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**Molecular Cloning of a cDNA Encoding the  
Cu/Zn-Superoxide Dismutase in *Cordyceps militaris***

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Superoxide dismutase (SOD), one of the essential element of the antioxidant defense system, mainly removes  $O_2^-$  and also prevents  $O_2^-$  mediated reduction of iron and subsequent  $OH^-$  generation, which is highly toxic to the organism. This enzyme is classified into three forms based on its active site metal requirements namely Cu/Zn-SOD, Mn-SOD, and Fe-SOD. In general, Cu/Zn-SOD is present in the cytosol of eukaryotes, Mn-SOD is present in the mitochondria of both prokaryotes and eukaryotes, and Fe-SOD is found in both eubacteria and archaebacteria. We describe here the cloning and nucleotide sequencing of a cDNA encoding the Cu/Zn-SOD in *Cordyceps militaris*. The 462 bp cDNA has an open reading frame of 154 amino acid residues with a molecular mass of approximately 16 kDa. The deduced protein sequence of the Cu/Zn-SOD of *C. militaris* was aligned to that of known Cu/Zn-SOD from various organisms. Phylogenetic analysis resulted in a monophyletic group in the deduced protein sequences of the fungi Cu/Zn-SOD. The deduced protein sequence identity among fungi ranged from 89.4% - 67.1%.