webQueries: Retrieve genes or protein annotations by querying NCBI.

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1 Introduction

webQueries provides R functions for retrieving up-to-date gene and protein annotations from NCBI databases, given HUGO symbols or ids, e.g. entrezgene or Uniprot ids.

The main function, runQuery(), is a wrapper for the NCBI E-utilities functions [1], and is designed to query genes, protein, and snp databases. runQueries requires a functional web connexion. In case a HUGO symbol is called, runQuery first interogate NCBI in order to get identifiers, using E-utilities Esearch, then use the returned values to get the corresponding annotations, using E-utilities Esummary.

2 Examples

Here are some examples showing how a single, or multiple, annotation(s) can be retrieved using either official symbols or identifiers.

```
require(webQueries)
Loading required package:
                          webQueries
runQuery("erbb2", "gene")
    query Name
                                      Description Orgname Status
//Id erbb2 ERBB2 erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2
     CurrentID Chromosome GeneticSource MapLocation
//Id
                      17
                                              17q12
                               genomic
//Id CD340, HER-2, HER-2/neu, HER2, MLN 19, NEU, NGL, TKR1
//Id c-erb B2/neu protein|herstatin|human epidermal growth factor receptor 2|metastatic lymph noc
    NomenclatureSymbol
                                        NomenclatureName
//Id
                 ERBB2 erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2
    NomenclatureStatus TaxID Mim
//Id
              Official
                             164870 164870
                          GenomicInfo
                                                      GenomicInfoType
//Id 17NC_000017.11396880833972866132 17NC_000017.11396880833972866132
    ChrLoc ChrAccVer ChrStart ChrStop ExonCount GeneWeight
```

```
//Id 17 NC_000017.11 39688083 39728661 32 292128
//Id This gene encodes a member of the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor family of receptor
                              Organism ScientificName CommonName GI
    ChrSort ChrStart
//Id 17 39688083 Homo sapienshuman9606 Homo sapiens human 2064
runQuery(2064, "gene", bySymbol = FALSE)
 query Name
                               Description Orgname Status CurrentID
1 2064 ERBB2 erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2
Chromosome GeneticSource MapLocation
       17
                genomic
                            17q12
                                       OtherAliases
1 CD340, HER-2, HER-2/neu, HER2, MLN 19, NEU, NGL, TKR1
1 c-erb B2/neu protein|herstatin|human epidermal growth factor receptor 2|metastatic lymph node g
 NomenclatureSymbol
                                  NomenclatureName NomenclatureStatus
1
             ERBB2 erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2
                                      GenomicInfo
      164870 164870 17NC_000017.11396880833972866132
                 GenomicInfoType ChrLoc ChrAccVer ChrStart ChrStop
ExonCount GeneWeight
       32
             292128
1 This gene encodes a member of the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor family of receptor type
 ChrSort ChrStart Organism ScientificName CommonName GI
     17 39688083 Homo sapienshuman9606 Homo sapiens human 2064
# Querying the Protein database
runQuery("erbb2", "protein")
  query Caption
1 erbb2
             P04626
2 erbb2 NP_001276867
3 erbb2 NP_001276866
4 erbb2 NP_001276865
5 erbb2 NP_001005862
6 erbb2 NP_004439
7 erbb2
          AAI67147
8 erbb2
           EAW60597
9 erbb2
          EAW60596
10 erbb2
          EAW60595
11 erbb2
          AHW56604
12 erbb2
          AHW56472
13 erbb2
          AHW56471
14 erbb2
          ETE72869
15 erbb2
           CCQ43016
16 erbb2
           AFD33643
17 erbb2
          ADN43069
18 erbb2
          AAF30295
19 erbb2
          AA018082
20 erbb2
          BAE15960
1 RecName: Full=Receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-2; AltName: Full=Metastatic lymph node ger
3
```

```
4
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10
11
12
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14
15
16
17
18
19
20
                                                              Extra
                         gi|119533|sp|P04626.1|ERBB2_HUMAN[119533]
1
2
                       gi|584277109|ref|NP_001276867.1|[584277109]
3
                       gi|584277106|ref|NP_001276866.1|[584277106]
                       gi|584277103|ref|NP_001276865.1|[584277103]
4
5
                         gi|54792098|ref|NP_001005862.1|[54792098]
6
                            gi|54792096|ref|NP_004439.2|[54792096]
7
                            gi|187469647|gb|AAI67147.1|[187469647]
8
     gi|119581001|gb|EAW60597.1||gn1|WGS:AADB|hCP44700[119581001]
   gi|119581000|gb|EAW60596.1||gnl|WGS:AADB|hCP1811970[119581000]
  gi|119580999|gb|EAW60595.1||gnl|WGS:AADB|hCP1811971[119580999]
                            gi|608785535|gb|AHW56604.1|[608785535]
11
12
                            gi|608785271|gb|AHW56472.1|[608785271]
13
                            gi|608785269|gb|AHW56471.1|[608785269]
14
   gi|565322140|gb|ETE72869.1||gn1|WGS:AZIM|L345_01293[565322140]
                           gi|444737899|emb|CCQ43016.1|[444737899]
                            gi|380709118|gb|AFD33643.1|[380709118]
16
17
                            gi|307334911|gb|ADN43069.1|[307334911]
18
                                gi|6857751|gb|AAF30295.1|[6857751]
19
                              gi|27658000|gb|AA018082.1|[27658000]
20
                             gi|71017497|dbj|BAE15960.1|[71017497]
          Gi CreateDate UpdateDate Flags TaxId Length Status ReplacedBy
1
      119533 1987/08/13 2015/03/04
                                        0 9606
                                                          live
   584277109 2014/02/11 2014/12/26
                                            9606
                                                    603
                                                          live
   584277106 2014/02/11 2014/12/26
                                            9606
                                                   1055
                                                          live
3
                                      512
   584277103 2014/02/11 2014/12/26
                                      512
                                            9606
                                                   1240
4
                                                          live
5
    54792098 2004/10/28 2014/12/26
                                      512
                                            9606
                                                   1225
                                                          live
    54792096 1999/05/07 2014/12/26
6
                                       512
                                            9606
                                                   1255
                                                          live
7
   187469647 2008/05/05 2008/05/05
                                        0
                                            9606
                                                   1255
                                                          live
   119581001 2006/12/18 2014/05/14
                                         0
                                            9606
                                                   1255
                                                          live
   119581000 2006/12/18 2014/05/14
                                            9606
                                                   1225
                                                          live
10 119580999 2006/12/18 2014/05/14
                                            9606
                                                    419
                                                          live
11 608785535 2014/04/14 2014/04/14
                                            9606
                                                    867
                                         0
                                                          live
12 608785271 2014/04/14 2014/04/14
                                         0
                                            9606
                                                    147
                                                          live
13 608785269 2014/04/14 2014/04/14
                                            9606
                                                   1255
                                         0
                                                          live
14 565322140 2013/12/11 2013/12/11
                                            8665
                                                    784
                                                          live
```

```
15 444737899 2013/01/31 2013/09/25
                                    0 9606
                                                 87
                                                      live
16 380709118 2012/03/19 2012/03/19
                                      0 9643
                                               1260
                                                      live
17 307334911 2010/09/25 2010/09/25
                                     0 9606
                                                 80
                                                      live
                                                 36
    6857751 2000/02/03 2000/02/03
                                     0 9606
                                                      live
19 27658000 2003/01/12 2003/01/12
                                     0 9606
                                               1255
                                                      live
20 71017497 2005/07/16 2008/03/18
                                   0 9606
                                                 65
                                                      live
  Comment
                 GI
             119533
1
2
          584277109
3
          584277106
4
          584277103
5
          54792098
6
           54792096
7
          187469647
8
          119581001
9
          119581000
10
          119580999
11
          608785535
12
          608785271
13
          608785269
14
          565322140
15
          444737899
16
          380709118
17
          307334911
18
           6857751
19
           27658000
           71017497
runQuery("P04626", "protein", bySymbol = FALSE)
  query
             Caption
1 P04626
              P04626
2 P04626 NP_001276866
3 P04626 NP_004439
4 P04626
           CAA27060
1 RecName: Full=Receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-2; AltName: Full=Metastatic lymph node gene
2
3
4
                                                   Gi CreateDate
                                       Extra
1 gi|119533|sp|P04626.1|ERBB2_HUMAN[119533] 119533 1987/08/13
2 gi|584277106|ref|NP_001276866.1|[584277106] 584277106 2014/02/11
3
      gi|54792096|ref|NP_004439.2|[54792096] 54792096 1999/05/07
             gi|31198|emb|CAA27060.1|[31198]
                                                31198 1986/11/18
 UpdateDate Flags TaxId Length Status ReplacedBy Comment
                        1255
1 2015/03/04
              0 9606
                                live
                                                           119533
                        1055
2 2014/12/26
             512 9606
                                 live
                                                        584277106
3 2014/12/26
             512 9606
                        1255 live
                                                         54792096
4 1995/03/30
             0 9606
                        1255
                                live
                                                            31198
# Querying the SNP database
runQuery("erbb2", "snp")
Document is empty
Start tag expected, '<' not found
Connexion error during gsummary - I'm trying again... 1
```

```
query SNP_ID Organism ALLELE_ORIGIN GLOBAL_MAF GLOBAL_POPULATION
1 erbb2 587776805
2 erbb2 578192771
                                           T=0.0002/1
3 erbb2 578155528
                                           G=0.0002/1
4 erbb2 578138670
5 erbb2 578108865
                                          T=0.0002/1
6 erbb2 578046124
                                           T=0.0002/1
7 erbb2 577933020
                                         C=0.0068/34
8 erbb2 577787590
                                          G=0.0004/2
9 erbb2 577767674
                                         C=0.0166/83
10 erbb2 577608686
                                          T=0.0002/1
11 erbb2 577560557
12 erbb2 577523466
                                          A=0.0002/1
13 erbb2 577467099
                                           G=0.0002/1
14 erbb2 577449121
                                           T=0.0004/2
15 erbb2 577329788
                                          G=0.0002/1
16 erbb2 577272317
                                          T=0.0008/4
17 erbb2 577260523
                                          T=0.0002/1
18 erbb2 577200967
                                          T=0.0002/1
19 erbb2 577121666
20 erbb2 577083829
                                          G=0.0002/1
 GLOBAL_SAMPLESIZE SUSPECTED CLINICAL_SIGNIFICANCE GENE LOCUS_ID
1
                   0
2
                   0
3
                   0
4
                   0
5
                   0
6
                   0
7
                   0
8
                   0
9
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13
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14
                   0
15
                   0
16
                   0
17
                   0
18
                   0
                   0
19
20
                   0
1
                                                                                 NM_001005862.1,N
2
3
4
5
6
7
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10
```

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11
12
13
14
15
16
17 NM_001005862.1,NM_001005862.2,NM_001289936.1,NM_001289937.1,NM_001289938.1,NM_004448.2,NM_0044
18
19
20
   CHR WEIGHT
                           HANDLE
1
  17
          1 OMIM-CURATED-RECORDS
2
   17
           1
                     1000GENOMES
3
   17
           1
                      1000GENOMES
4
   17
           1
                       JMKIDD_LAB
5
   17
                      1000GENOMES
           1
6 17
           1
                      1000GENOMES
7 17
           1
                      1000GENOMES
8
  17
          1 1000GENOMES, EVA-GONL
9
   17
                     1000GENOMES
           1
10 17
                      1000GENOMES
           1
11 17
           1
                        EVA-GONL
12 17
           1
                      1000GENOMES
13 17
                      1000GENOMES
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14 17
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15 17
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16 17
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17 17
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18 17
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                      1000GENOMES
19 17
           1
                         EVA-GONL
20 17
                      1000GENOMES
                                             FXN_CLASS
1
   cds-indel,nc-transcript-variant,upstream-variant-2KB
2
                                        intron-variant
3
                                        intron-variant
4
                                        intron-variant
5
                   intron-variant, upstream-variant-2KB
6
                                        intron-variant
7
                   intron-variant,upstream-variant-2KB
8
                   intron-variant, upstream-variant-2KB
9
                   intron-variant, upstream-variant-2KB
10
                                        intron-variant
11
                                        intron-variant
12
                                        intron-variant
13
                                        intron-variant
14
                                        intron-variant
15
      nc-transcript-variant, reference, synonymous-codon
16
                                        intron-variant
17
      nc-transcript-variant, reference, synonymous-codon
18
                   intron-variant,upstream-variant-2KB
19
                                        intron-variant
20
                                        intron-variant
                         VALIDATED GTYPE NONREF
```

NM_C

```
1
                             no-info
                                              false
2
                            by-1000G
                                              false
3
                                              false
                            by-1000G
4
                                             false
                             no-info
5
                            by-1000G
                                             false
6
                            by-1000G
                                             false
7
               by-1000G, by-frequency
                                             false
8
   by-1000G, by-cluster, by-frequency
                                             false
9
               by-1000G, by-frequency
                                             false
10
                                             false
                            by-1000G
11
                             no-info
                                             false
12
                            by-1000G
                                             false
13
                            by-1000G
                                             false
14
               by-1000G, by-frequency
                                             false
15
                            by-1000G
                                             false
16
                                             false
               by-1000G, by-frequency
17
                                             false
                            by-1000G
18
                            by-1000G
                                             false
19
                             no-info
                                             false
20
                            by-1000G
                                             false
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15
16
17 HGVS=NC_000017.10:g.37866134C>T,NC_000017.11:g.39709881C>T,NG_007503.1:g.26742C>T,NM_001005862
18
19
20
   HET SRATE TAX_ID
               9606
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0
               9606
12
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               9606
20
               9606
1
                                    587776805|2|0|1|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12788773|39724754|MIR4728.
2
           578192771|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12764467|39700448|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
           578155528|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12771726|39707707|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
3
                                            578138670|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12773079|39709060|
4
           578108865|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12763842|39699823|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
5
6
           578046124|2|0|1|1|1|7|NT_010783.16|12785790|39721771|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
7
             577933020|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12755976|39691957|ERBB2|0.0134861|0.0810011| | 34
8
           577787590|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12755550|39691531|ERBB2|0.000798403|0.0199641| |35
        577767674|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12750567|39686548|ERBB2,PGAP3|0.0325976|0.123435| |34
9
           577608686|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12765751|39701732|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
10
                                            577560557|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12785093|39721074
11
12
           577523466|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12780756|39716737|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
13
           577467099|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12788146|39724127|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
           577449121|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12779743|39715724|ERBB2|0.000798403|0.0199641| |34
14
           577329788|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12787359|39723340|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
15
            577272317|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12767947|39703928|ERBB2|0.00159617|0.0282053| |34
           577260523|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12773900|39709881|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
18 577200967|2|0|1|1|1|1|7|NT_010783.16|12788692|39724673|MIR4728,ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
                                            577121666|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12775246|39711227|
19
           577083829|2|0|1|1|1|17|NT_010783.16|12760926|39696907|ERBB2|0.000399282|0.0141238| |32
   ORIG BUILD UPD BUILD
                              CREATEDATE
                                                UPDATEDATE POP_CLASS
          142
                    142 2014-10-14 15:44 2014-10-14 16:02
1
2
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
3
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-08-21 18:13
4
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
5
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
6
          142
7
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
8
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
9
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
10
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-08-21 18:13
11
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
12
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
13
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14
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
15
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
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          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
18
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
19
          142
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-08-21 18:13
                    142 2014-08-21 18:13 2014-10-23 15:20
          142
                             GI
   METHOD_CLASS SNP3D
                      587776805
       sequence
```

```
2
                     578192771
       sequence
3
                     578155528
       sequence
4
      sequence
                     578138670
5
                     578108865
      sequence
6
                     578046124
      sequence
7
      sequence
                     577933020
      sequence
8
                     577787590
9
      sequence
                     577767674
10
                   577608686
      sequence
11
                   577560557
      sequence
12
      sequence
                   577523466
                   577467099
13
      sequence
14
      sequence
                   577449121
      sequence
                   577329788
15
16
      sequence
                     577272317
17
                    577260523
      sequence
18
      sequence
                     577200967
19
      sequence
                     577121666
                     577083829
      sequence
runQuery(2064, "snp", bySymbol = FALSE)
  query SNP_ID Organism ALLELE_ORIGIN GLOBAL_MAF GLOBAL_POPULATION
   2064 587776805
2
   2064 578192771
                                         T=0.0002/1
3
   2064 578155528
                                         G=0.0002/1
4 2064 578138670
5 2064 578108865
                                         T=0.0002/1
6 2064 578046124
                                         T=0.0002/1
7
   2064 577933020
                                        C=0.0068/34
8 2064 577787590
                                         G=0.0004/2
9
   2064 577767674
                                        C=0.0166/83
10 2064 577608686
                                         T=0.0002/1
11 2064 577560557
                                         A=0.0002/1
12 2064 577523466
13 2064 577467099
                                         G=0.0002/1
14 2064 577449121
                                         T=0.0004/2
15 2064 577329788
                                         G=0.0002/1
16 2064 577272317
                                         T=0.0008/4
17 2064 577260523
                                         T=0.0002/1
18 2064 577200967
                                         T=0.0002/1
19 2064 577121666
20 2064 577083829
                                         G=0.0002/1
  GLOBAL_SAMPLESIZE SUSPECTED CLINICAL_SIGNIFICANCE GENE LOCUS_ID
                  0
1
2
                  0
3
                  0
4
                  0
5
                  0
6
                  0
7
                  0
8
                  0
9
                  0
                  0
10
                  0
11
```

```
12
                                                                                     0
                                                                                     0
 13
                                                                                     0
 14
15
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                                                                                     0
 16
 17
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 18
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 19
                                                                                     0
 20
                                                                                     0
 1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     NM_001005862.1,N
 2
 3
 4
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 7
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 11
 12
 13
 14
15
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                      577121666
20
       sequence
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```

A siple way to run multiple queries is to call runQuery within a loop, e.g. lapply:

```
# Multiple queries
ids <- c("egfr", "erbb2", "fgfr1")</pre>
annots <- lapply(ids, function(id) runQuery(id, "gene") )</pre>
annots <- do.call(rbind, annots)</pre>
annots
      query Name
                                            Description Orgname Status
                      epidermal growth factor receptor
//Id
       egfr EGFR
                                                                       0
//Id1 erbb2 ERBB2
                     erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2
                                                                       0
                                                                       0
//Id2 fgfr1 FGFR1 fibroblast growth factor receptor 1
      CurrentID Chromosome GeneticSource
                                              MapLocation
//Id
                          7
                                   genomic
                                                      7p12
```

```
//Id1
                                         17q12
                                genomic
//Id2
                                genomic 8p11.23-p11.22
                                                                                          Other
//Id
                                                                ERBB, ERBB1, HER1, NISBD2, PIG6
                                                 CD340, HER-2, HER-2/neu, HER2, MLN 19, NEU, NO
//Id1
//Id2 BFGFR, CD331, CEK, FGFBR, FGFR-1, FLG, FLT-2, FLT2, HBGFR, HH2, HRTFDS, KAL2, N-SAM, OGD, N
//Id1 c-erb B2/neu protein|herstatin|human epidermal growth factor receptor 2|metastatic lymph no
     NomenclatureSymbol
                                           NomenclatureName
//Id
                         epidermal growth factor receptor
                   EGFR
                  ERBB2 erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2
//Id1
                 FGFR1 fibroblast growth factor receptor 1
//Id2
     NomenclatureStatus TaxID
                                Mim
                                        int
//Id
               Official
                              131550 131550
//Id1
               Official
                             164870 164870
//Id2
               Official
                             136350 136350
                          GenomicInfo
                                                      GenomicInfoType
      7NC_000007.14550190315520733730 7NC_000007.14550190315520733730
//Id1 17NC_000017.11396880833972866132 17NC_000017.11396880833972866132
//Id2 8NC_000008.11384688333841113724 8NC_000008.11384688333841113724
     ChrLoc
               ChrAccVer ChrStart ChrStop ExonCount GeneWeight
//Id
                                                        540739
         7 NC_000007.14 55019031 55207337 30
         17 NC_000017.11 39688083 39728661
                                                32
                                                        292128
         8 NC_000008.11 38468833 38411137
//Id2
                                                24
                                                         48969
//Id
//Id1
//Id2 The protein encoded by this gene is a member of the fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFF
     ChrSort ChrStart
                                  Organism ScientificName CommonName
//Id
        07 55019031 Homo sapienshuman9606 Homo sapiens
                                                               human
//Id1
          17 39688083 Homo sapienshuman9606 Homo sapiens
                                                               human
//Id2
          08 38411137 Homo sapienshuman9606
                                             Homo sapiens
                                                               human
       GT
//Id 1956
//Id1 2064
//Id2 2260
```

3 Accessing R code

R source code for webQueries is available on github: https://github.com/fredcommo/webQueries

References

[1] URL: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK25500/.