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New polymorphic microsatellite markers for California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*)

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Nine microsatellite loci were isolated and characterized from California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*). In addition, two of five loci tested from harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) produced a single, clear band in *Z. californianus*, as did one out of five loci from grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) and one out of two loci from elephant seal (*Mirounga* sp.). No locus tested from South American fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis*) amplified in *Z. californianus*. Locus variability was assessed in California sea lions from Los Islotes rookery, Baja California Sur, Mexico. All loci were variable, with allele numbers ranging from three to 12.

Palabras clave: otariidae, microsatellites, pinniped, *Zalophus californianus californianus*

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