ANALYSIS OF GENE EXPRESSION IN THE TERMITE *COPTOTERMES GESTROI* (ISOPTERA: RHINOTERMITIDAE).

Leonardo, F. C[1]. , Cunha, A. F[2]. , da Silva, M. J[3]. , Carazzolle, M. F[1]. , Costa, F. F[2]. , Pereira, G. A. G[1].

[1] Laboratório de Genômica e Expressão, Departamento de Genética e Evolução, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas Brazil; [2]Centro de Hematologia e Hemoterapia, Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas , São Paulo, Brazil; [3] Laboratório Genoma, Centro de Biologia Molecular e Engenharia Genética, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil.

Coptotermes gestroi is a severe pest termite introduced in the southeast region of Brazil. This species establish its colony underground compromising the whole building structure, being responsible for million-dollar damages in the urban area. To date, very little is known about the molecular aspects of this species and this knowledge is essential to face it, as a pest, or to employ it, as a provider of enzymes for biotechnology. The main objective of this study was to prospect genes expressed by this specie. To do that, a cDNA library of the worker's heads of *C. gestroi* was produced and 993 sequences were obtained and assembly by CAP3 into 136 contigs and 60 singlets. A hundred ESTs had similarity with known sequences. Here we report the identification and interpretation of several sequences that appear to be potentially involved in a number of important biological processes or could be used in biotech.