

Evidence of Evolution

The amino acids below are found in the protein beta hemoglobin. This protein is generally 148 amino acids in length. To conserve space, only the amino acids where differences exist have been provided to you.

| Amino Acid Number | Species 1 | Species 2 | Species 3 | Species 4 | Species 5 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Valine | Valine | Threonine | Valine | Valine |
| 2 | Histidine | Histidine | Leucine | Histidine | Histidine |
| 4 | Threonine | Threonine | Serine | Threonine | Threonine |
| 5 | Proline | Proline | Alanine | Proline | Glycine |
| 8 | Lysine | Lysine | Aspartic Acid | Lysine | Lysine |
| 9 | Serine | Asparagine | Alanine | Serine | Serine |
| 10 | Alanine | Alanine | Histidine | Alanine | Alanine |
| 12 | Threonine | Threonine | Threonine | Threonine | Alanine |
| 13 | Alanine | Threonine | Serine | Alanine | Alanine |
| 21 | Aspartic Acid | Aspartic Acid | Glutamic Acid | Aspartic Acid | Aspartic Acid |
| 22 | Glutamic Acid | Glutamic Acid | Lysine | Glutamic Acid | Glutamic Acid |
| 33 | Valine | Leucine | Valine | Valine | Valine |
| 50 | Threonine | Serine | Serine | Threonine | Threonine |
| 52 | Aspartic Acid | Aspartic Acid | Serine | Aspartic Acid | Aspartic Acid |
| 56 | Glycine | Glycine | Serine | Glycine | Serine |
| 69 | Glycine | Glycine | Serine | Glycine | Glycine |
| 73 | Aspartic Acid | Aspartic Acid | Glutamic Acid | Aspartic Acid | Aspartic Acid |
| 76 | Alanine | Asparagine | Histidine | Alanine | Alanine |
| 87 | Threonine | Glutamine | Glutamine | Threonine | Glutamine |
| 104 | Argenine | Lysine | Lysine | Lysine | Argenine |
| 111 | Valine | Valine | Serine | Valine | Valine |
| 112 | Cysteine | Cysteine | Alanine | Cysteine | Cysteine |
| 113 | Valine | Valine | Glutamic Acid | Valine | Valine |
| 114 | Leucine | Leucine | Serine | Leucine | Leucine |
| 115 | Alanine | Alanine | Glutamic Acid | Alanine | Alanine |
| 116 | Histidine | Histidine | Leucine | Histidine | Histidine |
| 120 | Lysine | Lysine | Histidine | Lysine | Lysine |
| 121 | Glycine | Glycine | Aspartic Acid | Glycine | Glycine |
| 122 | Phenylalanine | Phenylalanine | Lysine | Phenylalanine | Phenylalanine |
| 123 | Threonine | Threonine | Serine | Threonine | Threonine |
| 125 | Proline | Glutamine | Alanine | Proline | Glutamine |
| 126 | Valine | Valine | Valine | Valine | Leucine |
| 130 | Tyrosine | Tyrosine | Phenylalanine | Tyrosine | Tyrosine |

- 1) The old way of comparing the amino acid sequences between organisms was to count the differences between amino acids by hand and develop a phylogenic tree based on the number of differences between the organisms. Using the data above, compare the number of differences between Species 1 to each of the other species. Record your information in the data table below.

| Species | Differences in Amino Acids from Species 1 |
|-----------|---|
| Species 2 | |
| Species 3 | |
| Species 4 | |
| Species 5 | |

2) Based on the differences in amino acid sequences, what species is most closely related to Species 1? (use the table you created on the previous page)

The table shows an amino acid comparison of cytochrome c, a protein involved in cellular respiration in aerobic organisms.

Amino Acid Composition of Cytochrome c in Some Organisms

| Amino Acid | Fruit Fly | Screwworm Fly | Hornworm Moth | Silkworm Moth | Comparison | # of Differences |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Alanine | 10% | 10% | 10% | 10% | Fruit and Screwworm | |
| Arginine | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | Fruit and Hornworm | |
| Aspartic Acid | 6% | 6% | 6% | 6% | Fruit and Silkworm | |
| Cysteine | 6% | 6% | 6% | 4% | Screwworm and Hornworm | |
| Glutamic Acid | 12% | 12% | 8% | 8% | Screwworm and Silkworm | |
| Glycine | 4% | 2% | 4% | 4% | Hornworm and Silkworm | |
| Valine | 2% | 1% | 4% | 6% | | |

3) According to the table above, the organisms most closely related to each other are

4) According to the table above, the organisms least closely related to each other are

There are many ways to illustrate the evolutionary relationships between organisms. **Cladograms** illustrate the pattern of relatedness between species. A **phylogram** shows the evolutionary relationships among various species that are believed to have a common ancestor.

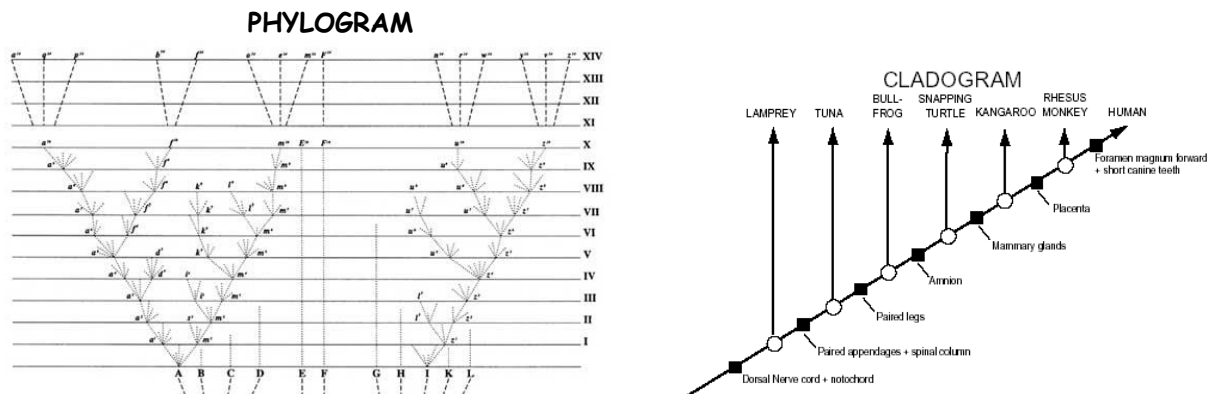
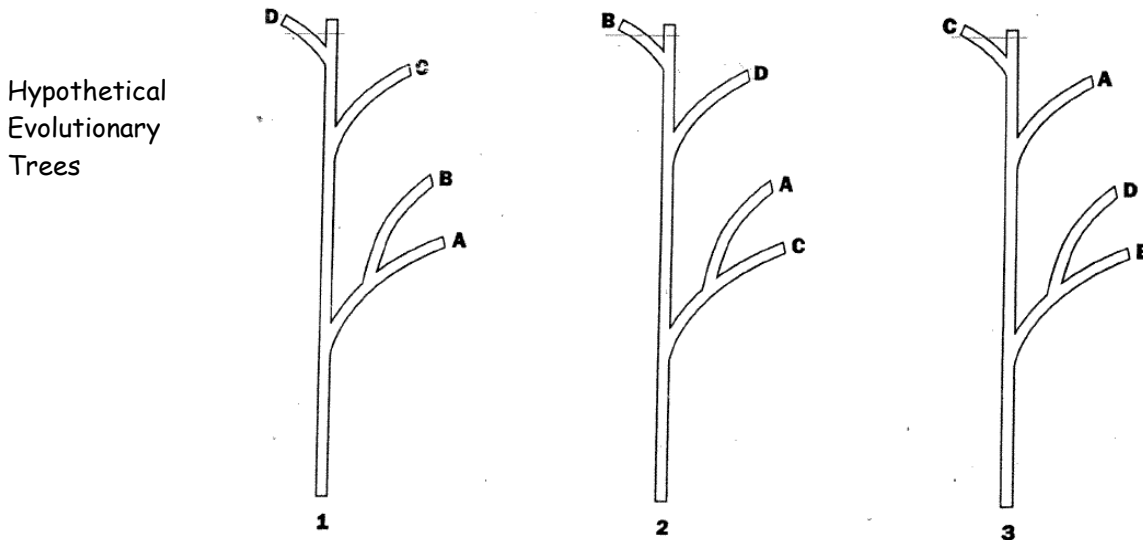


Figure 1: Methods of illustrating evolutionary relationships. phylogram on left, cladogram on right.

How Genes Work

How closely related are various species of living thing? Evolutionary trees, such as the ones below, can provide clues. The branches of evolutionary trees show the evolutionary patterns of the related species. The tree trunk represents time, with the top being the most recent point. The place where a branch splits off from the trunk or another branch indicates the time when a species evolved. The closer branches are to one another, the more closely related are the species.

Today, conformation of such a tree's structure often comes from DNA analysis. The evolutionary trees below show three possible evolutionary relationships for species A, B, C, and D. Also below are the DNA nucleotide sequences that code for a type of protein found in each species. Your task is to determine which tree best represents the evolutionary relationship among the four species. Study the evolutionary trees and the DNA segments. Then respond to the following questions.



| Nucleotide sequences of a type of protein found in each of the four species | |
|---|--|
| Species A | ACTGTTGCTTGGACTGAAATCCGAGGGTTTACTGTACCGCCTAGGTTAGTTGAT |
| Species B | ACTGTTGATTGACAGAAACCCGAGGCTTTACTGTACTGCCAAGGTTAGGTGAT |
| Species C | ACTGTTGATTGGACTGAAATCCGAGGGTTTACTGTACTGCCTAGGTTAGTTGAT |
| Species D | ACTGTTGATTGACTGAAATCCGGGGCTTTACTGTACTGCCAAGGTTAGGTGAT |

Analysis questions:

5) Compare each nucleotide sequence with the others. How many nucleotides differ when you compare:

| A and B | A and C | A and D | B and C | B and D | C and D |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | |

6) For the nucleotide data to be relevant, what must you assume about the proteins? (think in terms of what part of the body they come from)

7) What do you look for when you compare the DNA to determine how closely the four species are related?

8) Which of the three phylogenetic trees (cladograms) is most likely to represent the evolutionary relationship among the four species? Explain.