

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0145-305X(17)30027-7

DOI: [10.1016/j.dci.2017.09.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dci.2017.09.013)

Reference: DCI 2987

To appear in: *Developmental and Comparative Immunology*

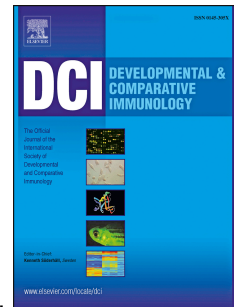
Received Date: 16 January 2017

Revised Date: 30 August 2017

Accepted Date: 14 September 2017

Please cite this article as: Li, Z., Liu, X., Liu, J., Zhang, K., Yu, H., He, Y., Wang, X., Qi, J., Wang, Z., Zhang, Q., Transcriptome profiling based on protein–protein interaction networks provides a core set of genes for understanding blood immune response mechanisms against *Edwardsiella tarda* infection in Japanese flounder (*Paralichthys olivaceus*), *Developmental and Comparative Immunology* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.dci.2017.09.013.

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Transcriptome profiling based on protein–protein interaction networks provides a core set of genes for understanding blood immune response mechanisms against *Edwardsiella tarda* infection in Japanese flounder (*Paralichthys olivaceus*)

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Abstract

Marine organisms are commonly under threat from various pathogens. *Edwardsiella tarda* is one of the fish pathogens that can infect both cultured and wild fish species. *E. tarda* can also infect other vertebrates, including amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Bacteremia caused by *E. tarda* can be a fatal disease in humans. Blood acts as a pipeline for the fish immune system. Generating blood transcriptomic resources from fish challenged by *E. tarda* is crucial for understanding molecular mechanisms underlying blood immune response process. In this study, we performed transcriptome-wide gene expression profiling of Japanese flounder (*Paralichthys olivaceus*) challenged by 8 and 48 h *E. tarda* stress. An average of 37 million clean reads per library was obtained, and approximately 85.6% of these reads were successfully mapped to the reference genome. In addition, 808 and 1265 differential expression genes (DEGs) were found at 8 and 48 h post-injection, respectively. Gene Ontology (GO) functional enrichment and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and

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