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Molecular Cloning of the Cu, Zn Superoxide Dismutase (SOD1) cDNA from the Spider, *Araneus ventricosus*

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We describe the molecular cloning and mRNA expression of the Cu,Zn superoxide dismutase (SOD1) cDNA from the spider, *Araneus ventricosus*. The SOD1 cDNA of *A. ventricosus* contains an open reading frame of 495 bp encoding 165 amino acid residues. The deduced amino acid sequence of the *A. ventricosus* SOD1 cDNA showed 51% protein sequence identity to *Ceratitis capitata* SOD1 and 50% to SOD1 sequences in both *Drosophila melanogaster* and *Chymomyza amoena*. The *A. ventricosus* SOD1 possesses the typical metal binding ligands of six histidines and one aspartic acid common to SOD1s. Northern blot analysis indicated the presence of *A. ventricosus* SOD1 transcripts in all tissues examined.