

Project Scientist

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CURRENT POSITION

Project Scientist (August 2020 – present) University of California Merced
Supervisor: Michael N Dawson, <http://cgomo.net/>

EDUCATION

PhD (2014) Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
Advisor: Michael E. Hellberg
Recipient of a Louisiana Board of Regents fellowship (2008-2012)
MSc (2008) Marine Biology, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Advisor: Mahmood S. Shivji
BSc (2003) Biology (minor in History), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The primary goal of my research program is to understand the processes that generate biodiversity in marine ecosystems. I integrate computational and experimental methods to ask how the interaction of genomes with their environment produces phenotypic variation in marine invertebrates. Towards this goal, my research integrates comparative genomics, transcriptomics, and phylogenomics, a dynamic approach that connects micro and macroevolutionary processes, allowing me to reconstruct the mechanisms that promote divergence, adaptation, and diversification.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Scholar (2016-2020) Evolutionary genomics of marine invertebrates. Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, University of Florida. Supervisor: Joseph F. Ryan
Postdoctoral Scholar (2014-2016) Phenotypic and transcriptomic responses to biotic and abiotic stressors in marine invertebrates. Louisiana State University. Supervisor: Morgan W. Kelly
Doctoral Student (2008-2014) Model-based tests of historical demography and species delimitation in a coral reef sponge genus. Louisiana State University.
Masters Student (2004-2008) Conservation genetics and phylogeography of marine invertebrates. National Coral Reef Institute and Guy Harvey Research Institute, Nova Southeastern University.
Graduate Internship (2003-2004). Acoustic monitoring of estuarine habitat use by juvenile sharks and effects of environmental pollutants on reproduction and development in elasmobranchs. Mote Marine Lab Center for Shark Research, Sarasota, FL. Advisors: Michelle R. Heupel and James J. Gelsleichter

PUBLICATIONS (*h*-index: 15; mentored student authors: 11)

26. Ortiz J*, Bobkov YV, **DeBiasse MB**, Mitchell D, Edgar A, Martindale MQ, Moss AG, Hammar K, Babonis LS, Ryan JF (*accepted*) Independent innexin radiation shaped signaling in ctenophores. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. *Undergraduate author
Preprint: [biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.10.11.511657v1](https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.10.11.511657v1)

PUBLICATIONS CONT.

25. **DeBiasse MB**, Stubler AS, Kelly MW (2022) Comparative transcriptomics reveals altered species interaction between the bioeroding sponge, *Cliona varians*, and the coral, *Porites furcata*, under ocean acidification. *Molecular Ecology*
24. **DeBiasse MB**, Schiebelhut LM, Escalona M, Beraut E, Fairbairn C, Marimuthu M, Nguyen O, Sahasrabudhe R, Dawson MN (2022) A chromosome-level reference genome for the giant pink sea star, *Pisaster brevispinus*, a species severely impacted by wasting. *Journal of Heredity*
23. Pageot LX, **DeBiasse MB**, Escalona M, Beraut E, Fairbairn C, Marimuthu M, Nguyen O, Sahasrabudhe R, Dawson MN (2022) Reference genome for the California ribbed mussel, *Mytilus californianus*, an ecosystem engineer. *Journal of Heredity*
22. Bernardi G, **DeBiasse MB**, Escalona M, Marimuthu M, Nguyen O, Sacco S, Beraut E, Miller C, Toffelmier C, Shaffer BH (2022) Reference genome of the California Sheephead, *Semicossyphus pulcher* (Labridae, Perciformes), a keystone fish predator in kelp forest ecosystems. *Journal of Heredity*
21. Ketchum RN, Smith EG, **DeBiasse MB**, Vaughan GO, McPharland D, Leach WB, Al-Mansoori N, Ryan JF, Burt JA, Reitzel AM (2020) Population genomic analyses of the sea urchin *Echinometra* sp. *EZ* across an extreme environmental gradient. *Genome Biology and Evolution*
20. **DeBiasse MB**, Colgan W*, Harris L, Davidson B, JF Ryan (2020) Inferring tunicate relationships and the evolution of the tunicate Hox cluster with the genome of *Corella inflata*. *Genome Biology and Evolution* *Undergraduate author
19. Dardaillon J, Dauga D, Simion P, Onuma T, **DeBiasse MB**, ...Ryan JF, Davidson B, NISHIDA, Dantec C, Lemaire P (2019) ANISEED 2019: 4D exploration of genetic data for an extended range of tunicates. *Nucleic Acids Research*
18. Colgan W*, Leanza A, Hwang A, **DeBiasse MB**, Llosa I*, Rodrigues D*, Adhikari H*, Barreto Corona G*, Bock S*, Carillo-Perez A*, Currie M*, Darkoa-Larbi S, Dellal D, Gutow H*, Hokama P*, Kibby E*, Linhart N*, Moody S*, Naganuma A*, Nguyen D, Stanton R*, Stark S, Tumey C*, Velleca A, Vu, N*, Ryan JF, Davidson B (2019) Variable levels of drift in tunicate cardiopharyngeal gene regulatory elements. *EvoDevo*. *Undergraduate authors
17. Pastrana CC*, **DeBiasse MB**, Ryan JF (2019) Sponges lack Parahox genes. *Genome Biology and Evolution*. *Undergraduate author, #Authors contributed equally
16. Richards VP, **DeBiasse MB**, Shivji MS (2019) Deep mitochondrial lineage divergence among populations of the southern stingray (*Hypanus americana*) throughout the Southeastern United States and Caribbean. *Marine Biodiversity*
15. **DeBiasse MB**, Ryan JF (2019) Phylotocol: promoting transparency and overcoming bias in phylogenetics. *Systematic Biology*
14. Ketchum R, **DeBiasse MB**, Ryan JF, Burt J, Reitzel A (2019) The complete mitochondrial genome of the sea urchin *Echinometra* sp. *EZ. Mitochondrial DNA Part B: Resources*
13. Babonis LS, **DeBiasse MB**, Francis WR, Christianson LM, Haddock SHD, Martindale MQ, Ryan JF (2018) Integrating embryonic development and evolutionary history to characterize tentacle-specific cell types in a ctenophore. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*
12. Rivest EB, Kelly MW, **DeBiasse MB**, Hofmann GE (2018) Host and symbionts in *Pocillopora damicornis* larvae display different transcriptomic responses to ocean acidification. *Frontiers in Marine Science*
11. **DeBiasse MB**, Kawji Y*, Kelly MW (2018) Phenotypic and transcriptomic responses to salinity stress across genetically and geographically divergent *Tigriopus californicus* populations. *Molecular Ecology*. *Undergraduate author
10. Kelly MW, **DeBiasse MB**, Villela V*, Roberts H*, Cecola C* (2016) Adaptation to climate change: trade-offs among responses to multiple stressors. *Evolutionary Applications*. *Undergraduate authors

PUBLICATIONS CONT.

9. Kelly MW, Pankey MS, **DeBiasse MB**, Plachetzki DC (2016) Adaptation to heat stress reduces phenotypic and gene expression plasticity in a marine copepod. *Functional Ecology*
8. **DeBiasse MB**, Richards VP, Shivji MS, Hellberg MH (2016) Shared phylogeographic breaks in a Caribbean coral reef sponge and its invertebrate commensals. *Journal of Biogeography*
7. Brzeski KE, **DeBiasse MB**, Rabon Jr. DR, Chamberlain MJ, Taylor SS (2016) Mitochondrial DNA variation in Southeastern pre-Columbian canids. *Journal of Heredity*
6. **DeBiasse MB**, Kelly MW (2016) Plastic and adaptive responses to global change: what can we learn from comparative transcriptomics? *Journal of Heredity*
5. **DeBiasse MB**, Hellberg MH (2015) Discordance between morphological and molecular species boundaries among Caribbean species of the reef sponge *Callyspongia*. *Ecology and Evolution*
4. Richards VP, **DeBiasse MB**, Shivji MS (2015) Genetic evidence supports larval retention in the Western Caribbean for an invertebrate with high dispersal capability (*Ophiothrix suensonii*: Echinodermata, Ophiuroidea). *Coral Reefs*
3. Prada C, **DeBiasse MB**, Neigel JE, Yedock B, Stake J, Forsman ZH, Baums IB, Hellberg ME (2014) Genetic species delineation among branching Caribbean *Porites* corals. *Coral Reefs*
2. **DeBiasse MB**, Nelson BJ, Hellberg ME (2014). Evaluating summary statistics used to test for incomplete lineage sorting: mito-nuclear discordance in the reef sponge *Callyspongia vaginalis*. *Molecular Ecology*
1. **DeBiasse MB**, Richards VP, Shivji MS (2010) Genetic assessment of connectivity in the common reef sponge, *Callyspongia vaginalis* (Demospongiae: Haplosclerida) reveals high population structure along the Florida reef tract. *Coral Reefs*

COMING SOON...

DeBiasse MB, Buckenmeyer A*, Macrander J, Babonis LS, Bentlage B, Cartwright P, Prada C, Reitzel AM, Stampar SN, Collins AG, Daly M, Ryan JF (*in revision*) Illuminating the Cnidaria tree of life with a phylogenomic backbone fitted with hundreds of 18S leaves. *Bulletin of the Society of Systematic Biologists*. *Undergraduate author. Preprint: [biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.10.03.510641v1](https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.10.03.510641v1)

DeBiasse MB, Schiebelhut LM, Dawson MN (*in prep*) Comparative genomics of sea star wasting across the asteroid tree using chromosome-level assemblies

Hernandez AM, **DeBiasse MB**, Dykes LL, Edgar A, Hayes DT, Grosso DJ, Babonis LS, Martindale MQ, Ryan JF (*in prep*) The genome of a ctenophore-eating ctenophore reveals evolutionary genomic and transcriptomic dynamics within Ctenophora

Stampar SN, Maronna MM, Kitahara MV, Lopes CSS, Santos TB, Reimer JD, Gameiro EM, Yap NWL, Neo ML, Sumida PY, Klompen AML, Macrander J, Reitzel AM, **DeBiasse MB**, Ryan JF, Daly M, Broe M, Morandini AC, Migotto AE (*in prep*) Evolution in Ceriantharia (Cnidaria): life cycle plasticity blurs traditional systematics in cerianthids

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2021-2024 National Science Foundation, Division of Ocean Sciences, Biological Oceanography.

“Collaborative Research: Understanding bioerosion from individuals to ecosystems: the impacts of biotic and abiotic stressors on sponge erosion of oyster reefs.” Award number 2048449.

\$530,000 [**\$218,878** to co-PI DeBiasse]

2014 American Genetics Association Ecological Genomics Symposium Travel Award **\$500**

2013, 2014 Molecular Ecology Best Reviewer

GRANTS AND AWARDS CONT.

- 2013 Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short Term Fellowship, “The effects of climate change and species interaction on calcification in the reef building coral *Porites furcata*,” **\$2,400**
2013 Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research Award, National Chapter, **\$500**
2012 Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research Award, Louisiana State University Chapter, **\$500**
2012 Lerner Gray Grant for Marine Research, **\$1,990**
2010 Best Oral Presentation, Louisiana State University Biology Graduate Student Symposium
2009 Research Award, Louisiana State University Biology Graduate Student Association, **\$600**
2008-2012 Louisiana Board of Regents Fellowship **\$80,000**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Lead Instructor, 2022 LSU Bioinformatics Workshop (July 18-22) Louisiana State University
Topic: 5-day workshop covering application of genomic and transcriptomic data to biology and ecology, high throughput sequencing, high performance computing, command line navigation and basic R scripting
- Lead Instructor, Comparative Genomics (Fall 2021) Dawson Lab, University of California Merced
Topic: 15-session, hands-on workshop covering high throughput sequencing, high performance computing, genome assembly and comparative analyses of chromosome-level genomes
- Guest Lecturer, Marine Science (Fall 2021), School of Natural Sciences, University of California Merced. Topic: ocean acidification and species interactions
- Guest Lecturer (via zoom), Bioinformatics (Spring 2021) Dept. of Biology, Radford University
Topic: using RNA-Seq data to understand physiological responses to stress
- Guest Lecturer, Biology for non-majors (Fall 2019) Dept. of Biology, Flagler College
Topic: introduction to genomics
- Guest Lecturer, Environmental Science (Fall 2019) Dept. of Biology, Flagler College
Topic: ocean acidification
- Guest Lecturer, Biology for non-majors (Spring 2019) Dept. of Biology, Flagler College
Topic: species concepts and speciation
- Guest Lecturer, Evolution (Spring 2016) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University
Topic: species and speciation
- Guest Lecturer, Evolution (Fall 2015) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University
Topic: molecular phylogenetics and evolution
- Guest Lecturer, Evolution (Spring 2015) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University
Topic: molecular methods of species delimitation
- Guest Lecturer, Evolution (Spring 2014) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University
Topic: species and speciation
- Teaching Assistant, Invertebrate Zoology Laboratory (Fall 2013) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University
- Teaching Assistant, Introductory Biology Laboratory (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University
- Teaching Assistant, Genetics Laboratory (Fall 2005-Spring 2008) Division of Math, Science, and Technology, Nova Southeastern University

STUDENTS MENTORED

2020-present	Bailey Carlson	Graduate Student	UC Merced
2020-present	Karly Higgins-Poling	Graduate Student	UC Merced
2020-present	Non Wutthituntisil	Graduate Student	UC Merced
2020-present	Lisa Paggeot	Graduate Student	UC Merced
2020	Dani Hayes	Undergraduate	University of Florida

STUDENTS MENTORED CONT.

2019	Jennifer Ortiz	Undergraduate	Iowa State University/REU
2018	Telissa Wilson	Graduate Student	The Evergreen State College
2018	Remi Ketchum	Graduate Student	UNC Charlotte
2018	Ariane Buckenmeyer	Undergraduate	Connecticut College/REU
2017	Michelle McGurr	High School teacher	Darnell-Cookman High School
2017	Aaron Szczepanek	Post-baccalaureate	UF Whitney Laboratory
2017	Claudia Cabrera	Undergraduate	University of Miami/REU
2017	Logan Campbell	Undergraduate	University of Tennessee/REU
2016-2021	Alexandra Hernandez	Graduate Student	UF Whitney Laboratory
2016-2020	Jessica Whelpley	Graduate Student	UF Whitney Laboratory
2015-2016	Daniel Liu	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2015-2016	Colleen Cecola	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2015-2016	Vidal Villela	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2015-2016	Hope Roberts	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2014-2016	Will Murdock	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2014	Byanjana Thapa	Undergraduate	Fairleigh Dickenson/HHMI
2014	Brandon Lawson	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2014	Elliot Wheeler	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2013-2015	Chelsea Wallace	High School	LSU EnvironMentors
2013	Jamie Gay	Undergraduate	University of Colorado/STRI
2013	Sarah White	Undergraduate	University of Colorado/STRI
2010	Catalina Restrepo	Undergraduate	Louisiana State University
2010	Maria Costantini	Undergraduate	Rowan University/HHMI
2010	Maxine Tan	Undergraduate	Eckerd College/HHMI

INVITED SEMINARS

- Eroding sponges and wasting sea stars: unifying ecological and evolutionary timescales using genomics. Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, May 2022
- Eroding sponges and wasting sea stars: unifying ecological and evolutionary timescales using genomics. University of Texas Marine Science Institute, March 2022
- Boring sponges and glowing ctenophores: genomes reveal how marine invertebrates respond to their environment over minutes and millions of years. University of Alabama, March 2020. Watch my presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgn5CcBoLEc>
- Boring sponges and glowing ctenophores: using genomes to understand how marine invertebrates respond to their environment within minutes & over millions of years. Occidental College Biology Department Seminar Series, April 2019
- Phylotocol presented as part of the Data Standards and Community Resources Forum, Society of Systematic Biologist Meeting, Columbus, OH, June 2018
- What to do with a billion years of evolution. Species Tree Estimation Workshop, Society of Systematic Biologists Meeting, Columbus, OH, June 2018
- Detecting convergent sequence evolution using parametric bootstrapping. NGS Polar Organism Workshop, SICB, San Francisco, CA, January 2018
- Adaptation to the deep sea in ctenophores, the comb jellies. Daytona State College, Daytona Beach, FL, November 2017
- Model-based tests of historical demography and species boundaries in the reef sponge *Callispongia*. Department of Biology, University of Florida, April 2017
- DEEPC: The deep, dark genomic secrets of ctenophores. Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, April 2017

INVITED SEMINARS CONT.

- Patterns of genomic and phenotypic variation over evolutionary and ecological timescales in marine invertebrates. Department of Biology, University of North Florida, November 2015
- Patterns of genomic and phenotypic variation over evolutionary and ecological timescales in marine invertebrates. Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology Seminar Series, The Ohio State University, October 2015
- Genomic basis of salinity tolerance in *Tigriopus* copepods. Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science Seminar Series, Louisiana State University, September 2015
- Using transcriptomic data to test biotic and abiotic interactions in marine invertebrates. Keynote speaker for Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium, Louisiana State University, July 2015. Watch my presentation here: <http://bit.ly/1GFNcBY>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- DeBiasse MB, Olson C, Pfitzer Price A, Samaniego L, Kelly MW, Stubler AS (2023) The impacts of biotic & abiotic stressors on sponge bioerosion. Society for Comparative and Integrative Biology, Austin, TX
- DeBiasse MB, Schiebelhut LM, Dawson MN (2022) Genomic associations with wasting syndromes in sea stars: a comparative approach. Society for Comparative and Integrative Biology regional meeting, Durham, NC
- DeBiasse MB, Colgan W, Harris L, Davidson B, Ryan JF (2019) The *Corella inflata* genome: reconstructing the ancestral enterogonid tunicate. Evolution, Providence, Rhode Island
- DeBiasse MB, Babonis L, Schnitzler C, Koren S, Martindale MQ, Ryan JF (2019) The complete genome sequence of *Beroe ovata*, a tentacle-less, ctenophore-chomping ctenophore. Society for Comparative and Integrative Biology, Tampa, FL
- DeBiasse MB Francis W, Thuesen E, Haddock S, Ryan J (2018) DEEPC: adaptation to depth in ctenophores. Society for Comparative and Integrative Biology, San Francisco, CA
- DeBiasse MB, Francis W, Thuesen E, Haddock S, Ryan J (2017) DEEPC: The deep, dark genomic secrets of ctenophores. BioGenomics, Washington, DC
- DeBiasse MB, Stubler AS, Kelly MW (2017) Testing the effect of ocean acidification on a sponge-coral species interaction. Society for Comparative and Integrative Biology, New Orleans, LA
- DeBiasse MB, Kelly, MW (2016) Intraspecific variation in phenotypic and transcriptomic plasticity in *Tigriopus californicus* in response to salinity stress. Evolution, Austin, Texas
- DeBiasse MB, Hellberg ME (2015) Discordance between morphological and molecular species boundaries in the sponge genus *Callyspongia*. Society for Systematic Biologists Meeting, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- DeBiasse MB, Kelly MW (2014) The genomic basis of adaptation to salinity in the tide pool copepod *Tigriopus californicus*. American Genetics Association Ecological Genomics Symposium, Kansas City, Missouri
- DeBiasse MB, Hellberg ME (2012) Mitochondrial and nuclear gene sequences show conflicting patterns of genetic structure in the coral reef sponge *Callyspongia vaginalis*. Evolution, Ottawa, Canada
- DeBiasse MB, Hellberg ME (2010) Mitochondrial and nuclear gene sequences show conflicting patterns of divergence among putative cryptic species in the marine sponge *Callyspongia vaginalis*. World Sponge Conference, Girona, Spain
- DeBiasse MB, Richards VP, Shivji MS (2008) Genetic connectivity in the branching vase sponge (*Callyspongia vaginalis*) across the Florida reef tract and Caribbean. 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

FIELD WORK

- March 2022 Wilmington NC. Collected sponge-infested oyster shells, nudibranchs, and gastropods for manipulative experiments testing sponge response to predation
- November 2021 Santa Cruz Island, Channel Islands National Park. Surveyed and collected several marine invertebrate species from rocky intertidal habitats for conservation genomics project.
- December 2016 Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute research cruise on the RV Western Flyer. Assisted in the collection of pelagic invertebrates using blue water diving, mid-water trawls, and the ROV Doc Ricketts
- June-August 2013 Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Bocas del Toro, Panama. Performed long-term experiments to test the effect of ocean acidification on a sponge/coral species interaction. Project included sample collection and construction and maintenance of 180 mesocosm tanks.
- May 2007 Dry Tortugas National Park. Organized and led a 7-day dive trip to sample sponges and brittle stars for phylogeography research
- May 2006 Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras. Organized a 7-day dive trip to collect sponge and coral samples for phylogeography research
- March 2006 Crooked Island, Bahamas. Organized a five-day dive trip to collect coral reef invertebrate samples for phylogeography research
- December 2003 Tampa, Florida. Participated in five-day research cruise for a mark recapture project focusing on sharks from the Gulf of Mexico

SERVICE

- Ad hoc reviewer for NSF Division of Ocean Sciences, 2023
- Awards Committee, Society of Systematic Biologists, 2019-present
- Reviewer for Society of Systematic Biologists graduate student grant proposals, 2018-2019
- Whitney Research Seminar coordinator, 2017-2019
- Darwin Week outreach at local elementary and high schools, Northeastern FL, 2017-2019
- Instructor for biotechnology lab outreach, Pedro Menendez High School, St. Augustine, FL, 2017-2019
- Mentor for UF Whitney Lab REU program, 2017-2019
- Ad hoc reviewer for NSF Division of Environmental Biology, 2016
- Contributor to *The Molecular Ecologist* blog, 2014-2016
- Founder of LSU Women in Science organization, 2014
- Mentor for Louisiana State University Chapter of EnvironMentors, 2012-2015
- Mentor for undergraduate Howard Hughes Medical Institute interns, Summers 2009, 2014
- Graduate Student Rep for LSU Computational Biology faculty position search committee, 2014
- Exhibitor for Louisiana State Sea Grant program Ocean Commotion, 2008-2016
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- Reviewer for Nature Climate Change, Molecular Ecology, Evolution, Genome Biology and Evolution, Systematic Biology, Bulletin of the Society of Systematic Biologists, Heredity, BMC Evolutionary Biology, BMC Genomics, Integrative and Comparative Biology, Journal of Biogeography, Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Coral Reefs, Marine Biology, Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Aquatic Biology, PLOS ONE, Peer J, Scientific Reports, Biodiversity and Conservation

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Michael N Dawson (current postdoc advisor)

Professor
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Joseph F. Ryan (previous postdoc advisor)

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904.201.8426

Morgan W. Kelly (previous postdoc advisor)

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Michael E. Hellberg (dissertation committee chair)

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