

PROTEIN EXPRESSION PROFILE from the *MESOCESTOIDES CORTI*
(PLATYHELMINTHES: CESTODA) LARVAL STAGE

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Mesocestoides corti is a model parasite cestode, closely related to parasites from genera of medical and veterinary relevance, such as *Echinococcus* and *Taenia*. We are studying *M. corti* strobilization process (body segmentation and proglotization), which takes place in the passage from the larval (tetrathyridium) to the adult stage. To elaborate a tetrathyridia proteomic map, we have used two-dimension gel electrophoresis (2DE) followed by protein identification by mass spectrometry (MS). Tetrathyria were obtained from experimentally infected mice and cultured *in vitro* for 72h prior to preparation of protein extracts. To establish the tetrathyridia 2DE profile (3-10 pH range), two independent gels from each of three independent cultures were run. Resolved spots were analysed by MALDI-TOF MS, allowing the identification of 11 proteins by mass fingerprinting, using the MASCOT 2.1 software. The same approach will be used to comparatively analyze tetrathyridia after segmentation induction and segmented worms, in order to identify proteins differentially expressed during strobilization. (Supported by FAPERGS, CNPq, and CAPES)