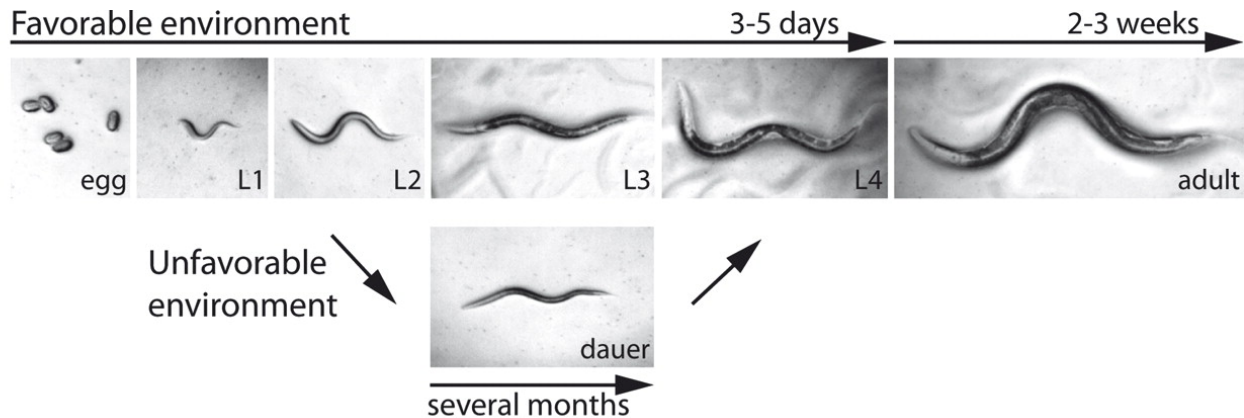


C. elegans life cycle



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In favorable environments, *C. elegans* undergoes reproductive development and progresses rapidly from embryo through four larval stages (L1–L4) to the adult in 3–5 d (15°C–20°C). Adults then live another 2–3 wk. In unfavorable conditions, including overcrowding, limited food, and high temperature, *C. elegans* undergoes development to a specialized third larval stage called dauer (L3d), which can live several months. Upon return to favorable environments, dauer larvae recover to reproductive adults with normal life spans. Adapted from Fielenbach N., and Antebi A. *Genes Dev.* 2008;22:2149-2165.

How to identify L4 worms



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L4 hermaphrodites can be distinguished by the presence of a small white half-circle patch in the worm midsection. This patch corresponds to where the vulva will eventually develop.

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7.15 Experimental Molecular Genetics
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