

**A-36: A *Seteria digitata* cDNA encoding the gene for myosin-light chain recognized by sera from patients with Bancroftian filariasis**

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Bancroftian filariasis is a major public health problem in Sri Lanka, The commercially available antigen assays for Bancroftian filariasis are fairly costly and cannot be used for routine work. Furthermore, the non availability of adult *Wuchereria bancrofti* antigens has become an obstacle for the development of serodiagnostic assays. This work therefore was undertaken to isolate cloned antigens from a cDNA library of *S. digitata* for the development of an immunodiagnostic method for the diagnosis of Bancroftian filariasis.

Immunoscreening the library with sera from humans infected with *W. bancrofti* led to the isolation of three clones designated pCSA 1, 2 and 3. The clones were then partially sequenced. With the available sequences, a search was made of the Gene bank and *C. elegans* DNA data bases.

The clone pCSA 1 showed a high degree of homology to the gene for myosin light chain from *C.elegans* while pCSA 2 and pCSA 3 did not show any homology to any previously cloned sequences from the above data bases.

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