**Table S2.** PCR primers used for the cloning of the cotton PME cDNAs and for quantification of expression levels by quantitative realtime PCR.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Gene** | **Forward primer** | **Reverse primer** |
| Primers used for amplifying partial cotton PMEs from fibre cDNA |
| PME1 | AGAGCAACATAATGTTCATCG | GCAAATCTCAAACCAAACATG |
| PME2 | TGCGTCAATCCTTCTTGTAAC | CAAACTCGATTGCTCGGAA |
| PME3 | ACACCAAGCGGTAGCATT | AACCTCTCTAGTGTTATATGAAAG |
| PME4 | TGTTATTTACATTAAGAAGGGTT | ATGCGCGGTGATGTATTTTT |
| PME5 | ACCGACCCAAACCAGAACAC | GAAGCCTTCAAGGGGATAA |
| Primers used for Q-PCR |
| Gh/GbPME1 | CCTCAACTTCTGCGAGAGTG | CCGCAAAGCAAATCTCAAAC |
| Gh/GbPME2 | GCAGGGTTACATGGAAGGGT | CTTCTTTCAGGTACATTCATGC |
| Gh/GbPME3 | GAATGGAACCAAGATTTTGCTT | ATTGAAGCTGCGTTGATTGC |
| Gh/GbPME4 | GACTCGGACCTCTCAGTTTTCTT | TGAAGGTAATAAGTCCGTATCGG |
| Gh/GbPME5 | ACATATCTAGGGAGGCCATGGA | CCCAGCCAGAAAGTTACCGA |
| Ubiquitin | CCAGAAGGAATCCACTTTGC | CCAGCTCACATCAGCATACG |