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Identification of Phospholipase A₁ and A₂ in the Soluble Fraction of Rat Liver Lysosomes*

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ABSTRACT: Rat liver lysosomes were isolated by sucrose density gradient centrifugation from rats previously injected with Triton WR-1339. As measured by acid phosphatase activity, the lysosomes were purified 32-fold over the homogenate with an average yield of 6.0%. Mitochondrial, microsomal, and peroxisomal contaminations were each less than 0.05% of the total activity of the homogenate. When the lysosomes were incubated at pH 4.0 with 1.0 mM EDTA,

[¹⁴C]linoleic acid and [¹⁴C]monoacylglycerophosphoryl-ethanolamine were produced from 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine. After osmotic rupture of purified lysosomes the phospholipases (A₁ and A₂) were in the soluble fraction entirely. The two phospholipases were not inhibited to the same extent by increasing concentrations of Ca²⁺ or EDTA. Phospholipases A₁ and A₂ were separated by gel filtration on Sephadex G-200.

Mellors and Tappel (1967) reported the first lysosomal phospholipase from rat liver. This enzyme had an acid pH optimum, hydrolyzed both the C-1 and C-2 fatty acid ester linkages of phosphatidylcholine and phosphatidylethanolamine, and was found in both soluble and particulate fractions of lysosomes. Stoffel and Greten (1967) and Mellors *et al.* (1967) confirmed the presence of a phospholipase A with optimal activity in the acid pH range. These reports were contradictory, however, with regard to pH optima and Ca²⁺ requirement.

On the basis of selective inhibition studies, Stoffel and

Trabert (1969) suggested the presence of two soluble phospholipases with acid pH optima. Waite *et al.* (1969) confirmed the presence of lysosomal phospholipase(s) A active at pH 4.5 and reported the presence of a phospholipase A in the lysosomal preparation which was stimulated by Ca²⁺ ions and was active in the neutral pH range. The localization of the Ca²⁺-stimulated enzyme was uncertain since the distribution of this activity did not parallel the major activity found in either the lysosomes or the mitochondria. Recently Rahman *et al.* (1970) reported a Ca²⁺-stimulated phospholipase A₂ from the particulate fraction of rat liver lysosomes. Nachbaur and Vignais (1968) and Waite (1969) described a Ca²⁺-stimulated phospholipase A₂ in the outer membrane of mitochondria which is similar to the particulate lysosomal enzyme reported by Rahman *et al.* (1970). This observation suggests that mitochondrial contamination could account for the activity found by Rahman *et al.*

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In this study rat liver lysosomes were isolated by sucrose gradient centrifugation. Biochemical purity was measured by marker enzymes for lysosomes, mitochondria, peroxisomes, and endoplasmic reticulum. Both [¹⁴C]linoleic acid and [¹⁴C]monoacylglycerophosphorylethanolamine were formed from 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine by enzymes in the lysosomal soluble fraction at pH 4.0. No Ca²⁺-dependent phospholipase A activity was found in either lysosomal soluble or particulate fractions at pH 7.5. Two soluble phospholipases (A₁ and A₂) were separated by gel filtration on Sephadex G-200.

Experimental Section

Preparation of Lysosomes. Three male Wistar rats (150–200 g) were injected intraperitoneally with 170 mg of Triton WR-1339 3.5 days prior to sacrifice. Rats were killed and the livers were perfused with 60 ml of ice-cold 0.25 M sucrose. After perfusion the livers were rapidly removed, minced, and homogenized with a Potter-Elvehjem homogenizer in a total volume of 200 ml of 0.25 M sucrose. All steps were performed at 0–4°. Nuclei and cell debris were sedimented by centrifugation at 1000g for 10 min. The supernatant fluid was decanted and was centrifuged at 10,000g for 20 min. The resulting supernatant fluid was decanted and the particulate fraction (P-1) was resuspended in 45 ml of 1.32 M sucrose. The discontinuous sucrose gradient consisted of 6 ml of the sample resuspended in 1.32 M sucrose, 10 ml of 0.94 M sucrose, 10 ml of 0.82 M sucrose, and 10 ml of 0.25 M sucrose. Samples were centrifuged at 24,000 rpm (100,000g) for 2 hr in a Beckman SW-27 swinging-bucket rotor. After centrifugation, lysosomes which had risen to the 0.94–0.82 and 0.82–0.25 M sucrose interfaces were collected with a Pasteur pipet and were combined. Purified lysosomes were osmotically ruptured by dialysis for 12 hr against 6 l. of 1 mM NaHCO₃ and 1 mM EDTA at pH 7.2. Dialyzed lysosomes were then centrifuged at 100,000g for 30 min to yield the lysosomal soluble and particulate fractions. The soluble lysosomal preparation (0.20 mg of protein/ml) was concentrated to 1.0 mg of protein/ml using Aquacide. The concentrated preparation (8 ml) was filtered through a Sephadex G-200 column (2.5 × 90 cm) equilibrated with 0.05 M Tris (pH 7.4).

Enzyme Assays. Phospholipase A was assayed as described by Waite and van Deenen (1967). Phospholipases A₁ and A₂ specifically hydrolyze the fatty acid ester linkages in the C-1 and C-2 positions of phospholipids, respectively, to form their monoacyl analogs. Reaction mixtures in a total volume of 1.0 ml contained (unless otherwise stated) 75 nmoles of 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine (15,000 cpm added as an aqueous ultrasonic suspension), 2 μmoles of EDTA or 2 μmoles of CaCl₂, 100 μmoles of buffer (sodium acetate at pH 4.0, Tris-maleate at pH 7.5), and 25–50 μg of protein. Incubation tubes with a mixture of two labeled phosphatidylethanolamines contained a total of 320 nmoles of 1-[³H]palmitoyl-2-acyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine (24,000 cpm) and 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine (9000 cpm). The reaction mixtures were incubated for 15 min at 37°. Reactions were stopped by adding 2 volumes of methanol and the products were extracted by the method of Bligh and Dyer (1959). Radioactive lipids were separated by thin-layer chromatography on silica gel G plates, which were first developed in chloroform–petroleum ether (bp 30–60°)–acetic acid (70:30:2, v/v), and then in chloroform–methanol–H₂O (70:30:4, v/v).

Chromatograms were stained with I₂ vapor; the silicic acids that contained the radioactive compounds were each placed in scintillation vials containing Omnifluor scintillation mixture and a thixotropic gel.

Acid phosphatase (EC 3.1.3.2, lysosomal marker) was determined by the method of Gianetto and DeDuve (1955). Inorganic phosphate was measured by the turbidimetric procedure of Eibl and Lands (1969). NADPH–cytochrome *c* reductase (EC 1.6.99.1, microsomal marker) and cytochrome oxidase (EC 1.9.3.1, mitochondrial marker) were assayed spectrophotometrically by the method of Sottocasa *et al.* (1967). Uricase (EC 1.7.3.3, peroxisomal marker) was assayed by the method of Beaufay *et al.* (1964). Monoamine oxidase (EC 1.4.3.4, mitochondrial outer membrane marker) was assayed using [¹⁴C]tyramine as described by McCaman *et al.* (1965). Protein was determined by the method of Lowry *et al.* (1951) using bovine serum albumin as standard.

Electron Microscopy. Lysosomes to be used for electron-microscopic examination were prepared histochemically by the method of Gomori as described by Corrin *et al.* (1969). This method specifically detects acid phosphatase by its reaction with the substrate β-glycerophosphate. The product, P_i, was precipitated with lead, and appears as small electron dense granules at the periphery of lysosomal membranes. The pellets were fixed in osmium, were postfixed in uranyl acetate, and were counterstained with lead citrate and uranyl acetate. Substrate-free reactions on lysosomes from Triton-treated and untreated rats were carried out as controls. Pellets were embedded in ERL-4206 (Spurr, 1969) and thin sections were prepared.

Materials. We synthesized 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine and 1-[³H]palmitoyl-2-acyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine by the procedure of Waite and van Deenen (1967). Triton WR-1339 was purchased from Ruger Chemical Co., New York, N. Y. Aquacide was obtained from Calbiochem, Los Angeles, Calif.

Results

Two lysosomal populations were separated by sucrose gradient centrifugation. One was located at the 0.94–0.82 M sucrose interface while the other had sedimented to the 0.82–0.25 M sucrose interface. As determined by marker enzymes and phospholipase A activities, these populations were identical. Electron micrographs of samples histochemically treated for acid phosphatase (Figure 1) show that the lysosomes which had sedimented to the 0.82–0.25 M sucrose interface (B) are larger in circumference than the lysosomes which had sedimented to the 0.94–0.82 M sucrose interface (A). Probably the difference in size and density is the result of greater uptake of Triton by some lysosomes. Since no other morphological or biochemical differences were noted, the two populations were combined in the studies reported here.

The activity of marker enzymes for lysosomes, mitochondria, microsomes, and peroxisomes was compared in the liver homogenate, the particulate fraction (P-1), and the purified lysosomal fraction. Table I shows that the purified lysosomal fraction contained 0.02% of the microsomal, 0.01% of the mitochondrial, and 0.05% of the peroxisomal activities found in the homogenate. Lysosomes were purified 32-fold over the homogenate in a yield of 6% as measured by acid phosphatase activity. Monoamine oxidase, an enzyme found in the outer membranes of mitochondria (Schnaitman and Greenawalt, 1968), was not detectable in these preparations.

TABLE I: Characterization of Purified Lysosomes by Marker Enzymes.^a

Fraction	Protein		Acid Phosphatase		Cytochrome Oxidase		NADPH Cytochrome <i>c</i> Reductase		Uricase	
	mg	%	Sp Act.	%	Sp Act.	%	Sp Act.	%	Sp Act.	%
Homogenate	8670.0	100.0	22.9	100.0	287.0	100.0	10.6	100.0	6.1	100.0
Pellet 1 (P-1)	1020.0	11.7	58.7	28.7	856.0	34.0	8.0	8.4	13.0	23.0
Lysosomes	15.4	0.18	732.0	6.0	21.3	0.01	3.7	0.02	3.8	0.05

^a Specific activities are expressed as nanomoles of product formed per minute per milligram of protein. Per cent of activity is calculated as the total activity of a given fraction divided by the total activity in the crude homogenate times 100. Pellet 1 (P-1) refers to the cytoplasmic granular fraction sedimented at 10,000g for 20 min. Lysosomes were isolated from P-1 by sucrose gradient centrifugation. These data are the average of seven experiments.

Seventy-one per cent of the lysosomal protein and forty-one per cent of the recovered acid phosphatase were solubilized by osmotic rupture (Table II). Nearly all of the phospholipase A₁ and A₂ were recovered in the soluble fraction. The phospholipases A in the soluble fraction had optimal activities at pH 4.0 and were inactive above pH 5.5. The particulate fraction had little, if any, phospholipase A activity at either pH 4.0 or pH 7.5 in the presence or absence of 2–10 μ moles of Ca²⁺ or 2 μ moles of EDTA. Hence both the phospholipase A₁ and A₂ in the lysosome are soluble enzymes with optimal activities in the acid pH range.

The lysosomal phospholipase A₁ and A₂ were inhibited by increasing concentrations of Ca²⁺ and EDTA (Figure 2). The inhibition of both phospholipase A₁ and A₂ by Ca²⁺ was greater than that by EDTA at all concentrations tested. However, the two enzymes were not inhibited to the same extent. In the presence of 2 mM Ca²⁺, [¹⁴C]linoleic acid (A₂) release is inhibited 50%, whereas [¹⁴C]monoacylglycerophosphorylethanolamine (A₁) release is inhibited less than 5%. Since phospholipase A₂ activity is greatly inhibited by low concentrations of Ca²⁺ (1–2 mM), maximal phospholipase

A₁ and A₂ activities were measured in the presence of 1–2 mM EDTA.

Phospholipase A₁ and A₂ activities are linear with time for nearly 20 min (Figure 3A). With increasing protein concentrations the activities are linear to 40–50 μ g of protein (Figure 3B). Little increase in the activities is observed above 100 nmoles of phosphatidylethanolamine (Figure 3C). Due to the instability of micelles at higher substrate concentrations, 75 nmoles of phosphatidylethanolamine was used to assay phospholipase A activity. Under these various conditions, phospholipase A₁ activity is greater than that of phospholipase A₂.

The lysosomal-soluble fraction was filtered through a column of Sephadex G-200 (Figure 4) which partially separated phospholipase A₁ from phospholipase A₂. Fraction 30 had the greatest phospholipase A₁ activity whereas fraction

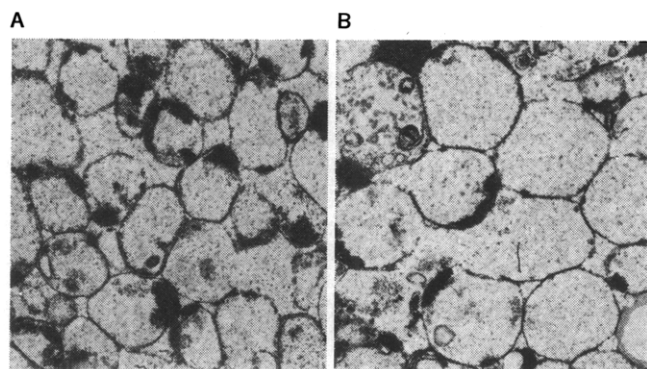


FIGURE 1: Electron micrographs of two populations of lysosomes separated by sucrose gradient centrifugation. Isolation of the fractions was described in the Experimental Section. Lysosomal-rich fractions from the sucrose gradient were made isotonic by dilution with distilled water and the intact lysosomes were sedimented by centrifuging at 10,000g for 20 min. Pellets were prepared histochemically for acid phosphatase as outlined in the Experimental Section. Part A is the lysosomal population which sedimented to the 0.94–0.82 M sucrose interface and part B the lysosomal population which sedimented to the 0.82–0.25 M sucrose interface. Substrate-free reactions on lysosomes from Triton-treated and untreated rats were carried out as controls.

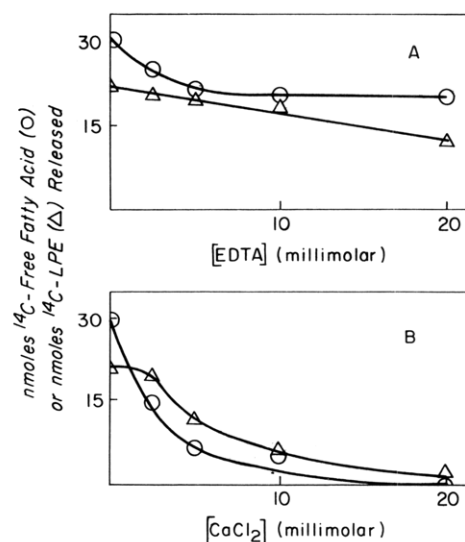


FIGURE 2: Inhibition of phospholipase A activity by Ca²⁺ and EDTA. Incubation mixtures contained 76 μ g of lysosomal-soluble protein, 75 nmoles of 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine, 100 μ moles of sodium acetate buffer at pH 4.0, and increasing concentrations of Ca²⁺ or EDTA in a total volume of 1.0 ml. Reaction mixtures were incubated at 37° for 15 min. [¹⁴C]FFA (○—○) and [¹⁴C]LPE (△—△) refer to [¹⁴C]linoleic acid and 2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine, respectively. All values presented have been corrected for nonenzymatic hydrolysis of substrate. (0.5–1.0 nmoles of FFA or LPE per 15 min.)

TABLE II: Fractionation of Lysosomes by Osmotic Rupture. Acid Phosphatase and Phospholipase A Activities of Lysosomal Soluble and Particulate Fractions.^a

Fraction	Protein (mg)	Acid Phosphatase		Phospholipase A Products			
		Sp Act.	%	pH 4.0		pH 7.5	
				FFA ^b	LPE ^b	FFA	LPE
Lysosomes	15.4	732	6.0	480	790	29	15
Lysosomal soluble	11.0	428	2.1	370	615	0	0
Lysosomal particulate	4.4	1509	2.9	0	0	12	12

^a Specific activity is expressed as nmoles of product formed/min per mg of protein for acid phosphatase and as nmoles of product formed/15 min per mg of protein for phospholipase A. Per cent of activity is calculated as the total activity of a given fraction divided by the total activity in the crude homogenate times 100. Phospholipase A activity at pH 4.0 was measured in the presence of 1 μ mole of EDTA and at pH 7.5 in the presence of 2 μ moles of Ca²⁺. These data are the average of five experiments. ^b FFA and LPE refer to [¹⁴C]linoleic acid and [2-¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine, respectively.

34 had maximal phospholipase A₂ activity. To demonstrate that the activity in fraction 34 was due to phospholipase A₂ and not the combined actions of the phospholipase A₁ and a lysophospholipase, the enzyme was assayed with a mixture of two labeled phosphatidylethanolamines (1-[³H]palmitoyl-2-acyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamines and 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine). This fraction produced equal amounts of [³H]monoacylglycerophosphorylethanolamine and [¹⁴C]linoleic acid, in addition to lesser amounts of [¹⁴C]monoacylglycerophosphorylethanolamine and [³H]palmitic acid. Since [³H]monoacylglycerophosphorylethanolamine is produced only by a phospholipase A₂, these results are taken as proof of existence of the phospholipase A₂ as suggested by Stoffel and Trabert.

However the presence of a lysophospholipase cannot be excluded on the basis of these data.

Discussion

Treatment of rats with Triton WR-1339 selectively decreases the density of liver lysosomes, and facilitates their separation from other organelles. With Triton-treated rats two populations of lysosomes, which had identical marker enzyme and phospholipase A activities, were isolated by sucrose gradient centrifugation. Electron micrographs demonstrated only a difference in size which was caused by variability in the uptake of Triton. Other workers have shown that bimodal distribution of lysosomal enzymes demonstrates that two sources of lysosomes exist in normal skeletal muscle (Canonico and Bird, 1970). One group of

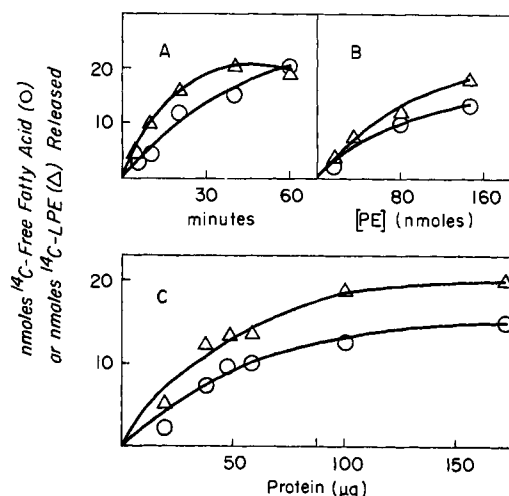


FIGURE 3: Optimal conditions for phospholipase A activity at pH 4.0. Incubation mixtures in part A contained 50 μ g of lysosomal-soluble protein, 75 nmoles of 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine (15,000 cpm), 100 μ moles of sodium acetate buffer at pH 4.0, and 2 μ moles of EDTA in a total volume of 1.0 ml. Reaction mixtures in parts B and C were incubated at 37° for 15 min with increasing substrate and protein concentrations, respectively. All other conditions were the same as in part A. [¹⁴C]FFA (O—O) and [¹⁴C]LPE (Δ—Δ) refer to [¹⁴C]linoleic acid and 2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine, respectively. All values presented have been corrected for nonenzymatic hydrolysis of substrate.

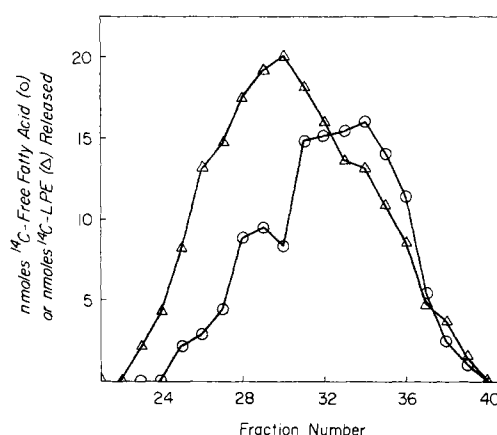


FIGURE 4: Gel filtration of lysosomal soluble preparation on Sephadex G-200. Lysosomal-soluble protein (8 ml; 1 mg of protein/ml) was filtered through a column of Sephadex G-200 (2.5 × 90 cm) equilibrated with 0.05 M Tris at pH 7.2. The first 75 ml of the 150 ml of void volume was discarded. Thereafter, fractions were collected in 6.5-ml aliquots. Reaction mixtures contained 1 ml of each fraction from the column, 75 nmoles of 1-acyl-2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine, 100 μ moles of sodium acetate buffer at pH 4.0, and 2 μ moles of EDTA in a total volume of 1.5 ml. [¹⁴C]FFA (O—O) and [¹⁴C]LPE (Δ—Δ) refer to [¹⁴C]linoleic acid and 2-[¹⁴C]linoleyl-3-glycerophosphorylethanolamine. All values presented have been corrected for nonenzymatic hydrolysis of substrate.

lysosomes is derived from macrophages and a second group derived from the muscle cells. The possibility exists that the two lysosomal populations observed here may be derived from different cell types within the liver. However, the lack of biochemical variation suggests that the two populations are from the same cell type, presumably the Kupffer cell.

Recently, Rahman *et al.* (1970) have described a Ca^{2+} -dependent phospholipase A_2 with the optimal activity between pH 7.0–8.0 in the particulate fraction of rat liver lysosomes. Our preparations of lysosomal membranes, however, had little, if any, phospholipase A activity at pH 7.5. These data confirm the suggestion of Waite *et al.* (1969) that the Ca^{2+} -stimulated phospholipase A which appeared in lysosomal preparations was due to an enzyme from a contaminating organelle. It is possible that the activity observed by Rahman *et al.* (1970) is due to contamination of their preparations by outer membranes of mitochondria. Support for this possibility comes from the work of Vignais and Nachbaur (1968) which demonstrated that outer membranes of mitochondria have sedimentation characteristics similar to lysosomal membranes from livers of Triton-treated rats. Furthermore, a Ca^{2+} -dependent phospholipase A_2 with activity at alkaline pH values has been demonstrated in outer membranes of mitochondria (Nachbaur and Vignais, 1968; Waite, 1969).

Our data confirm the conclusion of Stoffel and Trabert (1969) that two phospholipases with acid pH optima exist in the lysosomal-soluble fraction. The separation of two distinct phospholipase A activities reported here provide positive evidence for the existence of at least two phospholipases with different positional specificities. Mahadevan and Tappel (1968) have described a particulate lysosomal lipase with an acid pH optima from rat liver. Our phospholipase A activity is not due to the action of a lysosomal lipase, however, since [^{14}C]tripalmitoylglycerol was not hydrolyzed by our lysosomal-soluble fraction.

The specific activities of phospholipase A_1 and A_2 reported here are 10- to 50-fold higher than those previously reported (Stoffel and Trabert, 1968; Rahman *et al.*, 1970). These differences probably are due to the assay conditions used by these workers. The specific activities reported by us were obtained with optimal assay conditions whereas those obtained by others were not. This conclusion is based on the comparison of conditions reported by them with the results reported here in Figure 3.

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