

Carsten Hohoff

**Angel Carracedo (ed), Forensic DNA typing protocols
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This volume of the series Methods in Molecular Biology (297) updates the 1998 volume (98) entitled "Forensic DNA Profiling Protocols". While the latter included protocols for classical methods, e.g. radio-labelled single-locus probes, the recent volumes that is fortunately indexed by PubMed covers nearly all practical aspects of modern forensic genetics with well-tested protocols from DNA isolation, quantitation by real-time PCR and species determination to the typing of various polymorphisms [Y-chromosome short-tandem repeats (Y-STRs), mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)] by different sophisticated techniques [e.g. DNA chips, matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization mass spectrometry (MALDI-MS), Pyrosequencing and SNaPshot minisequencing].

These lab-bench-based protocols are nicely supplemented by chapters dealing with valuable guidelines on, for example, selection of SNPs and establishing multiplex amplifications.

The book closes with two informative chapters on ancient DNA that are interesting not only to forensic but also anthropological laboratories.

The chapters are written by outstanding experts in the fields and are especially useful to newcomers in the field of forensic genetics, but also, experienced geneticists will find interesting novel techniques that can be added to the portfolio of routinely applied techniques. The detailed protocols are superior in comparison to the Materials and Methods sections published in the leading forensic journals, where technical aspects are usually reported as briefly as possible to keep the number of precious printed pages as small as possible.

Particular chapters can be obtained online, but they are rather expensive compared to the printed book. A welcome feature would be that vendors of the book also get free access to the pdf files. This would easily allow to print out the protocols of interest and take them to the bench.

C. Hohoff (✉)
Institut für Rechtsmedizin,
Universitätsklinikum Münster,
Röntgenstr. 23,
48149 Münster, Germany
e-mail: hohoff@uni-muenster.de
Fax: +49-251-8355158