

DNA is genetic material.

Explanation: -

Just to prove that the DNA is genetic material the following experiments may be done -

DNA is genetic material. It can be proved by :-

1) Conjugation -> The process of conjugation was first of all introduced by 'Lederberg' and 'Tatum'.

They made their experiment on E. coli bacteria

They took two types of bacteria - one was motile and another was non-motile. The motility determines maleness and femaleness.

The motile bacterium behaves like male while the non-motile behaves like female.

The motile bacterium comes in contact with non-motile thus physical contact is formed.

For this process pili plays important role.

With the help of enzyme the contact wall is dissolved and a thin cytoplasmic tube like structure is formed, known as conjugation tube.

Through the conjugation tube the materials pass from one to another bacterium.

With the help of certain enzyme some part of DNA of motile bacteria breaks and passes away through the conjugation tube.

into the recipient bacteria

The cell contributing the DNA is known as donor cell.

and another is recipient cell.

The recipient cell becomes recombinant due to presence of some new genetic material from donor cell.

As the fusion between the two cells is only partial the recipient cell is termed as 'merozygote'. And finally this merozygote produces a new strain of bacterium.

2) Transformation:—

- Avery, McCleoid & McCarty.
- Griffith
- Pneumococcus

DNA is genetic material and can be proved by transformation experiment.

The transformation process was first of all explained by

'Griffith'. The whole process was established by three scientists known as Avery, McCleoid and McCarty.

The whole experiment was done in pneumococcus bacteria.

According to them if a suspension

of dead cells of one strain

(type) is mixed living cells

of the other strain, recombina-

tion may occur resulting

into the change of character

in the living cells. They

observed that the third

strain of pneumococcus which

is capsulated is responsible

for the pneumonia disease.

The other strain are II is

non-capsulated <sup>and</sup> are not

capable of causing the

disease.

When non-capsulated are II

is mixed with the DNA