

# **Microsatellites of *Laminaria digitata* tested in *Lessonia nigrescens*: Evaluation and improvement of cross amplification between kelps of two different families**

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## **Abstract**

The use of primers designed originally to amplify DNA for one species in a different one can save time and resources, particularly for microsatellite loci. Microsatellite amplification improvements across two kelp families are reported, where loci originally described in *Laminaria digitata* (Laminariaceae) were tested in *Lessonia nigrescens* was observed in two localities affected by massive mortality events. Nei's distances among five populations presented similar patterns to those of 30 multilocus dominant loci (RAPD) evaluated in the same localities. Although some success might be achieved in cross-species microsatellite amplifications, the strong mutations detected between these two Laminarian families suggests that better results of cross-amplifications should be expected at much lower taxonomic levels. Thus, although more expensive, construction of new gene libraries is strongly recommended.