



Figure 7. Gene expression in corneas as detected by reverse transcription and real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction. The relative expression levels of each gene in the experimental groups over naïve mice were obtained by the $\Delta\Delta C_t$ method, as detailed in the Methods section. Since the ΔC_t for naïve mice was obtained by comparing C_t with that of reference gene ribosomal protein L5 (RPL5), the expression level for this group also has a standard deviation over 1.0. * $p < 0.05$ ($n=3$) as compared between the two groups. Note (#): Since matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-13 was not detectable in the naïve mice, with the result that the $\Delta\Delta C_t$ method did not work, the relative levels of this gene compared with RPL5 in the experimental groups was obtained by the ΔC_t method.

observations concerning the pathogenesis of *Candida* keratitis obtained with inbred mice to the development of interfering protocols aimed at the prevention or treatment of *Candida* fungal keratitis in humans, the genetic dependence described in this study has to be borne in mind.

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