Special Issue

Ancient DNA and Molecular Archaeology

Message from the Guest Editors

Ancient DNA (aDNA) is any DNA extracted from ancient specimens, important for diverse evolutionary research. During the last three decades, DNA analysis on degraded samples has revealed itself as an important research tool in anthropology, molecular evolution, and population genetics. The past decade has witnessed a revolution in ancient DNA research. Although the field's focus was previously limited to mitochondrial DNA and a few nuclear markers, whole-genome sequences from the deep past can now be retrieved. This breakthrough is tightly connected to the massive sequence throughput of next-generation sequencing platforms and the ability to target short and degraded DNA molecules, with the possibility to go back in time 400,000 years for samples from temperate regions and 700,000 years for permafrozen remains. This Special Issue welcomes original research, brief research reports, and review papers about molecular archaeological studies on unearthed materials (including animals, plants, humans, sediments, and so on), using genome-wide sequencing or microarray technologies or various kinds of markers, such as mtDNA, Y chromosome, STRs, SNPs, and isotopic data.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 March 2025)

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the Genes team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised. Why not consider Genes for your next genetics paper?

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