

Comprehensive identification of shell matrix proteins in brachiopods

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Brachiopods are marine invertebrates that appeared in the Cambrian, and they have two shells like bivalves composed of calcium carbonate or calcium phosphate. Shells contain organic matrix, which have important roles in the biomineralization processes. Recently, many shell matrix proteins in molluscs have been identified, and their roles in shell formation have been discussed. On the other hand, shell matrix proteins in brachiopods have not been identified, except for partial amino acid sequences of a chromoprotein, named ICP-1. In this study, we performed comprehensive identification of shell matrix proteins of the brachiopod *Laqueus rubellus* using proteomics combined with transcriptomics. As a result, we identified a total of 18 shell matrix proteins. BlastP search showed that these proteins have no homologues in skeletal proteins identified from other phylum, suggesting that brachiopod and mollusc shells are different in origin.