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Author(s)	MORISHITA, Koji
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DEVELOPMENT AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MURINE MONOCLONAL
ANTIBODIES TO LARVAL *ECHINOCOCCUS MULTILOCCULARIS*

Koji MORISHITA

*Department of Parasitology
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060, Japan*

Murine monoclonal antibodies (MoAbs) against larval *Echinococcus multilocularis* were produced and characterized. Five kinds of MoAbs were obtained, and they were tentatively named Em1, Em2, Em3, Em4 and Em5. The first four of them were IgG antibodies and the last one was an IgM antibody. Sections of *E. multilocularis* paraffin-blocks were stained with MoAbs. Em1, Em3 and Em4 reacted with excretory ducts and epithelia of cysts. Em2 reacted with all of the tissues tested except for the tegument of the protoscoleces and the laminated layer, while Em5 reacted with excretory ducts, the tegument of the protoscoleces and around the hooks. In Western blotting, the antigen bound to Em5 had a molecular weight of 27.2 KDa, and many antigens in the range 37~90 KDa bound to Em2. With Em1, Em3 and Em4, no bands were visualized. All MoAbs except Em5 were tested with ELISA using various antigens from other parasites. Em1, Em3 and Em4 were specific to *E. multilocularis*, while Em2 cross-reacted with *Taenia hydatigena* and *Toxocara canis*.