1-1319, Wax High 134 Read a Bit of

读点斜核

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我们的时代正飞速发展。科技的突飞猛进,知识的膨胀滋蔓,令许多人不知所措,只觉得未知的领域太多,知识的更新太快。某个领域的专家一旦离开自己的专业,就会感到无所适从。要想在现代社会活得潇洒、自如,多学一点专业以外的知识已迫在眉睫!

我们这套"学子书苑系列"是为那些愿意多品尝几道知识快餐的莘莘学子而精心设计的,涵盖社会科学和自然科学的许多领域与学科。或许在专家眼里,内容是浅显了些;但对于门外汉,对于想多见一点"世面"的知识旅游者来说,透过这里打开的一扇扇小窗户,已足以领略某一学科的基本风貌,为塑造博学多能的人格奠定一个坚实的基础。

丛书以英汉对照的形式出现,是考虑到当 今学子大多是英语的学习者,采用双语能收到 "一举两得"的学习效果。

这里首期推出《读点哲学》、《读点历史》、《读点文明史》、《读点神话》、《读点科技史》、《读点科技》、《读点科技》、《读点科技》、《读点商务》九个分册。如果读者满意,我们还将继续编下去。在"读点××"的题目下,可供开拓的空间是很大很大的……

陈才宇 2001 年秋 于浙江大学

Foreword

对科学的认知和探索是现代人类 文明得以迅速发展的原动力,而科学 本身的发展又是基于人类对知识的不 断积累和对科学的浓厚兴趣。由于科 学是对自然存在的客观描述,因此单 从科学语言来说全球是相通的,也就 是说不同的民族语言描述的是相同的 科学原理。

本书采用英汉对照的形式,收录了涉及不同领域的 24 篇科普短文,旨在扩展青年学生的知识面,丰富英语科技词汇,提高科技英语的阅读能力。在此基础上,如能进一步激发青年人对科学的兴趣,那将是我们最大的收获。

书中所选的 24 篇科技短文均出 自近两三年国外的报刊媒体,内容涉 及电子学、化学、生物学、地学和天文 学等领域。文章均经适当地删减和调 整,力求为读者献上一份集科学性、趣味性和知识性为一体的科普快餐。

在本书编写过程中,编者得到了中国科学院海洋研究所向荣、庄丽华、孙荣涛和常凤鸣,以及国家海洋局第一海洋研究所韩丽等博士和硕士研究生的帮助。值此出版之际,谨向他们深表谢意。

由于时间仓促及编者水平和专业的限制,难免出现不当、甚至是错误之处,敬请读者斧正。

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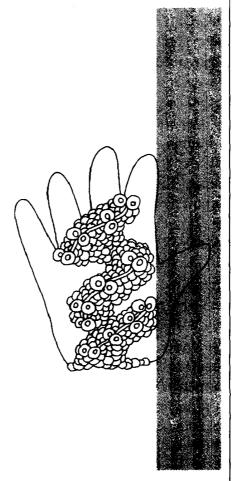
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目ョ

DNA Fingerprint



DNA指纹

ike the fingerprints that came into use by detectives and police labs during the 1930s, each person has a unique DNA fingerprint. Unlike a conventional fingerprint that occurs only on the fingertips and can be altered by surgery, a DNA fingerprint is the same for every cell, tissue, and organ of a person. It cannot be altered by any known treatment. Consequently, DNA fingerprint is rapidly becoming the primary method for identifying and distinguishing among individual human beings, and has entered an intense public spotlight ^①, where lawyers, crime investigators, and scientists constantly discuss it's merits ^② and pitfalls ^③.

The characteristics of all living organisms, including human, are essentially determined by information contained within DNA that they inherit from their parents. Living organisms that look different or have different characteristics also have different DNA sequences. The more varied the organisms, the more varied the DNA sequences. The molecular structure of DNA can be imagined as a zipper with each tooth represented by one of four letters (A, C, G, or T). and with opposite teeth forming one of two pairs, either A-T or G-C. The letters A, C, G, and T stand for adenine [®], cytosine [®], quanine [®], and thymine [®] respectively, the basic building blocks of DNA. The information contained in DNA is determined primarily by the sequence of letters along the zipper. The bases constitute a code for different proteins, much like the 20 世纪 30 年代侦探和警察的 实验室开始使用的指纹一样, 每个人都有独特的 DNA 指

纹。与仅出现在指尖并能被外科手术改变的常规指纹不同, DNA 指纹对一个人的每个细胞、组织和器官来说都是相同的。它不能被任何已知的处理方法所改变。因此, DNA 指纹鉴定正迅速成为用于人类个体之间鉴别和区分的主要方法, 并受到了强烈的公众关注, 律师、犯罪调查者和科学家一直在讨论其优点和缺陷。

包括人类在内的所有活生物的特征,在本质上都是由储存在从父母继承不同的 DNA 内的信息所决定的。看起来不同或有不同特征的活生物,也具有不列的生物变化越多,DNA 序列。生物变化越多,DNA 序列。生物变化越多,DNA 序列。生物变化越多,DNA 序列。生物变化越多,DNA 序列。中人发生物,对应的牙齿,对应的牙齿,对应的牙齿,对应的牙齿,对应的牙齿,对应的多种,对应。字母 A、C、G 或 T 四十分别代表组建 DNA 的基础片段腺嘌呤的分别。等码,是要由这些字母沿这个拉链的形容。碱基是由不同的蛋白质构成的容码,颇像组成一些单词和句子的一个字

- ① spotlight: n. 公众的注意力
- ② merit: n. 优点
- ③ pitfall: n. 缺点
- ④ adenine: n. 腺嘌呤
- ⑤ cytosine: n. 胞嘧啶
- ⑥ guanine: n. 鸟嘌呤
- ⑦ thymine: n. 胸腺嘧啶



letters of an alphabet forming words and sentences. For example, the sequence ACGCT represents different information than the sequence AGTCC, in the same way that the word "POST" has a different meaning from "STOP" or "POTS", even though they use the same letters. Certain areas of the DNA molecule have no currently understood function, but they appear to vary widely among individuals. The most common form of DNA profile, abbreviated RFLP, is a way of showing the unique patterns of bases in some of these areas. The traits of a human being are the result of information contained in the DNA code.

DNA fingerprint is a laboratory procedure that requires several steps. Firstly, DNA must be recovered from the cells or tissues of the body, and only a small amount of tissue—like blood, hair, or skin—is needed. For example, the amount of DNA found at the root of one hair is usually sufficient. Secondly, special enzymes [®] called restriction enzymes are used to cut the DNA at specific places. For example, an enzyme called EcoR1, found in bacteria, will cut DNA only when the sequence GAATTC occurs. The DNA pieces are sorted according to size by a sieving technique called electrophoresis [®] . The DNA pieces are passed through a gel made from seaweed. This technique is the biotechnology equivalent of screening sand through progressively finer meshes to determine particle sizes. Thirdly, the distribution of DNA pieces is transferred to a nylon sheet by placing the sheet on the gel and

母表的字母。例如,ACGCT序列所代表的信息与 AGTCC 序列不同,也就是说单词 "POST"的含义与"STOP"和"POTS"不同,纵使它们使用了相同的字母。尽管目前 DNA 分子某些区域的功能还没被充分了解,但它们似乎在不同个体之间变化很大。DNA 剖析图测定最普通的一种形态,缩写为 RFLP,是用来表示这样一些区域中碱基的特有图案的一种方法。一个人的特征就是包含在 DNA 密码中的信息所产生的结果。

指纹鉴定是需要几个步骤的实验室过程。第一,DNA必须从身体的细胞或以中提取,仅需要少许像血、头发的细胞或皮肤等组织。例如,通常在一根头发的是一根头发的是一根头发的是一个。第二,特别的人物,一种发现的人物。例如,一种发现的人物。例如,一种发现的人类。第二,特别的一种发现的人类。在一个人,这种技术是相当一个人。这种技术是相当一个人成细大。这种技术是相当一个人成细大。这种技术是的分布转移上,这块尼龙片要的在凝胶上并是

⑧ enzyme: n.酶⑨ electrophoresis: n.

由泳





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soaking them overnight. Fourthly, adding radioactive or colored probes to the nylon membrane produces a pattern called the DNA fingerprint. Each probe typically sticks in only one or two specific places on the nylon membrane. Lastly, the final DNA fingerprint is built by using several probes (5-10 or more) simultaneously. It resembles the bar codes used by grocery store scanners. To eliminate any possibility of a mistaken identity, analysts use several different probes to look at several different DNA fragment patterns in a sample.

More than one person might have a particular RFLP pattern, but it becomes less likely that multiple people will have two or more base sequences in common. Statisticians call this the multiplication rule, because the individual probabilities of a mistaken identity for each pattern are multiplied together to find the overall probability.

DNA fingerprints are useful in several applications of human health care research, as well as in the criminal cases and justice system. DNA fingerprint is used to diagnose inherited disorders in both prenatal and newborn babies in hospitals around the world. These disorders may include cystic fibrosis [®], hemophilia [®], sickle cell anemia [®], and many others. Early detection of such disorders enables the medical staff and the parents to prepare themselves for proper treatment of the child. In some programs, genetic counselors use DNA fingerprint information to help prospective

泡一个晚上。第四,把有辐射能的或有色的探剂加到尼龙膜上就会制出一个所谓的 DNA 指纹图案。每种探剂有选择地插在尼龙膜上仅一个或两个特定的地方。最后,最终的 DNA 指纹需要同时使用几种(至少 5~10 种)探剂来完成。它类似于用于食品杂货店扫描仪上使用的条形码。为了排除出现任何错误鉴定的可能性,分析者在一个样品上利用几种不同的探剂观察不同的 DNA 碎片。

具有一个独特 RFLP 图案的人可能不 只一个,但是多数人共同具有两个或更多 的碱基序列几乎是不可能的。统计学家称 之为乘法法则,因为对每个图案鉴定出现 错误的单个个体概率乘在一起就得出总 体的概率。

DNA 指纹有益于人的保健研究以及刑事案件和司法系统的应用。DNA 指纹鉴定可用于全世界医院对出生前和新出生婴儿的遗传变异进行诊断。这些变异包括包囊纤维症、血友病、镰状细胞贫血症和其他多种疾病。这些变异的早期发现能使医疗人员和父母们为对孩子进行适当的治疗做好准备。在一些项目中,遗传学顾问利用 DNA 指纹信息,帮助未来的父母们知道会有一个受到疾病侵袭的孩子的

- ① cystic fibrosis: 賽肿性纤维化
- ① hemophilia: n. 血友病
- ① sickle cell anemia: 镰状细胞血症



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parents understand the risk of having an affected child. In other programs, prospective parents use DNA fingerprint information in their decisions concerning affected pregnancies. Research programs to locate inherited disorders on the chromosomes depend on the information contained in DNA fingerprints. By studying the DNA fingerprints of relatives who have a history of some particular disorder, or by comparing large groups of people with and without the disorder, it is possible to identify DNA patterns associated with the disease in question. This work is a necessary first step in designing an eventual genetic cure for these disorders.

DNA fingerprints are also applied in the criminal cases and justice system. Police have begun to use DNA fingerprints to link suspects to biological evidence, such as blood or semen stains, hair, or items of clothing found at the scene of a crime. Suspects can be eliminated if their DNA pattern does not match the pattern of DNA molecules found at the crime scene. Inversely, other people may become suspects if their DNA pattern matches the pattern of the person who committed the crime. The DNA method will be far superior to the dental records and blood typing strategies currently in use. Another important use of DNA fingerprints in the court system is to establish paternity in custody and child support litigation. In these applications, DNA fingerprints bring an unprecedented, nearly perfect accuracy to the determination.

危险性。在另一些项目中,未来的父母用DNA 指纹信息来判定孕期已受到疾病的侵袭。一些在染色体上找到遗传变异的研究项目就是依靠储存在 DNA 指纹中的信息。通过研究有一些特殊变异历史的 高层 的 DNA 指纹,或者通过对具有和没有属的 DNA 指纹,或者通过对具有和没有异常的大批人群的对比,识别与疑难病产有关的 DNA 图案是有可能的。这项工作是制定对这些异常疾病进行最后的遗传学治疗案中必要的第一步。

DNA 指纹也被应用在刑事案件和司法系统中。警察已经开始利用 DNA 指纹,把嫌疑犯和案发现场的血迹、精斑、头发等生物学证据或衣物联系在一起。如果嫌疑犯的 DNA 图案与在犯罪现场找到的 DNA 分子的图案不相符,则他们的犯罪嫌疑就可被排除。相反,如果其他人的 DNA 图案与犯罪人的图案相同,则这些人的图案与犯罪人的图案相同,则这些心动。DNA 方法将远比牙印记越导变成嫌疑犯。DNA 方法将远比牙印记越寻的正被使用的血型鉴定方法要优越争多。DNA 指纹在法庭系统里的另一个确定多。DNA 指纹在法庭系统里的起诉中确定义于关系。在这些应用中, DNA 指纹会给判决带来空前的近乎完美的准确度。

