

Experts Develop Nanomachine that Mimics Ribosomes

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11 de enero de 2013, 16:27 Washington, Jan 11 (Prensa Latina) A team of British experts developed a molecular nanomachine that mimics the function of ribosomes, which are in charge of building proteins within the cells, according to Science magazine.

With the size on just a few millionths of a millimetre, the tiny machine looks like a ring around a bar, scientists of the Manchester University told the US magazine.

They said that the ring moves around the bar that groups chemical units and assemble them in chains, like the ribosomes do when they make the protein blocks.

The purpose of this study is to synthesize new molecules to make drugs or new types of plastic.

The ribosome is a beauty of nature as this molecule is the responsible for the translation of the genetic code, said the scientists as quoted by the journal.

Such code, originated in the DNA of cells, is delivered to the messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA), which contains the genetic information from the DNA and is used in the protein synthesis.

The ribosome reads the code and assembles long polymer chains from amino acids. These chains fold in order to form the proteins of the body.

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