



FIGURE 333 An unusual form of the periodic table of the elements

RIBONUCLEIC ACID AND DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID

Probably the most fascinating molecule is human deoxyribonucleic acid. The nucleic acids were discovered in 1869 by the Swiss physician Friedrich Miescher (1844–1895) in white blood cells. In 1874 he published an important study showing that the molecule is contained in spermatozoa, and discusses the question if this substance could be related