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More genes on the fly Y

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The *Drosophila* Y chromosome has several features (including its heterochromatic state) that have made mapping and sequencing difficult. The Y chromosome contains genes directly involved with male fertility. In the November 6 [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), Carvalho *et al.* describe a search for more novel Y-linked genes (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2001, **98**:13225-13230). They used a strategy involving staggered TBLASTN screening of 500,000 proteins against the armU database of unmapped *Drosophila* sequences. This led to the identification of five novel Y-linked genes; three of these encode serine-threonine protein phosphatases, one is related to occludin and the other encodes a coiled-coil protein. This study raises the number of identified single-copy genes on the Y chromosome to nine.

References

1. Genome analysis: More *Drosophila* Y chromosome genes.
2. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, [<http://www.pnas.org>]
3. Y chromosomal fertility factors *kl-2* and *kl-3* of *Drosophila melanogaster* encode dynein heavy chain polypeptides.