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A sea urchin genome project

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Sea urchins are popular in developmental biology research thanks to their well defined embryology, the ease of gene transfer into eggs, and the abundance of eggs for biochemical work. Now the sea urchin genome project is off to a start with sequence from the ends of 76,020 bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) recombinants. In the August 15 [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), Cameron *et al.* report that these sequence tag connectors (STCs) occur at an average of 10 kb apart in the sea urchin genome and provide sequence of >5% of the genome (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2000, **97**:9514-9518). The collaborating groups have also produced cDNA libraries of >105 clones for every major stage of embryogenesis, and are in the process of producing the complete sequence of the 500 kb Hox gene complex.

References

1. Specification of cell fate in the sea urchin embryo: summary and some proposed mechanisms.
2. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, [<http://www.pnas.org/>]