

SHORT COMMUNICATION

POLYMORPHISM IN A *PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM* MEROZOITE SURFACE PROTEIN GENE IN SRI LANKA DEMONSTRATED BY SOUTHERN HYBRIDISATION

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Abstract: The gene for a 45kDa merozoite surface protein of *Plasmodium falciparum* (GYMSSA) was amplified by the polymerase chain reaction in fifteen blood samples collected from patients in Dambulla, Galewela, Kurunegala and Polgahawela hospitals. The amplified DNA was hybridised in Southern blots to repetitive region-based oligonucleotide probes specific for the two major allelic forms of GYMSSA identified in culture-adapted laboratory lines of *P. falciparum*. The FC27 allelic form of GYMSSA was detected in thirteen blood samples and the 3D7 allelic form in the remaining two samples.