

Transferability of microsatellite markers among economically and ecologically important galliform birds

N. Bech¹, C. Novoa², J.F. Allienne¹ and J. Boissier¹

¹Laboratoire de Biologie et d'Écologie Tropicale et Méditerranéenne,
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique,
Université de Perpignan, Perpignan Cedex, France

²Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage,
Direction des Etudes et de la Recherche, Prades, France

Corresponding author: N. Bech
E-mail: nicolas.bech@univ-perp.fr

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ABSTRACT. We used the partially sequenced genomes of the turkey and chicken to find a large number of microsatellite markers. We then characterized 10 polymorphic microsatellite markers developed by cross-species amplification from economically and ecologically important birds to various European subspecies of the grey partridge. Even though we used cross-species amplification, a high degree of polymorphism was conserved in all microsatellite markers. Cross-species amplification from

birds of economic and ecological interest, such as chicken and turkey, could be an attractive approach to develop microsatellite markers and to use these to manage wild and captive populations of other galliforms, such as the grey partridge.

Key words: Grey partridge; Turkey; Chicken; Microsatellite markers; Cross-species amplification