

# Cell-cell interaction and diversity of eRF1s in ciliates

Terue HARUMOTO [Biological Sciences Course]



赤い色素を防御物質としてもつブレファリズマ

We investigate the interaction between predator and prey in protozoan ciliates; what kind of molecule is involved in recognition, what organelle (or molecule) is involved in offense and defense, and what mechanism is involved in offensive and defensive interactions. The genetic code is universal in many organisms, but some ciliate species translate some of the termination codons into certain amino acids. The recognition pattern of termination codons by eRF1 is various depending on the species of the ciliates. We are studying how this codon diversity is made possible by mutation of eRF1 and tRNA, and how this mutation has occurred in the ciliate lineages.

Keywords : conjugation, predator, prey, extrusomes, genetic code