

Evidence for the main foot protein gene in *Perna perna* (Mollusca, Mytilidae)

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ABSTRACT. Here, we investigated the gene that encodes the main protein component of the byssus in *Perna perna* (*Ppfp*) using a consensus fluorescent probe for the *Mytilus* group and by polymerase chain reaction amplification using specific and random primers. A 524-bp fragment resulting from polymerase chain reaction amplification was found to be homologous to the *fp-1* gene of *Mytilus coruscus*. This fragment was identified as the 3' end of the *Ppfp-1* gene, which included the heptapeptide coding sequence for Lys-Pro-Ser-Tyr-Pro-Pro-Ter (probably the incomplete last tandem repeat unit of the giant exon), the stop codon and the polyadenylation signal.

Key words: *Perna perna*; Byssus; Foot proteins; *fp-1* gene; Polyphenolic protein