Re: Spliceosomal introns

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- *From*: "Perplexed in Peoria" <jimmenegay@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Wed, 22 Feb 2006 12:13:52 −0500 (EST)

"g" <gillawton@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:dtfh3b$6sa$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> "Perplexed in Peoria" <jimmenegay@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:dtd3aj$21th$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
>
> > "g" <gillawton@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:dtb2ob$177g$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> >
> > > The MAIN questions I have surround not whether germline cells are
> > > communicated with by somatic cells (adjacent, neuronal...?) or by way of
> > > enzymes in the blood, or by way of lymphatic or other routes...
> > > They HAVE to be triggered to degress, or the kitten eye taping experiment
> > > would not turn out as it does. Also, if the germline cells were not
> > > communicated with in cave creatures and burrowing creatures that live in
> > > dark environments, those creatures would not end up blind.
> >
> > Sure they would, for the same reason that fruit eating mammals ended up without the ability to synthesize vitamin C.
>
> So are you saying that the reason fruit eating mammals began to repress their genes coding for proteins to make ascorbic acid is because those genes got no stimulus to act?

Nope. Gene repression has nothing to do with it. I'm talking about standard natural selection. A mutation destroys the ability to synthesize ascorbate in one individual. Since there is not selection against this mutated gene, it can rise in frequency to

fixation. But in sibling taxa, where fruit−eating is not the habit, the same mutation is selected against.

Similarly for the genes for building eyes. If there is not positive selection for having eyes, the processes of mutation and drift will result in the loss of functional eyes, and perhaps eventually in the loss of even non−functional eyes.

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