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Molecular cloning of a cDNA encoding a cuticle protein from the mulberry longicorn beetle, *Apriona germari*

Seong Ryul Kim, Hyung Joo Yoon¹, Nam Sook Park, Sang Mong Lee²,
Jae Yu Moon³, Byung Rae Jin and Hung Dae Sohn

College of Natural Resources and Life Science, Dong-A University, Busan 604-714, Korea. ¹*Department of Sericulture and Entomology, National Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, RDA, Suwon 441-100, Korea.* ²*Department of Sericultural and Entomological Biology, miryang National University, Miryang 627-130, Korea.* ³*College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Seoul National University, suwon 441-744, Korea.*

A cDNA encoding a larval cuticle protein was cloned from a cDNA library of the mulberry longicorn beetle, *Apriona germari*. Sequence analysis of the cDNA encoding the larval cuticle protein of *A. germari* revealed that the 309 bp cDNA has an open reading frame of 103 amino acid residues with a molecular mass of approximately 10.7 kDa, which we designated AgLCP10.7. The deduced protein sequence of the larval cuticle protein gene of *A. germari* is the most identical to *Bombyx mori* LCP18 (61.3%). Phylogenetic analysis further confirmed the AgLCP10.7 is more closely related to *B. mori* LCP18, *Hyalophora cecropia* CP12 and *Manduca sexta* CP14.6 than to the other insect cuticle proteins. Northern blot analysis indicated that the AgLCP10.7 showed larval epidermis-specific expression pattern at the transcriptional level.