

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

Introns everywhere

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	3675
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/gb-spotlight-20000504-01
ArticleCitationID	:	spotlight-20000504-01
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	112
ArticleCategory	:	Research news
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	2
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2000-05-04 OnlineDate : 2000-05-04
ArticleCopyright	:	BioMed Central Ltd2000
ArticleGrants	:	
ArticleContext	:	130591111

William Wells

Email: wells@biotext.com

Self-splicing group II introns can [home](#) to the correct place in their host gene by reverse splicing into DNA. In the 27 April [Nature](#), Cousineau et al. show that a bacterial group II intron can also jump into unrelated genes by reverse splicing into an unrelated mRNA, followed by reverse transcription and then recombination (Nature 2000, 404:1018-1021). Moving by reverse splicing ensures that forward splicing will occur at a reasonable frequency, so the host gene's function remains intact. During the period when introns were spreading, cells probably evolved their own splicing machinery both to speed up splicing and to inhibit further intron spreading.

References

1. Retrohoming of a bacterial group II intron: mobility via complete reverse splicing, independent of homologous DNA recombination.
2. A link to an article on Introns in Nature, [<http://www.nature.com/nature/>]