I G B
Istituto di Genetica e Biofisica
"A. Buzzati Traverso"

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Dr. John Werren
Department of Biology
University of Rochester
Rochester, N.Y. 14627
USA
Fax 001 585 2752070

Dear Dr. Werren,

With this letter I like to express my strong support for the proposal to sequence the *Nasonia* genome. *Nasonia* is rapidly becoming recognised as an ideal model organism in developmental genetics. Comparative studies prove very useful to uncover generalities and exceptions in the genetic basis of many traits.

Nasonia is a particularly interesting organism from the point of sex determination. How does its haplodiploid mode of sex determination without heteromorphic sex chromosomes compare to existing knowledge of the genetic regulation of sex determination in insects and other organisms? Interestingly, sex determination in *Nasonia* appears to be different from the haplodiploid honey bee. Having the full genome sequence available will greatly enhance the characterization of the genetic basis of sex determination and other developmental processes, and yield valuable comparative data in developmental genetics.

This will also be very useful for the compaative study on the sex determination process, on some insects of economical or health importance such as *Ceratitis capitata*, *Anopheles gambiae* and *Aedes aegypti* that my group is carrying out in my labs both at the University of Naples "Federico II" and at the IGB ABT of the Nationale Research Council in Naples of which I am Director.

Sincerely,

Catello Polito
Prof. of Molecular Genetics, Naples University "Federico II"
Director IGB-CNR