

Re: Species Resurrection

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2007-12/msg00155.html>

- *From:* Tim Tyler <seemysig@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 22 Dec 2007 01:16:39 -0500 (EST)
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DK wrote:

Tim Tyler <seemysig@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote: [...]

--> http://timtyler.org/species_resurrection/ <--

The essay starts:

Resurrecting species that had previously been thought extinct now seems to be quite technically possible.

Not a chance. All modern technologies require you to come up, as a bare minimum, with chromosomes, not just with DNA sequences. That means all the DNA methylation, all the histones and auxillary proteins present in the right places in right amounts all with proper modifications. No way.

Well it hasn't been done /yet/.

My piece was triggered in part by a recent news story:

``Scientists in Maryland have already built the world's first entirely handcrafted chromosome ? a large looping strand of DNA made from scratch in a laboratory, containing all the instructions a microbe needs to live and reproduce.

In the coming year, they hope to transplant it into a cell, where it is expected to "boot itself up," like software downloaded from the Internet, and cajole the waiting cell to do its bidding. And while the first synthetic chromosome is a plagiarized version of a natural one, others that code for life-forms that have never existed before are already under construction.

<http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/121707dnnatsynbio.2bf46e0.html>

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.....as well as by the sequencing of the genome of one extinct species.

Species resurrection now looks to be pretty clearly in the foreseeable future – and that's interesting not least of all because Homo floresiensis and Neanderthal man may well prove to be within reach:

“Unleashing a new kind of DNA analyzer on a 38,000-year-old fragment of fossilized Neanderthal bone, scientists have reconstructed a portion of that creature's genetic code – a technological tour de force that has researchers convinced they will soon know the entire DNA sequence of the closest cousin humans ever had.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/15/AR2006111501042.html>

As a wise man once said:

"Light will be thrown on the origin of Man and his history."

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