

Molecular Cloning and Sequencing of a Viral Enhancing Factor (Enhancin) Gene in the LdNPV-NM

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An *enhancin* gene that encodes a homolog to the granulovirus (GV) enhancin protein that is capable of enhancing the infection of other baculoviruses, has been identified from *Lymantria dispar* nucleopolyhedrovirus (LdNPV). The *enhancin* gene is cloned from a Korean isolate LdNPV-NM by a PCR technique. LdNPV-NM *enhancin* gene exhibits 2,353 nucleotides and can encode a 783-amino acid protein with a predicted molecular mass of 89,200 Da. The DNA sequence and the deduced amino acid sequence of the enhancin gene show 98.7% and 97.5% identity compared to the previously reported *enhancin* gene (Kuzio et al., 1999). LdNPV-NM enhancin also contains a conserved zinc-binding domain characteristic of metalloproteases.