


Slide 25

Ribozymes

- **Ribozymes** are catalytic RNA molecules that function as enzymes and can splice RNA (molecular scissors) – self-splicing and trans-splicing
- The discovery of ribozymes rendered obsolete the belief that all biological catalysts were proteins
- Three properties of RNA enable it to function as an enzyme
 - It can form a three-dimensional structure because of its ability to base pair with itself
 - Some bases in RNA contain functional groups
 - RNA may hydrogen-bond with other nucleic acid molecules



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