

Odorant-binding proteins (OBPs) are small soluble proteins expressed at high levels in the proximity of olfactory receptors. OBPs act as solubilizers and carriers of the lipophilic odorants in the aqueous mucus of mammals and other vertebrates. OBPs have now been studied nearly thirty years, but in comparison to the wealth of data available on their structural chemistry and molecular biology, our knowledge about gene expression and function of these proteins is still insufficient. This work provides new insights into the tissue specificity of OBP and presents several new sequences of genes governing these proteins in selected species of mice.