

GENE DUPLICATION AND ADAPTATION

Gene duplication plays a crucial role in evolution by providing raw material for new functions and enhancing gene expression. Increased gene expression can be essential for developing resistance to toxins.

A study published in PNAS (1) demonstrates that gene duplication helped woodrats (*Neotoma*, rodent) boost the expression of biotransformation genes, allowing them to adapt to a diet of the toxic creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*).

1. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adp7978>