



## Mitochondria Genome

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Mitochondria possess a remnant of the endosymbiont's genome that varies considerably in size throughout eukaryotes, ranging from ~15 kb to 11 Mbp. Mitochondrial genomes are mostly circular, containing five to ~100 genes (usually 37 genes in metazoans). In recent decades, due to the rapid advance of next-generation sequencing technology and compact structure of mitochondrial genomes, complete mitochondrial genome data have been exponentially increased and accumulated. Extensive sequencing of mitochondrial genomes has established meaningful and unique features in gene arrangements and genetic codes as well as nucleotide sequence substitutions, shedding light on enigmatic phylogenetic relationships and evolutionary histories in eukaryotes, especially metazoans. Additionally, a mitochondrial gene component, *COI* is known for the most promising metazoan DNA barcoding marker, which has been frequently employed for molecular species identification. Mitochondrial genomes are small but powerful in a variety of aspects, such as eukaryote phylogeny, evolution, population genetics, etc.





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