

Isolation and characterization of polymorphic microsatellite loci from *Octodon degus*

Y. F. Quan, M. D. Macmanes, L. A. Ebensperger, E. A. Lacey, L. D. Hayes

Abstract

Quantifying genetic kinship and parentage is critical to understanding the adaptive consequences of sociality. To measure fitness in a species with variable group structure, we isolated 14 microsatellite loci from *Octodon degus*, a semi-fossorial rodent endemic to Chile. The number of alleles per locus ranged from four to 14. Thirteen loci were in Hardy–Weinberg proportions, with values of observed heterozygosity ranging from 0.550 to 0.950. These markers provide the basis for future studies of the direct fitness consequences of sociality in *O. degus*.