuals

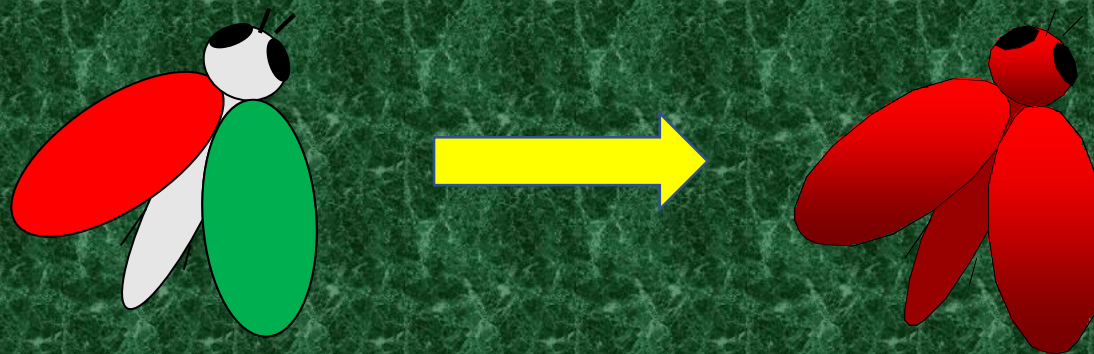


Suppression

Time

# **The Mechanism Behind the Magic**

# The Mechanism Behind the Magic



# **The Mechanism Behind the Magic**

**Spatially Unrestricted Gene Drives**

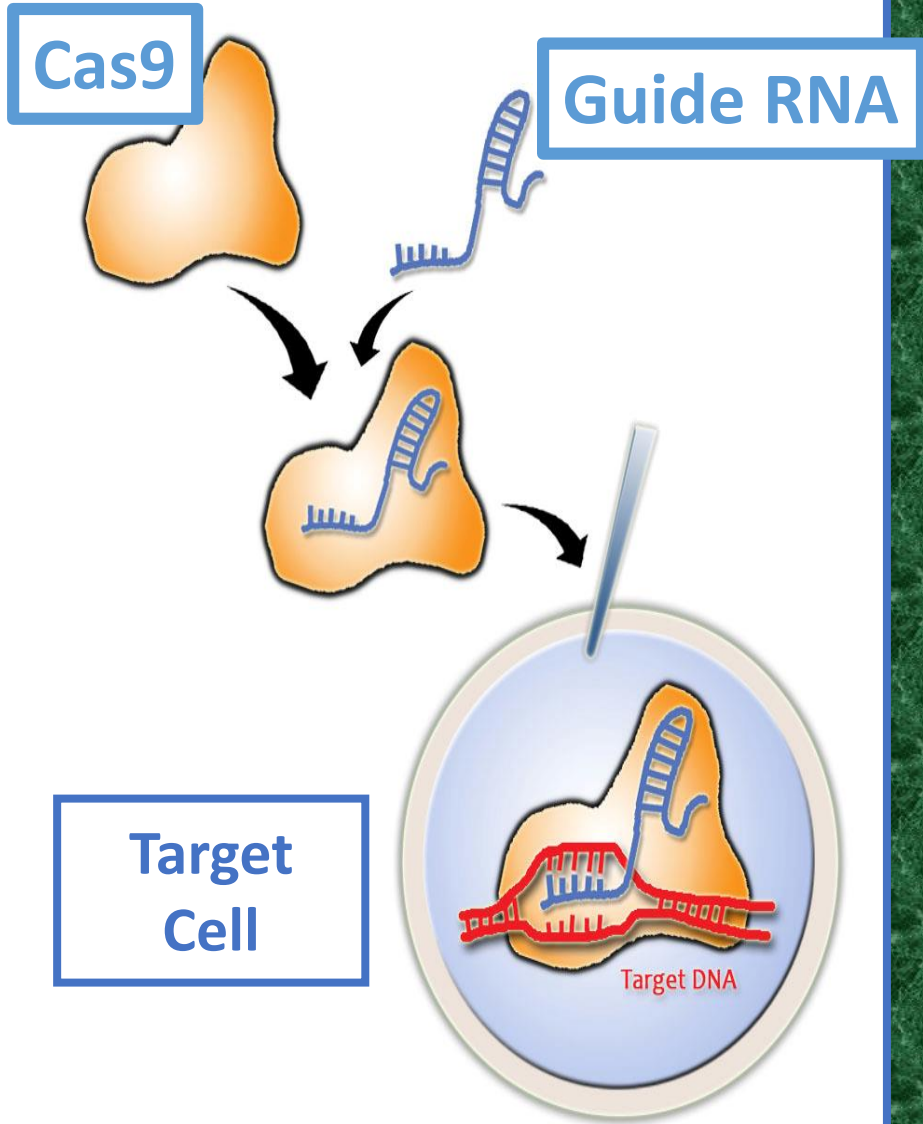


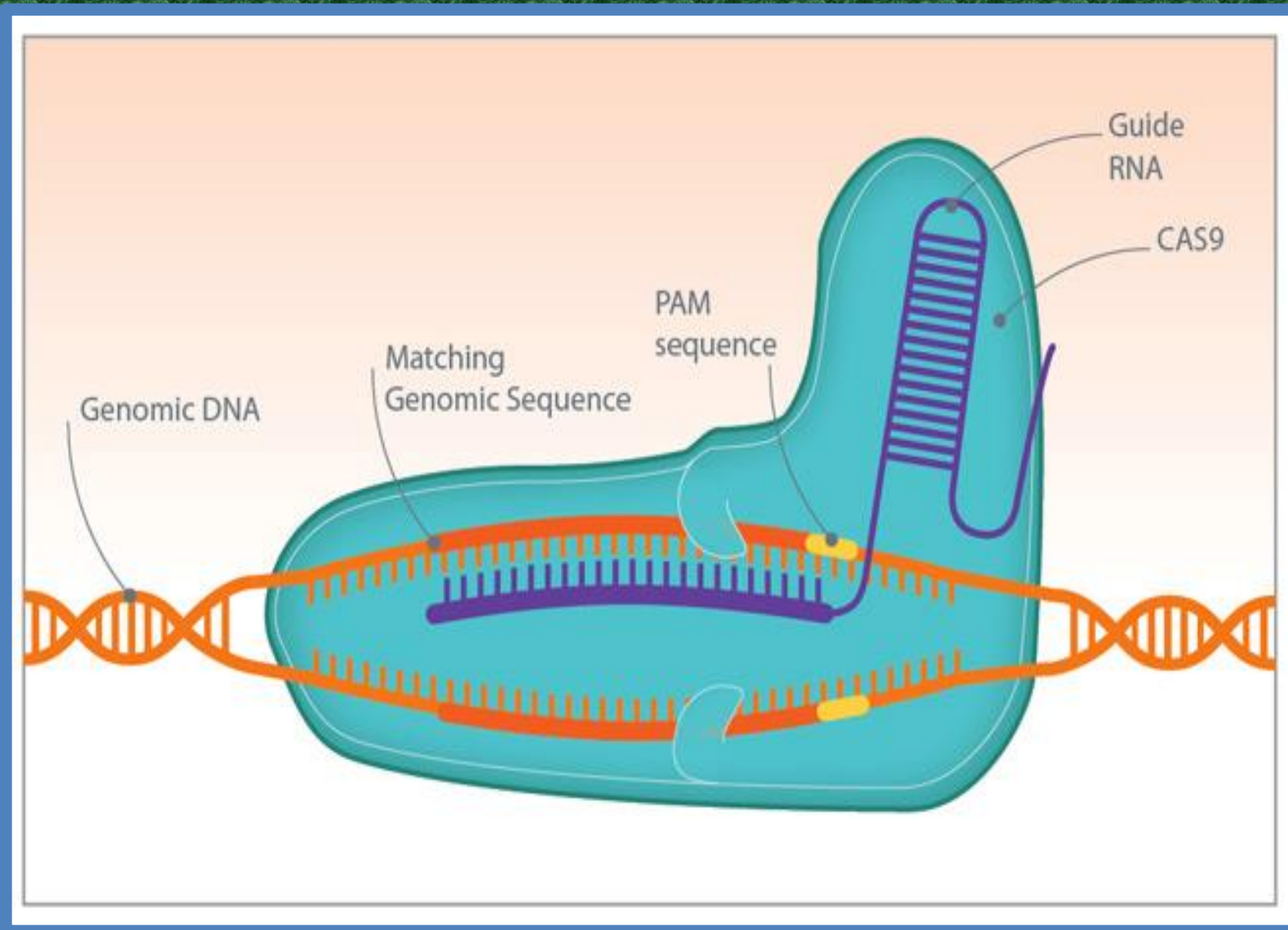
**CRISPR for Crop Breeding**



**CRISPR for Gene Drive**

# CRISPR/Cas9





**Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)**

**Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)**



## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)

## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)





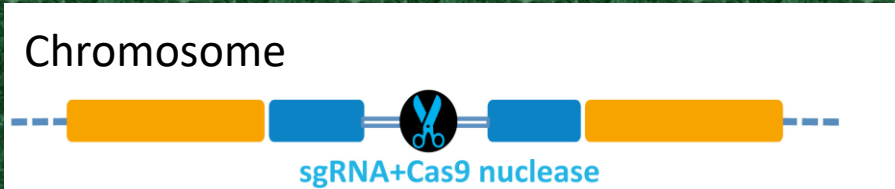
## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)

Chromosome



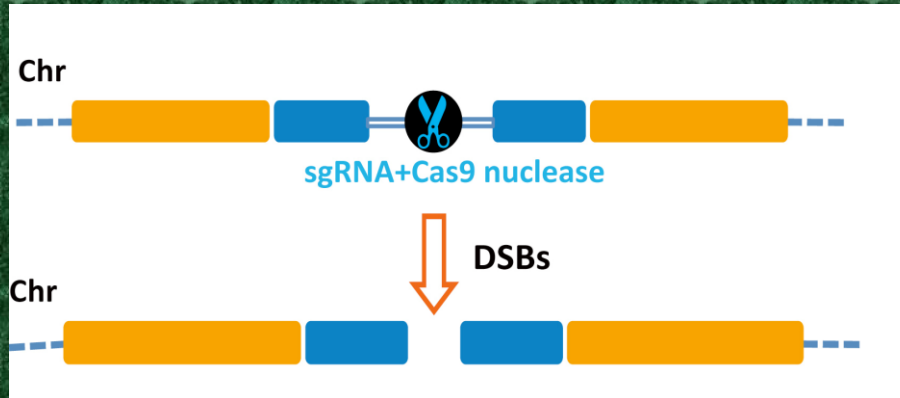
## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)

## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)



## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)

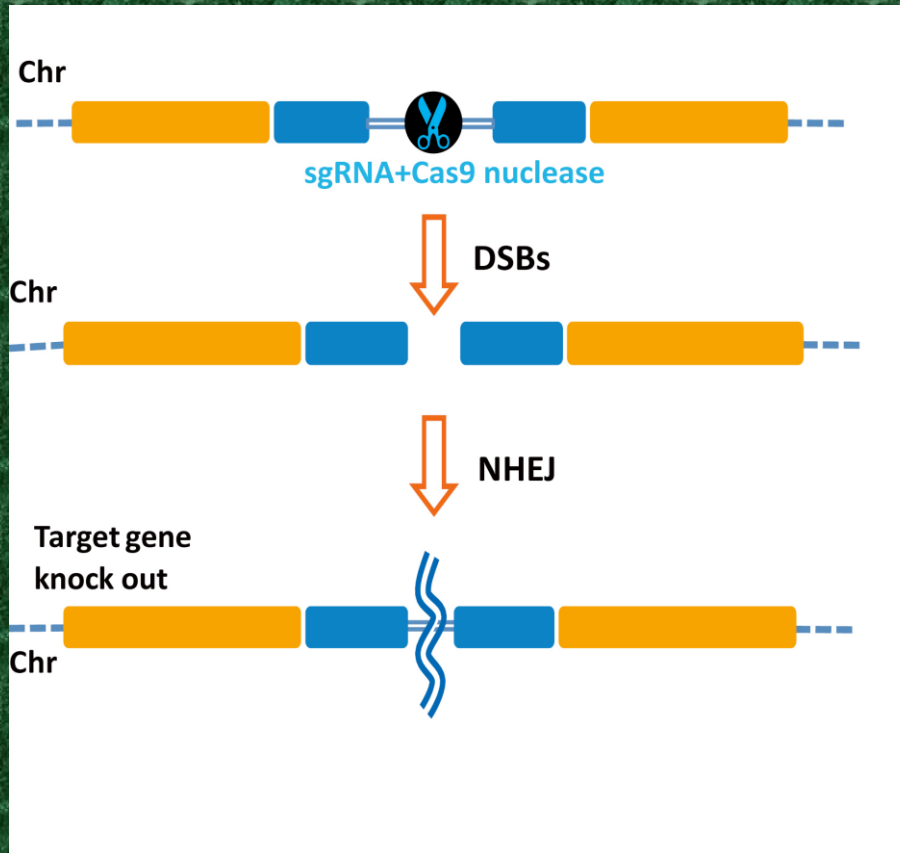
## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)



## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)



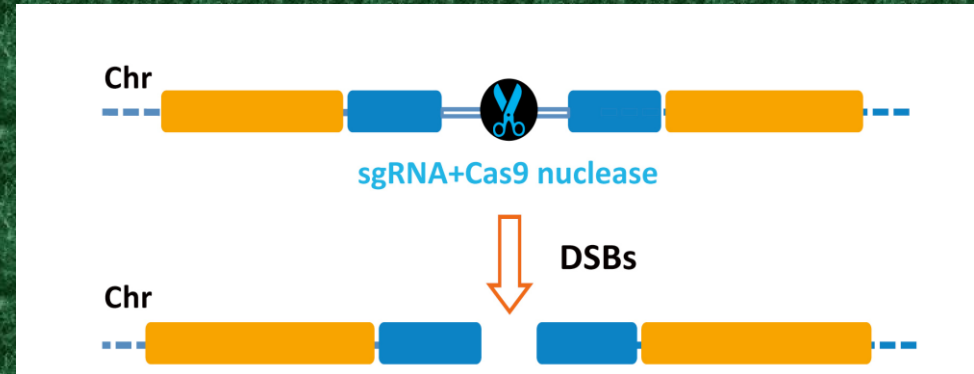
## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)



## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)

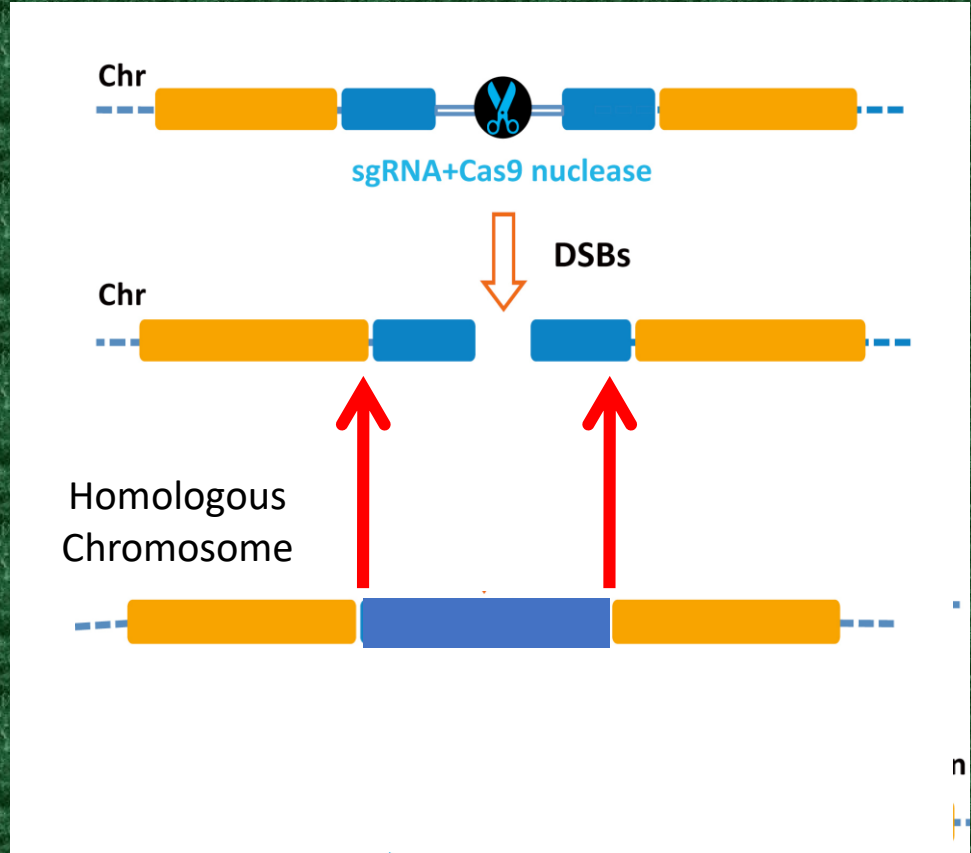
## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)

## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)



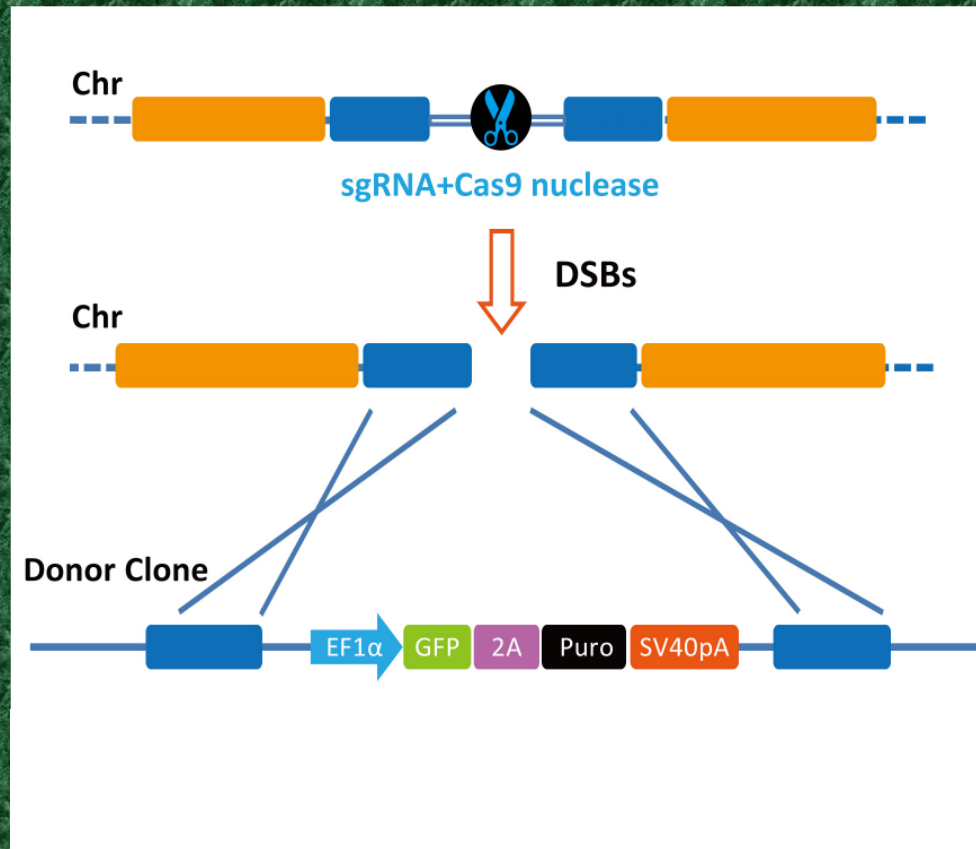
## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)

## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)



## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)

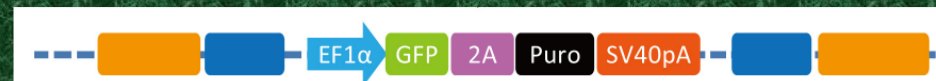
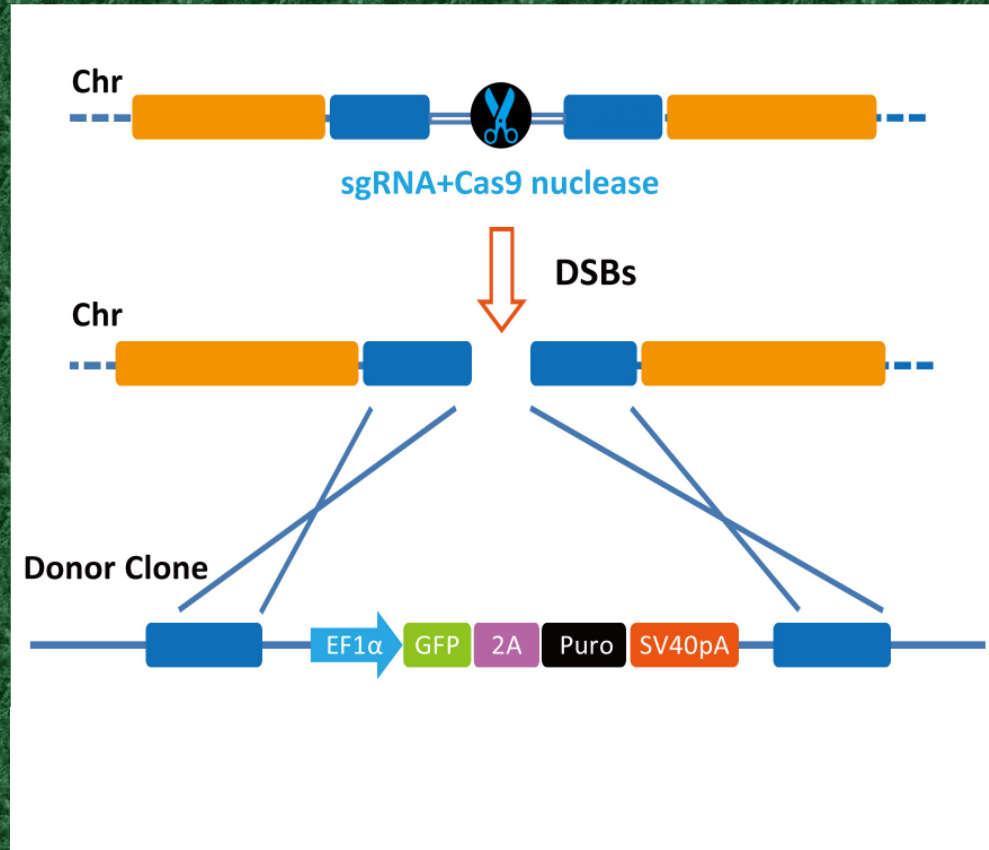
## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)





## Non-Homologous End-Joining (NHEJ)

## Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)



**Chromosome  
segment with  
target sequence**



**Chromosome  
segment with  
target sequence**



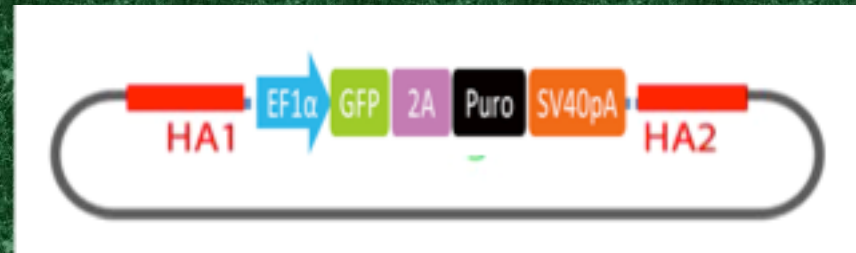
**Plasmid with  
desired gene**



**Chromosome  
segment with  
target sequence**

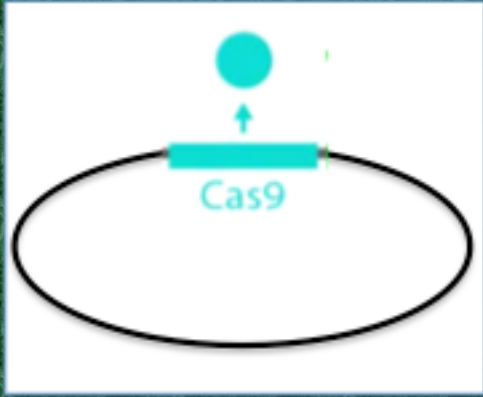
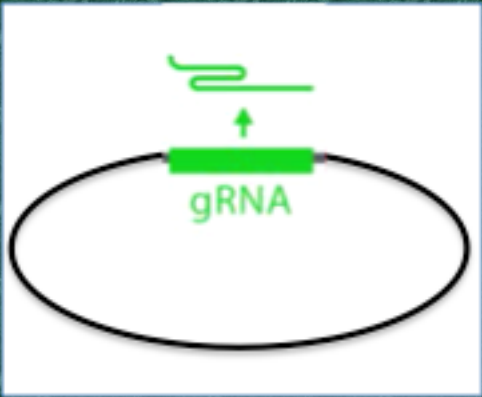


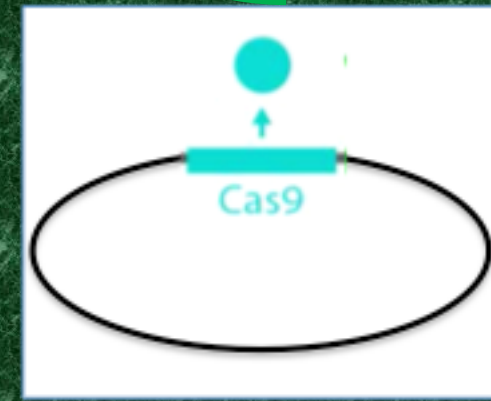
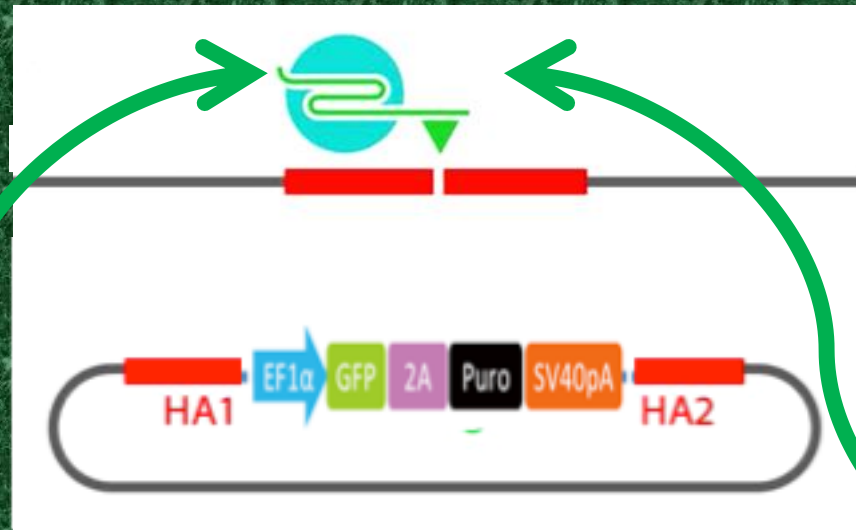
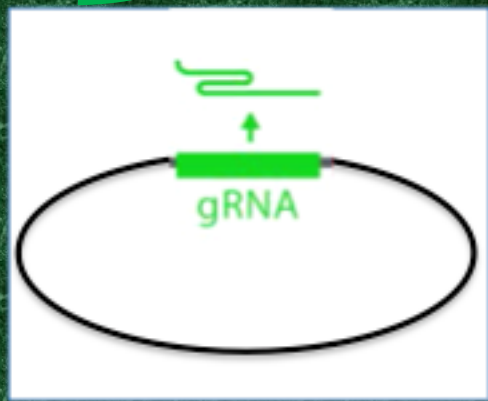
**Plasmid with  
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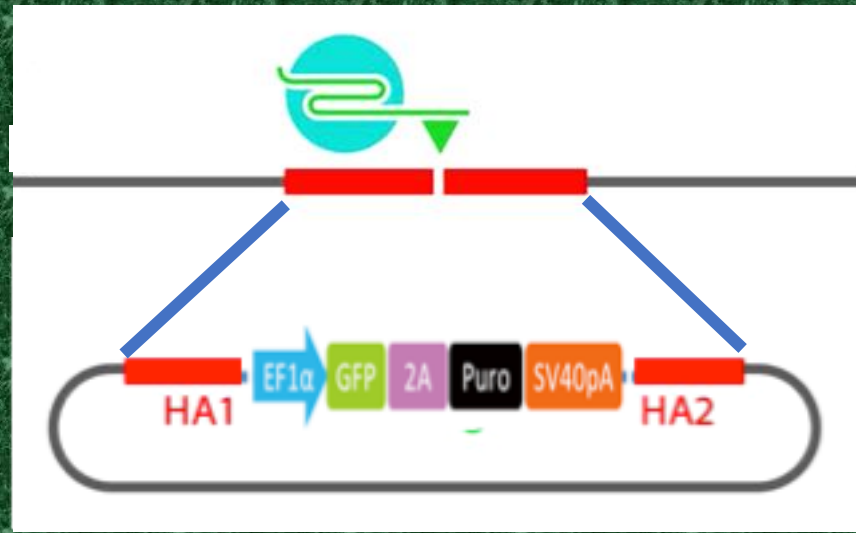


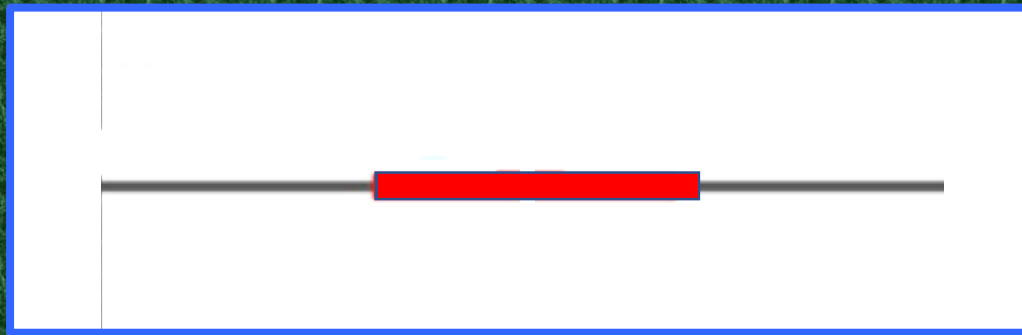








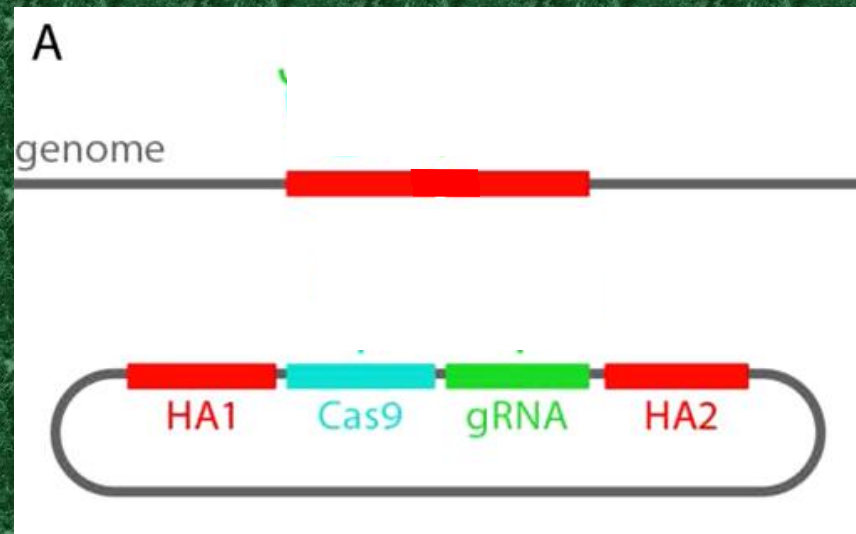




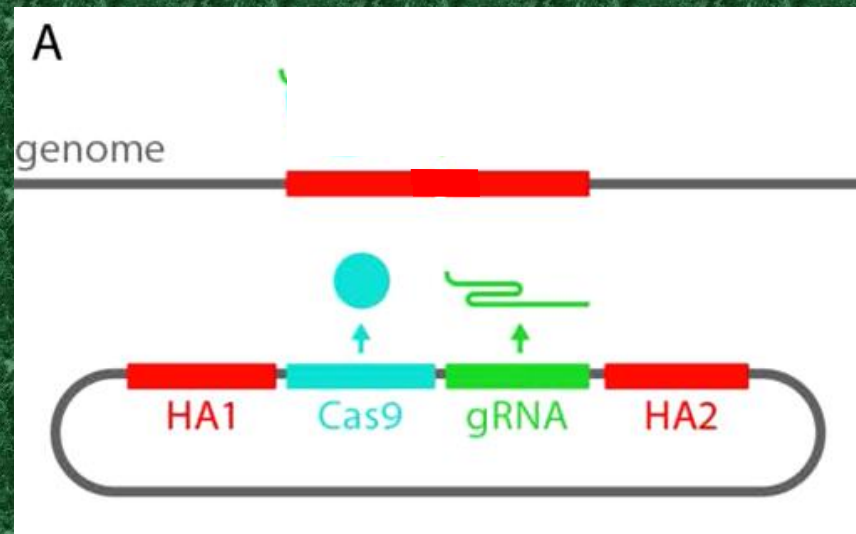


# **CRISPR for Gene Drive**

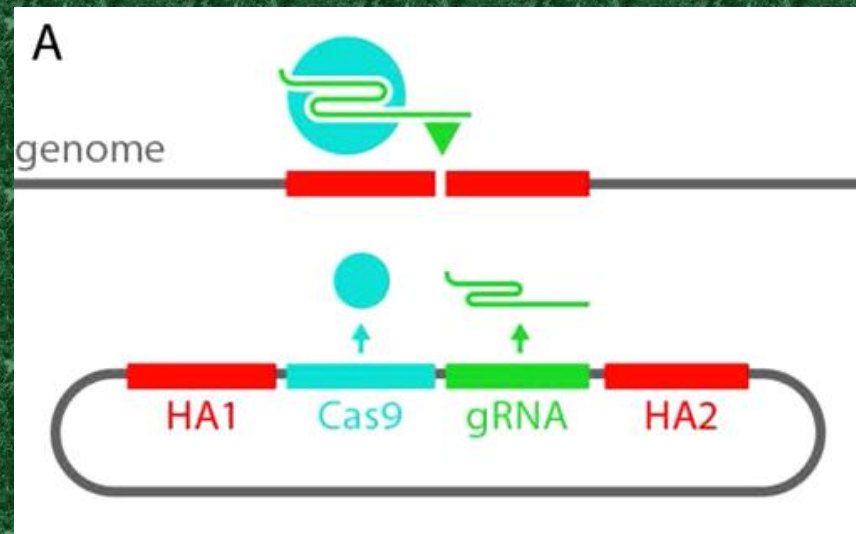
Homologue #1



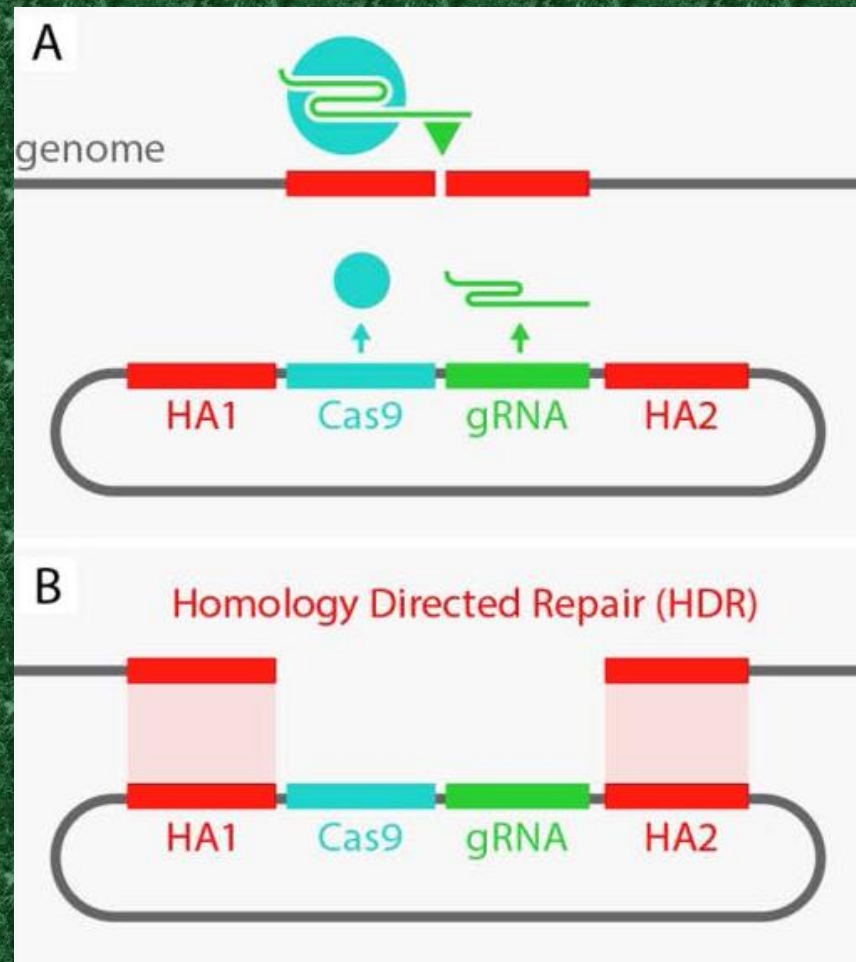
Homologue #1



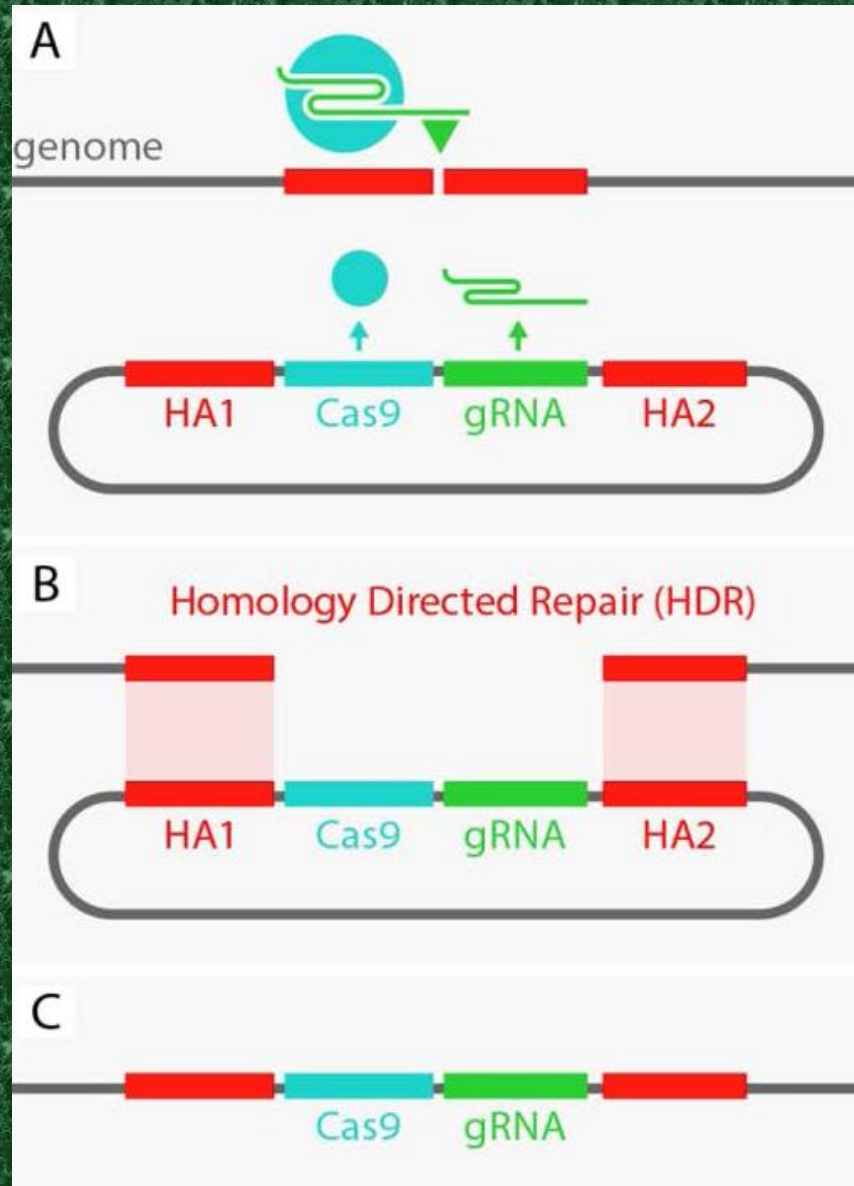
Homologue #1



Homologue #1



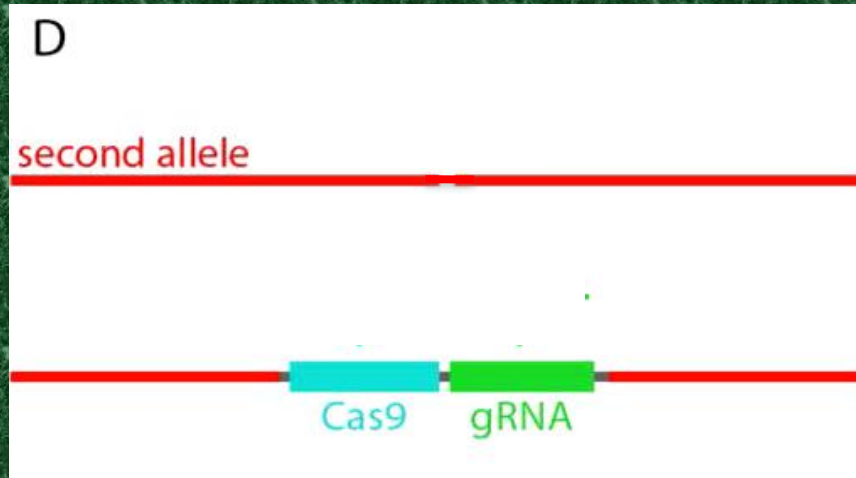




Homologue #1

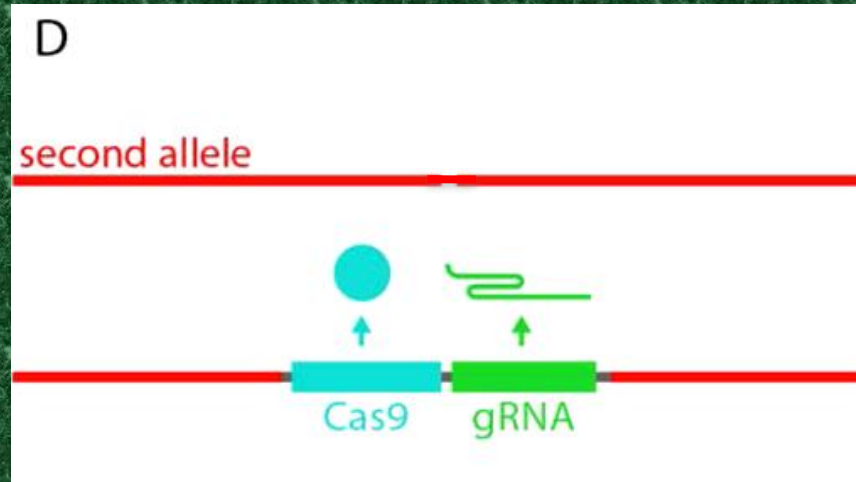
Homologue #2

Homologue #1



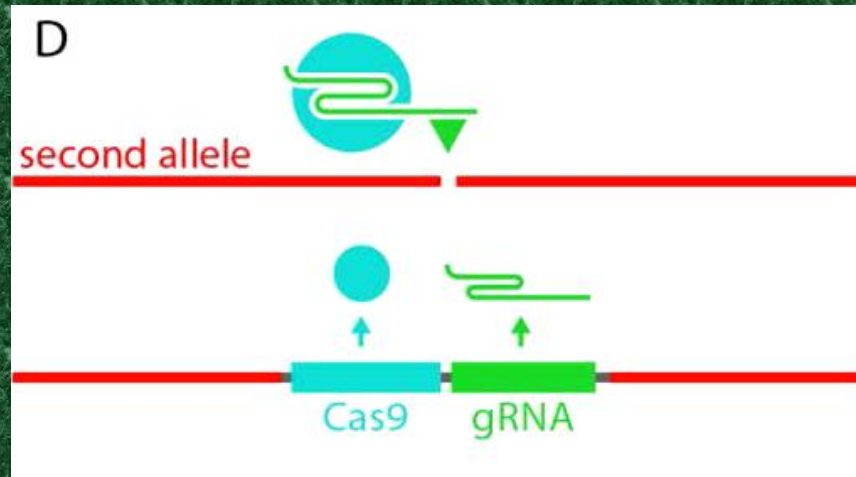
Homologue #2

Homologue #1



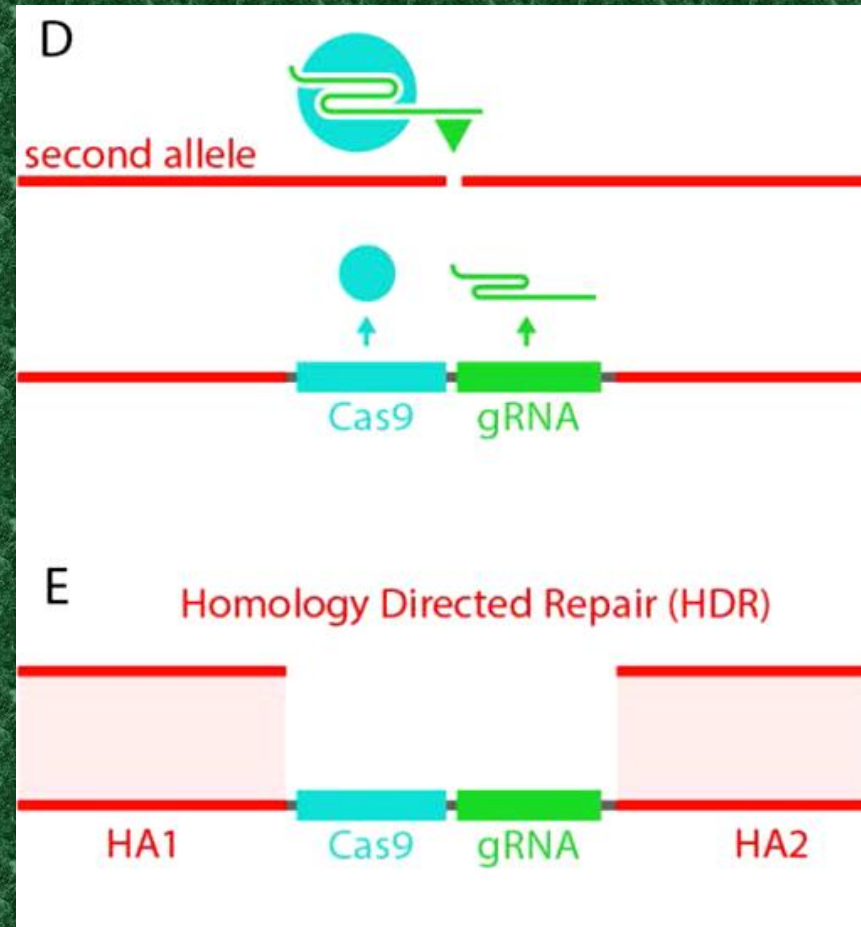
Homologue #2

Homologue #1

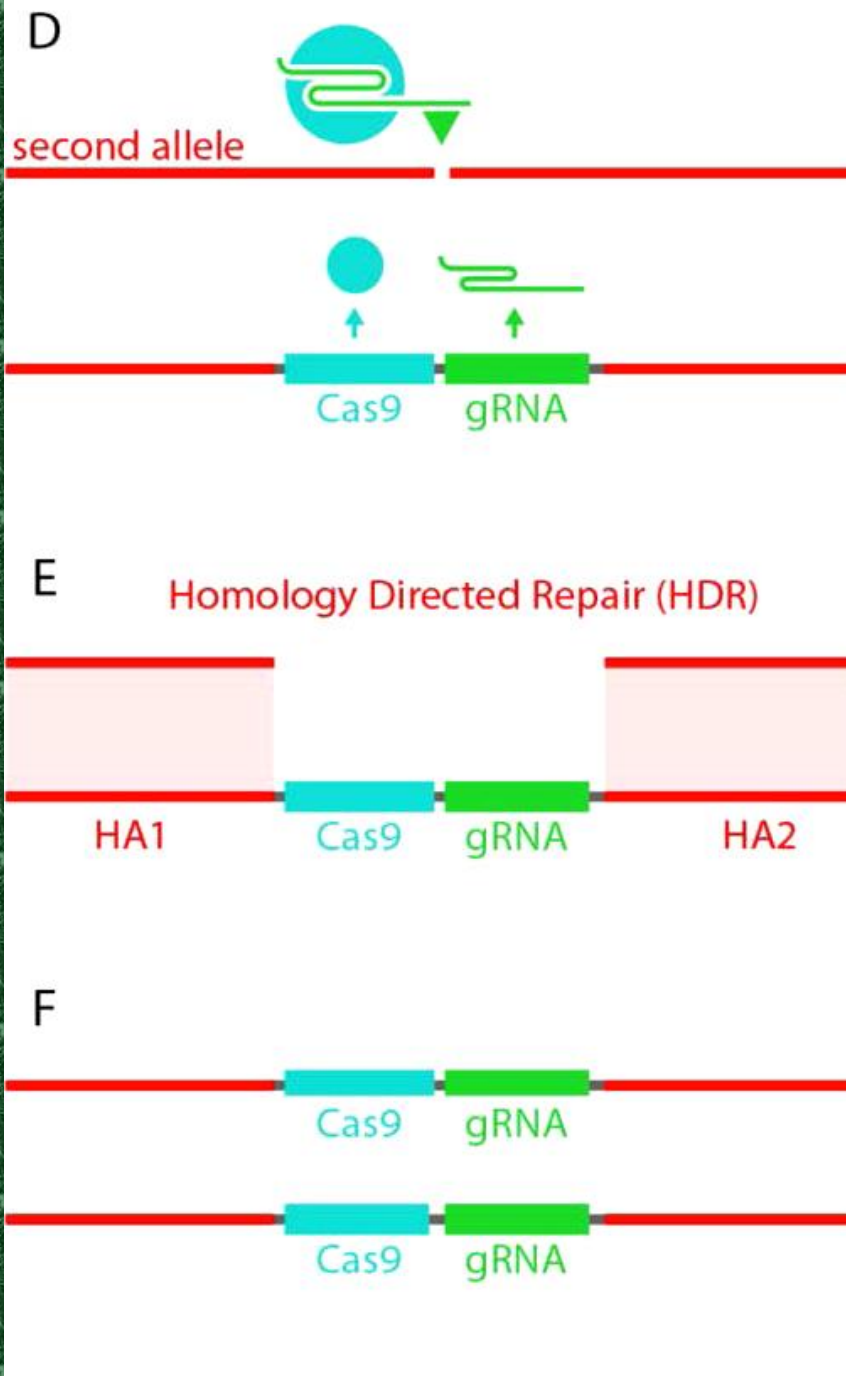


Homologue #2

Homologue #1







Homologue #2

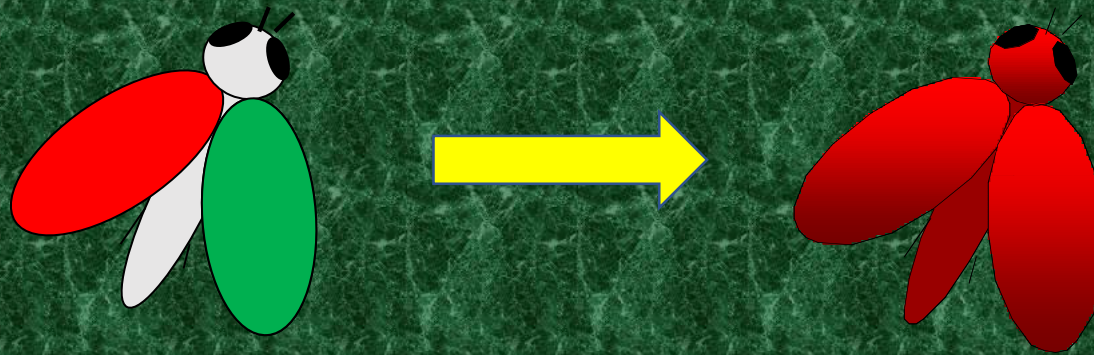
Homologue #1

March 2015

**Science***express*

**The mutagenic chain reaction: A method  
for converting heterozygous to  
homozygous mutations**

**Valentino M. Gantz\* and Ethan Bier\***



Wild Type  
or  
Heterozygote



Homozygous  
mutant



$y^+$



♀



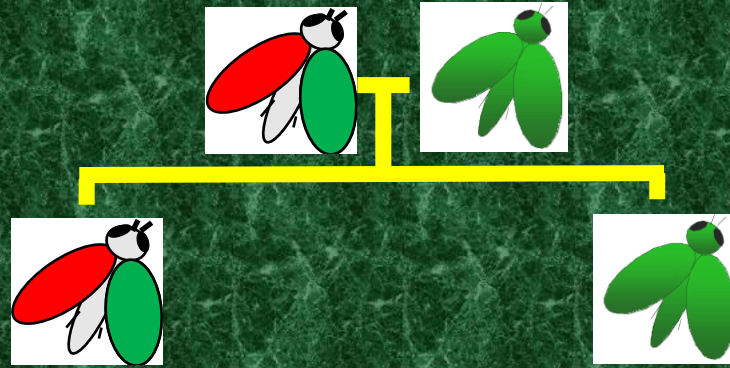
$y^-$



♀

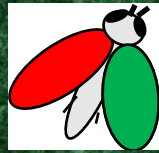
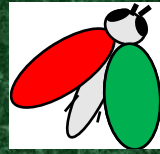


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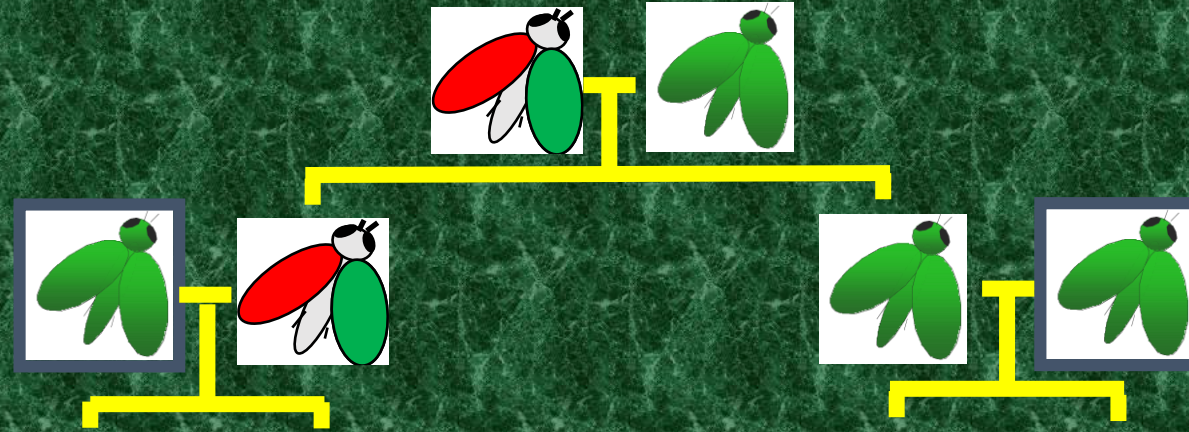




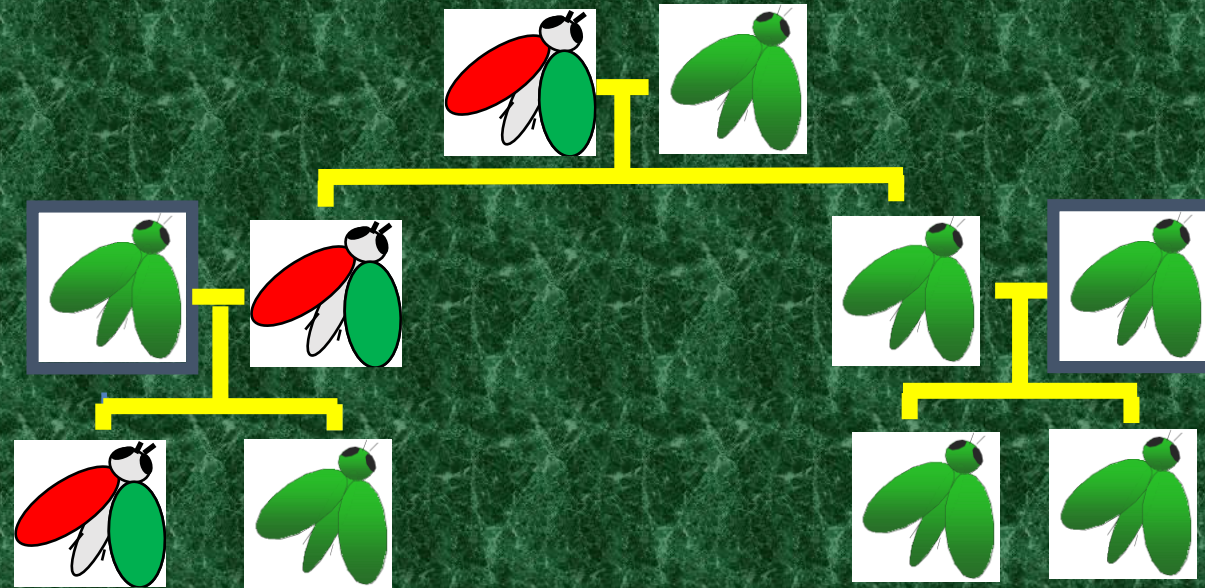
# Mendelian Inheritance



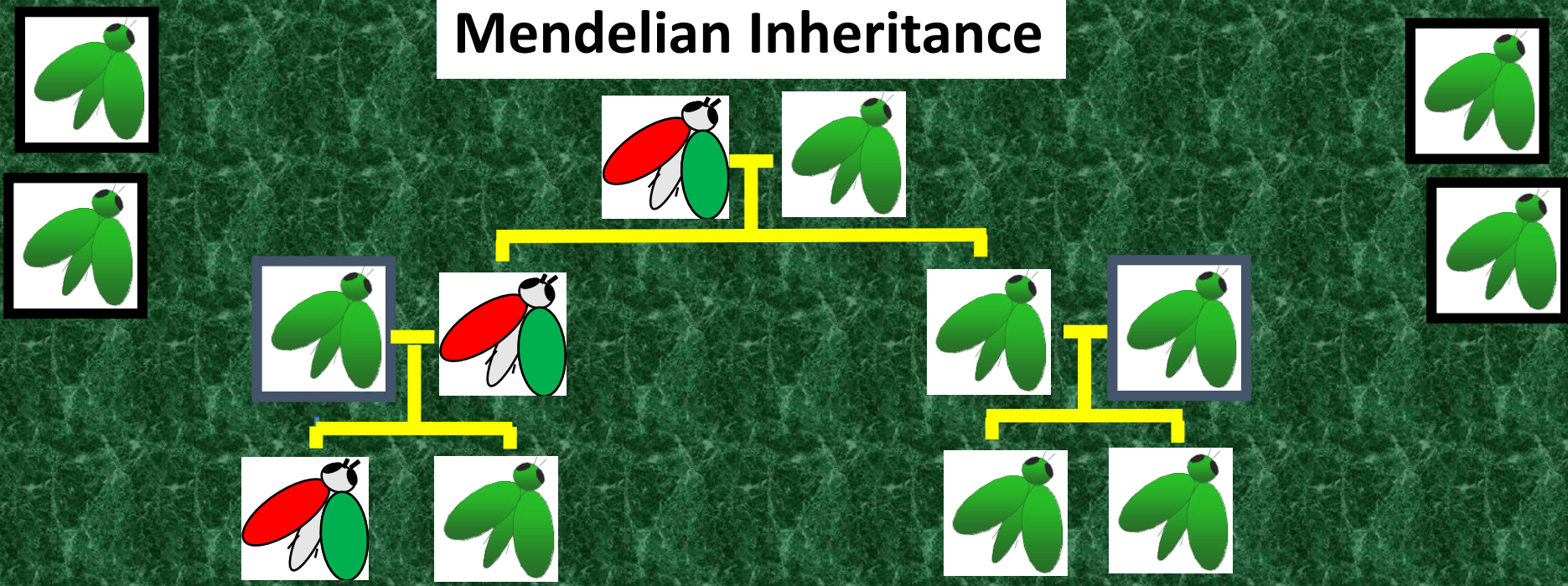
# Mendelian Inheritance



# Mendelian Inheritance



# Mendelian Inheritance

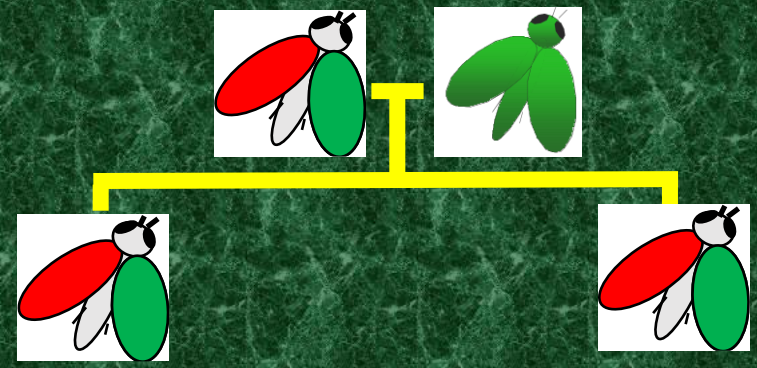




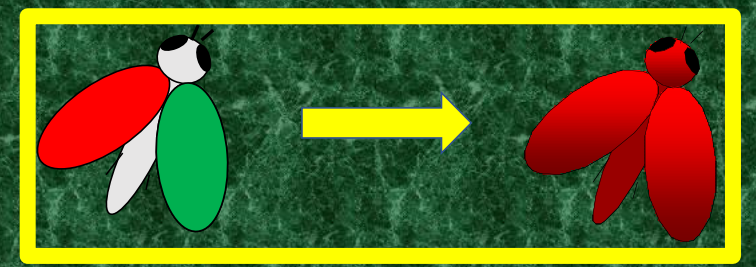
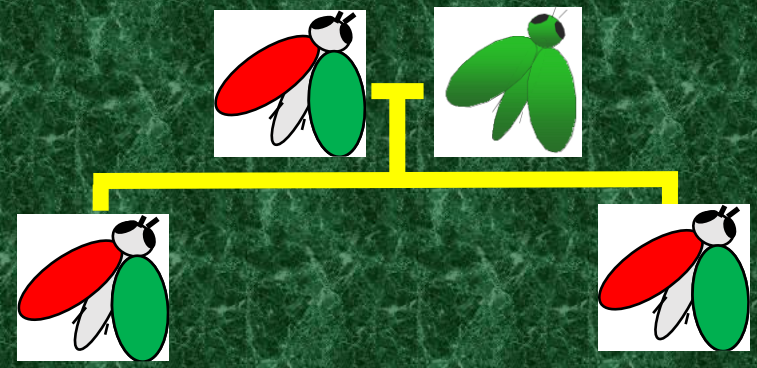




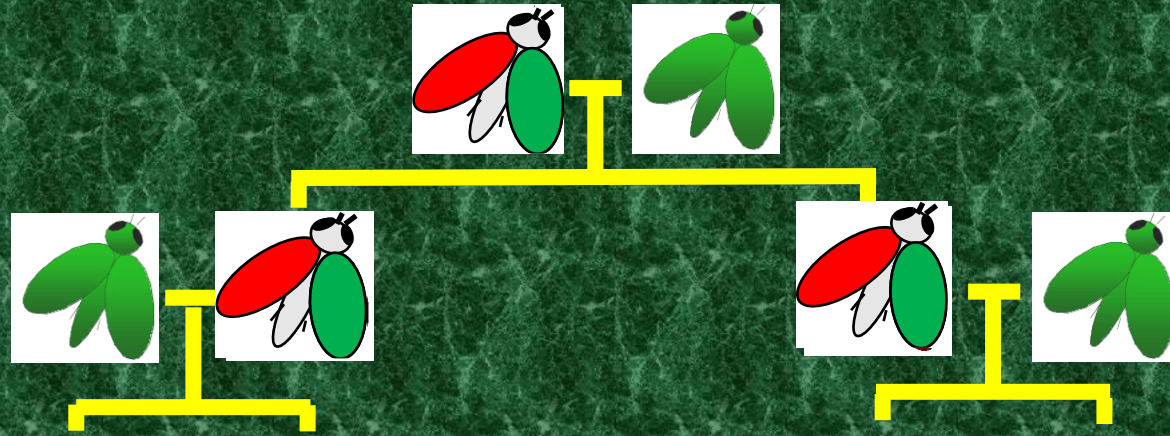
# Super-Mendelian Inheritance



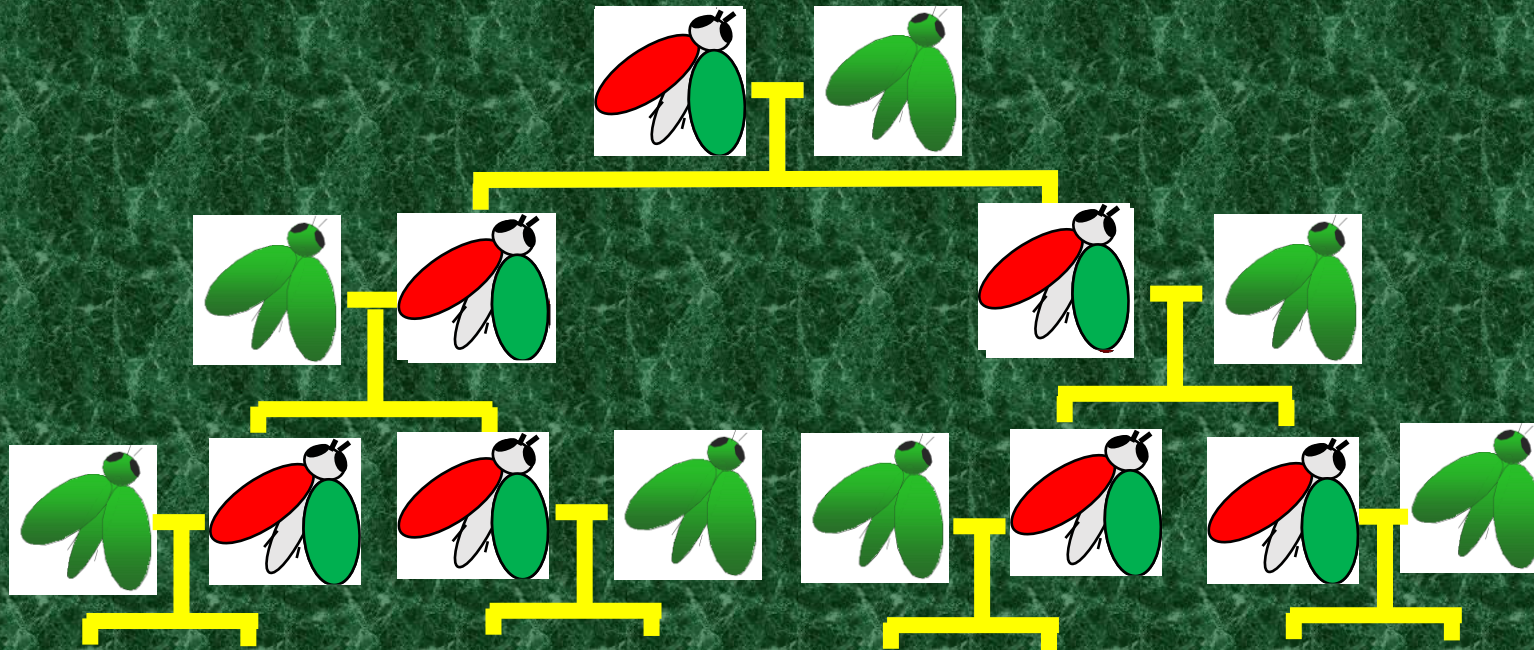
# Super-Mendelian Inheritance



# Super-Mendelian Inheritance

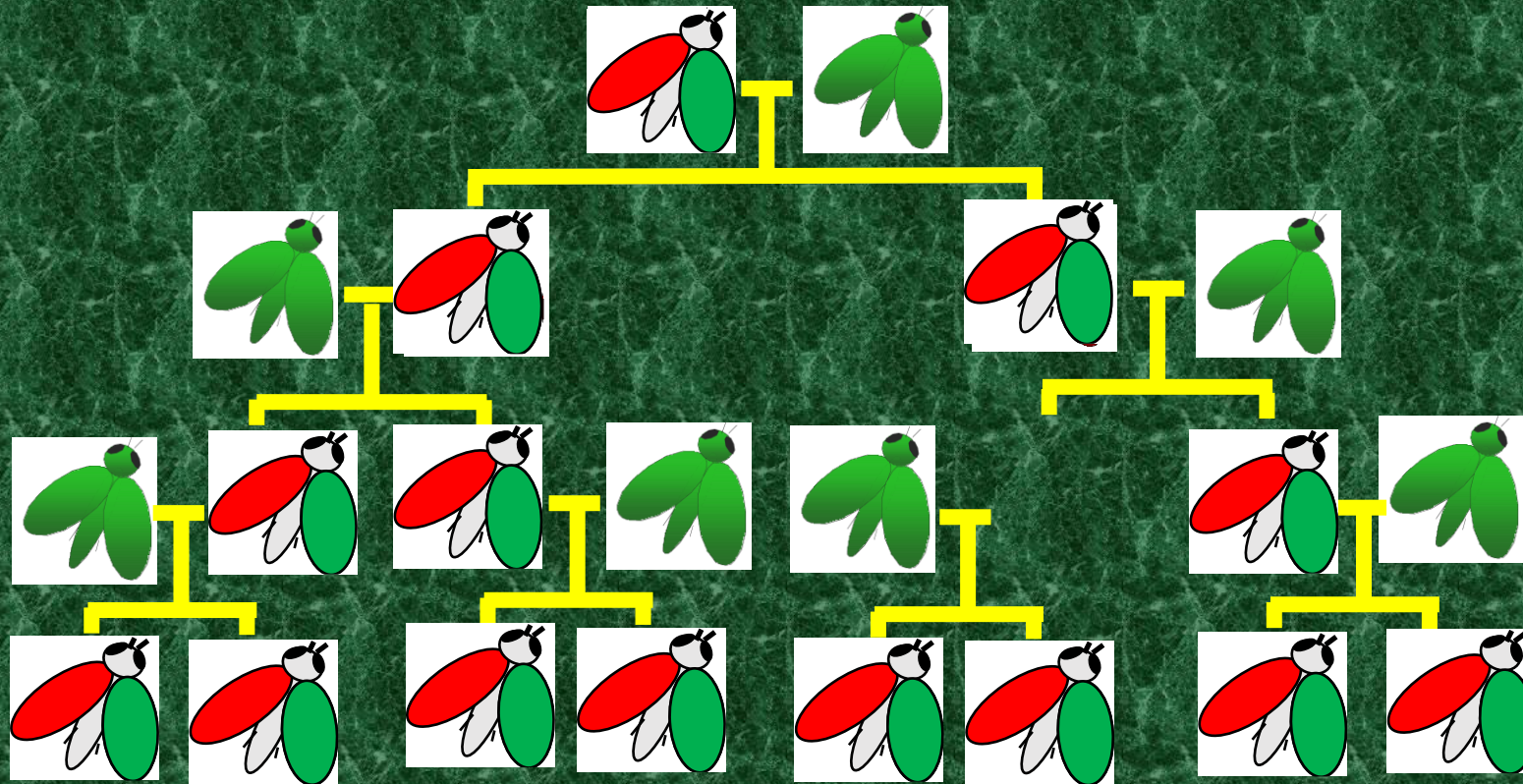


# Super-Mendelian Inheritance

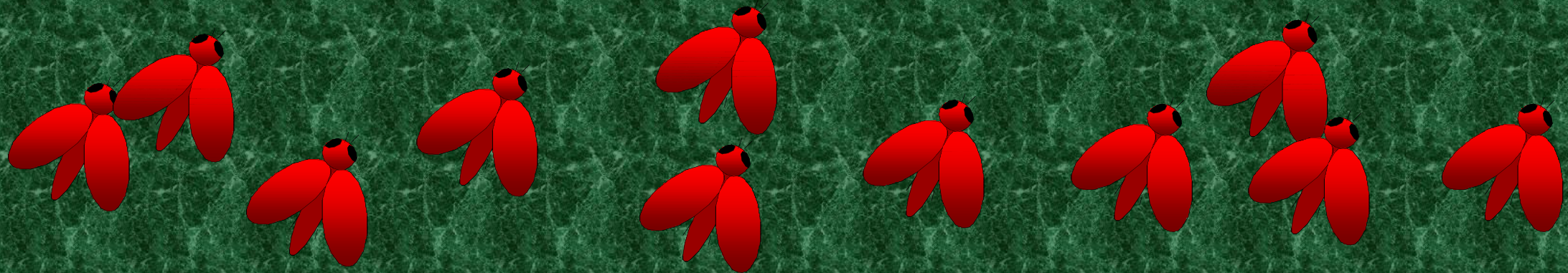
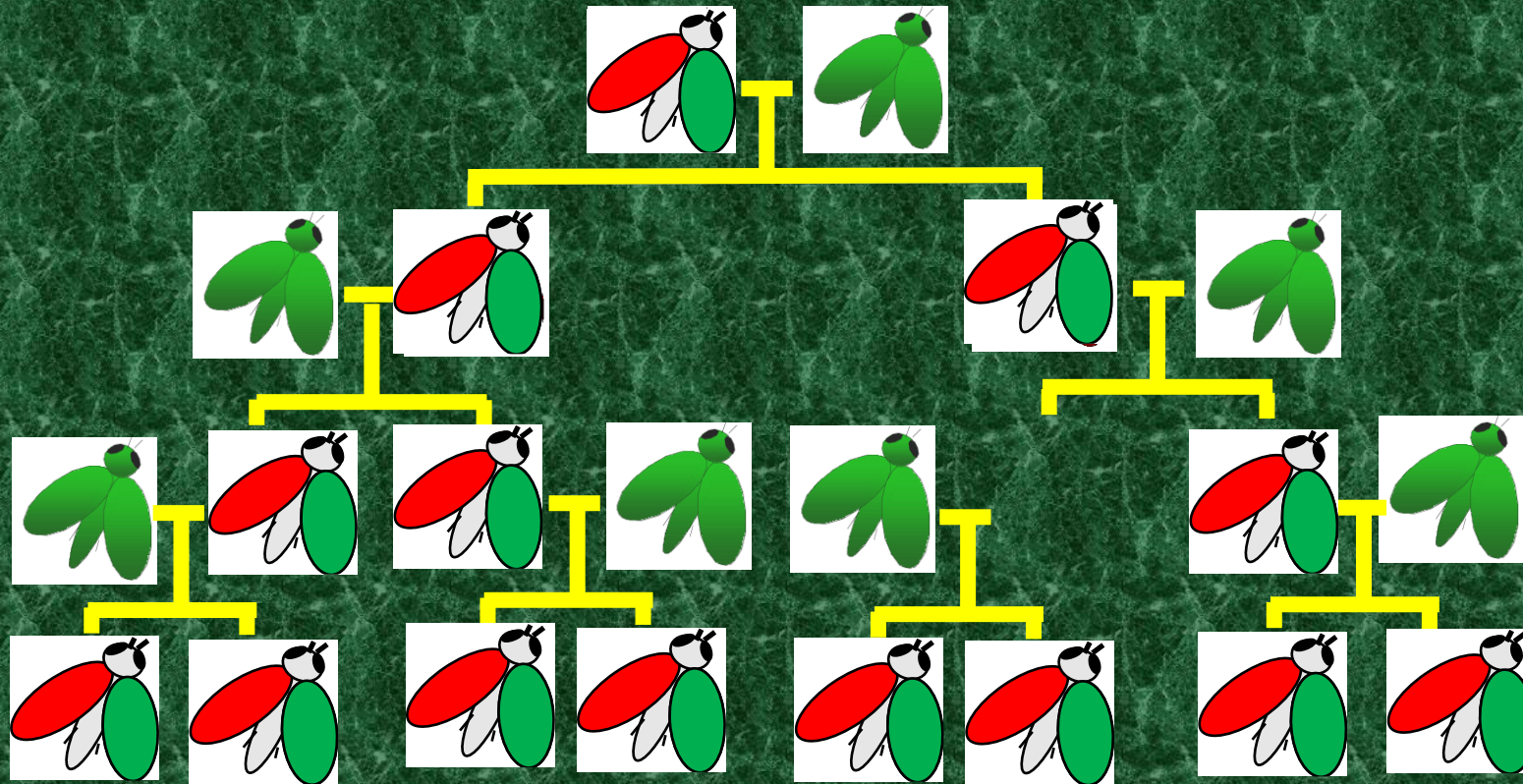




# Super-Mendelian Inheritance



# Super-Mendelian Inheritance



# Spread Characteristic

Unrestricted  
Spread

Spatially  
Restricted Spread

Temporally  
Restricted Spread

Impact on Population

Replacement  
Suppression


# Spread Characteristic

Unrestricted  
Spread

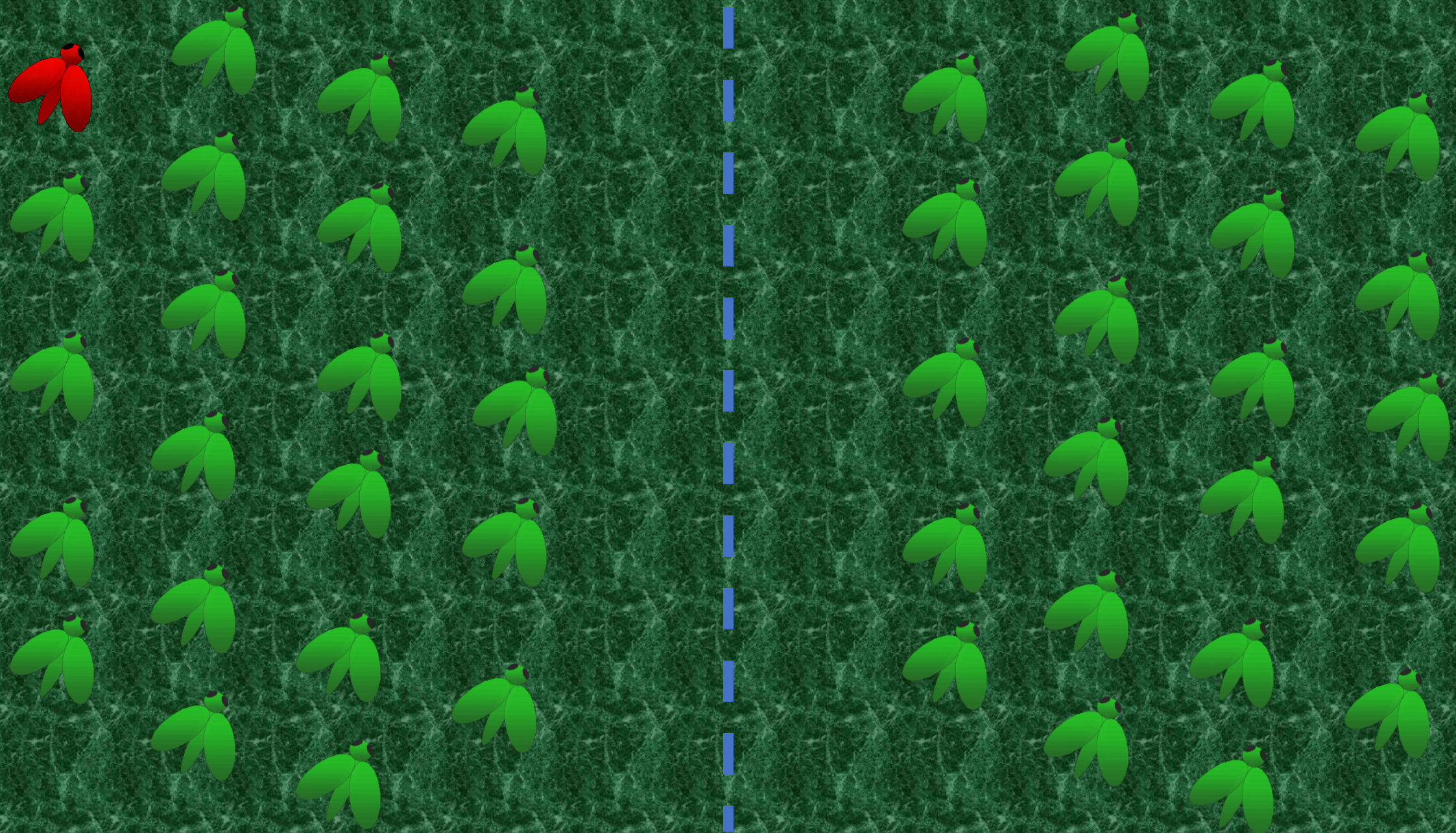
Spatially  
Restricted Spread

Temporally  
Restricted Spread

Impact on Population

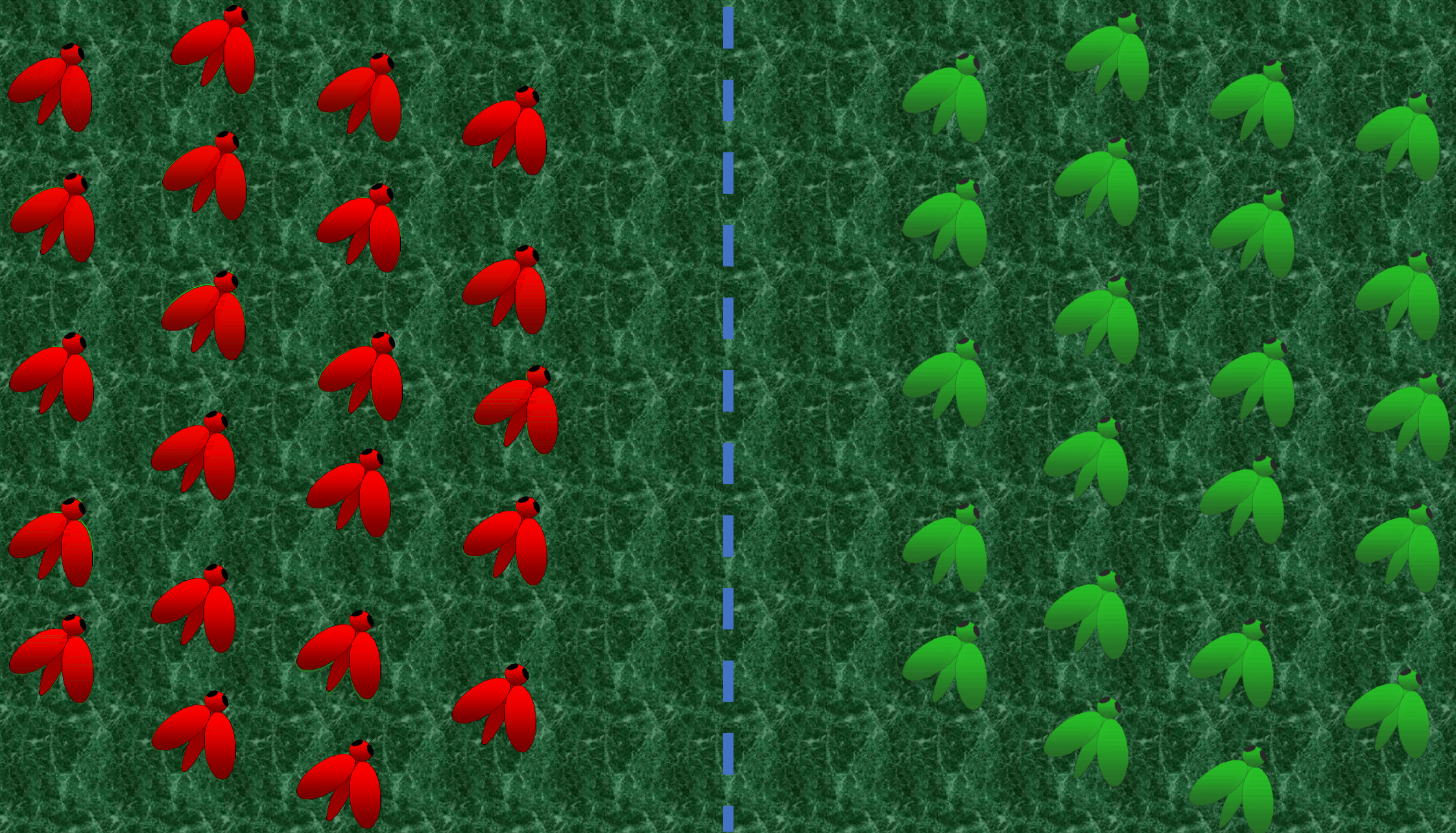
Replacement  
Suppression


# Spatially Restricted Gene Drive





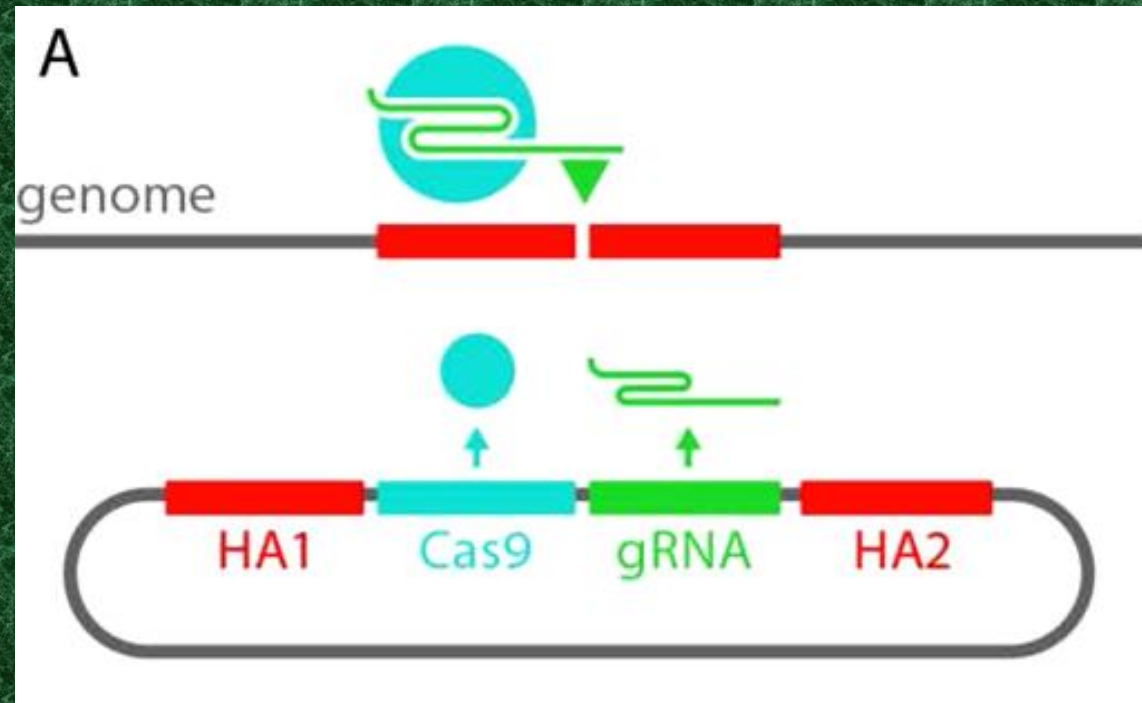
# Spatially Restricted Gene Drive



## Locally Fixed Alleles: A method to localize gene drive to island populations

Jaye Sudweeks, Brandon Hollingsworth, Dimitri V. Blondel, Karl J. Campbell, Sumit Dhole, John D. Eisemann, Owain Edwards, John Godwin, Gregg R. Howald, Kevin Oh, Antoinette J. Piaggio, Thomas A. A. Prowse, Joshua V. Ross, J. Royden Saah, Aaron B. Shiels, Paul Thomas, David W. Threadgill, Michael R. Vella, Fred Gould, Alun L. Lloyd

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/509364>



# Island

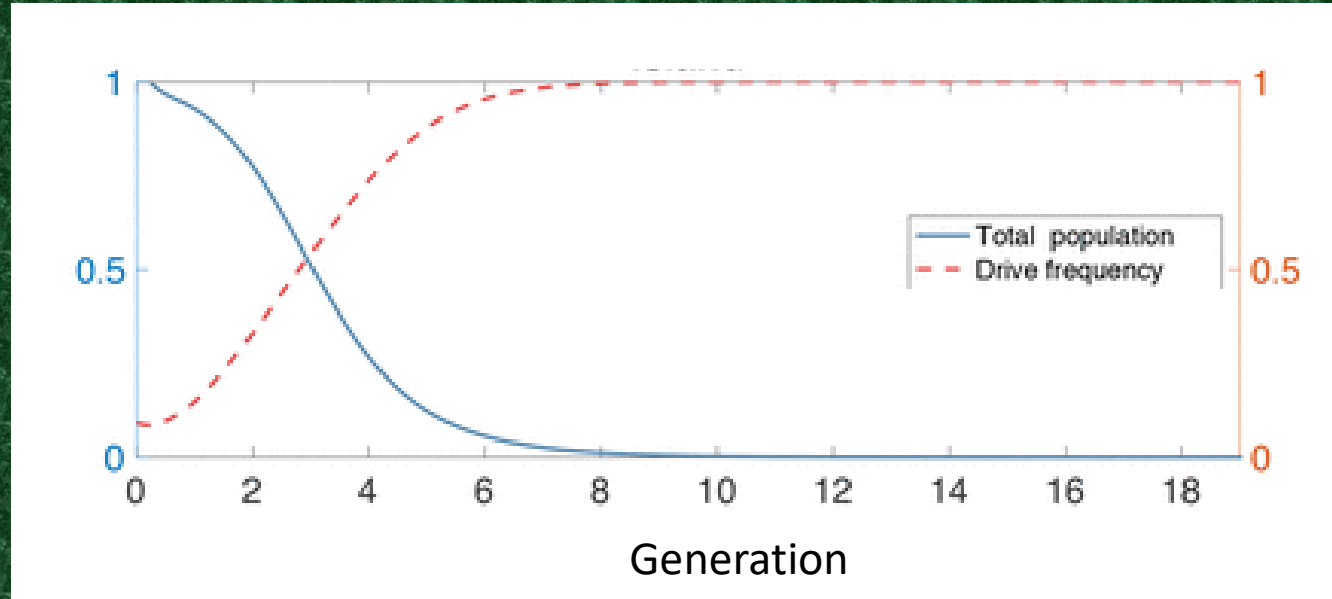
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6 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
7 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
8 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
9 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
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11 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
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# Mainland

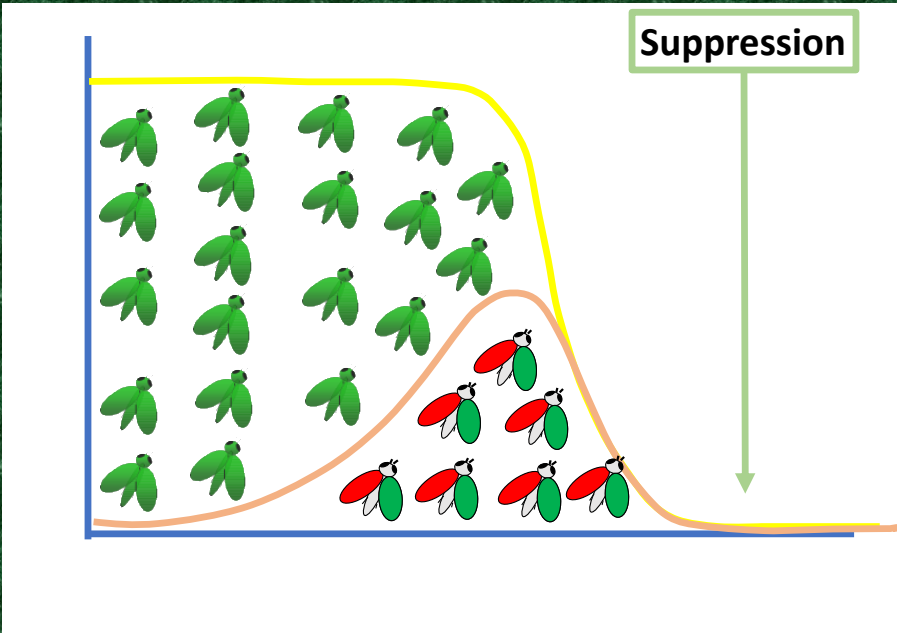
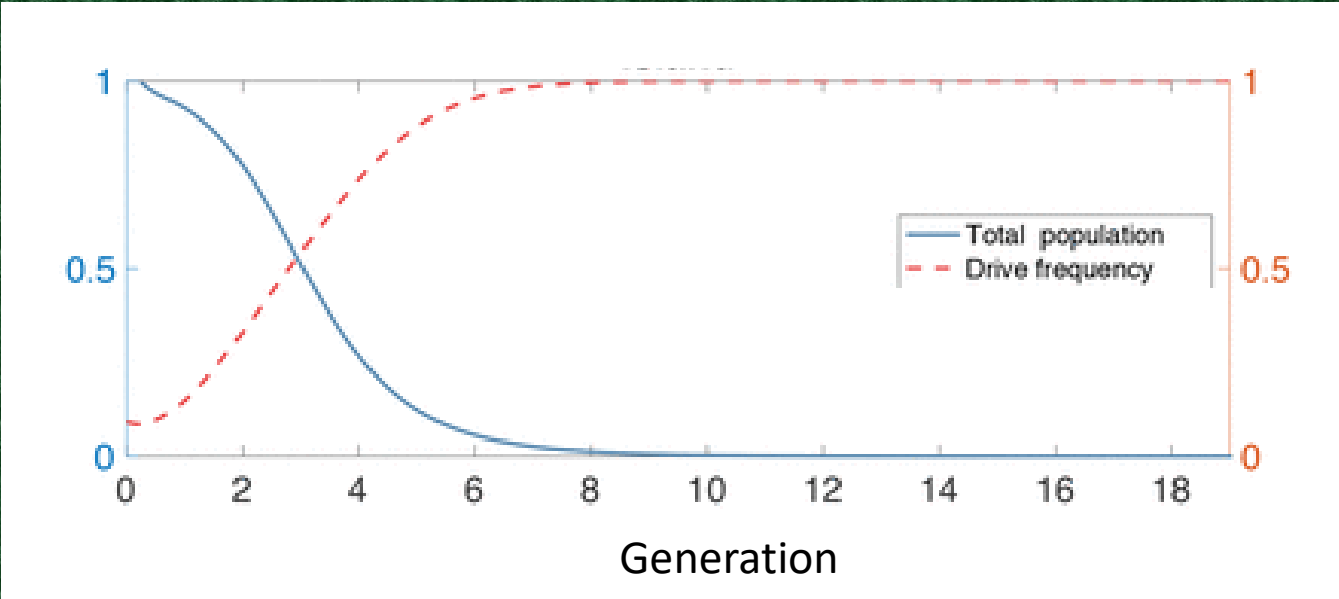
1 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
2 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
3 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA  
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14 TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA

# Island

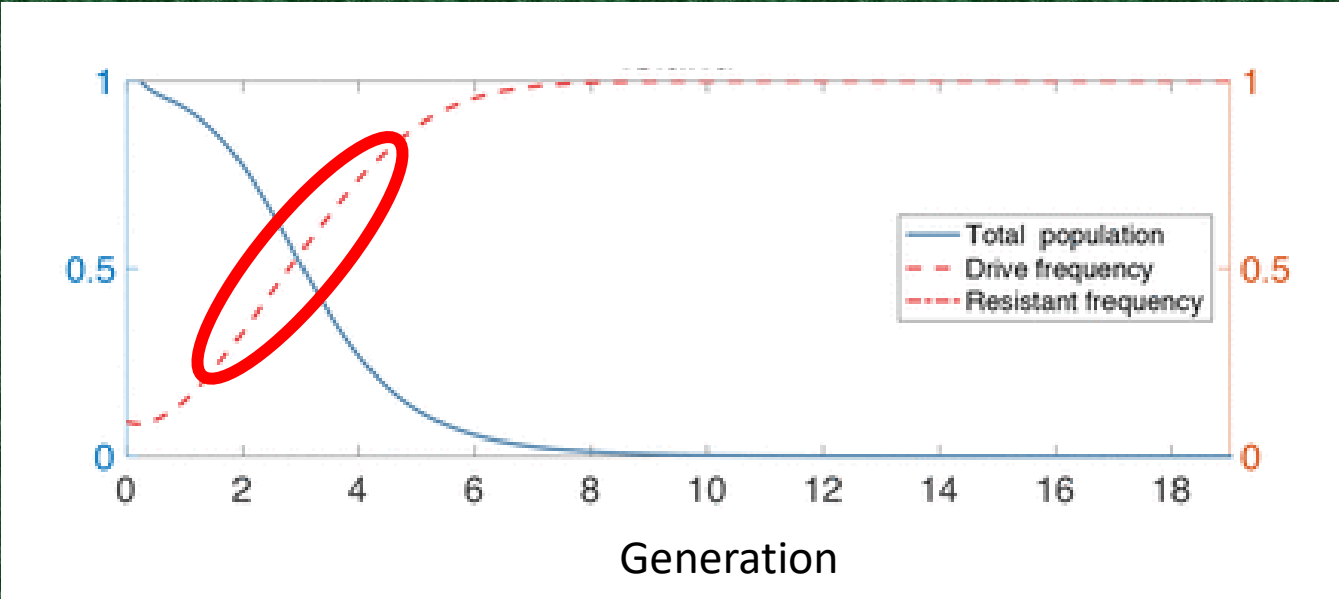




# Island



# Island

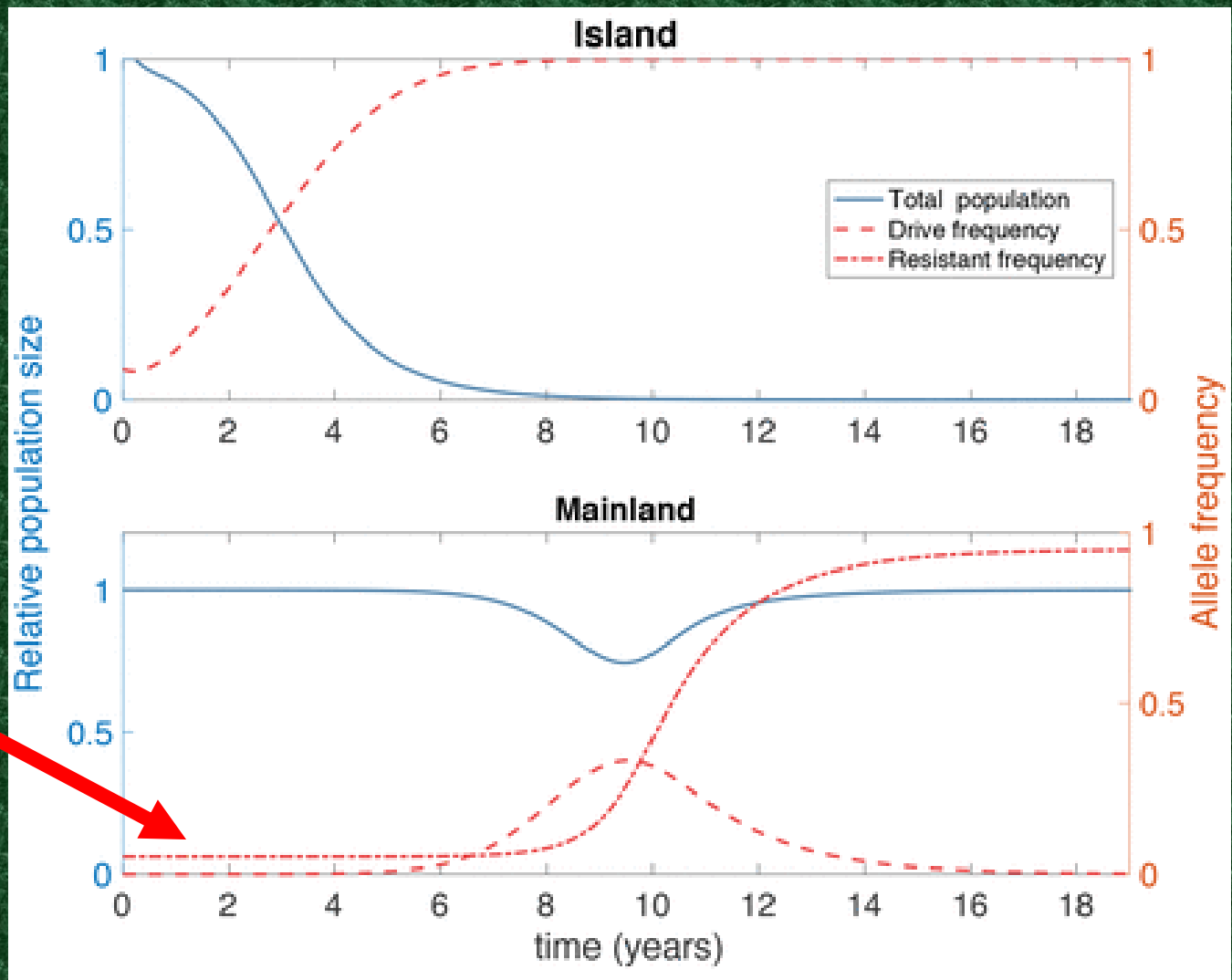


# Mainland

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14

```
TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA
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TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA
TTGCCACACAAGTGAGAGGACTTGAGTTCAGATCCCCCAAGCCTGTGGAAAGCTA
```

**Resistant Allele**

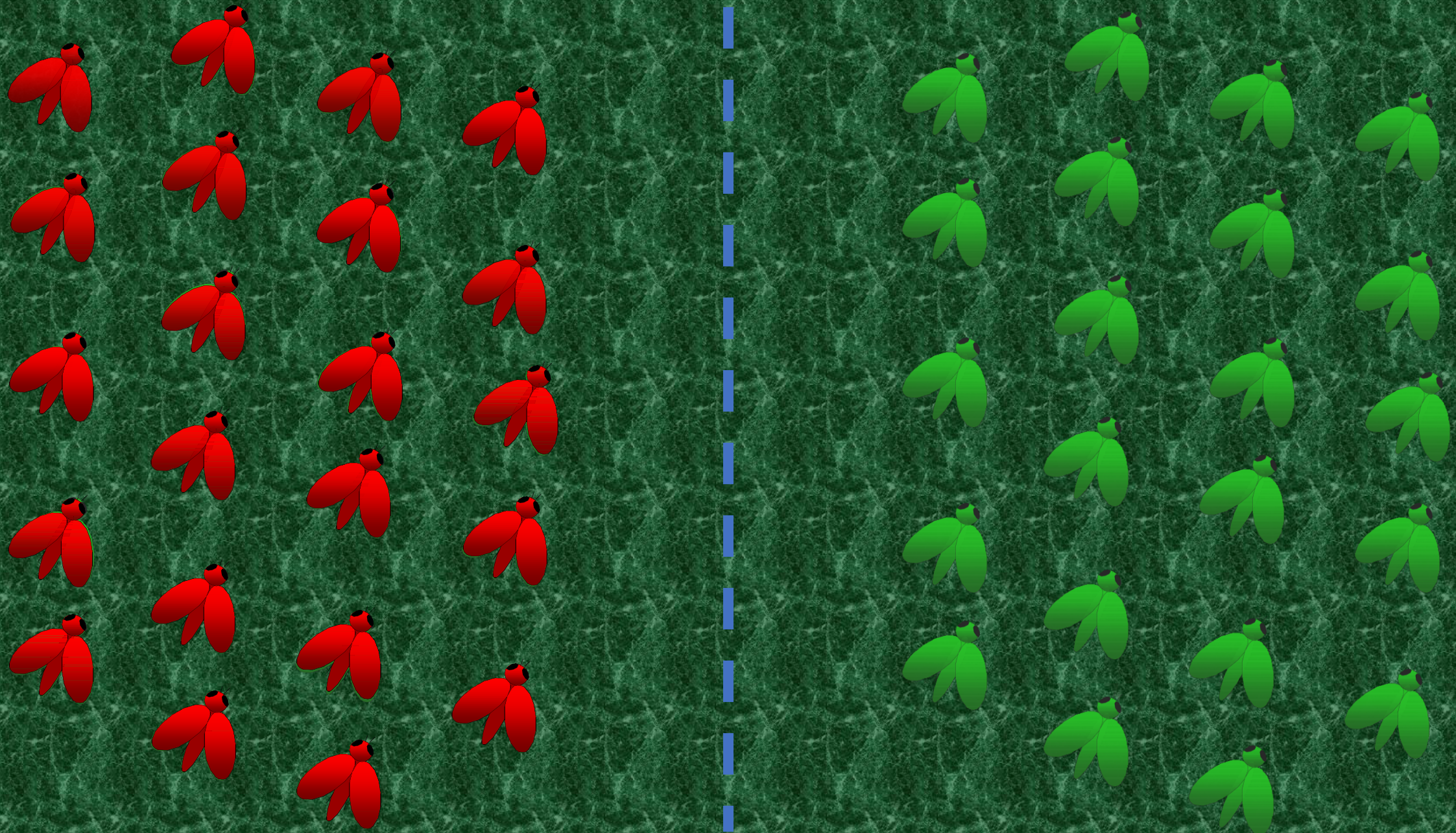




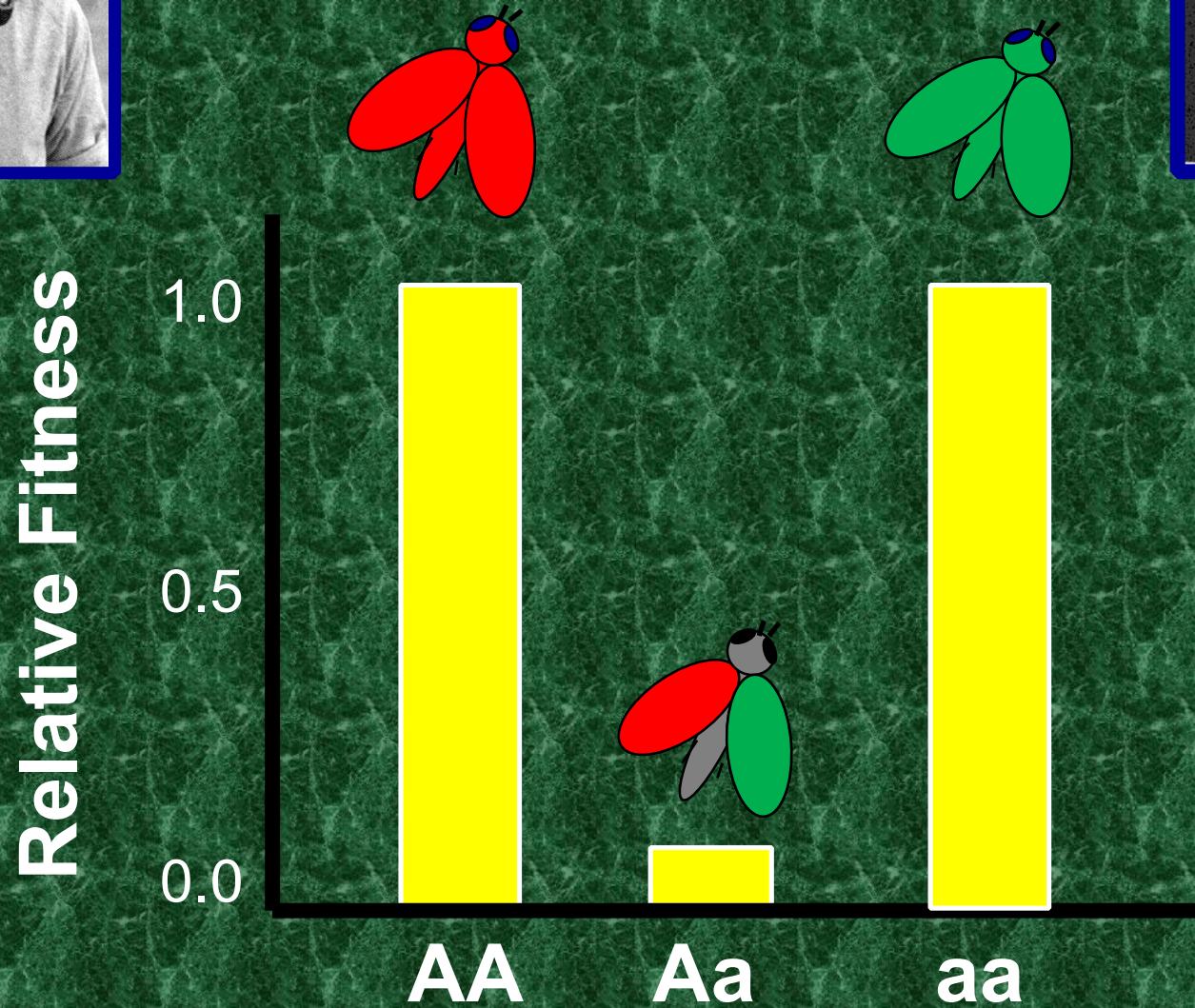
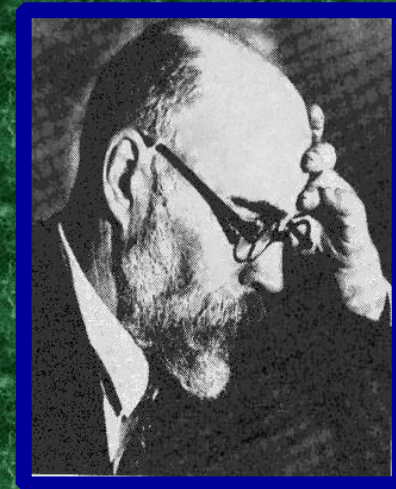
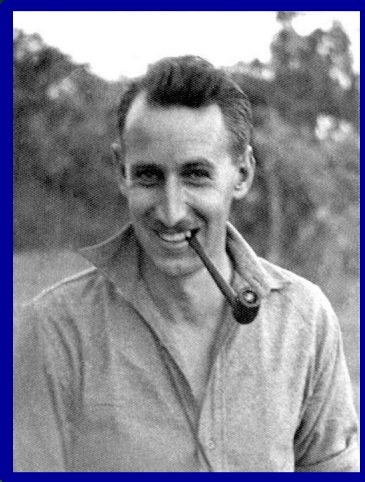




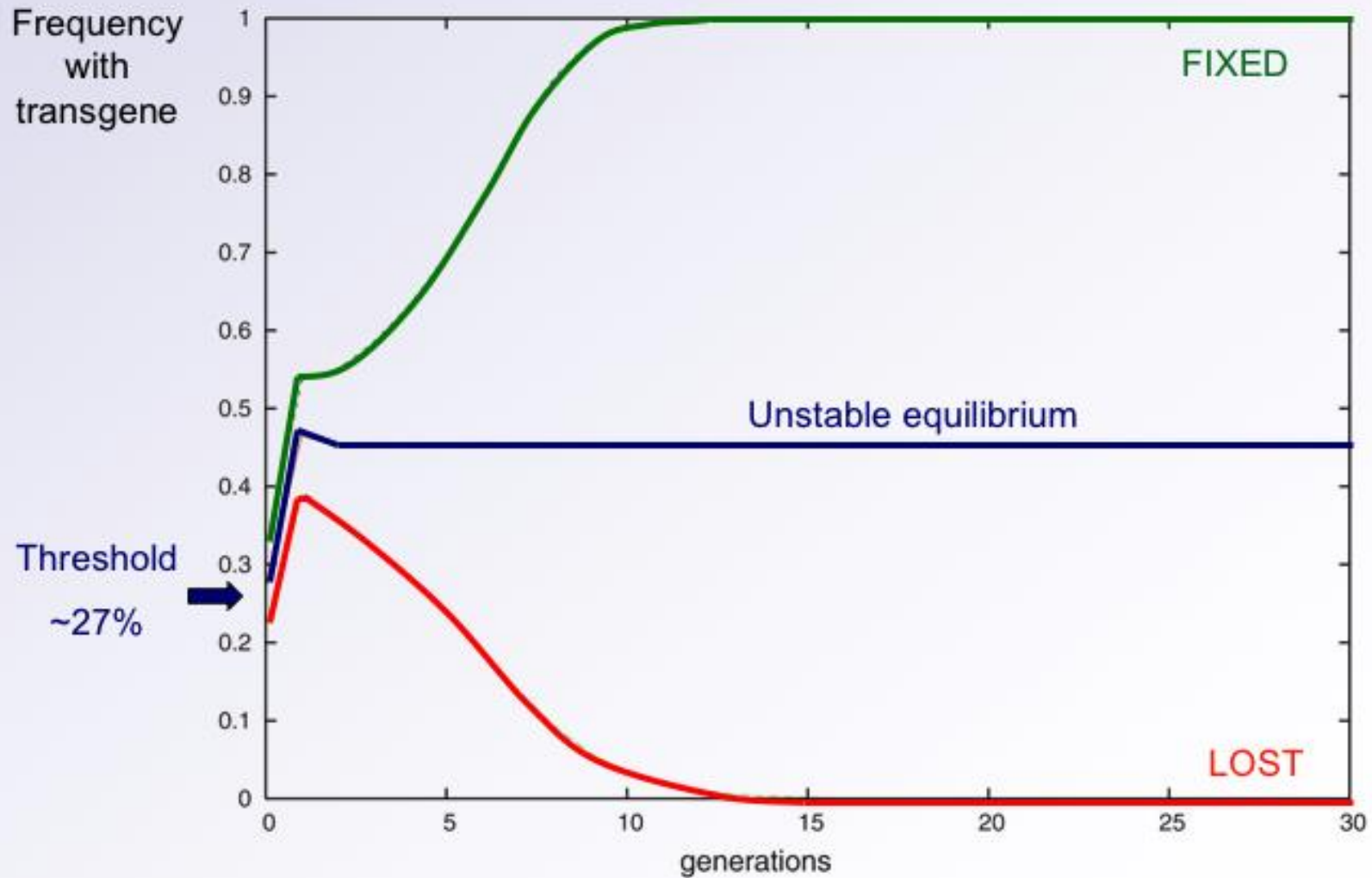
# Threshold Restricted Gene Drive



# Underdominance



## Engineered Underdominance – No cost

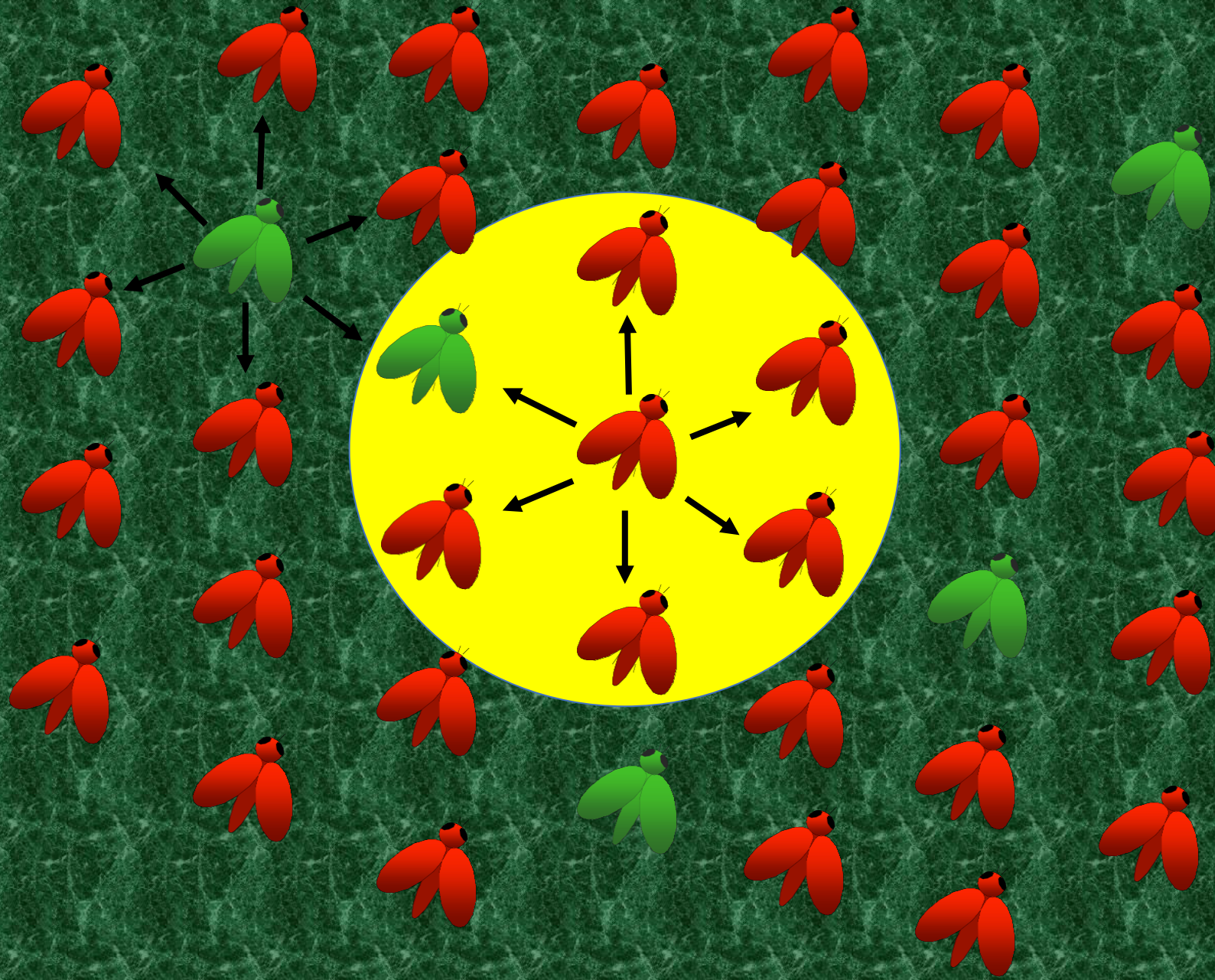


# Large numbers of transgenic genotypes released



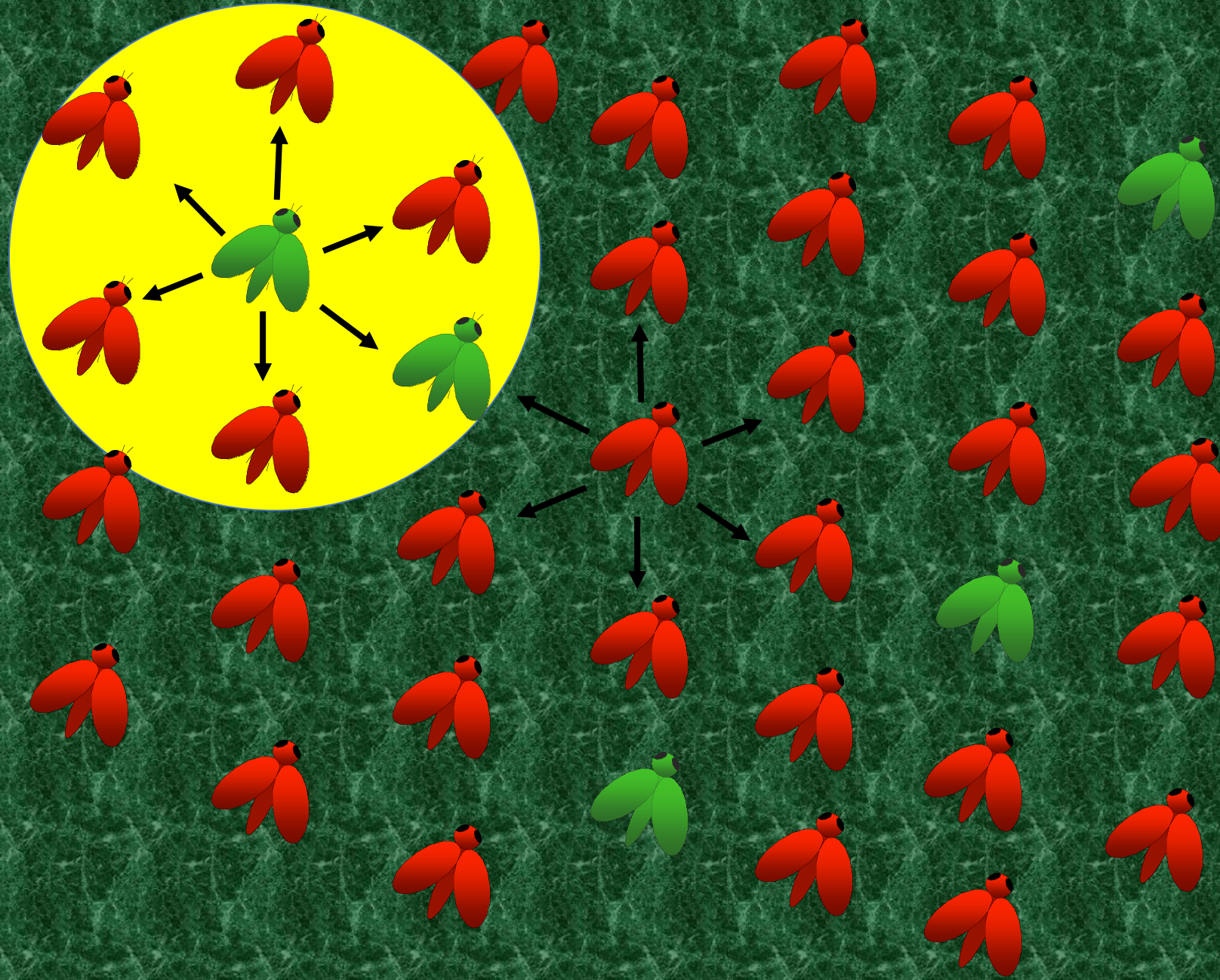


**A transgenic Individual is likely to mate with another transgenic individual**

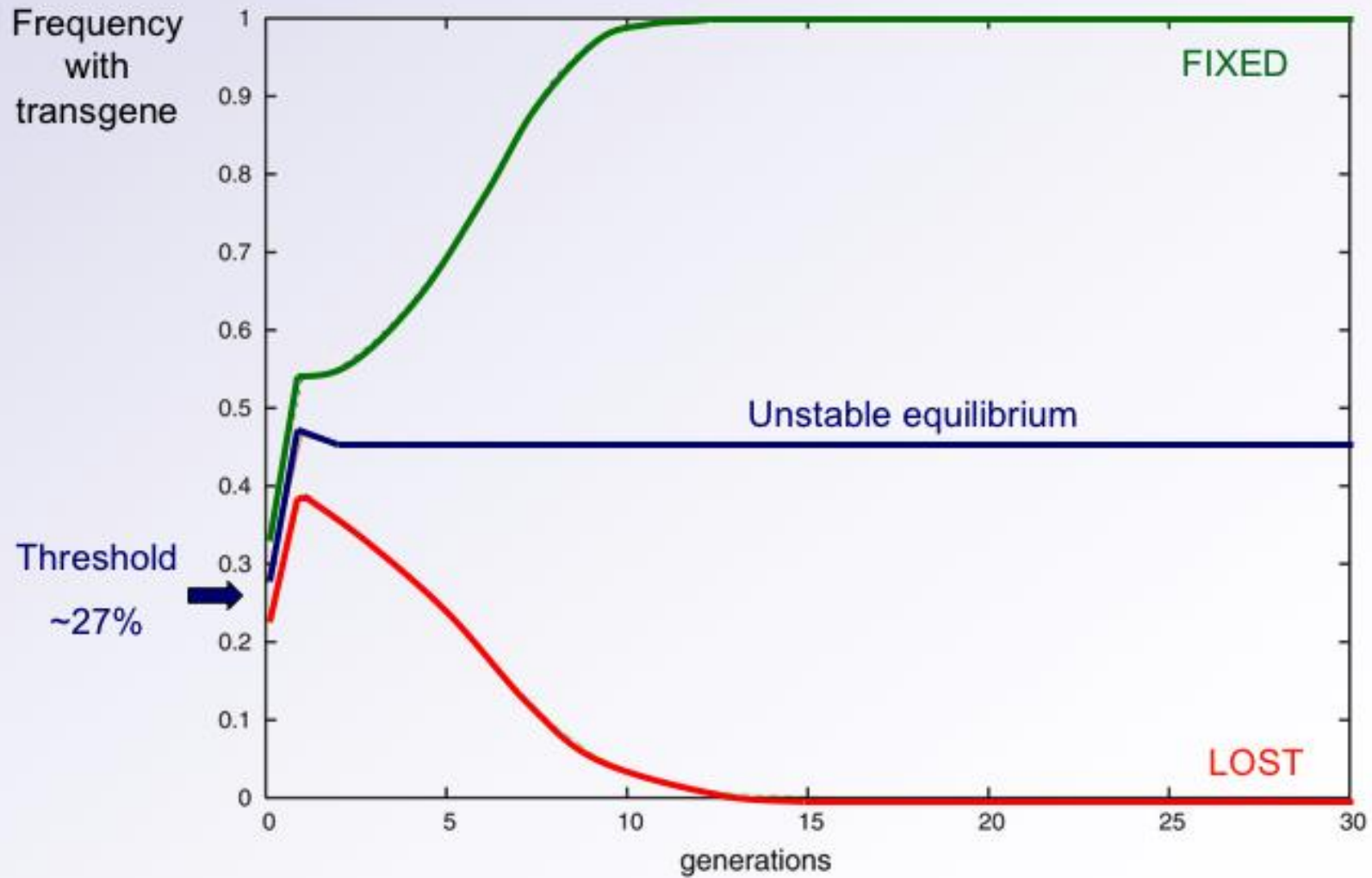




A wildtype individual is likely to mate with a transgenic individual



## Engineered Underdominance – No cost





- 1) Hopes and Fears
- 2) Types of gene drive systems
- 3) Mechanisms behind unrestricted drives (CRISPR)
  - A) Current state of the art
  - B) Models of spread
- 4) Mechanisms behind spatially restricted drives (Fixed alleles/Underdominance)
  - A) Current state of the art
  - B) Models of spread
- 5) Problem formulation**



# Problem Formulation

- 1) Formally devise plausible pathways that describe how the deployment of gene drive modified insects could be harmful



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- 1) Formally devise plausible pathways that describe how the deployment of gene drive modified insects could be harmful
- 2) Formulate risk hypotheses about the likelihood and severity of such events
- 3) Identify the information that will be useful to test these risk hypotheses.

# Take Home Message

When “devising plausible pathways”  
keep in mind that....

**Not All Gene Drives Are Created Equal**