

DNA
June 30, 2019

Maybe it's time I say what DNA is really good for. DNA is not a biological counterpart to "the Holy Grail". As journalists have repeatedly tried to make it - well helped by biologists who here thought a new source of money, had been opened - DNA is simply the cell's built-in storage system - neither more nor less. When a particular enzyme is needed, the cell looks in its DNA "in the hope of" finding a code for that enzyme, and if the code is there, the cell starts producing the enzyme. But at least as important is that the cell can turn off production at any time by activating a STOP CODE.

These two terms "look in their DNA" and "activate a stop code" may sound simple enough. But in reality they assume a lot of biochemistry, which I want to save the reader for.