

## Isolation and characterization of mitochondrial DNA from the endangered white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes pallipes*, Lereboullet, 1858



Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) variation in the white-clawed crayfish, *Austropotamobius pallipes pallipes*, was examined by restriction endonuclease analysis of samples obtained from three geographical locations representing two very different habitats : the Crochatiere and the Magot for brooks and the Pinail for ponds. This study used a new type of molecular marker in crayfish. The method of mtDNA extraction was not based on the clear lysate method or on ultracentrifugation and used no end-labelling detection. It is discussed according to the literature about marine crustaceans. MtDNA was digested with 6 endonucleases. The molecule size of the mtDNA of the white-clawed crayfish was approximately  $17750 \pm 580$  base pairs. Two restriction enzymes produced polymorphic digestion patterns, defining a total of three haplotypes (1-3). There was a shared haplotype 2 between individuals among the two brooks. The haplotype 3 was only found in individuals obtained from ponds of Pinail.

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