N6-Methyl-deoxyadenosine (N6-Me-dA) is a methylated nucleoside base that to date has only been found in bacterial and protist DNA (1). In these organisms, N6-Me-dA plays several roles, including post-replicative DNA mismatch repair, chromosome compaction and regulation of gene expression (2). Adenine methylation also is essential for either the viability or virulence of a number of pathological bacterial strains (3). Because of these properties, there is considerable interest in the bacterial enzyme N6-DNA methyltransferase (which methylates adenine) as a potential target for developing new anti-microbials (4), as well as the need to confirm whether or not this enzyme is present in mammals, including human (5). N6-Me-dA-modified oligonucleotides can serve as important research tools in such studies.

References