

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

Agrobacterium goes live on the web

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	4185
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/gb-spotlight-20010824-01
ArticleCitationID	:	spotlight-20010824-01
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	256
ArticleCategory	:	Research news
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	2
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2001-08-24 OnlineDate : 2001-08-24
ArticleCopyright	:	BioMed Central Ltd2001
ArticleGrants	:	
ArticleContext	:	130592211

Agrobacterium tumefaciens is a pathogenic bacterium capable of inserting small pieces of genetic material into the genome of the plant or animal cell that it colonizes. This property makes *Agrobacterium* a very useful tool for injecting manipulated genetic material into cells. On August 21, Rajinder Kaul and co-workers at the [University of Washington School of Medicine](#), in collaboration with colleagues from [DuPont](#) and the [University of Campinas](#) in Brazil released on the worldwide web the complete sequence of the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain C58.

They report that the *A. tumefaciens* genome contains a total of more than 5.67 million base pairs. The sequence for each of the C58 replicons is presented, and with the exception of a few small scattered low-quality regions, Southern blot analysis suggests that all these sequences are complete.

They caution that this is still a work in progress, and annotation is not yet available, but they pledge to publish a manuscript describing these results by the end of 2001.

A greater understanding of the *Agrobacterium* genome may help to develop more efficient tools for genetically engineering crops that are more nutritious, less allergenic and with improved disease-resistance.

From a broader perspective, the investigators describe their work "as a part of an ongoing second green revolution in agriculture". They say, "this revolution holds the promise of meeting the needs of an increasing world population - at a time when water, agricultural land, and forests are becoming increasingly scarce".

References

1. *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* C58 genome project, University of Washington Crown Gall group., [<http://www.agrobacterium.org/>]
2. DuPont, [<http://www.dupont.com/>]
3. University of Campinas, [<http://www.unicamp.br/unicamp/welcome/ingles/introduction.html>]