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## Microsatellites in plant genomes

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Microsatellites are simple repetitive DNA sequences scattered throughout eukaryote genomes. In an Advanced Online Publication from *Nature Genetics*, Morgante *et al.* report their analysis of the density and distribution of microsatellites in several plant genomes (22 January 2002, DOI:10.1038/ng822). They compared the genomes of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, rice (*Oryza sativa*) soybean (*Glycine max*) maize (*Zea mays*) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), whose haploid genomes vary 50-fold in size. They found an enrichment of microsatellites in transcribed regions, particularly in untranslated regions. They also found that microsatellite frequency is not a function of overall genome size. Microsatellites were more frequent in single- or low-copy DNA fractions than in repetitive DNA. These results suggest that microsatellites do not originate from repetitive DNA, as was previously proposed.

## References

1. Microsatellites in different eukaryotic genomes: survey and analysis.
2. *Nature Genetics*, [<http://www.nature.com/ng/>]