1. Record Nr. UNINA9910146263503321

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Titolo	The biology of plasmids [[electronic resource] /] / David K. Summers
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; ; Cambridge, Mass., : Blackwell Science, c1996
ISBN	1-4443-1373-8 1-282-37172-X 9786612371721 1-4443-1374-6 1-4051-4943-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (169 p.)
Disciplina	589.908732 589.908734
Soggetti	Plasmids - Genetics Plasmids Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The Biology of Plasmids; Contents; Preface; 1: The Anatomy of Bacterial Plasmids; Prologue; The first word; 1.1 Early plasmid research; 1.1.1 Fertile beginnings; 1.1.2 Plasmids and antibiotic resistance; 1.2 Plasmid-encoded phenotypes; 1.2.1 The diversity of plasmid-borne genes; 1.2.2 Bacteriocin production and resistance; 1.2.3 Colicin production; 1.3 Plasmid classification; 1.3.1 Early attempts; 1.3.2 Incompatibility classification; 1.3.3 The molecular basis of plasmid incompatibility; 1.3.4 Shortcomings of incompatibility testing; 1.4 The structure and organization of plasmids 1.4.1 Topological considerations1.5 The preparation of plasmid DNA; 1.5.1 Caesium chloride density gradient centrifugation; 1.5.2 Rapid plasmid purification; 1.5.3 Gel electrophoresis of plasmid DNA; 1.6 Plasmid anatomy revisited; 1.6.1 Linear plasmids of Streptomyces; 1.6.2 Linear plasmids of Borrelia; 1.6.3 Linear plasmid telomeres; 2: The Unity of Plasmid Biology; 2.1 Essential plasmid functions; 2.1.1 Persistence; 2.1.2 Proliferation; 2.1.3 Cryptic plasmids; 2.2 Plasmids and prokaryote evolution; 2.2.1 Changing and yet staying the same;

2.2.2 Plasmids as libraries of genetic information
2.2.3 The division of labour between plasmid and chromosome2.2.4 Do plasmids ever carry essential genes?; 2.3 Structural fluidity of plasmid genomes; 2.3.1 Transposons and plasmid structure; 2.3.2 Recombination and plasmid structure; 2.4 Where do plasmids come from?; 2.4.1 Plasmids and bacteriophages; 2.4.2 Parasites or symbionts?; 2.4.3 Plasmids, bacteriophages and transposons; 3: Plasmid Replication and its Control; 3.1 Essential components of replication control systems; 3.1.1 The need for replication control; 3.1.2 Basic principles of copy number control; 3.1.3 The basic replicon 3.1.4 Replication origins3.1.5 Multireplicon plasmids; 3.2 Strategies of replication control; 3.2.1 Passive control; 3.2.2 Active control; 3.3 Model systems of replication control; 3.3.1 The formulation of negative control models; 3.3.2 The Inhibitor Dilution model; 3.3.3 The Autorepressor model; 3.3.4 The kinetics of control: oscillation and over-shoot; 3.4 Genetic analysis of replication control; 3.4.1 cop and rep mutations; 3.4.2 Incompatibility studies; 3.5 The initiation of plasmid replication; 3.5.1 The role of Rep proteins; 3.5.2 Direct priming of replication
3.6 The control of plasmid replication3.6.1 Antisense RNA inhibitors; 3.6.2 ColEl-like plasmids; 3.6.3 Rom: a matchmaker protein; 3.6.4 pT181: transcriptional attenuation; 3.6.5 Plasmid R1: antisense control of a low copy number plasmid; 3.6.6 l-dv: regulation by a trans-acting protein; 3.6.7 The P1 prophage: titration and handcuffing; 3.7 The two-tier organization of control circuits; 3.7.1 CopB: a secondary inhibitor of R1 replication; 3.7.2 The role of ColE1 Rom; 3.8 Quantitative modelling of plasmid replication control; 4: Plasmid Inheritance; 4.1 The nature of plasmid instability
4.1.1 Segregational instability

Sommario/riassunto

Plasmids are closed, circular pieces of DNA that are able to self-replicate and are carried by many bacteria. They provide unique functions for bacteria by allowing them to sexually replicate and to pass on genetic material between each other. Plasmids are also responsible for the genetic factors that give resistance to antibiotics, and provide the enzymes needed to break down poorly metabolised food resources. The author has provided an updated treatment of the structure, function and application of plasmids suitable for undergraduates and medical students. Employing an original teaching pers

2. Record Nr. UNINA9910821727703321

Autore	May Jim <1947->
Titolo	Trail guide for a crooked heart : stories and reflections for life's journeys / / Jim May
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Marion, Michigan : , : Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	1-62491-023-8
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (177 p.)
Disciplina	170/.44
Soggetti	Conduct of life Storytellers
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; Prologue; Don't Believe Everything You Read; Chapter 1. Setting Out; Be Not Afraid; Seek the Right Path; Pack a Lunch; A Day of Birth Story; Chapter 2. My Own Journey; The Herald Call of Prairie Sirens; The National Storytelling Festival; Jack Tales; Chapter 3. Broken and Blessed; Windows For The Soul; The Cracked Pot; A Baal Shem Tov Story; The Man Whose Horse Ran Off; Abraham Lincoln-Our Greatest Broken Leader; Chapter 4. The Third Eye-Seeing the Unseen; The Peddler of Swaffham and His Dream; A Peddler's Teaching; Mark Twain's Third Eye; Chapter 5. Signal Trees Elders and MentorsPilgrimage to Beech Mountain-America's Storytelling Royalty; Duncan Williamson-The Man With Three Thousand Stories; Jack Goes to School (A Scottish Jack Tale); Jackie Torrence Holds Studs Spellbound; Studs Terkel; Inez Ashdown and the Last Queen of Hawai'i; Carl and Helen-Building an Elders' Circle; A D-Day Story; Helen's Story; Chapter 6. Toxic Paths and Transformation; A Long, Crooked Path to Redemption; Gandhi's Outrageous WWII Proposal; Duty Calls; Choosing a Crooked Path; Soldier's Heart-We Ought to Be Able . . .; The Legacy of Traditional Stories Envision Peace-The Power of IdeasThe Civil War and Soldier's Heart; Chapter 7. Trails End and Transformation; My Sister Diane; The Mystery of Noah's Raven; Chapter 8. Failures, Wounds, and Second Chances; King Arthur and Percival's Story; Brother Paul, Who Art Thou?;