

# Identification of Metallothionein in *Pleurodeles waltl*

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The characterization of metallothionein in the Urodele amphibian species *Pleurodeles waltl* was achieved. A simple and rapid method for identification of metallothionein, based on its strong affinity for cadmium (<sup>109</sup>Cd), was used. We were able to show that metallothionein is constitutively synthesized in liver, ovary and brain. The property of metallothionein to strongly bind essential (Zn, Cu) as well as toxic (Cd, Hg) metals is consistent with a dual role in cellular metabolism, *i.e.* homeostasis and detoxification of heavy metal ions.