



NIST On-Going Projects to Aid the Human Identity Testing Community


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NIST Human Identity Project Team



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Funding: Interagency Agreement 2003-IJ-R-029 between National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES)

Team Impact on Forensic Community


- **27 publications** since June 2004 (61 since 2000)
- **31 presentations** to the community since June 2004
- All NIST publications and presentations available on STRBase: <http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpub.htm>
- Training materials: 2 workshops conducted with Bruce McCord
 - NEAFS (Sept 29-30, 2004)
 - Albany DNA Academy (June 13-14, 2005)
- *Forensic DNA Typing: Biology, Technology, and Genetics of STR Markers*, 2nd Edition (John Butler)



National Institute of Justice
The Research, Development, and Evaluation Agency of the U.S. Department of Justice

Current Areas of NIST Research Effort

- **Resources for “Challenging Samples”** (miniSTRs)
- **Information on New Loci** (SNPs, Y-Chromosome, new STRs)
- **Standard Information Resources** (STRBase website, training materials/review articles, validation standardization)
- **Allele Sequencing and Interlaboratory Studies** (Real-time qPCR, mixture interpretation)

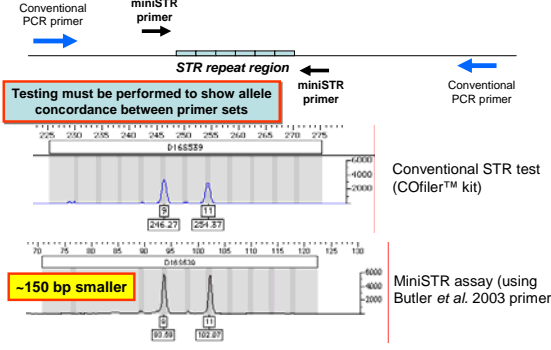


miniSTRs for Degraded DNA

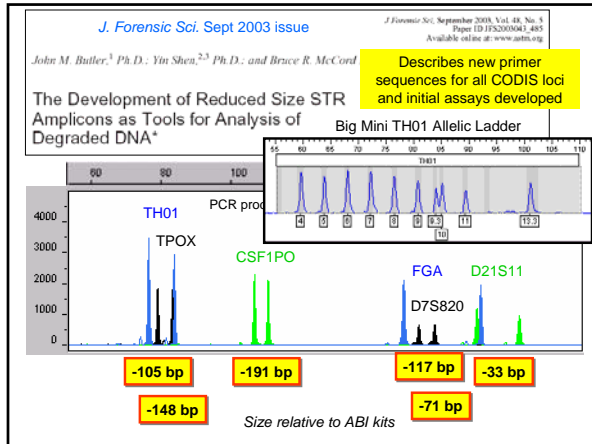
- Original miniSTR paper with CODIS loci, D2, D19, Penta D, Penta E – Butler et al. (2003) *J. Forensic Sci.* 48: 1054-1064
- Many CODIS loci are too big and make poor miniSTRs
- New miniSTRs and assays: NC01, NC02 – Coble, M.D. and Butler, J.M. (2005) *J. Forensic Sci.* 50:43-53
- New miniSGM miniplex: AMEL, TH01, FGA, D18, D16, D2
- EDNAP/ENFSI degraded DNA study coordinated by Peter Gill
- Creation of miniSTR information on STRBase

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR.htm>

A miniSTR is a reduced size STR amplicon that enables higher recovery of information from degraded DNA samples



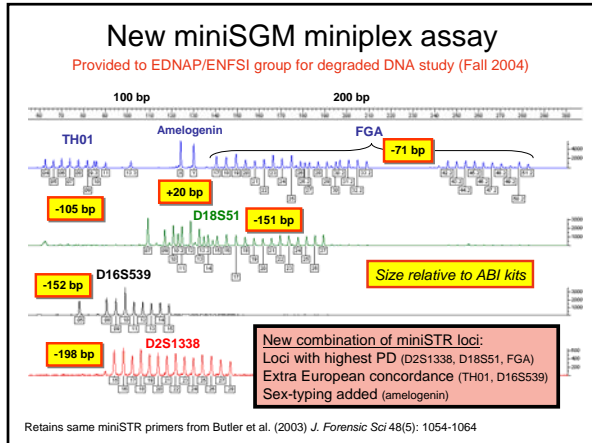
Butler, J.M. (2005) *Forensic DNA Typing*, 2nd Edition, Figure 7.2, ©Elsevier Science/Academic Press



Recent Publications on miniSTRs

- Butler, J.M., Shen, Y., McCord, B.R. (2003) The development of reduced size STR amplicons as tools for analysis of degraded DNA. *J. Forensic Sci* 48(5): 1054-1064.
- Chung, D.T., Drabek, J., Opel, K.L., Butler, J.M., McCord, B.R. (2004) A study on the effects of degradation and template concentration on the efficiency of the STR multiplex primer sets. *J. Forensic Sci.* 49(4): 733-740.
- Drabek, J., Chung, D.T., Butler, J.M., McCord, B.R. (2004) Concordance study between multiplex STR assays and a commercial STR typing kit. *J. Forensic Sci.* 49(4): 859-860.
- Coble, M.D. and Butler, J.M. (2005) Characterization of new miniSTR loci to aid analysis of degraded DNA., *J. Forensic Sci.*, 50: 43-53.

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR.htm>
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR/timeline.htm>



Many CODIS Loci Make Poor miniSTRs

- Large allele range (e.g., FGA)
- Large alleles (e.g., D21S11 and FGA)
- Poor flanking regions prohibiting reliable primer annealing immediately adjacent to the repeat region (e.g., D7S820)

Why go beyond CODIS loci

"STRs have proven to be highly successful [for mass disasters] in the past e.g. Waco disaster and various air disasters. However, even if the DNA is high quality there are occasions when there are insufficient family members available to achieve a high level of confidence with an association."

Gill, P., Werrett, D.J., Budowle, B. and Guerrieri, R. (2004) An assessment of whether SNPs will replace STRs in national DNA databases-Joint considerations of the DNA working group of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGAM). *Science&Justice*, 44(1): 51-53.

Why go beyond CODIS loci

"To achieve this purpose, either **new STRs could be developed**, or alternatively, existing STRs could be supplemented with a SNP panel."

"There are also efforts for modifying existing STR panels by decreasing the size amplicons by designing new primers."

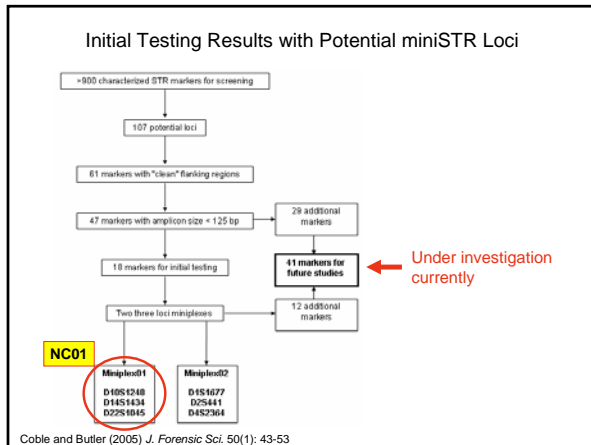
Gill, P., Werrett, D.J., Budowle, B. and Guerrieri, R. (2004) An assessment of whether SNPs will replace STRs in national DNA databases-Joint considerations of the DNA working group of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGAM). *Science&Justice*, 44(1): 51-53.

Why go beyond CODIS loci

- Desirable to have markers unlinked from CODIS loci (different chromosomes) for some applications
- Small size ranges to aid amplification from degraded DNA samples
- New miniSTR loci will benefit missing persons investigations and paternity testing (and perhaps national databases in the future)**

Characterization of New miniSTR Loci

- Candidate STR marker selection
- Chromosomal locations and marker characteristics
- PCR primer design
- Initial testing results
- Population testing
- Allelic ladder construction
- Miniplex assay performance



Some Marker Characteristics

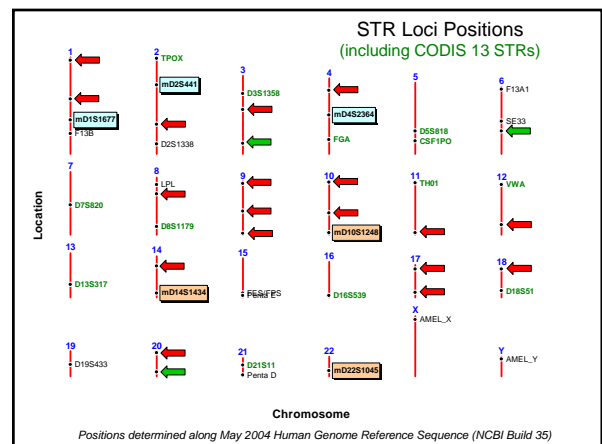
Chr.	Marker Name	(Motif)	Repeat	Ref. Size	Amplicon Size	Primer distance from repeat
10	D10S1248	TETRA	GGAA	13	102	1
	GGAA23C05N	GGAA				0
14	D14S1434	TETRA	GATA	10	88	1
	GATA168F05	GATA				0
22	D22S1045	TRI	ATA	13	105	3
	ATA37D06	ATA				6
1	D1S1677	TETRA	GGAA	15	103	0
	GGAA22G10N	GGAA				0
2	D2S441	TETRA	GATA	12	92	0
	GATA8F03	GATA				0
4	D4S2364	TETRA	GAAT	7	78	2
	GAAT1F09	GAAT				1

Coble and Butler (2005) *J. Forensic Sci.* 50(1): 43-53

New Autosomal STR Loci

- NC01 loci: **D10S1248, D14S1434, D22S1045**
- Peter Gill and the EDNAP/ENFSI group have recommended the NC01 loci as an extension of current European core loci
- Population data, locus characterization, and allelic ladders for **27 new autosomal STRs under development** as new miniSTRs
- All new STR loci are physically unlinked to CODIS core loci

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/newSTRs.htm>




Standard U.S. Population Dataset

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpop.htm>

260 Caucasians, 260 African Americans, 140 Hispanics, 3 Asians = **663 males**

DNA extracted from whole blood (anonymous; self-identified ethnicities) received from Interstate Blood Bank (Memphis, TN) and Millennium Biotech Inc. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

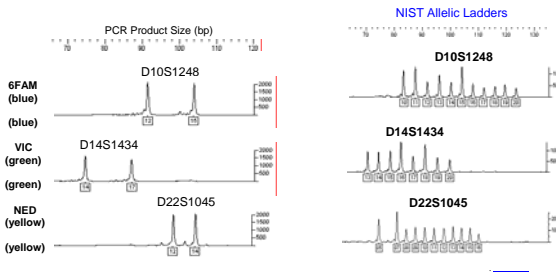


To date: (~95,000 allele calls)

- Identifier (15 autosomal markers + Amelogenin) (10,608)
- Roche Linear Arrays (HV1/HV2 10 regions) (6,630)
- Y STRs 22 loci—27 amplicons (17,388)
- Y STRs 27 new loci (14,535)
- Yfiler kit 17 loci (11,237)
- Y SNPs 50 markers on sub-set of samples (11,498)
- Orchid 70 autosomal SNPs on sub-set (13,230)
- miniSTR testing-new loci and CODIS concordance (9,228)
- mtDNA full control region sequences by AFDIL

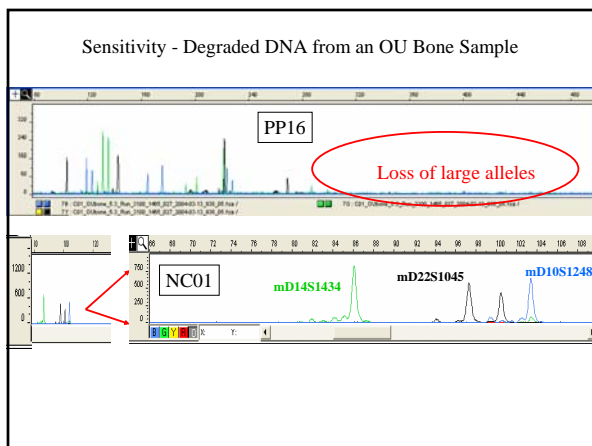
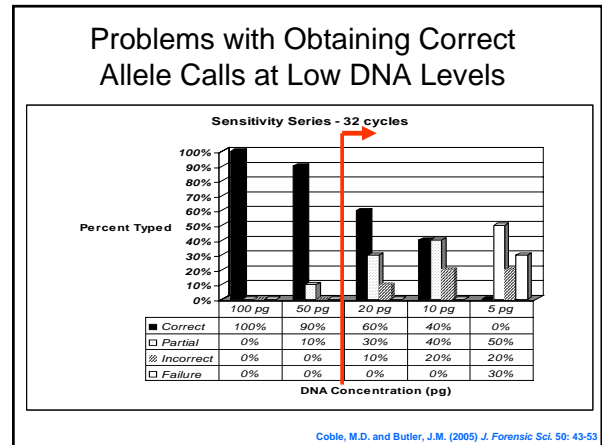
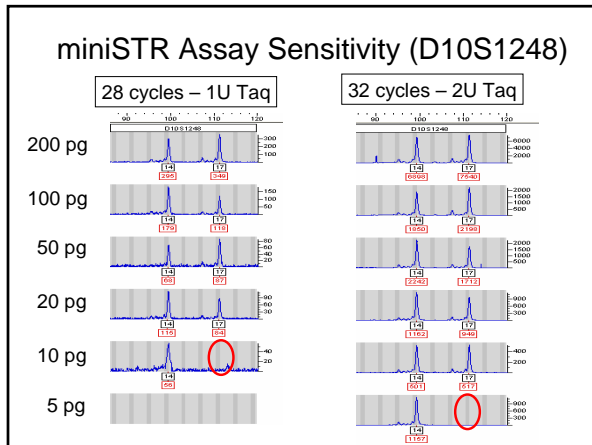
Genotypes with various human identity testing markers

Miniplex "NC01"



<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/miniSTR.htm>

Coble and Butler (2005) Characterization of new miniSTR loci to aid analysis of degraded DNA. J. Forensic Sci. 50(1): 43-53



Peter Gill Recommendations to EDNAP and ENFSI (April 2005, Scotland)

- “miniSTRs are the best way forward for stain work for the foreseeable future...”
- miniSTRs and 34 cycle PCR seems to be the best option to maximise sensitivity (note importance of minimising cycle number to avoid stochastic effects).
- Recommended to the ENFSI group that miniSTRs are the best way forward.
- Suggested NIST NC01 loci as additional European markers that are being advocated to manufacturers for future STR kits.

Status of Additional STR Loci

- **D10S1248, D14S1434, D22S1045** are chromosomally unlinked to all CODIS STR loci
- Full locus characterization, allelic ladders constructed, population studies completed and published (Coble and Butler JFS Jan 2005)
- Demonstrated success in EDNAP degraded DNA interlab study coordinated by Peter Gill
- EDNAP/ENFSI newly recommended loci to commercial manufacturers for future STR kits
- Being adopted in multiple U.S. paternity testing labs (BRT Labs and Orchid Cellmark East Lansing)

Paper Coming Out Soon...

...recommended that existing multiplexes are re-engineered to enable small amplicon detection, and that three new mini-STR loci with alleles <130 bp (D10S1248, D14S1434 and D22S1045) are adopted as universal. This will increase the number of European standard Interpol loci from 7 to 10.

Work with SNP Loci

- U.S. population frequencies with 70 autosomal SNPs
– Vallone et al. (2005) *Forensic Sci. Int.* 149: 279-286
- U.S. population information with 50 Y-SNPs
– Vallone et al. (2004) *J. Forensic Sci.* 49: 723-732
- Construction of 12plex autosomal SNP assay
- Creation of Forensic SNP Information website on STRBase
– see Gill et al. *Science&Justice* 44(1): 51-53

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/SNP.htm>

Comparison of STRs and SNPs

Conventional STR
Target region (short tandem repeat)

miniSTR
Target region (short tandem repeat)

SNP
Target region (single nucleotide polymorphism)

Larger target region (miniSTR targets same region)
More possible variants than SNPs
Only need a moderate number of STR markers
Range of sizes examined (e.g., 28 bp spread if 4 bp/repeat)

Smaller target region
Fewer possible variants
Need more SNP markers
Constant size examined

Work with Y-STRs

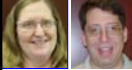
- Beta-testing of all commercial Y-STR kits
- Population data supplied to Yfiler haplotype database
- **49 Y-STR loci evaluated with ~650 U.S. samples**
- New Y-chromosome information on STRBase linking to all available haplotype databases
- Nomenclature defined for new loci
- Human Y-Chromosome DNA Profiling Standard Reference Material (SRM 2395) – updates with DYS635 for Yfiler
- **Separation of two brothers with 47 Y-STRs**

http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/y_strs.htm

Evaluation of qPCR Assays

- Evaluation of published assays on same samples
- Characterization of Quantifiler lot-to-lot performance
- Additional studies under way utilizing qPCR:
 - Examining the challenge of multiplexing qPCR assays
 - Studies to track DNA recovery from various types of tubes
 - Characterizing potential SRM 2372 components (Human DNA Quantitation Standard)

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/DNAquant.htm>

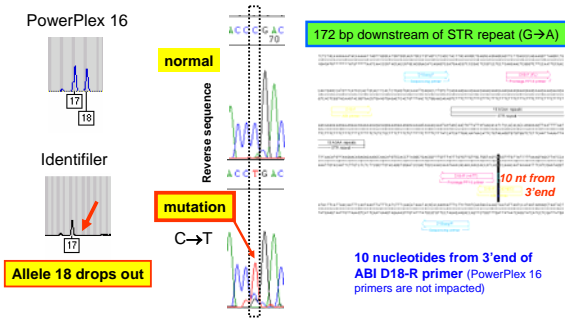


STR Allele Sequencing and Characterization


- Variant characterization
 - TPOX 10.3 (Maryland State Police)
 - D18S51 null alleles (FSS and Kuwait govt)
 - D18S51 allele 40 (Nebraska State Crime Lab)
 - D18S51 allele 5.3 (DNA Solutions)
 - FGA allele 46.2 (Denver Crime Lab)
 - DYS392 allele "10.3" (AFDIL)
- Locus duplication or deletion
 - DYS390 (CFS Toronto)
 - DYS392 (MN BCA)
- **Forensic labs are sending us unusual STR alleles for sequence characterization**

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/STRseq.htm>

D18S51 Null Allele from Kuwait Samples with ABI Primers



Clayton et al. (2004) Primer binding site mutations affecting the typing of STR loci contained within the AMPFISTR SGM Plus Kit. *Forensic Sci Int.* 139(2-3): 255-259




Validation Standardization

- Survey initiated at June 2004 NIJ meeting and conducted last summer resulted in 53 responses
- Talk at Promega meeting Oct 2004
- Validation summary sheets
- Validation website on STRBase
- **We invite submission of your internal validation studies for inclusion in the NIST validation website**

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/validation.htm>

www.dna.gov website

STRBase Updates

Primary updates performed monthly


- Summary of variant alleles and tri-allelic patterns
- List of STR references (Reference Manager database)
- NIST publications and presentations
- New content is being added regularly to aid training and to support forensic DNA laboratories

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/>
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpub.htm>
http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/var_tab.htm

Content of STRBase Website

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase>


- [.../str_fact.htm](#) STR Fact Sheets on Core Loci
- [.../multiplex.htm](#) Multiplex STR Kit Information
- [.../y_strs.htm](#) Y-Chromosome Information
- [.../var_tab.htm](#) Variant Alleles Reported
- [.../mutation.htm](#) Mutation Rates for Common STRs
- [.../str_ref.htm](#) Reference List with ~2,300 Papers
- [.../training.htm](#) Downloadable PowerPoints for Training
- [.../validation.htm](#) Validation Information
- [.../miniSTR.htm](#) miniSTR Information
- [.../address.htm](#) Addresses for Scientists
- [.../NISTpub.htm](#) Publications & Presentations from NIST



Training Materials and Review Articles


- Workshops on STRs and CE (ABI 310/3100)
 - Taught with Bruce McCord (Florida Int. Univ.)
 - NEAFS (Sept 29-30, 2004)
 - U. Albany DNA Academy (June 13-14, 2005)
- PowerPoint slides from *Forensic DNA Typing, 2nd Edition*
- Review articles
 - ABI 310 and 3100 chemistry – *Electrophoresis* 2004, 25, 1397-1412
 - Forensic DNA analysis – *Anal. Chem.* 2005, 77, 3839-3860
 - STR core loci – *J. Forensic Sci.*, *in press* (Nov 2005)

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/training.htm>
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpub.htm>



Software Tools

- AutoDimer – multiplex PCR primer screening tool
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/AutoDimerHomepage/AutoDimerProgramHomepage.htm>
- mixSTR – mixture component resolution tool
- Multiplex_QA – quality assessment tool for monitoring instrument performance over time
- NIST U.S. population database (internal Access database)
<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/software.htm>




Interlaboratory Studies

- DNA Quantitation Study (QS04)
 - 8 DNA samples supplied
 - 84 laboratories signed up (80 labs returned results)
 - 287 data sets using 19 different methods
 - 60 data sets with real-time qPCR (37 Quantifiler data sets)
 - Publication in May 2005: *J. Forensic Sci.* 50(3): 571-578
- Mixture Interpretation Study (MIX05)
 - 91 labs signed up (64 labs returned data)
 - Interpretation requested of provided e-grams for 4 mock sexual assault cases
 - **Data analysis is still on-going...**

<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/interlab.htm>

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 Tom Parsons, Rebecca Just, Jodi Irwin (AFDIL) for mtDNA coding SNP work
 Sandy Calloway (Roche) for mtDNA LINEAR ARRAYs
 Bruce McCord and students (FL Int. U.) for miniSTR work
 Marilyn Raymond and Victor David (NCI-Frederick) for cat STR work
 Artie Eisenberg and John Planz (U. North Texas)

Disclaimers and Collaborations

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<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/NISTpub.htm>