



# 100 Dates!

NYU Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates

## What is 100 Dates!?

100 Dates! is a DNA sequencing project whose goal is to sequence the genomes of 100 date varieties of cultural and commercial interest to the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf region.

## Who is participating in 100 Dates!?

100 Dates! is led by researchers at NYU Abu Dhabi and collaborators at U.A.E. University

## Why sequence 100 date varieties?

100 Dates! aims to answer questions of both cultural and biological significance and will be an invaluable resource for the date palm research community. Questions to be addressed by sequencing 100 Dates! include:

- Where did dates originate?  
*Ancient Persia, Mesopotamia or possibly elsewhere? 100 Dates! aims to reconstruct the most likely center of origin of date cultivation by sequencing varieties from these and other (e.g., Gulf) regions*
- What genes?  
*What genes give varieties distinct textures, flavors, disease susceptibilities, and yield characteristics? 100 Dates! will help farmers and biotechnologists improve date cultivation through the identification of genes that control important traits.*
- Male or Female?  
*Female (the date-producing sex) trees can't be distinguished from males for 6 or more years after planting. 100 Dates! can help identify reliable markers for sex determination*

These and many other questions will be answered by sequencing 100 Dates! Follow our progress at :

<http://puruggananlab.bio.nyu.edu/100Dates.php>

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