

# **Skin Secretion and Shedding Is a Good Source for Non-Destructive Genetic Sampling in the Chinese Giant Salamander (*Andrias davidianus*)**

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A non-destructive method of collecting samples for DNA analysis of the Chinese giant salamander is described and validated. DNA was extracted from the skin secretion and shedding using a Chelex-based method, and partial 12S rRNA gene sequences were amplified and sequenced. Sequences from skin secretion and shedding were cross-checked against the reported sequences from liver and were found to be identical. This method provides a non-destructive way of carrying out larger studies of the genetics of rare amphibians and may be of general use for genetic-based field studies of amphibians.

*Key words:* Non-Destructive Sampling, Skin Secretion, Shedding, Genomic DNA