

# Characterization of a Late Expression Gene of *Bombyx mori* Nucleopolyhedrovirus

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*Bombyx mori* nucleopolyhedrovirus (BmNPV) ORF5 (*Bm5*) is a gene present in many lepidopteran nucleopolyhedroviruses (NPVs), but its function is unknown. In this study, *Bm5* was characterized. The transcript of *Bm5* was detected 12–72 h post infection (p.i.). Polyclonal antiserum raised to a His-BM5 fusion protein recognized BM5 in infected cell lysates from 24 to 72 h p.i., suggesting that *Bm5* is a late gene. Immunofluorescence analysis by confocal microscopy showed that the BM5 protein is localized primarily in the cytoplasm. Localization of BM5 in budded virion (BV) and occlusion-derived virion (ODV) by Western analyses demonstrated that BM5 is not a structural protein associated with BV or ODV.

**Key words:** BmORF5, Transcription, Subcellular Location