

3-4-3. Partial Characterization of Allatostatin cDNA in Midgut and Expression of Allatostatin Neuropeptide in Nervous System from the Silk Moth *Bombyx mori*

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The allatostatins (AST) are a family of peptides which were isolated in the process of finding substances which inhibit juvenile hormone synthesis by the corpora allata, a major endocrine organ of insects. The first AST to be identified were isolated in the cockroach *Diploptera punctata*. Since then, AST have been isolated in a number of other insects including other cockroaches, moths, flies, crickets and locusts. In this study, we characterized allatostatin gene in midgut and demonstrated that allatostatin producing neurons were detected in brain and all ventral ganglia and endocrine cells that are allatostatin immunoreactive were found in the posterior midgut of silk moth *Bombyx mori*.