

Searching for homology to mature human microRNA

1. Visit miRBase at: <http://microrna.sanger.ac.uk/sequences/>
2. Click on the Search tab at the top of the page:



The screenshot shows the miRBase::Sequences search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Browse, Genomics, Help, Download, Submit, and miRBase. The 'Search' link is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the navigation bar, there are four main search sections: 'By miRNA identifier or keyword', 'By genomic location', 'For clusters', and 'By sequence'. Each section contains input fields and buttons like 'Submit Query', 'Reset', and 'Example'.

- 3. Enter the microRNA of interest and click Submit [be sure to use the following format: xxx-miR-nnn; where xxx is species (hsa for human (Homo sapiens), mmu for mouse, rno for rat, ggo for gorilla, etc) and nnn is the microRNA of interest]:**



miRBase::Sequences

Search miRBase::Sequences

By miRNA identifier or keyword
 Enter a miRNA accession, name or keyword:

By genomic location
 Select organism, chromosome and start and end coordinates. Leave the start/end boxes blank to retrieve all miRNAs on the selected chromosome.
 Choose species: Chr: Start: End: Get sequences

For clusters
 Select organism and the desired inter-miRNA distance.
 Choose species: Inter-miRNA distance:

By sequence
Single sequence searches:
 Paste a sequence here to search against miRNA sequences. You can choose to search against the intact precursor sequences or just the mature miRNAs. This search may take a few minutes. **(Max size 1000bp's)**

4. Once the microRNA page has loaded, scroll down to the Mature Sequence section:



Mature sequence MIMAT0000646

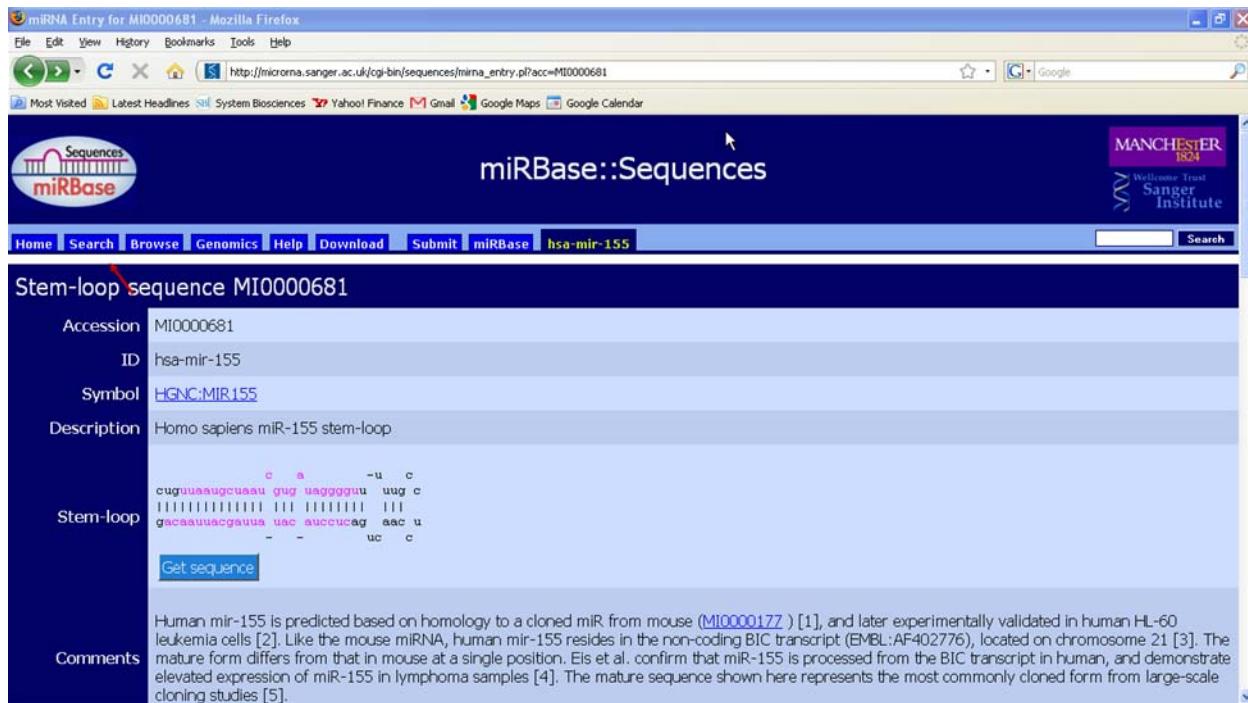
Accession	MIMAT0000646
ID	hsa-miR-155
Sequence	4 - uuaaugcuaaucugugauaggggu - 26
Evidence	experimental; cloned [2,5-7]
Predicted targets	MIRANDA: hsa-miR-155 TARGETSCAN: hsa-miR-155 PICTAR-VERT: hsa-miR-155

Minor miR* sequence MIMAT0004658

Accession	MIMAT0004658
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5. Copy the mature sequence.

6. Click on Search at the top of the page again:



Stem-loop sequence MI0000681

Accession	MI0000681
ID	hsa-mir-155
Symbol	HGNC:MIR155
Description	Homo sapiens miR-155 stem-loop
Stem-loop	<pre> c a -u c cug<u>uuauugcuau</u> gug<u>uaggguu</u> uug c gac<u>aaauuacgaau</u> uac<u>auccucag</u> aac u - - uc c </pre>
Comments	<p>Human mir-155 is predicted based on homology to a cloned miR from mouse (MI0000177) [1], and later experimentally validated in human HL-60 leukemia cells [2]. Like the mouse miRNA, human mir-155 resides in the non-coding BIC transcript (EMBL:AF402776), located on chromosome 21 [3]. The mature form differs from that in mouse at a single position. Els et al. confirm that miR-155 is processed from the BIC transcript in human, and demonstrate elevated expression of miR-155 in lymphoma samples [4]. The mature sequence shown here represents the most commonly cloned form from large-scale cloning studies [5].</p>

- 7. Scroll down to the By Sequence section and paste the mature human sequence.**
- 8. Once it is pasted, be sure to set the Search Sequences to Mature miRNAs, then click Search miRNAs.**

mirBase::Sequences - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Submit Query Reset Example

By genomic location
 Select organism, chromosome and start and end coordinates. Leave the start/end boxes blank to retrieve all miRNAs on the selected chromosome.

Choose species: Chr: Start: Get sequences

For clusters
 Select organism and the desired inter-miRNA distance.

Choose species: Inter-miRNA distance: Get clusters

By sequence

Single sequence searches:
 Paste a sequence here to search against miRNA sequences. You can choose to search against the intact precursor sequences or just the mature miRNAs. This search may take a few minutes. (Max size 1000bp's)

uuuaugcuaaucgugauaggguu ←

Or: Select the sequence file you wish to use

Search sequences: ←

Search method:

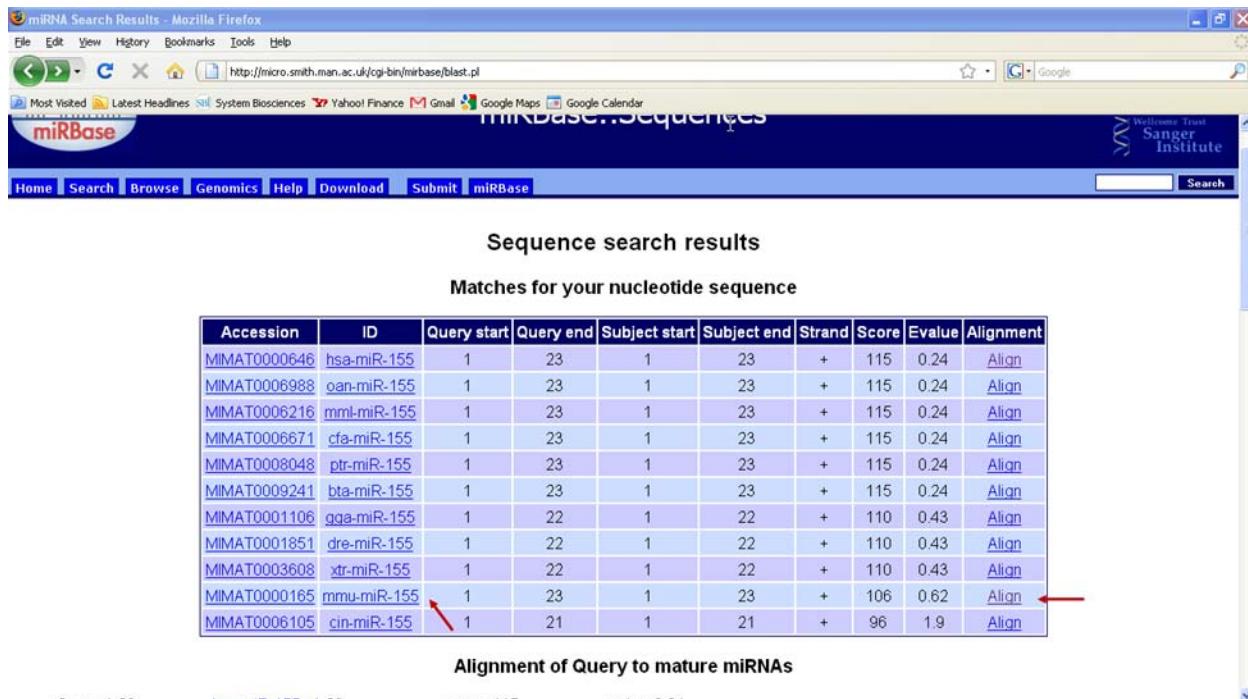
Choose BLASTN to search for a miRNA in a longer sequence. SSEARCH is useful for finding a short sequence within the library of miRNAs (for instance, find a short motif in a miRNA or precursor stem-loop, or find mature sequences that are related to your query).

E-value cutoff:

Maximum no. of hits:

Buttons: Search miRNAs

9. From the results page, click Align for the species of interest (mouse in this example):



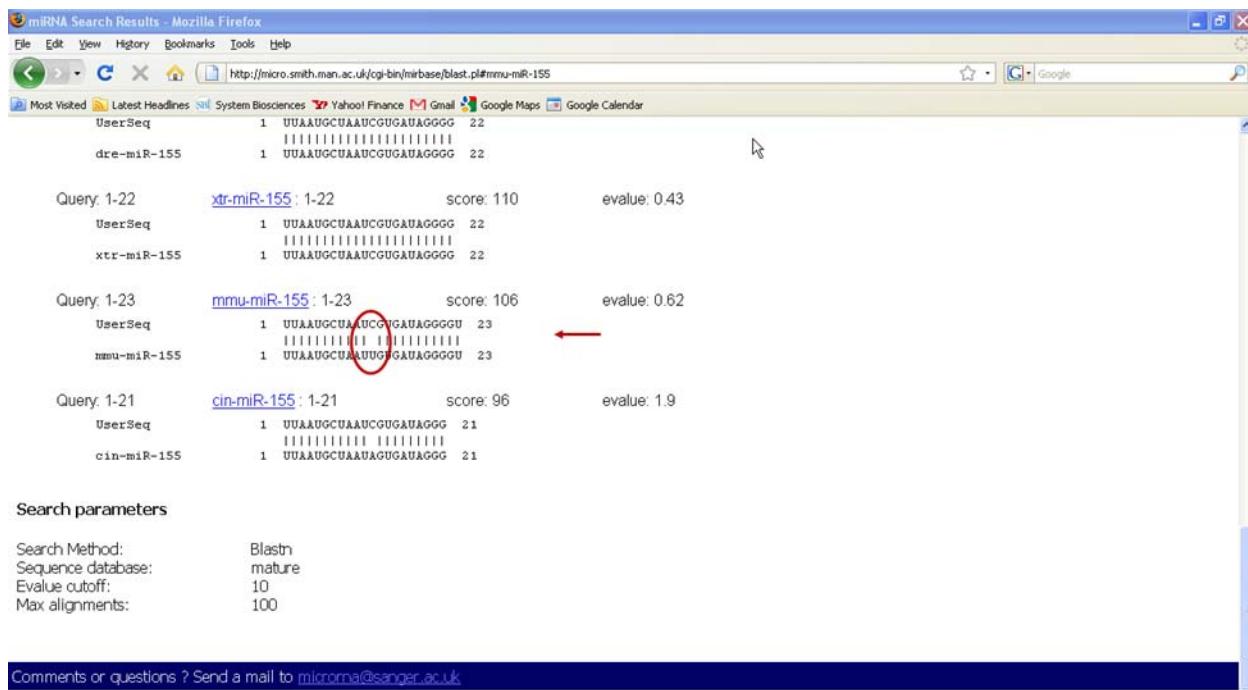
Sequence search results

Matches for your nucleotide sequence

Accession	ID	Query start	Query end	Subject start	Subject end	Strand	Score	Value	Alignment
MIMAT000646	hsa-miR-155	1	23	1	23	+	115	0.24	Align
MIMAT0006988	oan-miR-155	1	23	1	23	+	115	0.24	Align
MIMAT0006216	mml-miR-155	1	23	1	23	+	115	0.24	Align
MIMAT0006671	cfa-miR-155	1	23	1	23	+	115	0.24	Align
MIMAT0008048	ptr-miR-155	1	23	1	23	+	115	0.24	Align
MIMAT0009241	bta-miR-155	1	23	1	23	+	115	0.24	Align
MIMAT0001106	gga-miR-155	1	22	1	22	+	110	0.43	Align
MIMAT0001851	dre-miR-155	1	22	1	22	+	110	0.43	Align
MIMAT0003608	xtr-miR-155	1	22	1	22	+	110	0.43	Align
MIMAT000165	mmu-miR-155	1	23	1	23	+	106	0.62	Align
MIMAT0006105	cin-miR-155	1	21	1	21	+	96	1.9	Align

Alignment of Query to mature miRNAs

10. In this particular example, it appears as if the mature sequence of the human miR-155 and mouse miR-155 differ by 1 nucleotide.



UserSeq 1 UUAAUGCUAAUCGUGAUAGGG 22

dre-miR-155 1 UUAAUGCUAAUCGUGAUAGGG 22

Query: 1-22 xtr-miR-155 : 1-22 score: 110 eval: 0.43

UserSeq 1 UUAAUGCUAAUCGUGAUAGGG 22

xtr-miR-155 1 UUAAUGCUAAUCGUGAUAGGG 22

Query: 1-23 mmu-miR-155 : 1-23 score: 106 eval: 0.62

UserSeq 1 UUAAUGCUAAUCGUGAUAGGG 23

mmu-miR-155 1 UUAAUGCUAAUUGUGAUAGGG 23

Query: 1-21 cin-miR-155 : 1-21 score: 96 eval: 1.9

UserSeq 1 UUAAUGCUAAUCGUGAUAGGG 21

cin-miR-155 1 UUAAUGCUAAUAGUGAUAGGG 21

Search parameters

Search Method: Blastn
 Sequence database: mature
 Eval cutoff: 10
 Max alignments: 100

Comments or questions ? Send a mail to microrna@sanger.ac.uk