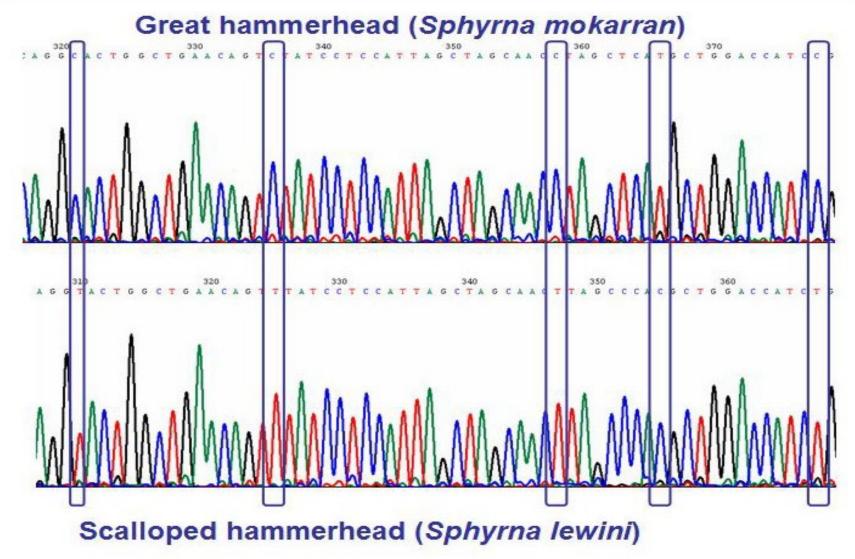
GENETIC VARIATION & DNA MARKERS

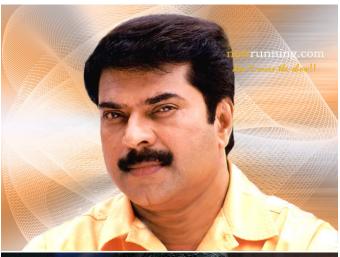
- All organisms are subject to mutations as a result of normal cellular operations or interactions with the environment, leading to genetic variation (polymorphism)
- In conjunction with selection there arises genetic variation within and among individuals, species, and higher order taxonomic groups.
- To the geneticists, the variation must be (1) heritable and (2) discernable to the researcher, either as a recognizable phenotypic variation or as a genetic mutation distinguishable through molecular techniques.

- **Types of genetic variation:** Base substitutions known as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs); insertions or deletions of nucleotide sequences (indels) within a locus; inversion of a segment of DNA within a locus; and rearrangement of DNA segments around a locus of interest.
- Through long evolutionary accumulation, the number and degree of the various types of mutations define the genetic variation within a species.
- DNA marker technology can be applied to reveal these mutations.
- **Molecular / genetic marker**: A DNA fragment, an allele or cytogenetic marker or gene product (allozymes/proteins) used as an experimental probe to keep track of a species, a population, an individual, a tissue, a cell, a nucleus, a chromosome, or a gene. Molecular markers are used to identify different genetic varieties of microbes, animals & plants, or to trace genetic predisposition to certain cancers.

Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)



Genetic Variation: 1) at individual level









Genetic Variation: 2) at intra -specific level











Genetic Variation: 2) at intra -specific level











Genetic Variation: 3) at inter –specific/ inter-generic levels (Homo sapines & Pan troglodytes)









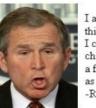












I apologize for this latest entry. I can't find a chimp making a face as dumb as this one. -Rich











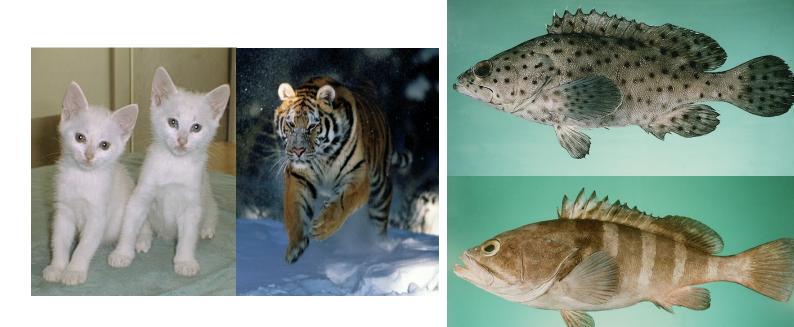








Genetic Variation: 3) at inter –specific/ inter-generic levels





Types of markers:

- DNA markers (nuclear & mitochondrial)
- Protein Markers (allozymes; general proteins; salt soluble Myofibrillar proteins such as myosin and tropomyosin
- Type I and Type II: Type I are markers associated with genes of known function, (*eg.*, Allozymes, RFLP, ESTs); Type II markers are associated with anonymous genomic segments (RAPD, AFLP, microsatellites).

Properties of Molecular Markers

- 1) Heritable in Mendelian fashion
- **2)** Genetic variations discernable
- 3) Neutral
- 4) Reproducible
- 5) Monomorphic (fixed) / Polymorphic
- Very important to choose appropriate marker for a given objective.

Requirements for molecular markers studies

- Tissue samples accurately identified; properly preserved in ethanol
- Good quality DNA
- PCR Lab facilities
- Prior information of the genome (except in the case of RAPD) 'primers'
- Electrophoresis apparatus & staining protocols
- Sequencing facility
- Data analysis

- RANDOM AMPLIFIED POLYMORPHIC DNA (RAPD) (Williams et al.,1990) or Arbitrarily Primed PCR (AP – PCR) (Welsh & McClelland, 1990)
- **2. MICROSATELLITES**
- 3. Mitochondrial DNA & DNA Barcoding
- 4. ITS (Internal Transcribed Spacers)

RANDOM AMPLIFIED POLYMORPHIC DNA (RAPD) (Williams et al.,1990)

or

Arbitrarily Primed PCR (AP – PCR) (Welsh & McClelland, 1990)

<u>RAPD</u>

- Single short Primer of Random Arbitrary Sequence (10 bp)
- No sequence data is required; hence can be initiated with minimal infrastructural facilities.
- Primer will bind to many sites at low PCR stringency conditions
 - **Low annealing temp (36 40^{\circ}C)**
 - $\Box \quad \text{High MgCl}_2 \text{ concentration}$
- Dominant Marker

Advantages:

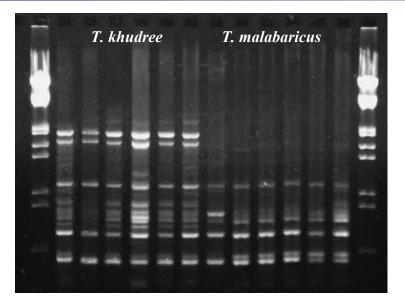
- Sequence data is not required.
- RAPD studies in a new species can be initiated with the minimal infrastructure facilities.

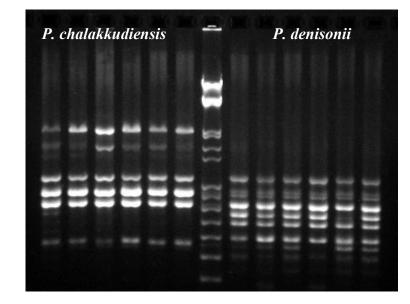
Disadvantages:

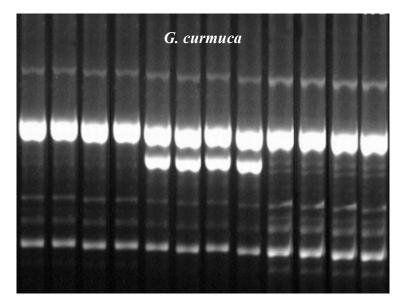
 Short primer (of generally 10mer) with random sequence will bind to many sites within the template INA at low PCR stringency conditions. Due to this property, a slight change in the parameters of PCR would result in change in RAPD-PCR product patterns. Hence, for obtaining the reproducibility of the results, strict standardization of the PCR are required.

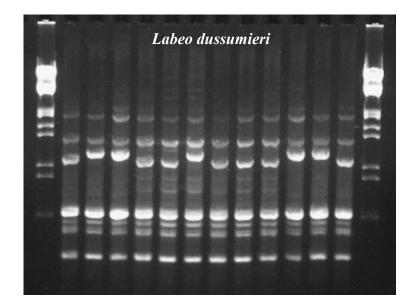
Points to be taken care of

- With every PCR, set up a PCR reaction without genomic DNA (called negative PCR reaction) to monitor the DNA contamination during PCR set up.
- RAPD primer to be used is first tested for amplification of clear and repeated bands.
- Utmost care has to be taken during setting up of RAPD-PCR, to avoid contamination of PCR products
- For repeatability of results, to strictly follow:
 - **#** Proper lab techniques.
 - **#** Strict standardisation of all reagents and protocols







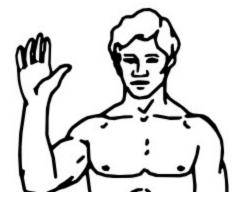


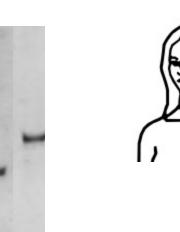
SCAR

- * RAPD-PCR technique can also generate species-specific, sex-specific and population specific fragments. These fragments are useful in developing specific "Sequence Characterized Amplified Region (SCAR) Markers"
- * Cut out species specific band from the gel \rightarrow purify \rightarrow sequence \rightarrow synthesize specific primer \rightarrow amplify \rightarrow only a single species specific band in the target species.

MICROSATELLITES

- Powerful DNA markers for quantifying genetic variations within & between populations of a species
- Also called as STR, SSR, VNTR
- Tandemly repeated DNA sequences with the repeat/size of 1 6 bases repeated several times
- Highly polymorphic; can be analysed with the help of PCR
- Individual alleles at a locus differ in number of tandem repeats of unit sequence owing to gain of loss of one or more repeats and they can be differentiated by electrophoresis according to their size





Co-dominant marker



Microsatellites – Types

Based on repeat pattern

- 1. Perfect CACACACACACACACACACACA
- 2. Imperfect CACACACA CACACACA CACACACA

4. Complex – CACACACACACACACA AATAATAATAATAATAATAATAAT

Based on number of base pairs

- 1) Mono (e.g. CCCCCCC or AAAAAA)
- 2) Di (e.g. CACACACACA)
- 3) Tri (e.g. CCA CCA CCA CCA)
- 4) Tetra (e.g. GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA)

Minisatellites: - (9 – 65 base pairs repeated from 2 to several hundred times)

Microsatellites – Properties

- ✓ Co-dominant
- \checkmark Inherit in Mendelian Fashion
- ✓ Polymorphic loci with allele number as high as 14
 − 15 per locus
- Mostly reported from non-coding region, hence can be independent of selection
- ✓ Flanking region is highly conserved in related species
- \checkmark Can be obtained from small amounts of tissues
- PAGE separation; silver staining/automated sequencing
- \checkmark Abundant in the genome

Problems:

- Prior information of the genome is essential as the primers are highly specific
- Stutter bands
- High sample size
- Mutation in primer binding sites and the region between primers and repeats can create problems

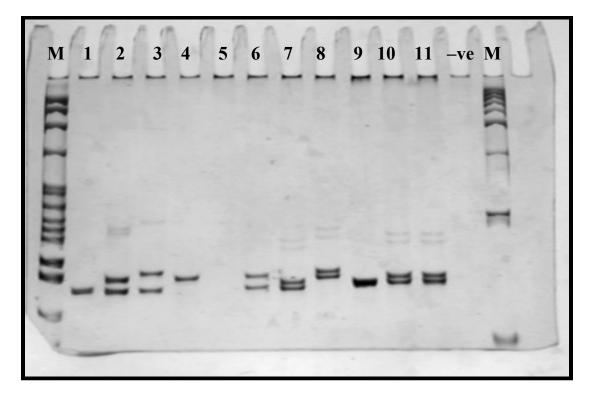
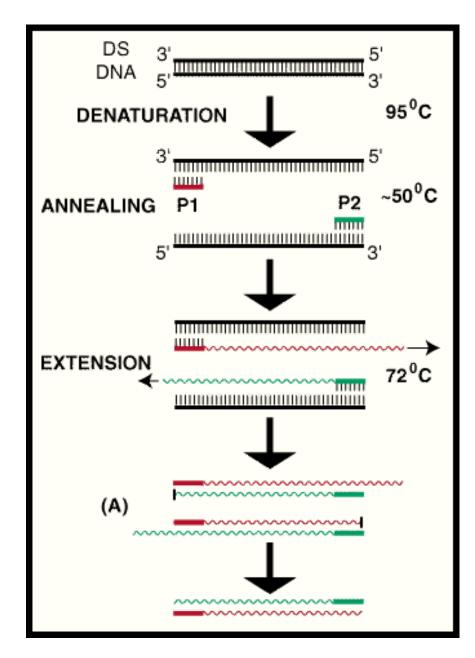
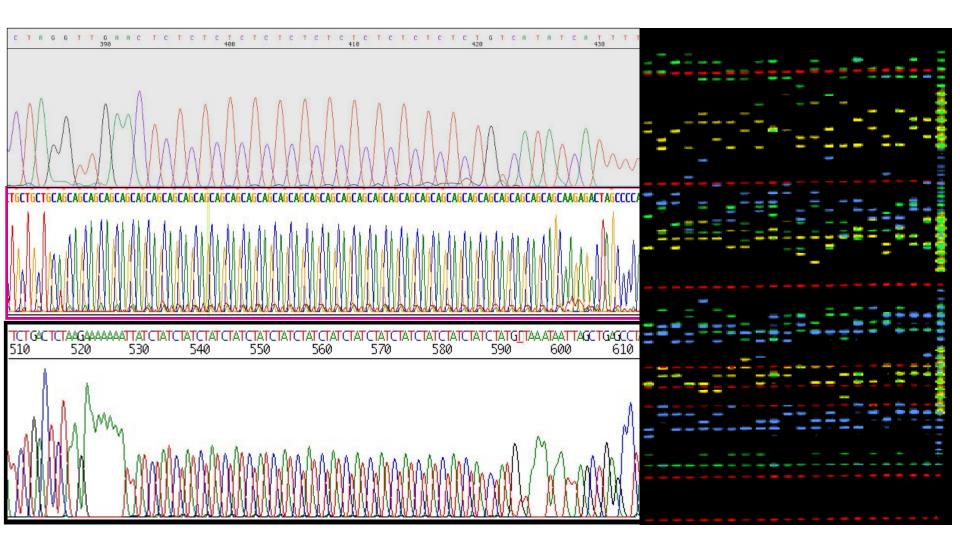


Fig. Single Locus Microsatellites. (There are five alleles at this locus.)M: Standard molecular weight marker, 1 -11:Different individuals -ve : Negative control

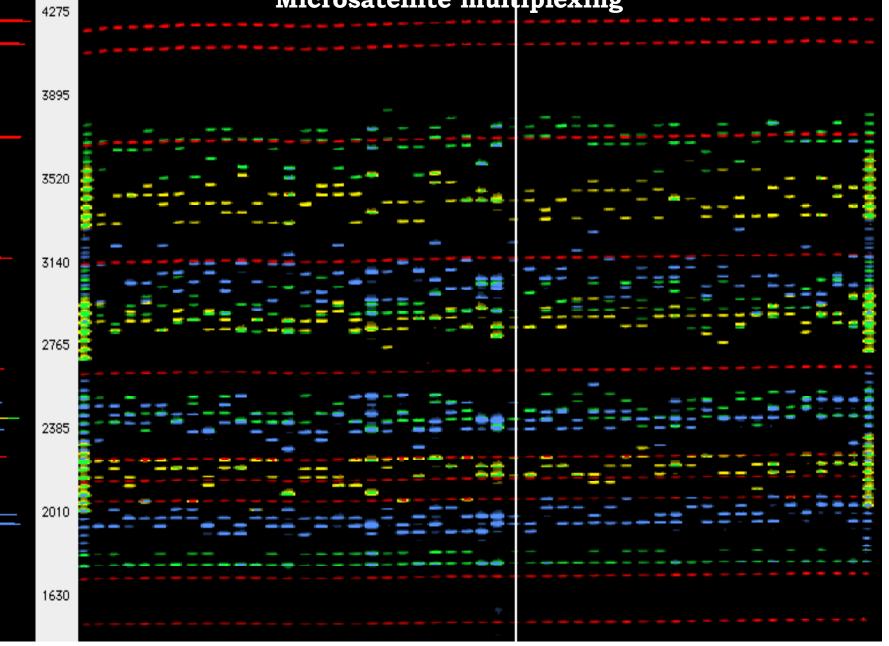
Microsatellite PCR



Microsatellites- Automated Genotyping & Use of Fluorescent dyes



Microsatellite multiplexing





Individuals with single bands constitute homozygotes while heterozygotes have double bands. On this basis, each individual is genotyped as homozygote/heterozygote with allele designation. The alleles are designated on the basis of their molecular weights.

Example: An individual showing (i) one band of 100 bp is genotyped as 100100, and (ii) two bands of molecular weight 100 and 120 bp is genotyped as 100120.

Genetic differentiation/Heterogeneity

o Co-efficient of genetic differentiation (F_{st})

(F_{st} is the index of genetic differentiation that describes how much variation in allele frequencies is present between the local populations. It is a measure of population differentiation and ranges from 0 where all the population have the same allele frequencies at all the loci to 1.0, where all the populations are fixed for different alleles at all loci)

- o Genetic Distance & Similarity Index
- o Dendrogram (UPGMA)
- o Softwares used: GENEPOP, GENETIX, POPGENE, WINBOOT
- o Interpretation of Results

DNA Barcoding

Mitochondria

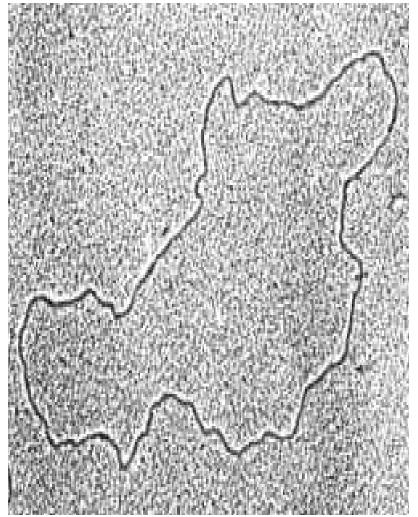
•Production of energy [ATP] for the cell:

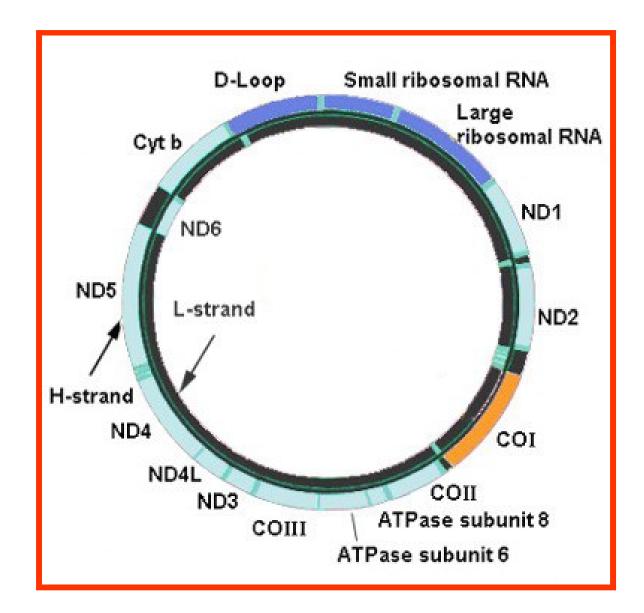
•Krebs cycle $\forall \beta$ -oxidation •Oxidative phosphorylation

- •Thermogenesis
- •Apoptosis

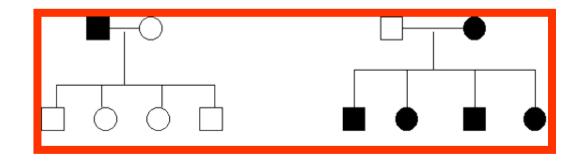
Mitochondrial DNA

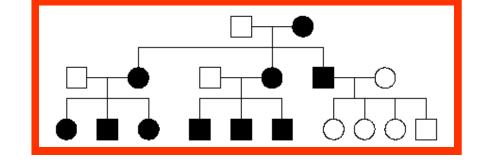
- Mitochondria contain their own DNA (mtDNA).
- Not a linear chromosome; Circular haploid structure about 16.5 kb in size.
- ^A Humans: 16,000 bases.
- Similar to bacterial DNA.
- ⁵ 37 Genes: rRNA (2), tRNA (22), 13 proteins in the electron transport chain that produces ATP; no introns; Inter-generic sequences (10 bp long) are small or absent; Repetitive DNA is rarely present.
- Both nDNA and mtDNA are required for normal function of the mitochondria.





Mitochondrial inheritance





Maternal inheritance

Haplotype:

A combination of alleles of different genes which are located closely together on the same chromosome and which tend to be inherited together

Heteroplasmy:

Presence of more than one type of mtDNA in an individual



Properties of mtDNA

- Exclusive maternal inheritance except in marine mollusc Mytilus spp.
- No recombination of mtDNA genome. In plants – it appears to be mosaic *i.e.* a combination of chloroplast, mitochondrial & nuclear genes
- Evolution is 5-10 times faster than single copy nDNA due to :

(i) Error prone system of DNA replication; (ii)Absence or deficiency in DNA repair function; (iii)Incapability of removing mildly deleterious mutation in the absence of recombination. Mutation rate differs in different regions:

D loop/control region – fastest evolution; ATPsynthase – 6, ND3, ND4, etc., are fast evolving; COI, 16S rRNA, 12S rRNA, Cyt b are slow evolving.

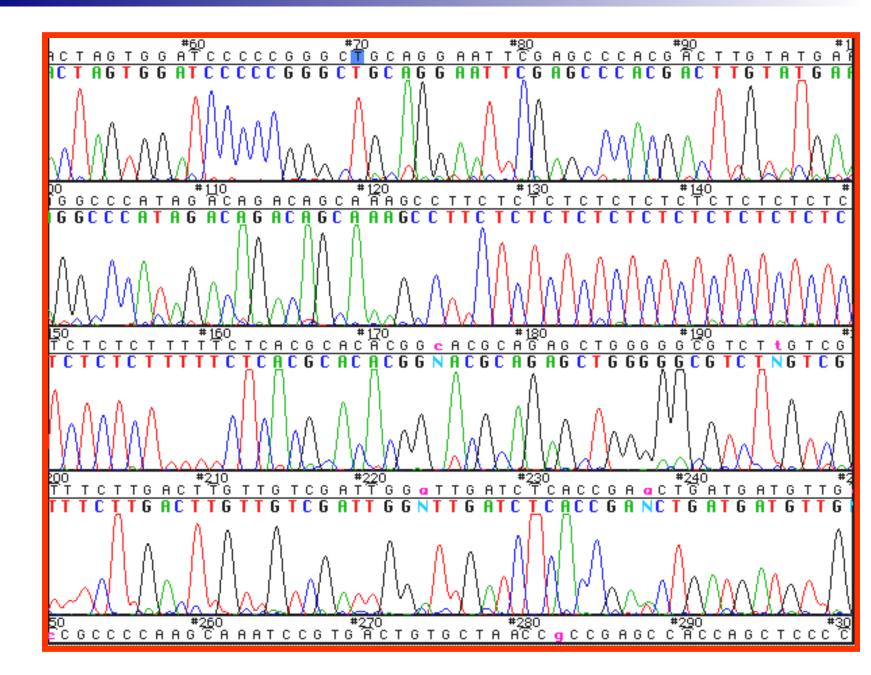
- Fast evolving genes are useful in studying intra-specific genetic diversity & slow evolving (highly conserved) ones are useful in studying evolutionary relationships.
- Length heteroplasmy:- due to insertion/deletion of tandem repeats in D -loop region.
- Site polymorphism due to more common transition (A \leftrightarrow G, C \leftrightarrow T) & rare transversions (A \leftrightarrow C; A \leftrightarrow T; G \leftrightarrow C; G \leftrightarrow T)

- ✓ Two strands Light (L) & Heavy (H) chains due to more purine bases (A&G) in heavy chains and the behaviour in CsCl gradients.
- ✓ All genes are coded by H strand except
 ND6 and 8 tRNAs by L strand
- ✓ Genetic Code: UGA codon stop codon in nuclear genes, but codes for tryptophan in mitochondria. Mt code requires 22 tRNAs rather than 24 tRNAs of the nucleus.

All these factors helps to reduce the effective population size for mtDNA to $\frac{1}{4}$ to that nuclear genes of the same organism. This means that genetic drift can cause allele frequency differences more rapidly in mtDNA than nDNA; less sample size required.

Analysis

- Earlier days RFLP
- > Now sequence information
- Using specific primers, mtDNA genes can be amplified & sequenced.



Problems of mtDNA Analysis

- Crossbreds, Hybrids & recently diverged species cannot be distinguished
- Mitochondrial pseudogenes in nDNA

DNA Barcoding

- DNA sequence analysis of a uniform target gene like the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase subunit I (COI) to enable species identification has been referred to as "DNA Barcoding", by analogy with the Universal Product Code (UPC) system barcodes used to identify manufactured goods.
- DNA barcoding has the potential to be a practical method for identification of the estimated 10 million species of eukaryotic life on earth.
- Expected to work at all stages of life, resolve taxonomic ambiguities, unmasks look-alikes and opens the way for an electronic handheld field guide, 'the life barcoder'.

- An appropriate target gene like COI is conserved enough to be amplified with broad range of primers and divergent enough to allow discrimination of closely allied species and it shows comparatively less sequence divergence within a species compared to the fast evolving genes of mtDNA.
- Alternate target genes are needed for cnidarians (sea anemones, corals and some jelly fishes) and plants as these groups show too little mitochondrial sequence diversity.
- mtDNA of fungi contains introns that can complicate DNA amplification.
- Global effort, recently initiated to compile DNA barcodes of all known eukaryotes along with collection of voucher specimens with authoritative taxonomic identification.

Biological specimens come in many forms



Identifiable adults

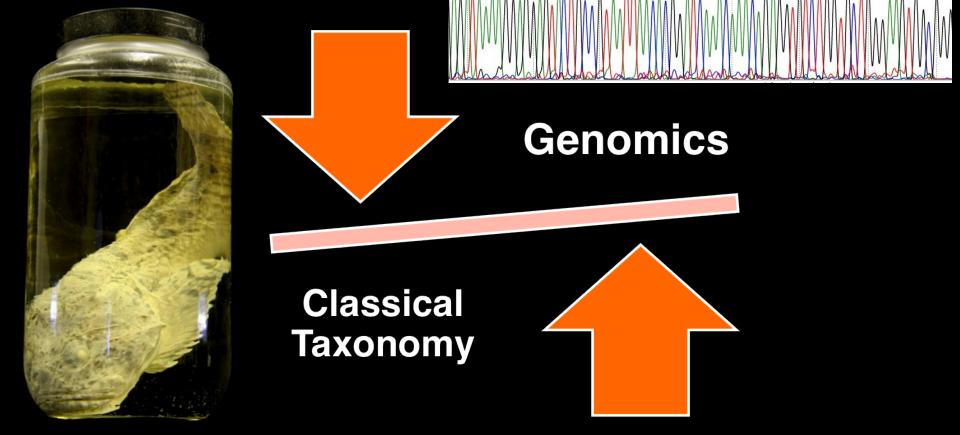


Juvenile stages



Processed products

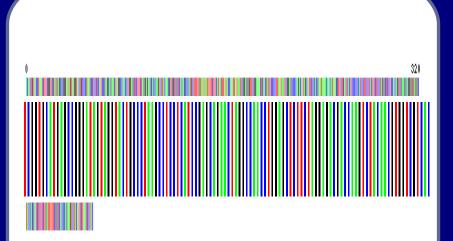
Barcoding: Integrating Best Practices



DNA-based identification system:



- Universal Product Code
- 10 state
- 11 positions



- DNA "Barcode"
- 4 states
- 655 positions

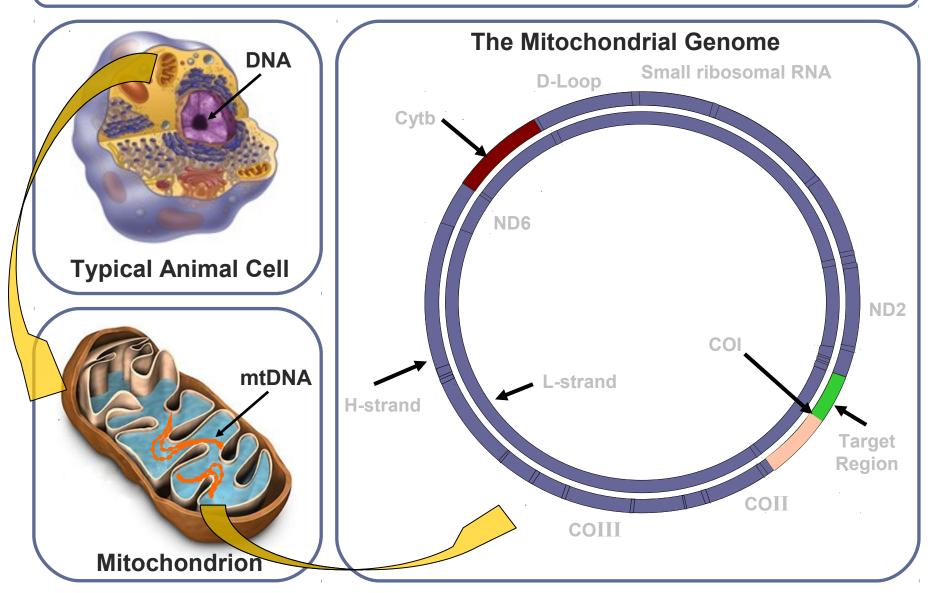
DNA-based identification system:





DNA Barcoding – A target region

An Internal ID System for All Animals



Costs and Time

		Fresh/Frozen	Time
Large	Tissue Sampling	\$0.41	10
	DNA Extraction	\$0.34	10
A CALL	PCR Amplification	\$0.24	20
	PCR Product Check	\$0.35	5
ALL CONTRACTOR	Cycle Sequencing	\$1.04	30
	Sequencing Cleanup	\$0.32	5
	Sequence	\$0.40	35
	<u>Total:</u>	\$3.10	115 min

Producing Barcode Data: 2006



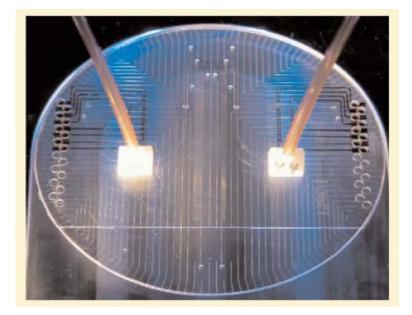
- Hundreds of samples per day
- costing several dollars per sample



ABI 3100 capillary

automated sequencer

Producing Barcode Data: 2008 Faster, more portable: Hundreds of samples per hour





Integrated DNA microchips

Table-top microfluidic systems

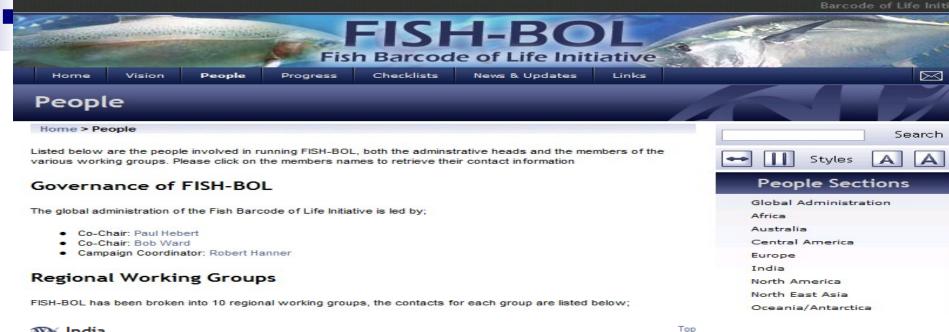
Producing Barcode Data: 2010? Barcode data anywhere, instantly



- Data in seconds to minutes
- Pennies per sample
- Link to reference database
- A taxonomic GPS
- Usable by nonspecialists

A Field Guide for the Third Millennium





India

The administration of the Indian Regional Working Group is led by;

Chair: Wazir Lakra

The members are:

- Achamveettil Gopalakrishnan ٠
- Pallipuram Jayasankar
- Wazir Lakra •
- Mahender Verma

North America

Acha	mveettil Gopalakrishnan	×
Title:	Senior Scientist	
Address:	NBFGR Cochin Unit Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Campus P.B. No. 1603 Cochin-682018, Kerala India	
Tel:	+91 984 711 5515	
Fax:	+91 484 239 5570	
Email:	agopalkochi@rediffmail.com	

The administration of the North American Regional Working Group is led by;

- Chair: Phil Hastings
- Vice Chair: Richard Mayden

The members are:

- Jesse Ausubel ٠
- Andy Bentley
- Louis Bernatchez
- Vadim Birstein
- **Lim Routillier**



FISH-BOL Team at NBFGR



First International Training on "DNA Barcoding of Marine Life" organized at NBFGR, Lucknow, India



Molecular identification and phylogenetic relationships of seven Indian Sciaenids (Pisces: Perciformes, Sciaenidae) based on 16S rRNA and cytochrome c oxidase subunit I mitochondrial genes

Wazir S. Lakra · M. Goswami · A. Gopalakrishnan

Received: 31 December 2007 / Accepted: 3 April 2008 © Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2008

Abstract The partial sequences of 16S rRNA and cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) mitochondrial genes were analyzed for species identification and phylogenetic relationships among the commercially important Indian sciaenids (Otolithes cuvieri, Otolithes ruber, Johnius dussumieri, Johnius elongatus, Johnieops vogleri, Otolithoides biauritus and Protonibea diacanthus). Sequence analysis of both genes revealed that the seven species fell and South America, West Africa, South and South-East Asia [4]. The Indian sciaenids, including the present commercially important species (*Otolithes cuvieri*, *Otolithes ruber*, *Johnius dussumieri*, *Johnius elongatus*, *Johnieops vogleri*, *Otolithoides biauritus* and *Protonibea diacanthus*), contribute approximately 4.6% to the total Indian marine fish production.

Conventionally, sciaenid fishes are identified using

Specimen	Collection Data	Barcodes of	ion life		
		Durcouts of	-i)°		
		SPECIMEN DATA-Pr	ofile - Guelph Moths		
		Identification :	Balleya ophthalmica		
		Specimen Accession : Specimen Label :	moth/764.01 moth/784.01	Institution Helding :	moth 784.01 University of Gueiph Paul Hebert
		Sex : Reproduction : Life Stage :	Male Sexual Adult	Date Collected : Identifier :	2001-06-20 Paul Hebert
		GPS Latitude : GPS Longitude :	43.537 -90.1353	Taxonomy :	Eyed Balkeya phylum - Arthropoda class - Insecta order - Lepidoptera
	Photographs	Elevation (meters) :	320 Canada		family - Noctuídae penus - Baileya species - Baileya ochthaimica
		State/Province : Region : Sector :	Vellington Country Puslinch Township Concession 11	Notes :	
				2	15
Tissue Sample		8		End	
				Wing Span = 3.2 cm	
		Collection Location (clip	ck on image to zoom]	Click on ima	age to enlarge
		Barcode	es of Life		- Print Help
		SEQUENCE	RELATED DATA -Profile - Guelph	Moths	
		Specimen Name Specimen	 Balaya ophthalmica meth704.01 	Translation Natrix 1 Electrophonogram 1	invertebrate Mitochondrial Code
Extract DNA PCR C	OI Sequence COI	Accession : Sequence ID :	PMG093-03		
Extract DIA PCR C	of bequeince cor	Primer Name 5' Primer 1		A - Count : 100 0 T - Count : 247 0	- Count : 07
		P Drisser 1			
		Sequence Long		70.5%	55 - Content : 29.5%
		Nucleothde Sequence t	GAACITOTITAGUCIA ATDATCAAATTIAATTICUAGU TTATACCAATTIATATTOBAQGATTIGO CIGNITAGCITTCCCCCGAATTAATA CICTACTGACTUCCCCCGAATTAATA CICTACTGACTUC TAGOAQAATTIGO CICOCCTTACTGACTACTACTACTA ACTACAGUTAGATAATTATCATTIGO ACTAGATTAGATAGATACTICATT TACAGACATTAGATAGTACTATTIT TACAGACATTIGOTAATTITACTTCATT TACAGACATTIGOTAATTIGACTACTICATT TACAGACATTIGOTAATTIG	ASCTCATGCTTTATTATAA AAATTSATTAGTACCTCTA TATAASITITISATTATTA AAATSGAGCAGGAACAGG CSSAAGTCCASTASATTA SGGAGCTATTAATTATTA	NTTICTITATA0 ATATTA00T0CCC CCCCTTCTTTAA ATOARCA0TTTACC 0CTATTTCCCAT CAACTATTTTCT
		Amino Acid Sequence i	XTSLSLLBRAELONFOSLIGOD QOMITIVTA NNIHSPHILDPSLTI, LBSSIVE HOASTAHT TTEINMADHNESPDQMPLPVMAVOITAPLU UF	VYEPLSSNCAM9688VDLAD	FELHLAGISSILGAINFI

BARCODE OF LIFE DATA SYSTEMS

Advancing species identification and discovery through the analysis of short, standardized gene regions

About BOLD Contact Us



Published Projects | Taxonomy Browser | Request an Account | Identify Specimen | Introductory Tutorial | Documentation | Citation

The Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD) is an online workbench that aids collection, management, analysis, and use of DNA barcodes. It consists of 3 components (MAS, IDS, and ECS) that each address the needs of various groups in the barcoding community.

WANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS

BOLD-MAS provides a repository for barcode records coupled with analytical tools. It serves as an online workbench for the DNA barcode community.

Login

Request a new user account

WIDENTIFICATION ENGINE

BOLD-IDS provides a species identification tool that accepts DNA sequences from the barcode region and returns a taxonomic assignment to the species level when possible.



EXTERNAL CONNECTIVITY

BOLD-ECS provides web developers and bioinformaticians the ability to build tools and workflows that can be integrated with the BOLD framework. We welcome the addition of new analytical modules.



BARCODE COUNTS

BARCODE COURTS	
Formally Described Species With Barcodes	41,626
Total Barcode Records	426,327
Source	Breakdown
GenBank	61,689
Canadian Centre	333,006
Others	31,632

SYSTEM UPDATES

Nov-23--2007 - Primer Registration (MAS)

Primer submission is now possible through the Project Console. Primers that target multiple markers are accepted as a prelude to supporting multi-marker barcoding.



Sept-30--2007 - ID Engine Integration (MAS)

The BOLD ID engine has now been integrated into the sequence page. Users can quickly test the identification of any record on BOLD by clicking on the ID buttons found directly below the nucleotide sequence on the page. Both full database and reference database searches are supported.



Aug-29--2007 - Google Earth (MAS)

Google Earth extension has been has been added to the Distribution map function on BOLD. Users with Google Earth installed on their system can map sample collection points on ultra-high resolution maps with specimen images.



Mar-2--2007 - Sequence Quality Measure (MAS)

BOLD now provides the number of ambiguous bases in a sequence wherever the sequence length is displayed. Sequences with greater than 1% ambiguous bases are highlighted for review. The Taxon ID tree function also provides a filter to restrict any sequences with greater than 1% ambiguous bases from the analysis.

Feb-12-2007 - Taxonomy Browser

A Taxonomy Browser is now available off the front page of BOLD. Users can browse and search for taxon pages that provide an overview of the barcoding

SEARCH

BOLDSYSTEMS Management & Analysis

Bats of Southeast Asia (BM)

Specimen Identifiers

he entren inclutions			
Sample ID :	ROM 101996	Museum ID :	101996
Isolate / Field Num:	F35806	Collection Code :	MAMM
Donated By :	Judith L. Eger	Deposited In :	Royal Ontario Museum
axonomy		Specimen Details	
Identifier :	Mark D. Engstrom	Voucher Type :	Skin, Skull, Skeleton
phylum :	Chordata	Tissue Type :	Frozen Liver
class :	Mammalia	Extra Info :	F35806 - E Kalimantan
order :	Chiroptera	Sex:	Male
family:	Pteropodidae	Reproduction :	Sexual
genus :	Macroglossus	Life Stage :	Adult
species :	Macroglossus minimus	0	

Collection Data



BOLDSYSTEMS | Management & Analysis

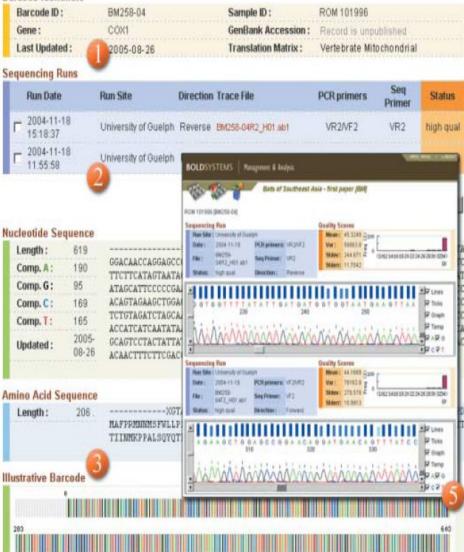


Bats of Southeast Asia - first paper [BM]

Barcode Identifiers

644 618

Edit Specimen



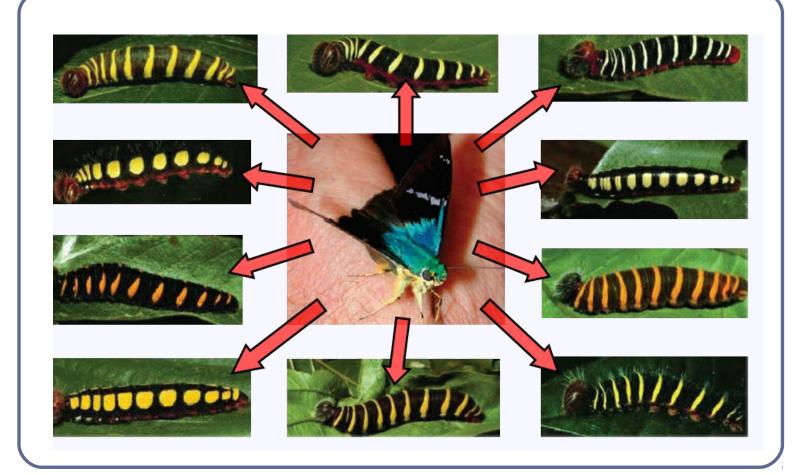
(Source: http://www.barcodinglife.org/views/login.php)

Barcoding Tropical Lepidoptera

Ten species in one: DNA barcoding reveals cryptic species in the neotropical skipper butterfly *Astraptes fulgerator*

Paul D. N. Hebert**, Erin H. Penton*, John M. Burns[‡], Daniel H. Janzen[§], and Winnie Hallwachs[§]

*Department of Zoology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada N1G 2W1; *Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560-0127; and ⁵Department of Biology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104

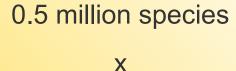


DNA Barcodes By 2015

Gaining Closure for All Marine Life







10 barcodes each

5 million barcodes& DNA extracts

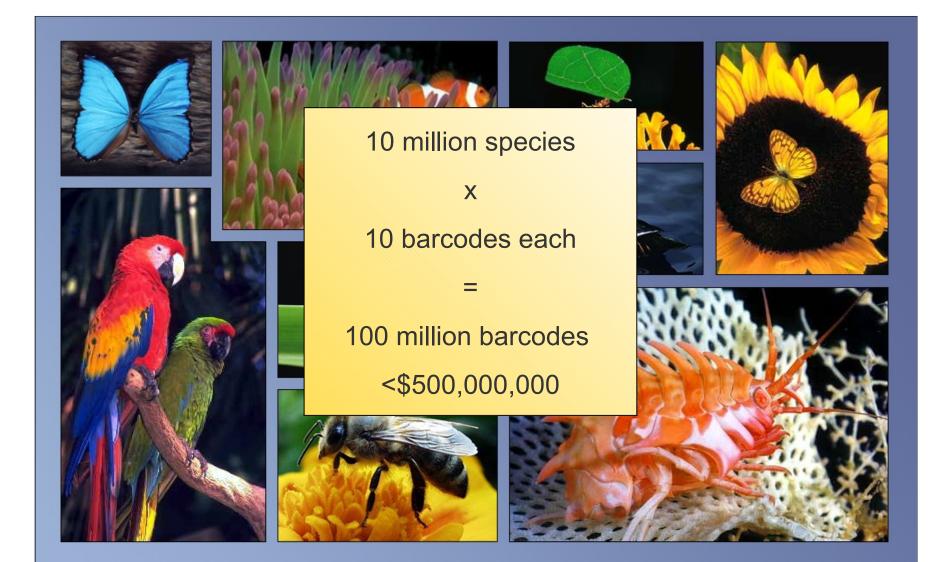








Gaining Closure for All Animals





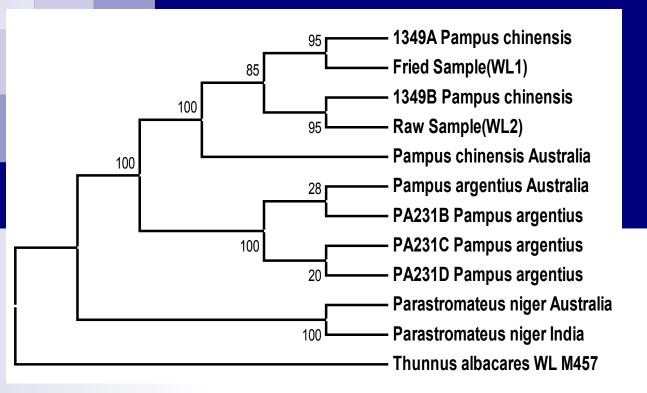
Identification of Endangered Whale Shark

(Rhincodon typus).

- Suspected Flesh of Banned Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) seized by Forest Range Officer, Kannur, Kerala.
- The Judicial First Class Magistrate, Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala approached NBFGR Cochin Unit for Analysis and confirmation of species.
- Based on DNA Barcoding it was identified as of endangered Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*).
- Confirmed with DNA sequencing of 16S rRNA(525bp) and COI (600bp) Cyt b(541bp) genes.



Pomphret Identification from fried and raw fish.



NJ Tree of Pomphret Species found in India with two samples(WL1 & WL2).





- \succ Networking of people and the funding agencies
- Lack of qualified Taxonomists
- Issue of voucher specimens located in India's vast network of Universities, Colleges and Research Institutes
- Plants, Hard corals & Fungi

<u>Chloroplast DNA (cp DNA):</u>

- A double-stranded circular DNA chloroplast chromosome or cpDNA.
- Chloroplasts genomes 3 types.

(Group I) - The Gymnosperms, Pinaceae and a group of legumes (peas and broad bean) have chloroplast chromosomes without an inverted repeat – IR

All other angiosperms have chloroplast genomes containing a large (6 – 76 kb) inverted repeat; these are Group II genomes.

The alga Euglena has three tandem repeats in its Group III chloroplast genome.

- Uniparental mode of inheritance (usually maternal in angiosperms and paternal in gymnosperms)
- Chloroplast genomes contain between 120 140 genes and of ~160 kbp size (~10 times larger than mtDNA).
- Relatively stable genome with marked conservation of gene content.

•Unlike the animal mitochondrial genome, cpDNA of several plants contain introns.

• The chloroplast genome shares many features with animal mtDNA and the two have been referred to as 'natural counterparts'.

•Regions such as *trH-psbA* spacer, *rbcL*, *matK*, *rpoC1*, *rpoB*, *accD* and *YCF5* are identified as the most promising regions in the cpDNA for DNA barcoding in plants and universal primer pairs for these regions have been developed (barcoding@kew.org).

• Occurrence of polymorphic mononucleotide microsatellites (cpSSR)

•Unlike, nuclear microsatellites, cpSSRs are uniparentally inherited, nonrecombinant and all loci are linked.

•Chloroplast microsatellites are fast evolving and typically consist of mononucleotide motifs that are repeated 8 to 15 times

•They represent potentially useful markers at the population level in plants.

ITS (Internal Transcribed Spacers)

- Eukaryotic ribosomal RNA genes (known as ribosomal DNA or rDNA) are found as parts of repeat units that are arranged in tandem arrays, located at the chromosomal sites known as nucleolar organizing regions (NORs).
- Each repeat unit consists of a transcribed region (having genes for 18S, 5.8S and 28S rRNAs and the external transcribed spacers i.e. ETS1 and ETS2) and a non-transcribed spacer (NTS) region.
- Internal transcribed spacers (ITS) are found on either side of 5.8S rRNA gene and these are described as ITS1 and ITS2.
- The length and sequences of ITS regions of rDNA repeats are believed to be fast evolving and therefore may vary

- This makes the ITS region an interesting subject for evolutionary/phylogenetic investigations as well as biogeographic investigations.
- Universal PCR primers designed from highly conserved regions flanking the ITS and its relatively small size (600-700 bp) enable easy amplification of ITS region due to high copy number (up to-30000 per cell) of rDNA repeats.

