

Molecular Cloning of a Novel Cuticle Protein cDNA from the Mulberry Longicorn Beetle, *Apriona germari*

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We have cloned a cDNA encoding the cuticle protein from the mulberry longicorn beetle, *Apriona germari*. In this report, the cloning, sequencing and mRNA expression of an *A. germari* cuticle protein cDNA are described. The *A. germari* cuticle protein cDNA contains an open reading frame of 300 bp encoding 100 amino acid residues. The predicted molecular mass for *A. germari* cuticle protein was approximately 8.7 kDa (AgLCP8.7). AgLCP8.7 contained a type-specific consensus sequence identifiable in other insect cuticle proteins. The deduced amino acid sequence of the *A. germari* cuticle protein cDNA is most similar to *Drosophilla melanogaster* ACP65A. Northern blot analysis revealed that the *A. germari* cuticle protein showed epidermis-specific expression. Southern blot analysis of the genomic DNA suggested the *A. germari* cuticle protein was a single gene.