Diagram referenced as "Formation of two stranded polynucleo helix"

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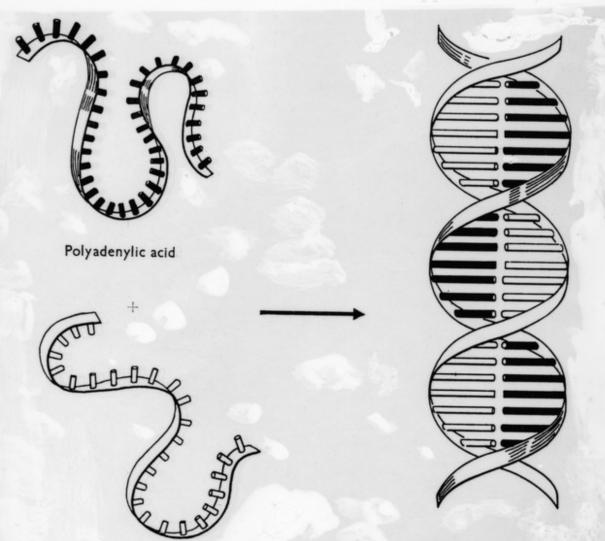
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different proportions and measured the absorbance; the results are shown in Fig. 2. In the presence of 0·1 M-NaCl but in the absence of Mg²⁺ it was found that the absorbance decreased in proportion to the extent to which the composition of the mixture approached equimolar



Polyribothymidylic acid

Two-stranded helix

ig. 3. Diagrammatic representation of the formation of a two-stranded helix (Rich, 1959).

amounts of adenine and uracil. The minimum occurred at equimolar concentrations which would correspond to the maximal formation of hydrogen bonds. In the presence of Mg²⁺ the minimum was shifted to

composition corresponding to 2 moles of uracil to 1 of adenine. Thus