

Identification of Parasporin Genes in Vietnamese Isolates of *Bacillus thuringiensis*

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Four genes encoding parasporins, cytotoxins preferentially killing human cancer cells *in vitro*, were isolated from four Vietnamese strains of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Nucleotide sequence analysis revealed that: (1) three genes fall into the two known classes, *psIAa* and *psIAb*, and (2) another one belongs to *psIAc*, a novel gene class established in this study. Upon proteolytic activation, parasporal protein of the organism with *psIAc* exhibited strong cytotoxic activity against human cancer cells, HeLa and Hep G2, but not to non-cancer normal cells, UtSMC and HC.

Key words: *Bacillus thuringiensis*, Parasporin, *psIAc*