

# prokaryote |prō'karēōt| (also **procaryote**)

noun Biology

a microscopic single-celled organism, including the bacteria and archaea, that has neither a distinct nucleus with a membrane nor other specialized organelles.

Estimated numerical abundance	Power of Ten
Prokaryotic cells	$10^{30}$
Stars in universe	$10^{23}$
Cells in human body	$10^{14}$
Neurons in human brain	$10^{11}$ cells making approximately $10^{14}$ synapses
Human beings	$10^9$

Cell unit conversion	Units
<i>Average Prokaryotic cell</i>	<i>femtograms (<math>10^{-15}</math> grams)</i>
Dry weight	200
Carbon	100
DNA*	3
RNA	20
Protein	100

\* Average bacterial genome = 3,000,000 base pairs (bp) or 3 Megabase pairs (Mb) @ 684 grams per mole (1 amu or Dalton). Genome mass in grams is calculated by multiplying the genome size in bp x 684 ÷  $N_A$  ( $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ ). See Cox, R.A. (2004) Quantitative relationships for specific growth ratios and macromolecular compositions of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) and *Escherichia coli* B/r: an integrative theoretical approach. Microbiology. 150:1413-26 for estimations of dry weight, DNA, RNA and protein content.