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DNA: the master tape

Intakhar Ahmad

MOST people have a pretty vague idea of what the DNA is. Chromosomes, the role player of inheritance (we have 23 pairs) is made up of DNA. Most chromosome look like two caterpillars are trying to make an X like appearance, the DNA and RNA molecules act like a kind of tape recorder for the organism. The master tapes are usually DNA's while the working copies are RNA's. Structurally, DNA molecules resemble a ladder and RNA-a ladder sliced down the middle.

The information on the master tape is the genes, which are long sequences of the four chemicals (ATGC). A gene may vary in size and it varies from a sequence of a few thousand to millions of these chemicals. The DNA is read either for cell division or to produce protein for the cell. When a cell divides, the DNA is faithfully copied to produce a identical set of genes in a process called mitosis. In mitosis the DNA ladder splits down the middle .Then enzymes called DNA polymerase go through the alphabet (ATGC) and marry up the A's with T's and G's with C's and vice versa. Thus the two copies are formed.

In require of cell for daily needs DNA helps to manufacture a good numbers of proteins. The mRNA (messenger RNA) passes the parcel as chemical signals out side the nucleus. The messenger RNA is built by copying the negative strand of DNA to produce a positive strand RNA by RNA polymerase enzyme. After it's performance the garbage collector, RNA's enzyme recycles it.

The mRNA is read by hamburger shaped molecules called ribosome. It works like a knitting machine reading the mRNA coding .Here rRNAs (ribosomal RNA) choose various tRNAs (transfer RNA) ferrying the amino acids(the building blocks of protein). The knitting machine ,ribosome knit the amino acids in long chains to from protein.

So, DNA is an incredible bio-tape developed by nature to preserve inheritance of species and now it is standing on the threshold of a new millennium technology called biotechnology.

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