

MitBASE : a comprehensive and integrated mitochondrial DNA Database

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MitBASE is an integrated and comprehensive database of mitochondrial DNA data which collects all available information from different organisms and from intraspecies variants and mutants. Excellent research institutions from different countries are involved, each in charge of developing, collecting and annotating data for the organisms they are specialised in. The design of the actual structure of the database and its implementation in a user- friendly format are the care of the European Bioinformatic Institute. The database can be accessed on the Web at the following address: <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/htbin/Mitbase/mitbase.pl>.

The impact of this project is outstanding both for basic and applied research, such as the study of mitochondrial genetic diseases and mitochondrial DNA intraspecies diversity exploited in several biotechnological fields. The database has been funded within the EU Biotechnology programme.