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A novel effector caspase (Caspase-3/7-1) involved in the regulation of immune homeostasis in Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	A novel effector caspase (Caspase-3/7-1) involved in the regulation
2	of immune homeostasis in Chinese mitten crab Eriocheir sinensis
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13	Abstract
14	Caspases are a conserved family of cysteine proteases characterized by specificity
15	for aspartic acid and play an essential role in cell apoptosis. In the present study, a
16	novel effector caspase (designated as EsCaspase-3/7-1) was identified from Chinese
17	mitten crab Eriocheir sinensis. The open reading frame of EsCaspase-3/7-1 cDNA
18	was of 972 bp, encoding a polypeptide of 323 amino acids. EsCaspase-3/7-1
19	contained an N-terminal prodomain and a conservative C-terminal CASc domain
20	with the conserved active site "QACRG". The mRNA transcripts of EsCaspase-3/7-1
21	were constitutively expressed in all the examined tissues with high expression level in
22	hemocytes, hepatopancreas and gill. The EsCaspase-3/7-1 protein was mainly

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