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Replicating both ways

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William Wells

Email: wells@biotext.com

Archeal DNA replication proteins are closely related to eukaryotic counterparts, but in the June 23 *Science* Myllykallio *et al.* report that the archeon *Pyrococcus abyssi* has a bacterial mode of replication (*Science* 2000, **288**:2212-2215). Myllykallio *et al.* use the excess of G over C in the leading replication strand to identify a single origin of bi-directional replication in *Pyrococcus*. A comparison with a related archeon reveals that, as in bacteria, the replication terminus is a hotspot of genome shuffling. These two similarities with bacteria may be evidence for either convergent evolution or conservation of replication characteristics from the time of a common ancestor.

References

1. Archaea and the origin(s) of DNA replication proteins.
2. *Science*, [<http://www.sciencemag.org/>]