

Highly Polymorphic Microsatellites in the Silkworm,
Bombyx mori

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Simple sequence repeats (SSRs) or microsatellites have been often and increasingly used. SSRs, consisted of short tandem repeats (usually 1-6 nucleotide) have shown advantages over other markers. Here, we have isolated and characterized microsatellites from the silkworm genome. The screening of a partial genomic library by the conventional hybridization method led to the isolation of several microsatellites harbouring clones. Comparative analysis of 10 diverse silkworm strains with 6 microsatellite loci revealed a number of alleles ranging from 3 to 7 and high heterozygosity values. A list of primer sequences that tag each locus is provided. The usefulness of microsatellite markers can be expected to enhance the classification in silkworm.