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# Fungal sexual cycle

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The availability of the complete genome of the pathogenic fungus Candida albicans makes possible a thorough investigation of its biology. In the March 13 Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, Tzung *et al*. describe a comparison of the *C. albicans* genome with that of the related yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in an attempt to identify genes that are specifically related to the sexual cycle, namely the processes of meiosis and sporulation (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2001, **98:**3249-3253). By screening with 500 genes implicated in sexual differentiation, Tzung *et al*. identified *C. albicans* homologs of genes involved in the initiation of meiosis, chromosomal recombination and the formation of synaptonemal complexes. Comparison with genomes from other organisms identified additional genes implicated in meiosis.

# References

1. *Candida albicans* sequence at Stanford University, [http://www-sequence.stanford.edu/group/candida]

2. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, [http://www.pnas.org]

3. The transcriptional program of sporulation in budding yeast.