

Supplementary Information for

Multiscale architecture design of 3D printed biodegradable Zn-based porous scaffolds for immunomodulatory osteogenesis

Authors list

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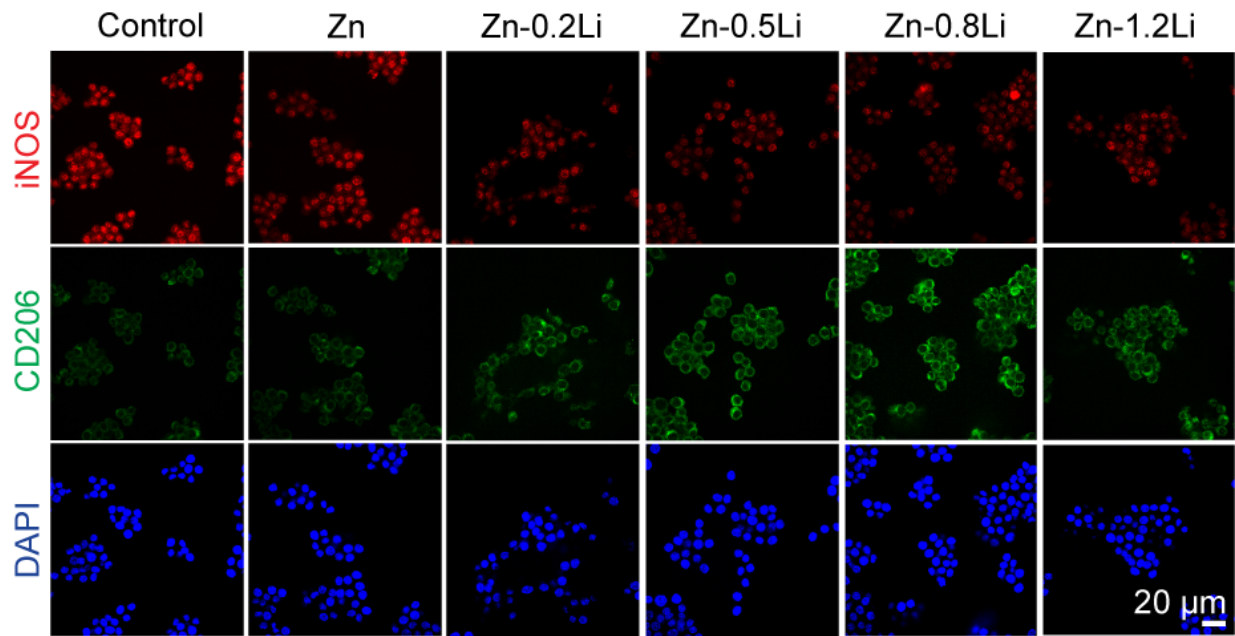


Fig. S1. Immunofluorescence staining of iNOS, CD206, and DAPI of RAW264.7 after co-culture with material extracts for 48h. Each image was acquired independently three times, with similar results.

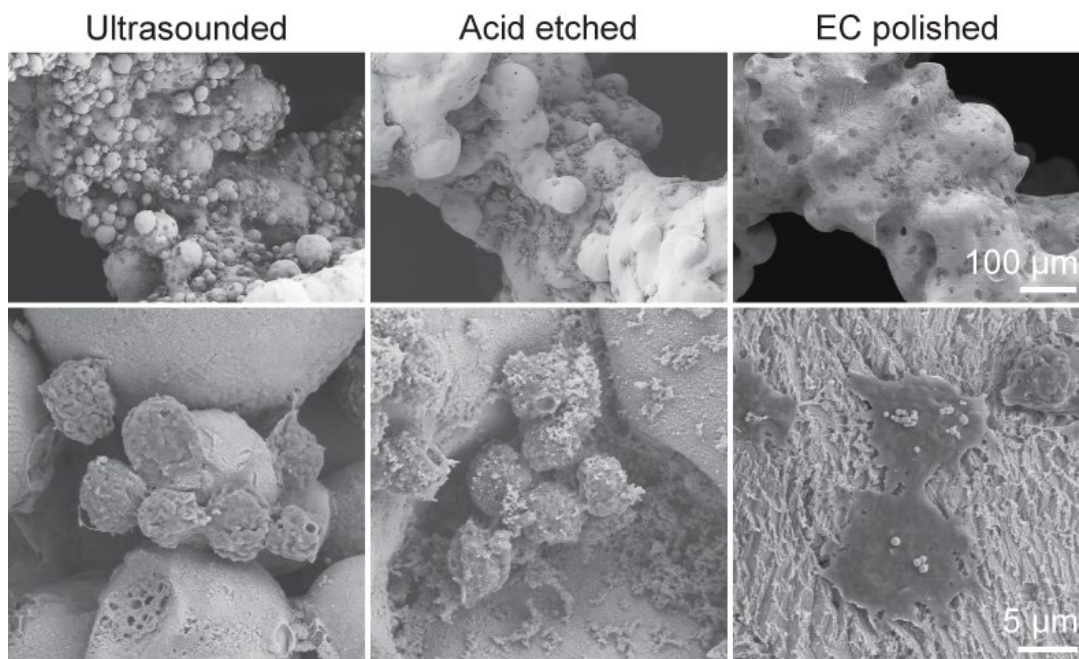


Fig. S2. SEM images of RAW264.7 cells after 6h attachment on different surfaces. Each image was acquired independently three times, with similar results.

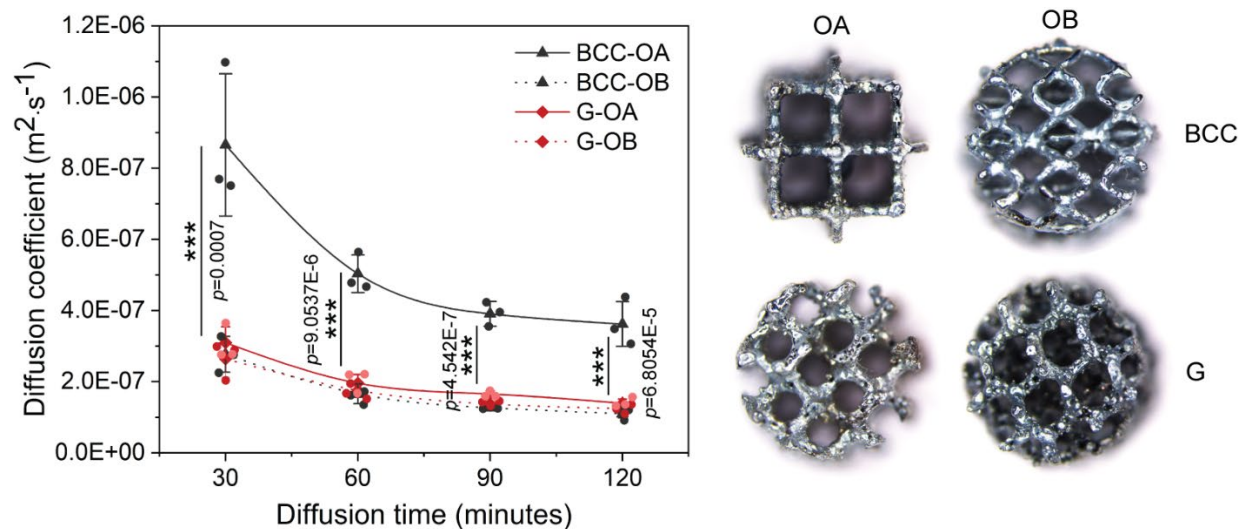


Fig. S3. Diffusion coefficient of Zn ions in scaffolds with BCC and G unit over 120 minutes ($n=3$, independent experiments). Data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation. OA: orientation A, OB: orientation B. P-values are calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.005$.

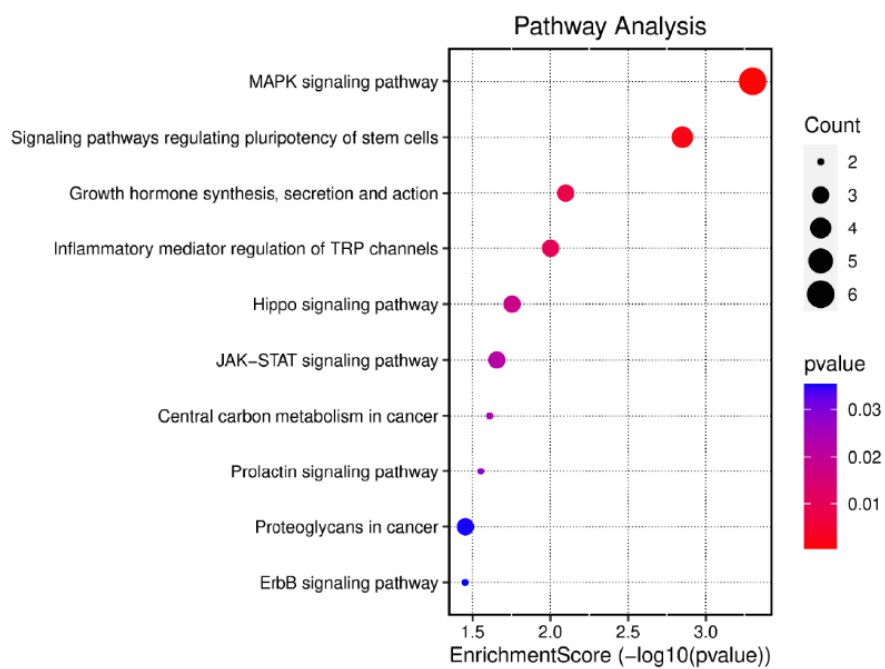


Fig. S4. Enriched KEGG pathway of G scaffold versus control.

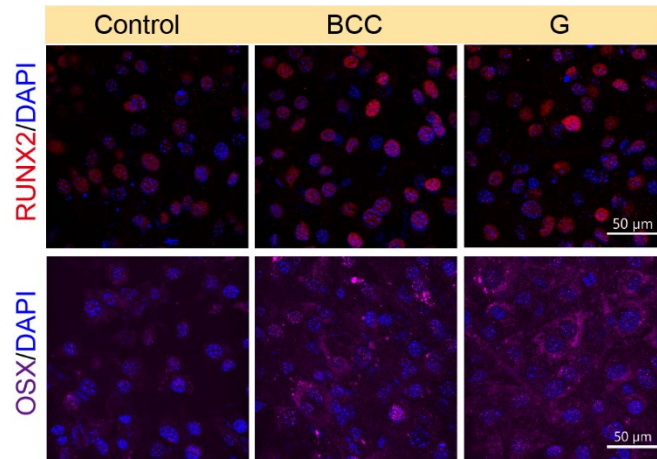


Fig. S5. Runx2 and Osx immunofluorescence staining of MC3T3-E1 cultured in conditioned medium at 7 days. Each image was acquired independently three times, with similar results.

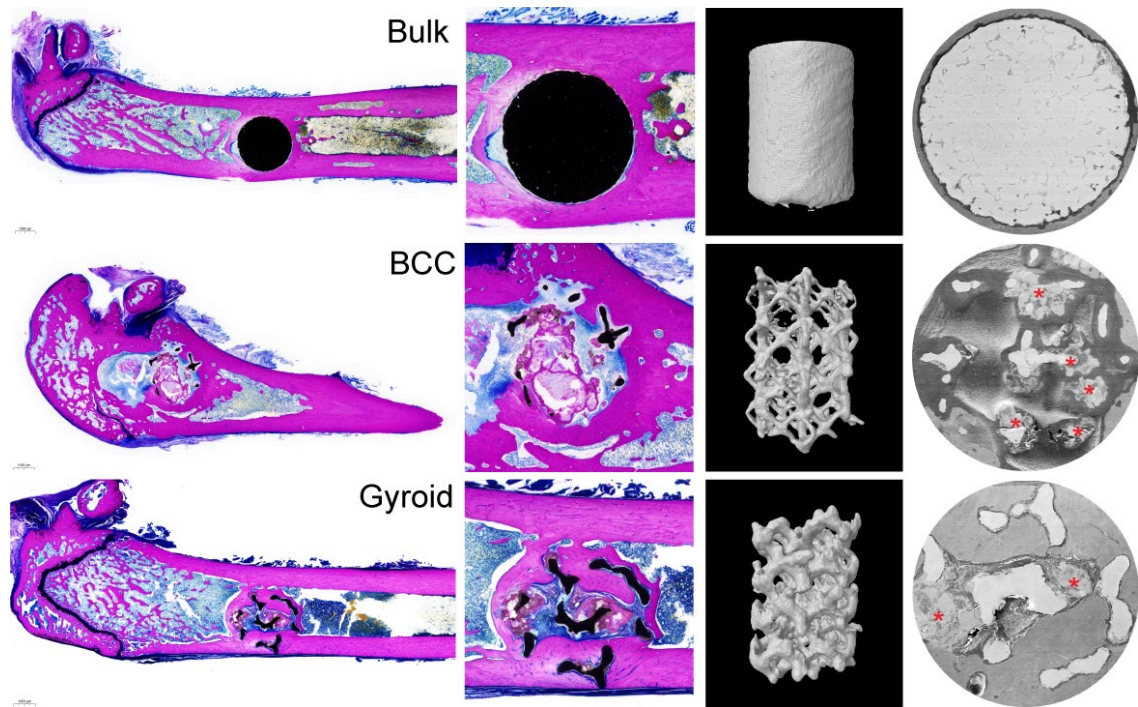


Fig. S6. Comparison of new bone regeneration and degradation between Zn-Li alloy bulk sample and scaffolds at 3 months. Red asterisks indicate scaffold degradation. Each image was acquired independently three times, with similar results.

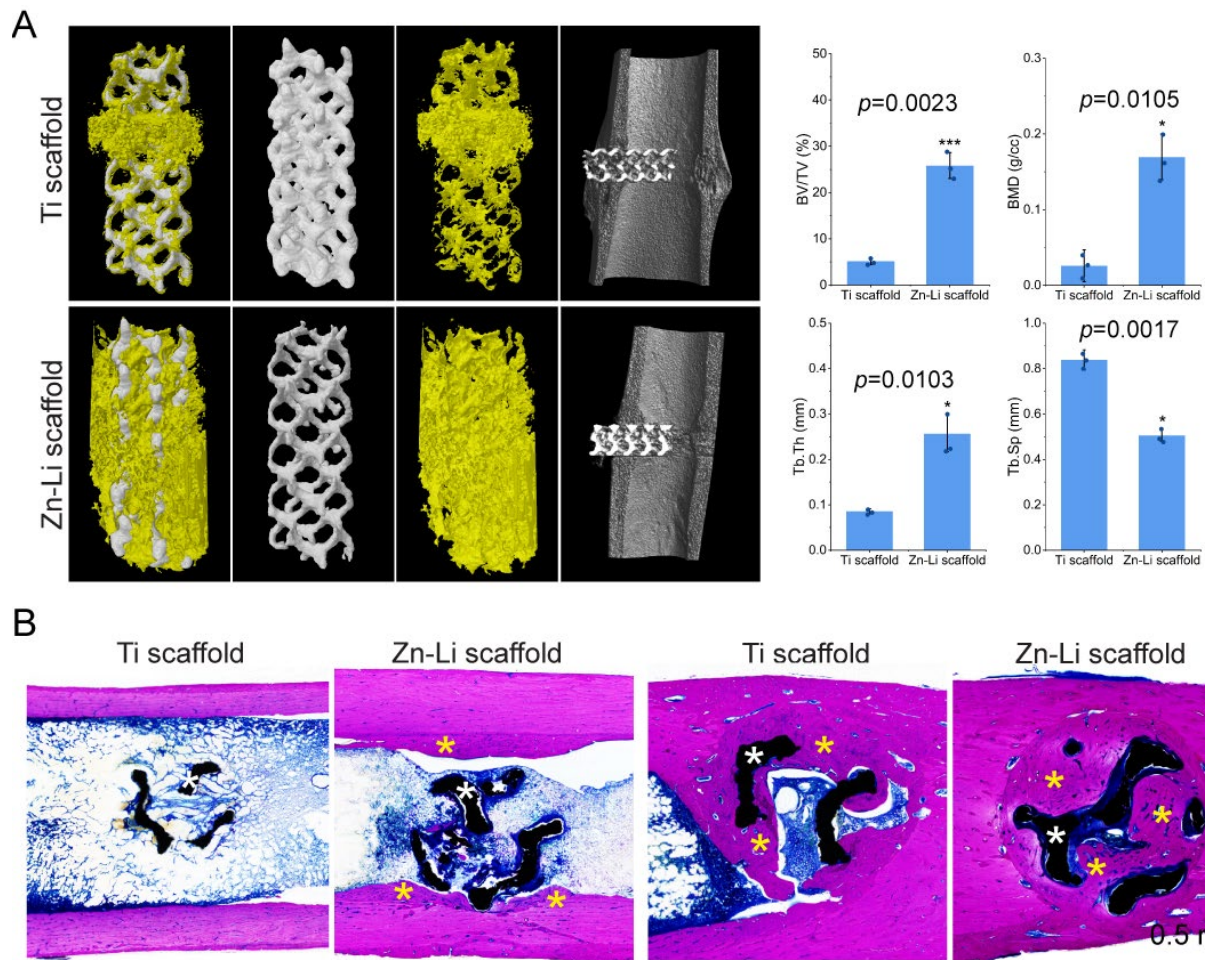


Fig. S7. Bone regeneration comparison between Zn-Li scaffold and Ti scaffold in a critical bone defect rabbit model at 2 months. A Micro-CT reconstruction of new bone tissue and metallic implants with quantitative analysis ($n=3$, independent experiments) of bone volume/tissue volume (BV/TV), bone mineral density (BMD), trabecular thickness (Tb. Th), and trabecular separation (Tb. Sp). New bone is marked in yellow, implants are marked in white. B Methylene blue acid fuchsin staining of bone defect regions. Yellow asterisks indicate newly formed bone, white asterisks are scaffold struts. Data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation. P-values are calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test, $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.005$. Each image was acquired independently three times, with similar results.

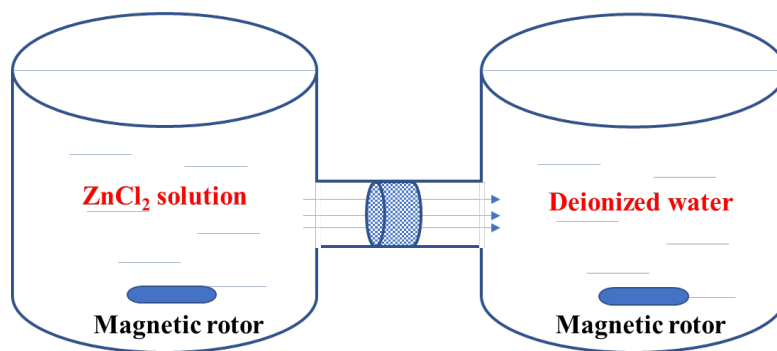


Fig. S8. Schematic diagram of diffusion device.

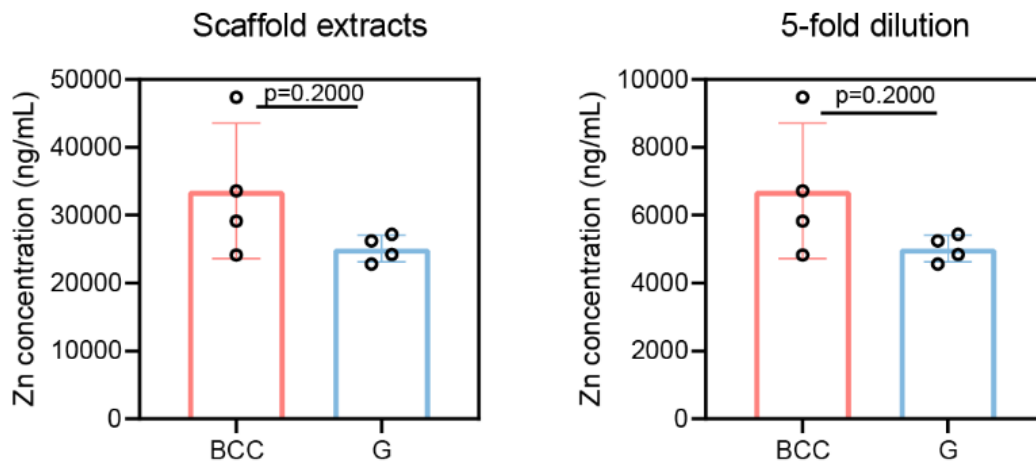


Fig. S9. Zn concentrations of BCC and G scaffold extracts determined by ICP ($n=4$ independent experiments). Data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation. P-values are calculated using one-way ANOVA unpaired t-test with a Mann-Whitney test.

Table S1 Chemical composition of Zn-Li alloys

Nominal composition (wt.%)	Actual composition (wt.%)
Zn-0.2Li	0.239
Zn-0.5Li	0.494
Zn-0.8Li	0.779
Zn-1.2Li	1.36

Table S2. Binding energy of corrosion products detected in Zn-Li alloys after immersion in SBF

Products	Component	Binding energy (eV)	
		Measured	Ref.
ZnO	Zn $2p_{3/2}$	1021.8	1021.9
	O $1s$	530.6	530.8
	Li $1s$	55.0	55.1
Li ₂ CO ₃	C $1s$	289.6	289.6
	O $1s$	530.6	531.4

Table S3. CT-measured structure parameters of Zn-Li scaffolds with different pore unit and size.

Size	Structure characteristics	BCC	G
$\Phi 3 \times 4$ mm	Porosity (%)	88	86
	Pore size (mm)	0.75	0.4
	Strut thickness (mm)	0.4	0.5
	Surface area (mm ²)	78.7	76.08
	Scaffold volume (mm ³)	3.58	3.99
Specific surface area (scaffold) (mm ⁻¹)		21.99	19.04
$\Phi 10 \times 2$ mm	Porosity (%)	90.48	90.34
	Surface area (mm ²)	404.12	353.59
	Volume (mm ³)	15.20	15.14
	Specific surface area (scaffold)	26.6	23.35

Table S4 Comparison of key properties between pure Ti, autologous bone and Zn-Li alloys

Materials	Mechanical properties				Biodegradability	Bioactivity	Printability
	UTS ^b (MPa)	UCS ^c (MPa)	Elongation %	Elastic Modulus (GPa)			
Cortical bone ¹	50-151	130-200	-	7-30	No	Yes	No
Pure Ti (Grade 1-4) ^a	240-550	-	15-24	110	No	No	Yes
Zn-Li alloys	252-780	790-1100 ^{d2}	0-26	100	Yes	Yes	Yes

^aASTM-F67

^b Ultimate tensile strength

^c Ultimate compressive strength

^d Zn-Li alloys have compression super plasticity, the maximum stress before 50% compressive strain was defined as ultimate compressive strength

References

1. Gerhardt, L. C., Boccaccini, A. R. Bioactive glass and glass-ceramic scaffolds for bone tissue engineering. *Materials* **3**, 3867-3910 (2010).
2. Yang, H., Jia, B., Zhang, Z., Qu, X., Li, G., Lin, W., Zhu, D., Dai, K., Zheng, Y. Alloying design of biodegradable zinc as promising bone implants for load-bearing applications. *Nat. commun.* **11**, 1-16 (2020).

Table S5 Primer sequences of migration-related genes for qRT-PCR

Primer	Sequences
<i>iNos</i>	GTTCTCAGCCCAACAATACAAGA GTGGACGGGTCGATGTCAC
<i>Il-1β</i>	GCAACTGTTTCCTGAACTCAACT ATCTTTTGGGGTCCGTCAACT
<i>Tnf-α</i>	CCCTCACACTCAGATCATCTTCT GCTACGACGTGGGCTACAG
<i>Arg1</i>	CTCCAAGCCAAAGTCCTTAGAG AGGAGCTGTCATTAGGGACATC
<i>Il-4</i>	GGTCTCAACCCCCAGCTAGT GCCGATGATCTCTCTCAAGTGAT
<i>Il-10</i>	GCTCTTACTGACTGGCATGAG CGCAGCTCTAGGAGCATGTG
<i>Colla1</i>	GTCCTCTTAGGGGCCACT CCACGTCTCACCATTGGGG
<i>Opg</i>	ACCCAGAAACTGGTCATCAGC CTGCAATACACACACTCATCACT
<i>Opn</i>	ACCCAGAAACTGGTCATCAGC CTGCAATACACACACTCATCAC
<i>Alp</i>	CCAACCTTTTTGTGCCAGAGA GGCTACATTGGTGTTGAGCTTTT
<i>Gapdh</i>	AGGTCGGTGTGAACGGATTTG TGTAGACCATGTAGTTGAGGTCA