



*Short Communication*

# Development of microsatellite markers and genetic diversity analysis for *Pelodiscus sinensis*

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**ABSTRACT.** *Pelodiscus sinensis* is a common freshwater soft-shell turtle found in China, and is an important aquaculture species. In this study, 20 polymorphic microsatellite primers were developed from the transcriptome. The genetic diversity of three populations of *P. sinensis* was evaluated, using 72 individuals. The number of alleles per locus ranged from 3 to 26. The observed and expected heterozygosities varied from 0.208 to 0.958, and from 0.302 to 0.963, respectively. The polymorphic information content varied from 0.283 to 0.953. No significant linkage

disequilibrium was detected. These markers will be useful for future population genetic studies and molecular breeding of *P. sinensis*.

**Key words:** *Pelodiscus sinensis*; Chinese soft-shell turtle; Microsatellites; Genetic diversity