

Genomic Exploration of the Nautilus' Shell Matrix Hydrophilic Proteins: An Insight To Their Evolution in Mollusks

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The presence of a calcium-carbonate-based shell is a defining feature of most members of Mollusca. Thus, research on the genomic aspects of biomineralization of this group is interesting, since the resulting knowledge can be useful for understanding their evolutionary success. Interestingly, most members of cephalopods have secondarily lost their external mineralized shells. The nautiloids, however, is one of the two extant cephalopod groups still maintaining their true shells. Phylogenetically, the nautiloids had diverged from the ancestors of non-shelled, extant cephalopods (Neocoleoidea) in the mid-Paleozoic (Silurian/Devonian boundary, ± 416 MYA), older than the split between ammonoids and neocoleoids. This makes studies on nautiloid shell biomineral-proteins important and interesting, since insights from the nautiloids might shed light on how shell internalization and de-mineralization events evolved in cephalopods, while at the same time, might help to elucidate the evolution and identification of core components of mollusk shell biomineralization proteins, through comparisons with other molluscan biomineral-related protein data. In this talk, we are reporting our result of the genomic explorations to identify biomineralization-related proteins in the nautiloid *Nautilus pompilius*. To do so in our research, we first determined the total transcriptome sequences from the mantle tissue using pyrosequencing, while simultaneously did a total proteome analysis of the shell's hydrophilic proteins by orbital-trap mass-spectrometry. We then conducted a transcriptome-proteome comparative analysis in order to identify the hydrophilic components of shell biomineral-related proteins in the Nautilus, where we identified 51 distinct shell specific EST/proteins sequences. In the talk, we are also going to discuss how the findings provide an insight to the study of the evolution of mollusk shell biomineralization.

Keywords: Shell matrix protein, Nautilus, Transcriptome, Proteome, Biomineralization