

Cloning and Expression of *Taxus* Acyltransferase cDNA

Jun Tu, Ping Zhu*, Ke-di Cheng*, and Jiangguo Liu

Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College, 1 Xian Nong Tan Street, Beijing 100050, P. R. China. Fax: +86-10-6301 7757.

E-mail: zhuping@imm.ac.cn; chengkd@imm.ac.cn

* Authors for correspondence and reprint requests

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A new full-length acyltransferase cDNA was obtained from *Taxus chinensis* by homology-based cloning strategy. The cDNA has an open-reading frame of 1,275 nucleotides, which encodes 425 amino acids with a calculated molecular weight of 47,241 Da and an estimated pI value of 5.93. The deduced amino acid sequence resembles the sequences of other cloned acyltransferases (56–61% identity; 71–75% similarity) involved directly in taxol biosynthetic pathways. This cDNA was expressed in *Escherichia coli* using the expression vector pET-32a(+). The expression band corresponds to the calculated mass plus the N-terminal fusion protein derived from the vector.

Key words: *Taxus chinensis*, Acyltransferase, Expression in *E. coli*

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