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## The Find-a-Gene Project

[Q1] Tell me the name of a protein you are interested in. Include the species and the accession number. This can be a human protein or a protein from any other species as long as its function is known

Name: Hexokinase HKDC1 Accession: NP\_079406.4 Species: Homo Sapiens

Function: Enzyme that catalyzes the phosphorylation reaction from glucose to glucose

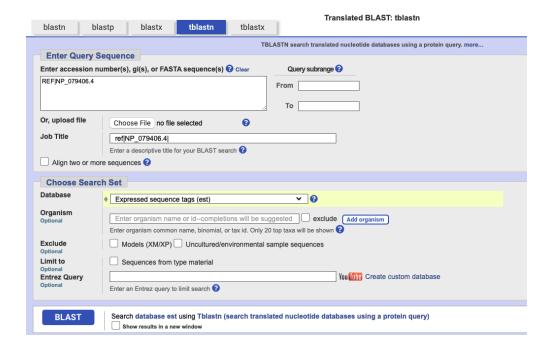
6-phosphate in anaerobic glycolysis.

[Q2] Perform a BLAST search against a DNA database, such as a database consisting of genomic DNA or ESTs. The BLAST server can be at NCBI or elsewhere. Include details of the BLAST method used, database searched and any limits applied (e.g. Organism).

**Method:** TBLASTN

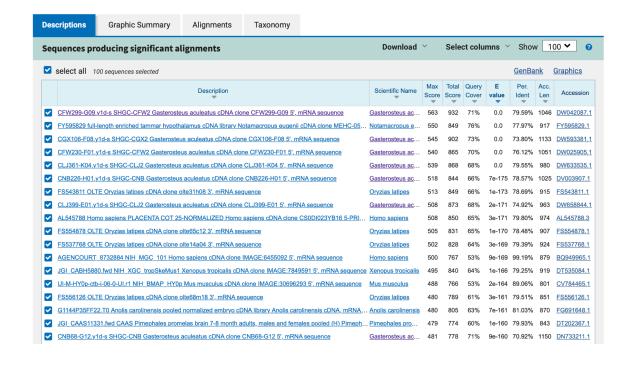
**Database:** Expressed Sequence Tags (est)

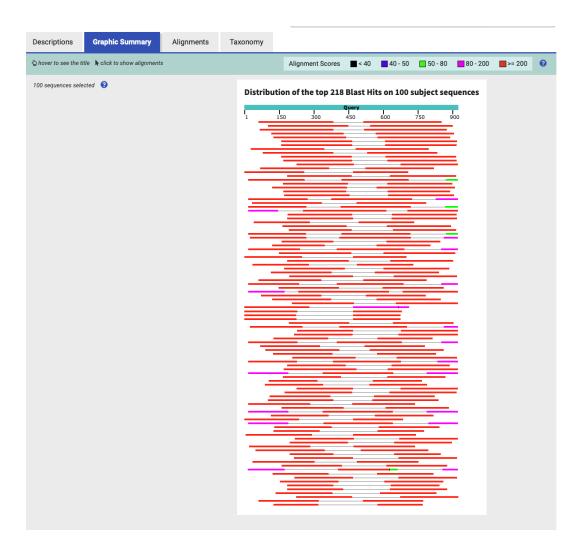
Also include the output of that BLAST search in your document. If appropriate, change the font to Courier size 10 so that the results are displayed neatly. You can also screen capture a BLAST output (e.g. alt print screen on a PC or on a MAC press \(\mathbb{H}\)-shift-4. The pointer becomes a bulls eye. Select the area you wish to capture and release. The image is saved as a file called Screen Shot [].png in your Desktop directory). It is not necessary to print out all of the blast results if there are many pages.

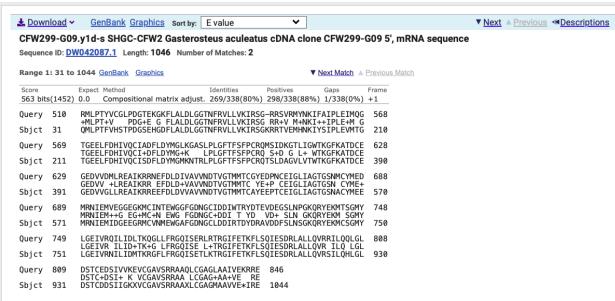


On the BLAST results, clearly indicate a match that represents a protein sequence, encoded from some DNA sequence, that is homologous to your query protein. I need to be able to inspect the pairwise alignment you have selected, including the E value and score. It should be labeled a "genomic clone" or "mRNA sequence", etc. - but include no functional annotation.

**Chosen match:** Accession DW042087.1, a 1046 base pair clone from *Gasterosteus aculeatus*. See below for alignment details.







## Alignment details:

```
>gb|DW042087.1| CFW299-G09.yld-s SHGC-CFW2 Gasterosteus aculeatus
cDNA clone CFW299-G09 5', mRNA sequence
Length: 1046
Score = 563 bits (1452), Expect = 0.0, Method: compositional matrix adjust. Identities
= 269/338 (80\%), Positives = 298/338 (88\%), Gaps = 1/338 (0\%)
Frame = +1
Query 510 RMLPTYVCGLPDGTEKGKFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSG-RRSVRMYNKIFAIPLEIMQG
            +MLPT+V PDG+E G FLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSG RR+V M+NKI++IPLE+M G
Sbjct 31 QMLPTFVHSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMTG 210
Query 569 TGEELFDHIVQCIADFLDYMGLKGASLPLGFTFSFPCRQMSIDKGTLIGWTKGFKATDCE 628
            TGEELFDHIVQCI+DFLDYMG+K LPLGFTFSFPCRQ S+D G L+ WTKGFKATDCE
Sbjct 211 TGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGVLVTWTKGFKATDCE
Ouery 629 GEDVVDMLREAIKRRNEFDLDIVAVVNDTVGTMMTCGYEDPNCEIGLIAGTGSNMCYMED 688
            GEDVV +LREAIKRR EFDLD+VAVVNDTVGTMMTC YE+P CEIGLIAGTGSN CYME+
Sbjct 391
            GEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAYEEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEE 570
Query 689
           MRNIEMVEGGEGKMCINTEWGGFGDNGCIDDIWTRYDTEVDEGSLNPGKQRYEKMTSGMY
                                                                        748
            MRNIEM++G EG+MC+N EWG FGDNGC+DDI T YD VD+ SLN GKQRYEKM SGMY
           MRNIEMIDGEEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTDYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCSGMY
Sbjct 571
                                                                        750
Query 749 LGEIVRQILIDLTKQGLLFRGQISERLRTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRRILQQLGL
           LGEIVR ILID+TK+G LFRGOISE L+TRGIFETKFLSOIESDRLALLOVR ILO LGL
Sbjct 751 LGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGL 930
Query 809 DSTCEDSIVVKEVCGAVSRRAAQLCGAGLAAIVEKRRE 846
            DSTC+DSI+ K VCGAVSRRAA LCGAG+AA+VE RE
Sbjct 931 DSTCDDSIIGKXVCGAVSRRAAXLCGAGMAAVVE*IRE 1044
```

In general, [Q2] is the most difficult for students because it requires you to have a "feel" for how to interpret BLAST results. You need to distinguish between a perfect match to your query (i.e. a sequence that is not "novel"), a near match (something that might be "novel", depending on the results of [Q4]), and a non-homologous result. If you are having trouble finding a novel gene try restricting your search to an organism that is poorly annotated.

[Q3] Gather information about this "novel" protein. At a minimum, show me the protein sequence of the "novel" protein as displayed in your BLAST results from [Q2] as FASTA format (you can copy and paste the aligned sequence subject lines from your BLAST result page if necessary) or translate your novel DNA sequence using a tool called EMBOSS Transeq at the EBI. Don't forget to translate all six reading frames; the ORF (open reading frame) is likely to be the longest sequence without a stop codon. It may not start with a methionine if you don't have the complete coding region. Make sure the sequence you provide includes a header/subject line and is in traditional FASTA format.

```
Chosen sequence: > three-spined stickleback | EMBOSS_001_1
  (sequence taken from EMBOSS Transeq at the EBI)
RSGFPG*LPCQMLPTFVHSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKI
YSIPLEVMTGTGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGVLVTW
TKGFKATDCEGEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAYEEPTCEIGLIAG
TGSNACYMEEMRNIEMIDGEEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTDYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQ
RYEKMCSGMYLGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQ
VRSILQHLGLDSTCDDSIIGKXVCGAVSRRAAXLCGAGMAAVVE*IRET
```

Here, tell me the name of the novel protein, and the species from which it derives. It is very unlikely (but still definitely possible) that you will find a novel gene from an organism such as S. cerevisiae, human or mouse, because those genomes have already been thoroughly annotated. It is more likely that you will discover a new gene in a genome that is currently being sequenced, such as bacteria or plants or protozoa.

Name: Three-spined stickleback

Species: Gasterosteus aculeatus

Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata; Euteleostomi;

Actinopterygii; Neopterygii; Teleostei; Neoteleostei;

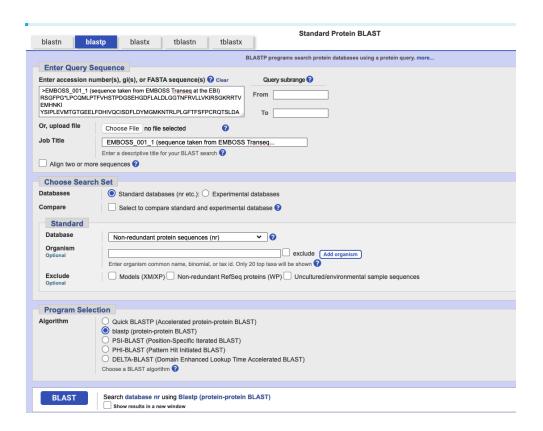
Acanthomorphata; Eupercaria; Perciformes; Cottioidei;

Gasterosteales; Gasterosteidae; Gasterosteus.

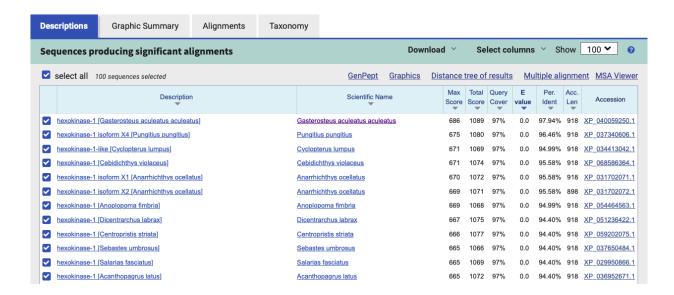
[Q4] Prove that this gene, and its corresponding protein, are novel. For the purposes of this project, "novel" is defined as follows. Take the protein sequence (your answer to [Q3]), and use it as a query in a blastp search of the nr database at NCBI.

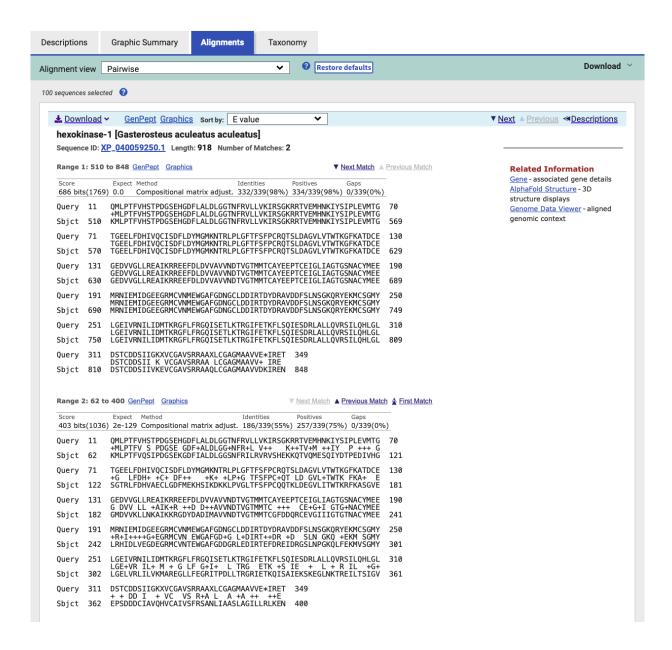
- If there is a match with 100% amino acid identity to a protein in the database, from the same species, then your protein is NOT novel (even if the match is to a protein with a name such as "unknown"). Someone has already found and annotated this sequence, and assigned it an accession number.
- If the top match reported has less than 100% identity, then it is likely that your protein is novel, and you have succeeded.
- If there is a match with 100% identity, but to a different species than the one you started with, then you have likely succeeded in finding a novel gene.
- If there are no database matches to the original query from [Q1], this indicates that you have partially succeeded: yes, you may have found a new gene, but no, it is not actually homologous to the original query. You should probably start over.

Details: A BLASTP search against NR database yielded a top hit result to a protein from *Gasterosteus aculeatus aculeatus* (three-spined stickleback). See additional screen shots below for top hits and selected alignment details:



The top result is to a protein from *Gasterosteus aculeatus aculeatus* (three-spined stickleback), see second screen shot below for alignment details:





[Q5] Generate a multiple sequence alignment with your novel protein, your original query protein, and a group of other members of this family from different species. A typical number of proteins to use in a multiple sequence alignment for this assignment purpose is a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 20 - although the exact number is up to you. Include the multiple sequence alignment in your report. Use Courier font with a size appropriate to fit page width.

Side-note: Indicate your sequence in the alignment by choosing an appropriate name for each sequence in the input unaligned sequence file (i.e. edit the sequence file so that the species, or short common, names (rather than accession numbers) display in the output alignment and in the subsequent answers below). The goal in this step is to create an interesting alignment for building a phylogenetic tree that illustrates species divergence.

>Human\_hexokinase|NP\_079406.4:510-846 hexokinase HKDC1 [Homo sapiens]
RMLPTYVCGLPDGTEKGKFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGRRSVRMYNKIFAIPLEIMQGTGEELFDHIVQCIADFLDYM
GLKGASLPLGFTFSFPCRQMSIDKGTLIGWTKGFKATDCEGEDVVDMLREAIKRRNEFDLDIVAVVNDTVGTMMTCGYE
DPNCEIGLIAGTGSNMCYMEDMRNIEMVEGGEGKMCINTEWGGFGDNGCIDIWTRYDTEVDEGSLNPGKQRYEKMTSGM
YLGEIVRQILIDLTKQGLLFRGQISERLRTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRRILQQLGLDSTCEDSIVVKEVCGAVS
RRAAQLCGAGLAAIVEKRR

>Three\_spined\_stickleback|XP\_040059250.1:510-848 hexokinase-1 [Gasterosteus aculeatus]

KMLPTFVHSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMTGTGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDY MGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGVLVTWTKGFKATDCEGEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAY EEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEEMRNIEMIDGEEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTDYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCS GMYLGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGLDSTCDDSIIVKEVCGA VSRRAAQLCGAGMAAVVDKIREN

>Ninespine\_stickleback|XP\_037340606.1:510-848 hexokinase-1 isoform X4
[Pungitius pungitius]

KMLPTFVYSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMTGTGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDY MGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCEGEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTLMTCAY EEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEEMRNIEMIDGEEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTDYDRAVDDLSLNSGKQRYEKMCS GMYLGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGLDSTCDDSIIVKEVCGA VSCRAAQLCGAGMAAVVDKIREN

>Cyclopterus|XP\_034413042.1:510-848 hexokinase-1-like [Cyclopterus lumpus]
KMLPTFVHSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPQEVMQGTGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDY
MGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCEGEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAIVNDTVGTMITCAY
EEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEEMRNIEMIDGDEGQMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCS
GMYLGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSHIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGLDSTCEDSIIVKEVCGA
VSRRAAOLCGAGMAAVVDKIREN

>Monkeyface\_prickleback|XP\_068586364.1:510-848 hexokinase-1 [Cebidichthys violaceus]

KMLPTFVYSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMQGTGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDY MGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCEGEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFELDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAY EEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYIEEMRNIEMIDGDEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCS GMYLGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGLDSTCDDSIIVKEVCGA VSCRAAQLCGAGMAAVVDKIREN

>Wolf\_eel|XP\_031702071.1:510-848 hexokinase-1 isoform X1 [Anarrhichthys ocellatus]

KMLPTFVYSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMQGTGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDY MGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCEGEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFELDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAY EEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYIEEMRNIEMIDGDEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCS GMYLGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGLDSTCDDSIIVKEVCGA VSCRAAQLCGAGMAAVVDKIREN

>Sablefish|XP\_054464563.1:510-848 hexokinase-1 [Anoplopoma fimbria]
KMLPTFVNSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMQGTGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDY
MGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILMTWTKGFKATDCEGEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAY

EEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEEMRNIEMIDGDEGOMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNPGKORYEKMCS GMYLGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGOISETLKTRGIFETKFLSOIESDRLALLOVRAILOHLGLDSTCDDSIIVKEVCGV VSRRAAOLCGAGMAAVVDKIREN

## Alignment:

Obtained using MUSCLE (version 3.8) at EBI:

CLUSTAL multiple sequence alignment by MUSCLE (3.8)

Human hexokinase Ninespine stickleback Cyclopterus Monkeyface prickleback Wolf eel Sablefish

RMLPTYVCGLPDGTEKGKFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSG-RRSVRMYNKIFAIPLEIMQG Three spined stickleback KMLPTFVHSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPQEVMQG KMLPTFVNSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMOG KMLPTFVYSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMQG KMLPTFVYSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMOG KMLPTFVHSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMTG KMLPTFVYSTPDGSEHGDFLALDLGGTNFRVLLVKIRSGKRRTVEMHNKIYSIPLEVMTG 

Human hexokinase Ninespine stickleback Cyclopterus Monkeyface prickleback Wolf eel Sablefish

TGEELFDHIVQCIADFLDYMGLKGASLPLGFTFSFPCRQMSIDKGTLIGWTKGFKATDCE Three spined stickleback TGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCE TGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILMTWTKGFKATDCE TGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCE TGEELFDHIVOCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCROTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCE  ${\tt TGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGVLVTWTKGFKATDCE}$ TGEELFDHIVQCISDFLDYMGMKNTRLPLGFTFSFPCRQTSLDAGILVTWTKGFKATDCE 

Human hexokinase Ninespine stickleback Cyclopterus Monkeyface prickleback Wolf eel Sablefish

GEDVVDMLREATKRRNEFDLDTVAVVNDTVGTMMTCGYEDPNCETGLTAGTGSNMCYMED Three spined stickleback GEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAIVNDTVGTMITCAYEEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEE GEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAYEEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEE GEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFELDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAYEEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYIEE GEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFELDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAYEEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYIEE GEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTMMTCAYEEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEE GEDVVGLLREAIKRREEFDLDVVAVVNDTVGTLMTCAYEEPTCEIGLIAGTGSNACYMEE 

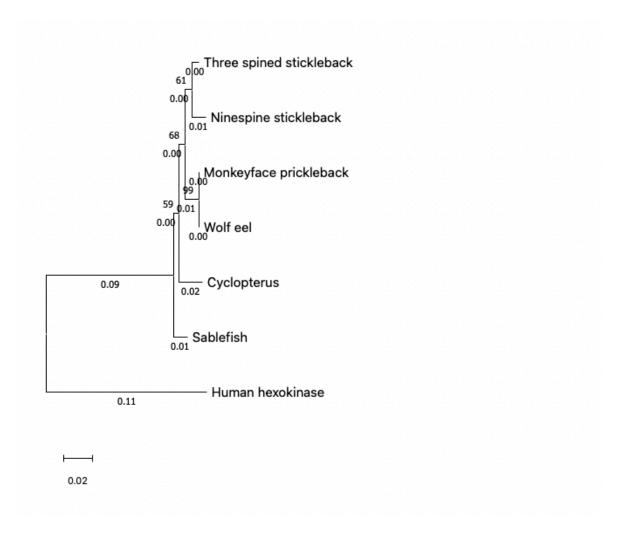
Human hexokinase Ninespine stickleback Cyclopterus Monkeyface prickleback Wolf eel Sablefish

MRNIEMVEGGEGKMCINTEWGGFGDNGCIDDIWTRYDTEVDEGSLNPGKORYEKMTSGMY Three spined stickleback MRNIEMIDGDEGQMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCSGMY MRNIEMIDGDEGQMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNPGKQRYEKMCSGMY  $\verb|MRNIEMIDGDEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCSGMY|\\$ MRNIEMIDGDEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTEYDRAVDDFSLNSGKQRYEKMCSGMY MRNIEMIDGEEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTDYDRAVDDFSLNSGKORYEKMCSGMY MRNIEMIDGEEGRMCVNMEWGAFGDNGCLDDIRTDYDRAVDDLSLNSGKQRYEKMCSGMY 

Human hexokinase Ninespine stickleback Cyclopterus Monkeyface prickleback Wolf eel Sablefish

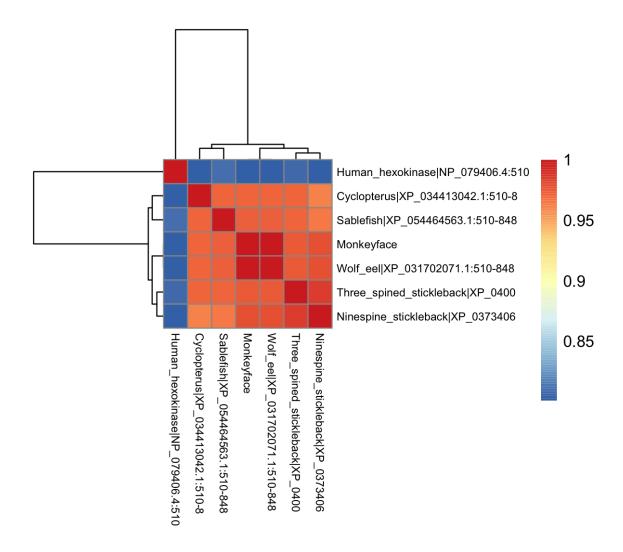
LGEIVROILIDLTKQGLLFRGQISERLRTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRRILQQLGL  ${\tt Three \ spined \ stickleback \ LGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSHIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGLBALLQVRSILQHLGVRSILQHLGVRSILQHLGVRSILQHLGVRSILQHLGVRSILQHLGVRSILQHTALLQVRSILQHTALLQVRSILQHTA$ LGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRAILQHLGL LGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGL LGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGOISETLKTRGIFETKFLSOIESDRLALLOVRSILOHLGL LGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGL LGEIVRNILIDMTKRGFLFRGQISETLKTRGIFETKFLSQIESDRLALLQVRSILQHLGL \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[Q6] Create a phylogenetic tree, using either a parsimony or distance-based approach. Bootstrapping and tree rooting are optional. Use "simple phylogeny" online from the EBI or any respected phylogeny program (such as MEGA, PAUP, or Phylip). Paste an image of your Cladogram or tree output in your report.



[Q7] Generate a sequence identity based heatmap of your aligned sequences using R. If necessary convert your sequence alignment to the ubiquitous FASTA format (Seaview can read in clustal format and "Save as" FASTA format for example). Read this FASTA format alignment

into R with the help of functions in the Bio3D package. Calculate a sequence identity matrix (again using a function within the Bio3D package). Then generate a heatmap plot and add it to your report. Do make sure your labels are visible and not cut at the figure margins.



[Q8] Using R/Bio3D (or an online blast server if you prefer), search the main protein structure database for the most similar atomic resolution structures to your aligned sequences. List the top 3 unique hits (i.e. not hits representing different chains from the same structure) along with their E-value and sequence identity to your query. Please also add annotation details of these structures. For example include the annotation terms PDB identifier (structure Id), method used to solve the structure (experimental technique), resolution (resolution), and source organism (source).

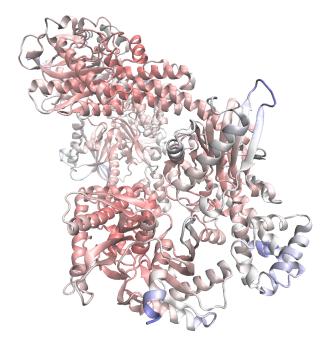
HINT: You can use a single sequence from your alignment or generate a consensus sequence from your alignment using the Bio3D function consensus(). The Bio3D functions blast.pdb(), plot.blast() and pdb.annotate() are likely to be of most relevance for completing this task. Note

that the results of blast.pdb() contain the hits PDB identifier (or pdb.id) as well as E-value and identity. The results of pdb.annotate() contain the other annotation terms noted above. Note that if your consensus sequence has lots of gap positions then it will be better to use an original sequence from the alignment for your search of the PDB. In this case you could choose the sequence with the highest identity to all others in your alignment by calculating the row-wise maximum from your sequence identity matrix.

ID	Technique	Resolution	Source	E-value	Identity
4FOI	X-ray diffraction	2.40	Homo Sapiens (Mammalian type)	0.00	78.338
1CZA	X-ray diffraction	1.90	Homo Sapiens (Mammalian type)	0.00	78.338
4F9O	X-ray diffraction	2.65	Homo Sapiens (Mammalian type)	0.00	78.338

[Q9] Generate a molecular figure of one of your identified PDB structures using VMD. You can optionally highlight conserved residues that are likely to be functional. Please use a white or transparent background for your figure (i.e. not the default black).

Based on sequence similarity. How likely is this structure to be similar to your "novel" protein?



There's a high chance that it is similar in structure to the three-spined stickleback due to the E-value of  $\sim 0$  and a sequence identity of  $\sim 80\%$ .

[Q10] Perform a "Target" search of ChEMBEL (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl/) with your novel sequence. Are there any Target Associated Assays and ligand efficiency data reported that may be useful starting points for exploring potential inhibition of your novel protein? If there are no assays listed here simply list "non available as of [date]".

CHEMBL details 1 Functional Assay (CHEMBL3374607); no binding assays or ligand efficiency data.

https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl/search results/Gasterosteus%20aculeatus

Functional assay linked "Antimicrobial activity against Aspergillus aculeatus incubated for 48 hrs by disk diffusion method."