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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE PHYLOGENETIC TREES OF SOME EUKARYOTES SEQUENCES

¹Prof. Dr. P. K. Srimani and ²Mrs. Kumudavalli M.V

¹Director, R&D Division, B.U., DSI, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

²Dperatment of MCA (BU), DSI, Bangalore, Karnataka, India and Research Scholar, SCSVMV University, Kanchipuram, Tamilnadu, India

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ABSTRACT

The recent challenges in computational biology are pertaining to Sequence Analysis and various tools related to it. Sequences are to be aligned before they are used for any other purpose like constructing the evolutionary or Phylogenetic trees. These trees predict the evolutionary relationship among various biological species or other entities based upon similarities and differences in their physical and/or genetic characteristics. The aligned sequences are helpful to know the unknown families from a known sequence structure and also for drug analysis. The present study aims at giving an insight about how to use the tools related to alignment and tree construction to study the evolutionary details of DNA and Protein sequences.

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INTRODUCTION

Bioinformatics is the application of information technology to the analysis, organization, management and distribution of biological data in order to answer complex biological questions. Bio computing and computational biology are synonyms and describe the use of computers and computational techniques to analyze any type of a biological system, from individual molecules to organisms to overall ecology. Computers are used to gather, store, analyze and integrate biological and genetic information which can then be applied to gene-based drug discovery and development. In this regard, many universities, government institutions and pharmaceutical firms have formed bioinformatics groups, consisting of computational biologists and bioinformatics computer scientists. Bioinformatics is particularly important as an adjunct to genomics research, because of the large volume of complex data generated.

Bioinformatics plays a vital role in i. Controlling and managing the data ii. Analysis of Sequence, Structure and Functions. iii. Analysis of primary data such as Mass spectra analysis, DNA micro arrays image analysis e.t.c. iv. Statistics. v. Database storage and access and vi. Interpreting results in a biological context. A tree is an undirected acyclic connected graph. The exterior nodes are called as leaves, hence a Phylogenetic tree is an unordered rooted/ Un rooted tree with weighted/un weighted edges. It is a branching diagram showing the inferred evolutionary relationship among various species. Computer tools/programs used in bioinformatics or

field of biology is intense. It plays a vital role in storing and maintaining large databases. For performing any calculations on these databases it is important to have an efficient tool/program, towards which the current day research in bioinformatics is heading. There are various types of problems being catered by these existing and still under construction tools. For example: Phylogenetic tree or Evolutionary tree construction and Pair-wise or multiple sequence analysis to know the similarity and Identity between the genes or the species. Certainly there is a great need for the development of efficient tools for the analysis and comparison of genes, for drug analysis etc.

RLATED WORKS

A thorough survey of the literature pertaining to the subject reveals that very spare literature is available in this direction. Some recent works include ([1], [2], [3], [4], [5]). Absolutely no work is available with regard to the present work. Hence, the present investigation is carried out.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM

As discussed earlier Bioinformatics has a major application in sequence alignment and analysis. Sequence analysis is the application of Information Technologies to Molecular Biology. It deals with biological sequences, and processes them to extract significant information that may yield new insights and guidelines in the understanding of biological organisms. Various computer tools/programs are available which give appropriate results to the given set of input data. Usage of such tools with input data and the analysis of its

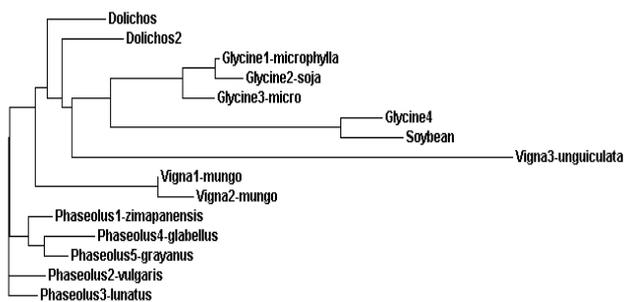


Figure 4. Phylogram

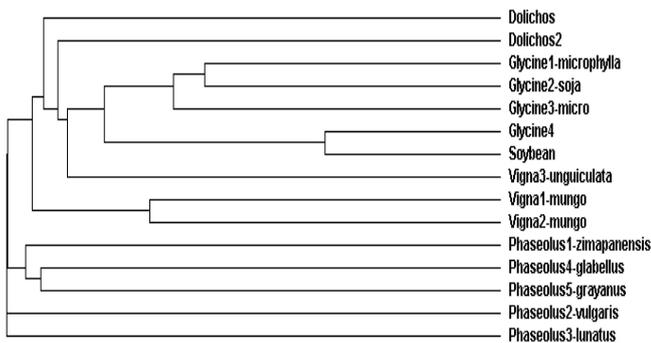


Figure 5. Cladogram

Figure 6 is a Jal Tree diagram for the guide tree obtained above in Newick format. The leaf nodes indicate the sequence names and the numerical values involved indicate the length of the branches. Figure 7 depicts an evolutionary tree based on a distance method. It is a tree obtained by calculating the branch lengths between the most closely related sequence and then averaging the distance between this pair or sequence cluster and the next sequence or sequence cluster, and the process is continued until all the sequences are included in the tree [14]. In this case the percentage of identity is taken to be the branch lengths. Percentage Identity is calculated as follows:

(Percent Identity score - number of identical matches) / the length of the alignment times 100.
 Example: $(304/403) * 100 = 75.6 \%$

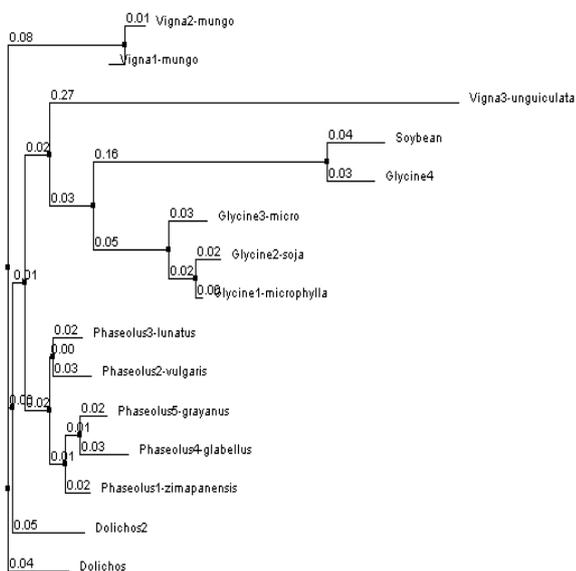


Figure 6. Jal Tree

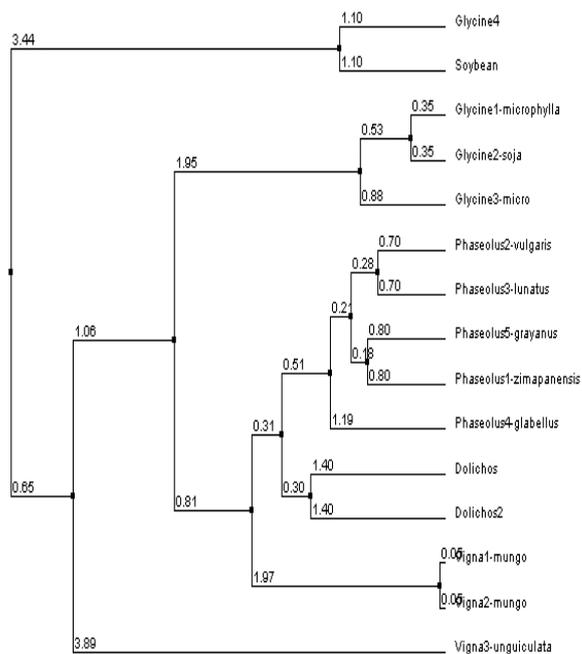


Figure 7. Average distance using the percentage Identity

Figure 8 is another tree obtained by Neighbor Joining method, which is also a distance, based method. This method pairs sequences based on the effect of the pairing on the sum of the branch lengths of the tree. Neighbor joining chooses the sequences that should be joined to give the best Least-Square estimates of the branch lengths that most closely reflect the actual distance between the sequences.

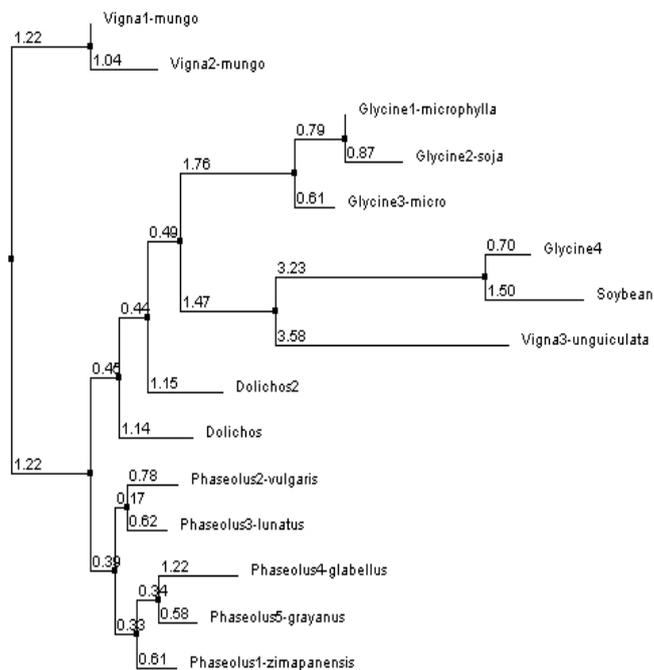


Figure 8. Neighbor Joining using Percentage Identity

CONCLUSION

The present investigation of Phylogenetic trees on 15 eukaryote sequences was carried out with an objective to provide the evolutionary relationship among the sequences under study, with branch lengths. The sequences were aligned to find the percentage identity and then it was used with two

distance based methods to construct the trees i.e, Unweighted Pair Graph method with Arithmetic Mean and Neighbor Joining. The results are found to be quite interesting and of practical importance in knowing the evolutionary distance from the root to the leaves. The N-J method using percentage identity determines vigna unguiculata (cowpea) sequence with Accession number AY573237 to be the farthest from the root with 3.58 branch length. But the Averaging method also determines vigna unguiculata (cowpea) to be the farthest with branch length-3.89. The analysis is found to be first of its kind and has lot of scope for further research.

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