

Using a tomato heterologous probe, the ORF 2280 was located on the *Pst*I 9.8 kb fragment in the inverted repeat A (IRA) and on the *Pst*I 12.1 kb fragment in the inverted repeat B (IRB) on the physical map of the chloroplast DNA of the squash cultivars Early Prolific and Bicolor gourd. A fine map of the *Pst*I 9.8 kb fragment was developed using *Sal*I, *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI restriction enzymes. Two ORF 2280 transcripts of 1.4 and 2.6 kbs of the squash plastid DNA were detected in fruits but not in the leaves of Early Prolific using a heterologous *Pst*I 1.2 kb tomato plastid DNA probe internal to ORF 2280. In Bicolor gourd fruits, 1.4 and 2.6 kb ORF 2280 transcripts were detected in both fruits and leaves.