

TABLE 1 Natural occurrence of oligomeric proteins in *Escherichia coli*^a

Oligomeric state	Number of homooligomers	Number of heterooligomers	Percent
Monomer	72		19.4
Dimer	115	27	38.2
Trimer	15	5	5.4
Tetramer	62	16	21.0
Pentamer	1	1	0.1
Hexamer	20	1	5.6
Heptamer	1	1	0.1
Octamer	3	6	2.4
Nonamer	0	0	0.0
Decamer	1	0	0.0
Undecamer	0	1	0.0
Dodecamer	4	2	1.6
Higher oligomers	8		2.2
Polymers	10		2.7

^aThese data were compiled by using information at the SWISS-PROT annotated protein sequence database (on the World Wide Web at www.expasy.ch/sprot), with search tools developed by Michel Sanner. The list of *Escherichia coli* K12 chromosomal entries (compiled by Amos Bairoch including release 35.0 of the database and updates to May 1998) was searched for entries with explicit “subunit” annotations, yielding 617 entries. This corresponds to 16% of the total list, or 30% if “hypothetical” proteins are omitted. These individual protein chains were then processed manually to create a list of 372 oligomeric species.