



Isolation and characterization of microsatellite loci from the tick *Amblyomma aureolatum* (Acari: Ixodidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Amblyomma aureolatum* (Pallas) is the main vector of the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*, the etiological agent of Brazilian spotted fever. This disease is the most lethal human spotted fever rickettsiosis in the world. Microsatellite loci were isolated from a dinucleotide-enriched library produced from *A. aureolatum* sampled in Southeastern Brazil. Eight polymorphic microsatellites were further characterized among 38 individuals sampled from São Paulo metropolitan region. The number of observed

alleles ranged from 2 to 9, observed heterozygosity was 0.184-0.647, and expected heterozygosity was 0.251-0.747. Cross-species amplifications suggested that these loci will be useful for other *Amblyomma* species.

Key words: *Amblyomma aureolatum*; Enriched library; Microsatellites; Ticks