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A PCR-RFLP Test to Detect Allelic Variants of the Bovine Kappa-Casein Gene

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Pages 1-5 | Published online: 16 Aug 2006

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1081/ABIO-120020180>

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Abstract

Point mutations in exon IV of bovine kappa-casein gene (κ Cn, CASK, CSN3) determine nine allelic variants (A, B, C, E, F, G, H, I, and A₁) for the gene. These variants are associated with major differences in composition and manufacturing properties of milk (i.e., cheese yield). A PCR-RFLP test was developed in order to distinguish the different alleles. Polymorphisms are detected by digestion with the endonucleases HindIII, HaeIII, and MaeII followed by electrophoresis in agarose gels stained with ethidium bromide. Twenty eight DNA samples from different breeds of Argentina were analyzed for the A, B, and E variants. This simple PCR-RFLP test makes feasible the inclusion of kappa-casein genotypes in breeding plans.

Keywords:

Bovine kappa-casein

κ Cn, CASK, CSN3

PCR-RFLP

Acknowledgment

This work was funded by UBACyT project No. VE003, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. We acknowledge the collaboration of Dr. Patricia Soria in sample collection. We thank also Dr. Pablo Corva for critical evaluation and improvement of the manuscript.

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