

Spliceosomal introns

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Those interested in possible functions for at least some junk and those interested in alternative splicing will probably find much of interest here. Available free online with registration. I, unfortunately, haven't read it yet, since Nature has apparently recently changed their cookie policy to one that I don't like.

<http://www.nature.com/nrg/journal/v7/n3/abs/nrg1807.html>

Review

Nature Reviews Genetics 7, 211–221 (March 2006)

The evolution of spliceosomal introns: patterns, puzzles and progress
Scott William Roy and Walter Gilbert

Abstract: The origins and importance of spliceosomal introns comprise one of the longest-abiding mysteries of molecular evolution. Considerable debate remains over several aspects of the evolution of spliceosomal introns, including the timing of intron origin and proliferation, the mechanisms by which introns are lost and gained, and the forces that have shaped intron evolution. Recent important progress has been made in each of these areas. Patterns of intron–position correspondence between widely diverged eukaryotic species have provided insights into the origins of the vast differences in intron number between eukaryotic species, and studies of specific cases of intron loss and gain have led to progress in understanding the underlying molecular mechanisms and the forces that control intron evolution.