Abstract

ISSN 1178-9905 (print edition) ZOOSYMPOSIA ISSN 1178-9913 (online edition)

https://doi.org/10.11646/zoosymposia.22.1.103

The role of acid phosphatase during sucking blood of Haemaphysalis longicornis*

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*In: Zhang, Z.-Q., Fan, Q.-H., Heath, A.C.G. & Minor, M.A. (Eds) (2022) Acarological Frontiers: Proceedings of the XVI International Congress of Acarology (1–5 Dec. 2022, Auckland, New Zealand). Magnolia Press, Auckland, 328 pp.

In this study, a novel acid phosphatase was isolated from *Haemaphysalis longicornis* which may affect the reproductive development of the tick. The gene was isolated from a cDNA library named *HLACP* and analyzed by bioinformatics. Then, the spatial and temporal expression patterns of the genes were analyzed by real-time PCR. In addition, combined with RNAi interference platform and protein modification omics, the changes of protein expression and modification level of *H. longicornis* before and after blood feeding were analyzed after interference with *HLACP*. It has a histidine phosphatase domain and belongs to the histidine protein phosphatase family. The expression of *HLACP* was found in all developmental stages of *H. longicornis*, and the expression of *HLACP* was the highest in the adult starvation stage and decreased significantly after blood feeding. Tissue expression profile analysis showed that the expression of *HLACP* was highest in the ovary, followed by midgut, and relatively low in salivary glands and Malpighian tubules. The results of RNA interference showed that after knockdown of *HLACP* expression, engorged body weight and egg production were significantly reduced, but hatching rate was not significantly different. In this study, we identified the sequence of *HLACP*, which may be involved in the blood-feeding process of ticks, and can affect the reproductive process. This study provides a research basis for further exploring the mechanism of acid phosphatase in blood meal digestion and reproductive development in these ticks.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Hebei Province (C2022205026), the Foundation of Hebei Educational Committee (ZD2020168) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (31472050).

Keywords: *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, acid phosphatase, gene cloning, fluorescence quantitative PCR, RNA interference