

國王企鵝 (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*) 性別鑑定

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摘要：台北市立動物園於 89 年先後進口國王企鵝共十四隻。由於企鵝和大多數的鳥類一樣，很難由外觀來判定性別，而且其繁殖是一夫一妻制，為了有效繁殖及便於管理，個體的性別鑑定有其必要性。本研究嘗試以分子生物技術來鑑別國王企鵝的性別，此法乃基於鳥類性染色體上的"染色體解螺旋酶 DNA 結合基因" (chromo-helicase-DNA-binding, CHD gene) 的差異性。在雌鳥的性染色體為 ZW，雄鳥為 ZZ。而 CHD-W 基因位在 W 染色體上，因此只見於雌性；另一 CHD-Z 基因則位在 Z 染色體上，因此同時存在於兩種性別。本研究中，我們以一組特定的引子，利用聚合酶連鎖反應 (PCR) 的技術，將此兩個 CHD-W 與 CHD-Z 基因當中的一插入序列 (intron) 增殖出來，而此插入序列的長度在 CHD-W 及 CHD-Z 基因上通常是不同的。當經由電泳膠檢測時可見雄性只有一條 CHD-Z 的區帶，而雌性會出現第二條不同的 CHD-W 的區帶。據我們所知，這是目前將此法應用在國王企鵝性別鑑定的首篇報告。成功地鑑別企鵝的性別，將有助於動物園訂定繁殖策略。

關鍵字：性別鑑定，性染色體，染色體解螺旋酶 DNA 結合基因，聚合酶連鎖反應

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Sex Identification of King Penguin (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*)

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Abstract: Taipei City Zoo imported 14 King penguins (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*) in 2000. Same as most avian species, gender of penguin is hard to be determined based on morphological traits. In order to breed and manage, individual sex identification is necessary. This research was conducted to determine the gender of the 14 King penguins by using a molecular biological method. It is based on the CHD (chromo-helicase-DNA-binding) genes that are located on the avian sex chromosomes. The sex chromosomes of female birds are ZW, whereas males are ZZ. The CHD-W gene is located on W chromosome, therefore it is unique to females. The other gene, CHD-Z, is found on the Z chromosome and therefore occurs in both sexes. Within the both genes, we employed PCR with a specific pair of primers flanking an intron whose length usually differs between CHD-W and CHD-Z. When examined on a gel, there is a single CHD-Z band in males but females have a second, distinctive CHD-W band. To our knowledge, this is the first report of molecular sexing of the penguin species. This molecular sexing could be an efficient method to apply in breeding programs of penguins.

Key words: sex identification, sex chromosome, CHD gene, PCR

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