



Short Communication

Isolation and characterization of microsatellite loci in the fish *Coilia mystus* (Clupeiformes: Engraulidae) using PCR-based isolation of microsatellite arrays

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ABSTRACT. *Coilia mystus* is the most important harvested fish species in China; it inhabits quite different water environments during the different life history stages. Populations of *C. mystus* have dropped sharply due to overharvesting and water pollution. We developed eight microsatellite loci in *C. mystus* for conservation genetics studies. These new markers were tested in 20 individuals from the Min River in ChangLe. The number of alleles ranged from 3 to 8, the expected heterozygosity from 0.621 to 0.853 and the observed heterozygosity from 0.473-0.800. Only two loci deviated significantly from Hardy-Weinberg expectations due to heterozygote deficiency. These primers may provide a tool for understanding demography and population structure of this economically important and threatened species.

Key words: Microsatellite; Conservation; PIMA; *Coilia mystus*; RAPD-PCR enrichment