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Genotype

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Synonyms

[DNA](#)

Definition

The genotype is the complete set of genes carried by an organism. In diploid species such as

humans, the mechanisms of sexual reproduction, specifically meiosis and the union of egg and sperm at conception, produce new organisms with sets of genes organized into pairs. In each of those pairs of genes, one gene came from the mother, and the other came from the father. The word genotype is also used to refer to the pair of genes present at one locus of the overall set of pairs.

Cross-References

- ▶ [Deoxyribonucleic Acid \(DNA\)](#)
- ▶ [Gene](#)
- ▶ [Phenotype](#)