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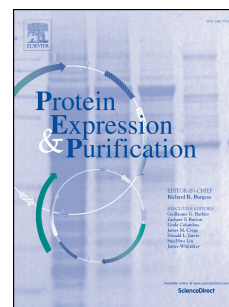
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**Cloning, expression and purification of virB10 protein of *Brucella melitensis* and to evaluate its role as a serological marker for Brucella infection in experimental and natural hosts**

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**Abstract**

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease caused by various species of the genus *Brucella*. The control of disease mainly depends on its accurate and early diagnosis. Culture methods employed for diagnosis are time consuming and require well equipped biosafety level 3 laboratories and hence serological tests are favored alternative for brucellosis diagnosis. At present serological diagnosis is based on LPS (lipopolysaccharide) which is less specific as the LPS antigen of *Brucella* species shows cross reactivity with other gram-negative bacteria. There is a need to develop serological diagnostic assay based on purified recombinant antigen of *Brucella*. T4SS (Type IV Secretion System) is an important virulent factor of *Brucella* and required for infection suggesting their

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