

Q: How do I represent circular DNA in WIPO ST.26, e.g. plasmids or mitochondrial/chloroplast genomes?

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While there could be multiple ways to represent a circular DNA sequence in the context of WIPO ST.26, it is recommended that you include a "misc_feature" with a location x^1 , where x is the last position (equal to the length) and a note qualifier indicating the molecule is circular. The qualifier "circular_RNA" can be used in very specific circumstances, with features such as CDS, mRNA, tRNA and other features that are produced as a result of a backsplicing event, when the splice event is indicated in the "join" operator, e.g., `join(complement(69611..69724), 139856..140087)` (see ST.26 Annex 1, section 6.7).

Additionally, there is a newly proposed example for Annex VI, Example 12-1, which provides additional guidance on circular nucleotide sequences which will be available in the next revision of WIPO ST.26.