

**chromosome**

A self-replicating structure consisting of *DNA* complexed with various proteins and involved in the storage and transmission of genetic information; the physical structure that contains *genes* (cf. *plasmid*). Eukaryotic cells have a characteristic number of *chromosomes* per cell (cf. *ploidy*) and contain DNA as linear duplexes. The chromosomes of bacteria consist of double-standed, circular DNA molecules.

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