GENBANK-SERVER

Address:
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Description

This is a mail response facility which will return a specific GenBank entry requested via e-mail. The server can be accessed on the Internet, BITNET, and UUCP networks.

Please be aware that a mail response program is not ‘‘smart’’ and can only respond to a limited set of commands. GenBank entries are available by name and accession number only.

The addresses to use are;

genbank-server@uhnix2.uh.edu	(Internet)
...uhnix2!genbank-server	(Usenet)
genbank-server%uhnix2.uh.edu@CUNYVM	(BITNET)

and your request can consist of one of the following:

HELP
SEND HELP
SEND LOCUS genbank_locus_name
SEND INDEX index_name
SEND ACCESSION accession_number

‘‘HELP’’ will result in a small help file being sent back, and everyone should request the help message. It will contain up-to-date information about the server, access, release numbers, and policies. The help message also includes all index names, so ‘‘SEND INDEX’’ no longer works. ‘‘SEND INDEX index_name’’ (where ‘‘index_name’’ is one of the index files listed in the HELP message) will work.

SEND LOCUS genbank_locus_name will return via e-mail the requested locus if it exists, and an error message if it does not. Use the HELP message index file to find the name of the entry, or use the accession number.

Network access

The system is accessible via Internet e-mail. It can also be reached via USENET at uhnix2!genbank-server. Note that large GenBank entries (Lambda, EBV, tobacco and liverwort chloroplasts) may not make it through the thread of mailers. UUCP mailers, in particular, silently enforce a limit of 64,000 characters in a single mail message. Note also that Usenet

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mail is very unreliable; you should consult the ‘‘pathalias’’ database to construct a mail path from your machine to uhnix2. A local Unix mail wizard may be able to help.

Who Can Use the Catalog

Anyone can use the catalog.

Miscellaneous

The server runs every half hour and will handle only **one** request at a time. If you want more than one entry, send in separate requests. Large GenBank entries (Lambda, EBV, tobacco and liverwort chloroplasts entries) may not make it through the thread of mailers. UUCP mailers, in particular, silently enforce a limit of 64,000 characters in a single mail message. Note also that Usenet mail is very unreliable; you should consult the ‘‘pathalias’’ database to construct a mail path from your machine to uhnix2. A local Unix mail wizard may be able to help.

The server contains a simple response to someone asking for too many loci or otherwise abusing the service: it stops working for them. Please restrict your requests to no more than one or two a day; if the demand is too great the service will randomly choose requests to ignore, or will be stopped altogether.

The current version of GenBank on the server is Release 59. The server is updated twice a year due to monetary and disk space constraints. We will soon be updating the server daily; as entries are completed by GenBank they will appear on the server.

Questions can be sent to davison@uh.edu (Internet) or DAVISON@UHOU(BITNET). Requests to talk to a human rather than a mail response program should be sent to archive-management@uhnix2.uh.edu. By popular demand, archive-managment@uhnix2.uh.edu also works.