

PublisherInfo		
PublisherName	:	BioMed Central
PublisherLocation	:	London
PublisherImprintName	:	BioMed Central

## Monkey map

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	4369
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/gb-spotlight-20020104-01
ArticleCitationID	:	spotlight-20020104-01
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	35
ArticleCategory	:	Research news
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	2
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2002-01-04 OnlineDate : 2002-01-04
ArticleCopyright	:	BioMed Central Ltd2002
ArticleGrants	:	
ArticleContext	:	130593311

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Following the completed draft of the human genome sequence, there is renewed interest in the genetic differences between species and, particularly, in what makes us human. In the January 4 *Science*, Asao Fujiyama and colleagues at the *RIKEN Genomic Sciences Center* in Japan present a first-generation human-chimpanzee comparative genome map (*Science* 2002, **295**:131-134). They used over 77,000 chimp bacterial artificial chromosomes (BAC) and aligned end-sequences with the human genomic sequence. The BAC clones covered almost half of the human genome. They calculated that the degree of identity with human sequences is about 98.77%. Closer analysis of chromosome 21 provided evidence for several human-specific loci. This map represents a step towards discovering what makes us different from our closest relatives, the apes.

## References

1. *Science*, [<http://www.sciencemag.org>]
2. RIKEN Genomic Sciences Center , [<http://www.gsc.riken.go.jp>]