Microbe domestication: how, why and when?

José Paulo Sampaio[1]

[1] Departamento de Ciências da Vida, Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Campus da Caparica, 2829-516, Caparica, Portugal

Domestication of plants and animals promoted humanity's transition from nomadic to sedentary lifestyles, demographic expansion, and the emergence of civilizations. In contrast to the well-documented successes of crop and livestock breeding, processes of microbe domestication remain obscure despite the importance of microbes to the production of food, beverages, and biofuels. Here we use evolutionary and population genomics to trace the genetic changes associated with the use of yeasts for the production of wine and cider, an understanding that can suggest paths to further industrial improvement.