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Competing interests statement

The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests.

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ADDENDUM

T-LOOPS AND THE ORIGIN OF TELOMERES

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The author wishes to make a short addition to the section 'The t-loop-evolution model'. In the last paragraph of this section, the author raises the possibility that the linear mitochondrial DNA of *Tetrahymena* sp. represents a 'living fossil' of the original t-loop-replication and -capping strategy. Unfortunately, the author omitted to highlight studies on the linear mitochondrial DNAs of several budding yeast species (for example, *Candida parapsilosis*), which, like *Tetrahymena* sp. mitochondrial DNA, contain tandem repeats at their ends. Importantly, electron-microscopy analysis has shown that the ends of the budding yeast mitochondrial DNAs are in a t-loop configuration¹.

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