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RESPONSIBLE EDITORS Professor Dr. Pierre Jolles, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, MCAM, CP54, 63, rue Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France, Email: Pierre.jolles@wanadoo.fr; jolles.pierre@bluewin.ch
Professor Dr. Isabelle Mansuy, Brain Research Institute, University of Zürich, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zürich, Switzerland, Email: mansuy@hifo.uzh.ch

JOURNAL MANAGER Dr. Torsten Krüger, De Gruyter, Genthiner Straße 13, 10785 Berlin, Germany, Tel.: +49 (0)30 260 05 – 176, Fax: +49 (0)30 260 05 – 298, Email: biomol.concepts.editorial@degruyter.com

RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS Panagiota Herbrand, De Gruyter, Mies-van-der-Rohe-Straße 1, 80807 München, Germany, Tel.: +49 (0)89 769 02 - 394, Fax: +49 (0)89 769 02 - 350, Email: panagiota.herbrand@degruyter.com

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COVER ILLUSTRATION

Arthropod telomeres mainly consist of a (TTAGG)_n repeat at each chromosome end, with telomeric DNA forming a particular folding (T loop) to stabilize and protect the chromosomal ends. In contrast to the strict conservation of telomeres, subtelomeric regions are generally more polymorphic and heterogeneous in composition and frequently contain retrotransposable elements which strongly influence subtelomere evolution. In their review article on pp. 465–470 in this issue, Mandrioli et al. discuss the results of arthropod genetics and genomics studies, aiming at improving our understanding of the origin, structure and evolution of telomeres and their maintenance systems.

Image courtesy of M. Mandrioli and G.C. Manicardi, Laboratory of Insect Genetics and Biosciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.



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