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Contact: Shannon Frances  
Biomax Informatics AG  
Lochhamer Str. 11  
82152 Martinsried  
Germany  
Tel: +49 (0) 89 895574-0  
Fax: +49 (0) 89 895574-25  
Website: <http://www.biomax.de>

**Biomax Informatics AG, a leader in custom-designed bioinformatics solutions, announces the availability of a CD-ROM containing the entire annotated genome sequence of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *A. thaliana* is the first plant to be completely sequenced and subsequently annotated.**

The CD-ROM software, developed at Biomax Informatics, presents the results of an international effort to decipher the complete genome of a higher plant. Hundreds of scientists, technicians, and informaticians organized in the Arabidopsis Genome Initiative have contributed to this work.

In combination with a special issue published by *Nature* (December 14, 2000), Biomax developed the Arabidopsis CD-ROM which includes both the sequence information and the annotated data. The comprehensive CD-ROM will enhance the use and extraction of the data by scientists everywhere.

Sequence data analysis was performed by the Munich Institute for Protein Sequences (MIPS), The Institute for Genome Research (TIGR), The Kazusa DNA Research Institute, The SPP Consortium and the Cold Spring Harbor/Washington University Sequencing Consortium.

The CD includes a Java™-based interactive software (scrolling, filtering and zooming) that allows for an in-depth exploration of information. Using a clearly designed interface that is completely based on www technologies, users can use their favorite web-browser software to conveniently surf the CD-ROM content. Assigned categories to single genes, like functional classifications, are color-coded providing an intuitive overview of the genomic data.

Exploring the *Arabidopsis thaliana* genome may be approached using any of three different ways of navigation: graphical navigation by clicking on maps and interacting with Java™ applets, tabular navigation by selecting entries in pre-computed categories or by performing searches. Hyperlinks are provided so that related information can be found with a simple click.

Supporting client/server environments, this CD-ROM may be run in a network allowing remote access.

Even for non-scientists, this CD-ROM shows an exciting way to discover what kind of information is available on the genome level.

The CD-ROM can be obtained from Nature.

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