

Isolation of eight microsatellites loci from the saddled bream, *Oblada melanura* and cross-species amplification in two sea bream species of the genus *Diplodus*

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Abstract We have developed eight new microsatellite markers for the saddled bream (*Oblada melanura*) from an enriched genome library protocol. All these loci are polymorphic, with mean allelic diversity of 14.75 (range 3–22), and expected and observed heterozygosities from 0.233 to 0.918 and 0.212 to 0.913, respectively. Cross-species tests in two close relatives of the genus *Diplodus* (*D. sargus* and *D. vulgaris*) revealed successful amplifications at 6 out of 8 loci, with means allele number of 6.67 (range 4–10) and 6.50 (range 4–10), respectively. These results are consistent with the close phylogenetic relationships between the three species, indicating this set of primers might proved useful for studying the levels of genetic diversity and population differentiation in these three species and in other phylogenetically close species of the genus *Diplodus* and *Sparus*.

Keywords Microsatellite · *Oblada melanura* · *Diplodus* · Sea breams

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The saddled bream, *Oblada melanura*, belongs to the Sparidae family, which includes commercially important species and has also recently gained considerable importance for aquaculture throughout the Mediterranean (Fischer et al. 1987). *O. melanura* is a diurnal schooling species, very common and abundant throughout the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean (Bay of Biscay and from the Strait of Gibraltar to Angola, Madeira, Cape Verde and the Canary Islands). It is considered a gregarious species and can be found over rocky bottoms and seagrass beds (*Zostera* and seaweeds) (Bauchot and Hureau 1990). They feed almost exclusively on small crustaceans and other zooplanktonic animals, which they graze from the substrata when juveniles, but when adults they feed mainly on vegetable matter. Apart from the feeding habits and the species distribution in the Adriatic region (Pallaoro et al. 1998, 2003, 2004), little information is available concerning its biology and population dynamics (Dufour et al. 1995; Lenfant and Olive 1998). Genetic analyses are scarce and have solely focused on resolving unclear phylogenetic relationships among sea bream species (Hanel and Sturmbauer 2000; Summerer et al. 2001). Here, we report the development and characterisation of 8 microsatellite loci for *O. melanura* and present estimates of allelic variability of these loci and their cross-amplification in two close relatives, the white sea bream (*Diplodus sargus*) and the two-banded sea bream (*Diplodus vulgaris*). While the limited knowledge on the species' ecology can make a priori predictions about the population structure problematic, the characterisation of microsatellites variation in *O. melanura* and related taxa may give insights into the level of genetic diversity, the amount of gene flow and genetic structuring of these exploited marine

species, that may be of great concern for their conservation.

Microsatellite markers were identified through the development of an enriched genomic library as described by Glenn et al. (2000). DNA extractions were performed from fin tissue and approximately 10 μ g of high molecular weight DNA was isolated by phenol-chloroform extraction (Sambrook et al. 1989). Simultaneous restriction-ligation of genomic DNA was carried out using the *RsaI* restriction enzyme and double stranded linker-adapted primers according to Hamilton et al. (1999). Ligated DNA was enriched with a biotin-labelled probe mixture consisting of (GT)₁₀ and (CT)₁₀ at 10 μ M each. DNA fragments with repetitive sequences were then selectively captured by streptavidin-coated Dynabeads (Oxoid) and separated by a magnetic field. Enriched DNA was eluted in 200 μ l dH₂O from the bead probes and concentrated by vacuum centrifugation to a final concentration of ~100 ng/ μ l. DNA was then reamplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR), purified and ligated into a cloning vector using pGEM-T Easy Vector II (Promega). A total of 65 positive clones were screened and checked for inserts using ABI PRISM BigDye Terminator Cycle kit (Applied Biosystems) and resolved on an ABI 3100 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems). Primer pairs for 8 potentially usable microsatellite loci were designed using the software package OLIGO 6.4. Polymorphism was tested by multiplex PCR reactions performed in 20 μ l total volume, which include 50 ng of DNA, 2 mM of MgCl₂, 0.25 μ M of each primer, 200 μ M dNTP's, 1 \times reaction buffer [75 mM Tris-HCl, 20 mM (NH₄)₂SO₄] and 0.5 units Taq polymerase (BIOTAQ). Reaction conditions were as follows: an initial denaturation step of 5 min at 95°C, eight cycles consisting of 45 s at 92°C, 45 s at 53°C annealing temperature, 45 s at 72°C followed by an additional 24 cycles consisting of 30 s at 92°C, 30 s at 55°C annealing temperature, 30 s at 72°C. Microsatellite variability was assessed in 48 individuals from the western Mediterranean coast (Tarifa). Individuals were genotyped by assessing allele size on an ABI 3100 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems) using forward primers labelled with FAM (Sigma) and NED, PET and VIC (Applied Biosystems). Allele scoring was carried out using GENEMAPPER software version 3.5 (Applied Biosystems). Expected and observed values for heterozygosity, number of alleles per locus, allele size range as well as deviations from Hardy-Weinberg expectations (HWE) and linkage disequilibrium between pairs of loci were estimated using GENETIX version 4.05 (Belkhir et al. 2004). Significance was assessed using permutation procedures. All loci were

Table 1 Characterisation of eight saddled bream (*Oblada melanura*) microsatellite loci (N = 48)

Locus	Repeat motif	Accession No.	Primer sequence (5'-3')	No. of alleles	Allele size (bp)	H _o	H _E	F _{IS}
Omel58	(CA) ₁₃	EF064298	F:FAM-GGCATTATTGTTCCATCATTACTCC R: ATGGCATAACAACCTGCATCAGAAAG	8	292-306	0.714	0.733	-0.009
Omel3	(GT) ₁₄	EF064299	F:FAM-CCCTCCGACATCATCAGTGTAAAT TGGCATGGAGGTTCAAGTCTGTGC	8	393-407	0.831	0.759	0.104
Omel38	(GT) ₁₇	EF064300	F:FAM-AGCCGGCTGAGCTCCATAATAACC R:TGCCCTCTTGTACACACAGGTCAC	10	197-219	0.846	0.861	0.071
Omel20	(CA) ₁₂	EF064301	F:VIC- CAGGTAACAACAGGTAACAATG R:GGGGTTGAGGACACTGCAAAAAA	3	353-357	0.212	0.233	-0.086
Omel2	(CA) ₁₀	EF064302	F:VIC- TGCCCTGTCTGTGGAGTATGAA R:AACCCCACTGACGCTTCTTGAAAC	15	226-286	0.862	0.667	0.242*
Omel61	(GT) ₂₁	EF064303	F:VIC- CAGGGGGGATTAATCTGCATTTG R:GCCCCATTATCTTCATCACCAT	16	129-159	0.909	0.8	0.137
Omel54	(GT) ₁₄	EF064304	F:NED-TGGGGCACCAAAAGAGCGCGGTG R:ACCCCTGTGCGCTCTCTCTTCC	16	197-229	0.904	0.6	0.351*
Omel27	(CA) ₁₇	EF064305	F:NED-TTGGCTCATTAGACAAAGGCACAC R:GGGGCGCTGAAACAATAGCCGTGTT	14	295-335	0.907	0.7	0.244*

Locus name, repeat motif, fluorescent dye-primer sequence, number of alleles, allele size range, H_o, observed heterozygosity under Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium; F_{IS}, inbreeding coefficient; * P < 0.05

Table 2 Cross species amplification of 8 microsatellite loci from the saddled bream (*Oblada melanura*) in the white sea bream (*Diplodus sargus*) and the the two-banded sea bream (*Diplodus vulgaris*)

Locus	D. sargus (n = 7)		D. vulgaris (n = 8)	
	na	Range	na	Range
Omel58	4	288–296	4	290–310
Omel3	na		na	
Omel38	9	193–235	6	183–199
Omel20	10	349–385	na	
Omel2	4	222–230	5	228–242
Omel61	8	139–161	6	137–179
Omel54	5	193–207	8	221–261
Omel27	na		10	291–319

Locus name. number of alleles (N^a). allele size range. na indicates non amplification

polymorphic; the total numbers of alleles per locus and heterozygosity estimates are listed in Table 1. We found no evidence of linkage disequilibrium between locus pairs. Nonetheless, three loci (Omel2, Omel54 and Omel27) showed significant deviation from HWE, both showing heterozygote deficit.

Cross-species amplification was examined in two closed relatives (*D. sargus* and *D. vulgaris*) using the same conditions detailed for *O. melanura*. All except one locus (Omel3) amplify in both or one of the species. All loci are polymorphic in both species, with allele number ranging from four to ten, depending on species and locus (Table 2), consistent with the close phylogenetic relationships between the three species (Day 2002; De la Herran et al. 2001; Summerer et al. 2001). This set of markers can be useful for studying the genetic diversity, population differentiation and for the genetic monitoring of farm populations of these three species, and might even proved useful in other phylogenetically close species of the genus *Diplodus* and *Sparus*.

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