

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINAITON PAPER 2019/2020

COURSE CODE: BIO451  
TITLE OF PAPER: BIOINFORMATICS  
TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS  
INSTRUCTIONS: NUMBERS IN BRACKETS DENOTE THE NUMBER OF MARKS  
THIS PAPER COMPRISES OF TWO SECTIONS.  
SECTION A COMPRISES OF SIX (6) QUESTIONS.  
SECTION B COMPRISES OF SIX (6) QUESTIONS.  
ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTIONS A AND B.

TOTAL MARKS AVAILABLE: 70

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR

**Section A**

Total marks available: 40

Eswatini National Trust Commission has been doing a botanical survey of their national parks. They have collected a number of plants and have requested your help in identifying them. You have extracted the genomic DNA from one of the plants, in triplicate, (Sample 1) and sent each for sequencing.

The data is back, and the laboratory assistant has handed you a USB key. You load the USB key into your computer and see the following:

ENTC\_Sample1a.abi

ENTC\_Sample1b.abi

ENTC\_Sample1c.abi

AQ1: Describe the steps you will take to identify the plant. In your answer, also include the format of the data, the name(s) of the database(s) you would use and how you would select the appropriate result. [10]

You have performed the steps as described in AQ1 for Sample 1 (a, b and c). The laboratory assistant has handed you the results (Annex 1). Carefully study the three documents in Annex 1.

AQ2: Identify the scientific and common name of the plant collected by the team from ENTC. [3]

AQ3: Despite the DNA extraction occurring in triplicate, the results were different. What are the most likely reasons for the different results observed? [4]

AQ4: Using the data in Annex 1. Identify the following:

- a) The size and type of molecule. [2]
- b) The full name of the GenBank Division. [1]
- c) The number and name of the proteins encoded by this section of DNA. [4]
- d) The name and number of genes in this section of DNA. [4]
- e) The coding sequence for one of the genes in this section of DNA [2]

You have sent the identifications of all the plants to ENTC. A botanist from ENTC has contacted you and wants to do further analysis on the plant (Sample 1). She would like to carry out some morphological (physical) analysis against the plant found in the national park and the plant data your analysis identified.

AQ5: What piece(s) of information from Annex 1 will you need to provide to the botanist?

[5]

The ENTC botanist has contact you again, requesting your assistance in determining the structure and function of one of the proteins.

AQ6: Describe how you would use bioinformatics to determine the structure and function of this protein, including which database(s) you would use. [5]

**Section B**

Total marks available: 30

BQ1: You are supervising an intern in your laboratory. Unfortunately he has got his results all mixed up and has asked you for help. Based on the sequences below, identify the **types of molecules** these sequences are from.

- a) AGAAGTTCCAGATCATTCCAAGA [1]
- b) AUCCCAGGGGUUCACCAGAGCCAGGAGA [1]
- c) LKAGTAKCLATVAPPACQUALEALOCCAGAPLAGNQQSS [1]
- d) AGATCAGCCATGACTAG [1]
- e) SPALVGUPPSCQURPALAGUCWNMU [1]
- f) GGGCAUGGCUGAAACUACCAGUCAAGUAG [1]

BQ2: What causes a single strand of RNA to fold back on itself? [2]

BQ3: Describe three key differences between CDS and ORF in a nucleotide sequence. [3]

BQ4: Describe the difference between homology and similarity. [3]

BQ5: Describe when and why you would use the:

- a) Smith-Waterman algorithm [3]
- b) Needleman-Wunsch algorithms [3]

BQ6: Assuming a scoring method: match = +2, mismatch = -3, and gap = -2, using the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm:

- a) Initialize the scoring matrix below. [2]

		A	C	T	G	A	T	T	C	A
A										
C										
G										
C										
A										
T										
C										
A										

- b) Calculate the score of the matrix and fill the traceback matrix. Use arrows to indicate how you determined the path forward. Use circles and arrows to determine your trace back. [5]
- c) Deduce the best alignment based on the traceback matrix. [3]

END OF EXAMINATION

Nucleotide

GenBank

**Homo sapiens keratin 15 (KRT15), RefSeqGene on chromosome 17**

NCBI Reference Sequence: NG\_012284.1

EASIA Graphics

Go to:

**LOCUS** NG\_012284 12274 bp DNA linear PRI 30-DEC-2018  
**DEFINITION** Homo sapiens keratin 15 (KRT15), RefSeqGene on chromosome 17.

**ACCESSION** NG\_012284**VERSION** NG\_012284.1**KEYWORDS** RefSeq; RefSeqGene;**SOURCE** Homo sapiens (human)**ORGANISM** Homo sapiensEukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata; Euteleostomi;  
 Mammalia; Eutheria; Euarchontoglires; Primates; Homoplacidae; Catarrhini; Hominoidea; Homo.**COMMENT** REVIEWED REFSEQ: This record has been curated by NCBI staff. The reference sequence was derived from AC019349.2B.  
 This sequence is a reference standard in the RefSeqGene project.

**Summary:** The protein encoded by this gene is a member of the keratin gene family. The keratins are intermediate filament proteins responsible for the structural integrity of epithelial cells and are subdivided into cytokeratins and hair keratins. Most of the type I cytokeratins consist of acidic proteins which are arranged in pairs of heterodimeric keratin chains and are clustered in a region on chromosome 17q21.2. [provided by RefSeq, Jul 2008].

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Annex 1 Sample 16.

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Nucleotide

GenBank

**Mentha spicata photosystem II cp47 protein (psbB) gene, partial cds; photosystem II subunit T (psbT) and photosystem II subunit N (psbN) genes, complete cds; and photosystem II subunit H (psbH) gene, partial cds; chloroplast**

GenBank: HQ384581.1

FASTA Graphics PopSet

Go to:

Locus HQ384581 2207 bp DNA linear PLN 25-FEB-2014  
DEFINITION *Mentha spicata* photosystem II cp47 protein (psbB) gene, partial  
cds; photosystem II subunit T (psbT) and photosystem II subunit N  
(psbN) genes, complete cds; and photosystem II subunit H (psbH)  
gene, partial cds; chloroplast.

ACCESSION HQ384581

VERSION HQ384581.1

KEYWORDS

SOURCE chloroplast *Mentha spicata* (spearmint)

ORGANISM *Mentha spicata*

Eukaryota; Viridiplantae; Streptophyta; Embryophyta; Tracheophyta;  
Spermatophyta; Magnoliophyta; eudicotyledons; Gunneridae;  
Pentapetales; asterids; lamiids; Lamiales; Lamiaceae; Nepetoideae;  
Mentheae; Mentha.

REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 2207)

AUTHORS Refulio-Rodriguez,N.F. and Olmstead,R.G.

TITLE Phylogeny of lamiaee

JOURNAL Am. J. Bot. 101 (2), 287-299 (2014)

PUBMED 24509797

REFERENCE 2 (bases 1 to 2207)

AUTHORS Refulio-Rodriguez,N.F. and Olmstead,R.G.

TITLE Direct Submission

JOURNAL Submitted (07-OCT-2010) Department of Biology, University of Washington, PO Box 355325, Seattle, WA 98195, USA

FEATURES Location/Qualifiers

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1444

**Annex 1 SAMPLE 1c.**

Nucleotide ▾

GenBank

**Mastomys natalensis voucher FMNH 166943 Brca1 (Brca1) gene, exon 12 and partial cds**

GenBank: EU349660.1

FASTA Graphics PopSel

LOCUS EU349660 2540 bp DNA linear ROD 11-MAY-2017  
 DEFINITION Mastomys natalensis voucher FMNH 166943 Brca1 (Brca1) gene, exon 12 and partial cds.  
 ACCESSION EU349660  
 VERSION EU349660.1  
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 REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 2540)  
 AUTHORS Rowe,K.C., Reno,M.L., Richmond,D.M., Adkins,R.M. and Steppan,S.J.  
 TITLE Pliocene colonization and adaptive radiations in Australia and New Guinea (Sahul): multilocus systematics of the old endemic rodents (Muroidea: Murinae)  
 JOURNAL Mol. Phylogenet. Evol. 47 (1), 84-101 (2008)  
 PUBMED 18313945  
 REFERENCE 2 (bases 1 to 2540)  
 AUTHORS Rowe,K.C., Reno,M.L., Richmond,D.M., Adkins,R.M. and Steppan,S.J.  
 TITLE Direct Submission  
 JOURNAL Submitted (13-DEC-2007) Biological Sciences, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1100, USA  
 FEATURES Location/Qualifiers

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145

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