



Salivary transcript expression profiles of *Phlebotomus papatasi*

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Zoonotic cutaneous leishmaniasis is a neglected tropical
disease of public health importance in many rural areas of
Iran. Saliva of phlebotomines consists of different molecules
that are necessary for a sand fly to successfully take a blood
meal. Additionally, previous exposure to sand fly saliva
indirectly affects the establishment of *Leishmania* in vertebrate
hosts. Sand fly saliva has immunomodulatory characteristics
and induces a specific immunity consisting of antibody
production and a cellular immune response. In this study we
defined salivary gland proteins of wild population of
Phlebotomus papatasi with various physiological
characteristics at different seasons, and also the immune
response of *Rhombomys opimus* reservoir host to different
salivary antigens, to understand the natural interaction
between vector, host and parasite in the study area. We also
analyzed the effect of physiological and seasonal
characteristics on the expression profile of sand fly salivary
genes. We hope the findings of this study could be helpful in the
designing of saliva-based vaccine to control the disease. 120
pp. Englisch.

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