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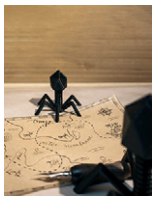

The Rex phenotype is the exclusion of T4*rII* infection in *Escherichia coli* lysogenized by bacteriophage lambda. Since its discovery by Seymour Benzer over six decades ago, the mechanism behind the phenotype remains unknown. Alattas *et al* identify key *E. coli* host genes vital to the manifestation of Rex by examining T4*rII* and T4 infection across *rex*+ single gene knockouts. This image is a whimsical depiction of T4*rII* infection. Two T4*rII* phages strategize on top of a map of the "*E. coli* oceans", which shows a "Rex" ship they need to combat. Various gene names central to Rex can be seen on the map. Courtesy of Shirley Wong and figures 3D-printed by Jacob Ehrhardt. See Alattas, Wong, and Slavcev pp. 1087–1102.