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Molecular diversity of *Maurolicus japonicus* from off Korean Peninsula

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Mesopelagic light-fish genus *Maurolicus* considered as monotypic, with bioluminescent species, is widely distributed in all world ocean (Grey, 1960), which is defined by Parine and Kobylansky (1993, 1996) as fifteen species. According to this revision, *M. japonicus* is distributed only in the southern East Sea (Sea of Japan), western north Pacific off Japan, and off Hawaii, while other species have restricted distribution in different ocean basins (Parin and Kobylansky, 1993, 1996). And in molecular approach to species identification between two regional populations of *Maurolicus* (identified as *M. japonicus* and *M. walvisensis*) in the partial 16S rRNA mitochondrial gene sequences, there are found the fixed nucleotide differences and also the molecular diversity (Suneetha et al., 2000). Genetic variability between marine fish population with high dispersal potential is usually expected to be low (Suneetha and Nævdal, 2001). In the present study, we had analyzed the molecular diversity of *M. japonicus* from off Korean Peninsular.