

BLAST

- NCBI BLAST
- Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/>

Global versus local alignments

Global alignments:

- Attempt to align every residue in every sequence,
- Most useful when the sequences in the query set are similar and of roughly equal size.
- A general global alignment technique is called the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm

Local alignments:

- More useful for dissimilar sequences that are suspected to contain regions of similarity or similar sequence motifs within their larger sequence context.
- The Smith-Waterman algorithm is a general local alignment method.

With sufficiently similar sequences, there is no difference between local and global alignments.

National Center for Biotechnology Information

National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

PubMed All Databases **BLAST** OMIM Books TaxBrowser Structure

What does NCBI do?

Established in 1988 as a national resource for molecular biology information, NCBI creates public databases, conducts research in computational biology, develops software tools for analyzing genome data, and disseminates biomedical information - all for the better understanding of molecular processes affecting human health and disease. [More about NCBI...](#)

Hot Spots

- ▶ Assembly Archive
- ▶ Clusters of orthologous groups
- ▶ Coffee Break, Genes & Disease, NCBI Handbook
- ▶ Electronic PCR
- ▶ Entrez Home
- ▶ Entrez Tools
- ▶ Gene expression omnibus (GEO)
- ▶ Human genome resources
- ▶ Influenza Virus Resource

New dbGaP
NCBI's dbGaP Genome Wide Association Database

NCBI's **dbGaP** (database of Genotype and Phenotype) provides data from Genome Wide Association (GWA) studies. The resource is intended to help elucidate the link between genes and disease. For each study, users have access to detailed information about the phenotypic variables measured and pre-computed associations between subjects' phenotypes and genotypes. [Click here to read the press release.](#) To read more about GWA projects, see NCBI's [GWA resource page](#)

Click on link

NCBI/ BLAST Home

[BLAST finds regions of similarity between biological sequences.](#) [more...](#)

[Learn more](#) about how to use the new BLAST design

BLAST Assembled Genomes

Choose a species genome to search, or [list all genomic BLAST databases](#).

- [Human](#)
- [Oryza sativa](#)
- [Gallus gallus](#)
- [Mouse](#)
- [Bos taurus](#)
- [Pan troglodytes](#)
- [Rat](#)
- [Danio rerio](#)
- [Microbes](#)
- [Arabidopsis thaliana](#)
- [Drosophila melanogaster](#)
- [Apis mellifera](#)

Basic BLAST

Choose a BLAST program to run.

- [nucleotide blast](#) Search a **nucleotide** database using a **nucleotide** query
Algorithms: blastn, megablast, discontinuous megablast
- [protein blast](#) Search **protein** database using a **protein** query
Algorithms: blastp, psi-blast, phi-blast
- [tblastx](#) Search **protein** database using a **translated nucleotide** query

News

[New BLAST URL available](#)
 The NCBI has activated a new URL for BLAST searches at the NCBI:
<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
 2008-04-25 14:30:00
[More BLAST news...](#)

Tip of the Day

How to do Batch BLAST jobs.

Lets say you need to examine a large group of potential gene candidates. Most likely these are isolated as amplified products from a library of some sort. you do not wish to sit at the computer and have to manually cut and paste a 100 sequences in to the BLAST web pages. Using the BLAST

BLAST Assembled Genomes

Choose a species genome to search, or [list all genomic BLAST databases](#).

- [Human](#)
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- [Gallus gallus](#)
- [Pan troglodytes](#)
- [Microbes](#)
- [Apis mellifera](#)

Know these!

Basic BLAST

Choose a BLAST program to run.

Click on this link

[nucleotide blast](#)

Search a **nucleotide** database using a **nucleotide** query
Algorithms: blastn, megablast, discontinuous megablast

[protein blast](#)

Search **protein** database using a **protein** query
Algorithms: blastp, psi-blast, phi-blast

[blastx](#)

Search **protein** database using a **translated nucleotide** query

[tblastn](#)

Search **translated nucleotide** database using a **protein** query

[tblastx](#)

Search **translated nucleotide** database using a **translated nucleotide** query

Specialized BLAST

Choose a type of specialized search (or database name in parentheses.)

the NCBI:
<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
2008-04-25 14:30:00
[More BLAST news...](#)

Tip of the Day

How to do Batch BLAST jobs.

Lets say you need to examine a large group of potential gene candidates. Most likely these are isolated as amplified products from a library of some sort. you do not wish to sit at the computer and have to manually cut and paste a 100 sequences in to the BLAST web pages. Using the BLAST web pages it is possible to input "batches" of sequences into one form and retrieve the results.

[More tips...](#)

Enter Query Sequence

Enter accession number, gi, or FASTA sequence

Clear

Query subrange

```
>gi|76563842|gb|DQ198262.1| Plasmodium falciparum isolate FCBR L-
lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) gene, complete cds
ATGGCACCAAAAAGCAAAAATCGTTTTAGTTGGCTCAGGTATGATTGGAGGAGTAATGGCTACCTTAATTG
TTCAGAAAAATTTAGGAGATGTAGTTTTGTTCGATATTGTAAGAACATGCCACATGGAAAAGCTTTAGA
TACATCTCATACTAATGTTATGGCATATTCAAATTGCAAAGTAAGTGGTTCAAACACTTATGACGATTTG
```

From

To

Or, upload file

Browse...

Job Title

gi|76563842|gb|DQ198262.1| Plasmodium falciparum...

Enter a descriptive title for your BLAST search

Choose Search Set

Database

Human genomic + transcript Mouse genomic + transcript Others (nr etc.):

Nucleotide collection (nr/nt)

Use these help buttons!

Organism
Optional

Enter organism name or id--completions will be suggested

Enter organism common name, binomial, or tax id. Only 20 top taxa will be shown.

Entrez Query
Optional

Enter an Entrez query to limit search

Many database'; don't all have the same info.

Program Selection

Optimize for

- Highly similar sequences (megablast)
- More dissimilar sequences (discontiguous megablast)
- Somewhat similar sequences (blastn)

Choose a BLAST algorithm

BLAST

Search **database nr** using **Megablast (Optimize for highly similar sequences)**

Show results in a new window

Databases available for BLAST search

The BLAST pages offer several different databases for searching. Some of these, like SwissProt and PDB are compiled outside of NCBI. Other like ecoli, dbEST and month, are subsets of the NCBI databases. Other "virtual Databases" can be created using the ["Limit by Entrez Query"](#) option.

Peptide Sequence Databases

Nr: All non-redundant GenBank CDS translations + RefSeq Proteins + PDB + SwissProt + PIR + PRF

Refseq: RefSeq protein sequences from NCBI's Reference Sequence Project.

Swissprot: Last major release of the SWISS-PROT protein sequence database (no updates).

Pat: Proteins from the Patent division of GenPept.

pdb : Sequences derived from the 3-dimensional structure from [Brookhaven Protein Data Bank](#).

Month: All new or revised GenBank CDS translation+PDB+SwissProt+PIR+PRF released in the last 30 days.

env_nr: Protein sequences from environmental samples.

Enter Query Sequence

Enter accession number, gi, or FASTA sequence

Clear

Query subrange

```
>gi|76563842|gb|DQ198262.1| Plasmodium falciparum isolate FCBR L-
lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) gene, complete cds
ATGGCACCAAAAGCAAAAATCGTTTTAGTTGGCTCAGGTATGATTGGAGGAGTAATGGCTACCTTAATTG
TTCAGAAAAATTTAGGAGATGTAGTTTTGTTTCGATATTGTAAGAACATGCCACATGGAAAAGCTTTAGA
TACATCTCATACTAATGTTATGGCATATTCAAATTGCAAAGTAAGTGGTTCAAACACTTATGACGATTTG
```

From

To

Or, upload file

Job Title

Enter a descriptive title for your BLAST search

Choose Search Set

Database

- Human genomic + transcript
 Mouse genomic + transcript
 Others (nr etc.):

Nucleotide collection (nr/nt)

- Genomic plus Transcript**
- Human genomic plus transcript (Human G+T)
 - Mouse genomic plus transcript (Mouse G+T)

Other Databases

- Nucleotide collection (nr/nt)
- Reference mRNA sequences (refseq_rna)
- Reference genomic sequences (refseq_genomic)
- NCBI Genomes (chromosome)
- Expressed sequence tags (est)
- Non-human, non-mouse ESTs (est_others)
- Genomic survey sequences (gss)
- High throughput genomic sequences (HTGS)
- Patent sequences(pat)
- Protein Data Bank (pdb)
- Human ALU repeat elements (alu_repeats)
- Sequence tagged sites (dbsts)
- Whole-genome shotgun reads (wgs)
- Environmental samples (env_nt)

Organism

Optional

Entrez Query

Optional

Program Selection

Optimize for

- Somewhat similar sequences (blastn)

NCBI/BLAST/blastn/Formatting Results - 1EATZFA101R

[Reformat these Results](#)[Edit and Resubmit](#)

[Sign in above to save your search strategy]

Job Title: [gi|76563842|gb|DQ198262.1| Plasmodium falciparum...](#)

BLASTN 2.2.18 (Mar-02-2008)

RID: 1EATZFA101R

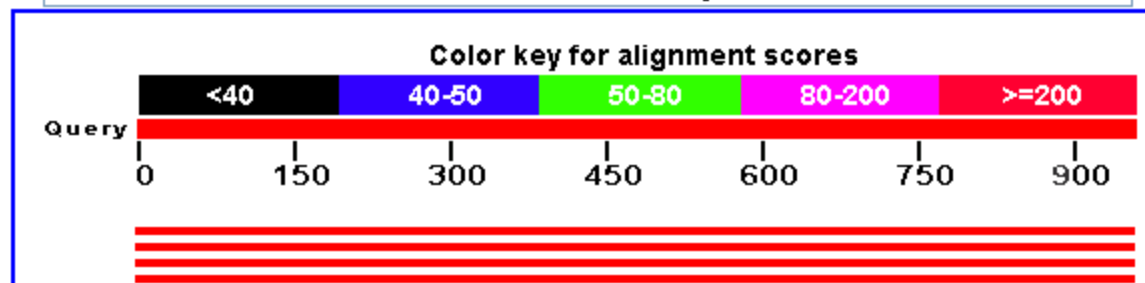
Database: All GenBank+EMBL+DDBJ+PDB sequences (but no EST, STS, GSS, environmental samples or phase 0, 1 or 2 HTGS sequences)
6,724,857 sequences; 23,571,432,311 total letters

If you have any problems or questions with the results of this search please refer to the [BLAST FAQs](#)
[Taxonomy reports](#)

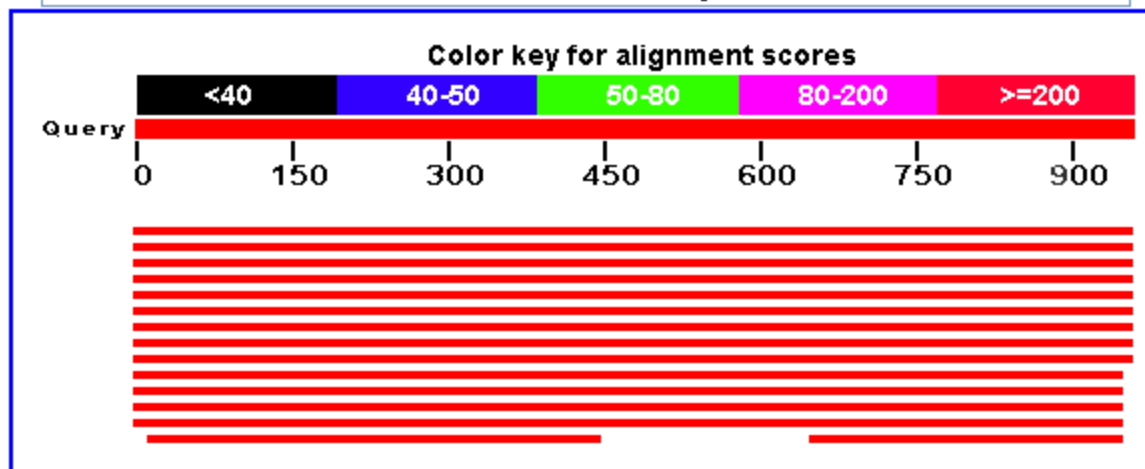
Query= gi|76563842|gb|DQ198262.1| Plasmodium falciparum isolate FCBR L-lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) gene, complete cds
Length=951

Distribution of 15 Blast Hits on the Query Sequence

Mouse-over to show define and scores, click to show alignments



Mouse-over to show define and scores, click to show alignments



[Distance tree of results](#) ^{NEW}


Legend for links to other resources: [U](#) UniGene [E](#) GEO [G](#) Gene [S](#) Structure [M](#) Map Viewer

Sequences producing significant alignments:
(Click headers to sort columns)

Accession	Description	Max score	Total score	Query coverage	E value	Max ident	Links
XM_001349953.1	Plasmodium falciparum 3D7 L-lactate dehydrogenase (PF13_0141) pa	1757	1757	100%	0.0	100%	G
DQ198262.1	Plasmodium falciparum isolate FCBR L-lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) c	1757	1757	100%	0.0	100%	
DQ198261.1	Plasmodium falciparum isolate K1 L-lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) gen	1757	1757	100%	0.0	100%	
M93720.1	Plasmodium falciparum L-lactate dehydrogenase (LDH-P) mRNA, com	1757	1757	100%	0.0	100%	
AF251291.1	Plasmodium falciparum L-lactate dehydrogenase (LDH-P) gene, comp	1751	1751	100%	0.0	99%	
EU330208.1	Plasmodium falciparum strain Jind lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) gene	1746	1746	100%	0.0	99%	
DQ825436.1	Plasmodium falciparum isolate FCC1/HN lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)	1746	1746	100%	0.0	99%	
AF323520.1	Plasmodium falciparum FCC1/HN lactate dehydrogenase gene, compl	1729	1729	100%	0.0	99%	
AB122147.1	Plasmodium reichenowi ldh gene for lactate dehydrogenase, complete	1679	1679	100%	0.0	98%	
XM_719008.1	Plasmodium yoelii yoelii str. 17XNL L-lactate dehydrogenase (PY0388)	1007	1007	98%	0.0	86%	G

BLASTP programs search protein databases using a protein query. [more...](#)

Enter Query Sequence

Enter accession number, gi, or FASTA sequence 

[Clear](#)


Query subrange 

ABA46355

From


To

Or, upload file




Job Title

Enter a descriptive title for your BLAST search 

Align two or more sequences 

Choose Search Set

Database


Non-redundant protein sequences (nr) 

Organism

Optional

Enter organism name or id--completions will be suggested

Exclude

Enter organism common name, binomial, or tax id. Only 20 top taxa will be shown. 


Exclude

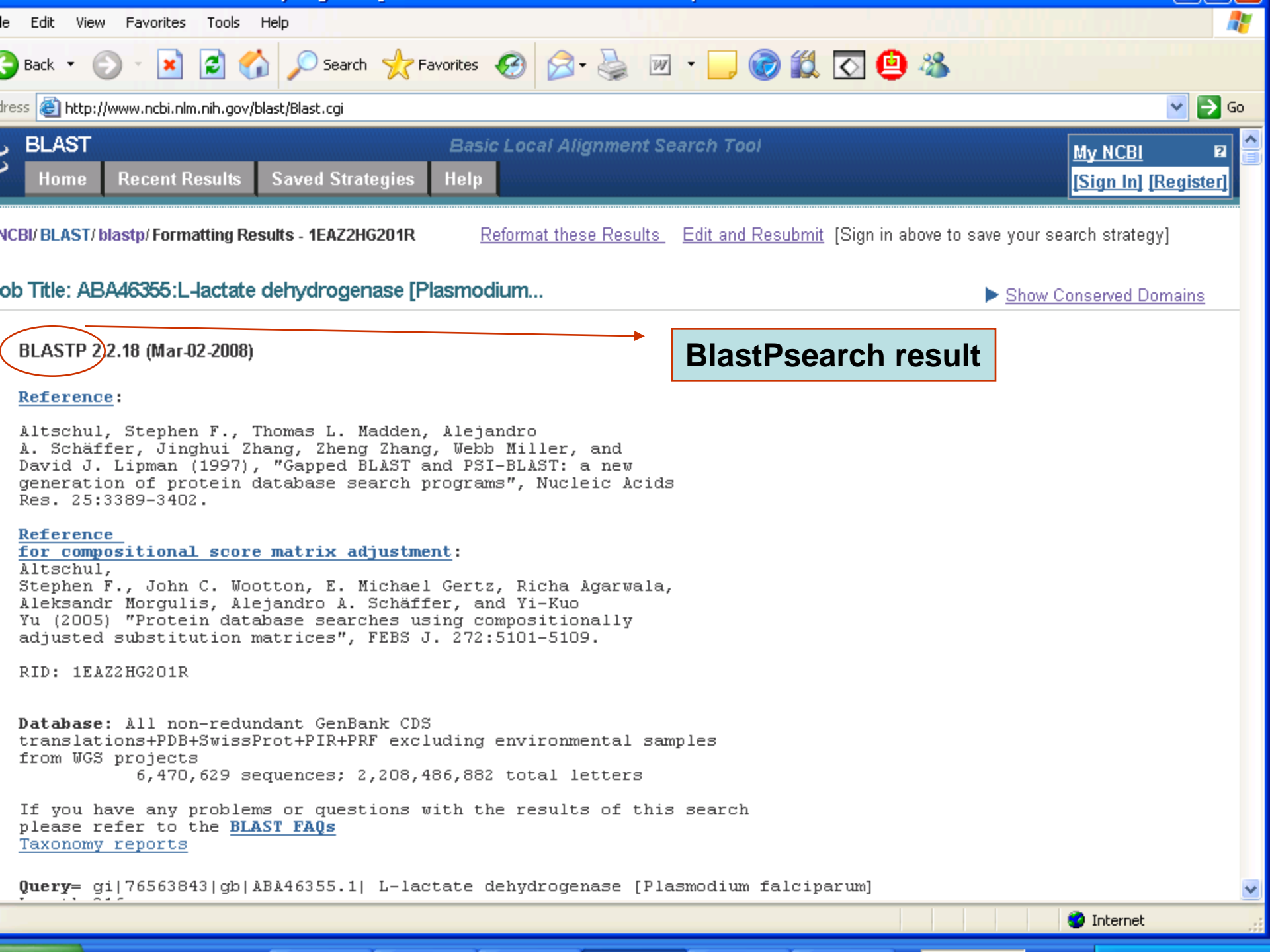
Optional

Models (XM/XP) Uncultured/environmental sample sequences

Entrez Query

Optional

Enter an Entrez query to limit search 



BLASTP 2.2.18 (Mar-02-2008)

BlastPsearch result

Reference:

Altschul, Stephen F., Thomas L. Madden, Alejandro A. Schäffer, Jinghui Zhang, Zheng Zhang, Webb Miller, and David J. Lipman (1997), "Gapped BLAST and PSI-BLAST: a new generation of protein database search programs", Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389-3402.

Reference for compositional score matrix adjustment:

Altschul, Stephen F., John C. Wootton, E. Michael Gertz, Richa Agarwala, Aleksandr Morgulis, Alejandro A. Schäffer, and Yi-Kuo Yu (2005) "Protein database searches using compositionally adjusted substitution matrices", FEBS J. 272:5101-5109.

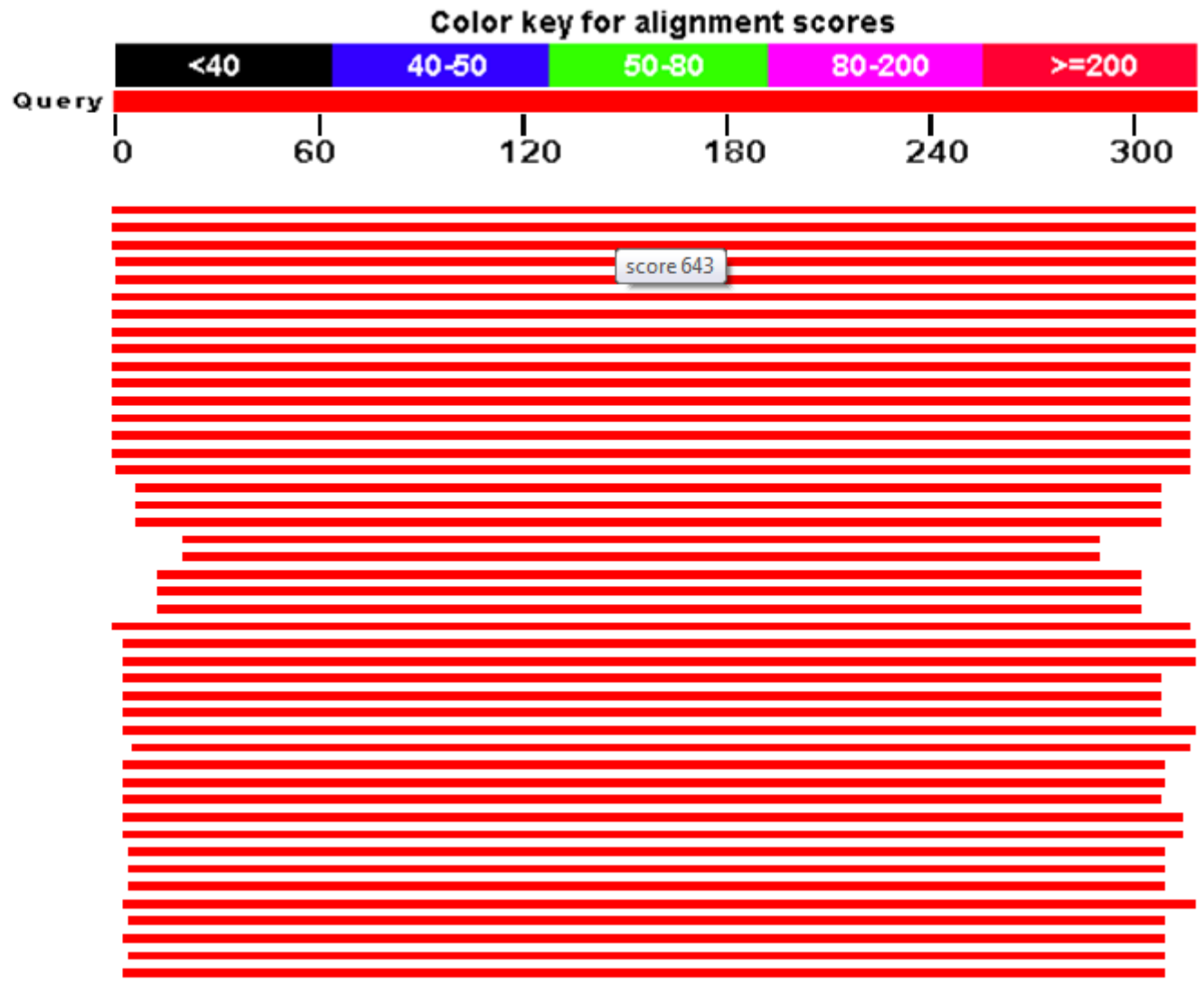
RID: 1EAZ2HG201R

Database: All non-redundant GenBank CDS translations+PDB+SwissProt+PIR+PRF excluding environmental samples from WGS projects
6,470,629 sequences; 2,208,486,882 total letters

If you have any problems or questions with the results of this search please refer to the [BLAST FAQs](#)
[Taxonomy reports](#)

Query= gi|76563843|gb|ABA46355.1| L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum]

XP_001349989 L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum 3D7] S=643 E=0



end for links to other resources: [U](#) UniGene [E](#) GEO [G](#) Gene [S](#) Structure [M](#) Map Viewer

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Accession	Description	Max score	Total score	Query coverage	E value
XP_001349989.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum 3D7] >sp Q27743.1	643	643	100%	0.0
1CEQ_A	Chain A, Chloroquine Binds In The Cofactor Binding Site Of Plasmodium	642	642	100%	0.0
1T24_A	Chain A, Plasmodium Falciparum Lactate Dehydrogenase Complexed W	642	642	100%	0.0
1XIV_A	Chain A, Plasmodium Falciparum Lactate Dehydrogenase Complexed W	639	639	99%	0.0
1U4O_A	Chain A, Plasmodium Falciparum Lactate Dehydrogenase Complexed W	639	639	99%	0.0
1CET_A	Chain A, Chloroquine Binds In The Cofactor Binding Site Of Plasmodium	638	638	100%	0.0
1T2E_A	Chain A, Plasmodium Falciparum Lactate Dehydrogenase S245a, A327t	637	637	100%	0.0
ABH03417.1	lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum]	637	637	100%	0.0
AAK12097.1	lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum]	632	632	100%	2e-179
XP_724101.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium yoelii yoelii str. 17XNL] >qb EA	609	609	99%	1e-172
XP_679401.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium berghei strain ANKA] >sp Q7SI	608	608	99%	3e-172
1OC4_A	Chain A, Lactate Dehydrogenase From Plasmodium Berghei >pdb 1OC4	608	608	99%	3e-172
XP_745180.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium chabaudi chabaudi] >emb CAH	605	605	99%	2e-171
XP_002260092.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium knowlesi strain H] >emb CAQ41	590	590	99%	1e-166
XP_001615620.1	lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium vivax SaI-1] >qb AAV59419.1 L-	588	588	99%	3e-166
2A92_A	Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Lactate Dehydrogenase From Plasmodium	585	585	99%	2e-165
AAS77572.1	lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium malariae]	570	570	94%	1e-160
AAS77571.1	lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium ovale]	563	563	94%	8e-159
AAS77573.1	lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium vivax]	560	560	94%	7e-158
ACE88653.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum]	545	545	84%	2e-153
ACE88652.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum]	545	545	84%	2e-153
ACE88656.1	L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium vivax] >qb ACE88659.1 L-lact	537	537	90%	5e-151



NCBI/ BLAST/ blastp suite/ Formatting Results - Y2M242SX01S

[Edit and Resubmit](#) [Save Search Strategies](#) [▶ Formatting options](#) [▶ Download](#)

gb|ABA46355| (316 letters)

316 aa

Query ID [gi|76563843|gb|ABA46355.1|](#)

Database Name nr

Description L-lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium falciparum 3D7]

Description All non-redundant

> [gb|AAS77572.1|](#) lactate dehydrogenase [Plasmodium malariae]
 Length=299

HIT

Score = 570 bits (1468), Expect = 1e-160, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.
 Identities = 277/299 (92%), Positives = 289/299 (96%), Gaps = 0/299 (0%)

Query	8	VLVGSGMIGGVMATLIVQKNLGDVVLFDIVKNMPHGKALDTSHTNVMAYSNCKVSGSNTY	67
		VLVGSGMIGGVMATLIVQKNLGDVV+FDIVKNMP+GKALDTSHTNVMAYSNCKV+GSN+Y	
Sbjct	1	VLVGSGMIGGVMATLIVQKNLGDVVMFDIVKNMPYGGKALDTSHTNVMAYSNCKVTGSNSY	60
Query	68	DDLADVVIVTAGFTKAPGKSDKEWNRDPLLPLNNKIMIEIGGHIKKNCPNAFIIVVTN	127
		+DL GADVIVTAGFTK PGKSDKEWNRDPLLPLNNKIMIEIGGH+K CPNAFIIVVTN	
Sbjct	61	EDLKGADVIVTAGFTKVPKSDKEWNRDPLLPLNNKIMIEIGGHVKNYCPNAFIIVVTN	120
Query	128	PVDVMVQLLHQHSGVPKPKNIIGLGGVLDTSRLKYYISQKLNVCPRDVNAHIVGAHGNKMV	187
		PVDVMVQLLH+HSGVPKPKNI+GLGGVLDTSRLKYYISQKLNVCPRDVNA IV AHGNKMV	
Sbjct	121	PVDVMVQLLHKHSGVPKPKNIVGLGGVLDTSRLKYYISQKLNVCPRDVNALIVAAGHGNKMV	180
Query	188	LLKRYITVGGIPLQEFINNKLISDAELEAIFDRTVNTALEIVNLHASPYVAPAAAIEMA	247
		LKRYITVGGIPLQEFINNK I+DAEL+AIFDRTVNTALEIVNLHASPYVAPAAAIEMA	
Sbjct	181	PLKRYITVGGIPLQEFINNKITDAELDAIFDRTVNTALEIVNLHASPYVAPAAAIEMA	240
Query	248	ESYLKDLKKVLCSTLLEGQYGHSDIFGGTPVVLGANGVEQVIELQLNSEEKAKFDEAI	306
		ESY+KDLKKVLCSTLLEGQYGHSDIFGGTP+VLGANGVEQVIELQLNSEEK KFDEAI	
Sbjct	241	ESYIKDLKKVLCSTLLEGQYGHSDIFGGTPLVLGANGVEQVIELQLNSEEKKKFDEAI	299

On the BLAST result you find

1. References
2. Database
3. Query
 - the term that you asked.
4. A graphic display (coloured map) of the result
 - i.e. 15 BLAST hits on the query sequence.
 - Passing the mouse bar over the colour lists the sequence.
5. A hit list
 - showing the name of sequences similar to your query, ranked by similarity.

Hit list contains sequences producing significant alignments

1. Includes the **Accession number** e.g. DQ198262
 - The hyperlink takes you to the database entry containing the sequence.
2. Followed by a description of the sequence that was picked up
 - check carefully before getting too excited !
3. **SCORE** in bits.
 - A measure of the statistical significance of the alignment. The better the score the better the alignment. Matches BELOW 50 are unreliable.
4. **E-Value**. Expected value.
 - Measures the number of times you could have expected such a good match purely by chance.
 - A sequence with a value close to 0 i.e. 0.000000000000001 is a nearly identical sequence.
 - One is realistically looking for E-values smaller than 0.0001 or 10^{-4} .

5. % identity.

- DNA: MORE than 75% identity is GOOD
- PROTEINS: MORE than 25% identity is GOOD
- Positives – fraction of residues that are similar (conserved).
- Gaps – introduced to compensate for deletions/insertions
- Space – no alignment

6. Length.

- How LONG are the two segments that have been aligned. A short sequence is not very significant.

7. **ONE** sequence is **YOUR** sequence

- i.e. query sequence. The other is the hit sequence.

SUMMARY.

A good alignment should contain not too many gaps and have a few sections of high similarity rather than one or two residues here and there.

E-value: Expect value

- Parameter that describes the number of hits one can "expect" to see by chance when searching a database of a particular size.
- Describes the random background noise that exists for matches between sequences.
- For example, an E-value of 1 assigned to a hit can be interpreted as meaning that in a database of the current size, one might expect to see one match with a similar score simply by chance.
- The lower the E-value, or the closer it is to "0", the higher is the "significance" of the match.

However,

- It is important to note that searches with short sequences can be virtually identical and have relatively high E-value.
- This is because the calculation of the E-value also takes into account the length of the query sequence. This is because shorter sequences have a high probability of occurring in the database purely by chance.
- For more information, see the following [tutorial](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=handbook.section.622).
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=handbook.section.622>