

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A stain for a nucleic acid characterized by containing, as an effective component, a pyrylium salt compound having Y as a negative portion and a pyrylium ring or a pyrylium-similar ring, wherein the ring is comprised of X selected from O, S, Se and Te as a hetero atom and has substituents R^1 , R^2 and R^3 , wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently a hydrogen atom, sulfonate group, amino group, substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, etc., R^3 is -A or -L-A, L is $-L^1-$, $-L^2-L^3-$ or $-L^4-L^5-L^6-$, and each of L^1 to L^6 is independently $-(CH=CH)-$, a divalent group derived from the substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, etc., A is a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, etc., and Y^- is an anion. A method for detecting a nucleic acid which comprises the steps of reacting a sample with the stain, and then detecting, by an optical means, the double-strand nucleic acid stained with the stain in the case that the double-strand nucleic acid is contained in the sample.

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