ONLINE RESOURCES



Isolation and characterization of microsatellite markers in the spiny lobster, *Panulirus echinatus* Smith, 1869 (Decapoda: Palinuridae) by Illumina MiSeq sequencing

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Introduction

The isolation and characterization of 17 polymorphic microsatellite loci from the spiny lobster Panulirus echinatus (Decapoda: Palinuridae) by Illumina MiSeq sequencing is described. The analysis of genetic variability was performed in 42 individuals from 3 different populations (Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks, The Rocas Atoll and Cape Verde). The number of alleles ranged from 2 to 8, with an average of 5.4 ± 1.4 alleles per locus. The values of allelic richness varied from 1.8 to 6.2 (average of 3.9 ± 1.0), while PIC values ranged between 0.173 and 0.811. Overall mean observed and expected heterozygosity was estimated to be 0.418 ± 0.165 and 0.587 ± 0.173 , respectively. These are the first microsatellite markers characterized for P. echinatus and it is expected that these markers will help to obtain the necessary information for developing conservation and management strategies for this highly valuable fishery species.

Lobster fisheries, undoubtedly, is one of the most financially valuable shellfish fisheries around the world, especially spiny and clawed lobsters. The brown spiny lobster *Panulirus echinatus* occurs on rocky reefs in the

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tropical western Atlantic Ocean and central Atlantic Islands (Holthuis 1991). The species is fished throughout its range, but intensively in some regions such as off Brazil, the islands of St Helena (UK), Cape Verde and the Canary Archipelago (Spain). Although commercially important fisheries exist for the species, the activity lacks management plan to ensure that lobster populations remain at sustainable levels. Fisheries legislation and other policy tools are not established for this lobster species in any of these countries. As biological information on *P. echinatus* is still scarce, it is of paramount importance to provide data that could be used to indicate whether an impact on the global population is existing.

Commercial fisheries in certain habitats may compromise distinct, locally adapted populations (Agardy 2000), resulting in loss of genetic diversity which is measured by the genetic variation distributed within as well as between populations (Scribner *et al.* 2016). Thus, the knowledge of genetic variability in *P. echinatus* and its populations is essential to aid in the management of fisheries stocks (e.g. Altukhov 1981; Shaklee and Samollow 1984).

Genetic data from molecular markers can be used to measure genetic differentiation and variability among marine populations, and therefore, address questions of

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fishery management relevance (e.g. identification of population and conservation units).

So far, only very few papers have been found in the literature containing more than distribution records on this species (e.g. site-specific population and reproductive biology of *P. echinatus*, Pinheiro *et al.* 2003; Pinheiro and Lins-Oliveira 2006; molecular identification of phyllosoma larva, Konishi *et al.* 2006; measurements of biometric relationships, Barreto *et al.* 2009), therefore, very little is known about the population diversity of *P. echinatus*.

Polymorphic simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers, also known as microsatellites, are useful molecular markers for fisheries population and conservation genetic studies due to their levels of intraspecific variability in many taxa, a consequence of the high mutation rate of these noncoding regions (Wright and Bentzen 1994). As no molecular markers have been identified in *P. echinatus* until now and the species has limited genomic information, it seems, therefore, an efficient alternative for microsatellite discovery and subsequent PCR primer design to use genome assembled Illumina paired-end DNA sequences via next-generation sequencing (NGS) technology (Abdelkrim *et al.* 2009).

In this study we have isolated and characterized a set of 20 SSR markers of trinucleotide and tetranucleotide motifs from *P. echinatus* using NGS.

Materials and methods

An Illumina paired-end library was created using 1 ng of *P. echinatus* genomic DNA, following the standard protocol of the Illumina Nextera XT Library Preparation kit (Illumina, San Diego, USA). DNA was tagged and fragmented by the Nextera XT transposome, followed by limited-cycle PCR amplification, AMPure XP magnetic-bead purification (Agencourt Bioscience, Beverly, USA) and the Illumina Nextera XT bead-based normalization protocol. The DNA library was sequenced using a MiSeq Benchtop Sequencer (Illumina, San Diego, USA). Contigs were created from the resulting paired-end sequence data (reads) using CLC Genomics Workbench 7.0.4 (Qiagen).

All these contigs were subsequently input into Microsatellite Search Building Database (MSDB) (https://github.com/lmdu/msdb; Du et al. 2013) for the detection of possible microsatellite loci with at least four repeats for trinucleotide and tetranucleotide motifs and designing of primer pairs for each detected locus at their flanking regions. Sequences with long mononucleotide repeat stretches were ignored for marker development. Primer design was performed with the Primer3 (Rozen and Skaletsky 2000).

A total of 42 individuals were sampled from three different localities within the central Atlantic Islands of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks (0° 55′ 2″ N, 29° 20′ 44″ W; 15 individuals), The Rocas Atoll (3° 51′ 50″ S, 33° 48′ 48″ W;

15 individuals), and Cape Verde (14° 55′ 0″ N, 23° 31′ 0″ W; 12 individuals). Genomic DNA was isolated from the pereiopod (walking legs) muscle using phenol–chloroform–isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1) extraction of the SDS/proteinase-K-digested tissue, followed by ethanol precipitation (Sambrook *et al.* 1989). DNA extracts from these samples were used to validate all designed primer pairs via PCR.

Reactions were performed in a 10 μ L total volume containing ~ 20 ng of genomic DNA, with 1.5 μ L of 10× buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA), 2 to 2.5 mM MgCl₂ (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 10 mM dNTP mix (New England BioLabs), 0.25 mM of each primer, 2.0 μ L de Q-solution (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), and 1 U of Taq DNA polymerase (Thermo Scientific). All amplifications were run in a Veriti 96-well Thermal Cycler (Applied Biosystems) using the following PCR-cycle conditions: 95°C for 10 min, 30× (1 min at 95°C, 1 min at annealing temperature of 50–57°C depending on primer pair, 1 min at 72°C), and 7 min at 72°C. The amplification products were screened by silver nitrate detection on denatured 6% polyacrylamide gels.

The genotyped data was initially analysed using Micro-Checker 2.2.3 (van Oosterhout *et al.* 2004) to test for the presence of null alleles, large alleles dropout and scoring errors by stuttering. Observed and expected heterozygosities ($H_{\rm O}$ and $H_{\rm E}$), the number of alleles (A), and the polymorphic information content (PIC) were determined using Cervus 3.0 (Kalinowski *et al.* 2007). Allelic richness ($A_{\rm R}$) as a measure of the number of alleles per locus independent of the population size was calculated by FSTAT version 2.9.3.2 (Goudet 1995). Deviations from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) and tests for linkage disequilibrium were conducted using Genepop software (Raymond and Rousset 1995). The Bonferroni correction was applied when multiple pair-wise tests were performed to assess the significance (P < 0.05).

Results and discussion

The genomic library, previously loaded as 16% of a MiSeq Reagent Kit v2 300 cycle sequencing run, produced 3,232,259 reads, which were assembled into 7196 contigs. The software MSDB identified 2959 microsatellite loci, being in the majority mononucleotide (1290; 43.60%) and dinucleotide (1280; 43.26%) repeats. For ease of imaging and scoring, we chose to examine only trinucleotide and tetranucleotide loci, respectively showing 221 (7.47%) and 107 (3.61%) repeats. From these, 27 loci were chosen for primer designing and validation of which 20 consistently amplified specific bands across individuals. Polymorphism was identified in 17 loci across the entire data set, the remaining three loci being monomorphic (*Pech*18, *Pech*19 and *Pech*20) (table 1).

 Table 1. Characteristics of 20 microsatellite loci developed in P echinatus.

Locus	Primer sequence (5′-3′)	Core motif	$T_a(^{\circ}\mathrm{C})$	A	Size range [§] (bp)	GenBank number
Pech1	F: AAGCAGAACTCACCGTA	(CTA) ₁₁	55	5	119–146	KX237634
Pech2	F. TOTOTAGE AT A AT A A CO.	(CTG) ₉	55	9	109–115	KX237635
Pech3	K: CIGITOTION TO CONTROL E. CONTR	(GATA) ₁₂	57	9	118–134	KX237636
Pech4	K: CIAACIOCITICITAACIOCCI F: GGGCCTTTTTCC B: GTGGGGGAATAGATTAATA	$(ATA)_{12}$	57	∞	183–196	KX237637
Pech5	K: GICCAGGGCAAGAIIGIGAIA F: GTGTGTGTGTGTTTGTGTGTA	(TCTG) ₈	55	5	96–114	KX237638
Pech6	K: CACACCTAIACGAGI CAAAAGGAA F: CACATCTTAAAAGCAGCAACG B: CACACAACAAAAGCAACAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	$(ATA)_{15}$	55	9	134–158	KX237639
Pech7	K: GAGGAAGAAGGGGTTCAAA F: AGAGGCAAAGGGGTTCAA	(ATCT) ₆	55	5	118–150	KX237640
Pech8	K: IAIACCACCAICACCAIA F: TATTCTTCTTCGTCCCC	$(TCT)_{14}$	55	3	117–123	KX237641
Pech9	F: CTATCTATCTATCTTTAACGC	$(TATA)_7$	55	9	72–86	KX237642
Pech10	K: GTTTTCGTCTCCTTTCCTGTGA F: TGTGTGGTGAGAGGAGAGTTGA B: CTCCAAACCATATGTTCAAACCAC	(GATA) ₈	56	2	78–86	KX237643
Pech11	K. CIOGAAAOGAIAIOIICAAAGGAG F. TCAGGTGGACTGGACAAG B. CATATATATATATATATATATATATATATATATATATAT	$(TAA)_4N(TAA)_{10}$	52	5	190–211	KX237644
Pech12	K: CATACLATICALIALIALIALIALIALIALIALIALIALIALIALIALIA	$(ATA)_{17}$	52	9	99–117	KX237645
Pech13	K: ITAICALIAGIAICALIAIGAICAL F: CATAACGTGATGATGATGATGGTG B: CACAACACGTAAAAACTCCA	$(ATA)_{10}$	57	5	101–107	KX237646
Pech14	K: GAGAAGAGIACI AAACI CACI GGC F: TTTGCTTGTGTGGCAAGATAC B: ACTGCOCOCCATTATA A ACTTATA	$(ATA)_{13}$	57	7	160–178	KX237647
Pech15	K: ACICCOCCCIIGIIIIAAGIII F: GTATTGGTGCACTGGTTATGTG	(TTA) ₁₅	55	9	162–194	KX237648
Pech16	K: IGAIGAIGAIGAIGAIGA F: GCTTTCAGTATATCTACTG B: CATACAGAGAGAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	(TATC)11	55	9	87–107	KX237649
Pech17	K: GAIAGAIAAACAGAGAAIAGAIAAA F: GCTGCCCAAGCATATTT	(TATT)9	55	4	190–214	KX237650
Pech18	K: CIGAAIGAGIACCIGCGIGC F: CTCTCTCTATCTATCTATC B: TCCCCTATCTATATATATATATATATATATATATATATA	$(TATC)_{11}(TCTA)_{17}$	99		175	KX237651
Pech19	K: 100CAICAGAGGIAIAGAAAGACA F: CCCACCACCATTGTTATTATCATC	(TAA) ₁₄	52	П	136	KX237652
Pech20	R: IGGGAAACAGCATCATGTA F: CGGGAAGATGTGTAGTGCAA	(TAA) ₂₇	57		194	KX237653

\$ observed distribution of alleles at each locus; $T_{\rm a}$, annealing temperature; A, number of alleles.

Table 2.	Variability of 17 microsatellite loci and frequency of null
alleles P.	echinatus populations.

	All populations $(n = 42)$							
Locus	A_{R}	H_{O}	$H_{\rm E}$	PIC	P_{HWE}	$F_{ m IS}$	F _{Nulls}	
Pech1	3.6	0.667	0.656	0.583	0.2629	-0.0718	-0.0112	
Pech2	4.0	0.595	0.660	0.589	0.1778	0.0806	0.0345	
Pech3	3.9	0.395	0.654	0.583	0.0006*	0.3998	0.1522	
Pech4	4.5	0.472	0.698	0.644	0.0004*	0.3155	0.1278	
Pech5	4.2	0.564	0.683	0.628	0.0616	0.1261	0.0656	
Pech6	4.7	0.415	0.755	0.704	0.0000*	0.4051	0.1899	
Pech7	3.3	0.424	0.493	0.439	0.3548	0.0820	0.0414	
Pech8	2.4	0.095	0.293	0.266	0.0000*	0.8609	0.1504	
Pech9	4.0	0.524	0.618	0.568	0.2030	0.1431	0.0542	
Pech10	1.8	0.214	0.194	0.173	1.0000	-0.0943	-0.0193	
Pech11	4.4	0.281	0.730	0.672	0.0000*	0.5892	0.2543	
Pech12	3.8	0.469	0.515	0.470	0.1240	0.0639	0.0256	
Pech13	3.5	0.524	0.616	0.538	0.1258	0.1517	0.0527	
Pech14	6.2	0.595	0.842	0.811	0.0005*	0.2696	0.1293	
Pech15	3.9	0.118	0.549	0.506	0.0000*	0.7747	0.2746	
Pech16	4.8	0.405	0.696	0.652	0.0010*	0.4045	0.1666	
Pech17	2.6	0.357	0.343	0.306	0.6560	-0.0275	-0.0140	
Mean	3.8	0.418	0.587	0.537	_	0.2528	_	

 $A_{
m R}$, allelic richeness; $H_{
m O}$, observed heterozygosity; $H_{
m E}$, expected heterozygosity; PIC, polymorphic information content; $P_{
m HWE}$, probabilities of departure from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (adjusted critical P < 0.0029); * significant Hardy–Weinberg disequilibrium; $F_{
m Nulls}$, null allele frequency.

The analysis with the program Micro-Checker showed in a pool of sampled individuals the presence of low-to-moderate frequencies of null alleles in these loci which is not surprising as this is commonly observed in a variety of marine invertebrate species (Kaukinen et al. 2004; Dailianis et al. 2011). Null frequencies below 0.2 are acceptable in most microsatellite datasets (Dakin and Avise 2004). Only in two loci (Pech11 and Pech15) this estimate was higher than 0.2. The most probable reason for occurrence of this phenomenon being scoring errors due to stuttering or large allele drop out. No loci showed significant linkage disequilibrium between any pair of loci after corrections for multiple comparisons.

The genotyping of the entire dataset (N=42), with an overall frequency of missing single locus genotypes of 0.021 has also revealed 91 alleles at all 17 polymorphic loci, ranging from 2 (Pech10) to 8 (Pech4), with an average of 5.4 ± 1.4 alleles per locus (table 1). The number of alleles at trinucleotide and tetranucleotide microsatellites in spiny lobsters has been reported to vary from 5.3 for Brazilian P. argus (Diniz et al. 2005) to 11.9 for P. cygnus (Kennington et al. 2010).

The size of alleles in the most polymorphic locus, Pech14, based on A_R , H_E and PIC varied from 160 to 178. For the less polymorphic locus, Pech10, allele size ranged from 78 to 86 bp; a trinucleotide and tetranucleotide motif locus, respectively.

The level of polymorphism of each locus was also evaluated by the allelic richness (A_R) , heterozygosities (H) and the polymorphic information content (PIC) (table 2). The values of allelic richness varied from 1.8 to 6.2 (average of 3.9 \pm 1.0), while PIC values ranged between 0.173 and 0.811. Mean PIC (0.537 \pm 0.165) characterize this set of microsatellite loci as highly informative markers, as defined by Botstein et al. (1980). Overall mean observed and expected heterozygosity was estimated to be 0.418 ± 0.165 and 0.587 ± 0.173 , respectively. These estimates were higher when compared to mean $H_{\rm O}$ (0.265) and $H_{\rm E}$ (0.387) of the scalloped spiny lobster (*P. homarus*) genotyped with microsatellite markers (Delghandi et al. 2015). However, P. echinatus heterozygosities were of lower magnitude when compared to other spiny lobsters, such as P. argus (Diniz et al. 2004, 2005; Tringali et al. 2008), P. cygnus (Kennington et al. 2010), P guttatus (Truelove et al. 2015), P. interruptus (Ben-Horin et al. 2009), and P. ornatus (Liu et al. 2013). Except for P. ornatus, all these lobster species belong to the same evolutionary lineage as indicated by mtDNA phylogeny (Ptacek et al. 2001).

Eight microsatellite loci exhibited significant probabilities of departure from HWE expectations after sequential Bonferroni correction, adjusted critical P < 0.0029. In these cases, the deviations occurred in the form of heterozygote deficiency, perhaps resulting from the small sample size or, considering the potential for extensive gene

flow in this species, the Wahlund effect (Johnson and Black 1984). Additionally, null alleles, even in low frequencies could have played an important part in the departures of HWE.

In this study, we report the isolation, using the NGS technology, and characterization of 17 polymorphic microsatellite loci for the brown spiny lobster *P. echinatus*. These microsatellites have demonstrated potential for population-level genetic studies and can provide valuable information on the genetic variation and stock structure of this lobster species. Therefore, we expect that these molecular markers will help to obtain the necessary information for developing conservation and management strategies for this highly valuable fishery species.

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