



*Research Paper*

## IDENTIFICATION OF NEWLY ISOLATED MICROSPORIDIAN NIK-1Pr CAUSING PEBRINE DISEASE IN SILKWORM *BOMBYX MORI* L., USING CONVENTIONAL PCR TECHNIQUE

**N. J. Kenny<sup>1</sup>, P. Sudhakara Rao<sup>2</sup>, S. D. Sharma<sup>1</sup> and J. Justin Kumar<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Mysore - 570008, India.

<sup>2</sup>Regional Sericultural Research Station, Kodathi, Bangalore - 560035, India.

E-mail: parimi\_rao@yahoo.com

### ABSTRACT

The bio-chemical and PCR analyses for identification of NIK-1Pr, a newly isolated microsporidian strain from *Pieris rapae* were conducted and results compared with the type species, *Nosema bombycis*. The NIK-1Pr was found to infect the commercial silkworms. The protein content in NIK-1Pr was significantly higher when compared with that of *N. bombycis*. The lowest OD recorded was  $2.95 \times 10^{-2}$  and  $1.75 \times 10^{-2}$  in NIK-1Pr and *N. bombycis*, respectively on a concentration of 10  $\mu$ l / ml. The highest OD was observed at a concentration of 1000  $\mu$ l / ml ( $13.15 \times 10^{-2}$  and  $10.80 \times 10^{-2}$ , respectively). To confirm the identity of pathogen as a true microsporidian, the DNA was isolated and tested in a PCR using the universal rRNA primers. The primers generated an expected PCR fragment (1250 bp) and these results clearly suggest that the identified pathogen is in fact a microsporidian isolate and possibly belonging to the genus, *Nosema*. It is concluded that the insect pests associated with mulberry may harbor a number of infective microsporidia thus posing a threat of pebrine infection to commercial silkworms.

**Key words:** *Bombyx mori* L., NIK-1Pr, *Nosema bombycis*, PCR analysis, pebrine.