

## chromosome

A self-replicating structure consisting of DNA complexed with various proteins and involved in the storage and transmission of genetic information; the physical structure that contains genes (cf. plasmid). Eukaryotic cells have a characteristic number of chromosomes per cell (cf. ploidy) and contain DNA as linear duplexes. The chromosomes of bacteria consist of double-stranded, circular DNA molecules.

**Source:**

PAC, 1992, 64, 143 (*Glossary for chemists of terms used in biotechnology (IUPAC Recommendations 1992)*) on page 150