Fishing for Cryptons: an understudied group of transposons

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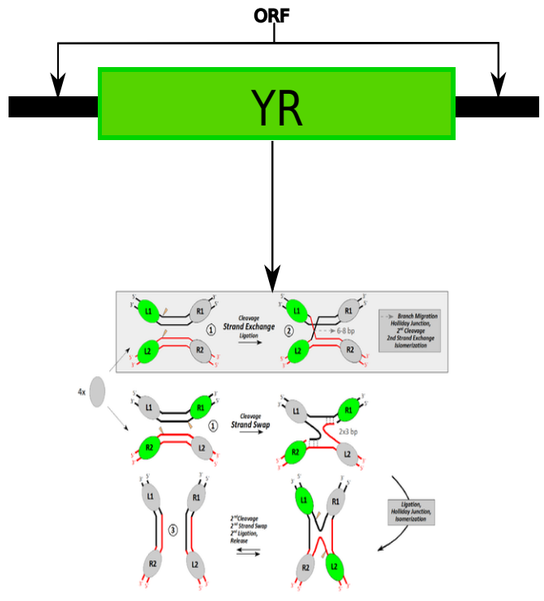
Cryptons, a group of DNA transposons, were first discovered in fungi and have since their discovery been ignored regarding research on transposable elements. Current knowledge on Cryptons consists of; structural features of a tyrosine recombinase and open reading frame, and the occasional occurrence of target site duplications. However, almost a decade has passed since the last comparative genomics study was carried out on Cryptons and since then there has been a significant increase of publicly available assembled genomes. In addition to this increase, we now have findings of Cryptons influencing fitness in fungi, and thus we decided to try and find out more about their evolution and distribution. Currently, the work is focused on using available sequences for homology recognition to find possible unannotated Cryptons in eukaryotic genomes.

What are cryptons ?



Early stages of project:

Studies on the vertebrate Crypton V family.

Results show that there could be up to 113 unannotated cryptons.