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## IDENTIFICATION OF THE MAJOR ALLERGEN OF LOLIGO EDULIS (WHITE SQUID) BY TWO-DIMENSIONAL ELECTROPHORESIS AND MASS SPECTROMETRY ANALYSIS

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#### Background:

IgE-mediated allergic reaction to squid is one of the most frequent molluscan shellfish allergies. Previously, we have detected a 36 kDa protein as the major allergen of *Loligo edulis* (white squid) by immunoblotting using sera from patients with squid allergy. Thus, the aim of this present study was to further identify this major allergen using the proteomics approach.

#### Materials and methods:

The major allergen was identified by a combination of two-dimensional electrophoresis (2-DE), immunoblotting, mass spectrometry and bioinformatics tools.

#### **Results:**

The 2-DE gel fractionated the white squid proteins to more than 50 different protein spots between 10 to 38 kDa and isoelectric point (pl) from 3.0 to 10.0. *A highly reactive* protein *spot* with a molecular mass of 36 *kDa* and a pl of 4.55 was observed in all of the serum samples tested. Matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight (MALDI-TOF) analysis led to identification of this allergen as tropomyosin.

#### Conclusion:

This finding would contribute to advancement in component-based diagnosis, management of squid allergic patients to the development of immunotherapy and to the standardisation of allergenic test products as tools in molecular allergology.

### Keywords:

Squid allergy, MALDI-TOF, tropomyosin