



Short Communication

Sequence analysis of the growth hormone gene of the South American catfish *Rhamdia quelen*

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ABSTRACT. *Rhamdia quelen* is an important Neotropical catfish species for fisheries and aquaculture in southern Brazil, where it is called Jandia. Like other native Brazilian species of economic importance, *R. quelen* genetics needs more attention for animal breeding programs. The growth hormone gene is known to be linked to a number of molecular markers and quantitative trait loci. We sequenced the coding region of the growth hormone gene with the primer walking technique. As in other Siluriformes, the *R. quelen* growth hormone gene has four introns and five exons, in a 1465-bp coding region. The tertiary structure of the encoded protein was predicted by bioinformatics; it has four α -helix structures connected by loops, which form a compressed complex maintained by two disulfide bridges.

Key words: *Rhamdia quelen*; Siluriformes; Growth hormone; Bioinformatics; Primer walking