

Original Research Paper

Determination of the Mutagenicity of 2-aminoanthracene Using Chicken Hepatic S-9 Fraction

¹Vladimir A. Chistyakov, ¹Alexander V. Usatov, ²Aleksander I. Klimenko,
²Maria A. Kolosova, ¹Eugenia V. Prazdnova and ³Alexey V. Tutel'ian

¹Southern Federal University, Rostov-on-Don, 344006, Russia

²Don State Agrarian University, Persianovski, 346493, Russia

³Sechenov University, Moscow, 119991, Russia

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Corresponding Author:

Maria A. Kolosova,
Don State Agrarian University,
Persianovski, 346493, Russia
Email: m.leonovaa@mail.ru

Abstract: The abundance of potential genotoxins makes it necessary to improve microbial test systems that allow to identify these substances quickly. At the same time, the methodology of metabolic activation of promutagens *in vitro* is very important. Microsomal preparations of rodents, which are generally used for that, have significant disadvantages associated with the potential health risks of the inducers of the metabolism of microsomal cytochromes. For the metabolic activation of promutagens, we have developed a protocol of microsomal homogenate fraction (S-9) preparation. We propose to complement the set of methods for quality control of feeds for valuable and rare chicken breeds with the Ames test (*Salmonella*/microsome) using the activated chicken hepatic S-9 homogenate fraction.

Keywords: Ames Test (*Salmonella*/microsome), S-9 Fraction, Genotoxicity, Mutagenicity, Chicken

Introduction

Quality control of feed, mixed fodders and mixed fodder raw materials is an important requirement for increasing productivity in poultry farming (Guerre, 2016). All feed and feed supplements are tested according to standard parameters characterizing its nutritional value, toxicological status and microbiological safety (Komarova, 2013; Turitsyna and Donkova, 2010; Tutel'ian, 2004). However, the feed quality control does not provide the exhaustive analysis of the presence of potential genotoxins, which can result, when using these feeds, in increasing the genetic load in both birds and humans. It is known that both chemical plant protection products and other anthropogenic pollutants can accumulate and cause the development of fodder toxicoses in poultry (Alexandrov, 2000) and, subsequently falling into food, genotoxic (Dubinin, 1977; Kurinny, 1983; Abilev, Glaser, 2015; Kier and Kirkland, 2013), carcinogenic effect and consequently, are a serious threat to human health (Abilev, Glaser, 2015; Poirier, 2016; Lin *et al.*, 2016; Roos *et al.*, 2016).

For screening of potential mutagens for humans, microbial test systems are widely used (Biran *et al.*, 2010). The basis for such an approach was provided by Bruce Ames, author of the *Salmonella*/microsome test. The Ames test is based on the detection of reversion to

the wild type of mutated histidine cells (His-) on a media lacking in histidine (Ames *et al.*, 1975). One of the biggest drawbacks of all bacterial test systems is the lack of the xenobiotics metabolic biodegradation system inherent in vertebrates, so the metabolic activation of the test sample is a mandatory stage of screening using bacterial tests. To capture the contribution of biotransformation to the mutagenicity of xenobiotics, a microsomal fraction of the liver (a supernatant after centrifugation of the liver homogenate at 9000 g, the so-called S-9 fraction) is used. Hepatic S-9 homogenate fraction contains microsomes and cytosol with the main metabolic enzymes of both I and II phases of the metabolism: cytochrome P450, flavin monooxygenase, aldehyde oxidase, glutathione transferase, monoamine oxidase, UDP (uridine 5-diphosphate glucuronosyl transferase) and others.

Typically, for metabolic activation of promutagens, a commercial preparation S-9, obtained from rat liver, is used. However, the metabolism of xenobiotics in birds and mammals is no identical (Hutchinson *et al.*, 2014). In particular, in the 1980s it was demonstrated by the employees of faculty of Genetics at the Leningrad State University (now St. Petersburg State University) that the metabolic features of the chicken liver allow to obtain preparations with a high ability for metabolic activation of promutagens without the induction of birds by

phenobarbital or arochlore (Pavlov *et al.*, 1985). Thus, a standard protocol for the metabolic activation of promutagen using the chicken hepatic S-9 fraction can be a useful addition to a set of genotoxicity control methods.

Materials and Methods

The research was carried out according to the approved conditions at JV «Svetly», which is a structural unit of CJSC «Agrofirma Vostok» (Volgograd region, Russia), the sow farm of the second order for poultry breeding «Highsex Brown». Parent herd of the «Highsex Brown» cross (hatched on August 25, 2016) was obtained from the Sverdlovsk PPR Ltd. (Sverdlovsk Region). Each experimental bird was contained in the cell battery Big Dutchman (Germany). The microclimate parameters were set according to the recommendations of the manufacturer of cross-country «Highsex Brown» company «ISA Hendrix Genetics» (Holland). The birds were fed with the standard mixed fodder manufactured at the feed mill of the company. Feeding of the experimental birds was carried out according to NRC (Subcommittee on Poultry Nutrition, National Research Council (1994) Nutrient Requirements of Poultry: Ninth Revised Edition, National Academy Press, Washington D.C.). In the experiment were taken birds of the age of 133 days, weighing 1.8-2.0 kg. The mutagenic activity was determined by the method of (Mortelmans, Zeiger, 2000).

Statistical Processing of Experimental Data

The statistical significance of the differences was determined by Student's t-test for independent samples at $p < 0.05$.

Ethics of Biological Experiments

Experiments on animals were conducted in accordance with the principles of the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals, used for experiments or for other scientific purposes.

Optimization of the Protocol for Obtaining the Hepatic S-9 Fraction

Five preparations were used to optimize the protocol for the production of the hepatic S-9 fraction.

Preparation №1 was obtained on the basis of rat hepatic S-9 homogenate obtained according to a standard procedure using Arochlore 1254 (Sigma-Aldrich) (Vogel, 2006). The protein content in the preparation is 10 mg/ml (biuret method <http://www.olvex-d.ru/catalog/biohim-nabori/substraty/tovar-71.html>). The final product was stored at a temperature of -80°C , indicated in the standard protocol (Ames *et al.*, 1975).

The quality of the preparation was examined depending on the conditions of its storage. Storage of S-9 fractions is important for the screening of genotoxicants. There is an opinion that enzymes of

microsomal fractions show instability under storage conditions at -20°C and above. For example, some denaturing agents, such as proteases, are active at -20°C (Hubbard *et al.*, 1985). Therefore, the preparation №2 was prepared in a manner similar to that used for preparation №1, except that the finished product was stored at -20°C .

Preparation №3 was prepared according to the following procedure. The birds were decapitated, the blood drained, the carcasses immediately opened, the liver was removed, washed with sterile 0.1 M KCl and placed on ice. The liver was then homogenized in a steel mechanical homogenizer (MPW-302, Poland) for 2 min at 2000 rpm (pre-homogenization) followed by homogenization in a Potter homogenizer with teflon pestle in 9 volumes of 0.15 M NaCl. All homogenization operations were also made on ice. Isolation of the microsomal fraction was carried out by differential centrifugation according to a standard procedure (Abilev and Glaser, 2015). The protein content of the preparation was adjusted to 10 mg/mL, diluted with a homogenization buffer. The final product was stored at -20°C .

Preparation №4 was prepared in a manner similar to that used for preparation №3, except that the final product was stored at -80°C .

Preparation №5 was prepared in a manner similar to that for preparation №3, except that 3% of glycerol was added to the homogenization buffer and the final product was stored at -20°C with glycerol added to a concentration of 30%.

As a standard promutagen requiring metabolic activation, a solution of 2-aminoanthracene (Serva) in DMSO (Sigma-Aldrich) was used at concentrations of 5, 10 and 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. As a negative control, DMSO was added to the plate.

Before use, the preparations were stored for 30 days under the above conditions.

Results

The results of testing the quality of microsomal fractions are shown in Table 1. The activity of preparations №1 and №2, based on the microsomal fraction of the rat, is sufficient to detect the mutagenicity of all treatment options, except for the effect of a minimum dose of 2-aminoanthracene on strain TA98. The study of the quality of the preparation of rat hepatic S-9 fractions showed no significant differences in the activity of the preparations stored at -80°C и -20°C . The minimal activating ability was shown by the preparation №3 from the chicken liver, prepared without a cryoprotectant. The Ames test using TA100 and TA98 strains and this preparation does not allow detection of the mutagenic effect of 2-aminoanthracene in a dose of 1 μg per plate. Preparations №4 and №5 are effective for all combinations of doses and strains. The use of these preparations allows for greater sensitivity compared to the standard protocol based on the preparation №1.

Table 1: Comparison of the effectiveness of metabolic activation using rat hepatic S-9 homogenate and bird hepatic S-9 homogenate

Strain of <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>		The average number of colonies on the plates				
Test specimens	Preparation №1	Preparation №2	Preparation №3	Preparation №4	Preparation №5	
TA98	DMSO (Control)	26±5	22±4	19±5	24±3	25±5
	2-aminoanthracene (1 µg /plate)	32±6	30±5	28±8	150±21*	139±10*
	2-aminoanthracene (20 µg /plate)	864±92*	855±88*	255±35*	987±115*	1010±93*
	2-aminoanthracene (50 µg /plate)	1680±239*	1564±202*	2100±156*	2040±234*	2110±190*
TA100	DMSO (Control)	209±14	199±15	210±17	176±19	206±14
	2-aminoanthracene (1 µg /plate)	315±19*	302±17*	205±44	357±34*	299±34*
	2-aminoanthracene (20 µg /plate)	508±64*	493±58*	990±219*	2670±178*	2580±194*
	2-aminoanthracene (50 µg /plate)	2960±119*	2982±127*	3010±190*	3050±179*	3200±216*

*- a statistically significant mutagenic effect (t-test, p<0.05)

Discussion

It should be noted that the priority for the use of the liver of chickens for the activation of promutagens belongs to Russian scientists (Pavlov *et al.*, 1985). An investigation of the frequency of induced mutations in a system of indicator microorganisms/cell extracts of animals and birds liver (*Salmonella*/microsome test) was conducted to analyze the mechanisms of mutagenesis. In the study of the metabolic activation of 2-aminofluoren, the higher activity of chicken liver microsomes was first demonstrated in comparison with liver preparations of mice (Pavlov *et al.*, 1985), even after preliminary induction of the latter with a mixture of polychlorinated biphenyls, which increases the activity of cytochromes P-450 family enzymes by tenfold (Benford *et al.*, 1988).

Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that although the chicken hepatic S-9 homogenate preparation was prepared and stored according to the standard procedure allows one to detect the genetic activity of the promutagen used in principle, it has an increased demand for the storage temperature (Table 1). However, the introduction of the cryoprotectant (glycerol) into the homogenization buffer and the storage buffer has made it possible to compensate for this deficiency.

Our research showed that minor changes in the test protocol make it possible to obtain chicken hepatic S-9 homogenate preparations, which are less demanding for storage conditions, that makes the process of its estimation more cost-effective and also provide a higher sensitivity to the mutagenic effect of 2-aminoanthracene in the Ames test.

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Author's Contributions

Alexey V. Tutel'ian and Aleksander V. Usatov: Designed and performed experiments and wrote the paper.

Eugenia V. Prazdnova and Vladimir A. Chistyakov: Developed analytical tools and analyzed data.

Aleksander I. Klimenko and Maria A. Kolosova: Collected and analyzed data.

Ethics

This article is original and contains unpublished materials. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and no ethical issues involved.

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