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## THE REACTION BETWEEN CYTOCHROME $c_1$ AND CYTOCHROME $c$

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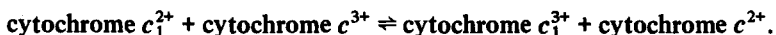
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The kinetics of electron transfer between the isolated enzymes of cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  have been investigated using the stopped-flow technique. The reaction between ferrocycytochrome  $c_1$  and ferricytochrome  $c$  is fast; the second-order rate constant ( $k_1$ ) is  $3.0 \cdot 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  at low ionic strength ( $I = 223 \text{ mM}$ ,  $10^\circ\text{C}$ ). The value of this rate constant decreases to  $1.8 \cdot 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  upon increasing the ionic strength to  $1.13 \text{ M}$ . The ionic strength dependence of the electron transfer between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  implies the involvement of electrostatic interactions in the reaction between both cytochromes. In addition to a general influence of ionic strength, specific anion effects are found for phosphate, chloride and morpholinosulphonate. These anions appear to inhibit the reaction between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  by binding of these anions to the cytochrome  $c$  molecule. Such a phenomenon is not observed for cacodylate. At an ionic strength of  $1.02 \text{ M}$ , the second-order rate constants for the reaction between ferrocycytochrome  $c_1$  and ferricytochrome  $c$  and the reverse reaction are  $k_1 = 2.4 \cdot 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  and  $k_{-1} = 3.3 \cdot 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively ( $450 \text{ mM}$  potassium phosphate,  $\text{pH } 7.0$ ,  $1\%$  Tween 20,  $10^\circ\text{C}$ ). The 'equilibrium' constant calculated from the rate constants ( $0.73$ ) is equal to the constant determined from equilibrium studies. Moreover, it is shown that at this ionic strength, the concentrations of intermediary complexes are very low and that the value of the equilibrium constant is independent of ionic strength. These data can be fitted into the following simple reaction scheme:



### Introduction

Cytochrome  $c_1$  forms part of the mitochondrial ubiquinol-cytochrome  $c$  reductase complex (Complex III) and catalyses the electron transfer from cytochrome  $b$  to cytochrome  $c$ . Although the steady-state kinetics of the reaction between cytochrome  $c$  and cytochrome  $c_1$  in mitochondrial membranes have been studied extensively [1–7], no exact kinetic data were available on the reaction between the isolated enzymes, since it was difficult to obtain a purified cytochrome  $c_1$  preparation. In 1972, Yu et al. [8]

succeeded in developing an isolation procedure for bovine cytochrome  $c_1$  which yielded a highly purified enzyme. By studying the kinetics of electron transfer between this purified enzyme and cytochrome  $c$ , they were able to determine the rate constants for the electron transfer from cytochrome  $c_1$  to cytochrome  $c$  and the reverse reaction ( $k_1 = 3.3 \cdot 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  and  $k_{-1} = 1.0 \cdot 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively;  $50 \text{ mM}$  potassium phosphate,  $\text{pH } 7.4$ ,  $10^\circ\text{C}$ ) [9]. Furthermore, it was shown that  $k_1$  as well as  $k_{-1}$  is dependent on ionic strength, in contrast to the equilibrium constant ( $K_{\text{eq}}$ ). From a  $K_{\text{eq}}$  value of  $3.3$ , a difference in midpoint potential of  $32 \text{ mV}$  between the cytochromes has been calculated, cytochrome  $c$  having the higher midpoint potential. In contrast, Nicholls [2] reported

Abbreviation: Mops, 4-morpholinepropanesulphonic acid.

a value of the midpoint potential for cytochrome *c* which is 5 mV lower than that of cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub>.

In a previous paper [10], it has been demonstrated that cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> prepared in our laboratory is in the monomeric state and contains only one polypeptide, in contrast to the cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> preparation of Yu et al. [8] that is isolated as a pentamer and contains two polypeptide chains. It remains questionable whether the second polypeptide found by Yu et al. [8] is an intrinsic part of the protein.

Former studies of the kinetics of the reactions of carboxydinitrophenyllysine-modified cytochromes *c* with our cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> preparation [11] and with the succinate-cytochrome *c* reductase complex [6,7] revealed that cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> in the isolated state and in the cytochrome *bc*<sub>1</sub> complex has the same reactivities towards various carboxydinitrophenyllysine-modified cytochromes *c*. Therefore, it is concluded that the ability of cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> to transfer electrons is not modified upon extraction of this component from the cytochrome *bc*<sub>1</sub> complex.

In this paper we investigate the kinetic properties of cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> by studying its reaction with cytochrome *c* at different ionic strengths.

## Materials and Methods

Sephadex G-25 medium and G-75 superfine (Pharmacia) were swollen in 5 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.0) at 90°C for 60 and 120 min, respectively. Ascorbic acid (BDH) was brought to pH 7.0 with KOH and was stored as 2 M stock solutions at -20°C. Mops, Tris, cacodylic acid and Tween 20 were obtained from Sigma. All other chemicals were purchased from British Drug Houses.

Reduced bovine cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> was isolated as described before [10]. Ferricytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> was obtained by oxidation of ferrocytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> with an excess of K<sub>3</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub> which was removed by passing the mixture (0.2 ml of 800 μM ferricytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub>) through a column of Sephadex G-75 superfine (25 × 0.5 cm) equilibrated at 4°C in 5 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.0) and 1% Tween 20.

Cytochrome *c* from horse and bovine heart was isolated and purified according to the method of Margoliash and Walasek [12]. Ferrocytochrome *c* from horse heart was prepared by reducing ferricytochrome *c* (0.2 ml, 1500 μM) with an excess of potassium

ascorbate (pH 7.0) which was removed by gel filtration chromatography on a column (40 × 0.5 cm) of Sephadex G-25 medium, equilibrated at 4°C in a de-aerated potassium phosphate buffer (5 mM, pH 7.0).

Immediately before use, all cytochromes (0.1 ml, 300 μM) were passed through a column (20 × 0.5 cm) of Sephadex G-75 superfine, equilibrated in 5 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.0) and 1% Tween 20. The concentration of cytochromes was determined spectrophotometrically using an extinction coefficient (reduced minus oxidized) of 19.2 mM<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup> at 552.5 nm [13] for cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> and of 21.1 mM<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup> for cytochrome *c* at 550 nm [14]. The difference extinction coefficient at 547.5 nm for the transfer of 1.0 mM reducing equivalent from cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> to cytochrome *c* can be calculated using extinction coefficients (reduced minus oxidized) at this wavelength of 4.3 and 17.5 mM<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup> for cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> and cytochrome *c*, respectively. Spectra were recorded on a Cary-219 spectrophotometer equipped with a thermostatically controlled cuvette-house.

Reactions were followed at 10°C using a Durrum-Gibson stopped-flow apparatus, the stop system of which was changed into an adjustable block by a built-in microswitch, triggering a transient recorder (TR; Datalab 905). The optical pathlength reaction chamber is 2 cm. Storage and processing of the signals were carried out as described before [15]. The ionic strength (*I*) of the buffers (pH 7.0, 1% (v/v) Tween 20) was calculated using the Henderson-Hasselbach equation and a Debye-Hückel approximation [16] for the apparent p*K*<sub>a</sub> values. The p*K*<sub>a</sub> values (10°C) for phosphate, Tris, Mops and cacodylate at zero ionic strength [17] were 7.2, 8.3, 6.27 and 7.2, respectively.

The reaction between cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> and cytochrome *c* can be represented by the following reaction scheme:



The differential equation of this bimolecular reaction can be written in the form:

$$\frac{dc}{dt} = k_1 [A_0] [B_0] - k_{-1} ([A_0] + [B_0]) C + (k_1 - k_{-1}) C^2 \quad (2)$$

In this equation,  $[A_0]$  and  $[B_0]$  are the initial concentrations of cytochromes (ferrocytochrome  $c_1$  and ferricytochrome  $c$  or ferricytochrome  $c_1$  and ferrocytochrome  $c$ ). If  $[C_0] = [D_0] = 0$ ,  $[A_0] \geq 3[B_0]$  and  $0.6 < K_{eq} < 1.6$ , as will be shown in the experiments referred to in Fig. 6, the solution of Eqn. 2 can be approximated by one exponential with a contribution from a second exponential of less than 10%. The decay constant of the first exponential (the pseudo first-order rate constant)  $k'$  can be written as:

$$k' = k_1([A_0] + [B_0]) \quad (3)$$

The pseudo first-order rate constants ( $k'$ ) calculated from the experimental traces (cf. Ref. 15) were the mean values of 8–12 reaction traces. The standard deviation for  $k_1$  was found to be 4–8%. The second-order rate constant ( $k_1$ ) was determined from a plot of  $k'$  vs.  $([A_0] + [B_0])$ , using a weighted least-squares method.

## Results

The electron transfer between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  was monitored optimally at 547.5 nm

(Fig. 1) because the background absorbance level at 408.5 nm is too high.

The absorbance changes at 547.5 nm at various concentrations of phosphate are shown in Fig. 2. It is obvious that an increase of the ionic strength (traces A–D) results in a decrease of the reaction rate. It is hardly possible to measure the reaction between both cytochromes at an ionic strength lower than 200 mM, since under these conditions, the reaction is completed within the mixing time of our stopped-flow apparatus ( $k_1 > 1 \cdot 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ).

A plot of the pseudo first-order rate constant ( $k'$ ) of the reaction, calculated from traces such as those shown in Fig. 2, versus the total concentration of cytochromes is presented in Fig. 3. Note that the second-order rate constant of the reaction ( $k_1$ ), determined from the slope of the line, decreases from  $3.0 \cdot 10^7$  to  $1.8 \cdot 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , when the ionic strength is increased from 223 to 1130 mM. The use of bovine cytochrome  $c$  (Fig. 3, closed symbols), instead of horse cytochrome  $c$ , as electron acceptor did not change the values for the rate constants.

To investigate whether or not the inhibition by phosphate is due to a general ionic strength effect, the dependence of ionic strength on the reaction

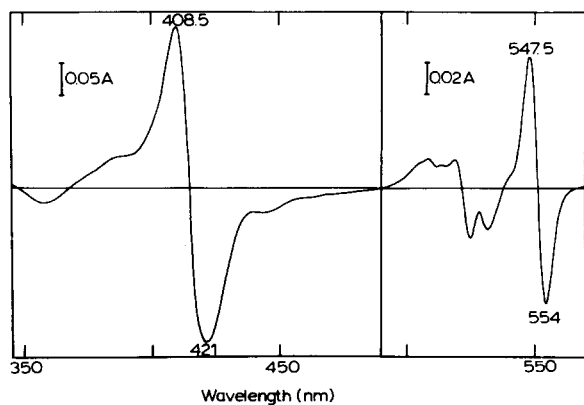


Fig. 1. Difference spectrum ((cytochrome  $c_1^{2+}$  + cytochrome  $c^{3+}$ ) minus (cytochrome  $c_1^{3+}$  + cytochrome  $c^{2+}$ )) for the reduction of ferricytochrome  $c$  by ferrocytochrome  $c_1$ . Before the reaction, both the sample and the reference tender cell ( $d = 0.876 \text{ cm}$ ) contained  $15.4 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$  ferrocytochrome  $c_1$  and  $15.0 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$  ferricytochrome  $c$  in their respective compartments. After scanning the baseline, the contents of the two chambers of the sample cell were mixed. The difference spectrum was recorded at  $10^\circ\text{C}$  in 100 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.0), 1% Tween 20 with a Cary-219 spectrophotometer.

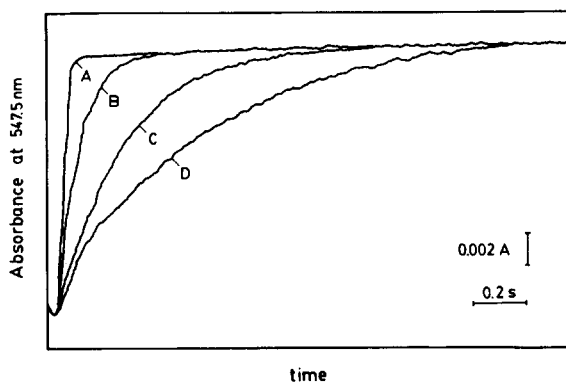


Fig. 2. Single traces of the time course of the reaction of ferrocytochrome  $c_1$  with ferricytochrome  $c$  at various phosphate concentrations. The experiments were carried out at  $10^\circ\text{C}$  in a potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 1% Tween 20. Absorbance changes were followed at 547.5 nm. Concentrations of ferrocytochrome  $c_1$  and of ferricytochrome  $c$  were  $5.0$  and  $1.0 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$ , respectively. Concentrations of potassium phosphate were for traces A–D 100, 250, 375 and 500 mM, respectively.

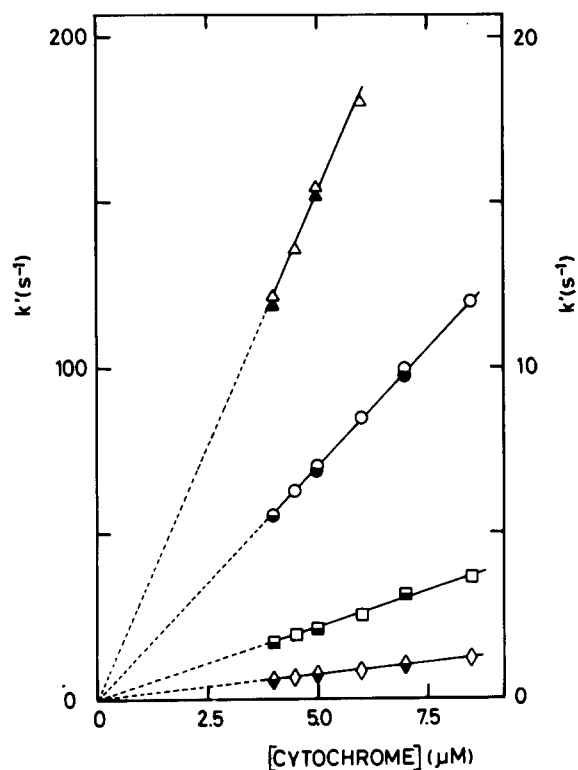


Fig. 3. Relationship between the observed pseudo first-order rate ( $k'$ ) and the total concentration of cytochromes at various phosphate concentrations. Conditions as in Fig. 2: ferricytochrome  $c$ ,  $1.0 \mu\text{M}$ ; ferrocytochrome  $c_1$ ,  $3.0\text{--}7.5 \mu\text{M}$ . The left-hand ordinate refers to the reaction at 100 mM potassium phosphate ( $\Delta$ — $\Delta$ ), whereas the right-hand ordinate refers to the reactions at the other potassium phosphate concentrations ( $\circ$ — $\circ$ , 250 mM;  $\square$ — $\square$ , 375 mM;  $\diamond$ — $\diamond$ , 500 mM). For the reaction between bovine ferrocytochrome  $c_1$  and horse ferricytochrome  $c$ , the values for  $k'$  are represented by open symbols, whereas those for the reaction between bovine ferrocytochrome  $c_1$  and bovine ferricytochrome  $c$  are given by closed symbols.

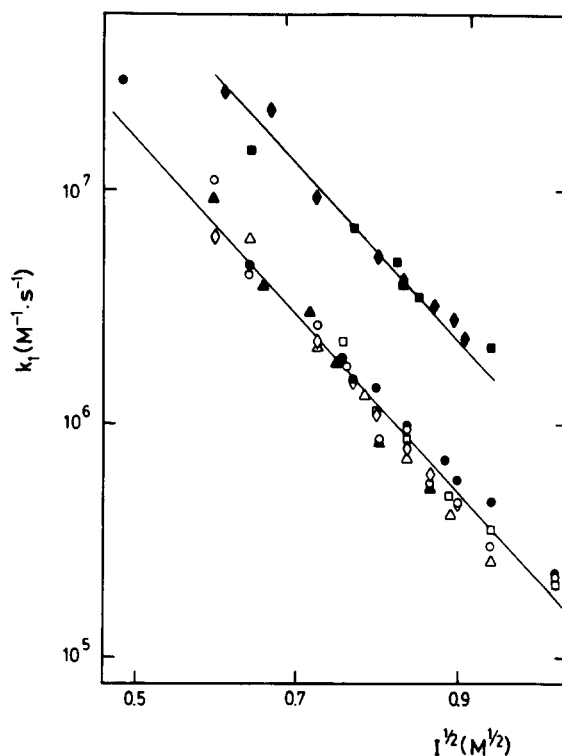


Fig. 4. Relationship between the second-order rate constant ( $k_1$ ) and the ionic strength. Experiments were carried out at  $10^\circ\text{C}$  in buffers (pH 7.0, 1% Tween 20) of different ionic strength. Absorbance changes were monitored at 547.5 nm and  $k_1$  values were determined as described in Materials and Methods. The ionic strength was provided either by increasing the concentrations of the buffer:  $\bullet$ — $\bullet$ , potassium phosphate;  $\blacklozenge$ — $\blacklozenge$ , Tris-cacodylate;  $\blacksquare$ — $\blacksquare$ , sodium cacodylate;  $\blacktriangle$ — $\blacktriangle$ , sodium/Mops (closed symbols) or by the addition of KCl to an appropriate buffer with a concentration of 20 mM (open symbols).

between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  was studied in more detail. As cytochrome  $c$  is able to bind several anions with variable affinity [18–24], the rate of the reaction between ferrocytochrome  $c_1$  and ferricytochrome  $c$  was measured in media containing variable amounts of anions which bind to cytochrome  $c$  (phosphate, chloride and morpholinosulphonate) and a non-binding anion (cacodylate) [18–23]. The results are presented in Fig. 4 as a Brønsted plot ( $\log k_1$  vs.  $\sqrt{I}$ ). This figure shows that an increase in the ionic strength upon addition of KCl or by increasing the concentration of buffers results in a decrease

of the reaction rate. In addition to this general ionic strength effect there is also a specific anion effect. In the presence of cacodylate a higher value for  $k_1$  is found at the same ionic strength, compared to the rate constants determined in media containing phosphate, chloride or morpholinosulphonate. The slope of the lines drawn through the experimental data is the same for both types of anion.

As the difference in redox potential between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  is small (5–30 mV) [2,9], electron transfer in both directions may be of physiological importance. The reversibility of the

reaction was therefore investigated by examination of the effect of the redox state of the cytochromes on the reaction rate by measuring the reaction between oxidized cytochrome  $c_1$  and reduced cytochrome  $c$ , as well as the reaction between reduced cytochrome  $c_1$  and oxidized cytochrome  $c$ . All forms of cytochrome

being successively present in excess. The second-order rate constants calculated from Fig. 5 are of the same order of magnitude;  $k_1$  for the reaction between ferrocyanochrome  $c_1$  and ferricytochrome  $c$  is  $2.4 \cdot 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ; the reduction of cytochrome  $c$  by cytochrome  $c_1$  yields a rate constant of  $3.3 \cdot 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  (450 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.0, 1% Tween 20,  $10^\circ\text{C}$ ). Interchanging the concentrations of reactants did not affect the value of the rate constants ( $k_1$  and  $k_{-1}$ ). Using the values determined for  $k_1$  and  $k_{-1}$ , a 'kinetic equilibrium constant' ( $k_1/k_{-1}$ ) of 0.73 can be calculated. This value, close to unity, reflects a small difference in midpoint potential between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  (8 mV). Dependence on

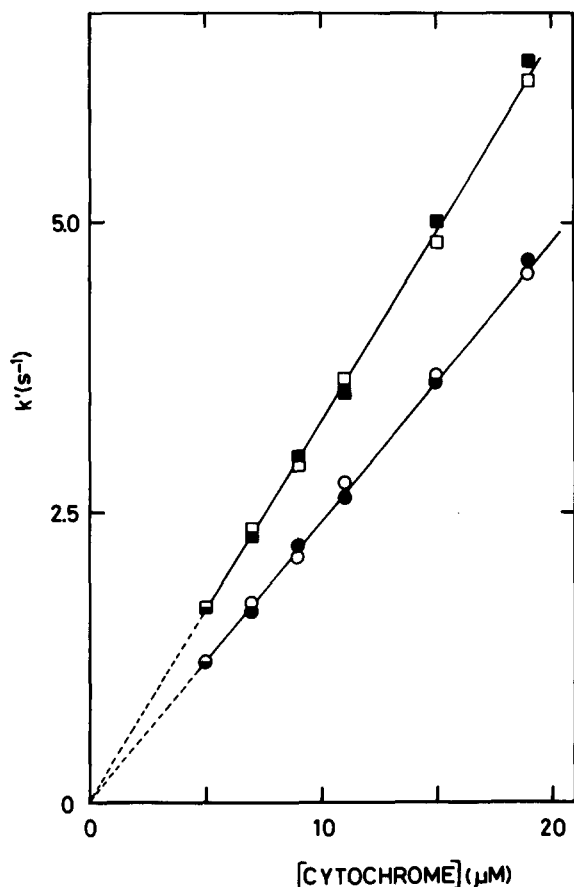


Fig. 5. Relationship between  $k'$  and the total concentration of cytochromes. Experiments were carried out at  $10^\circ\text{C}$  in a potassium phosphate buffer of 450 mM, pH 7.0, and 1% Tween 20. Absorbance changes were followed at 547.5 nm. For the reduction of cytochrome  $c_1$  by cytochrome  $c$ , the  $k'$  values are represented by squares and for the reduction of cytochrome  $c$  by cytochrome  $c_1$  circles are used. Determination of the  $k_1$  values was as described in Materials and Methods.  $\circ$ — $\circ$ , ferricytochrome  $c$ , 3.0–18.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferrocyanochrome  $c_1$ , 1.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $\bullet$ — $\bullet$ , ferricytochrome  $c$ , 1.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferrocyanochrome  $c_1$ , 3.0–18.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $\square$ — $\square$ , ferrocyanochrome  $c$ , 3.0–18.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferricytochrome  $c_1$ , 1.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $\blacksquare$ — $\blacksquare$ , ferrocyanochrome  $c$ , 1.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferricytochrome  $c_1$ , 3.0–18.0  $\mu\text{M}$ .

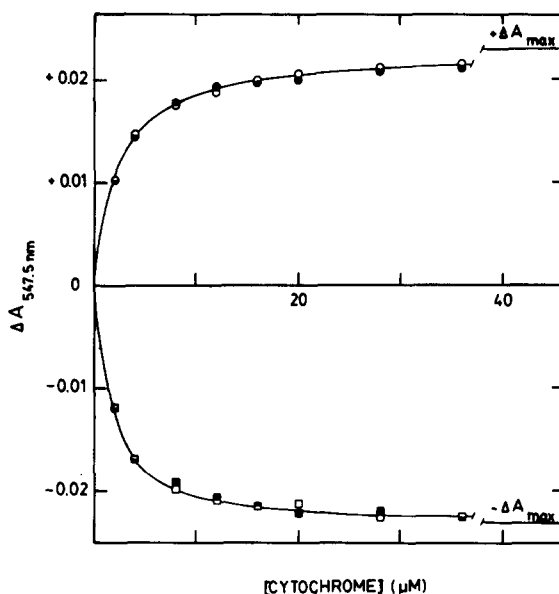
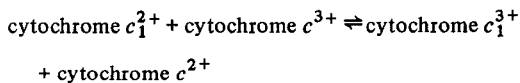


Fig. 6. Change in absorbance at 547.5 nm for the electron transfer between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$ , as a function of the molar ratio of cytochromes.  $\Delta A_{\text{max}}$  represents the transfer of 2.0  $\mu\text{M}$  reducing equivalents, using an  $\Delta\epsilon_{547.5\text{nm}}^{\text{red-ox}}$  value of  $13.2 \text{ mM}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  and an optical pathway of 0.876 cm. The experiment was carried out as described in the legend of Fig. 1. Further conditions as described in Fig. 5.  $\circ$ — $\circ$ , ferricytochrome  $c$ , 2.0–40.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferrocyanochrome  $c_1$ , 2.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $\bullet$ — $\bullet$ , ferricytochrome  $c$ , 2.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferrocyanochrome  $c_1$ , 2.0–40.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $\square$ — $\square$ , ferrocyanochrome  $c$ , 2.0–40.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferricytochrome  $c_1$ , 2.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $\blacksquare$ — $\blacksquare$ , ferrocyanochrome  $c$ , 2.0  $\mu\text{M}$  and ferricytochrome  $c_1$ , 2.0–40.0  $\mu\text{M}$ . The curves were computed using an equilibrium constant of 0.73.

ionic strength is also observed for the reduction of cytochrome  $c_1$  by ferrocycytochrome  $c$ . A plot of  $\log k_{-1}$  vs.  $\sqrt{I}$  (not shown) results in a line ( $k_1/k_{-1} \approx 0.7$ ) parallel to that of  $\log k_1$  vs.  $\sqrt{I}$  as shown in Fig. 4. From this result it is concluded that the kinetic equilibrium constant is independent of ionic strength.

Although the real equilibrium constant can be calculated from the extent of the stopped-flow traces, it is more accurate to determine this constant by registration of the absorbance changes at 547.5 nm with a Cary-219 spectrophotometer, before and after electron transfer. Fig. 6 shows the change in absorbance at 547.5 nm ( $\Delta A_{547.5\text{nm}}$ ) as a function of the concentration of reactant present in excess. In the upper panel the reduction of ferricytochrome  $c$  and the oxidation of ferrocycytochrome  $c_1$  are presented, whereas in the lower panel the reduction of ferricytochrome  $c_1$  and the oxidation of ferrocycytochrome  $c$  are shown. It is clear that interchanging the concentrations does not affect the  $\Delta A_{547.5\text{nm}}$  value (open and closed symbols). From the data, the oxidation-reduction degree of the cytochromes can be calculated and these are used to construct a 'Nernst-type' plot ( $\log[\text{cytochrome } c_1^{3+}]/[\text{cytochrome } c_1^{2+}]$  vs.  $\log[\text{cytochrome } c^{2+}]/[\text{cytochrome } c^{3+}]$ ). From this plot (not shown) an equilibrium constant ( $K_{\text{eq}}$ ) of 0.73 can be determined. This  $K_{\text{eq}}$  is used for simulating the curves in Fig. 6, which fit the experimental data well. Furthermore, it can be seen from this figure that at high concentrations of excess reactant the maximal absorbance change at 547.5 nm ( $\Delta A_{\text{max}}$ ) is reached. This indicates that the concentrations of intermediate complexes are very low. For this reason and because of the fact that the real equilibrium constant and the kinetic equilibrium constant are equal, the reaction between cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  can be represented by a simple reaction scheme:



## Discussion

The results of our experiments have shown that the reaction between isolated cytochrome  $c_1$  and cytochrome  $c$  is dependent on ionic strength, in accordance with the findings of Yu et al. [9]. The

same phenomenon has been observed for the reaction of cytochrome  $c$  with cytochrome  $c$  oxidase [3,5,6, 23,25], with the succinate-cytochrome  $c$  reductase complex [1,3,4,7,23] and with the bacterial cytochrome  $c$ -551 from *Pseudomonas fluorescens* [26]. Therefore, it is concluded that electrostatic interactions are essential for governing the rate of reactions in which cytochrome  $c$  participates. Electrostatic interactions are also important for the formation of a complex of cytochrome  $c$  with cytochrome  $c_1$  [27, 28] or with cytochrome  $c$  oxidase [3,29,30] at low ionic strength.

In addition to a general ionic strength effect, phosphate, chloride and morpholinosulphonate exert a specific inhibitory effect on the reaction of cytochrome  $c_1$  with cytochrome  $c$ , in contrast to cacodylate. The binding of anions to cytochrome  $c$  has been extensively described by Margoliash and coworkers [18,19,22–24] and Margalit and Schejter [20,21]. It has been demonstrated that these anions affect the reactivity of this enzyme towards cytochrome  $c$  oxidase [1,3,22–24] and the succinate-cytochrome  $c$  reductase complex [23]. Some anions are known to inhibit the reaction between cytochrome  $c$  and cytochrome  $c$  oxidase in a competitive way (chloride, citrate and acetate) or in a non-competitive way (phosphate, ADP and ATP) [22–24]. Some investigators were even able to localize the binding domain on the cytochrome  $c$  molecule for phosphate, ADP, ATP and citrate [24,31]. Therefore, the differences in reaction rate, found for media containing phosphate, chloride and morpholinosulphonate on the one hand and cacodylate on the other, are ascribed to the binding of the above-mentioned anions to cytochrome  $c$ . Although anion binding to cytochrome  $c$  decreases the net positive charge of the enzyme (cf. Ref. 20), it is remarkable that the value of the slope of the line in the Brønsted plot is not affected.

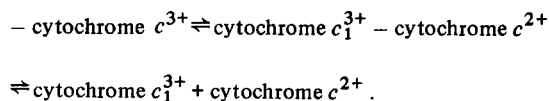
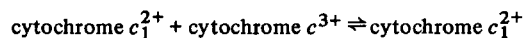
Yu et al. [9] and King [32] have reported a value for  $k_1$  which is about half that which we measured at higher ionic strength (107 as against 223 mM). Extrapolation of the data presented in Fig. 4 to the same ionic strength, assuming a linear relationship between  $\log k_1$  and  $\sqrt{I}$ , increases the value of our  $k_1$  by a factor of 2. The difference with the value reported [9,32] then amounts to a factor of 3.5. Similarly, it was calculated that  $k_{-1}$  is about 15-times greater than that reported by King and coworkers [9,32]. The use

of bovine cytochrome *c* instead of the enzyme from horse heart (cf. Ref. 9) cannot explain the difference in reactivity of the cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> preparations, since replacement of horse cytochrome *c* by bovine cytochrome *c* does not affect the *k*<sub>1</sub> value. For this reason and because of the fact that our cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> preparation is present in the monomeric state and possesses a single polypeptide [10], whereas the cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> preparation of Yu et al. [8] is a pentamer and contains two polypeptide chains, we suggest that the molecular state of the cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> preparation causes the differences in reactivity.

The plots of the observed pseudo first-order rate constant versus the total concentration of cytochromes reveal a linear relationship for cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> as well as cytochrome *c* being present in excess. This result indicates that the reaction is first-order both for cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> and cytochrome *c*. Since interchanging the concentration of reactants affects neither the rate constants nor the extent of the absorbance change, we conclude that the number of reactive sites on cytochromes *c*<sub>1</sub> and *c* are equal. An equal number of binding sites has also been found by Chiang et al. [27,28], who isolated a 1 : 1 complex of both cytochromes. From steady-state experiments for the cytochrome *bc*<sub>1</sub> complex, however, two binding sites for cytochrome *c* per cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> were postulated [6]. A two-site binding for cytochrome *c* was also observed in its reaction with cytochrome *c* oxidase [3].

The values of the equilibrium constant determined from equilibrium studies and calculated from the rate constants are equal. This result is also found by Yu et al. [9], although the absolute value for both constants differs by a factor of 3.5. From the equilibrium constant we measured, a difference in midpoint potential of 8 mV is determined, which implies that the midpoint potential of cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> is higher than that of cytochrome *c*. This value is in close agreement with the 5 mV difference found by Nicholls [2].

Although the kinetic results can be fitted in a simple model (cf. Results) we prefer the model as proposed by Chien [33], in which electron transfer proceeds via two complexes of cytochrome *c*<sub>1</sub> and cytochrome *c*:



Since intramolecular electron transfer within the complex will be very rapid and the complex is only stable at low ionic strength [27,30], it is justified to simplify the reaction equation to the form presented in Results.

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