

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

Leprosy locus

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	4043
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/gb-spotlight-20010406-01
ArticleCitationID	:	spotlight-20010406-01
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	114
ArticleCategory	:	Research news
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	2
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2001-04-06 OnlineDate : 2001-04-06
ArticleCopyright	:	BioMed Central Ltd2001
ArticleGrants	:	
ArticleContext	:	130592211

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There appears to be a genetic contribution to the [susceptibility to leprosy](#), and high concordance rates have been observed amongst monozygotic Indian twins. In the April [Nature Genetics](#), Siddiqui *et al.* report the identification of a major susceptibility locus for leprosy (*Nature Genetics* 2001, **27**:439-441). They performed a genome-wide scan of 245 independent affected sibpairs from Southern India, using 396 highly polymorphic microsatellite markers. Only one region showed a MLS (maximum lod score) or more than 3.0: the marker D10S1661 on chromosome 10p13 has a MLS of 4.09, above the threshold for [statistical significance](#). These results attest to the feasibility of genome-wide linkage studies in the genetic analysis of complex prevalent infectious diseases.

References

1. Genetic epidemiology of the susceptibility to leprosy.
2. *Nature Genetics*, [<http://genetics.nature.com>]
3. Genetic dissection of complex traits: guidelines for interpreting and reporting linkage results.