Whitehead Team Combines Two Maps of Y Chromosome

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Within one day it could be localized to about 1% of Y chromosome and placed within 1 of 127 bins along the length of the chromosome.

"The physical maps of the Y chromosome that we've made should make it much easier to explore the biology of the chromosome that to this time has been one of the most mysterious," said Page. "The Y chromosome is particularly mysterious" because it is difficult to investigate through family inheritance studies, he said. "I think the biology of the Y chromosome can only be explored—from the DNA level up."

Page said that the work has set the stage for constructing a more detailed map, either by extending the methods already used, or by using the known islands of sequence as a starting point for determining the exact order of the remaining bases in the DNA.

"Since this map is anchored in the sequence itself," Page said, "it can melt away into the sequence of the chromosome." The ultimate goal of the Genome Project is an actual DNA sequence that lists each individual chemical base on the chromosome.

Page said that the work’s pioneering aspects are important as well. "If one can make such maps for the Y chromosome, then the same can be done for the rest of the genome. People in human genetics are excited about this work because perhaps in a few years we will have similar maps of the other chromosomes."

TODAY!

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