

TRANSCRIPTOME OF *TRITOMA INFESTANS* SALIVARY GLANDS

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Triatoma infestans is one of the most important vectors of Chagas Disease in Latin America, feeding on vertebrate blood in all life stages. Hematophagous insects' salivary glands produce potent pharmacological compounds that counteract host hemostasis, including anti-clotting, anti-platelet, and vasodilatory molecules. To obtain a further insight into the salivary biochemical and pharmacological complexity of this insect, a cDNA library was randomly sequenced. Also, salivary proteins were submitted to 2D gel electrophoresis followed by MS analysis. We present the analysis of a set of 1,534 salivary gland cDNA sequences, 645 of which coding for proteins of a putative secretory nature. Most salivary proteins described as lipocalins – 55% of the transcripts coding for putative secreted proteins – matched peptides sequences obtained from proteomic results. We expect this work will contribute with new salivary transcripts that could help the understanding of the role of salivary molecules in host/vector interactions and the discovery of novel pharmacologic agents. Key words: Salivary glands, transcriptome, *Triatoma infestans*.

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