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## Modulation of $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchange and $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ permeability in cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles by doxylstearic acids

Kenneth D. Philipson and Robert Ward

*Departments of Medicine and Physiology and the American Heart Association Greater Los Angeles Affiliate, Cardiovascular Research Laboratories, University of California, Los Angeles, Center for the Health Sciences, Los Angeles, CA 90024 (U.S.A.)*

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We examine the effects of 5-, 12- and 16-doxylstearic acids on the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability of cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles. Stearic acid is a weak stimulator of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange. A doxyl moiety potentiates stimulation with the order of increasing potency being 5-, 12- and then 16-doxylstearic acid. Stearic acid has little effect on vesicle  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability but again the doxylstearates are more effective. The sequence of potency is reversed, however, from that for increasing  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange. 5-Doxylstearic acid most markedly exchanges passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux followed by the 12-, and then 16-doxylstearic acids. Methyl esters of the doxylstearates have no effect on either  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability. We model the results as follows. For a fatty acid to stimulate  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity, an anionic charge is required to interact with the exchanger protein at the membrane surface. Stimulation is potentiated by a perturbation (such as provided by a doxyl group) within the lipid bilayer. The perturbation is most effective at a location towards the center of the bilayer. To increase passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability an anionic charge is again essential. Disorder within the bilayer is also important, but now the most important site is near the membrane surface. Results of experiments with linolenic and  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid and previous studies with other fatty acids also support this model.

### Introduction

The  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange system of cardiac sarcolemma catalyzes a highly active countertransport of  $\text{Na}^+$  for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . The exchange is electrogenic with a probable stoichiometry of 3  $\text{Na}^+$  for 1  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  [1–4].  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange can be demon-

strated in intact cardiac muscle under a variety of experimental conditions, but physiological significance is still poorly defined and controversial (for reviews, see Refs. 5 and 6). Recently, experiments using isolated cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles have enhanced our knowledge of the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange process (for reviews, see Refs. 7 and 8).

In a series of studies [9–13], we have reported on sensitive interactions between the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and charged components in the membrane lipid environment. Anionic phospholipids, fatty acids, and other anionic amphiphiles all stimulate  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity. In contrast, cationic amphiphiles are inhibitors of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange. In all cases, the exchanger was

Abbreviations: doxyl, dimethyloxazolidinyl; Mops, 4-morpholinepropanesulfonic acid; EGTA, ethylene glycol bis( $\beta$ -aminoethyl ether)- $N,N,N',N'$ -tetraacetic acid.

Correspondence: K.D. Philipson, Cardiovascular Research Laboratory, A3-381 CHS, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA 90024, U.S.A.

more sensitive to membrane perturbation than other sarcolemmal transporters such as the  $(\text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+)\text{-ATPase}$  or the ATP-dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  pump.

We found that unsaturated fatty acids stimulated exchange more potently than saturated fatty acids [13]. We speculated that the unsaturation increased the stimulation of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange by disordering the lipid bilayer in the exchanger microenvironment. In the present study we further explore this model. We use stearic acid labelled at various positions with a doxyl group. Doxyl-stearates are commonly used as nonperturbing spin probes to report on lipid structure, but several studies indicate that the doxyl group disturbs its immediate environment (e.g., Refs. 14–16). We use the bulky doxyl group to perturb the exchanger at different depths within the lipid bilayer. We obtain information on which locations within the bilayer are most important for regulating both  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability.

## Materials and Methods

Highly purified sarcolemmal vesicles were isolated from canine ventricles as previously described [17] with the following modifications: (1) the DNAase treatment uses DNAase I (type DP) from Cooper Biomedical (Malvern, PA) (approximately 100 mg/dog heart); (2) the centrifugation after polytron treatment has been increased to  $17\,000 \times g$  for 15 min; (3) the 34% sucrose layer has been eliminated from the discontinuous sucrose gradient and the volume of the 32% sucrose layer has been increased to 8 ml. The sarcolemmal fraction was collected as described, diluted with 140 mM NaCl, 10 mM Mops/Tris (pH 7.4), spun down ( $160\,000 \times g$ , 75 min), resuspended in 140 mM NaCl, 10 mM Mops/Tris (pH 7.4), and stored in liquid nitrogen in small aliquots.

$\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange was determined as  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake using methods developed previously for use in the presence of fatty acids [13].  $\text{Na}^+$  (140 mM)-loaded sarcolemmal vesicles (1.5 mg/ml) and  $\text{CaCl}_2$  ( $^{40}\text{Ca}^{2+}$  plus  $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) were suspended on the side of a polystyrene tube as separate small droplets (0.005 ml) above the reaction medium (0.24 ml). The uptake solution

contained 140 mM KCl (or NaCl for blanks), fatty acid as described, and 0.4  $\mu\text{M}$  valinomycin. All solutions also contained 10 mM Mops/Tris buffer (pH 7.4 at 37°C) and were at 37°C.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake was initiated by rapid mixing and stopped by the automated addition of quench solution (0.03 ml of 140 mM KCl plus either 10 mM EGTA or 1 mM  $\text{LaCl}_3$ ). If the quench solution contained EGTA, then 1 ml of cold 140 mM KCl, 1 mM EGTA was added immediately after quenching, and 1 ml was taken for filtration (Sartorius, 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ ). When  $\text{La}^{3+}$  was in the quench solution, 0.22 ml were taken for immediate filtration. Filters were washed with  $2 \times 3$  ml cold 140 mM KCl, 1 mM EGTA. By mixing both the vesicles and the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  into the uptake medium at the initiation of the reaction, we avoid preincubation of fatty acids with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  for extended periods. This allows measurements of  $\text{Na}^+$  gradient-dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake without artifacts due to formation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -fatty acid aggregates. For further details see Ref. 13.

Passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux from sarcolemmal vesicles was determined as described previously [13].

All fatty acids were obtained from Sigma and were stored as stock solutions in ethanol at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ . The final ethanol concentration during  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux measurements was less than 0.5% and did not affect measurements. Equal amounts of ethanol were included in tubes to which no fatty acid was added.

Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.E.

## Results

### *Stimulation of $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$ exchange by doxyl-stearates*

Fig. 1 shows  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx in cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of stearic acid and doxyl derivatives of stearic acid. Stearic acid is a weak stimulator of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity as described previously [13]. When a doxyl group is included on the molecule, however, stimulation is potentiated and increases as the label is placed further from the hydrophilic head group of the fatty acid. The stimulation decreases at higher concentrations of the fatty acids, most notably for 5-doxylstearic acid. This may be due to inhibitory effects of the fatty acids

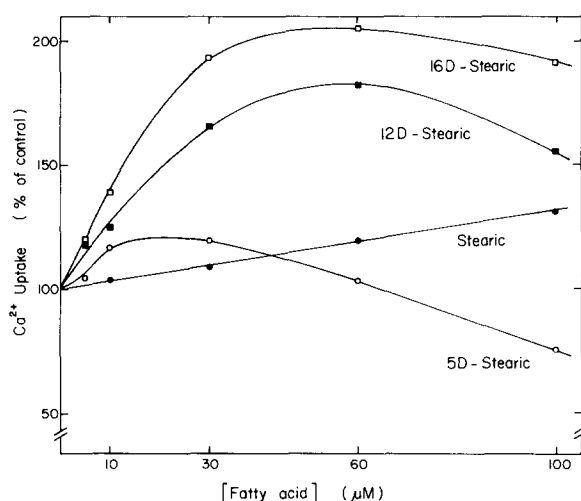


Fig. 1. Dependence of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange on doxylstearic acid (D-Stearic) concentration.  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx was measured over 1.5 s in the presence of  $10 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . Control  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity was  $10.6 \pm 2.1$  nmol/mg protein per s.  $n = 3$  or 4. S.E. bars are omitted for clarity but averaged  $6.2 \pm 1.3\%$  of mean values.

on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange or to increased vesicle  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability (see below).

Experiments with methyl esters of doxylstearates were also performed. None of the doxylstearate methyl esters had significant effects on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange or passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability at concentrations up to  $100 \mu\text{M}$  (not shown). This is consistent with our earlier studies [13] which showed that the anionic carboxyl group on a fatty acid was essential for perturbing the sarcolemmal membrane.

Fatty acids will rapidly partition into biological membranes. We used the same amount of sarcolemmal protein in all  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake experiments so that fatty acid-to-protein ratios would not vary (at a particular fatty acid concentration) and different experiments could be compared.

For all  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake experiments, blanks were performed by diluting the  $\text{Na}^+$ -loaded vesicles into  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake media containing NaCl instead of KCl. The small amount of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake (typically, less than 3% of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake in KCl media) was subtracted, and this corrected for any  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  movements which were not  $\text{Na}^+$ -gradient dependent.

#### *Time course of $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$ exchange in the presence of doxylstearates*

$\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake was approximately linear for about 2.5 s in the presence and absence of doxylstearic acids. After early times, however, the stimulatory effect of the doxylstearates became less apparent. For example, in one set of experiments,  $30 \mu\text{M}$  16-doxylstearic acid stimulated  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange by  $123 \pm 23\%$  after 1.5 s of uptake, but the stimulation declined to  $39 \pm 3\%$  and  $14 \pm 11\%$  after 6 and 20 s of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake, respectively ( $n = 3$ ).

#### *$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ concentration dependence of $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$ exchange in the presence of 16-doxylstearic acid*

Both the  $V_{\text{max}}$  and the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  affinity of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange were increased by 16-doxylstearic acid ( $30 \mu\text{M}$ ). Initial rates of  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake were measured at  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}] = 4, 7.5, 15, 25, 40,$  and  $60 \mu\text{M}$ . The  $V_{\text{max}}$  increased from  $27.5 \pm 2.8$  to  $39.4 \pm 3.0$  nmol/mg protein per s, and apparent  $K_m$  ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) declined from  $20.4 \pm 2.5$  to  $13.7 \pm 1.3 \mu\text{M}$  ( $n = 3$ ).

#### *Effects of doxylstearic acids on passive $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ permeability*

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -loaded sarcolemmal vesicles were exposed to doxylstearic acids and the subsequent loss of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  was measured (Table I). As noted previously [13], stearic acid has no effect on vesicle leakiness. Doxyl-labelled stearates, however, induce passive

TABLE I

#### EFFECTS OF DOXYLSTEARIC ACIDS ON PASSIVE $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ EFFLUX

Vesicles were first preloaded with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  by  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake as described in Materials and Methods. Passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  loss from the vesicles was measured over a 2.0 min period. Fatty acids were present only during the efflux period at a concentration of  $20 \mu\text{M}$ . The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  load, prior to initiation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux, was  $41.3 \pm 2.5$  nmol/mg protein ( $n = 3$ ).

Addition	$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ efflux (nmol/mg per 2 min)
None	$10.7 \pm 2.8$
Stearic acid	$9.9 \pm 1.3$
5-Doxylstearic acid	$26.4 \pm 2.0$
12-Doxylstearic acid	$16.8 \pm 2.1$
16-Doxylstearic acid	$14.9 \pm 1.1$

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux. The 5-doxylosteoric acid was most potent, followed by 12- and then 16-doxylosteoric acid. This sequence is opposite to the potency sequence for stimulation of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange (Fig. 1). Although the standard errors are relatively large in Table I, the same pattern was seen in each experiment and in preliminary experiments performed at other concentrations of the doxylosteoric acids.

#### *Effects of linolenic acids on sarcolemmal $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ transport*

In the experiments described above, we used the doxylosteoric acids to perturb the lipid bilayer at different depths. Other molecules appropriate for such studies are linolenic acids which are available in the usual form (*cis* double bonds in the 9, 12, and 15 positions) and as  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid (*cis* double bonds in the 6, 9, and 12 positions). We examined the effects of these two fatty acids on  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanged and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability.  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx experiments were performed using the same format as for the experiments shown in Fig. 1. Similar stimulations for the two fatty acids were seen at all concentrations with maxima at 60  $\mu\text{M}$  fatty acid. At 60  $\mu\text{M}$ , linolenic acid stimulated exchange by  $87.3 \pm 13.9\%$  whereas  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid stimulated exchange by  $74.7 \pm 9.2\%$  ( $n = 3$ ).

Effects of linolenic and  $\gamma$ -linolenic acids on passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability were measured using the same procedure as for the experiments shown in Table I. Vesicles were preloaded with  $52.3 \pm 8.2$  nmol  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ /mg protein, and subsequent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux was followed over 2 min. Control vesicles lost  $13.9 \pm 2.6$  nmol  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . In the presence of linolenic or  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid (30  $\mu\text{M}$ ), vesicles lost  $23.6 \pm 1.6$  or  $30.4 \pm 2.8$  nmol  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , respectively ( $n = 4$ ).

#### *Effects of $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ionophore A23187 on $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchange and passive $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ permeability*

In the experiments described above,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux is measured over 2.0 min, whereas the much more rapid  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange is usually measured for 1.5 s. Moderate increases in vesicle  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leakiness will have little effect on  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake measurements since the magnitude of the rate of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux in the uptake experiments

is much greater than that in passive flux studies. Because fatty acids affect both  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux, we designed an experiment to demonstrate the insensitivity of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange measurements to small increases in passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux.

Sarcolemmal vesicles were exposed to various concentrations of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ionophore A23187 during both  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux experiments (Fig. 2). As A23187 concentration is increased, passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux also markedly increases (Fig. 2, bottom). The effects of these concentrations of ionophore on  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake influx, however, are much less noticeable (Fig. 2, top). Although 0.3  $\mu\text{M}$  A23187 causes over 80% of a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  load to passively leak from vesicles over a 2.0 min period, this concentration of ionophore only causes an apparent inhibition of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange of 15%. Lower concentrations of ionophore induce a passive leak of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from

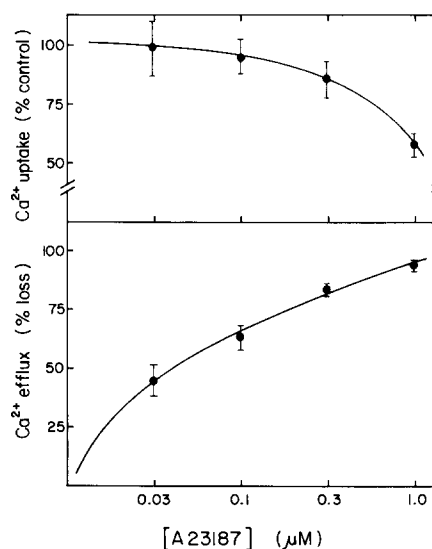


Fig. 2. Effects of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ionophore on  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux.  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake (top) was measured for 1.5 s at  $\text{Ca}^{2+} = 10 \mu\text{M}$ . Control (100%) activity was  $6.5 \pm 0.9$  nmol/mg protein per s. Passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux (bottom) was measured as described in Table I. The 100%  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  load is that  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  remaining within the vesicles after a 2.0 min efflux period in the absence of ionophore ( $48.7 \pm 10.7$  nmol/mg protein). Data are expressed as the percentage of this  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  load which is lost as a result of the presence of ionophore. See Materials and Methods for further experimental details.  $n = 3-5$ .

vesicles but have no effect on the initial rate of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange.

## Discussion

$\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange is sensitive to charged lipid components in the sarcolemmal membrane [9–13,18]. Apparently, the charged groups interact with the exchanger at the membrane surface and modulate transport activity. Anionic amphiphilic molecules enhance and cationic amphiphiles diminish exchange activity. We previously noted that unsaturated fatty acids stimulate sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange more potently than saturated fatty acids [13]. *Cis* double bonds in the hydrophobic portion of fatty acids will produce bends in the molecule and will induce local disorder. We speculated that local disorder within the bilayer enhanced the stimulation caused by anionic charge at the membrane surface. Methyl esters of fatty acids have no effect on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange indicating that stimulation requires an anionic charge.

We use doxylstearic acids to further investigate this model. Doxylstearates are commonly used at nanomolar concentrations in EPR experiments to report on membrane environment. At this low level, doxylstearic acids usually do not cause measurable changes in membrane properties. Nevertheless, the bulky doxyl group is still likely to cause local perturbations [14–16]. We take advantage of the perturbations caused by doxyl groups at different positions on stearic acid. We probe the effect of doxyl groups at different depths in the bilayer on sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability.

As previously reported [13], stearic acid, being a saturated fatty acid, has little effect on either  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability. The perturbing effect of a doxyl group on stearic acid causes stimulation of both  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux (Fig. 1 and Table I). The sequences for the ability of the different doxylstearates to increase exchange and permeability, however, are opposite. For  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange, 16-doxylstearic acid is the most potent stimulator, followed by 12- and 5-doxylstearic acid. In contrast, 5-doxylstearic acid stimulates passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux most potently, and 16-doxylstearic acid increases flux least potently. These results with the

doxylstearic acids are consistent with our interpretation of the effects of unsaturated fatty acids. Here, membrane perturbation caused by doxyl groups, instead of unsaturation, produces similar results. The implications of these data are discussed below.

The response of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger to the doxylstearic acids is qualitatively similar to the response to unsaturated fatty acids [13]. In both cases, there is stimulation of exchange activity at low concentrations of amphiphile but apparent inhibition at high concentrations as vesicle permeability barriers breakdown. We observe an increase in both the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  affinity and maximal velocity of the exchanger after treatment with 16-doxylstearic acid. As seen with other anionic amphiphiles [9,13], only the initial rate of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity is maximally stimulated by doxylstearic acids. At longer times,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx declines and effects of the doxylstearic acids on passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability become more prominent.

Of the three doxylstearates tested, 5-doxylstearic acid is the weakest stimulator of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity (Fig. 1), but 5-doxylstearic acid also potently increases vesicle leakiness (Table I). Possibly the effect on  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leakiness influences the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange measurements. To address this question we did experiments with the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ionophore A23187 under conditions identical to those used for the experiments with the doxylstearates. A23187 will increase vesicle  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability, as do the doxylstearates, but without simultaneously stimulating  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity. Low concentrations of A23187 cause substantial effects on passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  efflux without influence on  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx (Fig. 2). The explanation is that the fluxes involved in the passive permeability measurements are relatively small and must be measured over 2 min.  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange is much more active and substantial  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  accumulation occurs within the 1.5 s  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake period. Thus, moderate increases in vesicle  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leakiness will not affect  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake measurements. The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak induced by 30  $\mu\text{M}$  5-doxylstearic acid (Table I) may be sufficient to cause a small decrease in  $\text{Na}_i^+$ -dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx (Fig. 1). However, 5-doxylstearic acid is the weakest stimulator of

$\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange even at 5 or 10  $\mu\text{M}$  (Fig. 1) where permeability effects will not be significant. Thus, the conclusion that  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange is stimulated least potently by a doxyl group at the 5 position on stearic acid appears valid.

We model the results as shown schematically in Fig. 3. Stimulation of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange by doxylstearic acid (or by any anionic amphiphile) is due to interactions within the exchanger microenvironment. The negative charge on the membrane surface at the interface with the exchanger protein is essential. Disorder within the bilayer accentuates the stimulation. The location where disorder is most effective in stimulating  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity is towards the center of the bilayer. This explains why 16-doxylstearic acid is most potent and 5-doxylstearic acid is least potent in enhancing exchange activity. To facilitate the passive movement of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  across the sarcolemma, again anionic charge is required. The perturbing effect of a doxyl group again increases  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  transport, but now perturbation is most effective towards the membrane surface, and 5-doxylstearic acid is most potent in increasing  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability. It is curious that disruption of the membrane  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  barrier requires an amphiphile to have both an anionic charge (methyl esters are ineffective) and an ability to cause disorder within the bilayer. A possible explanation is that, for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to passively cross the sarcolemmal membrane, two types of barriers must be overcome. Exogenous anionic charge may perturb an electrostatic barrier at the membrane surface allowing  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to enter the bilayer; further

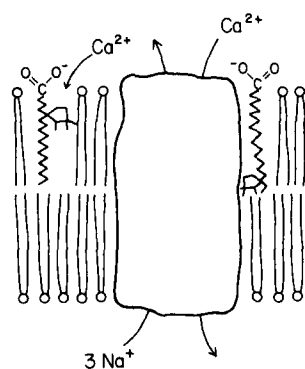


Fig. 3. Model for the regulation of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux by doxylstearic acids. See Discussion for details.

perturbation within the bilayer permits translocation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  across the bilayer.

Results obtained from experiments with other fatty acids can also be fit into this model. Linolenic (18:3(*cis*-9,12,15)) and  $\gamma$ -linolenic (18:3(*cis*-6,9,12)) acids are identical molecules except for the positions of their double bonds. Although the disordering effects of *cis* double bonds will begin closer to the bilayer surface with  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid, both molecules will result in approximately the same perturbation towards the center of the bilayer. That is, in general, *cis* double bonds on fatty acids will introduce some disorder into a membrane at all depths distal to the first double bond. This generalization especially applies to fatty acids with multiple double bonds. Thus, consistent with the experimental results, linolenic and  $\gamma$ -linolenic acids are predicted to have the same stimulatory effects on  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange. With the initial double bond closer to the membrane surface, however,  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid is predicted to have the larger effect on  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability. This prediction is borne out by the experimental result: linolenic acid increases  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability by 70%, whereas  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid increases permeability by 119%.

Results from our previous study [13] on the effects of a variety of fatty acids on sarcolemmal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  transport are also consistent with our model. Unsaturated fatty acids with *cis* double bonds generally stimulated  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange by the same amount. These same molecules also increased passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability. An apparent anomaly, at the time, was the especially high potency of arachidonic acid to increase passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux. This is now readily understood from the position of the double bonds on arachidonic acid where unsaturation begins at the 5 position. The unsaturation on the other fatty acids with which arachidonic acid was being compared begins at the 9 or 11 position. Consistent with the proposed model, it is disorder near the membrane surface which most effectively increases sarcolemmal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak.

Approximations exist in the interpretation of the data. We have no monitor of the quantity of fatty acid which becomes incorporated within the sarcolemma during our measurements. The fatty acids are highly hydrophobic, however, and are

expected to rapidly associate with the membrane. We have previously shown [13] that the effects of fatty acids on sarcolemma are dependent on the ratio of fatty acid to protein. This indicates that a majority of the fatty acid becomes incorporated in the membrane. The results cannot easily be attributed to differential rates of incorporation of the fatty acids. For example, 5-doxylostearyl acid is a much weaker stimulator of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange than 16-doxylostearyl acid. The reason is unlikely to be that 5-doxylostearyl acid does not associate with the membrane, since 5-doxylostearyl acid so markedly increases passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  flux. At 5  $\mu\text{M}$  doxylostearyl acid, the lowest concentration to stimulate  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange (Fig. 1), the mole ratio of fatty acid to sarcolemmal phospholipid would be 0.08 if all fatty acid becomes membrane-bound. This indicates that gross changes in the membrane composition are not required to modulate sarcolemmal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  movements. Despite some uncertainties, we are able to fit most data into a simple framework. Our model explains the actions of doxylostearyl acids and unsaturated fatty acids on sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability. Experiments are planned to use this model to further explore the dynamics of sarcolemmal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  transport.

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