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Annotating *Anopheles*

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Anopheles gambiae is the mosquito vector that is responsible for the transmission of malaria across Africa. In the June 11 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Thomasova *et al.* report the sequencing of bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) covering over 500 kilobases from the *Pen1* locus within the 8C region of *A. gambiae* chromosome 2R (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2002, **99:**8179-8184). Sequence analysis led to the identification and annotation of 48 genes (46 encoding proteins and 2 for tRNAs). Comparison with the genomic sequence of another dipteran insect, *Drosophila melanogaster*, revealed considerable conservation (38 of the 46 genes have fruit fly homolog) and regions of microsynteny. Also, Thomasova *et al.* found evidence for extensive local sequence variation within the *A. gambiae* genome. This study demonstrates how comparison with the *Drosophila* genome sequence is likely to accelerate annotation and analysis of the *Anopheles*genome.

References

1. What's buzzing? Mosquito genomics and transgenic mosquitoes.

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