

Press Release

Eurofins MWG Operon And Queen Mary, University Of London Commence Genome Sequencing Analysis Of Ash

Cooperation agreement on the genome sequencing analysis of Ash applying latest hybrid de novo sequencing strategy.

Ebersberg, Germany, March 14, 2013 - Eurofins MWG Operon and School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary, University of London, have recently signed a cooperation agreement on the genome sequencing analysis of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The major aim of this project is to bring light to the understanding of the wide spreading ash tree disease – Chalara dieback of ash, which has already been found at more than 300 sites across the UK (Mail Online – published December 06, 2012).

Project leader, Dr. Richard Buggs from Queen Mary's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences: "Sequencing the ash genome is a foundational step towards discovering the genetic basis of resistance to ash dieback – the future of ash trees in Britain may depend on this".

Sequencing of the approximately 900 Mb plant genome will be performed applying the latest hybrid de novo sequencing strategy, recently proven to deliver excellent scaffolding and assembly results. This new golden standard in de novo sequencing employs a combination of Roche/454 FLX++ long read technology (software version 2.8 with read lengths up to 1,100 bp) and Illumina HiSeq 2000/2500 high throughput sequencing with several ultra-accurate long jumping distance libraries (LJD of 3kb, 8kb, 20kb and 40kb), supplemented by sequencing of Illumina shotgun libraries with different fragment sizes.

The DNA samples provided by Dr. Richard Buggs, Queen Mary have successfully passed the first QC steps in lab, while the Eurofins MWG Operon NGS sequencing service pipeline is already planning the first sequencing runs starting with GS FLX++.

"We take specific care that our technical and operational pipeline meets the best quality standards, fast turnaround times and the high service level we want to provide to our customers", says Bruno Poddevin, Eurofins Senior Vice President, Genomic Services. "Our specific library know-how fits seamlessly to this challenging and important genome sequencing project and we are confident that we will deliver excellent results."

About Eurofins MWG Operon

Eurofins MWG Operon, a member of the Eurofins Group with major offices and production facilities in Europe, the United States, and Asia, is an international provider of DNA sequencing services, DNA synthesis products and bioinformatic services for academic and industrial research. As one of the first service providers for next generation sequencing, Eurofins MWG Operon has established profound know-how and proprietary protocols to cover a broad range of applications. The company's strength is its strong customer orientation, fast service, and high quality. For further information, please visit our website at: eurofinsgenomics.com.

About Queen Mary University London

Queen Mary, University of London is one of the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions with some 16,900 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Amongst the largest of the colleges of the University of London, Queen Mary is a member of the Russell Group, which represents the 24 leading universities in the UK. Queen Mary's 3,800 staff deliver world class degree programmes and research across 21 academic departments and institutes, within three sectors: Science and Engineering; Humanities, Social Sciences and Laws; and the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Queen Mary is ranked 11th in the UK according to the *Guardian* analysis of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, and has been described as 'the biggest star among the research-intensive institutions' by the *Times Higher Education*.

The College has a strong international reputation, with around 20 per cent of students coming from over 100 countries. Queen Mary has an annual turnover of £300 million, research income worth £70 million, and generates employment and output worth £600 million to the UK economy each year.

The College is unique amongst London's universities in being able to offer a completely integrated residential campus, with a 2,000-bed award-winning Student Village on its Mile End campus. www.qmul.ac.uk

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