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# Development and characterization of 60 microsatellite markers in the abalone *Haliotis diversicolor*

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**ABSTRACT.** The abalone, *Haliotis diversicolor*, is one of the most important mariculture species in southern China. We developed 60 new polymorphic microsatellite markers for *H. diversicolor* and characterized them in 30 individuals from a cultured population in Sanya, China. All 60 markers were found to be polymorphic. The number of alleles ranged from two to nine per locus, with an average of 4.12/locus. The expected and observed heterozygosities ranged from 0.10 to 0.88 and from 0.07 to 0.87, respectively. Forty-four loci were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. These 44 microsatellite markers should be useful for genome mapping and population genetic studies.

**Key words:** Abalone; Microsatellite; Aquaculture; *Haliotis diversicolor*

 