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Residents of a particular city notoriously have never visited most sights shown to tourists. In the same way, the complete genomic sequence of the brewer's yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, has now been available for over a year, proving its usefulness to molecular biologists in a hundred quiet ways, without attracting the concerted attention that is its due. This *Directory* is intended to remedy that situation, by presenting papers on all the hitherto undescribed chromosomal sequences alongside an overview of the entire genomic sequence.

Like many a monument ignored by locals, familiarity has obscured what an achievement it represents. For one thing, it is still almost three times as large as any other genome sequenced so far. Then, too, this size necessitated a unique international collaboration which will surely inspire related projects in the future. Most importantly, it represents the first complete sequence of a eukaryotic genome, the last of the three superkingdoms of life to have a fully sequenced representative.

As such, it will be a rich mine of information for everyone concerned with all kinds of eukaryotic genomes, up to and including those of human beings. The opportunity this represents is equalled only by the challenge: dauntingly, of the 5,800 open reading frames in the sequence, the function of 45% cannot even be guessed. For now, we can only be grateful to the European Commission (DG XII – Life Sciences) for initiating and supporting, since 1989, the international project whose success has allowed *Nature* to present a unified account of this vital resource, and look forward to the flood of information that its study will surely release.

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