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Edouard Lavergne, Isabelle Calves, Uwe Zajonz, Jean Laroche

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1 **Title:**

2 Isolation and characterization of nine microsatellite loci of *Terapon jarbua* (Forsskål, 1775)  
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4

5 **Author's names with initials:**6 E. LAVERGNE <sup>1,2,3</sup> (EL)7 I. CALVES <sup>3</sup> (IC)8 U. ZAJONZ <sup>2,1</sup> (UZ)9 J. LAROCHE <sup>3</sup> (JL)

10

11 **Full postal addresses:**

12 <sup>1</sup> Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum, Sektion Ichthyologie –  
13 Senckenberganlage 25, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland

14 <sup>2</sup> Biodiversität und Klima Forschungszentrum (BiK-F) – Senckenberganlage 25, 60325  
15 Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland

16 <sup>3</sup> UMR 6539 CNRS/UBO/IRD - LEMAR (Laboratoire des Sciences de l'Environnement  
17 Marin), IUEM (Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer), Université de Bretagne  
18 Occidentale – Technopôle Brest Iroise, Rue Dumont d'Urville 29280 Plouzané, France

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25 **Corresponding author:**

26 Edouard Lavergne

27 Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum, Sektion Ichthyologie –

28 Senckenberganlage 25, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland

29 Fax: +49 69 75 42 12 53

30 E-mail: edouard.lavergne@senckenberg.de

31

32 **Abstract**

33 Ten polymorphic microsatellite loci were identified and characterized from 22 individuals of  
34 *Terapon jarbua* (Forsskål, 1775) from Socotra Island (Gulf of Aden, Yemen). Microsatellite  
35 polymorphism was tested, revealing 4 to 19 alleles per locus. The observed heterozygosity  
36 values ranged from 0.318 to 0.909. Nine loci out of ten conformed to Hardy-Weinberg  
37 proportions. They did not show evidence for null alleles and gametic disequilibrium. These  
38 loci will be used in an ongoing study of the population structure of this species; associated  
39 with a study assessing habitat connectivity based on otolith microchemistry of *T. jarbua*.  
40 Results are expected to inform estuarine conservation efforts on Socotra Island and in the  
41 Gulf of Aden region.

42

43 *Terapon jarbua* (Terapontidae, Perciformes) inhabits marine and brackish waters of the Indo-  
44 Pacific, from the Red Sea and East coast of Africa to Samoa. Its juveniles have been observed  
45 to thrive even in coastal freshwater courses. The type locality of the species is Jeddah, Saudi  
46 Arabia, and the type series is deposited in the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen  
47 (Klausewitz & Nielsen 1965, Nielsen 1974). Although advances have been made in the  
48 taxonomy and biology of the Terapontidae (Vari 1978, Whitfield & Blaber 1978, Miu 1990),

49 no in-depth studies of the reproductive ecology, life history strategy and population structure  
50 of *T. jarbua* have been conducted as of yet. The microsatellite markers presented herein are  
51 therefore the first developed for this species, and will be especially supportive to further  
52 genetic studies of the species.

53 DNA libraries for *Terapon jarbua* enriched for microsatellite sequences containing AAC,  
54 ATG, CATC and TAGA repeat motifs were constructed by Genetic Identification Services  
55 following the method described by Jones et al. (2002). Resulting recombinant clones were  
56 selected at random and sequenced on an Applied Biosystems™ 377 DNA Sequencer, using  
57 Amersham's DYEnamic™ ET Terminator Cycle Sequencing Kit (Amersham Biosciences P/N  
58 US81050). Initial polymerase chain reaction (PCR) primers were designed for flanking  
59 regions of microsatellite containing sequences using DESIGNER PCR v1.03 (Research Genetics  
60 Inc.).

61 Genomic DNA was extracted from muscle tissue, preserved in 95% ethanol of 22 individuals  
62 collected in March 2007 by seine net at Matief Estuary (12° 26' 48.5'' N and  
63 54° 18' 17.6'' E) on Socotra Island (Fig. 1). Extractions were performed using AcroPrep™ 96  
64 well Filter Plates (1mL) with 1µm Glass Fiber media (PALL® 5051), following the extraction  
65 protocol for DNA barcoding by Ivanova et al. (2006). PCRs conducted on a GeneAmp PCR  
66 system 9700 (Applied Biosystems™) were optimized for each primer individually on four  
67 randomly selected samples. After optimisation, PCR reactions were multiplexed in a total  
68 reaction volume of 10µL, using 5µL of Master-mix, 1µL of Solution Q both from the Qiagen  
69 Multiplex PCR kit, 1µL of multiplexed primer-mix (Table 1) containing specific primers and  
70 the labelled universal primers 6Fam-TAGTCGACGACCGTTA, Yakima Yellow YY-  
71 TCGGATAGCTAGTCGT, and Dargonfly Orange DO-CTGGCCGTCGTTTTAC (Chang et  
72 al. 2004) in order to avoid the expenses of using specific fluorescent primers, 1µL of template

73 DNA (30-50 ng. $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ ) and 2 $\mu\text{L}$  of water. Touchdown PCR conditions consisted of an initial  
74 denaturing step at 95°C (15') followed by 11 cycles at 94°C (30''), 63-53°C (1'30'') and  
75 72°C (1'), followed by 25 cycles at 94°C (30''), 53°C (1'30'') and 72°C (1'). A final  
76 elongation step at 60°C (30 min) ended the PCR. 3 $\mu\text{L}$  of PCR products were added to 12 $\mu\text{L}$   
77 of formamide and 0.2 $\mu\text{L}$  of a 50-500bp size standard (GeneScan<sup>TM</sup>-500 LIZ<sup>TM</sup>) to visualise  
78 microsatellite alleles using an ABI 3130 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems<sup>TM</sup>). Alleles  
79 were then scored using GeneMapper<sup>®</sup> Software v4.0 (Applied Biosystems<sup>TM</sup>). The number of  
80 alleles and the observed and expected heterozygosity values were calculated using  
81 GENETIX v4 (Belkhir 2004); deviation from the Hardy–Weinberg proportions (Fisher's exact  
82 test) and gametic disequilibrium (Fisher's exact test) among loci were tested using GENEPOP  
83 v4 (Raymond & Rousset 1995, Rousset 2008). Both tests were corrected for multiple  
84 simultaneous tests by calculating the q-value of each test which measures the minimum *false*  
85 *discovery rate* (FDR) that is incurred when calling that test significant. The bootstrap method  
86 was chosen as recommended by the authors for a limited number of p-values (Storey 2002).  
87 The q-values were calculated using the R package QVALUE ([www.r-project.org](http://www.r-project.org), Ihaka &  
88 Gentleman 1996, Storey 2002, Storey & Tibshirani 2003, Storey 2003, Storey et al. 2004).  
89 This correction was preferred over the commonly used sequential Bonferroni correction (Rice  
90 1989) following Moran (2003). Null allele frequencies were calculated based on Brookfield  
91 (1996) using the program MICRO-CHECKER (Van Oosterhout et al. 2004).  
92 Ten out of 12 loci were reliably amplified and found to be polymorphic for *T. jarbua*  
93 (Table 2). The number of alleles per locus ranged from 4 to 19, with observed and expected  
94 heterozygosity values varying respectively from 0.318 to 0.909, and from 0.328 to 0.941.  
95 Exact tests after correction indicated that one locus (B107) deviated significantly from Hardy-  
96 Weinberg proportions (q-value < 0.01). Exact test for gametic disequilibrium yielded five

97 weakly significant p-values ( $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ ) out of 45 pair wise comparisons; none of which  
98 were ultimately found to be significant following the FDR correction ( $q\text{-value} > 0.05$ ). No  
99 locus showed evidence for a null allele. Therefore, nine of the ten markers presented in this  
100 study can be applied in studying the genetic structure of *T. jarbua* populations. Such studies  
101 are expected to be instrumental in future estuary conservation and management efforts (1) in  
102 Yemen including the Socotra Archipelago, representing a UNESCO World Heritage (2008),  
103 which is a treasure of marine biodiversity of regional and global importance (Zajonz & Krupp  
104 2006), and (2) in the wider Indian Ocean.

105

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173 **Figure 1: Map of Socotra Archipelago and sampling site location (Matief)**

**Table1: Multiplex Primer-mix**

<b>Multiplex PCR 1</b>	<b>Multiplex PCR 2</b>
5µL R C102 primer, 100nM	5µL R A4 primer, 100nM
5µL R C108 primer, 100nM	5µL R B107 primer, 100nM
5µL R C3 primer, 100nM	5µL R D108 primer, 100nM
5µL F C102 primer + univ. ext., 10nM	5µL F A4 primer + univ. ext., 10nM
5µL F C108 primer + univ. ext., 10nM	5µL F B107 primer + univ. ext., 10nM
5µL F C3 primer + univ. ext., 10nM	5µL F D108 primer + univ. ext., 10nM
5µL 6FAM-univ. primer, 100nM	5µL 6FAM-univ. primer, 100nM
5µL YY-univ. primer, 100nM	5µL YY-univ. primer, 100nM
5µL DO-univ. primer, 100nM	5µL DO-univ. primer, 100nM
117µL H <sub>2</sub> O	117µL H <sub>2</sub> O
150 µL	150µL
<b>Multiplex PCR 3</b>	<b>Multiplex PCR 4</b>
5µL R B103 primer, 100nM	5µL R B106 primer, 100nM
5µL R C103 primer, 100nM	5µL R C105 primer, 100nM
5µL R D102 primer, 100nM	5µL R D3 primer, 100nM
5µL F B103 primer + univ. ext., 10nM	5µL F B106 primer + univ. ext., 10nM
5µL F C103 primer + univ. ext., 10nM	5µL F C105 primer + univ. ext., 10nM
5µL F D102 primer + univ. ext., 10nM	5µL F D3 primer + univ. ext., 10nM
5µL 6FAM-univ. primer, 100nM	5µL 6FAM-univ. primer, 100nM
5µL YY-univ. primer, 100nM	-
5µL DO-univ. primer, 100nM	7,5µL DO-univ. primer, 100nM
117µL H <sub>2</sub> O	119,5µL H <sub>2</sub> O
150µL (Total volume)	150µL (Total volume)

Primer and universal extension association is shown in Table 2

**Table 2: Primer sequences for 10 microsatellite loci and allele statistics in one population (N = 22) of *Terapon jarbua***

Loci	EMBL #	Repeat motif	5' Universal Extension	Primers 5' → 3'	<i>i</i>	A	R	$H_E$	$H_O$	$P_{HW}$	$Q_{HW}$
C102	FR719958	(CTAT) <sub>13</sub> (CCAT) <sub>28</sub> (CTAT) <sub>2</sub>	F: CTGGCCGTCGTTTTACGTCTCCCTCCCTCATGTCTG	R: TTGCCACAGTGGACCTGTAG	1	19	171-257	0.938	0.909	0.0662	0.0513
C108	FR719959	(ATCC) <sub>9</sub> ATTT(ATCC) <sub>2</sub>	F: TCGGATAGCTAGTCGTCCATCCATTCATCCATCTAC	R: GCTTTGGAGTATTTTGCAGTT	1	7	274-336	0.763	0.727	0.2318	0.0773
C3	FR719960	(CATC) <sub>7</sub>	F: TAGTCGACGACCGTTACATAATGAGCGAGGTCAGAT	R: ATCACGGAGGTTCTAAGAGTC	1	6	278-305	0.791	0.727	0.0770	0.0513
A4	FR719961	(AAC) <sub>14</sub>	F: TCGGATAGCTAGTCGTACCTGCCTACTACAGCCTCAG	R: CACTCCACTTGCCCATTTT	2	5	262-271	0.711	0.636	0.2146	0.0773
B107	FR719962	(CAT)CAA(CAT) <sub>7</sub>	F: CTGGCCGTCGTTTTACCCAAGTTCCTGATGCTAAAAG	R: AGACGATGATGGGATTATTTG	2	10	205-231	0.868	0.773	0.003*	0.0008*
B103	FR719963	(CAT) <sub>2</sub> CTT(CAT) <sub>9</sub> CAC(CAT)	F: TCGGATAGCTAGTCGTGGGCTGTAACAGTATGCAATG	R: ATGCAGCACCTTCAGAGTTTA	3	4	215-227	0.669	0.727	0.5839	0.1557
C103	FR719964	(TCCA) <sub>8</sub>	F: CTGGCCGTCGTTTTACCTTTCAATAGCCAGGACTACC	R: TCTTCCACACTGAGACTGCT	3	4	183-198	0.665	0.545	0.1209	0.0645
B106	FR719965	(CAT) <sub>2</sub> CA(CAT) <sub>4</sub> CAC(CAT)	F: CTGGCCGTCGTTTTACAGAGGAGGACCACATAAACAC	R: TTCCACCAGATGAGAGGAG	4	11	112-159	0.859	0.727	0.0540	0.0513
C105	FR719966	(ATCC) <sub>5</sub> CTCC(ATCC) <sub>12</sub>	F: CTGGCCGTCGTTTTACAGCTTTGTGAGGCTAATACCAG	R: AAGTCTTCTTCAACCCTGTGAG	4	6	242-314	0.328	0.318	0.5475	0.1557
D3	FR719967	(TCTA) <sub>10</sub>	F: TAGTCGACGACCGTTACAGTCCAGTAATGTCGTTTGT	R: AGTGTTAGACAGGAGCACATG	4	19	283-349	0.941	0.909	0.2256	0.0773

*i*, multiplex PCR index (Table 1); A, allele nb; R, size range;  $H_E$ , expected heterozygosity;  $H_O$ , observed heterozygosity;  $P_{HW}$ , p-value of HW exact test;  $Q_{HW}$ , q-value of HW exact test; \*, Significant deviation from HWE.

