

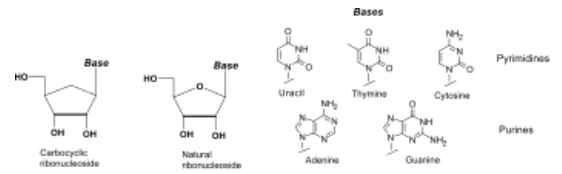
The structure of nucleic acids

Nucleic acids (*polynucleotides*) are made up of long chains (*mono*) of *nucleotides*, connected to each other by phosphodiester bonds. We classify them as so-called heteropolymers, as they are composed of different types of basic units. This fact is essential for storing and transmitting information, which is the basic function of nucleic acids in the organism. Homopolymers (e.g. glycogen) contain only one type of monomer (glucose in our case), and thus cannot perform an informational function.

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