

Molecular Cloning of a cDNA Encoding the Defensin of a Novel Family Member from the Firefly, *Pyrocoelia rufa*

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A cDNA encoding the defensin of a novel family member was isolated from the cDNA library of the firefly, *Pyrocoelia rufa*. Sequence analysis of the cDNA encoding the defensin of *P. rufa* resulted that the 168 bp cDNA has an open reading frame of 55 amino acid residues. The deduced amino acid sequences of the defensin gene from *P. rufa* showed significant homology with the known mammalian defensins. Also 6 cystein residues in the *P. rufa* defensin were conserved in the same position as those of the known mammalian defensins. Southern blot analysis suggests that there may be a single copy number of the *P. rufa* defensin gene and their fat body-specific expression pattern at the transcriptional level was confirmed by Northern blot analysis.