

CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the research are:

- 1) Molecular cloning and characterization of nucleic acids encoding asparaginyl endopeptidases, also called legumains (LGMN), from *Fasciola gigantica*.
- 2) Expression and purification of recombinant FgLGMNs in prokaryotic expression systems
- 3) Functional characterization of rFgLGMNs
- 4) Production of polyclonal immune sera against rFgLGMNs
- 5) Identification of native FgLGMNs in immunoblots of parasite antigen preparations and *in situ* by immunohistochemical detection in tissue sections.